



HC stays bureaucrat's arrest in gold smuggling case till October 28
page 8



Phase III trial for Covaxin to begin in November
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Mistake to have left Quad, says Australian envoy Barry O'Farrell
page 10



Boult, Bumrah and Ishan help MI demolish CSK
page 15



NEARBY



Kapil Dev 'stable' after angioplasty

NEW DELHI
Veteran cricketer Kapil Dev underwent an angioplasty during the early hours of Friday at Escorts hospital here. His condition is stable and is expected to be discharged in a couple of days, the hospital said.

SPORT ▶ PAGE 15

City sees highest number of cases in over a month

NEW DELHI
The national capital on Friday recorded 4,086 fresh cases of COVID-19—the highest single-day spike here since September 18—taking the tally to 3,48,404. The death toll from the infection has mounted to 6,189 with 26 more fatalities reported over the past 24 hours.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

Centre considering 'strict action' against DU V-C

NEW DELHI
The Centre is considering "strict action" against Delhi University Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Tyagi, but has not yet moved to seek his permanent removal, said senior Education Ministry officials. DU is witnessing a power tussle between Mr. Tyagi and pro-VC P.C. Joshi over appointments.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

Bihar needs Nitish-led NDA govt. for development: Modi

PM slams Opposition on Article 370, targets RJD, Congress on crime, corruption

AMARNATH TEWARY

PATNA
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday asserted that a National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government led by Nitish Kumar was necessary for the development of Bihar.

At a rally in Sasaram, his first in the poll-bound State, Mr. Modi clarified that the NDA in Bihar meant the BJP, the Janata Dal (United) [JD (U)], the Hindustani Awam Morcha (the Sekular) [HAM(S)] and the Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP).

He did not mention the Chirag Paswan-led Lok Janashakti Party (LJP).

In the backdrop of the bitterness between the JD (U) and the LJP, with Mr. Paswan regularly attacking Mr. Kumar, it was much awaited what Mr. Modi would say on the issue.

Mr. Modi said, "For a self-reliant Bihar, an NDA government is necessary. We're with Nitish Kumar for the development of Bihar, who got only three or four years to work and bring development to the State. For about 10 years, he was engrossed in battling the UPA government's politics of not allowing him to work."

He asserted that "even before the poll, the people of Bihar have given their



Poll position: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in Sasaram on Friday. ■PTI

Article 370

Mr. Modi attacked the Opposition for seeking restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

"Everyone was waiting for Article 370 to be withdrawn but these people [Opposition] are saying they will revoke the decision once they are voted to power. And after making such statements, they dare to ask for votes from Bihar? Is this not an insult to the State, one which sends its sons and daughters to the borders to protect the country?" he said.

Slamming the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the

Congress, he said before the NDA rule, Bihar suffered from crime and corruption.

"But now, there is no need for the lamp or the lantern in the State as it has electricity".

"People have decided that those who have a history of making Bihar *bimarū* will not be allowed to return in the State," he said, in an oblique reference to the previous RJD governments.

Mr. Modi said the NDA government had worked for the development of the poor and the Dalits in the State. "Our government extended reservation to the poor and Dalits for 10 years."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

MORE REPORTS ON ▶ PAGE 9

PM did not help migrants, says Rahul

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PATNA
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not help migrant workers from Bihar during the lockdown.

Addressing an election rally at Hisua in Nawada, Bihar, Mr. Gandhi said, "When migrant workers from Bihar were chased away by other States, what did the Prime Minister do?... He didn't help them... This is the truth and I trust that this time, the people of Bihar will give a befitting reply to him and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar."

He also alleged that Mr. Modi had lied to the nation on Chinese incursions in Ladakh.

Mr. Gandhi said, "Our 20 soldiers were martyred and China took over 1,200 km of our land in Ladakh... Why did the Prime Minister say no one came inside Indian land... It is an insult to our soldiers."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

MORE REPORTS ON ▶ PAGE 9

Govt. slaps stock limits on onion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
With onion prices crossing ₹100 per kg in several cities, the Centre imposed stock limits on wholesalers and retailers until the year-end to prevent hoarding.

This is the first time stock limits have been imposed on any commodity after the Essential Commodities Act was amended last month to reduce such interventions.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Pakistan to stay on FATF grey list till 2021

Proposal for on site inspection fails

DEVEESH K. PANDEY
SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on Friday decided to keep Pakistan on the "grey list" till the next review of its compliance with the recommendations made in February next year.

"Pakistan has made progress across all action plan items and has now largely addressed 21 of 27 action items. As all action plan deadlines have expired, the FATF strongly urges Pakistan to swiftly complete its full action plan by February 2021," said an FATF statement issued in Paris at the end of the Plenary session, on the decision to keep Pakistan in the list of "jurisdictions under increased monitoring" or grey list.

Addressing an election rally at Hisua in Nawada, Bihar, Mr. Gandhi said, "When migrant workers from Bihar were chased away by other States, what did the Prime Minister do?... He didn't help them... This is the truth and I trust that this time, the people of Bihar will give a befitting reply to him and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar."

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CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

MORE REPORTS ON ▶ PAGE 9



- Lack of action against charitable organisations linked to terror groups banned by the UN Security Council
- Delays in the prosecution of banned individuals such as Hafiz Saeed, Zakir Rahman Lakhvi and Masood Azhar
- Non-compliance in cracking down on terror financing through narcotics and smuggling of mining products, including precious stones

move; it was not supported even by China, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia, sources said.

The FATF finally decided to keep Pakistan in the "grey list". Pakistan has now almost four months to comply with the recommendations as its performance will now be put to scrutiny in the next plenary in February 2021.

On-site teams are permitted only after jurisdictions complete their Action Plans.

Such visits would signal exit from the grey or black list. However, when the proposal was placed before the 38-member Plenary, no other member seconded the

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

House panel mulls action against Amazon

SANDEEP PHUKAN

NEW DELHI
Facebook India's policy head Ankhi Das on Friday appeared before the Joint Committee of Parliament that is examining the draft Data Protection Bill. However, e-commerce giant Amazon declined to depose before the panel on October 28, stating that its "subject experts" cannot take the risk of traveling from the U.S. during the coronavirus pandemic.

Stating that Amazon's "refusal" amounts to a breach of parliamentary privilege, BJP MP and chairperson of the JPC, Meenakshi Lekhi, told reporters that the panel was unanimous about taking "coercive action" if no one from the company appears next Wednesday.

Amazon, Twitter, Facebook, Google and Paytm are among the companies from whom the committee has sought views on data security and protection amid concerns that the privacy of users is being "compromised" for commercial interest. The panel questioned Facebook India's representatives, including Ms. Das, who has been in the eye of a storm over reports of alleged bias towards the BJP and refusal to apply hate speech rules to a BJP politician.

The points on which Pakistan failed to deliver included inaction against charitable organisations or non-profit organisations linked to terror groups banned by the UNSC.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Oli move on Nepal map hints at softer stand

Prime Minister sends Dussehra greetings using old map without Indian territory

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

NEW DELHI
After months of simmering dispute with India over the Kalapani issue, Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli indicated a softer line on Friday when he used an old map of Nepal to greet everyone on the festival of Vijaya Dashami.

The old map does not show the region of Kalapani-Lipulekh-Limpiyadhura, which is part of India's Pithoragarh district.

The triangular piece of land is, however, shown as

part of Nepalese sovereign territory in the new map, which was unveiled on May 20, and made part of the insignia of the Nepalese state by an amendment on June 13.

Prime Minister Oli's use of the national insignia of Nepal carrying the old map has drawn strong reactions from the political class of Kathmandu, with leaders expressing surprise about the use of the old map during Dussehra, which is the biggest festival in the Himalayan country.

"Prime Minister Oli at his

individual level can use any map of Nepal that he wishes but as the Prime Minister of Nepal, he should have used the national map of Nepal that was passed by Parliament and dedicated to the Nepalese people," said Bishwakarma Sharma, spokesman of the Opposition Nepali Congress, speaking to *The Hindu* over phone.

Mr. Sharma said Mr. Oli has undermined Parliament by not using the new map.

Use of the old map also drew sharp reactions on so-

cial media, with Nepalese users connecting the move with Thursday's discussion between Mr. Oli and Samant Kumar Goel, chief of the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), the external intelligence wing of India.

Nepalese publication *Myrepublica* reported that Mr. Goel led a nine-member delegation. The visit drew attention as it came a fortnight before the scheduled visit to Nepal of General Manoj Mukund Naravane, chief of the Indian Army.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

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 - B.Tech. in Computer Science and Engineering (Gaming Technology)
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 - BCA (Hons) Multimedia & Animation
 - BCA (Hons) Industry Oriented Program
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 - B.Tech. in Electrical Engineering
 - B.Tech. in Electronics and Communication Engineering (Bio-Medical Engineering)
- School of Mechanical Engineering
 - B.Tech. in Mechanical Engineering
 - NBA Accredited (Tier-I)**
 - B.Tech. in Automobile Engineering
- School of Civil Engineering
 - B.Tech. in Civil Engineering
 - B.Tech. in Civil Engineering (Construction Technology)
 - B.Tech. in Civil Engineering Environment & Pollution Control
- School of Architecture & Design
 - B.Arch (Bachelor of Architecture)
 - B.Sc. in Fashion Design (In association with T Series)
 - Bachelor of Design in Fashion Design (In association with T Series)
- School of Education
 - B.Ed – Bachelor of Education
- School of Nursing
 - B.Sc. Nursing
- School of Liberal Education
 - B.A (Hons)- Applied Psychology
 - B.A (Hons)- Economics
 - B.A (Hons)- English
 - B.A (Hons)- Political Science
 - B.A (Hons)- Sociology
- School of Law
 - Integrated- B.A. LLB (Hons)
 - Integrated- BBA, LLB (Hons)
 - LLB (Hons)
- School of Agriculture
 - B.Sc. (Hons) Agriculture

School of Media and Communication Studies

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School of Ayurveda Science

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School of Basic and Applied Sciences

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School of Bio Sciences & Bio-Medical Engineering

- B.Tech - Biomedical Engineering

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- B.Com (Hons.) International Accounting & Finance

School of Medical and Allied Sciences

- B. Pharma.

School of Hospitality & Tourism

- B.Sc. Hotel Management

School of Business

- BBA

School of Computing Science & Engineering

- M.Tech. Computer Science & Engineering

School of Liberal Education

- M.A. Education

School of Basic and Applied Sciences

- M.Sc. Chemistry

School of Bio-Sciences & Bio-Medical Engineering

- M.Sc. Biological Science

School of Education

- M.Ed - Master of Education

School of Liberal Education

- M.A. Applied Psychology

School of Business

- M.A. Economics

School of Computing Science & Engineering

- M.A. English

School of Basic and Applied Sciences

- M.A. Sociology

School of Bio-Sciences & Bio-Medical Engineering

- M.A. Political Science

School of Education

- M.Sc. Environmental Science

School of Basic and Applied Sciences

- M.Sc. Mathematics

School of Bio-Sciences & Bio-Medical Engineering

- M.Sc. Physics

School of Education

- M.Sc. Forensic Science

School of Basic and Applied Sciences

- M.Sc. Microbiology

School of Bio-Sciences & Bio-Medical Engineering

- M.Sc. Bio-Chemistry

School of Bio-Sciences & Bio-Medical Engineering

- M.Sc. Biological Science

School of Education

- M.Sc. Clinical Research

School of Basic and Applied Sciences

- M.Sc. Nutrition & Dietetics

School of Bio-Sciences & Bio-Medical Engineering

- M.Sc. Medical Biotechnology

School of Education

- M.Sc. Financial Management

School of Basic and Applied Sciences

- M.Com

School of Medical and Allied Sciences

- M.Pharm.- Pharmaceutics

School of Bio-Sciences & Bio-Medical Engineering

- Master of Physiotherapy

School of Education

- Medical Lab Technology

School of Basic and Applied Sciences

- Masters in Optometry

School of Bio-Sciences & Bio-Medical Engineering

- M.Sc. Cardiovascular Technology

School of Education

- Cardio-Vascular Technology

School of Basic and Applied Sciences

- M.Sc. Cardiac Vascular Technology

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School of Education

- Diploma in Operation Theatre Technology

School of Basic and Applied Sciences

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WEATHER WATCH



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

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and coastal & south interior Karnataka. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Mizoram, Tripura, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	33.5...	25.2...	23.7	Kozhikode	1.4...	30.2...	24.8
Ahmedabad	—	36.2...	19.1	Kurnool	—	33.1...	23.8
Aizawl	18...	27.0...	16.9	Lucknow	—	33.3...	21.2
Allahabad	—	34.2...	23.0	Madurai	—	36.4...	24.4
Bengaluru	17.6...	27.0...	20.2	Mangalore	1.4...	27.3...	23.4
Bhopal	—	34.0...	20.4	Mumbai	0.2...	33.2...	21.2
Bhubaneswar	—	29.6...	22.7	Mysuru	—	26.1...	21.0
Chandigarh	—	33.6...	14.6	New Delhi	—	34.0...	14.4
Chennai	69.2...	34.0...	24.5	Patna	—	32.6...	25.1
Coimbatore	—	32.2...	22.2	Poona Blair	2.2...	30.8...	25.3
Dehradun	—	31.0...	14.2	Puducherry	65...	31.2...	22.8
Gangtok	—	21.7...	14.0	Pune	17.4...	32.1...	21.3
Goa	—	31.1...	24.1	Raipur	—	32.5...	19.5
Guwahati	2.2...	26.2...	23.8	Ranchi	5.4...	31.2...	20.6
Hubballi	—	28.0...	21.0	Shillong	43.8...	18.0...	15.5
Hyderabad	—	32.6...	19.3	Shimla	—	23.8...	12.0
Imphal	8.3...	22.2...	18.1	Srinagar	—	23.6...	4.5
Jaipur	—	34.8...	24.0	Thiruvananthapuram	2.5...	32.0...	23.5
Kochi	—	30.4...	23.8	Tiruchi	—	35.3...	24.6
Kohima	12.4...	24.2...	16.5	Vijayawada	—	33.8...	25.5
Kolkata	0.9...	28.2...	24.0	Visakhapatnam	0.5...	33.5...	26.8

(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	27	115	.30	.95	.138	■■■■■
Bengaluru	.8	46	.54	.25	.42	■■■■■
Chennai	34	.17	.34	.140	—	■■■■■
Delhi	28	116	.75	.416	.456	■■■■■
Hyderabad	24	.72	.26	.225	—	■■■■■
Kolkata	.7	.12	.42	.11	.25	■■■■■
Lucknow	39	.78	.59	.301	.296	■■■■■
Mumbai	—	.40	.146	.86	.102	■■■■■
Pune	11	.16	.46	.39	.32	■■■■■
Visakhapatnam	.94	.20	.285	.208	—	■■■■■

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

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

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

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

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

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bhawali, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 390 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

+ Valmiki families in Ghaziabad village 'convert' to Buddhism

Administration says no proof of any such ceremony

ANUJ KUMAR

GAZIABAD



Karhera village in Ghaziabad, where the conversions reportedly took place. ■ ANUJ KUMAR

numbers and blank certificates were distributed, Mr. Ambedkar said they would soon file affidavits in court. "Because of the COVID 19 protocol, around 50 members were given certificates during the ceremony while those of the rest were given to the family members."

In an inquiry ordered by District Magistrate Ajay Shankar Pandey, ADM (City) Shailendra Kumar Singh found that no evidence was provided for the 'conversion'. In most of the certificates, correct names and addresses were not indicated. The date and registration numbers were also missing. Some certificates were blank on which names and addresses could be written. The report further said that in the memorandum submitted by the local people, only local problems had been mentioned and that there was no reference of conversion.

"The issues raised in the memorandum are being addressed," said Mr. Singh in the report. Karhera is an urban village in Ghaziabad. Inderdas Maharaj, whose grandson Pawan Valmiki allegedly invited the Buddhist Society of India, said there were about 70-80 Valmiki families in the village dominated by the upper caste families. "After the Hathras episode, my grandson Pawan made me realize that we are feeling suffocated in this 'house', it's time to shift to another 'house,'" said Mr. Ambedkar.

He was referring to the Loni MLA Nand Kishore Gurjar's letter to the Home Minister alleging that the Mumbai-based Society had links with Pakistan's ISI and underworld don Dawood Ibrahim. "We would take legal action against him. Buddhism is an Indian religion and we don't believe in forcefully converting anybody," said Mr. Ambedkar.

On the Ghaziabad administration's charge that the certificates didn't have serial

Work on new Parliament to start in Dec.

Construction likely to be completed by October 2022

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Construction on the new Parliament building, estimated to cost ₹970 crore, will start in December and likely to be completed by October 2022, officials of the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry and the Central Public Works Department informed Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla during a review meeting on Friday.

Minister Hardeep Singh Puri was also present at the meeting.

In a statement, the Lok Sabha secretariat said Mr. Birla chaired a meeting regarding the project. The new building is estimated to cost ₹970 crore.

During the meeting, it was decided to set up a monitoring committee to look into the execution of the project, the statement said. The committee will include officials from the Lok Sabha Secretariat, the Ministry, the CPWD, the NDMC and the architect of the project.

The officials briefed the

Speaker about the progress of the pre-construction activities like shifting facilities from the plot designated for the new building.

Facilities to be shifted

The existing Parliament House reception, security offices, power infrastructure and other facilities have to be shifted to make way for the new building. "The existing Parliament House building will be suitably retro-fitted to provide more functional spaces for parliamentary events, to ensure its usage along with the new building, the officers mentioned..." Re-

viewing the various aspects and progress of the project, Mr. Birla stressed on the smooth coordination and resolving issues between various agencies involved on a regular basis. He emphasised that there should be no compromise in ensuring quality control and timely completion of the work," it said.

The new building would have offices for MPs, chambers of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, a Constitution Hall that will house an original copy of the Constitution, MPs lounge, library, six committee rooms, dining areas and parking space.

'BJP trying to divide society on caste lines'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Friday accused the BJP of trying to divide society on caste lines to promote its political interests.

Amarinder said the BJP has no moral right to talk about Dalit rights, which they had been brazenly trampling wherever they were in power. He said statistics showed that Uttar Pradesh, under the BJP rule, accounts for over 25% of the total cases of atrocities against the Scheduled Caste people, and had recorded the highest number of such incidents in 2018. "Is this your definition of justice for Dalits? Is this what you are offering the SC people of Punjab," he asked the BJP.

Family claims man beaten to death in tiger reserve

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

A man was beaten to death by Forest Department personnel inside the Simlipal Forest, a tiger reserve, in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, his family members alleged on Friday.

The Forest Department, however, disputed the claim saying the deceased was spotted lying unconscious by its personnel while they were patrolling inside the

forest.

Gajendra Naik (40), of Nachhipur village under the Kaptipada police station limits, died on Thursday morning, 10 days after he was hospitalised. Family members and villagers staged a demonstration with the body in front of the Podda Dhaba beat on Friday. They demanded compensation for the family and punishment to the Forest Department personnel.

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•JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
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•LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing
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Durga Puja - 2020 : Guidelines for Idol Immersion

THIS YEAR IMMERSE IDOL OF MAA DURGA ONLY AT HOME

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, immersion of Maa Durga's Idol in Yamuna River, water bodies or any artificial ponds is strictly prohibited

Delhi Pollution Control Committee's directions on idol immersion for Durga Puja 2020 are available at www.dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in



DIP/SHADBARDH/D/0053/2021

Note: Violations of directions issued under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 are punishable under section 15 of the said act, which include imprisonment upto 5 years and/or with fine which may be extended upto ₹ 1 Lakh or with both



"Wish you a very happy Durga Puja !
Stay Healthy, Stay Safe"

-Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister of Delhi



CM YK

ND-NDE



Taking on the Centre

States aggrieved by central farm laws are adopting both legislative and legal measures

Punjab's efforts to enact State amendments to override the effects of the Centre's new agriculture laws epitomise the difficulties in managing the conflict between liberalising the farm sector and protecting the small and marginal farmer from the agonies of the transition. The issue also flags the consequences of not having a wide and informed debate before introducing far-reaching changes. Punjab has been the hub of the opposition to the Centre's legislative exercise to change the basics of trade and commerce in agriculture. The Akali Dal, the main opposition in the State, eventually withdrew its Cabinet minister and later walked out of the NDA government at the Centre. Punjab argues that the central Acts would cause "grave detriment and prejudice" to agricultural communities. The Bills cite an agriculture census of 2015-16 to argue that 86.2% of farmers own less than five acres – a majority of them less than two acres – and that with limited or no access to multiple markets, they would be handicapped while negotiating fair price contracts with private players. Making efforts to buy farm produce at less than the MSP or harassing farmers in a bid to persuade them to enter into such contracts have been sought to be made punishable offences, with a jail term of at least three years. The Bills also seek to overturn the Centre's move to remove the fee on trade and transactions that take place outside markets functioning under APMCs.

A key issue raised by Punjab's proposed amendments is whether they are legally valid and where they stand in the teeth of the Centre's legislation. States can indeed amend central laws enacted under the Concurrent List, subject to the condition that provisions repugnant to the parliamentary Acts will have to get the President's assent, without which they do not come into force. The Punjab Bills note that agriculture is under the legislative domain of the States, as the subject falls under the State List in the Seventh Schedule. The Centre has enacted its farm sector Bills by invoking Entry 33(b) in the Concurrent List, which concerns trade and commerce in, and production, supply and distribution of, "foodstuffs". By stretching the entry's meaning to include agriculture, Parliament has managed to pass laws in the domain of the States. In these circumstances, States aggrieved by the farm sector laws will either have to go the Punjab way to adopt Bills that would require presidential assent, as Rajasthan has decided to do, or challenge the validity of the central laws in the Supreme Court, as Chhattisgarh is said to be considering. Whatever the outcome, clear from the groundswell of opposition across the country is that a cavalier and centralised approach to issues that affect millions of farmers ill-serves a diverse country.

Hitting where it hurts

As the U.S. election nears, work visas have become policy targets for the White House

The Trump administration has once again tightened the screws on the country's immigration system in a manner that is likely to directly impact Indian companies contracting with American firms for on-site work. This week the State Department proposed to stop issuing temporary or B-1 business visas relating to occupations normally classified as falling under the H-1B specialty or skilled visa category. The argument is that under the guise of the business-related entry of personnel, companies were sending their technology professionals for short-term stays to work on U.S. jobs, potentially undercutting the wages and employment prospects of U.S. workers. The proposed policy action, just ahead of the November 3 presidential election, is significant for following closely on the heels of other, similar moves to tighten restrictions on the entry of foreign nationals, including raising the minimum salaries payable to those applying for H-1B visas and to stop the issuance of such visas entirely until December 31, 2020. Taken together, it would be reasonable to expect a painful economic fallout on legal skilled migration from India. For example, the analysts predict that Mr. Trump's June 22, 2020 ban on new H-1B visa issuance could impact up to 219,000 workers, who would be unable to take up potential jobs in the U.S.

To date, there has been no retaliatory policy from India, at most perhaps diplomatic parleys where South Block has sought to emphasise that technology and innovation via the trade in services remain a key pillar of the bilateral strategic partnership and highly-skilled Indian professionals working in the U.S. help bridge the skill gap there, imparting a technological and competitive edge. In the backdrop of the steady clampdown on visa issuance is Mr. Trump's rhetoric on protecting U.S. jobs from foreigners, especially in cases where lower wages drive substitution effects. The pressure on the White House to increase the cadence of the drumbeat for this form of "protectionism" has risen owing to the pandemic's job-killing effects. U.S. joblessness spiked to an unprecedented 14.7% in April 2020. While it has dropped off since then, the country has entered the final phases of electoral campaigning, which has seen sharp attacks by Democratic challenger Joe Biden on Mr. Trump's alleged failure to mitigate the economic crisis. When considered alongside the fact that Mr. Trump is steadily losing ground in federal and regional opinion polls, it is hardly surprising that areas of legal migration, including skilled workers entering the U.S. via the H-1B programme, have become policy targets for the White House. It would be wise for Indian IT firms and others seeking to send their employees to the U.S. for short-term work to assume that regardless of who wins the election, it will be a long time, if ever, before they can hope to return to business as usual.

India's UN journey, from outlier to the high table

As a non-permanent UNSC member now, it needs to uphold the Charter principles in the backdrop of a turbulent world



C.S.R. MURTHY

The 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations (UN) is an opportunity to look at the major trends, patterns and future challenges as far as India is concerned in terms of safeguarding its interests and promoting common good. That the UN is indispensable is uncontested despite the clamour for reforms to strengthen its role. As Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru once observed in his address to the UN General Assembly on December 20, 1956, "Of course, even if the United Nations did not do anything wonderful, the mere fact of the United Nations itself has been of great significance to the world...."

Membership and phases

Seven and a half decades of India at the UN may be viewed with reference to roughly three distinct phases. In the first phase until the end of the Cold War in 1989, India had learnt the ropes of exploring and enhancing its diplomatic influence as a moderating force in easing armed conflicts in Asia and Africa by disengaging them from the superpower rivalry. In parallel, the Indian leadership learned the hard way that the UN could not be relied upon to impartially resolve vital security disputes such as Jammu and Kashmir.

As such, it strove to utilise the UN only to focus on common causes such as anti-colonialism, anti-racism, nuclear disarmament, environment conservation and equitable economic development. India, in a clever way, seemed to claim the moral high ground by proposing, in 1988, a bold, but obviously impractical, three-phase plan to eliminate nuclear weapons

from the surface of earth. But it resisted attempts by neighbouring countries to raise bilateral problems. This was reflected during the Bangladesh liberation war and after. In essence, a loss of face for India in the 1962 border war against China meant a definitive redesign of the country's diplomatic style to privilege bilateral contacts over the third party role by the UN.

A demanding decade

The 1990s spelled the most difficult decade for India in the world body, as the years were marked by the sudden end of the Cold War, the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the resultant emergence of the United States as the unrivalled power in world politics. Besides, the uncertain political climate caused by unstable coalition governments along with the balance of payments crisis constrained the country's capability to be active in various bodies, especially in the Security Council (UNSC) and the General Assembly.

There was a change in India's foreign policy which was reflected in voting patterns at the UN. To cite a few examples, India showed pragmatism in enabling the toughest terms on Iraq even after eviction from occupied Kuwait, or in reversing the hitherto stated position on Zionism as racism. At the same time, growing militancy in Kashmir in the early 1990s emboldened Pakistan to internationalise the dispute with accusations about gross human rights violations by India. Clearly, India had to work hard to seek favours from Iran and China in the Human Rights Commission to checkmate Pakistan.

The threat posed to respect for sovereignty principle by NATO intervention against Yugoslavia in 1999 without the authorisation of the UNSC deeply disturbed India, but its efforts, in partnership with Russia and China, to call for an end to aerial attacks did not garner much support in the UNSC. Furthermore,



er, the extent of India's diplomatic difficulties was exposed when it suffered a humiliating defeat in the hands of Japan in the 1996 contest for a non-permanent seat in the UNSC.

This, however, did not mean that India could not draw red lines on questions of serious consequences to its security. India resolutely stood against indefinite extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1995, and it stoutly rejected the backdoor introduction for adoption of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in 1996. It is notable that these two developments at the UN perhaps pushed India to surprise the world in 1998 with its Pokhran nuclear weapon tests, ignoring the likely adverse reaction from the nuclear club.

Winds of change

Remarkably, the 21st century opened new avenues for India to shine at the UN. The impressive economic performance in the first decade, thanks to economic liberalisation and globalisation policies, helped a great deal in strengthening its profile. This is only aided by its reliable and substantial troop contributions to several peacekeeping operations in African conflict theatres. Alongside, India has emerged as a responsible stakeholder in non-traditional security issue areas such as the spread of small and light weapons, the threat of non-state actors acquiring weapons of mass destruction, and the impact of climate change. In a related dimension, India has scaled up its contributions

to development and humanitarian agencies, while India's share to the UN assessed budget has registered a hike from 0.34% to 0.83%.

Finally, India's growing popularity is evident in the successful electoral contests for various prestigious slots in the UNSC, the Human Rights Council, the World Court, and functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, at times defeating the nominees of China and the United Kingdom. However, two major initiatives India has heavily invested in are stuck without much hope of a timely outcome. The first relates to the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism it drafted and revised with the hope of helping consensus. But it encountered reservations from among Islamic and other countries on provisions regarding definition of terrorist and the convention's application to state armed forces.

Security Council expansion

Equally important is the question of equitable expansion of the UNSC to enable India to attain permanent membership along with other claimants from Asia, Africa and Latin America. The move has been stuck for more than 25 years because of a lack of unity among the regional formations. It also includes stout opposition from some 30 middle powers such as Italy and Pakistan which fear losing out to regional rivals in the event of an addition of permanent seats, and the intrigues masterminded by one or two permanent members. Although India enjoys by far the greatest support, the only realistic possibility seems to settle for a compromise, i.e. a new category of members elected for a longer duration than the present non-permanent members without veto power.

India's future role will probably depend on its ability to weather the impact of the multiple crises it now faces on account of an un-

abated economic slowdown and a troubled relationship with China. This is pertinent as India will soon begin its two-year term as a non-permanent UNSC member (January 1, 2021). Its areas of priority will continue to be the upholding of Charter principles, mounting effective punitive measures against those who support, finance and sponsor terrorists, besides striving for securing due say to the troop contributing countries in the management of peace operations. It is reasonable to assume (based on earlier patterns) that India will work for and join in consensus on key questions wherever possible. But it may opt to abstain along with other members including one or two permanent members.

On the seat

In the midst of the currently volatile situation as characterised by the Trump administration's disdain towards multilateral institutions, the changing U.S.-China equation, China's growing political isolation on account of the spread of the novel coronavirus, and China's aggressive territorial forays in eastern Ladakh and the South China Sea, India may face challenges and opportunities in the UNSC. In an unlikely scenario of China succeeding in convening a formal meeting on Kashmir to please Pakistan, India may have to choose either to abstain in the vote since it is a party to the dispute or vote against any unfavourable proposal that might be tabled. Exercising the latter option would be the first of its kind in India's voting record at the UNSC. On the other hand, the growing proximity with the U.S. may prompt India not to stay neutral in order to counterbalance China.

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Metrics of world happiness and the Muslims of India

In an age of majoritarianism, the RSS chief's recent statement could help reassure the community of its standing



FAIZAN MUSTAFA

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat has again reiterated his oft-repeated statement that the happiest Muslims in the world are in India. But for the Muslims of India, a comparison to Islamic countries is of no relevance at all. In any case, India should compare itself with the Scandinavian countries rather than some of the regressive Muslim regimes. Indian Muslims will be more concerned about the health of Indian democracy and how far the country is upholding or violating the high values enshrined in the Constitution.

Importantly, Mr. Bhagwat, in a clear departure from the Hindutva stand, has asserted that the Constitution nowhere says only Hindus can live in India, or that to live in India one has to accept the supremacy of Hindus. He has also tried to demolish the Hindutva theory of Muslim rule being exclusively Muslim rule by citing the battle of Haldighati (1576) between the Mughals and Rajputs when, he said, many Muslims were on the side of Maharana Pratap Singh and fought against the Mughal army led by another Rajput, Raja Man Singh.

Mr. Bhagwat has repeatedly said that Muslims are equal citizens of this country while Hindutva has been historically making a distinction between indigenous religions and Abrahamic religions. His statement of Hindus not having any superior status in the Constitution is not only consistent with the vision of the Constitution but also signifies abandoning the idea of declaring India as a Hindu Rashtra.

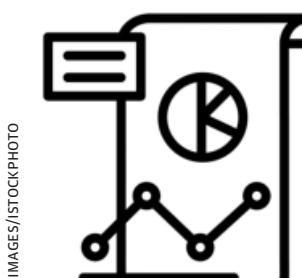
Coming back to the Report, most Muslims elsewhere seem happier than Indian Muslims – the United Arab Emirates (21); Saudi Arabia (27); Bahrain (40); Kuwait saving vaccine still in different stages of trials amounts to a trade-off on critical issues of public health care. It is constitutionally flawed because such an offer cannot be made to one particular State going through an election process to the exclusion of others. This is unabashed

tra. Though a welcome departure from the stated position, one should not overnight expect a break from the past on every issue. Any change in the long-held position of the organisation can only be gradual.

How do we assess happiness? In the eighth *World Happiness Report* of 2020 released in March (<https://bit.ly/2HjQuYt>), India is ranked 144 out of 153 countries. The first five go to Finland, Denmark, Switzerland, Iceland and Norway, respectively. Even India's neighbours are ahead – Bangladesh (107), Sri Lanka (130), Nepal (92) and Pakistan (66). The unhappiest people are in Afghanistan (153), South Sudan (152), Zimbabwe (151), Rwanda (150) and the Central African Republic (149).

Key concerns in the country
The variables taken into account include general well-being; positive emotions; supplemental life; circumstances and social environment; inequalities; unemployment; low incomes; discrimination; GDP per capita; life expectancy; freedom; generosity and absence of corruption. In India, with 45-year high unemployment rates (prior to COVID-19) and over 12.2 crore people losing jobs during the lockdown phase, more Indians (not just Muslims) are today worried and unhappy than ever before. Dalits face rising atrocities against them, farmers are unhappy about the enactment of new farm laws, labour unions are disappointed with the new Labour Code and civil society activists are frustrated over the denial of civil liberties, latest FCRA Amendment and the judiciary's reluctance to even promptly hear *habeas corpus* petitions.

Coming back to the Report, most Muslims elsewhere seem happier than Indian Muslims – the United Arab Emirates (21); Saudi Arabia (27); Bahrain (40); Kuwait



(48); Libya (80) and Malaysia (82).

True, Indian Muslims are certainly better off than Muslims in several Muslim countries due to India's liberal, egalitarian and secular Constitution and Hinduism's tolerance. Most Muslim countries are not really democratic and therefore should not be compared with India.

In the recently released *World Hunger Index- 2020* (<https://bit.ly/3OmQHuZ>), India ranks 94 out of 107 countries; Pakistan (88) and Bangladesh (75) are ahead. Both Kuwait and Turkey are in the top 17. Other rankings are Tunisia (23); Saudi Arabia (35); Iran (39) and Jordan (43).

On civil liberties

Civil liberties are an important component too in ensuring contentment. India's rankings should worry the RSS chief. In the *World Freedom of Press Index-2020* (<https://bit.ly/3IBDtQF> and <https://bit.ly/3dRqvDj>), India was ranked 142 out of 180 countries. Several Muslim countries are ahead – Bosnia-Herzegovina (58); Kosovo (70); Tunisia (72) and Malaysia (101).

In the *World Justice Project Rule of Law Index* (<https://bit.ly/2Hr0jIG> and <https://bit.ly/2IQvoB4>), it is a grim situation for India (a global rank of 69 out of 128 countries). Factors such as constraints on governmental power; open government; fundamental rights; order and securi-

ty, absence of corruption; regulatory enforcement; civil justice system and criminal justice system matter. With verdicts such as the acquittal of all the accused in the Babri Masjid demolition case, India's rank is unlikely to improve in 2021. Once again, several Muslim countries are ahead even in the rule of law – the UAE (30); Malaysia (47); Jordan (50); Tunisia (56); Indonesia (59) and Kazakhstan (62). Happiness is also closely related to the state of rule of law. Increasingly, faith in the rule of law is diminishing with some courts becoming more executive minded than the executive itself.

Religious freedom

Finally, on freedom of religion, the Indian Constitution grants this freedom to everyone including Muslims, yet its definition of the term Hindu is problematic and is criticised by Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists.

A denial of Scheduled Caste status to Muslims and Dalit Christians by Presidential order is seen to be discriminatory. Anti-conversion laws of many States require the prior permission of district officials for conversion. Religion being a purely private matter, the state should have no concern with it.

Charging protesters against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Register of Citizens with offences under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, and alleging so-called 'UPSC jihad' do have a deleterious effect on the emotional health of Muslims, with a predominant feeling of being unwanted and alienated.

Even on religious freedom, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has downgraded India's ranking in its 2020 report (<https://bit.ly/3dPck86> and <https://bit.ly/34psrjv>). It is scathing when it says, "India took a sharp downward turn in 2019. The national government used its strengthened

parliamentary majority to institute national-level policies violating religious freedom across India, especially for Muslims." Strangely, Afghanistan, Sudan, Indonesia and Egypt have better rankings, while India has been clubbed with Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, North Korea, Syria, Burma and China ('Countries of Particular Concern'). The International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA) defines CPCs as "countries where the government engages in or tolerates 'particularly severe' violations of religious freedom." Under U.S. law, these include violations such as 'torture, degrading treatment, prolonged detention without charges and other flagrant denial of right to life, liberty or the security of persons'.

The RSS chief is also not right in saying that no other society does an alien religion still survive. Europe, the Americas, Australia and Africa have Christianity that originated in Jerusalem. Buddhism, from India, is present in a number of countries. Islam, from Saudi Arabia, is strong in several European, African and Asian states, and Australia.

The RSS chief's statement that Indian Muslims are the happiest lot of Muslims may not be completely true but it would certainly have the much-needed calming effect in assuring Muslims of their rightful and equal claim to India as their country. In an age of majoritarianism, Mr. Bhagwat can certainly help restore sanity, tolerance and accommodation which were essential attributes of classical Hinduism. He should rein in aggressive Hindutva forces and convince them about the values of diversity and the remarkable contribution that Muslims have made to Indian civilisation.

Faizan Mustafa is Vice-Chancellor, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad. The views expressed are personal.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Politics over vaccine

The promise of free distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine for Bihar in exchange of votes for the BJP is not only politically immoral and unethical but also constitutionally flawed as well. It is absolutely immoral and unethical because such a conditional offer of a life-

saving vaccine still in different stages of trials amounts to a trade-off on critical issues of public health care. It is constitutionally flawed because such an offer cannot be made to one particular State going through an election process to the exclusion of others. This is unabashed

exploitation of people's genuine paranoia in a State well known for the appalling state of its public health-care infrastructure. The party's vision document also promises a job bonanza even as lakhs of people from this State with chronic unemployment have been migrating in desperation to the rest of India in search of a livelihood. In this context, voters in the State would do well to remember the Prime Minister's unfulfilled promise of creating two crore new jobs annually in his election speeches in 2014. It is for the people in Bihar to take a final call.

S.K. CHOURDHURY,
Bengaluru

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The revenge of the lakes in Hyderabad

Over the past week, floods in Hyderabad have killed 33 people and destroyed property. **Swathi Vadlamudi** and **Syed Mohammed** report on how a burgeoning population and rapid infrastructural development have put tremendous pressure on the water bodies of the city, reducing their area, quantity and quality

Mohammed Abdul Quddus Qureshi's body was found at the Nagole sewage treatment plant along the Musi river, 13 km from his home in Alinagar, even as the steady downpour in Hyderabad continued. His decaying body had floated across three police commissionerate jurisdictions before being fished out. He was laid to rest in a cemetery in Chanchalguda, a neighbourhood in the Old City, near the fresh graves of four of his family members. They were also swept away by the waters of the overflowing Palle Cheruvu lake, part of the Umda Sagar lake basin. Of the nine members of the family who were swept away in the deluge of October 13, only one, Mohammed Abdul Taher Qureshi, survived; three remain missing. The family's loss accounts for a chunk of the 33 deaths recorded in Hyderabad.

Taher Qureshi was trying to move the eight members of the single-storey house across the rising waters to safety in his brother's three-storey building. But the torrent was so strong that it was as if the *chabutra*, on which they were standing, dissolved in it like salt.

"I heard a wall collapse and in no time, water came in with full force onto the road and consumed the ground floor of the building. I buried two grandchildren and two daughters-in-law. My brother's body, which was found in Nagole, had decomposed. The bodies of three others have still not been found," says Abdul, his voice quivering.

A short distance from Alinagar, along National Highway 44, the floodwater from the Appa Cheruvu lake close by, devoured siblings Tania and Amer, and a cousin, Taher. Their bodies were found a day later. The body of Ayaan, an eight-year-old boy, was also retrieved. The family of four along with their cousin were at home when the water swirled over the wall, sweeping away the house and its inhabitants.

In a separate incident, also on NH 44, Moawia Youssef, a Sudanese student, who was on his way to the airport along with his cab driver, was last seen on October 14. While the cab driver was eventually traced, the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport Police confirmed that the National Disaster Response Force teams have thus far been unsuccessful in tracking the student.

Unprecedented flooding

The downpour had more devastation in store, and the restive Gurram Cheruvu lake, also part of the Umda Sagar lake basin, served as its vassal. On October 18, its bund that serves as a road connecting Barkas (a corruption of the word 'barracks') to Balapur succumbed to water pressure. What followed was an unprecedented flooding of neighbourhoods south of the bund.

Ravi, a caretaker of a dairy farm, recalls the roar with which the water broke the bund. "Around 1 a.m., it rose up to 12 feet, broke our walls and took away cash and furniture. I rushed to save my mother. It is a miracle that we – our four buffaloes, 15 sheep and four horses – are safe. The water then went towards Hafiz Baba Nagar," he says.

The scenes from Hafiz Baba Nagar are telling of the loss and devastation. Dozens here are left with nothing but the damp clothes on their backs. "The water smashed the wall of my house, and portions of the roof collapsed. The washing machine, fridge, and our clothes were all swept away. I will have to rebuild my life from scratch," says Mohammed Salman, an optical fibre cable trencher, and the owner of a home in B Block.

On October 14, after night-long rain, the daily rainfall recorded at the weather monitoring station of the India Meteorological Department at Begumpet was 19.2 cm. It was the second highest in the recorded history of rainfall in a single day at this station since 1891. The water drowned the roads and inundated homes worth crores of rupees in up-market localities such as Manikonda, Gachibowli, Rajendranagar and Madhapur on the western part of the city, the hub of the IT industry.

On the other hand, data from the automatic weather stations, installed by the Telangana State Development Planning Society, showed the highest for the day at 33 cm, recorded at the Singapore Township in Pocharam, in the eastern part of the city. A week later, the Irrigation Department Principal Secretary, Rajat Kumar, noted that 185 lakes overflowed on account of the rains. Of these, Appa Cheruvu, Palle Cheruvu and Gurram Cheruvu were described as those that breached.

The sisterhood of lakes

In Telangana's natural terrain, lakes exist in sororities. The State's undulating topography allowed the existence of a reported one lakh chain-linked lakes/ponds, locally known as Kuntas and Cheruvus, in Hyderabad and its peripheries in the pre-independence era. Surplus water from each lake flowed down to the next water body in the basin, completing a chain link. The system worked well for the region in the Dec-



The bund of Gurram Cheruvu, which connects Barkas to Balapur, succumbed to pressure that led to flooding of Hafiz Baba Nagar in Hyderabad. (Below): Tonnes of earth being poured on the bund of the Palle Cheruvu



can Plateau where canal irrigation was not an option. Owing to the linkages, flooding could be avoided during monsoons, and there would be enough water impounded for summer crops. The rulers recognised this fact, and through their diktats, maintained the lakes' health. They also added new lakes, constructed strong bunds and drains to control the flows, and maintained and developed them.

After independence, the lakes came under the centralised command of the Irrigation Department, alienating the users from their water bodies. Since the 1970s, the pace of urbanisation has picked up, substituting the traditional value of subsistence placed on the land with that of real estate. As the city spread, traditional vocations such as agriculture and fishing vanished. Concrete jungles took over within no time.

A unique aspect of the Asafahai rule was its grant of titles to farmers in the lake beds so that when water receded in summer, the alluvial soil offered them bountiful crop. No activity apart from farming was allowed on the lake bed.

With urbanisation fast catching up, and infrastructure creation not apace with it, lakes became the handy receptacles of the city's sewage. Builders laid sewage lines up to the nearest lake, or connected them to the storm water drain network wherever it existed. The capital region is so replete with such interconnections between sewage lines and storm water drains that 'dry flows' is a standardised term for sewage flow into drains during the dry season. As a fallout, eutrophication soon set into the lakes, making the lakes rich with weed and poor in water-holding capacity and biodiversity. The fish died. The water became unfit for any kind of consumption. Slowly, but surely, the lake shrunk in area, quantity and quality.

Farmers and their descendants who had titles inside the lake beds sold the exposed land. Wherever the lakes became veritable sewage repositories, the urban poor settled in those areas. And where the waters were still pristine enough to proffer a 'lake view', the plots were sold at premium rates. Gigantic infrastructure development projects taken up by the successive governments, including the Outer Ring Road, Hyderabad Metro Rail, and the Strategic Road Development Plan, to name a few, tampered with the topography of the capital region and altered the hydrology of the lake basins. The role of land sharks,

who many a time are the political leaders themselves, cannot be understated, in filling the foreshore areas of the lake bed with debris and raising structures within the full tank level.

It would not be an exaggeration to state that there is not one lake in the limits of Greater Hyderabad which has been exempted from this fate, including the famed Hussain Sagar lake. The status of the lakes in the municipalities/corporations surrounding the State capital is worse.

Shrinking water bodies

From one lakh, the water bodies have drastically come down to 185 within the Greater Hyderabad capital region, and to 3,132 within the limits of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) as enumerated by its Lake Protection Committee till date. Of the 185 lakes in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), for 75, the surplus weirs and courses are completely closed.

According to a report on the disappearing water bodies of Hyderabad, by the Society for Participatory Development, submitted to the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, in 2017, the city had lost 3,245 hectares of water bodies in the previous 12 years.

The Lake Protection Committee was constituted in 2010 upon the High Court's directions responding to a PIL. It is headed by the HMDA Commissioner, and has members from departments such as GHMC, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Irrigation, Panchayat Raj, Environment and Forests, and five district administrations under the HMDA's purview. The Committee had been inept in terms of enforcement. It has limited itself to counting lakes alone. It has failed to fulfil its mandate of identifying lakes, demarcating boundaries and buffer zones for them, fencing them with FTL (Full Tank Level) stones, and preserving them by preventing and removing encroachments. Of the 3,132 water bodies, all formalities have been completed with respect to only 224. This number has remained unchanged for the past one year. Even where the FTL boundaries are notified, encroachments within have remained untouched, owing to several sociopolitical dynamics.

The decay of Gurram Cheruvu

Palle Cheruvu and Gurram Cheruvu are

part of the Umda Sagar lake's watershed area as per the Survey of India's topology sheets. Gurram Cheruvu receives its inflows from Pedda Cheruvu of the same basin, which in turn is downstream of the Burhan Khan lake. There is one more unnotified water body, the Shukur lake, in the same line, emptying into Gurram Cheruvu.

The Burhan Khan lake, which is upstream in the hydrological chain, is a huge water body with an FTL of 132 acres, of which 130 acres were intact till 2013 when it was surveyed. The government, however, had given plots for a housing colony for the poor in the lake bed, while on the other side came up a gated community, partially encroaching on the lake. A temple is now seen under construction in the foreshore area near the weir, dumped heavily with debris. During the recent floods, the lake began to submerge the colony of the poor.

While the Pedda Cheruvu and Shukur Sagar lake are relatively uninhabited, rampant construction on the surplus course of both have choked the inlet of the Gurram Cheruvu. This has inundated colonies at the lake's mouth when a deluge of inflows arrived from upstream due to copious rains.

On the northern edge, the Gurram Cheruvu's main sluice was buried under heavy encroachment encouraged by local leaders and their henchmen. Truckloads of debris were allegedly dumped into the lake and levelled using heavy machinery, about which a police complaint had already been lodged by the Tehsildar in the Chandrayangutta Police Station, but to no avail. When the lake brimmed after two decades, officials were caught in a cleft stick, as Hafiz Baba Nagar residents settled downstream demanded diversion of the water. Meanwhile, the lake's backwater had drowned the Barkas locality neck deep.

Instead of clearing the encroachment, and opening the sluice, officials tried to widen the weir portion, weakening the bund. It breached at midnight, and all hell broke loose.

The decay of this lake began not more than two decades ago. "Our uncle had agriculture under the lake. We grew paddy and vegetables, and he would distribute the crop after storing some for our needs. When the bullocks got sick, we the cousins would carry the plough along in the field," recalls Aslam Bin Haji Al Baghdadi, 25, a resident of the area. Now, there is no farming or fishing here. The water is filled with wa-

ter hyacinth weed.

A sewage receptacle

Water hyacinth defines the other lake of doom, the Palle Cheruvu, too. This lake is privately owned, just like its source lake, the Umda Sagar. Umda Sagar receives its inflows from Jalapalli Lake of the same basin. Reports about encroachments into the Jalapalli Lake appeared in the media, while the HMDA is yet to notify the centuries-old tank.

Palle Cheruvu tells the story of how a water body surrounded by burgeoning residential colonies has become a sewage receptacle. When Umda Sagar upstream started overflowing, the surplus water entered Palle Cheruvu, which had only one small drain, two feet wide. While the Irrigation Department maintains that the lake had breached, local people say that the lake topped over the bund and gushed out to the road and the surrounding areas on the night when Qureshi lost eight members of his family. Post the tragedy, irrigation officials were seen dumping tonnes of earth on the bund in order to raise its height.

"The outflow channel of Palle Cheruvu meets the surplus channels of two more lakes, the Salkam Cheruvu and the Surram Cheruvu, from the same basin. Together with the Gurram Cheruvu outflow, it becomes a massive stream roaring towards the Musi River during floods. But the channel is now occupied by structures, severely restricting the flow," says Lubna Sarwat from Save Our Urban Lakes.

Gurram Cheruvu and Palle Cheruvu are both in the HMDA's list of notified lakes. In the Umda Sagar basin, 14 of the 28 lakes had totally disappeared between 1978 and 2017, while three were in the process of disappearing, as per the study report submitted to IISc, Bengaluru. The area under water spread had reduced from 236 hectares to 134 acres.

A 2017 research paper on remote sensing study by ICRISAT and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala records the shrinkage of water bodies in the city and its surrounding areas over 16 years. In 2005, lakes recorded a total acreage of 12,535 ha. In 2016, this reduced to 2,283 ha. This means that all the floodwater that would otherwise have been impounded in these lakes, enriching the ground water, quenching thirst and feeding biodiversity of the basin is now let loose either into the surrounding lakes, or into low-lying areas, inundating homes and killing the residents.

A long-term action plan needed

But the authorities are still to learn their lessons. There is no single authority dealing with the lakes in the city. GHMC has a separate wing for lakes, and takes its own decisions about their development. One measure receiving criticism is the laying of walking tracks around the water bodies, by filling the boundary paths. The corporation has tried engineering solutions for inundation, such as constructing box-type RCC storm water drains from areas of flooding up to the nearest lake, but this has given rise to another problem by impounding more water than the lake can hold.

Two studies – one by Kirloskar Consultancy in 2002 for the erstwhile Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad and the other by the Voyants Consultancy in 2008 for GHMC – recommended widening and improving storm water drains, and diverting sewage.

The Voyants' Master Plan divided the entire GHMC area into 16 hydraulic zones and identified 173 major drains, 391-km long, which needed decongestion and widening immediately. Its implementation necessitates the acquisition of 28,800 properties encroaching on the drains, an insurmountable task. Only about 35 km of the drains could be cleared till 2016 when the city experienced inundation yet again in several areas, forcing the government to consider the proposals seriously.

Ananth Maringanti, an environmentalist from Hyderabad Urban Labs, says, "It is time to seriously consider long-term definitive action, rather than resorting to drastic measures. The city has pushed its most deprived to the edges of the water bodies, and the socio-economic dimensions involved in displacing them cannot be ignored."

The devastation of the past few weeks forced the government to announce a ₹550 crore relief package. On October 19, Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao said that ₹1 lakh would be given to those whose houses were fully damaged. Owners of partially damaged houses would be given ₹50,000. Another ₹10,000 would be given to households in low-lying areas who were hit hard by the flood.

Upstream of the Gurram Cheruvu bund, where Sayeed Colony, Ali Gulshan Colony and Hamshan Colony remained flooded for several days, Ali Bin Abdallah claims that calls made to political leaders remained unanswered. Till October 20, he alleged, neither senior officers of the GHMC nor of the revenue department arrived to assess losses.

It was voluntary organisations that began to plug the perceived yawning gap in relief work. NGOs rescued victims and provided them with immediate relief in the form of food and clothing. WhatsApp groups and places of worship turned into relief war rooms. GPS coordinates of where essential supplies were needed the most were posted, with students and professionals working at the grassroots delivering them to those in need. "Providing relief began soon after rains hit the city and was crucial in plugging some gaps. To avoid duplication of work, a few organisations have come together to chalk out a strategy," says activist S.Q. Masood.

Caught in a difficult situation, the State government is blaming the problems on the unprecedented rainfall in a single day. As per a study by the department of Civil Engineering, BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus, extreme daily rainfall in the city will be a recurring phenomenon in future too. The study has postulated that in 2040, 2045, 2068, 2088 and 2098, the city may experience intense rainfall in a day ranging between 27 cm and 69 cm. How the city prepares to mitigate the potential damage that it will bring is to be seen.



FROM PAGE ONE

'Bihar needs Nitish-led govt. for development'

There would be one common entrance examination for jobs for the youth of the country.

"All technical education like medical and engineering will be imparted in local languages, and it will benefit everyone in the country," he stated.

Mr. Modi spoke about

new farm laws, criticising the Opposition parties protesting against them. "Mandir mein dalao aur bichghaliyon ko bachana hai... sal mein dalao aur bichghaliyon ko bachana hai [village markets and MSP (Minimum Support Price) are just excuses... it's all to protect middlemen and brokers]."

PM did not help migrants, says Rahul

He "requested" Mr. Modi not to lie to the people of Bihar. "In the last election, you promised them to provide two-crore employment? What did they get?... you come and say that you bow down your head before farmers, soldiers, workers and small businessmen, and when you return home, you do work for Ambani and Adani," he said.

Mr. Gandhi asked the

gathering if they got any benefit from demonetisation. "You all stood outside banks in heat and rain... You deposited your money into banks but where has your money gone," he asked. "Did Adani stand before banks?... Did Ambani stand in queue in front of banks?... Our governments in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Punjab waived farmers loan," he claimed.

Pakistan to stay on FATF grey list till 2021

Delays in the prosecution of banned individuals and entities like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief Hafiz Saeed and LeT operations chief, Zaki Ur Rahman Lakhvi, as well as Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar, were also listed among failures.

While Saeed was sentenced in February to 11 years for terror financing, and he remains behind bars, Islamabad claims the others are "untraceable". Queries have been raised

on each of the missing persons and about the efforts made to trace them.

The FATF has also noted that there were few convictions of terror commanders of UN-designated entities affiliated to the Al Qaeda and the Haqqani network. Pakistan was found non-compliant in cracking down on terror financing through narcotics and smuggling of mining products including precious stones.

Parts of Bengaluru flooded after 3 days of heavy rain

Drains overflow, water enters houses in many localities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Heavy rain for the third consecutive day resulted in flooding in several parts of Bengaluru.

Hosakerehalli, Nayandahalli, Basavanagudi, Bommanahalli, Kengeri and surrounding areas were the worst hit.

With the southwest monsoon continuing well into October, beyond its June to September period, the city has been witnessing higher than normal rainfall. Until October 23 morning, the city received 179.3 mm rainfall. The normal rainfall for the period is 141 mm.

"It is a departure of 27.2% from normal in Bengaluru city," the IMD duty officer said.



A video grab showing waterlogging at Hoskerehalli and, right, Mysore Road due to heavy rain in Bengaluru on Friday.

Drains overflowed, roads turned into rivulets and homes were inundated in many localities coming under Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bommanahalli and South zones.

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) Com-



A file photo of M. Sivasankar leaving the Police Club in Thiruvananthapuram after being questioned by the NIA.

times than the accused had cared to admit, he said.

The ASG submitted that Mr. Sivasankar was well aware that the money recovered from Swapna's locker

was proceeds of the crime.

'Little evidence'

P. Vijayabhanu, counsel for Mr. Sivasankar, said he had always cooperated with the

investigation and there was nothing on record to prove the allegations levelled against him by the agencies. While the Customs had questioned Mr. Sivasankar for 30 hours, the ED interrogated him for 36 hours. The National Investigation Agency had earlier submitted that they did not have any plans to arrest him, he argued.

The counsel also submitted that Mr. Sivasankar was being hounded and he was finding it difficult to even rent a hotel room.

Evasive during quizzing

Appearing for the Customs, K. Ramkumar submitted that the official was not cooperating with the interrogation and was evasive on many important questions.

IN BRIEF



'Set up special team to enforce COVID-19 norms'

BENGALURU
The High Court of Karnataka on Friday directed the State government to set up a dedicated team of officials for Bengaluru city to strictly enforce the norm of compulsory wearing of masks and maintaining social distancing in public places.

Move to transfer actor rape case rejected

KOCHI
The prosecution's application seeking time to move the Kerala High Court for change of court in the sensational female actor rape case was rejected by the Special Judge on Friday. Honey M. Varghese, Additional Special Sessions Judge, Ernakulam, dismissed the application as the "prosecutor was absent in the case and counsel representing him was reluctant to argue on the petition."

Congress in Kerala facing a revolt, says CPI(M)

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
The CPI(M) on Friday hinted that a revolt was imminent in the Congress over the party's overtures to radical outfits. CPI(M) State secretary Kodyeri Balakrishnan said the political line of the Congress in the State was in stark variance with that of its national leadership.

Telangana to hire 20,000 more police officers

HYDERABAD
Telangana Home Minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali said on Friday that the government was planning to recruit 20,000 more police officers against the existing vacancies in various ranks. He said this after reviewing the passing out parade of 1,162 cadet sub-inspectors at the Raja Bahadur Venkata Rama Reddy Telangana State Police Academy here.

Colleges in Karnataka to reopen on Nov. 17

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

After a gap of seven months, degree, diploma, and engineering colleges in Karnataka will reopen for students on November 17.

However, barring practicals, where attendance will be compulsory, it is not mandatory for students to physically report to the classroom.

The decision to reopen colleges after Deepavali was taken on Friday at a meeting headed by Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa.

themselves and get written consent from parents," he said.

The decision was taken keeping in mind the future of students and the UGC guidelines, said officials. The department will issue a comprehensive list of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on the modalities of resuming classes, including the number of batches that can be held in a day.

Each college will have to form a COVID-19 task force to ensure that the SOPs are adhered to.

"At the district level, a task force headed by the Deputy Commissioner will also be formed. Cooperation of various departments has been sought. Issues such as opening of government hostels have also been discussed," Mr. Ashwath Narayan added.

Minister for Higher Education C.N. Ashwath Narayan, while making the announcement, reiterated that students will be given the option of continuing with their online classes. "Those willing to attend offline classes should register

arranging a live donor.

Mr. Sreejith's report said preliminary evidence pointed to violation of Section 19 of the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA), 1994. The law prohibits the sale of organs.

The investigators said many of the donors could not explain the windfall they had received during the COVID-19 pandemic when regular employment was hard to come by.

The Crime Branch report said some "public servants" had "connived and abetted" the crime. An official said government doctors could also be involved in the racket. The scale of the racket could be extensive.

Police unearth major organ transplant racket in Kerala

Probe is now centred on hospitals in Thrissur district

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala police have stumbled upon an organ transplant racket that supplied kidneys and liver tissue from living donors to affluent patients requiring a transplant. Many of the donors had no links to

the recipients. The police could find no evidence to conclude that the donors had any particular attachment, altruistic reason, or affection for the patient.

Investigators said they suspected that the donors had received up to ₹10 lakh as compensation. However, middlemen and the suspect hospitals could have netted up to ₹40 lakh or more for

Chief Loknath Behera, Mr. Sreejith said middlemen working for hospitals had induced persons from poor families through deception to donate kidney or liver tissue to well-heeled patients requiring a transplant. Many of the donors had no links to

the recipients. The police could find no evidence to conclude that the donors had any particular attachment, altruistic reason, or affection for the patient.

Investigators said they suspected that the donors had received up to ₹10 lakh as compensation. However, middlemen and the suspect hospitals could have netted up to ₹40 lakh or more for

Relief for dubbing artiste as Kerala HC stays arrest

Case relates to attack on a YouTuber

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHEE

The arrest of dubbing artiste Bhagyalakshmi and women activists Diya Sana and Sreelakshmi Arakkal in a case related to trespassing and causing hurt to Vijay P. Nair, a YouTuber, was stayed by the Kerala High Court on Friday till October 30.

Considering an anticipatory bail application of the accused, the court asked them why could not they face the consequences of going to the jail as they were bold enough to barge into the lodge of the accused and bash him up," the court noted, referring to the video shot by the accused while pouring ink on him.

Counsel for Ms. Bhagyalakshmi argued that the charges of trespass would not stand, as the women were invited by Vijay P. Nair for a compromise talk.

The court will pronounce its decision on October 30.

Four washed away in Chittoor

STAFF REPORTER
CHITTOOR

Four persons were washed away in the swirling waters on causeways in different locations in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh on Friday. While the police traced three bodies, search is on for the fourth one.

A family from Muthirevula near Chittoor was returning home after attending a marriage near Puthalapattu when the car was swept away in the swirling waters. The driver rescued two persons, but a child and his father, trapped in the car, were washed away.

In another incident, a man and his son were washed away at Jellipeta rivulet near Palamaner while trying to take a selfie.

With positivity rate of 13.13%, Kerala's fresh cases exceed 8,500

Andhra Pradesh raises testing to over 80,000; Bengaluru accounts for half of Karnataka cases; Telangana adds 1,421 cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Centre has already slapped an export ban on the staple vegetable, taken steps for imports, and released more than 40,000 tonnes from its buffer stock to cool down the prices. Prices are always high at this time of year as stocks from the last rabi crop dwindle before the fresh kharif crop begins to arrive.

Excess rainfall
Excess rainfall and flooding in the key producer States of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh this year has resulted in significant damage to the standing kharif crop, and the expectation of short supplies has led to soaring prices, crossing the ₹100 per kg mark in Mumbai, Pune and Hyderabad.

Nationally, the average retail price is more than ₹55 per kg as on October 21. This is only 22% higher than last year. However, the price is 115% higher than the average of the last five years for this date, which triggers the "extraordinary price rise" clause of the amended SCA allowing the government to invoke stock limits.

Andhra Pradesh's case tally shot past the eight lakh-mark with 4,281 new infec-

tions and 20 deaths on Friday. It became the second State after Maharashtra to report over eight lakh cases, but had the lowest recorded deaths and highest recoveries among the top four affected States, including Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, the government claimed.

The State conducted 80,238 COVID tests, the highest in a single day.

Telangana reported 1,421 positive cases on Thursday and six fresh deaths during the period taking the total to 1,298.

Testing for a 24-hour period stood at 38,484 samples.

Among fresh positive cases, 44.5% (632) were from Greater Hyderabad.

Tamil Nadu on Friday re-



*Telangana numbers are as of 8 p.m. on Thursday | **Kerala has a mismatch of 103 cases due to unaccounted deaths, missing persons | ***Karnataka has 19 non-COVID deaths

tally of cases to 7,03,250 and COVID-19 toll to 10,858.

Another 4,262 persons were discharged across the

State. The active cases dropped to 32,960.

With 81,472 samples tested, the total number of sam-

Covaxin Phase III trial from November

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Vaccine maker Bharat Biotech plans to conduct the Phase III clinical trial for COVID-19 vaccine candidate Covaxin from November.

The company, which is developing the vaccine in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), intends to conduct the trial on 26,000 participants across 25 cities. This company recently secured approval from the

Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for the Phase III clinical trial of Covaxin.

After considering earlier data on the proposal on October 20, a Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of the DCGI said: "After detailed deliberation and based on available evidences, the Committee [has] recommended for grant of permission to conduct Phase III clinical trial," subject to certain conditions.

tested in Tamil Nadu.
(With inputs from Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Bengaluru and Chennai bureaus)

IN BRIEF



Former BJP leader Eknath Khadse joins NCP

MUMBAI

Former BJP leader Eknath Khadse on Friday joined the Nationalist Congress Party in the presence of party chief Sharad Pawar. Ruling out the possibility of a reshuffle of the State Cabinet to accommodate him, Mr. Pawar said the latter had not joined the NCP for any post.

3 men arrested for rape in U.P. village

LUCKNOW

Three persons were arrested for allegedly raping a 19-year-old woman while she was returning home after attending a religious event in Mahoba in southern Uttar Pradesh, police said on Friday. An FIR was lodged against the three men.

Civil services preliminary exam results declared

NEW DELHI

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Friday declared the results of the civil services preliminary examination, an official statement said. The results of the exam held on October 4 can be viewed on the UPSC website: www.upsc.gov.in.

HC orders TV Today to deposit fine

MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Thursday directed the TV Today Network to deposit the fine of ₹5 lakh imposed by the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) if it wanted protection from a possible coercive action. A Division Bench of Justices Nitin Jamdar and Milind Jadhav was hearing a petition filed by the TV Today Network Limited that sought quashing of the BARC order.

Lalu will walk free, bid Nitish farewell: Tejashwi

RJD leader mocks CM, says he is too tired to govern

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PATNA

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader and the grand alliance's chief ministerial face Tejashwi Yadav said on Friday that his father, Lalu Prasad, would come out of jail on November 9.

"Laluji has got bail in one case and will secure one in another case on November 9, which also happens to be my birthday. The next day, on November 10, Nitishji will have his farewell," he said at an election rally at Hisua in Nawada district, where he shared the dais with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

RJD chief Lalu Prasad is currently undergoing treatment at Ranchi's Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), while staying in Kelly's bungalow inside the hospital premises.

Two cases

He was recently granted bail by the Jharkhand High Court in one of the fodder scam cases, but could not come out of jail as his bail plea in another case was yet to be heard.

He is expected to get bail when the petition is taken up on November 9 as he would have already completed more than half of the jail term in the case by that date.

The three-phase election to the Bihar Assembly will end on November 7 and the results will be out on November 10.

Mr. Yadav accused the Nitish Kumar government of failure to end corruption, create jobs and stop migration of workers to other



Seeking support: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav campaigning in Hisua on Friday. PTI

... people hate the present regime. They're angry.

TEJASHWI YADAV
RJD leader

States. "Nitishji, you are tired... You won't be able to take care of Bihar now," he said.

Mocking Mr. Kumar's recent statement that Bihar had missed the industrialisation boom as it was "lanlocked", Mr. Yadav reiterated his promise to create 10 lakh government jobs if voted to power.

"Those who did not give you jobs, education, health facilities and industries in 15 years will not do all this in the next five years," he said.

Later, addressing the media in Patna, the RJD leader said he was expecting Prime Minister Narendra Modi to say something about the

lack of development in the State. "Mr. Modi should ask Nitish Kumarji and tell us why in the last 15 years of his [Mr. Kumar's] regime no industrialisation has taken place in the State and why no employment was generated. And I also want to ask the Prime Minister when Bihar will get the special State status and a special package," he said.

Where are the jobs?
"Now BJP says 19 lakh jobs will be created in five years if they come to power, but I would like to ask in which BJP-ruled State have they provided even 5 lakh jobs in the last five years?" the RJD leader asked.

On the huge turnout at his public meetings, Mr. Yadav said, "it is because people hate the present regime. They're angry."

INTERVIEW | D. RAJA

'Secular forces must come together'

Primary objective must be defeating BJP and its allies, says CPI general secretary

SOBHANA K. NAIR

Communist Party of India (CPI) general secretary D.

Raja says all secular, democratic forces need to come together to fight against the BJP in the Bihar Assembly election, and elaborates on why the CPI decided to join the grand alliance.

In 1995, the CPI had 26 seats. It was the fourth biggest party in the Bihar Assembly and now you are reduced to fighting six seats. How do you explain such a decline?

■ It is true, we used to win a good number of seats in the State Assembly and parliamentary elections. Over the years, many developments have taken place. But we continue to be a force to reckon with, especially

when it is about protecting the interests of the people, particularly the poor and marginalised sections. We are a force to shape the political discourse. As far as our decline is concerned, we could not be part of a viable coalition for various reasons.

But now things are different, we are part of *mahagatbandhan* [grand alliance].

Why did the CPI decide to join the grand alliance?

■ Earlier, when Lalu Prasad Yadav was the Chief Minister, we fought Assembly and parliamentary elections together. It was only [for the] last general elections, despite our efforts, we could not reach an alliance. Similarly, in 2015 also, we could not have an alliance. But now, taking into consideration the situation in the country and Bihar, we came to the conclusion that the primary objective must be to defeat the BJP and its allies.

All secular democratic forces need to come together for this goal. Now, the BJP-RSS combine has posed a grave threat to the Constitution, democratic polity of our country and secular fabric of our society. Our country and the Constitution need to be saved. This election will have larger ramifications in the future political course of the country.



This election will have larger ramifications in the future political course of the country

my to private hands. It means the government is abdicating all its responsibility. As far as caste-based politics is concerned, what is caste-based politics? What happened in Hathras? In India, we have a caste system, which is why B.R. Ambedkar gave a call for 'annihilation of caste'. It is a long-drawn battle against caste system and patriarchy, which we will continue to fight.

The opinion polls are indicating a huge lead for the NDA in the Assembly elections. Your comments?

■ No opinion poll seems to be objective; the ground reality is that the *mahagatbandhan* has already emerged as the number one option of the voters. There is a huge anti-incumbency [mood]. And this anti-incumbency is not against Nitish Kumar alone, the BJP also faces it. They too have to share the blame. The BJP-JD (U) [government] was a failure, they failed to develop the State and now the people are looking for change.

Congress lists BJP's 'unkept promises'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi started the campaign trail in Bihar, the Congress on Friday asked if Mr. Modi would show the "courage" to announce special status for the State.

The party also posed several questions on the promises that the Prime Minister had made to the people

in the run up to the 2015 Assembly polls.

Congress general secretary Randeep Surjewala, who has been camping in Patna to oversee the party's election campaign, said Mr. Modi would once again try to 'mislead, confuse and divide' the 12 crore people of Bihar.

"Will PM Modi today show the courage to announce

special status for Bihar?" he asked. Mr. Surjewala targeted the BJP and the Prime Minister for not 'honouring' previous announcements.

"In the last election, the announcement to construct a Central University in Bagalpur at a cost of ₹500 crore won much applause but not even a single brick has not even been laid," Mr. Surjewala said.

He said though Mr. Modi had announced a Skill Development University at a cost of ₹1,550 crore, it simply vanished after the elections.

"Why was it taken to Varanasi? Why did you lie about electricity generation? What happened to the 1300 MW thermal power plant to be built at a cost of ₹10,000 crore in Chausa, Buxar?" the Congress leader asked.

Restore Kashmir's flag: Mehbooba

+ J&K's former Chief Minister says she will not hold the tricolour until then

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on Friday said she was not interested in contesting elections or holding the national tricolour till the constitutional changes enforced on August 5, 2019 were rolled back.

In her first media interaction after her release from 14-month detention, the Peoples Democratic Party president said she would hold the tricolour only when the separate flag of the erstwhile State was restored.

"As far as I am concerned, I have no interest in elections. Till the time the Constitution under which I used to contest elections is returned to us, Mehbooba Mufti has got nothing to do with elections. Let me tell you that," she said.

Alliance meet today
Asked if her party and the Peoples' Alliance for Gupkar Declaration will contest the District Development Council (DDC) elections, she said



Strident stand: Mehbooba Mufti at her first press conference after being released from detention, in Srinagar. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

a meeting of the alliance would be held on Saturday where these issues would also be discussed, apart from the general situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Asked whether not contesting these polls would be akin to conceding space to the BJP, Ms. Mufti said it was a hypothetical question.

"You are discussing everything hypothetically. The alliance will sit and discuss it. It is not about the BJP and its cronies. Because people have to survive and God for-

bid, it should not happen that they [people] will come into the hands of those who will kick them out. So, we will take a decision keeping in mind all the pros and cons. Farooq [Abdullah] sahib is our leader, so we will take the right decision after everyone gives his opinion," she said.

Ms. Mufti said the tricolour was part of the Constitution and the BJP had desecrated it and the Constitution. She said Jammu and Kashmir's relation with India was because of the erstwhile State's special constitutional position, which included a flag.

She said the BJP had "demolished" the Constitution and wanted to replace it with its manifesto. She regretted that the Opposition parties, except a few, were silent.

bid, it should not happen that they [people] will come into the hands of those who will kick them out. So, we will take a decision keeping in mind all the pros and cons. Farooq [Abdullah] sahib is our leader, so we will take the right decision after everyone gives his opinion," she said.

The flag of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir was prominently placed on a table in front of the PDP president, along with the party flag, during the press conference.

least of the level of Additional Secretary or its equivalent.

Eligibility norms

"Officers of the Armed Forces who have retired from the rank equivalent of General may also be considered for appointment. Preference would be given to persons who have worked in any other sector, other than their own, or have worked as CVO [Chief Vigilance Officer] in any organisation," says the order. Under the 2017 order, the officials who had retired from positions of the level of Additional Secretary to the Central government and above, or equivalent pay scale, were eligible for the PSUs, board level officers in Schedule 'A' companies,

scale. Such officials who retired as Chairman and Managing Directors (CMDs) of PSUs – Schedule 'A' companies and CMD/Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer levels in the Public Sector Banks (PSBs), insurance companies and financial institutions – should be at

PSBs, insurance companies and financial institutions. Officers of the Armed Forces who had retired from the rank equivalent to Lieutenant-General and above could also be considered for appointment. The amended Para 5.3 provides that for appointment as IEM, the Ministry, department or organisation concerned has to forward a panel of suitable persons to the CVC, of those persons who are in the panel maintained by the Commission. The previous corresponding provision stated that the panel could include those already in the panel maintained by the Commission, or they could propose names of other suitable persons.

Krak Kerala Rail Development Corporation Limited

E Tender

Five E Tenders are invited for Supply & Fixing of RCC Pillars on two boundary lines and center line duly conducting location survey along the corridor for Semi High Speed Rail Corridor (Silver Line) between Thiruvananthapuram and Kasaragod.

Tender No KRDC/L108 to 112/2020 (Total 05 (five) Tenders.)

Tender documents can be downloaded from etenders.kerala.gov.in.

For more details visit www.keralarail.com.

UT OF LAKSHADWEEP

LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD. (A Government of India Undertaking)

Ph: 04842323448/458, Web: lakshadweep.gov.in

E-mail : amindivi@asianetindia.com

Tender No. LDCL/SHIP/H&M/INS/2020 23.10.20

LDCL invites sealed tender through our website: www.lakshadweep.gov.in from Nationalized insurance companies for Hull and Machinery Insurance cover of 25 vessels in single bid systems. Receipt of the last date 27.10.2020 at 11:30 am. Help Desk for clarification contact O (A) : 04842323448/09446073122.

NEHRU MEMORIAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

(An Autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)

Teen Murti House, New Delhi-110011

Nehru Memorial Museum and Library(NMM) is developing

Museum on Prime Ministers in the Teen Murti complex.

NMM invites E-bids for the following :

RFP No	RFP
MOPM/RFP/2020/003V2	Set up and Operating a Souvenir Shop on Leave and Licence basis
MOPM/RFP/2020/004V2	Set up and Operating a Cafe on Leave and Licence basis

The last date for submission of e-bid is 18th Nov. 2020 up to 17.00 hrs (IST). For more details please visit website www.tenderwizard.com/NMM, www.eprocure.gov.in and <http://nemuhrm.nic.in/e-tenders.htm>.

Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)

No.8, "Samparka Soudha", Dr. Rajkumar Road,

Rajajinagar 1st Block, Bengaluru-560 010. Telefax : 080-22024000

email : cekrdc@gmail.com Website: <http://www.krdcl.in>

No. KRDC/LFB/2020-21/15 Date: 23.10.2020

INV

Free vaccine for the poor, says Chouhan

STAFF REPORTER
BHOPAL

COVID-19 vaccine will be administered free of cost to the poor, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Friday, ahead of the by-elections to 28 Assembly seats.

The BJP had earlier promised free vaccination against COVID-19 in its Bihar election manifesto.

"Madhya Pradesh has previously given support to the poor on several counts, now it will ensure their protection from COVID-19 too," Mr. Chouhan said.

State Congress media coordinator Narendra Saluja alleged that Mr. Chouhan had made a U-turn on his earlier announcement that the vaccine would be provided to all residents free.

K.K. Mishra, State Congress media in-charge of Gwalior-Chambal, said: "A vaccine is yet to be developed, still there is an announcement to distribute it free. This is like printing marriage invitation cards even before the person's birth. Only the BJP can do something like this."

Be ready for crucial 3 months: Vardhan

Health Minister says COVID-appropriate behaviour in the festival and winter season is essential

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Friday that the next three months were going to be decisive for the country in determining the trajectory of COVID-19.

"If we take adequate precaution and follow COVID appropriate behaviour in the coming festival and winter season, we will be in a better position to fight corona," the Minister said while reviewing COVID-19 preparedness and measures for COVID-appropriate behaviour in Uttar Pradesh.

"Madhya Pradesh has previously given support to the poor on several counts, now it will ensure their protection from COVID-19 too," Mr. Chouhan said.

State Congress media coordinator Narendra Saluja alleged that Mr. Chouhan had made a U-turn on his earlier announcement that the vaccine would be provided to all residents free.

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The number of active cases are less than 7 lakh and

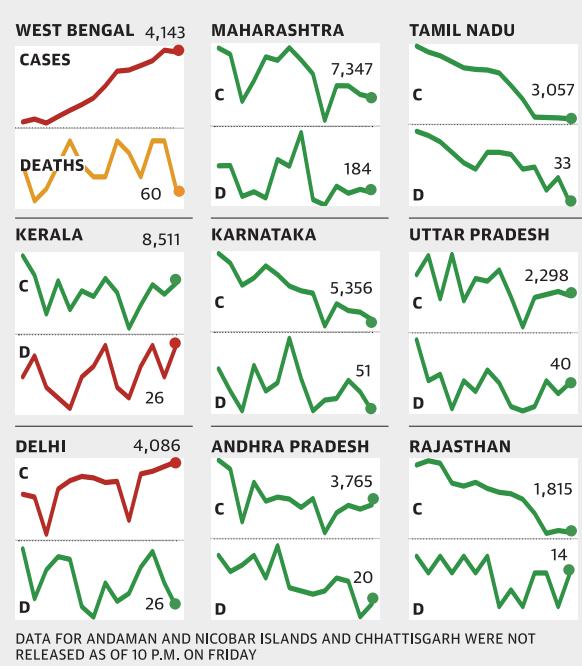
Viral tracker

With 51,601 COVID-19 cases recorded on Friday, India's tally stood at 78,10,935. As many as 610 new deaths were registered, taking the toll to 1,17,964. The graphs depict new cases and deaths in the last 14 days in select States. The States are classified based on where cases/deaths are rising (red), falling (green) or showing a mixed trend (orange).

NEW CASES AND DEATHS

CASES	51,601
7 DAY-CHANGE	-13.8%
DEATHS	610
7 DAY-CHANGE	-23.3%

DATA FOR ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS AND CHHATTISGARH WERE NOT RELEASED AS OF 10 P.M. ON FRIDAY



the doubling rate has increased to 97.2 days, as of now. The journey which started from having just one lab, we have come a long way in now having nearly 2,000 labs in the country. The number of total tests conducted across the country have surpassed 10 crore.

This is a positive indication that we are moving in the right direction."

Step up surveillance'

For Uttar Pradesh, Dr. Vardhan stressed the need to focus on increasing testing, surveillance, contact tracing, and early diagnosis to

keep fatality rate low. The total number of COVID-19 tests conducted in the country touched 10,01,13,085 on Friday.

As many as 14,42,722 tests were done on Thursday alone. The last one crore tests were conducted in nine days.

"The country's testing capacities have multiplied manifold with nearly 2,000 labs across the country and with collaborative efforts of the Centre and State/UT [Union Territory] governments. More than 15 lakh samples can be tested every day," said a release issued by the Health Ministry.

Increased testing

It added that progressive countrywide expansion in testing infrastructure has played a crucial role in the steep rise of testing numbers. "With 1,989 testing labs in the country including 1,122 government laboratories and 867 private laboratories, the daily testing capacity has got a substantial boost," it said.

The Ministry added that higher testing across wide regions had resulted in early identification of positive cases, prompt tracking through efficient surveillance and tracing and timely and effective treatment in homes and facilities and in hospitals for the severe cases. These measures in tandem eventually led to lower mortality rate.



A rapid antigen test for COVID-19 under way in Srinagar. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

Coronavirus/Wuhan Virus/China Virus."

The WHO Regional Director's mail further stated that preliminary investigation found "no evidence" of sustained human-to-human transmission and there were no infections reported among healthcare workers and based on the still limited amount of information available, the situation may evolve rapidly.

Dr. Singh wrote that "the current WHO advisory does not recommend any specific health measures for travellers." She also added: "It is generally considered that entry screening offers little benefit, while requiring considerable resources."

A mistake to have left Quad, says Australia

Envoy, however, notes that Australia's policy does not envision formalising the grouping in any way

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Australia should not have walked out of the Quad, and subsequently the Malabar exercises with India, but was "delighted" at New Delhi's decision to invite it to participate in this year's naval exercises in November, Australian High Commissioner to India Barry O'Farrell said.

Referring to his government's announcement in 2008 that it would not participate in the Quad exercises with India, Japan and the United States, he said it probably became the reason India took three years to accept Australia's request to rejoin the exercises, despite requests from 2017-2020.

"I can say that, with the benefit of hindsight, clearly that it [withdrawing from Malabar] was a mistake. I suspect earlier in the piece, that became a stumbling block, and that was not forgotten in terms of reassembling Australia as part of that exercise," Mr. O'Farrell said in an interview to *The Hindu*.

Earlier this week, the Ministry of Defence announced

We have a positive agenda for the Quad, which is about shaping the neighbourhood in which we live... a free, open and resilient Indo Pacific, one where rules and norms apply and one where any disputes are resolved according to international law

BARRY O'FARRELL,
AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER
TO INDIA



the stand-off at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and tensions with China, Mr. O'Farrell said that the decision was a reaction to "challenges in the neighbourhood" over a period of time, not the last few months.

"I don't think the invitation came about because of activities over the last couple of months [at the LAC], I think it's been the changing environment in which we live, and the recognition by experts that growing concerns in both countries over China's aggression in the Indo-Pacific and on the border with India have accelerated the pace of Quad cooperation this year."

Asked if New Delhi's turnaround this year was due to

statements from U.S. State Department officials, who called for formalising and regularising the interactions on the platform. He said that Australia did not see the Quad, as U.S. Secretary of State Pompeo asserted, as a "tool" to counter the challenge from China's ruling Communist Party (CCP).

Positive agenda

"We have a positive agenda for the Quad, which is about shaping the neighbourhood in which we live, you know, a free, open and resilient Indo-Pacific, one where, you know, rules and norms apply and one where any disputes are resolved according to international law. It's been clear in the comments of the

three foreign ministers, who are three-quarters of the Quad, that whatever we develop there is intended to be shared by all countries across the Indo Pacific, so we're not exclusivist," he stated.

India and Australia would continue talks on a trade deal, although they would be delayed until after the 15-nation Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) was completed later this year, which India decided to walk out from. Despite several requests from RCEP countries, especially Australia, the Modi government has refused to reconsider its decision, citing worries over Chinese goods flooding the Indian market.

"RCEP will proceed. I understand and recognise and respect India's decision, and no one is forced to sign up to the agreement. It's no secret that Australia was keen for India to be part of it. In the meantime, Australia will continue to engage with India bilaterally on a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)," he said.

The country has four vaccines that are in clinical trials, and the first one – Covaxin, which is the inactivated vaccine made by Bharat Biotech – will be going into Phase 3 clinical trials fairly soon, Professor Kang said.

She was speaking at the last of a three-part seminar jointly hosted by TNQ and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Janelia Research Campus.

The virtual seminars aimed to discuss the latest research on COVID-19 and SARS-CoV-2, the impact of the pandemic on human population and the state of development of diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines.

Worldwide, there are

immunity to set in," Professor Krammer said. "Most of these vaccines have to be given twice and it may take two months by the time you are protected."

He added that longevity could be an issue too. "We do not yet know how long immunity will last, but it might be that booster doses after one, two or three years might be needed."

In terms of therapeutics, we still do not have "a silver bullet," he said. "We need new drugs to deal with the virus during the early phases of infection and deal with the immune system in the late stage of infection."

Benjamin R. tenOever, an Arthur and Irene Fishberg Professor of Medicine and the Director of the Virus Engineering Center for Therapeutics and Research (VECToR) at the Icahn School of Medicine, Mount Sinai, New York, spoke on leveraging innate immunity as a first-line defence against SARS-CoV-2.

"We also have to keep in mind that it takes time for

CPI-IW change is anti-worker, says CITU

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) has said the revision of the base year for the consumer price index for industrial workers (CPI-IW) from 2001 to 2016 announced by Labour Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar would lead to suppression of the real impact of price rise, harming the interests of workers.

It would "deprive the workers of their entitlement for legitimate DA [dearness allowance]," a statement by CITU leader Tapan Sen said on Friday.

FIR against Republic TV editorial team

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Mumbai police on Friday filed an FIR against Republic TV's editorial team for allegedly trying to incite disaffection among the police staff against Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh and for defaming the Mumbai police through its report on "rebellion against the top cop".

After mall fire, 3,500 people shifted from nearby tower

Fire spread to all floors of City Central in Mumbai at night



Fire scare: Smoke billowing from the City Central Mall in Mumbai on Friday. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

fire brigade announced the fire was a "brigade call", meaning Level 5 one, the highest category, for which fire engines are called from all agencies in the city.

The residents of nearby 55-storey Orchid Enclave building in Mumbai Central were shifted to safety.

The fire broke out on the second floor of the mall around 8.50 p.m. on Thursday. It spread to all three floors despite the fire-fighting efforts. At 2.41 a.m., the

fire brigade announced the fire was a "brigade call", meaning Level 5 one, the highest category, for which fire engines are called from all agencies in the city.

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ED summons Punjab CM's son Raninder

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has summoned Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's son Raninder Singh for recording his statement under the Foreign Exchange Management Act on October 27, said a senior agency official on Friday.

The ED probe is related to the Income Tax Department's alleged findings that some assets acquired overseas were not disclosed during 2005-07, the official said. The assets were detected later.

Court rejects bail petition of Stan Swamy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

A special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court has rejected the interim medial bail plea of 83-year-old Stan Swamy, accused in the Bhima Koregaon violence case and lodged in the Taloja Central Jail.

Mr. Swamy, a Jesuit priest and activist working with tribals, was arrested on October 8.

Court rejects plea of officers in Ishrat case

It asks CBI to get nod for prosecution

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

A special CBI court on Friday rejected the discharge applications moved by three policemen, including IPS officer G.L. Singh, accused in the 2004 Ishrat Jahan alleged fake encounter case in Gujarat.

Besides Mr. Singh, other petitioners are retired deputy superintendent of police Tarun Barot and sub inspector Ananu Chaudhary. A fourth accused, retired deputy SP J.G. Parmar, who had also moved a discharge plea, passed away recently.

Mandatory step

In an order on Friday, Special CBI court judge V.R. Raval refused to drop proceedings against the three accused and directed the prosecution agency, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), to get prosecution sanction under Section 197 of the Code of Criminal Procedure from the Gujarat government.

As per the laid-down procedure under the section, government sanction is necessary for the prosecution of a public servant for an act done as part of official duty.

WHO alerted India to virus on Jan. 11: NCDC

RTI reply denies any travel advisory

VIJAYITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The World Health Organization (WHO) informed India as early as January 11 that the reported dates of onset of the novel coronavirus circulating in Wuhan, China, ranged between December 12 and 29, 2019, according to information accessed through a Right to Information (RTI) query.

The RTI reply shows that the WHO also "advised against any travel or trade restrictions on China based on the information currently available on this event".

In the RTI reply, the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) said Poornam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia, New Delhi, sent an "alert mail" to Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on January 11, regarding the novel coronavirus circulating in Wuhan. The RTI query was filed by Jammu resident Rohit Chaudhary, where he sought to know "the date when the Government of India first received information on the Covid19/

Coronavirus/Wuhan Virus/China Virus."

The WHO Regional Director's mail further stated that preliminary investigation found "no evidence" of sustained human-to-human transmission and there were no infections reported among healthcare workers and based on the still limited amount of information available, the situation may evolve rapidly.

Dr. Singh wrote that "the current WHO advisory does not recommend any specific health measures for travellers." She also added: "It is generally considered that entry screening offers little benefit, while requiring considerable resources."

30 vaccine programmes under way in India: scientist

Four vaccines are in clinical trials, says Gagandeep Kang



Gagandeep Kang

some 154 vaccines in the pre-clinical phase, 44 in clinical trials, of which 10 are already in Phase 3 trials, said Florian Krammer, Professor of Vaccinology at the Icahn School of Medicine, Mount Sinai, U.S. However, even if vaccines are eventually licensed and enter the market, there will be hurdles to be crossed, he said.

The virtual seminars aimed to discuss the latest research on COVID-19 and SARS-CoV-2, the impact of the pandemic on human population and the state of development of diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines.

Worldwide, there are

India to chair key ILO forum after 35 years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India assumed the role of chair of the International Labour Organisation's governing body from October 2020 till June 2021, the Labour Ministry said on Friday. It is taking up the role after a gap of 35 years.

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How *mridangam* makers and Chennai design firm, The Architecture Story, collaborated for the ongoing Dutch Design Week

It's a mootu point

SURYA PRAPHULLA KUMAR

Eindhoven in the Netherlands is seeing a surge in visitors, albeit virtually. The 19th Dutch Design Week has kicked off and people are logging on to check out over 500 exhibits in 3D viewing rooms. Think light installations with discarded lenses, living coffins (with mycelium) and textiles woven by drones.

But it is an exhibit at the Dutch Invertuals Gallery's *True Matter* show that we are interested in. Equal parts eye-catching and confusing, the Mootu Lounger by Chennai-based design firm, The Architecture Story, is shaped like a 'U' and strung with moulded leather pieces. Is it furniture or art? Can one sit on it? Turns out, designers and partners Justine De Penning and Deepak Jawahar welcome such questions. "We wanted to take design as an opportunity for divergent thinking," says Jawahar, 35. "The point was to think of different ways that a body can interact with an object, and the Mootu Lounger plays with perception and interaction."

Also, though you may not see it immediately, the conceptual design has its origin story in the *mridangam*, the main percussion instrument in the Carnatic music ensemble. While debating how to break away from regular modes of understanding form, the duo decided to look at the *mridangam*. Something that was representative of 'place', of Tamil Nadu. "We visited *mridangam* makers in Mylapore [an area synonymous with Carnatic music] and different parts of Chennai, and learned that the *mootu* [the moulded leather that covers the two mouths of the instrument] is used for three to four years and then discarded. So it is a generational craft that doesn't have an afterlife," explains Jawahar. They took home a number of *mootus* to experiment with – deconstructing it, immersing it in water, shaping it with another object. "For the final piece, we

had challenged 22 young designers from 17 countries to work with raw materials from their local context, and to play with techniques, craftsmanship and traditions. "We thought it would be interesting to explore music and design – not in a direct way, but through tectonics [the method of bringing things together] of music creation," says De Penning, 33, while her husband Jawahar adds, "During our research, we found that [Indian physicist and Nobel Prize winner] CV Raman's light scattering experiments were inspired by Indian percussion instruments. So we wondered, could it lend itself to design as well?"

While debating how to break away from regular modes of understanding form, the duo decided to look at the *mridangam*. Something that was representative of 'place', of Tamil Nadu. "We visited *mridangam* makers in Mylapore [an area synonymous with Carnatic music] and different parts of Chennai, and learned that the *mootu* [the moulded leather that covers the two mouths of the instrument] is used for three to four years and then discarded. So it is a generational craft that doesn't have an afterlife," explains Jawahar. They took home a number of *mootus* to experiment with – deconstructing it, immersing it in water, shaping it with another object. "For the final piece, we



(Clockwise from above) Discarded *mootu*, the Mootu Lounger, and Deepak Jawahar and Justine De Penning • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Intersecting passions

The Architecture Story's ethos is one of immersive storytelling. "What we highlight with all our projects is a sense of experimentation and playfulness," says De Penning, adding that they are working on a house in Tiruvannamalai where the entire facade is done like a staircase. "It is almost like you are extending a traditional outdoor space like a *thinnai* all the way up the building. What that does is create a completely different social dynamic." Their distinct backgrounds of architecture – Jawahar earlier worked at renowned architectural firm, UNStudio, and has exhibited at the Milan Design Week and India Design ID – and theatre add to this creative approach. "Both examine spatial relationships. In theatre, you look at how to break the fourth wall and make the audience a part of the play. That is what architecture does too. This is where the practices intersect," says Jawahar.

+

What the public needs

"We are both drawn to the idea of public space. We feel it is interesting and complex, and something that design can intervene in," says De Penning, founder of co-working space The Grid in Adyar (with its mid-century and industrial design styles). Their earlier projects include the Chennai Photo Biennale and Magnetic Fields Festival. "Now, in the post-pandemic world, we are really fascinated with how both the work and domestic spaces will evolve. Offices will be seen less as production spaces and more as social accelerators – with a cross-breed of environments [such as cafes, etc]," adds Jawahar. And as the identity of offices dilutes, the emphasis on domesticity, he feels, will change radically. "In this new environment where you live and work, how do you rebalance? How to stop working will be the next thing. These are interesting changes coming our way."



used the techniques and tectonics of the *mridangam* to create the story we wanted," he says.

Walking parallel worlds

This meant working with *mridangam* makers, hand-cutting 14x4 circular leather pieces, puncturing 48 holes around the circumference (the size of the circles and the number and position of the holes are derived from the *mridangam* *mootu*) and knotting them with ropes. "When designing the framework, we did look at bringing in sound. The shape of the 'U', if filled with sound, allows for a certain movement," De Penning tells me. But the desire to create a minimal translation had them deciding not to confuse the architectural framework with

a sonic element.

The third piece of furniture from the three-year-old firm – the earlier two include a table made from marble, granite and metal, and a metal origami chair – the piece will not be mass produced, but they are open to commissions. As for the artisans, early suspicions about whether the duo was working on a new musical instrument have since turned into enthusiasm for more such experiments. "It was exhilarating," Jawahar says.

"Through August and September, in the mornings we would have these intellectual discussions on design with the gallerists and designers, and [later in the day] go to Mylapore to collect the *mootu* and talk with the artisans. As designers, we were at the intersection of these two worlds. It pushed us to relook at TEK [traditional ecological knowledge] and the parallel worlds we are living in."

The Dutch Design Week is on till October 25. Details: ddw.nl

E-STORE EDIT

Design accents and Karunganni pants

Architect-designer Rooshad Shroff takes his vast catalogue online. Elsewhere, designers, both indie and established, think out of the box



NIDHI ADLAKHA

The eclectic design store tucked away in the bylanes of Besant Nagar, Chennai, might be downing its shutters soon, but its founders are continuing their journey online. With the soft launch last week, the e-store currently lets visitors wishlist their products and will allow orders next week.

Regulars might recall the brand's earlier site, shop.maalgaadistore.com.

Well, co-founder Shahin Ansari explains that it was discontinued a few years ago as they "wanted to focus on the physical space". Plans to revive the website were always on the cards, but the Covid-19 crisis

pushed them to finally get it up. Unlike the former site, which focussed more on home decor than garments, the new fashion-centric digital store will have everything from trench coats and leather sandals to drop pendant chains and Jodhpuri drum bags. Over the years, Ansari has curated shows with an unusual mix of emerging brands from across the country. So we are hopeful. For now, large images greet you on the home page, but we expect photos from multiple angles for a better experience, and a few tweaks to the navigation.

"Our focus is on sustainable labels and brands that source ethically. Of the 15 designers featured, eight are ethical labels that focus on handwoven, handspun fabrics," she says, adding that their curation included picking brands from the existing roster – Mati, Anushe Pirani, Fahd Khatri – and adding new ones. Since the soft launch, they are seeing jewellery, primarily earrings, and Indo-western festive wear being added to buyer wishlists. The site is set to launch on October 28.

₹1,500 onwards for jewellery and ₹2,500 to ₹80,000 for apparel.

Up next: A capsule collection, Earth Pants, that is inspired by the elements of nature. Crafted using Karunganni cotton, a new line of trousers will be launched every month.

SURYA PRAPHULLA KUMAR

Architect-designer Rooshad Shroff has been toying with the idea of a website for years now. It wasn't until lockdown gave him the "luxury of time" that he and his team buckled down to the task.

Clean is what comes to mind when you log on. A stunning photograph of one of his projects (a revolving format ensures a new one every time you visit) gives way to a minimalist page with just three options – Spaces, Installations, Objects – in crisp black lettering. "I wanted an absolutely fuss-free website, as sterile as possible, so that navigation is easy. There is already a lot of pattern and colour in my work, so, instead of a big graphic design exercise, I wanted the attention to be on the individual piece or project," he says.

With its grid and list view options, the site is designed like a catalogue. (It is price on request at the moment; for price tags, wait for the Shop feature to go live.) Each entry comes with a detailed write-up, a scroll-through gallery, and an option to download the spec sheet. "The website, launched on October 2, is an introduction to the versatility of our design studio," he says. "Many people know us only for our furniture or our Hermès windows, and not so much for our architecture projects and events." More interactive elements like videos would have helped, but Shroff believes "if you repeat the same things from platform to platform, it won't work". So making videos and the like will be reserved for his Instagram.

Up next: The Shop will go live soon (right after his physical gallery opens in Mumbai next month). Expect carved marble lights, candle holders, inlay plates and more.

rooshadshroff.com



ikaiasai.com



SUSANNA MYRTLE LAZARUS

When Ikai Asai launched at Maison Et Objet, Paris, in January this year, there was no indication of what was to come. Their plans to retail small-batch products that "help consumers rediscover local craftsmanship and the artisanal industry", as CEO Kanupriya Verma describes it, was put on hold during the lockdown, and revived at London Craft Week last month. The site went live in early October, featuring four collections of tableware, serving utensils and cutlery, made using traditional methods and material.

Verma was part of the team that brought out Ananya Birla's CuroCarte, a site that curates decor from around the world. With Ikai Asai (which translates to 'one' in

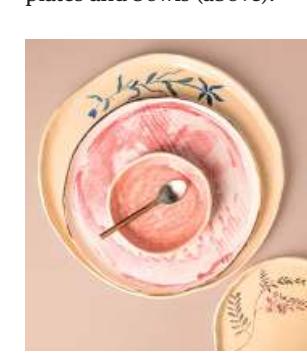
Punjabi and 'desire' in Tamil), the focus was on creating an artisanal lifestyle brand that would help revive crafts that are fast declining. The *Deva* line, for instance, was drawn from architect Dharmesh Jadeja in collaboration with Longpi pottery artisan Matthew Sasa from Meghalaya. It also features *kansa* work (bronze), resulting in a gold and black collection of vases, napkin rings, dinner plates and bowls (above).

The site features beautiful product images and a much-appreciated quick view that kicks in when a cursor is scrolled over it (and a single tap if you're on the mobile site).

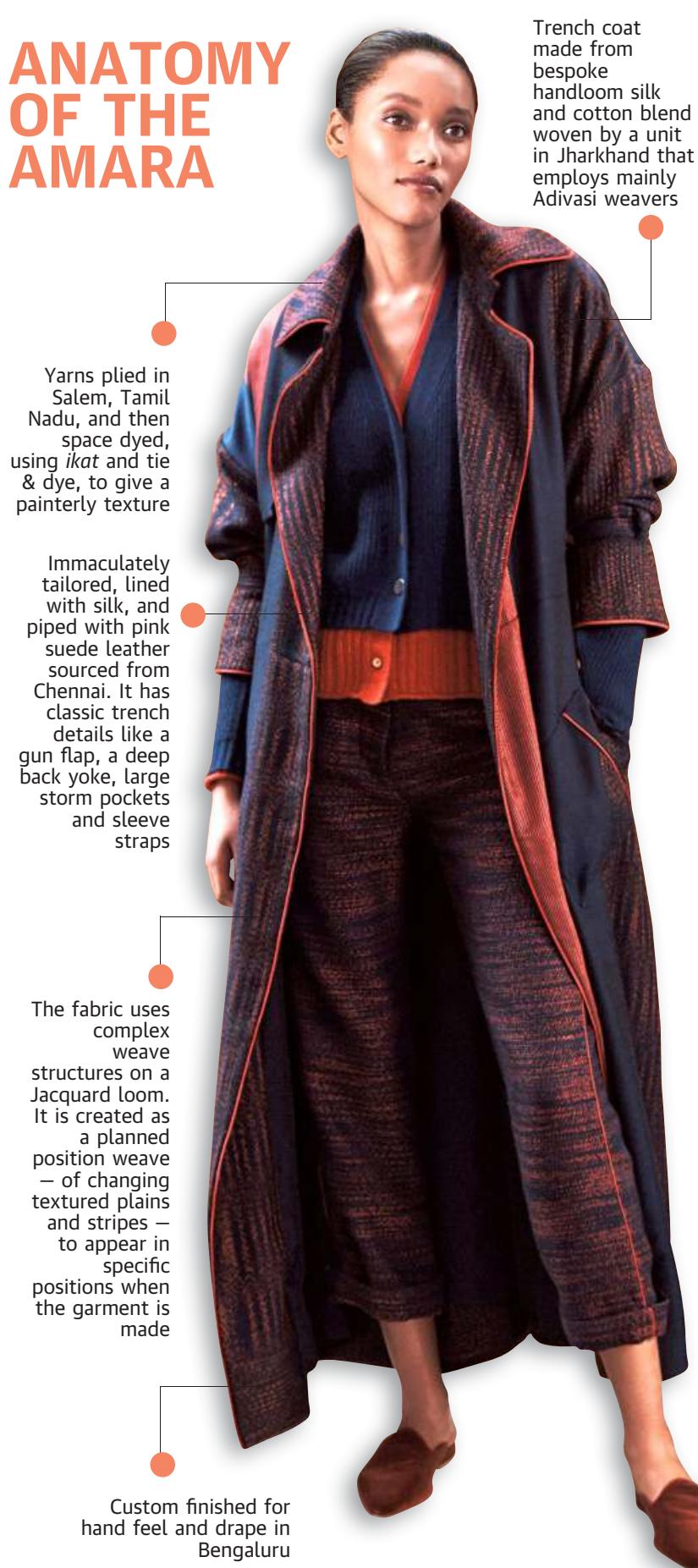
But overall navigation still remains a bit confusing. If you are looking to browse by collection, head to the 'Mood' tab. However, only select items are listed when you try to shop from this page. There are also no options to see all products in a category.

customers will have to choose a sub-category – 'Pitchers' for example – which lessens the chances of us coming across something else we might end up liking and buying.

From ₹350 to ₹2.5 lakh **Up next:** Verma promises new collaborations at least twice a year, but is tight-lipped on what crafts we might see on the site next.



ANATOMY OF THE AMARA



The showroom at the Hotel Diana in Milan, and (below) Sujata Keshavan

From Bengaluru to Mayfair and now to Milan, the luxury brand is growing — with wholesale opportunities, showcases at Harrods, and a new line of craft-infused cotton T-shirts

Varana and the travelling trench coat

GAYATRI RANGACHARI SHAH

Varana, the sustainable luxury Indian fashion brand that's garnering a cult following internationally, recently introduced e-commerce and debuted its collection to the wholesale trade in Italy. It is the next step — after the Bengaluru-based company opened a four-storey flagship store in London's Mayfair in 2017 — in their goal to make a big impact abroad. Its pared down silhouettes, quality fabrics and handwork detailing have won favour with buyers, including the likes of celebrated boutiques Blu (Capri), Sam Tessabit (Como), and Popp & Kretschmer (Vienna). Antonio Arcucci, the owner of Blu, says he likes the brand "both for the quality of the garments and its clean, refined look".

Varana also had plans to show in New York, London, and Paris (now cancelled because of the pandemic). Still, "it was a good start because in Italy people know and understand fashion and high quality, and we were well received," says Sujata Keshavan, Varana's co-founder

and creative director, via telephone. Saska Terzani, who consults on business strategy (she was instrumental in taking the Victoria Beckham brand global) and oversaw the brand's Milan debut at the chic fashion venue Hotel Diana, tells me that buyers flipped dresses from underneath to look at the stitch inside. "Their hands touched the fabric; it is old school, but in Italy there is a real appreciation for fabric," she says. The brand is also set to meet with Harrods and Selfridges in London.

A quiet joy

Much as pioneering Japanese designers such as Rei Kawakubo, Yohji Yamamoto and Issey Miyake did in the 1980s — bringing their clothes, and their culture, to the attention of the West — Varana's bold ambition is to showcase the finest Indian craft techniques in contemporary styles. "We don't have many fashion brands in international markets because a lot of luxury Indian wear is traditional and focussed on the local market," says Keshavan. "India is not a



Staying conscious

Varana sees itself as a post-Covid brand. "The customer is looking for a brand that is good for you, the planet, the artisan," Prasad says, while Keshavan adds that the use of natural fibers and handloom ensures a low carbon footprint (these fabrics use less water). "The provenance of a product, fair wages — people care about this now," she says. Although currently producing in small batches, if e-commerce and wholesale take off, that will change. As Keshavan says, "What I really want is to have a wider presence because we are doing this to keep our crafts going."

famous destination for luxury although we do a lot of beautiful work for other western brands [think Versace, Gucci, Prada]." She and fellow co-founder Ravi Prasad set out to rectify that, marrying indigenous handwork with functional, refined designs. Keshavan describes this design philosophy as a 'quiet joy', confident in its simplicity yet imbued with fine details. Citing the example of Hermès and The Row for their prized tailoring and fabrics, the founding duo hope to propel Varana into that league.

With silk shirts retailing for ₹40,000, cashmere trousers for ₹69,000, and a silk organza trench for ₹1,64,339, its price points reflect its high-end positioning. Prasad, who headed The Himalaya Drug Company for years, says, via Zoom, that Varana is "intentionally positioned at a price level that the quality commands. When we sold in Milan, I asked Saska if the buyers asked about it and she said that, uniformly, they thought the prices were appropriate." But recognising that entry-level price points could help build business, Varana recently launched a line of organic, craft-infused cotton T-shirts, priced at ₹1,908. For those not in London, the company absorbs shipping and duty costs from website sales to ensure pricing parity worldwide.

Global inputs

Today Varana has 75 employees, with two manufacturing units in Bengaluru, and works with eight to 10 craft clusters around India — including West Bengal, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Karnataka, and Ladakh. But five years ago, it was a different scenario.

Keshavan and Prasad both come from a non-fashion background. "We had no clue as to how this business works," says Prasad, with a laugh. But they knew they had to find people with international expertise. They hired Stefano Arienti, an Italian with years of experience at Prada and Louis Vuitton, to set up the back-end operations. Arienti's attention to detail included adjusting the tension in each hand-operated tailoring machine so that running stitches turned out accurately. It paid off. Prasad says that while Varana's units take longer to produce a garment, their rejection rate is only 0.1%.

As far as plans for India go, the company would love to retail here but says the current offering needs to be tweaked for local customers. For a start, the weather conditions are different to those of the West. Plus, Indian consumers want visible value for money, and it remains to be seen if Varana's lack of embellishments on simple silhouettes at a high price point find enough followers here. The company, meanwhile, may do a few trunk shows to test the market.

FOOD SPOT



Yesterday once more

Old Delhi Foods delivers *parathas*, *chaat*, butter chicken and more, from the walled city to our homes



Memory to reality Paneer butter masala, ural dal fry ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

butter chicken from Aslam. And they even deliver food from old favourites that are not in Old Delhi, such as Ashok and Ashok Meat Wallah in Sadar and Sitaram Chholey Bhaturey in Paharganj.

We had some friends coming over one day, so I asked for four plates of *papri chaat* (₹135 a plate) from Ashok, and *dal urad fry* (₹210), *paneer butter masala* (₹230) and *baigan bharta* (₹205) from Shakahari in Chandni Chowk. With shipping and handling charges of ₹150, I paid a total of ₹1,335.

The rates, I think, are a little higher than what the eateries charge. Orders and payments have to be done online (via olddelhifoods.com; 7289938122 and 9311734330).

The service is now only available in Delhi, and for a minimum order of ₹900. The *chaat* was as good as it used to be. I love Ashok's *chaat* for its balanced flavours — nothing is too sweet or too tangy or too hot. They use yellow chilli powder, which is pungent but not

red hot. Freshly roasted and ground cummin adds to the taste, as does a pinch of rock salt.

The *chaat* was well packed. Each ingredient — *papri*, *bhalla*, curd, *sauth* (sweet red chutney), boiled *chholey*, potatoes, *kachalu* and masala had been packed separately. I mixed them together, and the *chaat* disappeared before I could say, 'Have some more.'

I was, however, a bit disappointed with the Shakahari fare. I have had some great meals there, and there is nothing quite like having their *dal* and *sabzi* with delicious *besan* rotis. Shakahari, also in Chawri Bazar, is known for its *urad dal*. But this time I found it a bit too runny. The *paneer*, again, was in a buttery sauce that didn't quite work for me. The *bharta* tasted good; the brinjal had been roasted well. Of course, the food was all cooked in *desi* ghee, so the flavours were nice.

Old Delhi Foods, I must say, is doing a great service. Can't go to Old Delhi any more? Fret not — it will bring Old Delhi to you!

The writer is a seasoned food critic

THE DIGEST



Shades of paradise

Iconic features from Mughal gardens turn into hand block printed motifs in Good Earth's latest collection of bed and table linen, Ferdous. Featuring flowering vines, slender cypresses and pomegranate-laden trees, it comprises muslin dohars, bed sheets, cotton pique cushions, and cotton muslin tulais in shades of green, cerise, pink and lilac. As per the website, the ornamental patterns 'symbolise fertility, beauty and eternal life in various mythologies across the world'. ₹1,800 to ₹18,000 on goodearth.in

Poetry goes virtual

Chennai's annual poetry festival, organised by Prakriti Foundation, is all set to go digital this year. With a mix of poets and emerging voices in English and other languages, Poetry with Prakriti will feature the likes of Keki Daruwalla, Perumal Murugan and Priya Sarukkai, among others. Starting this weekend, the readings will be held on Zoom. On the first three Saturdays of every month. Prakriti introduced a Bengaluru edition in January, but this is a smart way to expand. Registrations at prakritifoundation@gmail.com.



Fashion speak

This Sunday, join Shefalee Vasudev, editor, The Voice of Fashion, as she moderates a panel discussion for the series, Questions No One Asks, at Lakmé Fashion Week. Tune in at 4 pm on October 25 to catch 'Chasing the Story: Does Fashion Matter?' Vasudev will be joined by Namrata Zakaria from Mumbai Mirror; Varun Rana, freelance creative writer; Shweta Shiware, fashion columnist at Mid-Day; and Rosella Stephen, editor of The Hindu Weekend. @lakmefashionwk on Instagram.



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13384

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- Across
 - 1 Preserve in brine or vinegar (6)
 - 4 They're served to add moisture or taste to food (6)
 - 9 Italian electrical engineer, d. 1937 (7)
 - 10 Central areas in buildings; open to the sky (5)
 - 11 Fourth letter of Greek alphabet (5)
 - 12 Insulated container for food and drink from the fridge (4,3)
 - 13 Chaos (11)
- 18 Robbery at gunpoint (5-2)
- 20 Social blunder (5)
- 22 Indian side dish of yogurt and chopped cucumber (5)
- 23 Models' pathway (7)
- 24 Chaos (6)
- 25 Put down (6)
- Down
 - 1 Hair dressing (6)
 - 2 Song celebrating the birth of Jesus (5)
 - 3 Garment worn by ballet dancers (7)
 - 14 Sourness (7)
 - 15 Dress for bed (7)
 - 16 Retreat — a marsh (anag.) (6)
 - 17 Sap (6)
 - 19 Jack (5)
 - 21 Supporting structure (5)

The solution will appear on October 29, 2020

Solution No. 13383

F	A	C	I	A	L	L	U	C	I	D
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Trump, Biden offer contrasting plans for America

In the final debate, Republican and Democratic candidates clash over pandemic, oil industry, healthcare and climate policies

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump and Democratic nominee Joe Biden came face to face for their final debate before Election Day. The candidates, who debated at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, sparred on topics that included the pandemic, climate change, China and corruption.

The debate was markedly less chaotic than the first one – Mr Trump did not interrupt Mr. Biden as he did in the first debate allowing for a clearer presentation of both sides' positions.

The response to the pandemic and how each candidate would lead the country out of it was discussed at length, with Mr. Biden warning that the country was heading into a "dark winter."

"Anyone who is responsible for that many deaths should not remain as President," Mr. Biden said.

As president, he would encourage everyone to wear masks, introduce rapid testing, institute national standards for schools and businesses to open up and give them financial assistance to spend on safety measures, he said.

"All he does is talk about shutdowns," Mr. Trump said. "No, we're not going to shut down and we have to open our schools."

Mr. Trump said that the shutdown had caused depression, job loss, suicide, alcohol and drug use as well as abuse. He said 2.2 million were expected to die – a misleading statement based on a White House disease model scenario if no person took any action to curtail infections. Mr. Trump insisted again that the country was "rounding the turn" [turning the corner] on the pandemic.

ic. To Mr. Trump's "We're learning to live with" the pandemic, Mr. Biden said: "We are learning to die with it."

When moderator Kristen Welker of NBC asked Mr. Trump if he could guarantee that a vaccine would be out in weeks, he said no, but said there was a "good chance" it would be available that soon. "No, it's not a guarantee but it will be by the end of the year," he said. "But I think it has a good chance, there are two companies... I think within a matter of weeks."

Mr. Trump repeatedly tried directing the conversation to unsubstantiated claims of Mr. Biden's family getting money from abroad. Through the last few days, the Trump campaign and his allies have sought to bring attention to the foreign dealings of Mr. Biden's son, Hunter Biden.

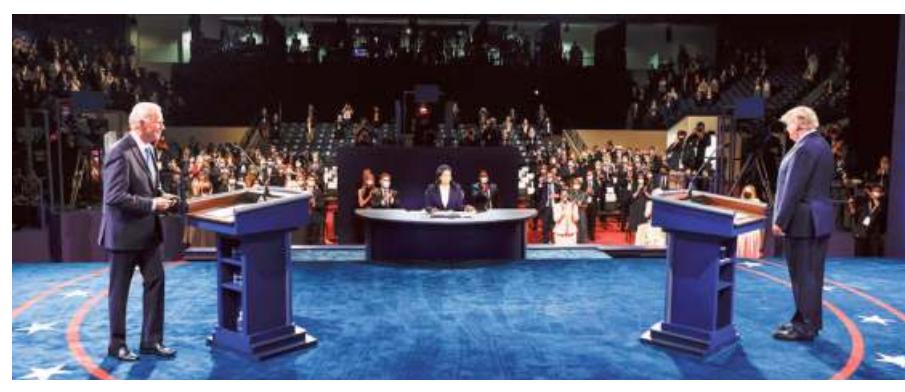
Tax returns

Mr. Biden questioned Mr. Trump on why he hadn't still released his tax returns as he had said he would, and brought up his "secret" bank account in China. [Mr. Trump had declared the account in his tax documents but not in his public disclosure of assets as the account was held by one of his companies].

"It's not about his family and my family, it's about your family. And your family's hurting badly," Mr. Biden said at one point in the debate.

Mr. Biden said he did not understand why Mr. Trump was "unwilling to take on [Russian President Vladimir] Putin," on reports that Russia had offered bounties to kill American soldiers in Afghanistan and Mr. Putin's actions to destabilise NATO.

"Any country that inter-



Face to face: Joe Biden and Donald Trump during the final presidential debate on Thursday. ■ AP

Air in India is filthy: Trump

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump called India "filthy" and clubbed it with Russia and China – both considered U.S. rivals – in the final presidential debate.

The President's comments were made in the context of the U.S.'s (former) emission commitments under the Paris Climate Accord. Mr. Trump had walked out of the agreement on the grounds that it was unfair towards America.

"And we have the best carbon emission numbers that we've had in 35 years under this administration; we are working so well with industry, but here's what we can't do: look at China, how filthy it is, look at Russia, look at India, it's filthy, the

air is filthy," Mr. Trump said, responding to a question on how he would combat climate change and support job growth. "The Paris Accord... I took us out because we were going to have to spend trillions of dollars and we were treated very unfairly," he said.

Previous comparison

Mr. Trump has previously compared the U.S. to India and China (and sometimes Russia) in the same breath in the multilateral climate change context or in the context of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which has treated the U.S. unfairly, according to Mr. Trump. More recently, his comparisons have been around the amount of known coronavirus cases

versus the amount of testing and how the U.S. is testing far more than other countries, including India.

Ahead of talks

The language used on Thursday, however, was stronger than normal and comes a few days before U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defense Secretary Mark Esper are scheduled to travel to New Delhi for the U.S.-India 2+2 ministerial dialogue.

Mr. Trump's comments sparked strong reactions on social media: from the impact of the remarks on Indian American voters to some users saying Mr. Trump was speaking the truth and that the air in Indian cities was indeed bad.

fers with us will, in fact, pay a price because they're affecting our sovereignty," Mr. Biden said.

On North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, Mr. Trump pointed out that there was no war with North Korea and that he had a "good relationship".

"Having a good relationship with leaders of other countries is a good thing," Mr. Trump said.

Mr. Biden, who said he would (as President) talk to Mr. Kim if the latter agreed to "drawing down" his nuclear capacity, likened Mr. Trump's position to having a

good relationship with Adolf Hitler prior to the Nazi invasion of other European countries.

On race, Mr. Trump defended his position on Black Lives Matter (the moderator had asked him about his equating it to a symbol of hate), but said he was the "least ra-

tional" of the two candidates' climate policies.

Mr. Trump asked Mr. Biden if he would "close down the oil industry". Mr. Biden said "over time, over time" he would "transition" and would stop giving oil federal subsidies.

Towards the end, the debate focused a substantial amount of time on the two candidates' climate policies.

Mr. Trump asked Mr. Biden if he would "close down the oil industry". Mr. Biden said "over time, over time" he would "transition" and would stop giving oil federal subsidies.

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MARKET WATCH

	23-10-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	40,686	-0.31
US Dollar	73.61	-0.10
Gold	51,069	-0.65
Brent oil	42.36	-0.82

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	364.35	6.00
Asian Paints	2120.25	20.35
Axis Bank	507.20	-3.10
Bajaj Auto	3082.25	76.05
Bajaj Finance	5831.55	-41.85
Bharti Airtel	3316.90	2.45
BPCL	351.55	2.20
Britannia Ind	3469.75	11.40
Cipla	757.55	0.05
Coal India	117.70	1.90
Divis Lab	3068.85	-24.65
Dr Reddys Lab	5018.25	-3.75
Eicher Motors	2181.90	22.45
GAIL (India)	87.30	-1.35
Grasim Ind	785.20	-6.45
HCL Tech	852.45	-13.80
HDFC	2059.70	17.15
HDFC Bank	1235.80	2.50
HDFC Life	564.50	3.40
Hero MotoCorp	3111.05	29.55
Hindalco	182.25	-2.20
Hind Unilever	2143.85	-35.50
ICICI Bank	416.95	4.05
IndusInd Bank	608.15	-0.60
Infosys	1122.50	-6.55
Indian Oil Corp	78.25	0.55
ITC	170.75	2.20
JSW Steel	321.25	-4.25
Kotak Bank	1383.05	-10.00
L&T	941.25	4.95
M&M	625.15	20.80
Maruti Suzuki	7103.25	291.70
Nestle India Ltd.	15865.45	-44.00
NTPC	86.25	1.60
ONGC	69.00	0.15
PowerGrid Corp	170.15	5.05
Reliance Ind	2113.05	6.10
SBI Life	770.70	-10.10
State Bank	202.80	-0.50
Shree Cement	20521.15	-470.55
Sun Pharma	484.50	-1.05
Tata Motors	137.00	3.50
Tata Steel	423.45	13.80
TCS	2686.80	15.65
Tech Mahindra	848.25	10.80
Titan	1241.70	12.25
UltraTech Cement	4504.55	-10.00
UPL	450.95	-3.55
Wipro	342.40	-2.05

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.42	73.74
Euro	86.97	87.36
British Pound	96.14	96.56
Japanese Yen (100)	70.18	70.49
Chinese Yuan	11.01	11.06
Swiss Franc	81.17	81.52
Singapore Dollar	54.15	54.40
Canadian Dollar	55.98	56.23
Malaysian Ringgit	17.65	17.75
Australian Dollar	52.52	52.75

Source: Indian Bank

Yes Bank posts ₹129 cr. net profit in Q2

MUMBAI Yes Bank on Friday reported a Q2 net profit of ₹129.37 crore, helped by a decrease in operational expenses and widening of margins on a much lower loan book. PTI

MPC wary of inflation: minutes

Policy needs to stay accommodative amid COVID threat to economy: RBI panel

REUTERS

MUMBAI A second wave of COVID-19 remains a threat to the Indian economy and the central bank believes monetary policy needs to remain accommodative despite inflationary pressures, according to the minutes of the monetary policy committee's latest meeting, released on Friday.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) left interest rates unchanged at that meeting, as expected.

Almost all members of the MPC said they see room for further easing, but a recent rise in price pressures would need to abate for them to use that space.

"This space needs to be used judiciously to support recovery in growth," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das wrote in his statement. Dr. Patra said. "Empirical



Credibility factor: The MPC was risking making a commitment it may not be able to keep, an external member said. ■ REUTERS

Structural reforms to unlock growth are needed but may lack support with growth and employment depressed, Deputy Governor Michael Patra said.

"In the absence of intrinsic drivers, the recovery may last only until pent-up demand has been satiated and replenishment of inventories has been completed," Dr. Patra said. "Empirical

evidence suggests that consumption-led recoveries are shallow and short-lived."

Dissent note

One of the new external members, Jayanth Varma, added a dissent note as part of his minutes. He agreed with the MPC's intention to keep policy accommodative during the current financial year and into the next financial

Flipkart to buy ₹1,500-cr. stake in Birla fashion arm

Aditya Birla Fashion board okays deal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Walmart's Flipkart is set to acquire a 7.8% stake in Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd. (ABFRL) for ₹1,500 crore, intensifying the battle in fashion e-commerce with Amazon.com and Reliance Industries' retail arm.

The ABFRL board had approved a proposal to raise ₹1,500 crore through a preferential issue to the Flipkart Group, the fashion apparel company said in a filing on Friday. The equity capital will be raised at ₹205 per share.

The promoter group of ABFRL would hold about 55.13% upon completion of the issuance, the firm said.



Kumar Mangalam Birla

"This partnership is an emphatic endorsement of the growth potential of India," said Kumar Mangalam Birla, chairman, Aditya Birla Group. "It also reflects our strong conviction in the future of the apparel industry in India, which is poised to touch \$100 billion in the next five years."

The sharpest year-on-year contraction was recorded in natural gas production (-10.7%), followed by petroleum products (-9.4%) and processed crude oil (-8.8%). Crude oil output slid 6.05%.

Between April and September, processed crude oil and petroleum products saw

cial year, he said, but he opposed using the word "decided".

"It appears to me that the steep yield curve reflects a lack of credibility of the MPC's existing accommodative guidance," he said, but the MPC was risking making a commitment it might not be able to keep as new data emerges or conditions change.

He said he would have preferred to use the word "expected".

Mr. Varma pointed out the damage inflicted by high long-term interest rates on the economy as policy rates fail to feed through, causing a collapse in investments. Governor Das said, however, guidance from the central bank would help translate policy rates into longer-term yields and bolster consumption and investment demand.

Forex reserves hit record high of \$555.12 bn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

The country's foreign exchange reserves touched a life time high of \$555.12 billion after it surged by \$3.615 billion in the week ended October 16, according to RBI data.

In the previous week ended October 9, reserves had increased by \$5.867 billion to reach \$551.505 billion. During the latest reporting week, the rise in total reserves was due to a sharp rise in Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs), a major component of the overall reserves. FCA jumped by \$3.539 billion to \$51.322 billion, the data showed. FCAs include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-U.S. units such as the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Centre borrows ₹6,000 cr. for GST compensation

Remits first tranche to 16 States, 2 UTs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Kicking off its borrowing plan to meet the GST compensation shortfalls faced by States, the Centre on Friday borrowed and transferred ₹6,000 crore to 16 States as well as the Union Territories of Delhi and J&K.

The government indicated that it planned to release ₹6,000 crore every week to the States till the approved borrowings to meet the shortfall were met.

At this rate, it could take about 13 weeks or about three months to complete the envisaged borrowing.

As of now, 21 States had selected the Centre's option to borrow ₹1.1 lakh crore out of the total ₹2.35 lakh crore GST compensation shortfall estimated for 2020-21.

With seven States – including Kerala, West Bengal and Punjab – yet to convey their acceptance to the Centre's proposed solution to meet the GST shortfalls, the Finance Ministry has so far granted permission to raise about ₹78,500 crore to meet the shortfall pertaining to 21 States.

'No shortfall for 5 States'

The Ministry on Friday said that five of these 21 States did not actually face any shortfalls in compensation receipts at this point.

The approved borrowing limits for GST compensation shortfalls for five States – Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland – amount to just ₹739 crore.

Private players such as Reliance Industries as well as joint ventures operating under the production-sharing contract regime, also cited COVID-19 as a reason for the 26.7% drop in September's natural gas output.

Natural gas, petroleum products witness sharpest decline



shutdown of its Hazira plant following a fire in late September and the related closure of its western offshore gas wells apart from 'COVID-19 implications' delaying work on new sub-sea wells as reasons for a 6.84% drop in natural gas output.

OIL, which posted a 13.4% fall in September, partly blamed low demand for gas from major customers.

Twenty one States and two UTs opted for this special window involving back-to-back borrowing coordinated by the Ministry of Finance. Out of these, five States did not have any shortfall on account of GST compensation," the Minis-

Tech Mahindra Q2 profit drops 5% to ₹1,065 crore

Board proposes ₹15 special dividend

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Tech Mahindra Ltd.'s net profit declined 5% to ₹1,065 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, from the year-earlier period, while revenue increased 3.3% to ₹9,372 crore.

The board has proposed a special dividend of ₹15.

In U.S. dollar terms, revenue dipped 1.7% to \$1,265.4 million. The company reported free cash flow of \$235.7 million.

'Demand revival'

In a statement, the IT services company said its U.S. and emerging markets businesses did 'well' while the European business was 'headed for revival'. Active clients stood at 988 and the company had cash and cash equivalents worth \$1,564 million as of September.

Low affordability and the government's priorities in reviving the otherwise suffering auto industry could shift the focus away from EVs in the interim, it said.

"Passenger vehicles (PVs) would face a double whammy as consumers would be wary of buying a costlier EV than an internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicle while original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) would refrain from incurring high capex," the ratings agency said in a report.

Stating that the growth in buses may take a back seat

in the market, the ratings agency said.



Miles apart: EV penetration may be faster in scooters and buses, but may take longer in PVs. ■ SOMASHEKAR GRN

Nestle India to invest ₹2,600 cr. over 3-4 years

Net falls 1.4% for July-Sept. quarter

earlier period. The company follows the January-December financial year.

Supply boost

Mr. Narayanan added that the quarter witnessed growth driven by an improved supply situation as Nestle's factories returned to normal output. He pointed out that boosted by an increase in in-home consumption, key brands such as Maggi Noodles, Maggi Sauces, Kitkat, Nesle Munch, Nescafe Classic and Nescafe Sunrise witnessed double-digit growth.

"We continued our strong performance in the e-commerce channels, which grew by 97% and now contribute about 4% of domestic sales," he added.

The board of directors declared an interim dividend of ₹135 per share.

Revenue from operations stood at ₹

MI embarrasses CSK, leaves its campaign in ruins

After Boult and Bumrah rip through Chennai, Ishan and de Kock apply the finishing touches to table-topping win

IPL 2020

SPORTS BUREAU

After losing its last game in a humdinger that required two Super Overs, Mumbai Indians recovered well to produce a clinical display and thrash a hapless Chennai Super Kings by 10 wickets at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Friday.

The victory was set up by its pacers, Trent Boult (4/18) and Jasprit Bumrah (2/25), who ran through the CSK batting line-up and restricted the side to 114 for nine.

Ishan Kishan (68 n.o., 37b, 6x4, 5x6) and Quinton de Kock (46 n.o., 37b, 5x4, 2x6) then feasted on the CSK bowlers as the chase ended in just 12.2 overs.

Ishan, in particular, was brutal against Deepak Chahar and Josh Hazlewood, clubbing the duo through the off-side at will.

The win takes MI top of the table with 14 points, while CSK is all but out of the competition following its eighth defeat.

Early jolts

Kieron Pollard, who was leading Mumbai in the absence of an injured Rohit

Innings scan

CSK	MI
67	Dots 29
9	Fours 11
3	Sixes 7
24/5	PP 52/0
5.70	RR 9.40



All over! Curran's fighting knock ended off the final ball of the CSK innings. ■ BCCI/IPL

Next assignment

CSK: Oct. 25 vs. RCB

Dubai, 3.30 p.m. IST

MI: Oct. 25 vs. RR

Abu Dhabi, 7.30 p.m. IST

batsman to show grit and fighting spirit, making a valiant 52 off 47 balls.

The result was humiliating nonetheless.

SCOREBOARD

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

Ruturaj Gaikwad lbw b Boult 0 (5b), Faf du Plessis c de Kock b Boult 1 (7b), Ambati Rayudu c de Kock b Bumrah 2 (3b), N.

Jagadeesan c Suryakumar b Bumrah 0 (1b), M.S. Dhoni c de Kock b Rahal Chahar 16 (16b, 2x4, 1x6), Ravindra Jadeja c Krunal b Boult 7 (6b, 1x4), Sam Curran b Boult 52 (47b, 4x4, 2x6), Deepak Chahar st. de Kock b Rahal Chahar 0 (5b), Shardul Thakur c Suryakumar b Coulter-Nile 11 (20b), Imran Tahir (not out) 13



Swing factor: Boult's burst left CSK in tatters. ■ BCCI/IPL

Points table

Team	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Mumbai Indians	10	7	3	14	1.448
Delhi Capitals	10	7	3	14	0.774
Royal Challengers	10	7	3	14	0.182
Kolkata Knight Riders	10	5	5	10	-0.828
Sunrisers Hyderabad	10	4	6	8	0.092
Kings XI Punjab	10	4	6	8	-0.177
Rajasthan Royals	11	4	7	8	-0.620
Chennai Super Kings	11	3	8	6	-0.733

After the CSK-MI match on Oct. 23

Kapil Dev 'stable' after angioplasty

Had complained of chest pain in the early hours of Friday

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Kapil Dev, the 1983 World Cup-winning captain, underwent an angioplasty during the early hours of Friday at Escorts hospital here.

Past midnight, the 62-year-old Kapil felt pain in his chest and was rushed to the hospital.

Following an angiogram, a single block was found and a team of doctors performed angioplasty.

On Friday, the hospital released a statement that read: "Currently, Kapil is in ICU and under the close supervision of Dr. Atul Mathur and his team. He is stable now and he is expected to get discharged in a couple of days."

"Wishing the @therealkapildev a swift recovery. The nation is well aware of his grit and spirit and we are very sure he will be out of the hospital soon," said the BCCI in its message.



Kapil Dev. ■ FILE PHOTO

"Get well soon, Paaji".

Another World Cup-winning former India cricketer Yuvraj Singh said, "Dear Paaji. Praying for your speedy recovery! Get well soon please... after cricket I still need some golfing lessons."

"Wishing the @therealkapildev a swift recovery. The nation is well aware of his grit and spirit and we are very sure he will be out of the hospital soon," said the BCCI in its message.

India batsman Shikhar Dhawan and badminton player Saina Nehwal conveyed their good wishes.

Kapil reacts

Later, Kapil tweeted a statement which read: "Thank you everyone for all the love and concern. I am overwhelmed by the good wishes and well on the road to recovery."

It's difficult when three or four batsmen are not doing well: Dhoni

S. DIPAK RAGAV CHENNAI

CSK's fate is all but sealed and the team is likely to miss the playoffs for the first time following the crushing 10-wicket submission to MI.

The ageing squad has hurt the team, and in the aftermath of the defeat, skipper

M.S. Dhoni and coach Stephen Fleming both indicated that the team would use the remaining three matches to try out youngsters and build for the future.

Speaking after the match, Dhoni laid the blame on the batting unit for the team's disastrous performance this

year. "Our batting wasn't turning up. [Ambati] Rayudu got injured and the rest of the batsmen weren't there."

"Cumulatively when three or four batsmen are not doing well, it becomes difficult. Whenever we did not get off to a good start, it kept getting difficult for the

middle-order."

Fleming conceded that losing big players like Suresh Raina and Harbhajan Singh before the start of the tournament affected the team as well. "There is a lot of hurt and frustration that goes along with a disappointing season," the Kiwi said.

"We have not been able to put a [proper] game together."

"We lost players before the tournament started and whatever we have tried has not worked. Today, the game was over after PowerPlay. We now just want to finish strongly."

Dhoni revealed that other members of the team would

get chances in the remaining three games as a way of preparing for IPL 2021.

"We need to have a clear picture for the next year...the kind of auction, where the venues will be. The upcoming three games will be ideal to give a platform for the youngsters to perform," said Dhoni.

Knight Riders meet Capitals, aim to stay afloat

Both teams will strive to overcome their batting concerns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ABU DHABI

Delhi Capitals will expect more from its batsmen when it takes on Kolkata Knight Riders on Saturday after an overwhelming performance against Kings XI Punjab in its previous game.

Capitals opener Shikhar Dhawan has been in brilliant form, but even his record-setting hundred was not enough to save the side from defeat against KXIP.

Skipper Shreyas Iyer has not been hitting the ball as fluently as he used to. Rishabh Pant, who made a comeback from injury against Punjab, has not yet set the stage on fire.



Batting class: Shreyas gets tips from Ponting. ■ BCCI/IPL

Pacer Anrich Nortje, who has been instrumental in Capitals' superb run thus far along with South African compatriot Kagiso Rabada,

had a niggle and missed the last match against KXIP.

KKR is heading into the contest after a poor batting performance against Royal

Challengers Bangalore. Pacer Lockie Ferguson's performance has been the only bright spot for KKR.

A battle for survival in the race for the playoffs

Kings XI Punjab and Sunrisers Hyderabad look to maintain upward curve

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DUBAI

KXIP will take on another resurgent team – Sunrisers Hyderabad – here on Saturday in a must-win game for the two well-matched sides.

Both teams need to win their remaining four games to boost their playoff chances.

While KXIP's batting is in the safe hands of skipper K.L. Rahul, Mayank Agarwal, Chris Gayle and Nicholas Pooran, the shaky form of Glenn Maxwell remains a concern.

Jimmy Neesham's inclusion has given some depth to KXIP's batting as well as bowling.

SRH managed to keep itself in the playoff hunt with a



James Neesham. ■ BCCI/IPL



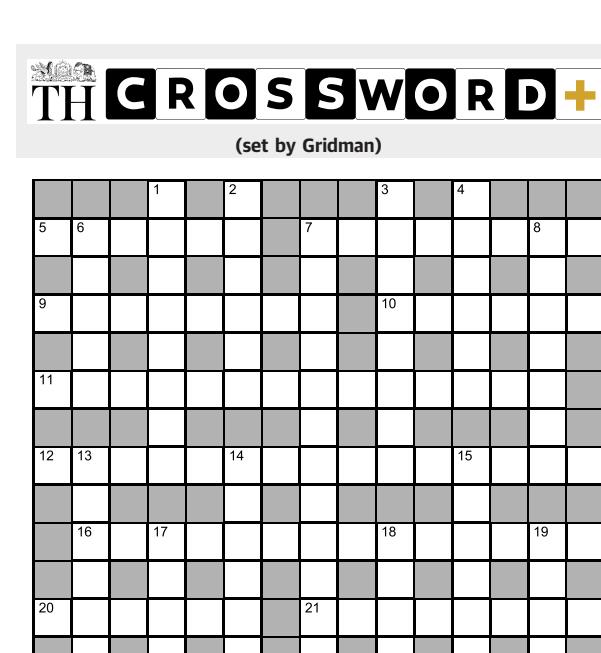
Jason Holder. ■ BCCI/IPL

confidence-boosting eight-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals on Thursday after three consecutive defeats.

The positive for SRH is that Manish Pandey (83) and Vijay

Shankar (52) rose to the occasion with an unbeaten, match-winning stand.

Jason Holder's inclusion has added firepower to SRH's bowling attack.



ACROSS

- 5 Almost hoping old learner's in large eastern force (6)
- 7 Alternative: let C and S exchange wealth (8)
- 9 Spoil Scottish sweetheart with butter and herb (8)
- 10 No raid or surprise bit of advancement (6)
- 11 Crossword answers in top half of the grid? Not exactly (8,6)

12 Box containing Irish water with staff's large cold meal (10,5)

16 Pretty charters drafted for group of ambulance staff (9,5)

20 Company's right group stays (6)

21 Pleasing piece of fiction about Blake novel (8)

22 Footloose Mark about to commit wrong with one female. Great! (8)

23 Favourite's rejected exercise; it's plain (6)

■ DOWN

1 I just went in circles around Fuji – found no female in martial art (8)

2 Weapon dropped in river – good grief! (4,2)

3 Hoping girl will go out to get special pain-relievers (8)

4 MP avoids 'Harrumph'; turns it into cry of joy (6)

6 Starters of biriyani, roti and vadam. Oh, well done (5)

7 Moral and oath C-in-C provided for a type of religion (5,8)

8 Outstanding insect abandons one girl and accepts another (7)

13 Graceful girl is so meaningful at heart (7)

14 Warm to winner, setter and dandy (3,2,3)

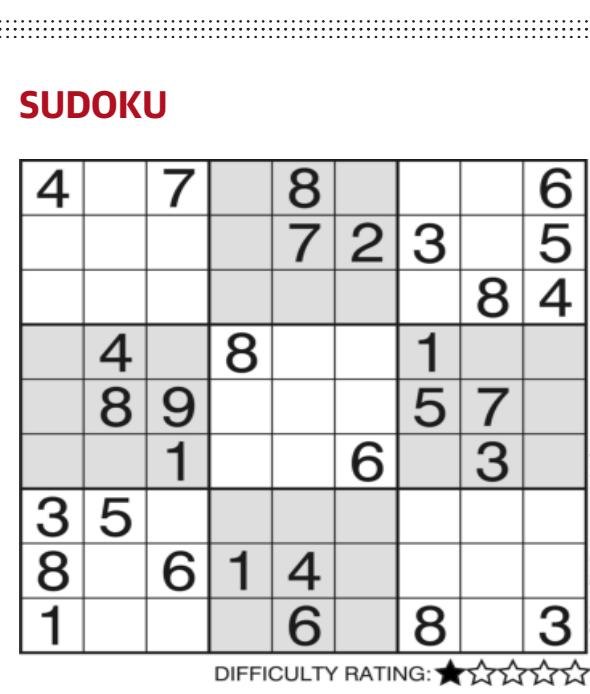
15 Caught thus, you're taken by surprise (8)

17 Again classify holiday home (6)

18 Spots child, short in stature, going in dashing (6)

19 Tolerate the Italian inside raising plant (5)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13074 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



FAITH

A precious gem

Thirumoolar in his Thirumandiram talks of Lord Siva's supremacy, said R. Narayanan in a discourse. The Agamas elaborate on His qualities. None of the celestials is equal to Him. No human being is equal to Him either, thus making Him head of the celestials and humans. He is Lord of all the worlds. Without Him,

TV PICKS

Formula One: Portuguese GP, Star Sports 2 (HD) & 3, 3.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 5 p.m. onwards

Serie A: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 6.30 p.m. onwards
LaLiga: El Clasico, Facebook Watch, 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Munoz on top at Zozo; Woods struggles

LOS ANGELES Colombia's Sebastian Munoz returned an eight-under 64 on Thursday to lead the PGA Zozo Championship while defender Tiger Woods struggled to a woeful 76. Woods returned his worst-ever score at Sherwood by two shots from 45 rounds. England's Tyrrell Hatton and American Justin Thomas were second on 65. AFP



Kang, Song in the van

GREENSBORO (US) Danielle Kang shot a seven-under 65 for a share of the first-round lead with Jennifer Song at the LPGA Drive On Championship. Ally McDonald made it three U.S. players at the top, shooting a bogey-free 66 and 24-year-old Thai star Ariya Jutanugarn was fourth on 67. AP

Bhullar gets off to good start at Italian Open

BRESCIA Gaganjeet Bhullar finally returned his best card in five starts this season with a four-under 68 that put him tied 28th place at the Italian Open. S.S.P. Chawrasia, meanwhile, shot a two-over 74 to be T-102. Englishman Laurie Canter's 12-under gave him a four-shot lead. PTI

Barcelona will look to hurt a wobbling Real

Win could set up Koeman's future at the Catalan club; Zidane confirms Ramos' return for crucial showdown

EL CLASICO

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

Ronald Koeman will know Barcelona can plunge Real Madrid into crisis on Saturday but for him a first Clasico as coach is more about vindication.

Inflicting a third consecutive defeat in a week on Madrid at Camp Nou would create the sort of turbulence for its opponents that Barca has grown only too used to in recent months.

But as much as cranking up the pressure on Zinedine Zidane and gaining an early boost in La Liga's title race would be welcome, Koeman might claim the biggest rewards from a victory.

Middling start
Barcelona's new coach, appointed in August, has overseen a middling start to the season, with three wins, a draw and a defeat meaning the trajectory of his project



Young guns: Real Madrid fans will be wondering if its ageing squad can stifle Barca's Ansu Fati and Francisco Trincao. ■ AFP

is not yet clear.

Most encouraging has been Koeman's faith in youth, which has been repaid handsomely as Ansu Fati, Francisco Trincao and Pedri have all delivered more than expected in at-

tack for Barcelona.

So impressive has Ansu been that it would be a surprise if he is not in the starting line-up this weekend.

But Trincao and Pedri would be braver calls, especially considering those they

would replace.

The most pressing issue of Koeman's tenure is currently Antoine Griezmann, who is now on his third coach at Barcelona but still yet to find anything close to top form.

"Antoine knows his situa-

C Antoine knows his situation. The only thing he can do is work hard to change it

RONALD KOEMAN
Barcelona coach

C I can't deny people are saying my future is at stake, but it was the same last year and my first spell too

ZINEDINE ZIDANE
Real Madrid manager

tion. The only thing he can do is work hard to change it," Koeman said.

The merits of the decision will be defined by the result and in that regard, there will be scrutiny on Lionel Messi too, whose contribution is so often decisive.

A positive performance against Madrid will give Barcelona momentum ahead of its trip to Juventus in the Champions League on Tuesday. And for Koeman, the benefits would last even longer.

Zidane, meanwhile, confirmed that captain Sergio Ramos is set to return from injury on Saturday.

"He's our captain, our leader. He's over his injury, but obviously we won't take any risks. He'll be with us, you need players who are 100% fit and Sergio is," Zidane told a news conference.

Real will still be without a number of first team regulars, including Eden Hazard, Dani Carvajal, Alvaro Odriozola and Martin Odegaard.

Intense scrutiny

Zidane has come under intense scrutiny over the last week, with some reports suggesting his job might be at risk should it taste defeat in Catalonia.

"... I can't deny people are saying my future is at stake, but it was the same last year and it was like that in my first spell here, too. I just need to do my job and forget about everything else."

Kadhe in doubles final

SHARM EL SHEIKH (EGYPT): Arjun Kadhe and Vladislav Manakov of Ukraine beat Felix Conwin and Vladislav Orlov 7-6(5), 7-6(4) to move into the doubles final of the \$15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament here on Friday.

Other result: \$80,000 ITF women, Macon, USA: Doubles (quarterfinals): Magdalena Frech & Katarzyna Kawa (Pol) bt Anna Danilina (Kaz) & Ankita Raina 6-4, 4-6, [10-6].

Altamash Saifi has last laugh

NEW DELHI: Altamash Saifi beat Jaison Malhotra 41-30, 22-35, 45-17, 36-19, 48-6, 28-41, 54-18 in the final of the Delhi State Suresh Sharma memorial 6-Red snooker championship. The two will represent Delhi in the National championship.

Siddhant's effort in vain

NEW DELHI: Siddhant Sharma struck five goals but his effort could not prevent Soni Polo from losing 7-5 to Rajnigandha Achievers in the last league match of the Cavalry Gold Cup 10-goal polo tournament at the Jai-prakash Polo ground here on Friday.

In the final, to be played on Sunday, Rajnigandha will play Spiro-Cavalry-ASC which beat Jindal Panther 7 goals to 5 1/2.

The last league matches proved to be virtual semifinals, as the four teams had been undefeated in the earlier matches.

The results (league): Rajnigandha Achievers 7 (Padmabh Singh 3, Daniel Otamendi 2, Kuldeep Singh 2) bt Soni Polo 5 (Siddhant Sharma 5).

Spiro-Cavalry-ASC 7 (Dhrupal Godara 4, Vishal Chauhan 3) bt Jindal Panther 5 1/2 (Simran Shergill 2, Naresh Jindal 2, Venkatesh Jindal, handicap 1/2).

Perfect start for Spurs

Come-from-behind win for Arsenal

EUROPA LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Tottenham posted an opening 3-0 victory over LASK of Austria in its Europa League campaign on Thursday but Celtic suffered another setback with a home 3-1 loss at the hands of Zlatan Ibrahimovic's AC Milan.

Carlos Vinicius started in place of the resting Harry Kane and he made goals in either half for Lucas Moura and Son Heung-min.

Earlier, Arsenal came from behind to down Rapid Vienna 2-1. After a goalless first half it went behind when keeper Bernd Leno

fluffed a clearance on a night he will want to forget.

But the Gunners then turned the game around in four second half minutes.

Important results:

Group B: Rapid Vienna 1 (Fontas 51) lost to 2 (Luiz 70, Aubameyang 74).

Group C: Bayer Leverkusen 6 (Amiri 11, Alario 16, Diaby 61, Bellarabi 79, 83, Wirtz 87) bt Nice 2 (Gouiri 31, Claude-Maurice 90).

Group G: Leicester City 3 (Maddison 29, Barnes 45, Iheanacho 67) bt Zorya Luhansk 0.

Group H: Celtic 1 (Elyounoussi 14, Diaz 42, Hauge 90+2).

Group J: Tottenham 3 (Lucas 18, Andres André 27-09, Son Heung-min 84) bt LASK 0.

Bottas ends both practice sessions on top

Verstappen and Stroll smash into each other; Gasly's car catches fire

PORTUGUESE GP

REUTERS
PORTIMAO (PORTUGAL)

Max Verstappen and Lance Stroll collided in an eventful second practice for the first Portuguese Grand Prix in 24 years on Friday while Valtteri Bottas set the pace for Formula One champion Mercedes.

The afternoon saw two red flag interruptions, first when AlphaTauri's Pierre Gasly pulled over with his car in flames and then when Red Bull's Verstappen and Racing Point's Stroll smashed into each other.

"I was so surprised that he just turned in while I was



Making his mark: Mercedes' Valterti Bottas continued the habit of leading the way on Fridays. ■ AFP

coming up to him. I don't know where I had to go," said the Dutchman, who refused to apologise for his language. "It was just very unnecessary."

Racing Point boss Otmar Szafnauer saw it differently: "I can assure you 100% that Max knew Lance was there... but Lance doesn't know Max was there. It's pretty simple

for me."

Both drivers were summoned to stewards.

Verstappen still ended the day second fastest, half a second slower than Bottas, with Mercedes' six-times World champion Lewis Hamilton second in the morning and then eighth after lunch.

McLaren's Lando Norris was third in the afternoon, ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc.

Bottas was quickest in both morning and afternoon, continuing a habit of leading the way on Fridays, with an overall best time of one minute 17.940 seconds around the undulating Algarve circuit near Portimao.

MARUTI SUZUKI

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NEXA WAZIRPUR COMPETENT AUTOMOBILES PH: 9582668846	NEXA ROHINI SECTOR 10 JAGMOHAN AUTOMOTIVES PVT. LTD. PH: 7290094040	NEXA SECTOR 10 VIPUL MOTORS PH: 9953993456	NEXA SECTOR 63 ROHAN MOTORS PH: 8376440000	NEXA IND AREA VIPUL MOTORS PH: 999788886	NEXA SECTOR 63 ROHAN MOTORS PH: 999788886	NEXA MMT MANESAR PLATINUM MOTO CORP PH: 9953345301	NEXA MEERUT ROAD ROHAN MOTORS LTD. PH: 8176582222	NEXA SAHIBabad MOTORCRAFT SALES PH: 9995904061	NEXA MATHURA ROAD PASCO AUTOMOBILES PH: 9999120000
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