



NARAYANA EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

IIT JEE-ADV - 2020 INCREDIBLE RESULTS FROM NARAYANA ALL INDIA TOP RANKS IN OPEN CATEGORY

1

SOUTH ZONE
FEMALE
TOPPER



NAMITHA KOTHAPALLI
HT No. 6206137

6TH

Rank



HARDIK RAJPAL
HT No. 6190048

8TH

Rank



SWAYAM CHUBE
HT No. 1101497

9TH

Rank



HARSHVARDHAN
AGARWAL
HT No. 7017018 (AITs Student)

22 NARAYANA STUDENTS IN TOP 100 OPEN CATEGORY

ALL PROGS



KUMAR SATYAM
HT No. 6235079



SAMARATH AGARWAL
HT No. 1793278 (SCCP)



CHIMNAY MITTAL
HT No. 2018146 (SCCP)



PARTH DWIVEDI
HT No. 2019225 (SCCP)



RIYA SAWHNEY
HT No. 2018133 (SCCP)



G.N.S.A. SIVA KISHORE G
HT No. 6093071



DHRUV RAMBIA
HT No. 1107069 (AITs)



51^{Rank}

RANK

RANK

58^{Rank}

RANK

RANK

60^{Rank}

RANK

RANK

62^{Rank}

RANK

RANK

68^{Rank}

RANK

RANK

74^{Rank}

RANK

RANK

80^{Rank}

RANK

RANK

90^{Rank}

RANK

RANK

92^{Rank}

RANK

OPEN CATEGORY RANK ANALYSIS FROM OUR ALL PROGRAMS

3 RANKS IN TOP 10

22 RANKS IN TOP 100

93 RANKS IN TOP 500

142 RANKS IN TOP 1000

JEE-ADV.
2020

TOTAL QUALIFIED
2299

OUR REGULAR CLASSROOM PROGRAMS

ADMISSIONS
OPEN FOR
NURSERY TO XI

TWO YEARS PROGRAM
JEE/NEET-2022
FOR XI STUDYING
STUDENTS

FOUNDATION PROGRAMS
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JSTSE, OLYMPIADS &
SCHOOLS/BOARD EXAMS
(FOR VI, VII, VIII, IX & X
STUDYING STUDENTS)

APEX BATCH*
TWO YEARS SCHOOL INTEGRATED
CLASSROOM PROGRAM-2020
FOR JEE (MAIN &
ADVANCED) / NEET
(FOR XI STUDYING STUDENTS)

NSAT
NARAYANA SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST

FOR STUDENTS
STUDYING IN
CLASS V TO XI

TARGET JEE-MAIN / ADV-2021
LONG TERM / REPEATERS BATCH
ADMISSIONS OPEN
LIVE ONLINE CLASSES
COMMENCES FROM
14TH OCTOBER 2020

N-ACST
ADMISSION COM-SCHOLARSHIP TEST

EVERY WEDNESDAY
& SATURDAY
FOR STUDENTS STUDYING IN CLASS V TO XII PASS

GET UPTO
90%
SCHOLARSHIP

ONLINE
TEST

28th OCTOBER TO
10th NOVEMBER-2020

FEE ₹. 200/-

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NARAYANA EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

NARAYANA STUDENTS IN TOP 10 (ALL CATEGORIES)



All PROGS

Many More...

ALL INDIA 500 BELOW RANKERS IN OPEN CATEGORY



OPEN
CATEGORY
1000
BELOW
(ALL PROGS)

NARAYANA STUDENTS
142
Many More...

KALUSARAI: Ph.: 011-42707070, 42707000, 18001207765; **PUNJABI BAGH:** Ph.: 011-45711100, 45062651/53; **DWARKA:(SEC-12):** Ph.: 011-45621724/25, 8527544323; **JANAKPURI:** Ph.: 011-41576124/25, 9891218833; **MAYURVIHAR :** Ph.: 011-43061644 /45, 9354134200; **PITAMPURA:** Ph.: 011-47016398, 47062998; **GUJRALWALA TOWN:** Ph.: 011-45696504; **NOIDA:** Ph.: 0120-4259566, 4124145; **GURUGRAM:** Ph.: 0124-4292139, 4371331, 9958678555; **FARIDABAD :** Ph.: 0129-4066938, 4066937, 4074626, 9739729411. **ALIGARH:** (UP). Ph.: 7456090209, 9219401331; **AURANGABAD :** Ph.: 0240-2349096, 0240-2357459; **DHANBAD :** Ph.: 9708035720, 9031085004/5, 9234301814, **JAMSHEDPUR :** Ph.: 9334870015 / 16 / 18 / 19 / 20/21, **BHUBANESHWAR :** Ph.: 7978258846; **AHMEDABAD :** Ph.: 8447464824, 7903570110; **SURAT :** Ph.: 7903570110, 9327987120, **CHANDIGARH,** Ph.: 0172-4042362, 990777043; **NARAYANA E-TECHNO SCHOOL + COLLEGE:** **PALAM VIHAR - SOUTH CITY-2** - Ph: 8744068981, **M G ROAD - Ph:** 9540163030, **SEC-37C - Ph:** 8744054800, **NARAYANA E-TECHNO SCHOOL - MANESAR - Ph:** 8744063813, **GAZIABAD - Ph:** 9540168282, **SEC-87 - Ph:** 9999136240, **SEC-77 - Ph:** 8777033387, **LUDHIANA :** Ph : 9912342230, **LUDHIANA :** Ph : 6305460783, **INDORE SCHOOL :** 149/1/1 Narayana e-Techno School, Bicholi Mardana, Opp. Sampath Hills, Indore, MP. Ph : 9121163202/203, **INDORE COACHING CENTRE :** Vitrag 30/1, South Tukoganj, Opp. Cosmos Bank, Indore-452001. Ph : 9522560422/822, **BHOPAL COACHING CENTRE :** Plot No.84 Zone II, MP Nagar, Opp. Raymond Showroom, Bhopal-462011. Ph : 9522565122/9522566122, **RAJASTAN :** Rudra Towers, Opp. Indian Petrol Pump, Bypass, Jaipur Ph: 9602125269.

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NIA arrests two from Chennai and Bengaluru for links with IS

Page 8



American poet Louise Gluck wins Nobel Prize for Literature

Page 11



India's economy to contract by 9.6% in 2020-21: World Bank

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Kenin gets past Kvitova, meets Swiatek in final of French Open

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NEARBY



EPCA directs Delhi, other States to enforce GRAP

NEW DELHI
The Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority has directed Delhi and neighbouring States to implement air pollution control measures under "very poor" and "severe" category air quality of the Graded Response Action Plan from October 15, including a ban on use of diesel generators.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

Ram Vilas Paswan passes away

Dalit icon and stalwart of the socialist movement was Minister under 6 PMs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Food and Consumer Affairs Ram Vilas Paswan passed away on Thursday night due to prolonged heart ailment at the Fortis Escorts Hospital in New Delhi. He was 74.

Mr. Paswan was a Minister under six Prime Ministers – from the United Front government of Deve Gowda and the Manmohan Singh-led United Progressive Alliance government to the current Narendra Modi-led National Democratic Alliance government.



Ram Vilas Paswan

"My deepest condolences on the passing away of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. A towering personality, who stood with the cause of social justice and empowerment of the most marginalised, Shri Paswan will be forever remembered for asserting the cause of social and political equity. I remember his long association as an ally and as a competent and dynamic minister of the UPA. My thoughts are with his wife, Chirag and all the family members, friends and followers."

LEADER WITH MANY A HAT ▶ PAGE 9

BJP cadre clash with police as march in Kolkata turns violent

Police use tear gas to disperse stone-throwing protesters



Complete chaos: Tyres set afire during the protest in Howrah on Thursday. ■ PTI

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

Violence erupted on Thursday in Kolkata and parts of Howrah as the BJP's youth wing held two rallies to the State Secretariat (Nabanna).

The protest marches were called to highlight the "deteriorating law and order situation in the State", among other issues.

As protesters threw stones and tried to breach barricades, police resorted to baton charges, fired tear gas and used water cannons

to disperse the crowds across the city heading to the secretariat.

The area around Howrah Maidan, Howrah Bridge, and Santragchi in Howrah district, as well as Burrabazar and Hastings in the Kolkata area bore the brunt of the intermittent clashes between the BJP supporters and the police.

Traffic in large parts of the central area of the city came to a halt from noon to 2 p.m.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

SC criticises govt's Tablighi affidavit

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sharad A. Bobde on Thursday pulled up the Union government for mistreating the Supreme Court for having a "junior officer" file an "evasive" affidavit containing "unnecessary, nonsensical" averments on petitions challenging the discriminatory and communal coverage of the Tablighi Jamaat incident by some sections of the media.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 10

Q2 records 107% surge in fresh investments

Chhattisgarh, T.N. get inflows of ₹35,771 cr. and ₹23,332 cr.

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

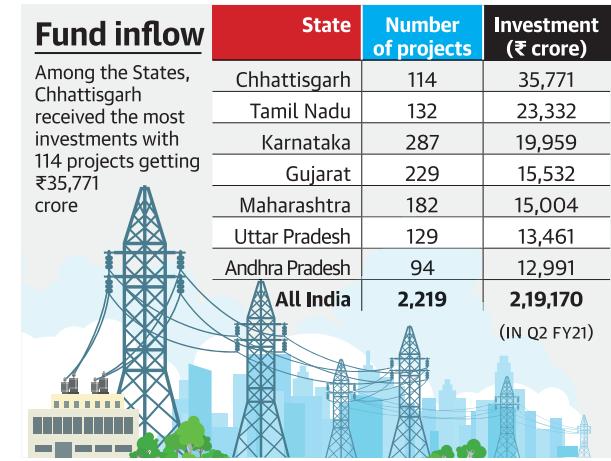
Fresh investment proposals surged sharply in the second quarter of this year, rising 107% over the first quarter, with 2,219 new projects entailing an investment of ₹2.19 lakh crore.

Private sector investments also recovered significantly, rising 87% from the previous quarter when an extensive lockdown triggered a 23.9% contraction in the economy. On a year-on-year basis, fresh investments between July and September were still 11.32% lower but marked a sharp recovery from investments in the first quarter that were nearly 73% lower.

Among the States, Chhattisgarh received the most investments in the second quarter followed by Tamil Nadu, which topped fresh investments in the first quarter, according to Projects Today's latest report on investment announcements in the July to September quarter.

Karnataka was third on the list, followed by Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Chhattisgarh's total investments of ₹35,771 crore in the quarter were boosted by the ₹22,653 crore Bodhgaon irrigation project and public sector coal mining projects worth ₹8,200 crore. Tamil



Nadu received 132 projects worth ₹23,332 crore in the same period.

Cautious optimism

Projects Today director and CEO Shashikant Hegde said it was too early to proclaim the return of normalcy.

However, he said the impressive increase in fresh investment proposals, increased tendering activities and a sharp jump in the number of finalised project contracts in Q2 vis-à-vis the preceding quarter indicated a bounce back in project investment activities in India.

"The project implementation ratio (project investment under execution as percentage of total outstanding investment) improved by a tad, from 37% in Q1 to

37.53% in Q2," Mr. Hegde told *The Hindu*.

"This indicates that at the ground level, project execution has not gained much traction in the second quarter. Pain issues like scarcity of labour, supply chain disruption and liquidity also persisted," he said.

Private sector investments in the second quarter were just 7% down from a year ago, with 618 new projects worth ₹83,608.2 crore. This was almost double the 315 new projects worth ₹44,714.6 crore announced in Q1, but still far less than the average quarterly investments of ₹1.69 lakh crore and ₹1.32 lakh crore in 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Republic TV, 2 others in TRP racket: police

Owners of Fakt Marathi, Box Cinema have been arrested, says Mumbai police chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh said here on Thursday that a racket involving Republic TV, Box Cinema and Fakt Marathi that manipulated Television Rating Points (TRPs) had been busted by the Crime Branch.

Owners of Fakt Marathi and Box Cinema have been arrested and charged with Sections 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) and 409 (criminal breach of trust by public servant, or by banker, merchant or agent) of the Indian Penal Code, he told presspersons.

"After a preliminary inquiry, one person was arrested, and he has revealed that he had been working for a company called Hansa Research Group Private Ltd., which is part of the BARC



Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh at a press meet. ■ EMMANUEL YOGINI

wrongful gains of various TV channels, which resulted in wrongful loss to various advertisers and their agencies," Mr. Singh said.

A press release says, "Preliminary investigation also revealed that these accused persons have manipulated the sampling metering services by inducing the Bar-O-Meter users by paying them periodically to watch particular TV channel/s."

Money to households

"Around ₹400-500 was given to several households on a monthly basis. Hansa's ex-employee and his companion were arrested and ₹20 lakh was recovered, along with ₹8.5 lakh in a bank lock-er," he said.

"We will examine directors, promoters, employees, those who look after advertising, distribution and fund-

ing of Republic TV."

Republic TV's Arunab Goswami released a statement on social media saying, "Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh has made false allegations against Republic TV because we have questioned him in the Sushant Singh Rajput case investigation. Republic TV will file a criminal defamation case against Param Bir Singh."

BJP president J.P. Nadda tweeted: "Shooting the messenger is an art the Congress, their allies and ecosystem have mastered. They've been unapologetic about it since the Emergency. Their assaults on Republic and trampling over media freedom will never be tolerated by the people of India."

WHAT IS TRP, WHY WAS IT MANIPULATED? ▶ PAGE 10

Air dominance



Leading the way: An Indian Air Force contingent marching in front of a C-17 Globemaster during the 88th Air Force Day celebrations at the Hindon airbase in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY (REPORT ON PAGE 10)

Falsely implicated, say Hathras accused

High Court rejects plea of victim's family against curbs

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

A letter written by one of the accused in the Hathras rape-murder case claiming innocence and seeking "justice" surfaced on a day the Allahabad High Court dismissed a plea filed by the victim's family seeking an end to their alleged "illegal detention" by the U.P. police.

In the letter addressed to the Hathras SP from Aligarh jail, accused Sandeep Singh claimed he and three others were falsely implicated in the case by the family of the victim. The October 7 letter, widely circulated on social media on Thursday, has thumb impressions of all four accused, the other three being Ravi, Lavkush and Ramu.

In the letter, Sandeep claims he was friends with the victim and the two would also talk over the phone but the girl's family did not approve of their friendship.

He also goes on to claim that on the day of the incident, he had met the victim in the fields and that she was accompanied by her brother and mother. Sandeep further claims through hearsay information that after he left the spot on the girl's request, the girl's brother and mother beat her up.

Aligarh jail authorities confirmed that Sandeep had sent a letter and it was forwarded to the Hathras SP. Reacting to the letter, a female relative of the victim told a television channel that she sensed "plans" being executed to protect the four accused.

Approach apex court

In Allahabad, taking up a habeas corpus petition filed by the victim's family against their alleged illegal detention, a Division Bench noted that U.P. had already been directed to file affidavits clarifying stand by the Supreme

Court. Similar directions had already been issued by the Lucknow Bench of the High Court in a suo motu petition on October 1, the court added. The petitioners are at liberty to file an appropriate petition or application before the apex court, the HC said.

The writ was moved by Surendra Kumar, general secretary of the Akhil Bharatiya Valmiki Mahapanchayat, on behalf of the family, through advocates Kashif Abbas Rizvi and Joun Abbas.

The petition also prayed for directing the administration to allow the family – the victim's parents, two brothers, sister-in-law and grandmother – to move to Delhi.

The State government counsel objected to the petition on several counts, prime among them that the matter was already sub judice before the Supreme Court, hence the plea before the HC was not maintainable.

Assam jails cannot be detention centres: HC

State government told to list steps taken to house declared foreigners outside jail



A detention centre under construction in Goalpara district. ■ FILE PHOTO

kept in an "appropriate place with restricted movements" pending deportation or repatriation and provided basic facilities such as electricity, water, hygiene, etc.

Hire private premises?

"Further, the requirement is that such detention centres/holding centres/ camps should be set up outside the jail premises. The State government is also to ensure... appropriate security at these places," the court's order read.

Taking note of the absence of designated detention centres, the Bench of Justice M.R. Pathak said: "... If appropriate suitable accommodation is not available and the acquisition of land and construction is pending for the purpose of setting up the detention centres, the State government may hire suitable

Virus spreading from offices to families: report

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

Contact tracing of COVID-19 positive cases in Delhi has been "very limited" since the beginning" and it needs to be "more rationalised", said a report prepared by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and submitted to the Delhi government.

The report titled *Revised Strategy for control of COVID-19 version 3.0*, which is yet to be made public, added that with the resumption of economic activities in Delhi, workplaces are becoming "hotspots" and infection is spreading from workplaces to families.

It further said that mortality analysis revealed that some deaths "some extent" could be attributed to "gaps in the system".

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

M ND-NDE

IN BRIEF



3-day event to celebrate IIT's Diamond Jubilee year

NEW DELHI

A three-day programme, starting Friday, is being organised by SPIC MACAY to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee year of IIT-Delhi. From Friday to Sunday, Malayalam movie *Nizhalukkuthu* will be screened followed by an interactive session with director and Padma Vibhushan awardee Adoor Gopalakrishnan under the cinema classics module. An online interaction with Bharatanatyam exponent and Padma Bhushan awardee Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam will be organised on Saturday. On Sunday, an online interaction will be organised with Pandavani exponent Teejan Bai, also a Padma Vibhushan awardee.

Same-sex couple moves court over marriage

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A same-sex couple has moved the Delhi High Court seeking to declare that the Special Marriage Act ought to apply to all couples regardless of their gender identity and sexual orientation.

The petitioners, both women, said they have been a couple for eight years, live together and share the highs, the lows, the joys and sorrows of life.

They sought a direction to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Kalkaji, here to register their marriage under the Special Marriage Act.

Justice Navin Chawla, before whom both the petitions came up for hearing on Thursday, directed the registry to list them before the Bench of the Chief Justice of the High Court which is already hearing a petition to recognise same sex marriages under the Hindu Marriage Act (HMA) and Special Marriage Act (SMA).

EPCA directs Delhi, other States to implement GRAP

Diesel generators to be banned to fight pollution from Oct. 15

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A Supreme Court-appointed pollution monitoring body has directed Delhi and neighbouring States to implement air pollution control measures under "very poor" and "severe" category air quality of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) from October 15, including a ban on the use of diesel generators, except for emergency activities.

The Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority (EPCA) on Thursday wrote to Chief Secretaries of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan on the issue.

"The use of diesel generator sets will be banned (other than essential/emergency services) in Delhi and in vicin-

ity towns – Ghaziabad, Noida and Greater Noida in U.P. and Faridabad and Gurugram in Haryana. In 2019, the States of U.P. and Haryana had informed EPCA that they will put in the required measures by winter 2020 so that electricity from the grid can be supplied without disruptions in these areas, which would then obviate the need for diesel generators," the letter said.

Additional steps

The letter said that a CPCB-led task force and the EPCA will continue to review the situation. If the weather pollution turns adverse, then "additional steps", including a ban on construction activity and enhanced parking fees

among others will have to be implemented, as mentioned under a different category of the GRAP.

"However, in this winter with all the combined efforts of the Union and State governments, we should try and avert the need to use these additional emergency measures for pollution control. We recognise that the economy is already under stress post-lockdown and therefore, our combined effort is to ensure that there is no further disruption," it said.

EPCA Chairman Bhure Lal said in the letter that there is "enough evidence" that pollution will make COVID-19 "more dangerous" and therefore, there must be zero-tolerance for air pollution.

Riots victim pleads case for higher compensation

Assembly panel takes up five cases of inadequate payouts due to faulty MLCs

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old man who lost his right hand during the communal riots that broke out in February was presented before the Delhi Assembly Minorities Welfare Committee as his case was initially put under the "minor injuries" section while his is a case of permanent disability.

The compensation due to the victim identified as Akram Khan, resident of Chand Bagh, is ₹5 lakh, but he was only paid ₹20,000 while at Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital where he was being treated in February. Mr. Akram claimed that a bomb was thrown in his direction on February 24 and the severe injuries he sustained led to his hand being amputated.

Committee chairman Amanatullah Khan said that Mr. Akram's case was pre-



Charred goods left unattended at Chand Bagh in north-east Delhi. • FILE PHOTO: SANDEEP SAXENA

sented before the panel. "His first medico-legal certificate (MLC) stated that he had suffered minor injuries. Later, it was changed to major injuries but he has suffered a permanent disability due to which he is entitled to ₹5 lakh," he said. Government representatives present during the Wednesday meeting said that the matter will be looked into, Mr. Khan said.

"Three-four operations

mild," said Mr. Akram, who has his elder brother by his side for physical assistance to perform basic tasks.

Four other cases

During the meeting, four more similar cases were flagged where the MLCs wrongly stated that the victims had suffered minor injuries while the injuries were actually grave, resulting in inadequate compensation.

The committee also sought response on six contentious videos that had surfaced during the riots, including one of a woman, Ragini Tiwari, who allegedly made provocative statements during a Facebook Live session on February 23. The government representative is said to have assured that the action taken report will be submitted in the next committee meeting.

DDA conducts 'Youth Sabha' on MPD-2041

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Thursday conducted an online session, 'Youth Sabha', pertaining to the preparation of the Master Plan for Delhi (MPD)-2041.

Issues ranging from improved public transportation, cleanliness, affordable housing to need for proper sanitation facilities for workers from unorganised sectors were discussed at the meeting, where approximately 100 people participated.

DDA Vice-Chairman Anurag Jain said, "The real stakeholders of MPD-2041 are today's youth. These discussions will continue and I urge people to put forth their suggestions and engage with us actively."

Fire breaks out at PVC sole factory in Narela

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A fire broke out at a PVC sole factory at outer Delhi's Narela on Thursday morning, a Delhi Fire Service official said. No casualty has been reported so far, he said.

Delhi Fire Service Director Atul Garg said, a fire accident was reported at the factory around 11 a.m. and 10 fire tenders were immediately rushed to the spot.

Later, 15 more fire tenders were pressed into service.

The fire was finally brought under control by 5.30 p.m.

A short circuit is suspected to be the reason that led to the fire.

Air quality poor, likely to improve in coming days

'War room' launched to monitor pollution

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The air quality of the city continued to be in the "poor" category on Thursday, after dropping into the category for the first time in over three months a day before, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data.

a few more days.

Environment Minister Gopal Rai launched a 'war room' at the Delhi secretariat on Thursday to monitor efforts to contain pollution, fumes and dust levels in hotspots.

He said that the 'war room' will be equipped with "high-end technology" to monitor real-time pollution data, hotspot conditions, and NASA-ISRO images of stubble burning ing.

Real-time data

"The war room is fully equipped with technology to monitor real-time pollution data. Three large LCD screens are present across the room," said Mr. Rai, who added that a 10-member expert team will operate from the war room.

Baby steps



Children on their way to tuition class in New Delhi on Thursday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Four criminals held after encounter in Begampur

Accused are wanted in several cases

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police's Special Cell arrested four criminals after an exchange of fire in Begampur in the early hours of Thursday. The police said that around 50 rounds were fired from both sides.

DCP (Special Cell) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said that the accused have been identified as Sonu Mitraun (23), Amit (26), Rohit (23) and Ravinder Yadav (31). All of them were injured during the exchange of fire. They belong to Kala Jhatri Lawrence Bishnoi gang and were wanted in several cases of murder, attempt to murder and extortion, police said.

Mr. Yadav said that the criminals fired 22 rounds of bullets and police shot 28 rounds. "Our team received

an information that criminals of a gang wanted in many cases would be coming to Rohini from Haryana to eliminate rival criminal. Acting on a tip off, a trap was laid on Khera Gaon," he said. He added that at around 3.30 a.m., the gang members were spotted in a car. They were signalled to stop but they tried to escape. They sped on the vehicles but the police team managed to block their way, he said.

Later, they whipped out firearms and started firing on the police party. They fired three bullet rounds. However, none of policemen were injured since they were wearing bullet-proof jackets. In retaliation, the police team fired back, Mr. Yadav said.

During the journey, they used to take passengers in

Three members of 'Lifafa gang' arrested

They offered rides to rob victims

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Three members of 'Lifafa gang' were arrested for allegedly robbing people after giving them lift at a very low fare, the police said on Thursday.

The accused have been identified as Bablu (36), a resident of New Ashok Nagar; Laxman (40), a resident of Paharganj and Sunil Kumar (32), a resident of Dallupura, they said.

They used fake number plates during the commission of crime. The accused used to target commuters waiting for conveyance to reach their destinations. They assured them to drop at their destination at low fare, the police said.

During the journey, they used to take passengers in

confidence and on the pretext of police checking, they managed to obtain their valuables in a *lifafa* envelop. Later, they either exchange the envelop or if the passenger resisted, they would rob them of their belongings.

Thereafter, they used to drop them on the way, a senior police officer said.

On Wednesday, the police got a tip-off that a member of 'Lifafa gang' would visit Dhaula Kuan to commit robbery around 11 a.m..

"Around 11.40 a.m., the police spotted a car going towards Gurugram. After seeing policemen, the accused tried to flee the spot, but were nabbed," DCP (South-West) Devender Arya said.

One of their associates, Mahender, is absconding.

Baba ka Dhaba and the magic of social media



Kanta Prasad with his wife Badami Devi at their residence in New Delhi on Thursday. • PTI

at 8.30 a.m., they found people already lined up outside. For the first few hours, we sold only parathas and then prepared more items," said Azad Hind, Prasad's 37-year-old son.

By 12 noon, all items on the menu, comprising chapati, rice, mixed vegetable, and paneer, all ranging between ₹10-₹50, were sold out – much to their surprise and stupefaction.

Before COVID-19 took its toll on businesses country-wide, Prasad would make enough to save ₹4,000-₹5000 almost every month. His stall, which he has been running with his wife since the early 1990s, hit its nadir during the lockdown and in the weeks that followed. The elderly couple barely made enough to make ends meet.

asking people to go there and get themselves a meal.

A day after the heart-breaking video, #Babakadhaba was trending on Twitter and the food joint was flooded with more customers than it had seen in 30 years of being in business.

"Like everyday, my parents started cooking at 6 a.m. When they reached the shop

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Viral video brings back luck to elderly couple running food stall in Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Kanta Prasad pulled down his mask every few minutes to reveal a nearly toothless smile, his eyes taking in with gratitude the crowds thronging his tiny food stall, Baba ka Dhaba, that was forlorn and empty till just a day ago, much as it had been through the last six months.

On Thursday though, everything changed for the 80-year-old and his family that was on the brink of penury. Social media spun its magic with a video of Prasad tearfully recounting the desperation

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	Timings
FRIDAY, OCT. 9	
RISE 06:19	SET 17:58
RISE 23:09	SET 12:40
SATURDAY, OCT. 10	
RISE 06:19	SET 17:57
RISE 00:00	SET 13:33
SUNDAY, OCT. 11	
RISE 06:20	SET 17:56
RISE 00:05	SET 14:23

Delhi Weather	max min
Delhi City	36 19
Safdarjung	36 19
Palam	35 21

Delhi Palam Today
36°C A comfortable morning and night. Dry weather with few clouds.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
36°C Pleasant morning and warm afternoon would prevail. Moderate gusty wind likely.

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THE HINDU
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Infection spreading from offices to families, notes NCDC report

Contact tracing in Delhi limited since the beginning, needs to be rationalised

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

Contact tracing of COVID-19 positive cases in Delhi has been "very limited since the beginning" and it needs to be "more rationalised", said a report prepared by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and submitted to the Delhi government.



A Delhi resident being tested for COVID-19. ■ FILE PHOTO

The report titled *Revised Strategy for control of COVID-19 version 3.0*, which is yet to be made public, also noted that with the resumption of economic activities, workplaces are becoming "hotspots" and infection is spreading from workplaces to families. "Identification of workplace clusters for saturation testing after risk assessment should be undertaken on priority by all districts," the report said.

On patients being 'brought dead' to hospitals, the report said that to "some extent" this could be attributed to "gaps" in the system and "delay" in accessing healthcare.

Critical care

"Mortality analysis of three Central government hospitals revealed that patients brought dead comprise 15% in RML, 6.5% in SJH and 44.6% in Lady Hardinge. Although dramatic course of illness is inevitable, but to some extent it could be attributed to system gaps in proper triaging/selection of patients to put under home

isolation and delay in accessing critical care," said the report, seen by *The Hindu*.

It has also pointed out multiple shortcomings in the fight against the virus.

7-10 contacts only

"Contact tracing activities in Delhi have been very limited since the beginning. The number of contacts traced per positive cases on an average remained only 7-10 per contact," the report stated.

It also said that the fatality rate in Delhi (1.9%) is higher than the national average (1.5%), and mortality rate of under 15 and people between 16-44 years of age is a "concern". The report was prepared in consultation with an expert group headed by V.K Paul, member of NITI Aayog. Last month, L-G Aril Baijal had asked for a revised plan to fight the virus.

The report said that scaling up of daily COVID-19 test-

ing in the city has "not been specific". "Increase in number of tests should be reflected in increased case finding. Merely increasing number of tests to reduce positivity rate would not be appropriate," the report said, adding that majority of testing has been done in camps at railway stations and bus stands and hence the majority of people tested are "asymptomatic".

The report said that positivity rate of Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) is 4.3%, while that of RT-PCR is 20.2%. This again underlines that RT-PCR is more accurate, but the Delhi government has been heavily dependent on RAT. The High Court has also asked the government to increase RT-PCR testing.

The report said that criteria for scaling up of testing should be based on positivity of each district and preferably ward level, and should not be "target driven".

Submit relevant judgments in support of plea, HC tells Karat

She is seeking FIR against BJP leaders for their 'hate speeches'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked CPI (M) leader Brinda Karat, who is seeking registration of FIR against Union Minister Anurag Thakur and MP Pravesh Verma for their alleged hate speeches in relation to anti-CAA protests at Shaheen Bagh here, to submit relevant judgments in support of her plea.

Advocate Mr. Aggarwal submitted that his client's complaint was kept pending before the trial court for nine months and later, the trial court rejected the plea without even going into the merits of the case.

Mr. Karat argued that the magistrate has refused to exercise the jurisdiction, which the law vests on him.

The trial court in its order had stated that prior sanction of competent authority – Central government – is required as per Section 196 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) at the stage of ordering of registration of FIR as both Mr. Thakur and Mr. Verma are MPs.

Ms. Karat's counsel Sidharth Aggarwal claimed that a cognisable offence is made out against the BJP leaders and an FIR should be lodged against them for their alleged hate speeches.

Justice Yogesh Khanna has posted the case for further hearing on November 2.

Requisite sanction

Ms. Karat has challenged an August 26 order of a trial court here rejecting her plea

for registration of FIR against the BJP leaders on the ground that the requisite sanction from the competent authority, the Central government, was not obtained.

Ms. Karat's counsel Sidharth Aggarwal claimed that

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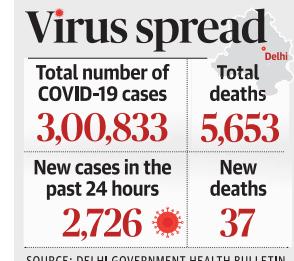
COVID-19 cases cross 3 lakh mark in the Capital

No more posters outside houses of people under home quarantine, say officials

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

With 2,726 new COVID-19 cases being reported in the Capital in the past 24 hours, the total cases crossed the 3 lakh mark on Thursday, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government.

According to the bulletin, 37 more deaths have been reported, taking the total



number of deaths to 5,653. Of the total 3,00,833 cases,

2,72,948, people have recovered till now and there are 22,232 active cases.

Both active cases and people under home isolation, which have been decreasing for almost a week, increased slightly on Thursday.

The government has also decided to end the system of putting up posters outside houses of people under home quarantine with their

names and other details and has directed district officials to remove all such posters, according to officials.

The official said, "By not putting up posters, we are trying to encourage more people to get tested for the virus and bring them into the government's monitoring system." The Delhi government did not officially confirm the development.

The Ministry of Electronics

Rules framed to tackle fake news: govt.

Unlawful content on social media can be removed, HC told

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Central government has informed the Delhi High Court that it was aware of the dangers of fake news on social media platforms, and accordingly necessary guidelines have been framed under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules.

The Ministry of Electronics

and Information Technology, in an affidavit filed before the court, stated that any unlawful content on social media platforms can be removed either by an order of the court, or a government notification or by the company's grievance officer.

The grievance officer under the IT (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules is bound to re-

ceive any complaint within one month.

The Ministry's submission came in response to a petition filed by former RSS ideologue K.N. Govindacharya seeking removal of fake news and hate speech being circulated on social media.

Mr. Govindacharya alleged that social media platforms "have become a haven for hate speech".

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Farmers call for protest on Nov. 3 over Acts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

The farmers' groups on Thursday called for a nationwide "chakka jam" (road blockade) on November 3 in protest against the three farm legislations. The decision was taken at a meeting attended by 40-odd farmers' groups from across eight States.

"It has been decided to block the highways across the country on November 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in protest against the legislations. The decision was taken by all the farmers' groups present in the meeting," said Bharatiya Kisan Union (Charuni) president Gurnam Singh Charuni after the meeting.

The representatives of 40-odd farmers groups from several States, including Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra were present in the meeting held at "Kamboj Dharamshala".

Speaking at the meeting, the farmers' leaders said the three legislations were pro-corporate and harm the farmers. Mr. Charuni informed that another meeting would be held in Punjab on Friday to deliberate on the ways bring in more farmers groups into the fold.

BJP begins de-sealing campaign

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Thursday started a 'de-sealing campaign' by de-sealing properties sealed by a monitoring committee in Tadapur Village.

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta said civic bodies had been instructed to de-seal all the properties sealed by the committee before Diwali. "To reduce bureaucracy, a single file will be made for all the properties sealed in one zone, single instruction will be made and all the properties will be de-sealed by the civic bodies," he said.



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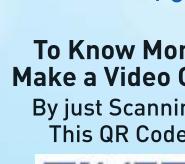
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Kashmir Bar association decides to defer its polls

'Did not receive permission order'

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

The Kashmir High Court Bar Association (KHCBA), a body of over 1,200 lawyers, on Thursday decided to defer its polls because the administration failed to grant them the required permission.

"We had approached the Srinagar administration for permission to conduct the polls for office-bearers on October 5. The date of polling was October 8. However, we did not receive any order from the administration, which tantamounts to denial of permission. Polls have been cancelled for time being", Mudasir Gulzar Vakil, secretary of the election commission of the Bar association, told *The Hindu*.

Official sources said the district administration had sought the opinion of the

Chief Medical Officer, Srinagar, whether such polls were feasible during the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, in the letter forwarded to the Srinagar administration, the HCBA promised that "all standard operating procedures (SOPs) as advised would be meticulously followed".

'We are clueless'

Mr. Vakil said, "We are clueless about the denial, as traders' bodies were allowed to conduct elections".

The candidates, who were contesting for different posts, had done poll campaigning and canvassing in the Valley courts.

The association is a very influential civil society body of the Valley that had challenged the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A in the Supreme Court in 2019.

Amarinder deliberately delaying legislation to negate them'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH



SAD chief Sukhbir Badal



CM Amarinder Singh

boulers. The State government should immediately scrap the provisions of the 'anti farmer' 2017 APMC Act, which was amended by the ruling Congress after assuming power.

AAP demands meeting

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), meanwhile, has written to the Chief Minister, asking for a meeting of all the stakeholders, including representa-

tives of farmers' organisations and agronomists, and all political parties to discuss the issue threadbare.

The party's State president and MP, Bhagwant Mann, said the special Assembly session must be at least for seven days for a detailed discussion. The entire proceedings could be telecast live so that the people of Punjab could see for themselves what was being done.

Nagaland govt. calls consultative meeting on peace process

Participants expected to discuss ways of ending impasse

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Nagaland government has convened a "consultative meeting" with all mass-based organisations, extremist groups and NGOs on October 15 to discuss the Naga peace process.

The move follows a deadlock in the negotiations between the Centre and the Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, or NSCN (IM), which prefers to be called National Socialist Council of Nagaland.

"All tribal hohos (tribe-based apex traditional bodies), mass-based organisations, civil societies, church organisations, political parties, NGOs, prominent persons, etc., are being invited to provide a common platform to various organisations and outfits for expressing their views on multiple issues and reach a consensus.

ficial statement said.

The NSCN (IM) had declared a ceasefire in 1997 followed by other extremist groups since 2001. But a solution has eluded the 'Naga political issue' despite several rounds of talks over more than two decades.

Common platform

The Nagaland government headed by Neiphiu Rio is believed to have sensed the growing impatience to address the issue by involving all sections of the Naga society.

The meeting is expected to provide a common platform to various organisations and outfits for expressing their views on multiple issues and reach a consensus.

Groups (NNPGs), a conglomerate of seven other outfits. The Centre is believed to have reached an agreement on all outstanding issues with the NNPGs while the demands of a Naga flag and Naga constitution have clouded the talks with the NSCN (IM).

The road to a "honourable solution" to the Naga political problem has been bumpy because it involves the aspirations of the Nagas from Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh besides Nagaland. Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh are particularly worried about losing territory if the Naga peace accord is signed.

The fear stems from the NSCN (IM)'s vision for Greater Nagaland, an administrative set-up comprising all Naga-inhabited areas in the northeast as well as adjoining Myanmar.

Odisha economy recovering: Naveen CM inaugurates 12 industrial projects worth over ₹8,000 cr.

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday inaugurated 12 industrial projects, including four large ones, with combined investment of ₹8,796.61 crore.

The units are likely to generate employment opportunities for 7,090 per-

sons in the State.

"The projects being taken up for ground-breaking and inauguration are in broad-based sectors. Our State continues its dominance as a premier investment destination," said Mr. Patnaik.

"It is very important to revive the industrial economy of the State which has been

impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Recent indicators suggest that the State economy is coming back to track. The industries are on a revival path. The new industries set up on Thursday will provide a new impetus to the confidence of the industrial sector in the State," he said.

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a boy Hemant Kumar S/o Virender Kumar, R/o Dairy No. 40, Dairy farm, Madanpur Khadar, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi has been kidnapped since 17.09.2020 from the area of PS Sarita Vihar, South-East District, Delhi. In this regard, FIR No. 362/20 dated 19.09.2020 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Sarita Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the kidnapped boy but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the kidnapped boy is as under:



Name: Hemant Kumar, Gender: Male, Age: 14 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Shallow, Face: Oval, Built: Thin, Wearing: Golden colour shirt, black colour track pant and slippers in his feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this kidnapped boy, kindly inform SHO/P.S. Sarita Vihar, Delhi.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

Fax: 011-24368639

SHO
P.S. Sarita Vihar, Delhi,

DP/245/SE/2020 Ph. No. 011-26825553, 26825554

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this person Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 60 Years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Oval, Built: Thin, Identification Mark: Old leprosy mark on Right Hand, Wearing: White and blue lungi, and light blue colour gamchha was found dead at the Footpath in front of P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi on 04.10.2020.

In this regard a FIR/ DD No.46-A, dated 04.10.2020 has been registered at P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi. Dead Body has been kept preserved at MAMC Hospital Mortuary for 72 hours for identification. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this dead person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi

DP/417/CD/2020 Ph.: 011-23230623, 23233743



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Principal

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one person namely Abishek Singh S/o Anil Singh R/o Village Pithauri Thakat, P.O. Paigampur Pithari Saran, P.S. Banipur, Distt. Saran, Bihar has been missing/kidnapped from the LNJP Hospital, Delhi. In this regard, a case DD No. 194/20 U/S 365 IPC has been registered at P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi. The description of the missing person as under.

Age: 24 Years, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5' 6", Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Brown colour pant, red & black colour shirt. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing/kidnapped person then please inform P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi at following Tel No./e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

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E-Tender Notice : No. : 114_2020_21, dated 06.10.2020, Following E-tender is invited in the prescribed form by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Asansol for the following works: Case No. O-AC-T-97-20-21, Name of Work: Open tender for shifting of pipe lines from Br. No. 11A in between Kulti and Barakar in G.C, Section of Eastern Railway. Tender Value: Rs. 68,50,924.39. Earnest Money: Rs. 1,37,000/- Date and Time of Closing: 31.10.2020 at 10.00 hrs. Complete details can be seen in the Railways Website www.reps.gov.in.

ASN-131/2020-21

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.erailways.gov.in / www.reps.gov.in

Tender Notice : No. : 114_2020_21, dated 06.10.2020, Following E-tender is invited online by Sr. Divisional Engineer/C/HW, Eastern Railway, Howrah invites from Tenderers having experience of similar nature of work and required financial capabilities including those registered with Irrigation/CPWD/SEB/MES or any public sector undertaking for the following work: Under - Sr. Div/Er/HW. Description of Work: Water Level Monitoring System (WLMS) alongwith installation of Intelligent Field Device (IFD) for regular monitoring of water level in the river at Br. No. 217 and 230 of Howrah Division. Approx Cost: Rs. 32,56,799.31, Earnest Money: Rs. 65,100/- Closing Date & Time of Tender: 02.11.2020 at 14.00 hrs. The details of tender document are available at website www.reps.gov.in. Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. No manual offer will be accepted.

HWH-119/2020-21

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E-Tender Notice : No. : 115_2020_21, dated 06.10.2020, Following E-tender is invited online by Sr. Divisional Engineer/C/HW, Eastern Railway, Howrah invites from Tenderers having experience of similar nature of work and required financial capabilities including those registered with Irrigation/CPWD/SEB/MES or any public sector undertaking for the following work: Description of Work: Homing of Electric coaching Locomotives at Diesel Shed, Howrah. Approx Cost: Rs. 1,71,73,884.14, Earnest Money: Rs. 2,35,900/- Date & Time of Tender: 02.11.2020 at 14.00 hrs. The details of tender document are available at website www.reps.gov.in. Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. No manual offer will be accepted.

HWH-119/2020-21

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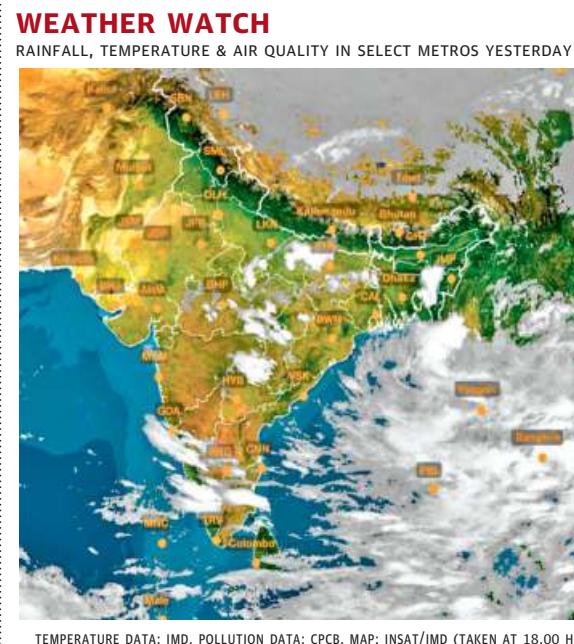
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Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.erailways.gov.in / www.reps.gov.in



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

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over West Bengal, east Uttar Pradesh, east Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha and central Maharashtra

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	1.	33.8	25.9	Kozhikode	28...	32.4...	25.7
Ahmedabad	.5	37.9	23.9	Kurnool	...	32.7...	23.5
Aizawl	...	28.3	18.1	Lucknow	...	35.6...	22.6
Allahabad	...	37.8	26.4	Madurai	1.7	33.6...	24.6
Bengaluru	...	31.2	21.6	Mangaluru	3.7	31.1...	24.8
Bhopal	...	33.2	19.3	Mumbai	...	33.1...	26.6
Bhubaneswar	...	30.0	24.9	Mysuru	25...	31.0...	22.0
Chandigarh	...	35.4	20.0	New Delhi	...	35.6...	19.1
Chennai	...	34.7	28.3	Patna	...	35.6...	26.8
Coimbatore	...	32.5	24.4	Pond Blair	0.4	31.0...	24.3
Dehradun	...	33.9	18.3	Puducherry	...	34.1...	23.6
Gangtok	...	23.1	16.5	Pune	...	32.9...	22.1
Goa	...	32.8	26.2	Raipur	...	32.6...	25.2
Guwahati	0.2	34.4	25.1	Ranchi	...	31.8...	23.0
Hubballi	...	29.0	21.0	Shillong	3.9	33.4...	16.0
Hyderabad	...	31.3	20.6	Shimla	...	32.7...	16.3
Imphal	...	31.5	19.1	Srinagar	...	32.6...	6.8
Jaipur	...	36.9	23.1	Thiruvananthapuram	0.2	33.6...	24.0
Kochi	...	30.6	25.2	Tiruchi	2.8	34.9...	24.2
Kohima	...	23.2	17.8	Vijayawada	0.2	33.2...	26.5
Kolkata	...	33.9	26.5	Vishakhapatnam	...	33.4...	27.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES SO₂ NO_x CO PM2.5 PM10 CODE

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	35	109	3086	101	...
Bengaluru	.5	28	3971	105	...
Chennai	...	30	5463	105	...
Delhi	6	35	3029	302	...
Hyderabad	.5	58	10143	117	...
Kolkata	9	17	—55	65	...
Lucknow	6	78	28301	180	...
Mumbai	17	30	48111	189	...
Pune	.8	—	—	—	—	...
Vishakhapatnam	8	29	1475	88	...

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

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

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

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

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

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Moradabab, Uttar Pradesh recorded overall air quality index (AQI) score of 296 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 18

VBA backs Oct. 10 shutdown to push for Maratha quota

Prakash Ambedkar hits out at BJP MPs claiming to represent community's interests

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

While stating that the Van-chit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) would be extending support to the shutdown called by Maratha outfits in the State on October 10, VBA chief Prakash Ambedkar hit out at the two Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MPs from the royal families purporting to represent the interests of the Maratha community.

Speaking in Pune, Mr. Ambedkar came down especially hard on Udayanraje Bhosale, the BJP's Rajya Sabha MP from Satara and direct descendant of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, castigating him as an 'imbecile'.

Mr. Bhosale had earlier called for all reservation to be abolished if the Maharashtra government failed to ensure implementation of the Maratha quota law in the State – a statement that irked Mr. Ambedkar.

Mr. Ambedkar, the grandson of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, claimed that he had not read anywhere of either Mr. Bhosale or Chhatrapati Sambhajiraje – the BJP's Rajya Sabha MP from Kolhapur – expressing their support for the shutdown.

Questioning Bhosale
“I wonder how a do-it-like MP [Udayanraje Bhosale], who does not understand the Indian Constitution, was sent by the BJP to the Upper House... how can he demand for all reservation to be scrapped if the Maratha quota law does not get implemented in the State?” said Mr. Ambedkar.

Expressing his support for the shutdown, Mr. Ambed-



On the warpath: Maratha Kranti Morcha supporters take part in a protest march last month in Solapur, demanding reservation in jobs and education for the community. ■ FILE PHOTO

kar said that community leader Suresh Patil of the Maratha Arakshan Action Samiti had allegedly called him to demand support for their rally on Saturday.

“I have accordingly discussed the issue with my office-bearers and activists. We have decided to extend our support for the shutdown with the understanding that the Maratha community will not demand their quota from the pre-existing reservation for the OBC [Other Backward Classes] community as they are separate things,” said Mr. Ambedkar.

Tense atmosphere
The VBA chief further cautioned that given the tense situation prevailing in the State over the Maratha quota issue, there was a distinct possibility that social harmony between the Maratha



How can Udayanraje Bhosale demand for all reservation to be scrapped if the Maratha quota law does not get implemented?

PRAKASH AMBEDKAR
VBA chief

community and the OBC community could fray if the former insisted on getting their benefits from those already granted to the backward communities.

Mr. Ambedkar's comments on Mr. Bhosale evoked a predictably furious response from the latter's supporters, who raised slogans against him in Satara.

“Mr. Ambedkar's condemnable remarks are an insult to the Chhatrapati's throne... Maharashtra will not tolerate such regrettable statements,” said the Shiv Sena leader and Maharashtra minister, Shambu Raj Desai, who is an MLA from Satara.

Mr. Desai said both descendants of Chhatrapati Shivaji had clarified their position on the reservation issue.

Unwarranted remarks?
While welcoming the VBA's support for the shutdown on Saturday, Mr. Patil said that Mr. Ambedkar's remarks concerning Mr. Bhosale were “regrettable” and utterly unwarranted.

IPL betting gang busted; 11 arrested

Police in pursuit of over five bookies

RAINA ASSAINAR
NAVI MUMBAI

The Local Crime Branch (LCB) of the Raigad police has busted a gang of 11 bookies who placed bets on matches in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL), which kicked off on September 19 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

On October 1, acting on a tip-off, police inspector Jamil Shaikh from the LCB raided a room in 007 Universe Resort at Khandipe in Karjat. The police found Kanti Karamsibhai Varsungiya (43), a resident of Kopri in Thane, and Prakash Popat Pujari (42), a resident of Mulund, placing bets on a match between Kings XI Punjab and Mumbai Indians. The police seized five mobile phones.

The police then went on to arrest nine more bookies from Mumbai and Thane. “The main bookie is yet to be arrested. More than five bookies are wanted and based in Gujarat, Bengaluru and Dubai. Two teams have been sent to Bengaluru and Gujarat to trace them,” Additional Superintendent of Police Sachin Gunjal said.

The accused have been arrested on charges of cheating and forgery under sections of the Indian Penal Code, the Maharashtra Prevention of Gambling Act, the Indian Telegraph Act and the IT Act. The accused have been remanded in police custody till Sunday.



Mumbai Indians players celebrate after beating Kings XI Punjab in an IPL match in Abu Dhabi on October 1. ■ FILE PHOTO

Active COVID-19 cases down to 2.41 lakh in Maharashtra

Mumbai reports 2,823 fresh cases; 358 more deaths in State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

Pune district reported a consecutive surge of over 2,000 cases to take its total tally to 3,10,446, while 61 deaths – of which 35 were from an earlier period – saw its total death toll climb to 6,134. As per the Pune district administration, the district's recovery rate has reached 86.47%, with the number of active cases in the district down to 33,636.

Mumbai reported yet another high surge of 2,823 cases to take its total case tally to 2,22,784, of which 26,383 are active cases. The city's death toll rose to 9,296, with 48 fatalities.

In the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, Thane reported more than 500 new cases as its tally crossed the 72,000 mark. Eight new deaths saw its toll rise to 1,969.

The Kalyan-Dombivali civic body saw a high fatality

spike of 30 deaths, taking its total death toll to 934, while 369 cases saw its total tally rise to 48,958.

Nagpur district reported over 800 cases, taking the district's total case tally to 84,931, of which 10,629 are active. The toll climbed to 2,272, with 31 fatalities.

In western Maharashtra, Satara reported 21 deaths to take its cumulative toll to 1,200. As many as 495 fresh cases saw its tally rise to 41,400 of which 8,002 are active. Sangli reported a spike of 895 cases to take the district's tally to 42,042, of which 7,353 are active. With 10 deaths, the total death toll has risen to 1,292.

Kolhapur reported seven deaths as its total death toll rose to 1,433. The district recorded 153 cases to take its total tally to 45,350, of which 4,669 are active.

The actor, known for his good sense of humour, made a mark in Marathi films, serials and plays with his comic performances.

He had been working in Marathi cinema since 1978. The actor survived by his wife and daughter.

Some of his prominent films include *Aadhar*, *Aai*

Veteran Marathi actor Avinash Kharshikar dies

He was well known for his comic roles

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
THANE

Veteran Marathi actor Avinash Kharshikar, well known for his comic roles in films, TV serials and plays, died of a heart attack in Maharashtra's Thane city on Thursday, family sources said. He was 68.

Kharshikar suffered a heart attack in the morning and was rushed to a city-based private hospital, where he died around 10 a.m., the sources said.

The actor, known for his good sense of humour, made a mark in Marathi films, serials and plays with his comic performances.

He had been working in

Thor Tujhe Upkaar, Majha Navra Tujhi Baiko, Chalu Navra Bholi Bayako, Bakula Namdeo Ghotale and Lapva Chapvi.

He also acted in several Marathi plays, including Tujhe Aaye Tujipashi, Saunyachi Aishi Taishi, Vasuchi Saas, Apradh Meech Kela and Lafda Sadan.

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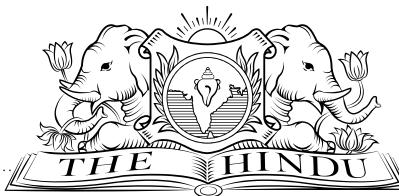
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Marathi plays, including Tujhe Aaye Tujipashi, Saunyachi Aishi Taishi, Vasuchi Saas, Apradh Meech Kela and Lafda Sadan.

<p



Scissoring the DNA

The huge potential of the gene-editing tool decided the chemistry Nobel

That scientists who pioneered the revolutionary CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing technology, the biggest game-changer in biology in recent years, will win the Nobel Prize was never in doubt; it was only a question of when and who would get recognised for the work done to develop the tool. The Prize awarded to Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna, just eight years after they developed the tool, has finally ended the speculation of who would win it. But most importantly, this year's Prize for chemistry has created history by honouring an all-woman team. It all started when Dr. Charpentier discovered an RNA molecule that is part of bacteria's ancient immune system – CRISPR-Cas – wherein clustered repeated sequences produced by bacteria can remember and destroy viruses by cleaving their DNA. Teaming with Dr. Doudna, she recreated the bacteria's genetic scissors in a test tube and simplified the tool to make it easier to programme the system to precisely cut specific sites of interest in any DNA, including humans. While the tool is most often used to make a cut in the DNA, newer approaches are being attempted to add or make minor changes to the DNA. All these approaches may at some time in the future make it easy to "rewrite the code of life".

The gene-editing technology has opened up a vast window of opportunity. In the last six years, the tool has enabled scientists to edit human DNA in a dish and early-stage clinical trials are being attempted to use the tool to treat a few diseases, including inherited disorders/diseases and some types of cancer. Though in 2016 China began the first human clinical trial to treat an aggressive form of lung cancer by introducing cells that contain genes edited using CRISPR-Cas9, the use of the tool has so far been limited to curing genetic diseases in animal models. Last year, a Chinese researcher used the tool to modify a particular gene in the embryo to make babies immune to HIV infection, which led to international furore. Though no guidelines have been drawn up so far, there is a general consensus in the scientific and ethics communities that the gene-editing technique should not be used clinically on embryos. Unlike in the case of humans, the tool is being extensively used in agriculture. It is being tried out in agriculture primarily to increase plant yield, quality, disease resistance, herbicide resistance and domestication of wild species. The huge potential to edit genes using this tool has been used to create a large number of crop varieties with improved agronomic performance; it has also brought in sweeping changes to breeding technologies. The gene-editing tool has indeed taken "life sciences into a new epoch".

Avoidable uncertainty

Appointment processes for critical financial policy roles need an overhaul

The Reserve Bank of India will release its third bi-monthly monetary policy statement for 2020-21 on October 9, instead of October 1 as originally envisaged. This will be at the culmination of a three-day review of the pulls and pressures in the economy by the monetary policy committee (MPC). The review began on Wednesday instead of September 29, after the RBI had to reschedule it on the eve of the meeting following the government's failure to appoint its three nominees to the six-member committee. This is the first such instance of the RBI deferring its bi-monthly review in recent years. That the terms of the government's first set of MPC nominees would expire at the end of August was known from the time it was constituted four years ago. Also, the MPC's meeting schedule is released by the central bank in April. Even if the hunt for new members was disrupted by the pandemic, the government had ample time to expedite these appointments after August 6, when the last policy review took place. The new members – academic Ashima Goyal with interests in the interplay of fiscal and monetary policies, noted agriculture economist Shashanka Bhade, and former SEBI member and financial markets scholar Jayanth R. Varma – are unexceptionably good picks who would lend a holistic world view to the MPC's deliberations. However, for their first meeting, they would have had effectively just 24 hours to prepare.

In normal times, one could put this avoidable delay down to bureaucratic lethargy, but these are not normal times. A lot has transpired since the last policy review; official data revealed a 23.9% contraction in the economy in Q1, jobs and incomes remain under pressure, and inflation continues to reign above the 6% upper limit of the price stability mandate agreed to in 2016 by the RBI and the Centre, which entailed the setting up of the MPC. The government has for now stuck to its ₹12-lakh crore borrowing plan, which includes space for 'unforeseen' spending. Also, States need to borrow more in the coming months including to meet GST compensation shortfalls. An almost casual approach towards continuity in such an important policy review body, at a time when markets are keen to know India's fiscal and monetary stance and the RBI's inflation and growth projections for the year, is unacceptable and sends a clumsy signal to global investors. Some lateral thinking may be needed to conjure up fresh stimulus measures for the stuttering economy, but policy mandarins should not lose sight of routine decisions. With the last two RBI Deputy Governors' vacancies being filled after protracted gaps of about six months each, appointment processes, especially for critical financial policy roles, are clearly in need of an urgent overhaul. And the government could surely burnish its standing among investors if it mandated explanations and strictures for missed timelines as part of such a revamp.

Hathras, a new phase in the caste atrocity narrative

The caste-rape itself has been brushed aside; instead, the responses to it are being labelled as instigating a caste war



MARY E. JOHN &
SATISH DESHPANDE

The gang rape that took place recently in Bul Garhi, a tiny village near Hathras in Uttar Pradesh, marks a new phase in the eventful history of rape-as-caste-atrocity in the 21st century. The idea of the caste atrocity is itself a product of the last quarter of the 20th century. The new republic took some time to realise that nothing is changed by granting passive legal rights to people who are actively treated as unequal. This is especially true when the responsibility for the enforcement of these new rights rests mainly upon those who believe that the old inequalities are part of their legitimate caste-inheritance.

Criminalising the 'legitimate'

A provisional answer to this dilemma emerges through the notion of the caste atrocity, and a new law – the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (<https://bit.ly/2SCkW1Q>). The Act highlights the truth that an extraordinary law is needed to criminalise practices that were considered ordinary and legitimate not so long ago. The term "atrocity", like its predecessor "untouchability", is not defined in the law, which only refers to a list (under Section 3 of the Act) of practices – ranging from extremes such as being forced to eat excreta, to varied forms of routinised humiliation

and discrimination, including economic boycott, social exclusion, sexual violence and political disenfranchisement.

The difficult process of redefining (some) traditional practices as modern crimes is where we must begin in order to understand the place of rape within the larger spectrum of the caste atrocity. In rural society, the sexual "availability" of lower caste women to upper caste men is included in the intangible forms of caste capital that go with tangible forms such as land or wealth. Tensions arise when intangible caste entitlements begin to meet resistance rather than resignation. Upper caste outrage at being robbed of an inheritance is forced to adopt an oblique dog-whistle kind of language that must, paradoxically, deny the relevance of caste and highlight the agency of the lower caste woman, albeit in biased ways. In response, lower caste rage against accumulated humiliations is compelled to insist on the perennial presence of caste and its unique pathology above all other co-morbidities. These reactions are neither equal nor symmetrical.

Patterns of denial

Contemporary thinking on caste-rape was jump-started by the infamous 1995 judgment of the Rajasthani High Court in the Bhanwari Devi gang rape case, which held that upper caste men could never rape a lower caste woman because they would not touch her. By explicitly invoking caste to deny rape, the judgment provided an instructive and stark contrast to the persistent denial of caste in rape cases involving Dalit women, especially after the Prevention of Atrocities



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Act came into force.

The classic instance of caste denial was the Khairlanji case of 2006. Anand Teltumbde's (*The Persistence of Caste: The Khairlanji Murders & India's Hidden Apartheid*) careful reconstruction establishes the undeniable centrality of caste in the ongoing enmity between Surekha Bhotmange, a Marathi woman, and her Kunbi opponents. Surekha's assertiveness and the upward mobility of her family had narrowed the social distance between the two castes to a level that was unbearable for the dominant Kunbis. Following the horrific sexual assault and murders of Surekha, her daughter and two sons, the Nagpur High Court judgment insisted that it was a revenge killing that had nothing to do with caste.

The 'Nirbhaya' impact

The next phase in the evolution of caste denial arrives with Delhi's 'Nirbhaya' fatal gang rape in December 2012. Between 2012 and 2013, neighbouring Haryana witnessed a relentless succession of rapes, gang rapes, sexual assaults and murders of Dalit women and girls, significant enough to be reflected in National Crime Records Bureau data. Public and media re-

sponses to the Haryana rapes were muted in the face of all the attention to the Delhi gang rape, but they were not silenced, as they had been initially in Khairlanji. Haryana did see local mobilisations by Dalit activist groups and support from some Delhi-based Dalit and women's organisations. Several cases were successfully filed despite opposition from the all-powerful Jat community, to which most of the accused belonged. A common tactic of the accused was to try and turn every rape case into one of consensual sex, and every murder into suicide. This was accompanied by the denial of caste regardless of the identity of victim or perpetrator. When out of court settlements or compromises failed, caste details were invariably removed from the records, and the Prevention of Atrocities Act was not allowed to be applied.

The recent Bul Garhi case seems to be breaking with earlier patterns. In an eerie coincidence, it as yet unnamed victim died on September 29, exactly 14 years after Surekha Bhotmange and her children were killed on September 29, 2006. In continuity with the past, we have a Dalit (Balmiki) young woman allegedly raped, battered, maimed, and left to die by dominant caste (Thakur) men, and the familiar initial attempts at cover-up and denial. But everything else is a contrast.

The State's response

Instead of acting as passive facilitators for the accused as they have usually done, the police here take on the role of an active accomplice. In what later proves to be a decisive moment, they forcibly cremate the body and do not allow the family to conduct the last rites.

This shockingly heartless act triggers a wave of revulsion, and conversely, a surge of support for the dead victim and her family. But the truly stunning performance is that of the State Chief Minister who stands caste denial on its head by claiming that protests against the incident are acts of sedition, part of a foreign-funded conspiracy to foment caste riots, motivated by jealousy of his State's development record. Cases are lodged against every political party that organised a protest, but public meetings in support of the accused are allowed. Just as the Haryana cases were in the shadow of Nirbhaya, the Bul Garhi case is part of the larger context defined by the post 2019 Modi-Shah 2.0 regime. So it is surprising, but not unbelievable, that the tactics being used against the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act protests are being deployed here as well.

Some hope

This is a new trajectory. The caste-rape itself is brushed aside without comment, and it is the responses to it that are accused of instigating a caste war. There are, however, some unprecedented positives. An anonymous dead woman has invited mass identification with a Dalit cause for the first time since Rohith Vemula. Moreover, Dalit women's voices have a prominent place in the protests. And finally, the Bul Garhi caste-rape-murder has triggered the first mass demonstrations since the anti-CAA movement. This is going to be a long and interesting century.

Mary E. John is at the Centre for Women's Development Studies. Satish Deshpande teaches in Delhi University. The views expressed are personal

Keeping vigil even during unusual times

With corruption likely in pandemic management, the CAG's audit can ensure checks and balances in the health sector



K.P. SHASHIDHARAN

The latest India-specific data on COVID-19 infections is alarming. With the nation spending substantial resources to manage the pandemic, what is the role of the supreme audit institution of India, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India?

In this context, the move, in August, where the Karnataka State Legislature's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) directed the CAG to conduct a special audit into the purchase of COVID-19 equipment within 15 days, and where the PAC chairman H.K. Patil 'chaired' a meeting of the panel and instructed the CAG to constitute a special team of its employees to get the audit of all purchases of COVID-19 equipment highlights the role and significance of the national audit office in these unusual times. The panel also asked the CAG to conduct an audit of expenditure incurred by the State government under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). The government had used the SDRF amount for purchase of equipment in various districts'.

Opportunity for graft

The political allegation that funds (to the tune of ₹2,000 crore) were siphoned off to purchase inferior quality of personal protective equipment kits, sanitisers, ventila-

tors, masks and other equipment at prices higher than those prevailing in the market is a serious one. The opportunity to indulge in corruption exists in disaster management. Emergency procurement to save lives and reduce sufferings are a chance to obfuscate rules and procedures, and can happen in all three tiers of governance – the Union, the States and Union Territories, urban local bodies, rural local bodies and government agencies engaged in procurement at all levels. Mr. Patil has also petitioned the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission alleging the violation of rights of people during treatment.

If all the major purchases by government entities at all levels are audited by the CAG, there can be substantial improvement in disaster management. It will usher in better transparency, integrity, honesty, effective service delivery and compliance with rules and procedures and governance.

A constitutional mandate

The CAG has the inescapable constitutional and statutory mandate and responsibility to ensure public accountability, transparency, effective service delivery and good governance. The management of a pandemic is not an exception to this; though in the expediency of saving lives and alleviating suffering, there can be reasonable exceptions to compliance with established rules and standard operating procedures in procurement. People's health is a priority audit theme and so is big-ticket public expenditure.

The CAG has issued an order



creating a new vertical – health, welfare and rural development on June 1, restructuring the office of the Director General of Audit, Central Expenditure. It is necessary that the CAG undertakes performance audits of COVID-19 related procurements, the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) and Employee State Insurance (ESI) hospitals. Audit objectives may include the procurement of equipment and drugs for CGHS wellness centres and polyclinics, laboratories and hospitals. For example, based on available reports, the CGHS provides health-care facilities to about 34.19 lakh beneficiaries, including government employees, pensioners and MPs, incurring an expense of ₹5,113 crore, almost half of its total expenditure on drugs from 2014-15 to 2018-19. A beneficiary survey will become part of the audit process to bring out efficacy of service delivery and the availability and quality of drugs. Auditing ESI hospitals and dispensaries is expected to provide the assured health-care services including infection control and hygiene.

The government entities must have established and effective controls over expenses to purchase equipment. People's health is a priority audit theme and so is big-ticket public expenditure. Audit recom-

mendations can contribute improvements in various aspects of disaster preparedness, management and mitigation.

As in the rules, all governments and government agencies must have established effective controls over disaster preparedness and management and related expenses (with proper documentation). As the CAG's performance audits are driven by economy, efficiency and effectiveness, the audit will focus on expense tracking and achievement of outputs and outcome, in qualitative and quantitative terms. The entire process of procurement of COVID-19-related equipment and drugs, proper documentation, and compliance with rules and regulations can be streamlined with data analysis, valuable inputs and practical recommendations.

Benefits of an inspection

There are usually red flags in disaster management, emergency procurement and related expenditures. Though COVID-19 is an unparalleled disaster, it may also provide an opportunity for scammers to siphon off public money where normal and prudent financial regulations cannot be fully enforced and questions of inconsistencies are likely to be overlooked.

The statutory responsibility of CAG as an independent, objective, and non-partisan constitutional authority includes appraising disaster preparedness, ensuring that management, mitigation operations, procedures are complied with, and proper internal controls are in place; ensuring that there

are proper records, documentation, authentic, accurate, reliable and complete information and data; providing assurance to people's representatives, tax payers and the public at large that government resources, including funds and assets are being used prudently as per the law and regulations and safeguarded; providing assurance that risks are assessed, identified and minimised with established disaster management process and procedures; and, finally, offering assurance that resources are being used economically efficiently and effectively for achieving the planned objectives and that benefits have gone to the targeted beneficiaries.

The internal audit must also ensure compliance with applicable rules and procedures even in disaster-related disbursements and procurement processes and provide valuable inputs to the external audit conducted by the CAG. Generally accepted government auditing standards require that an audit is planned and performed with sufficient, appropriate evidence to the audit findings and conclusions based on the audit objectives and scope. All public entities management must be accountable and ensure that resources are managed properly and used in compliance with laws and regulations; programmes are achieving their objectives; and services are being provided efficiently, effectively, and economically.

K.P. Shashidharan is a former Director General, Comptroller and Auditor General of India. 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.

Quad dynamics

On the Australia-India-Japan-United States Quadrilateral, or the Quad, the goal must be long-term architecture for the region (Editorial, "Four for one", October 8). India ought to discount for now the idea of establishing a wing akin to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization till deeper bonds take root among the four, and perhaps to add in time a couple more. The entity should better stay an economic platform – a fair riposte to China's Belt Road Initiative – as each of the four members would need to stay heavily engaged with China on trade. The Quad is an opportunity to cultivate countries in the South East Asian arena, to collaborate on initiatives that they may not be able to

accomplish on their own. And that could be the first phase of engagement. As the Quad acquires political overtones, it could manifest itself as a security umbrella for the region.

N. RARAYANAN,
Navi Mumbai

Science that matters
Gene editing is deserving of the Nobel Prize. Reading genomes has now progressed extremely rapidly, taking just hours. What was once just a sci-fi writer's dream is now a reality. Though welcome as a potential new tool in the fight against diseases, it does come with ethical concerns. Many countries have no legislation on genetic modification in reproduction. It is for our leaders, scientists, ethicists

and legal experts to plan how India should be a part of this revolution.

H.N. RAMAKRISHNA,
Bengaluru

■ The applications of the CRISPR-Cas9 technology in different areas including biotechnology, medicine and basic research are unlimited. However, a carefully balanced approach needs to be taken by the international scientific community to look into the prospects, limitations and ethical issues when it comes to tinkering with the genomes of different organisms. Man playing god needs real prudence.

Ds. BIJU C. MATHEW,
Thiruvananthapuram

Politics and corruption

Those who have even elementary knowledge of

political corruption in this country are unlikely to be excited over the report,

"Bungalow, estate owned by SasiKala, kin attached" (Page 1, October 8), even if estimated to be valued at ₹2,000 crore. Though Ms. V.K. Sasikala is undergoing a jail term in a

disproportionate assets case, one should remember that the case ended without any effective warning for 'future corruption'. Public perception is that many politicians and a few others continue to accumulate assets that are disproportionate to their known sources of income. A truthful auditing at an impartial level of everyone's assets must be a regular feature. In the case of politicians, it should be conducted at least for the

last 50 years – a Utopian suggestion.

P.R.V. RAJA,
Pandalam, Kerala

Dismal IPL match
In the Chennai Super Kings-Kolkata Knight Riders IPL match in Abu Dhabi ('Sport' page, "Super Kings lose the plot, Knight Riders hold their nerve", October 8), there is no doubt that CSK lost from a winning position. At the crease, Kedar Jadhav was all at sea. He played 12 balls, that is, two overs, and scored just seven runs. As a four-down batsman, in his place, Mahendra Singh Dhoni should have asked Dwayne Bravo to come in. Dhoni exited from the crease when his presence mattered the most. It was only these players who scored runs: Faf du Plessis, Shane Watson

and Ambati Rayudu. Ravindra Jadeja's innings was like a flash in the pan – too little, too late. Dhoni needs to ensure that CSK pulls up its socks.

K. PRADEEP,
Chennai

■ One fails to understand how a batsman like Kedar Jadhav is a part of the team despite his lacklustre performances. On the other hand, the highest wicket-taker of the last IPL, Imran Tahir, is unable to find a place in the team. There is no point in CSK coach Stephen Fleming fuming in the pavilion; he needs to share the blame

Should Indian startups take on global Internet giants?

PARLEY

India should compete only when it makes sense, on a level playing field

Online payments company PayTM recently announced that it was building a 'Mini App Store' which would 'empower Indian developers'. This move came days after PayTM was removed from Google's Play Store over apparent violation of its policies. Though it was reinstated later, PayTM and several other Indian Internet startups allege that Google is using its market dominance to arbitrarily enforce policies and target competitors. The Play Store is the key app store for Google's Android operating system, which runs over 90% of smartphones in India. Google also announced that it will start enforcing a 30% commission on all payments made for digital services in apps from its Play Store. Though the implementation of this plan has since been postponed to next year, it has caused much heartburn in the Indian startup environment. There is discontent brewing against tech giants in their home country as well, with a similar tussle going on between Apple and some game developers in the U.S., and the government readying an anti-trust lawsuit against Google. In a conversation moderated by P.J. George, Thillai Rajan and Jayadevan P.K. discuss whether the Indian startup ecosystem is ready to take on the giants on whom they are dependent for crucial infrastructure. Edited excerpts:

The Internet startups in India are in the initial stages of banding together to take on the likes of Google and Facebook. Has the Indian startup environment matured enough for such a fight?

Thillai Rajan: Yes, definitely the Indian startup has matured enough. The growth of mobile phones, particularly smartphones, has been significant in the last decade. And as the market has grown, naturally the service providers and the app developers have also grown. So we have an ecosystem that's very active with a large number of consumers and service providers. What is missing has been the infrastructure piece. But in some ways, we have also been able to develop expertise in in-

frrastructure; for example, on payment gateways. Since demonetisation and other changes, payment gateways have become substantially stronger. Today, I think the Indian startup environment is mature. But one thing we need to be cognisant of is that, if we're really looking at competing effectively with the likes of Google and Facebook, then we need to be well prepared. We need to build like-for-like capabilities, the way Google has done over the years.

Jayadevan P.K.: India's startup ecosystem is still in its first innings. The U.S. has been playing this match over and over again. Even markets like China have evolved and raced past India. Just to give you one data point, in the fourth quarter of 2019, you had \$34.2 billion of venture capital going into the U.S. market. India had only \$6 billion and that's supposed to be a record-breaking quarter. In the first quarter of 2020, we had only \$2 billion. From a product point of view, we don't have the infrastructure that is required to build and scale nimble startups, at least not yet. For example, a lot of startups are launched on Amazon Web Services, or Google Cloud, or on Microsoft Azure. India doesn't have large infrastructure players that can help set up stuff. Everybody in the Indian startup ecosystem knows that we're not there yet.

So, do we want to take on these giants? I would argue that we should not compete, but cooperate. It is best for a country like India to have an approach where we compete when it makes sense, on a level playing field; and cooperate and take help from whatever quarters it comes from. Do we need an Indian app store? There is obviously always a case for more competition in the market but an app store is a very tricky challenge to take on. It is the expression of a bunch of things that have come before it, which is your hardware. India has zero strength in hardware. We have practically no real manufacturing or chipmaking. That said, we have companies like Indus OS which have built app stores, and have about 100 million users. That's a sizeable population,



but it's still not deep enough to be like a Google or Amazon which coexist in an ecosystem like India. So, my view is we don't need to take a confrontational approach.

Google has a near 100% dominance in the app marketplace in India. What are the implications of the company having such a hold on the Indian market? Is it monopoly, or is it 'the bigger, the better'?

JPK: Why does Google work? There is an element of trust that Google's invested in building up. Its products are user-friendly. It has also spent a lot of time expanding the market by localising its products. So, from that point of view, Google has been investing in the Indian market. Now, from an Indian entrepreneur's point of view, the concern is legitimate. Are we paying too much to access our own users by giving a 30% cut to Google when you are selling a service or a product through an app on the Google App Store? These companies also have to advertise via Google to reach their customer base. In effect, a large chunk of all the money that these companies make goes to Google and Facebook. The challenge is that India as a market itself is poor, in the sense that it doesn't have enough spending capacity. For digital services to take off and be profitable and viable, one of the thumb rules that several companies talk about is that the GDP per capita should be above \$4,000. For example, in markets like Indonesia, where the GDP per capita recently touched \$4,000, companies have also been growing profitably and faster. India is still at about \$2,000 to

be in the short term or in the long term? In the short term, the consumers will benefit because as the bigger companies assimilate these innovations, these innovations become stronger and the bigger companies can use their infrastructure to make them available to a larger number of people. But what happens in the long term? As the stickiness of the services increases, and the consumers find it very difficult to break away, there's something called a creeping expropriation of consumer surplus. Gradually, the billings start rising and consumers end up paying more because there is not enough competition in the market. To overcome these circumstances, the Competition Commission of India and others ensure that the monopoly position is not being abused by companies. For example, they can ensure that the companies don't overcharge or they can ensure that the companies are split into different smaller entities. It is going to be a very dynamic interaction between the size of the companies and the regulatory framework in countries to ensure that the competition as well as the consumers benefit.

The Department of Justice in the U.S. is gearing up for anti-trust action against Google. What is the best play for the Indian government in such a scenario? Is it stricter regulation or is it better to leave it to the markets and hope an Indian giant develops to take on the Silicon Valley giants?

JPK: Companies like Google or Amazon also do not operate like a foreign entity. They have set up base in India and have a stake in the market; which means they also work with policymakers. I would like to think that it's good to have these foreign competitors who are willing to abide by local laws. We also cannot have too much of reactive policymaking against them as it doesn't signal well for attracting foreign investors. Also, it is a slippery slope to be nationalistic about products that are built for the Internet, which is global. If we create a very strict policy environment which encourages only local Indian innovation and tries to stave off foreign competition, I suspect we are going to end up with subpar products, and large

industrialists capturing policy.

It's a very tricky balancing act, where you have on the one side investments that these larger companies are making and on the other side, you have to think of Indian companies. Now, the truth is that a lot of these Indian companies are also funded by Chinese or U.S. investors. So, it's not as easy as saying I'm an Indian company and I want regulations for India.'

TR: We cannot just hope for it to happen. There has to be a conscious strategy. In the technology sector so far, in the Indian context or even in Silicon Valley, the role of the government has been very little. We could probably take the example of what the government in China does. Specific technologies and companies that developed these technologies are chosen; and then there is unwavering support from the government. The government does it in multiple ways, such as giving domestic startups favourable access to the market, giving them an opportunity to grow and to stabilise their offerings. There is a conscious strategy to develop a giant that can compete with the global leaders. Today, we are looking at these kinds of long-drawn-out strategies in other areas; for example, in winning gold in the Olympic Games. People are trying to put a programme in place so that we just don't hope that an athlete or a sportsperson will win a gold, but we are able to work towards that in a very planned manner, so that the results are there in a time frame that we have chosen. I think that is a good way to go up against Google.

However, you cannot compete with what Google is today. Because, it may take us, let's say, five years to be where Google is now; and in five years, Google would have moved away from what it is today. So to be able to compete with Google, we will have to be where Google is going to be five years from now. That requires significant time to plan and execute our strategies. Then it is not a question of this or that – but doing both. If there are any antitrust actions globally, join those right now or provide overt support to ensure that dominant positions are not misused. At the same time, create a programme to ensure that we are able to create an Indian giant.



Thillai Rajan
is a Professor in
the Department of
Management
Studies, Indian
Institute of
Technology Madras



Jayadevan P.K.
is a startup founder
and writes on
technology. He now
works on brand
building for
startups



Scan the QR code to
listen to the full
interview online

Winning back trust in vaccines

The FDA and pharma companies are taking steps to address concerns about COVID-19 vaccines

R. PRASAD

While U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly claimed that a COVID-19 vaccine would be available by mid-October, days before the November 3 presidential election, the guidance for 'Emergency Use Authorization for Vaccines to Prevent COVID-19', released by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), has dashed that possibility. The FDA has made it clear that "data from Phase 3 studies should include a median follow-up duration of at least two months after completion of the full vaccination regimen to help provide adequate information to assess a vaccine's benefit-risk profile." However, the guidance for industry contains non-binding recommendations.

Shutting the door

With at least two months of follow-up data likely to become available at the earliest only by November or December, the guidance essentially shuts the door on vaccine manufacturers making their vaccines available for public use through the emergency use authorisation route before election day. Dr. Albert Bourla, Chairman and CEO of Pfizer, had on earlier occasions said that the company may have vaccine data ready to submit to the FDA in October.

The FDA guidance comes after the White House had blocked its release due to concerns that the guidelines would delay the arrival of the first dose until after election day. Even as Mr. Trump called the FDA guidance release as "just another political hit job", Dr. Peter Marks from FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research told CNN that "being open and clear about the circumstances" under which emergency use authorisation will be issued for COVID-19 vaccines is "critical to building public confidence and ensuring the use of COVID-19 vaccines once available".

He added that the FDA hopes that the guidance on COVID-19 vaccines "helps the public understand our science-based decision-making process that assures vaccine quality, safety and efficacy for any vaccine that is authorised or approved".

The unprecedented speed at which COVID-19 vaccines have progressed to Phase 3 trials and the

haste shown by the Trump administration to get a vaccine out before election day have eroded public trust in COVID-19 vaccines that are undergoing trials. A Gallup COVID-19 tracking survey carried out in the U.S. between July 20 and August 2 found that 35% of Americans did not want to be vaccinated even if an approved vaccine was available at no cost. Similarly, CNN polls found the percentage of people willing to be vaccinated dropping from 66% in May to 51% in October. People unwilling to be vaccinated include those who are otherwise inclined towards vaccines.

Building trust

The FDA's initiative to build public trust in COVID-19 vaccines is one of the many steps taken by stakeholders to address the concerns about new vaccines developed and tested at speeds unknown before. In September, nine vaccine manufacturers came together to sign a joint pledge to assure the public that they would develop and test COVID-19 vaccines in accordance with "high ethical standards and sound scientific principles" and always keep the "safety and well-being of vaccinated individuals the top priority". They clarified that they would not seek premature approval from regulatory authorities.

In an unprecedented move, three pharmaceutical companies – Moderna, Pfizer, AstraZeneca – published the Phase 3 trial protocols to inform the public and scientists about the evidence companies will use to determine if vaccines are effective.

Finally, in an open letter to colleagues, Pfizer's Dr. Bourla said he "can't predict exactly when, or even if our vaccine will be approved by the FDA", and that the "world will be safer if we stop talking about the vaccines' delivery in political terms." He wrote: "Let's continue to work together to build trust in science. Imagine the compounded tragedy if we have a safe and effective vaccine that many people didn't trust. That is a risk none of us should accept."

That the FDA is not buckling under pressure from the Trump administration for quick clearance may go some way in winning back the trust that people are losing in COVID-19 vaccines.

R. Prasad is the Science Editor of The Hindu

NOTEBOOK

Funerals under the barrel of a gun

Drawing parallels between the events in U.P. last December and last week

JAGRITI CHANDRA

"There were loud and persistent knocks on the door. They asked us to hurry while we were bathing my son for his funeral and preparing for namaz. It was not dawn yet, but the police said we had no time," said Nafeesa Parveen. Her son, 28-year-old Mohammed Mohsin, had succumbed to bullet injuries the day before in a brutal police crackdown in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, on those protesting against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), following Friday prayers.

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It was December 20, 2019, and anti-CAA protests were erupting across the country, nine days after Parliament passed the law. Horrifying accounts of police heavy-handedness were trickling in from U.P. by the time I went to Meerut, a number of Muslim youth had been killed in police

action. Hundreds of young Muslim men were forced to go underground as the police brought out FIRs against nearly 2,000 unknown persons, which allowed them to nab anyone they suspected of participating in the Friday protests.

I also met the families of Zahir Ahmed and Mohammed Asif. They too narrated stories of rushed funerals under the barrel of a gun and before the crack of dawn.

The police arrived late at night and said we had to bury Asif immediately. The family burial ground was a few kilometres away, but they said there was no time to go that far. They said we should take him to the nearest graveyard, which was barely a few 100 metres away. When we arrived at the cemetery, we saw police personnel with spades. A grave had already been dug," said Asif's

mother-in-law, Shameem. At the time of the funeral of the three men less than 24 hours after the protest, the post-mortem reports were not available to the families. The police had also named the three dead men in an FIR, and the families had little expectation of a fair investigation by the police against their own.

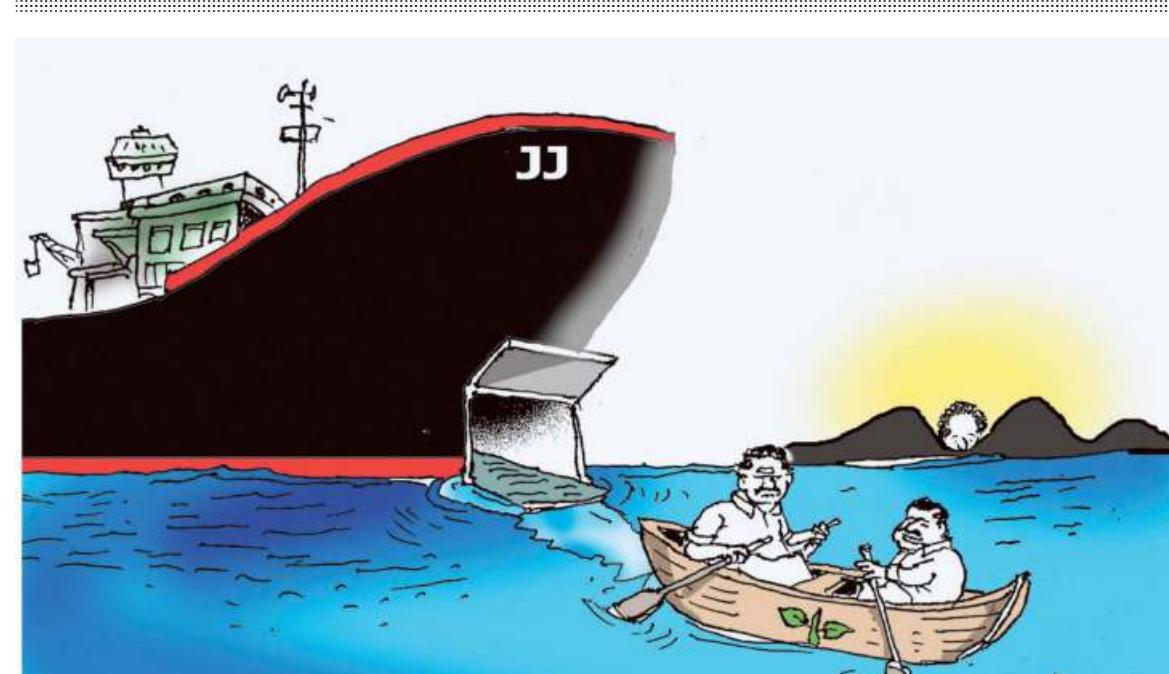
The parallels between what unfolded in U.P. last December and last week are hard to miss. The family of a 19-year-old Dalit girl who was allegedly raped and murdered by four Thakur men in Hathras was also denied permission to conduct rituals and prepare their daughter for her farewell. The police prepared the cremation site, installed a generator and flood lights, and brought logs and fuel. They consigned the young woman to flames in the dead of night without her family's consent.

Sometimes present-day events allow journalists to see past stories in a new light and identify patterns. From the vantage point of Hathras, it is evident that caste, class, religion and ethnicity can dictate whether dignity in death is an equal right.

Many Kashmiris on social media too have tried to remind the country that this is also their lived reality, but rarely discussed.

As in Meerut, in Hathras too the state has been criticised for its failure to ensure a proper investigation of the ghastly incident and gather forensic evidence in time. A whisper campaign aimed at maligning the victim and her family, including by a BJP leader, and loose remarks that seek to absolve the four accused men indicate that justice will be an uphill battle in an environment where caste hierarchies are deeply entrenched.

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The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 9, 1970

Nixon's 5-point plan

President Nixon last night [October 7, Washington] proposed a simultaneous "standstill ceasefire" in all the three Indo-China States with a view to breaking the "logjam" at the Paris peace talks. He coupled this with a call for an all Indo-China peace conference at which a political settlement covering Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia could be negotiated. President Nixon who said his peace initiative has the full support of the Governments of South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, outlined a five-point plan. He said: "First, I propose that all armed forces throughout Indo-China cease firing their weapons and remain in the positions they now hold." Mr. Nixon said his second proposal, for an Indo-China peace conference, was made because "this war in Indo-China has been provided to be one piece - it cannot be cured by treating only one of its areas of outbreak." The third part of our peace initiative has to do with United States forces in Viet Nam", Mr. Nixon said. "We are ready to negotiate an agreed time table for complete withdrawals as part of an overall settlement." Mr. Nixon said that fourthly, he asked the other side to join in search for a political settlement that clearly meets the aspirations of all South Vietnamese people. Finally, Mr. Nixon proposed the immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners of war held by both sides.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 9, 1920

The Government of Ireland

The "Nation" writes:- The government of Ireland by England has ceased to exist. Its title is gone. Governments live by their possession of all sorts of virtues and half-virtues; by dispensing justice, glory, wealth, or quiet days; by extorting submission or dividing power; by force

FROM PAGE ONE

Q2 records 107% surge in fresh investments

While the surge in fresh projects investments was spread across all major sectors, the growth registered in the manufacturing sector was very interesting, the firm noted in its quarterly project monitoring report. Fresh manufacturing investments rose 31.3% from the previous quarter and were even 19.8% higher than the second quarter of 2019-20.

Manufacturing, realty
“In all, 315 new projects worth ₹35,195.68 crore were announced in Q2, of which about 96% came from private promoters,” the report noted. A solar cells and modules project of Vikram Solar in Tamil Nadu worth ₹5,423 crore was the largest private manufacturing investment announced, followed by Edison Motors electric vehicles project in Uttar Pradesh worth ₹5,000 crore.

As many as 98 new pharma and drug projects were announced, most of which were to produce Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients, or APIs, currently imported from China. Jubilant Generics' ₹864 project

to make APIs and pharmaceutical intermediates in Karnataka was the largest pharma bet in the quarter.

Infrastructure continued to account for half of all fresh projects in the second quarter, rising from 1,085 projects worth ₹58,583 crore in Q1 to 1,751 projects worth almost ₹1.16 lakh crore.

Real estate and construction, one of the largest job creators in recent years, also saw a recovery of sorts with new project announcements reverting to virtually the same levels as a year ago.

“Although the staggered unlocking of the economy in Q2/FY21 did not lead to increase in the pace of project execution due to labour and liquidity issues, the announcement of new projects gained momentum,” the report said.

New commercial realty projects doubled from 224 (worth ₹7,326 crore) in Q1 to 450 projects worth ₹33,969.3 crore in Q2. In the second quarter of 2019-20, 451 new projects worth ₹30,371.7 crore were announced.

BJP workers clash with police in Kolkata

Several BJP supporters were injured in the violence. Party national secretary Arvind Menon and State BJP vice-president Raju Banerjee were among those hospitalised.

Thousands of BJP supporters from across the State had assembled in the city for the march. Tents were put up in front of the party's State headquarters in central Kolkata to accommodate them.

A number of BJP MPs and party's national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya joined the protester. Youth wing president Soumitra Khan and national president of the BJP Yuva Morcha Tejasvi Surya were among those at the march in Howrah.

“The police had made unprecedented arrangements. Senior party leaders have sustained injuries. I also fell down. The attempt to suppress a peaceful movement will have more ramifications,” Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh said.

'Crude bombs hurled'
Thousands of police personnel were deployed at the key intersections leading to the Secretariat.

“The assembly has been declared illegal. We are urging you to disperse,” the police announced over microphones as protesters engaged in pitched battles with the security personnel.

There were reports of crude bombs being hurled in the Howrah Maidan and the police seized a firearm from a person during mob dispersal.

Day after spike, Kerala cases dip sharply to 5,445

Karnataka stays above 10,000 cases; Telangana adds 1,896; A.P. cases steady at less than 6,000 and T.N.'s toll crosses 10,000

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

positive cases on Wednesday.

Twelve more patients died. There were 21,724 people under home/institutional quarantine.

In all, 50,367 samples were tested on the day and samples collected per million population was 91,264.

Greater Hyderabad added 294 positive cases on Wednesday. Medchal-Malkajgiri and Rangareddy districts reported 211 and 154 cases respectively, Nalgonda (126), Siddipet (100), and Karimnagar 97 new cases.

Kumrambheem Asifabad district reported the lowest number at five, Narayanpet (11), Bhupalpally (15) and Nirmal (18), the Health department said.

Andhra Pradesh continued to report less than six thousand daily infections, with 5,292 on Thursday. The death toll rose with 42 more fatalities in the past day.

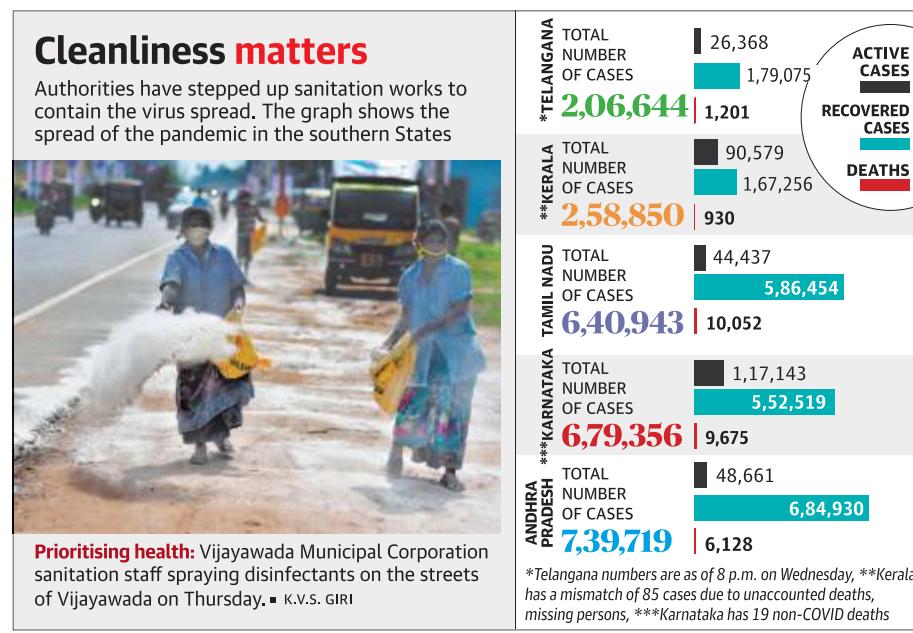
The new cases and deaths were as follows: Chittoor

Cleanliness matters

Authorities have stepped up sanitisation works to contain the virus spread. The graph shows the spread of the pandemic in the southern States



Prioritising health: Vijayawada Municipal Corporation sanitation staff spraying disinfectants on the streets of Vijayawada on Thursday. ■ K.V.S. GIRI



(784 and 5), East Godavari (652 and 5), West Godavari (612 and 2), Prakasam (591 and 6), Guntur (493 and 3), Krishna (399 and 3), Anantapur (362 and 4), Kadapa (323 and 3), Nellore (311 and 4), Srikakulam (204 and 0), Vi-

sakhapatnam (198 and 4), Vizianagaram (188 and 1) and Kurnool (175 and 2).

At 5,121 new cases, Bengaluru Urban had another record spike on Thursday. This week alone, from October 1, Bengaluru Urban reported

34,699 cases.

Meanwhile, overall 10,704 new cases were reported in the State. There were 101 more deaths, 43 of them from Bengaluru.

The State recorded more 1,05,248 tests including

NIA arrests two for alleged IS affiliation

Accused raised funds to ‘radicalise and motivate Muslim youth of Bengaluru’ to join the terror outfit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Ahamed Abdul Cader and, right, Irfan Nasir had raised funds to send youth from Bengaluru to Syria. ■ NIA

33. The NIA said that Cader is a business analyst at a bank in Chennai, and Nasir is a rice merchant in Bengaluru.

The case was registered *suo moto* by the NIA on September 19 after certain incriminating facts emerged about a Bengaluru-based IS module during the investiga-

tion of another case, where a Bengaluru-based ophthalmologist Abdur Rahman was arrested.

During Rahman's examination, names of other associates who had travelled to Syria in 2013-2014 to join the IS came to be known.

“Further investigation re-

sulted in the busting of a module wherein it was revealed that accused Ahamed Abdul Cader, Irfan Nasir and their associates were members of the Hizb-ut-Tahrir, and they had formed a group called ‘Quran Circle’, which radicalized gullible Muslim youth in Bengaluru and funded their visit to the conflict zone in Syria to aid and assist the IS terrorists,” NIA said in a statement.

Based on the information, the NIA registered a case under Sections 120B and 125 of IPC, and Sections 17, 18 and 18B of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act against the accused for affiliation with the banned terrorist organization IS/ISIL/Daesh and for “entering into a conspiracy to radicalise and motivate

Muslim youth of Bengaluru to join IS and for raising funds to facilitate their travel to Syria”.

The NIA said the accused and their associates played a very significant role in radicalisation of the members of the group and arranged funds through donations and their own sources for the visit of Rahman and others from Bengaluru to Syria to join the IS.

The NIA said searches were conducted on the premises of the accused, and incriminating material and electronic devices had been seized.

The accused were produced before a Special NIA Court in Bengaluru and NIA custody for 10 days had been granted for interrogation.

Come with strong arguments in Lavalin case, SC tells CBI

Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan has been discharged in the case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Pinarayi Vijayan

You know that two courts have concurrently said these persons need not be tried. You will have to come up now with very strong arguments to say they should not be discharged”, Justice U.U. Lalit, heading a three-judge Bench, addressed Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the CBI.

The CBI has, in its appeal, contended that Mr. Vijayan should face trial in the case.

The corruption case concerns the loss of ₹86.25 crore

in the Kerala State Electricity Board's (KSEB) contract with Lavalin for the renovation and modernisation of Pallivasai, Sengulam and Panniar hydroelectric projects in Idukki district. Mr. Vijayan was the State's Power Minister then.

The premier investigation agency said Mr. Vijayan tra-

velled to Canada as a “guest” of Lavalin in 1997. It was there, in Canada, he made the “crucial” decision to promote Lavalin, who was a mere consultancy firm retained on fixed-rate basis, from consultants to suppliers.

The CBI has argued that the decision of the Kerala HC to discharge the Chief Minister was “not correct”.

CBI books YSRCP MP in bank fraud case

Consortium led by PNB was cheated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation has booked YSRCPMP Kanumurugan Raju, his wife Rama Devi and nine others for allegedly cheating a consortium led by the Punjab National Bank (PNB) of over ₹826 crore, said the agency.

The agency has conducted searches at 11 locations in Hyderabad, Mumbai and West Godavari in Andhra Pradesh, on the premises of Ind-Barath Thermal Power Limited, the bor-

rrower company which is located in Telangana's Secunderabad, and other accused persons,” said a CBI official. Mr. Raju and his wife were also directors in

the company.

In the complaint, the banks have alleged diversion and misappropriation of funds from 2014 to 2018. Among those named in the case are the company's managing director and other directors.

The PNB alleged that it declared the loan account as a fraud in November 2019, after the other banks also took the same action.

According to the complaint, the company's directors had approached the bank's corporate branch in Delhi for the credit facilities.

There were persistent irregularities in the accounts of the company, which were brought to its notice by all the lenders, alleges the FIR.

Despite the pandemic, two patients from Gujarat get new lungs

Flown in from Ahmedabad, they received double lung transplants in Chennai

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

When Anuj Shah went from playing badminton with his children to becoming bedridden in a matter of weeks as he could not breathe, life took a bizarre turn for his family.

His wife said the 39-year-old was diagnosed with hypersensitivity in the lungs in February and by June he was on lung support machine. When his doctors in Ahmedabad advised lung transplant, the family reached out to Apollo Hospitals.

Very soon, Mr. Shah was airlifted to Chennai and he had to wait till the end of July for the transplant.

Transplant during pandemic

• Anuj Shah, 39, from Ahmedabad, develops breathing difficulties in January

• With both lungs damaged, he is admitted to Apollo Hospitals and put on ECMO in June

• Organ transplant done on July 29, and he is discharged on August 27

Hospital authorities say he is the first person to receive a lung transplant after the ban on doing transplants was lifted

• K. Bhandari, also from Ahmedabad, diagnosed with ILD in January, and admitted in June

• Put on ECMO for 46 days, the longest in Apollo Hospitals, while awaiting donor lungs

• Undergoes surgery on Sept. 2, and is recuperating in hospital currently

PRATHAP C. REDDY

PRATH

Ahead of Bihar poll, six parties join hands

RLSP's Upendra Kushwaha named CM candidate of front

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

Six parties, including the Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP), the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), and the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), on Thursday announced the formation of the Grand Democratic Secular Front for the Bihar Assembly election. The front declared RLSP leader Upendra Kushwaha as its chief ministerial candidate.

The Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), meanwhile, released its first list of 42 party candidates, which included several senior BJP leaders who recently joined the party, despite the BJP's repeated warnings that the party may take action against those contesting the election outside the National Democratic Alliance in the State.

In another development, Satya Prakash, son of former Union Minister and RJD leader Raghuvaran Prasad Singh, joined the ruling JD (U) in the presence of State party chief Basistha Narayan Singh at the party headquarters.

The RJD is said to have given ticket to the wife of don-turned-politician Ramakishore Singh from the Mahnar Assembly constituency. The late Raghuvaran had quit the party in protest against the likelihood of Mr. Singh joining the RJD. The party has also changed the Assembly constituency of Tej



Coming together: Asaduddin Owaisi, Upendra Kushwaha, Devendra Yadav and BSP leaders in Patna on Thursday. ■ PTI

EC cuts notice period for registration of parties

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Thursday said it has relaxed the 30-day public notice period for new political parties seeking registration to seven days due to the delays caused by the pandemic. New parties would be allowed to publish a notice in two national and local daily newspapers each seven days prior to the proposed registration before the EC. The relaxation would be given to all the parties who published their notice on or before October 7.

Pratap Yadav, older son of party chief Lalu Prasad, from Mahua in Vaishali to Hasarpur in the neighbouring Samastipur district. The RJD has fielded Mukesh Roshan from Mahua.

"Altogether, six parties are here on one platform to form the Grand Democratic

Secular Front, and it appeals to the people of Bihar to give us one chance to see how Bihar would be a developed State in five years," said the Front's coordinator and leader of the Samajwadi Janata Dal (Democratic), Devendra Yadav.

The leaders of all six parties, including the Janwadi Party and the Uttar Pradesh-based Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party, were present. AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi was among them.

The LJP's first list included the names of BJP leaders Rajendra Singh (Dinara), Rameshwar Chourasia (Sasaram), Usha Vidhyarthi (Paliganj), Ravindra Yadav (Jahajha), and Mrinal Shekhar (Amarpur).

Party spokesperson Ashraf Ansari said, "The LJP has given 20% of the 42 seats to women (9), and most of the party's district presidents too have been accommodated in the list."

INTERVIEW | BHUPENDRA YADAV

'It is unclear who the LJP is fighting against'

The party is 'highly confused' and riddled with infighting, says BJP poll in-charge for Bihar

NISTULA HEBBAR

Bhupendra Yadav, BJP general secretary in charge of Bihar, clarifies that the campaign of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the State is based on development work done under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) is not part of the arrangement.

It is being said that the LJP's decision to fight alone in Bihar is some sort of Plan B by the BJP to break the big brother status of the Janata Dal (U) in the NDA in Bihar? What do you say?

■ These conspiracy theories are laughable. The BJP has only one plan in the election and that is to fight it along with the JD(U). We have spelt out that plan, but in case there is some confusion, I am spelling it out again. The BJP will contest 121 of the 243 seats, the JD(U) will fight on 122. The JD(U) will accommodate the Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) under its quota of seats, while the BJP will accommodate the Vikashheel Insaan Party (VIP). That is the only plan we have.

The LJP is not a part of this arrangement because the party chose to fight alone.

The NDA is fighting for development in Bihar under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and vision, with Nitish Kumar as the undisputed chief ministerial candidate of the alliance.

There is talk that many BJP leaders, desirous of fighting polls on seats now given to the JD(U) in the seat adjustment, will be

fighting on LJP ticket. What will be the attitude of the party if that happens?

■ Anyone who has left the BJP to fight an election on the ticket of any other party, including LJP, is to be considered as a person ousted from the BJP. As I have stated, we are fighting the election in alliance with JD(U) and have mutually agreed upon seat-sharing deal with them. These are rumours being spread by the opposition to confuse voters. But the voters are smart enough to see through the ploy.

As for the LJP, I see them as a highly confused lot. It is not even clear who the LJP is fighting against. They say they are against the RJD, but the LJP leader has gone on to congratulate RJD leader Tejashwi Pratap Yadav. They are fighting the NDA, but at the Centre, they continue to have ministerial berth in the NDA government.

Their own party is ridden with infighting with allegations and counter-allegations of the leadership selling party tickets. LJP needs to do some hard thinking to figure out what exactly they want.

What will be the NDA's campaign points with regard to the Bihar polls?

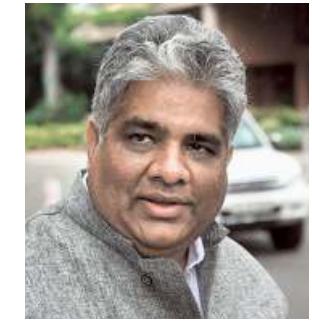
■ The NDA has entered the election with the slogan of "Atmanirbhar Bihar". A lot of work has been done by the NDA government on issues of roads, power and water. Prime Minister Modi has launched fisheries and animal husbandry projects worth more than ₹20,000 crore in Bihar. Urban infrastructure projects worth ₹541 crore have been launched. For migrant workers, Prime Minister Modi has extended the distribution of free ration under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana till Chhath Puja in November.

Over the last few years, people in Bihar have been receiving benefits under the Ujjwala Yojana and other benefits through DBTs (direct benefit transfers), which earlier were just promises. This relentless development work will continue in Bihar under the vision of PM Modi and chief minister Nitish Kumar.

These are the first polls being held since the COVID-19 pandemic broke out, and there are worries that voters, especially those from the middle class, may not turn up in large numbers. Do you have a strategy for turning out the vote?

■ As much as 89% of Bihar's population is rural. The Election Commission has reduced the maximum number of voters per booth from 1,500 to 1,000. It has also increased polling stations from about 65,000 to 1 lakh. To ensure that the voter gets to the polling booth, the NDA in Bihar has organised door-to-door campaign across 3,000 panchayats. The BJP has given a lot more tickets to women. They are active participants in electoral politics. This will also help attract more women to vote. More people-connect programmes will be undertaken, because there is no doubt that there is a pandemic but the process of democracy must not be weakened. For democracy to be strengthened, it is important that people participate in elections and seek accountability from their leaders.

None of this shall happen at the cost of social distancing and other norms in place. The Election Commission is overseeing it and as the party in power, the NDA, too, will do everything to ensure that



no one's safety is compromised and that people feel confident enough to come out and vote.

The poll is being billed as BJP vs RJD. Do you agree with this characterisation?

■ The election is NDA versus UPA. The NDA has BJP, JD(U), HAM and VIP. We are together solidly and will form the government...

As for the UPA, I am reminded of Mohammed Rafi's famous song *Eek dil ke tukde hazar hue, koi yahaan gira koi waahan gira* (The heart has broken into a 1,000, pieces falling here and there).

This so-called *Mahagathbandhan* first forced HAM to leave, then they backstabbed Mukesh Sahani's VIP, forcing them out of the coalition. Even the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) has decided to fight on its own. So the UPA alliance is signalling that it has no place for backwards, Mahadalits and tribals; instead there are tying up with the ultra Left, who are part of the *tukde-hazare* gang, interested in a violent struggle to divide India. The only thing binding the UPA constituents is hunger for power now.

I want to use this opportunity to ask the Congress, what drove it to join hands with the ultra Left Maoist Leninist party, Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist), along with the CPI(M) and the CPI?



Flashbacks: Former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi applying 'tilak' to Ram Vilas Paswan and his son Chirag during Chhath celebrations in 2013 and, right, Mr. Paswan with Nitish Kumar during an Iftar in Patna in 2007. ■ FILE PHOTOS

Dalit leader who wore many a hat

He was a socialist and liberal known for being part of many political alliances

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

It was a simple question posed by his friend, "Do you want to be the government or a servant?", that led socialist leader Ram Vilas Paswan into politics. In the half century that he spent in the profession, he came to be known as the weather vane of Indian politics, serving in the Cabinets of six Prime Ministers in governments of all hues, from the United Front dispensation of H.D. Deve Gowda to the BJP-led government of Narendra Modi.

It was 1968. Ram Vilas Paswan, then 22, had secured the position of Deputy Superintendent of Police in Bihar, a huge leap for the son of a Dalit farmer, brought up in flood-prone Shaharbani village, now known as *mandri tola*, thanks to its famous resident, in Khagaria district of Bihar. Should he take the unpredictable life of a legislator or return to being a "DY.SP.", was the question.

His friend Lakshmi Narain Arya said, "Yeh toh aapke upar nibhar karta hai, aap government ban-na chate hai ya servant ban-na chahe hai." Mr. Paswan did not join the police.

It has been a roller coaster ride for Mr. Paswan from the heartland of Bihar to 12 Jnpath, sharing the boundary wall with one of the most famous political addresses of the country, UPA president Sonia Gandhi's residence at 10 Janpath.

He was in equal measure a participant and a spectator in the Lutyens power matrix. And he wore many a hat – Dalit leader, socialist, liberal and also political opportunist.

There was no turning back for him after being



RAM VILAS PASWAN: 1946-2020

elected MLA in 1969 from the Samyukt Socialist Party. It is difficult to believe that till he fought his first election, he had no brush with politicians and had not attended a single political rally.

In 1989, he first became a Minister handling the Labour portfolio in the V.P. Singh government. His favourite stint was as Railway Minister in 1996 under Mr. Deve Gowda's leadership.

He was also part of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, in which he was unceremoniously removed as Communications Minister, an announcement, he often said, that he first heard on TV.

In 2000, Mr. Paswan broke from the Janata Dal to form the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) building on the Dalit Sena that he had formed in 1983.

In 2002, after the Godhra tragedy, he quit the NDA. For a while, he drifted in the political wilderness. Of the six seats that the LJP won in 2019, three are held by his family – Mr. Chirag and Mr. Paras and his nephew Prince Raj.

many years, walked across to his house to convince him to join the UPA. In the February 2005 Bihar Assembly election, the LJP contested the election with the Congress. The results threw up a hung Assembly. The LJP won 29 seats, its highest tally in the State. However, Mr. Paswan refused to support either Nitish Kumar or Lalu Prasad. Instead, he insisted that a Muslim be made the Chief Minister. The State went to the polls again and Nitish Kumar won.

In 2014, it was his son Chirag Paswan who steered him towards the BJP, a party that he had publicly recoiled from.

He was the oldest of three brothers and one sister. He is often called a dynast. He brought his brothers Pashupati Nath Paras and the late Ramchandra Paswan into politics. Of the six seats that the LJP won in 2019, three are held by his family – Mr. Chirag and Mr. Paras and his nephew Prince Raj.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday demanded that the Janata Dal (United) (JD-U) cancel the nomination of Manju Verma for the upcoming Bi-

har polls as her husband, Chandrashekhar Verma, was an accused in the Muzzafarpur shelter home scandal, wherein 34 minor girls were sexually abused.

On Wednesday, Ms. Verma

ma's name figured in JD-U's first list of 115 candidates as the party's official candidate from the Cheria-Bariarpur constituency of Begusarai district.

At a press conference, Ma-

hila Congress chief Sushmita Dev and party spokesperson Supriya Shrinath said the BJP-JD(U) alliance should cancel her candidature if they were 'serious' about women's security.

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
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- 1) Opening date for receipt of filled in application form : 09-10-2020.
- 2) Last date for receipt of filled in application form : 09-11-2020.
- 3) Date of VTU-ETR 2019-20 & 2020-21 : 29-11-2020.

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SL. NIT No. Name of the Item Period of Contract Date of Tender

1 59/SEI/TD/2020-21 1.5-Tesla Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) System 3months From 07-10-2020 to 28-10-2020 03:00 PM

2 60/SEI/TD/2020-21 CT Scan Machine 3 Months From 07-10-2020 to 28-10-2020 03:00 PM

3 61/SEI/TD/2020-21 Mobile X-Ray Machine 3 Months From 08-10-2020 to 29-10-2020 03:00 PM

4 62/SEI/TD/2020-21 X-Ray (800 mA) Machine with DR System 3 Months From 08-10-2020 to 29-10-2020 03:00 PM

5 63/SEI/TD/2020-21 Ortho Drill Systems 3 Months From 09-10-2020 to 31-10-2020 03:00 PM

SC slams govt's Tablighi affidavit

We find it extremely evasive and brazenly short of details, CJI Bobde tells Centre

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sharad A. Bobde on Thursday pulled up the Union government for mistreating the Supreme Court for having a "junior officer" file an "evasive" affidavit containing "unnecessary, nonsensical" averments on petitions challenging the discriminatory and communal coverage of the Tablighi Jamaat incident by some sections of the media.

"You cannot treat the court the way you are doing in this case... A junior officer has filed your affidavit. We find it extremely evasive and brazenly short of details. It even says the petitioners here do not point to any instance of bad reporting..." Chief Justice Bobde addressed Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta.

Mr. Mehta promised to file a fresh affidavit.



The Secretary [Information and Broadcasting] has to say what he thinks of the incidents. We do not want any unnecessary, nonsensical averments like those made now

SHARAD A. BOBDE,
CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

"We want the Secretary of the department [Information and Broadcasting] to file this affidavit... The Secretary has to say what he thinks of the incidents. We do not want any unnecessary, nonsensical averments like those made now," the CJI said.

'Most abused freedom'

Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, appearing for petitioners led by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, said the present government affidavit even accused the petitioners of trying to gag the freedom of speech.

"Freedom of speech may

be one of the most abused freedom in recent times," CJI Bobde, heading a three-judge Bench comprising Justices A.S. Bopanna and V.R. Ramasubramanian, replied.

The government affidavit had claimed that a "blanket gag order" on the media in this issue would violate a journalist's right to free speech and an informed citizen's right to know.

The hearing began with Chief Justice Bobde asking whether the regulatory provisions of the Cable TV Act, which are meant for cable networks, would be "exercisable" on TV broadcasts.

"We want to know if the government has any power to question or ban TV broadcasting signals," he asked the parties.

The CJI said regulatory bodies had issued advisories to the TV channels.

Mr. Dave argued that the Information and Broadcasting Ministry had indeed the power to ban TV broadcasting under the Cable TV Act.

He referred to how Malayalam channel Asianet was banned for several hours in March under the Act in relation to their coverage of the Delhi riots.

The court said it would hear arguments on this point and adjourned the case for two weeks.

The petitioners have said that certain sections of the media were spreading bigotry and communal hatred in relation to the Tablighi Jamaat conference held in the Nizamuddin Markaz area.



Abdullah Abdullah is on a five-day visit to India.

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval over dinner on Wednesday, will meet External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Friday, it said.

Sustainable peace

Addressing diplomats and scholars at an address organised by the Manohar Parrikar Institute of Defence and Strategic Analysis (MPIDSA), Mr. Abdullah said he had been "energised and re-energised" by India's support to the people of Afghanistan "achieving a dignified durable and sustainable peace". He expressed gratitude for the \$3 billion aid India has disbursed for projects across Afghanistan since 2001.

Mr. Abdullah, who met

Tribal activist held in Bhima Koregaon case

STAFF REPORTER

BHUBANESWAR

The National Investigation Agency on Thursday reportedly took into custody prominent tribal rights activist Stan Swamy, 83, from Ranchi in connection with the Bhima Koregaon case.

Although the NIA did not give any official statement, activists known to Mr. Swamy said the veteran activist was picked up by NIA personnel. Anticipating the NIA action, the activist released a statement on October 6, saying, "I was interrogated by NIA for 15 hours during a span of 5 days [July 27, 28, 29 and 30 and August 6]."

"Several extracts allegedly taken from my computer linking me to Maoist forces were placed before me. I told them all these were fabrications stealthily put into my computer and I disowned them," he said.

Ahead of festival season, PM kicks off new campaign

Jan Andolan emphasises practices to curb COVID-19 spread



Narendra Modi

WHO South-East Asia Region.

In a communication to the member countries, Dr. Singh said, the global race for COVID-19 vaccine has gathered momentum. In anticipation of development of a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine, countries should be prepared with an efficient and coordinated strategy and plan for rollout of vaccination.

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry on Thursday noted that India has registered an increase in the COVID-19 testing infrastructure since January 2020.

"The country's testing capacities have multiplied manifold. More than 15 lakh samples can be tested every day. Nearly 12 lakh tests were conducted in the last 24 hours," said the Ministry.

This will be a low-cost, high-intensity campaign with the key message – "Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene", said the Ministry.

Vaccine rollout

The campaign has been launched even as the World Health Organisation (WHO) urged countries to plan for efficient rollout of COVID-19 vaccines as soon as they are

PM hails Afghan ceasefire efforts

Abdullah Abdullah, who helms reconciliation council, thanks India for help

SUHASINI HAIDAR

NEW DELHI



Abdullah Abdullah is on a five-day visit to India.

In a sign of India's increased engagement with the ongoing Intra-Afghan Dialogue, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a meeting with chairman of Afghanistan's High Council for National Reconciliation (HCNR) Abdullah Abdullah, who is here on a five-day visit.

During the talks, Mr. Abdullah briefed the Prime Minister on the deliberations in Doha between the Afghan government and civil society representatives with Taliban representatives.

"Prime Minister Modi reiterated India's commitment towards sustainable peace and prosperity in Afghani-

stan and welcomed efforts towards a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire in Afghanistan," said a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Mr. Abdullah, who met

Asked about his visit to Islamabad last week and whether India-Pakistan tensions would affect his mission for "regional consensus" for the IAN (Intra-Afghan Negotiations), he said that Afghans would pursue their own "national interest".

"We need better relations with all countries. It is not our policy to decide the policies that other countries pursue towards each other, but we believe that peace in Afghanistan is in everyone's interest," he said, adding that Mr. Modi had assured him that India would support any peace agreement that was agreeable to the people of Afghanistan.

An official said immediately after addressing a public rally in Jammu region's

Rajouri district, the L-G headed to the house of Musahammad Yousof, father of one of three youths killed in the Shopian encounter. Two other victim families were also present on the occasion.

Families praised

After giving a patient hearing to the victim families, the L-G praised the families for showing patience and asked them "to show more patience till the completion of the probe".

He also conveyed the message of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the go-

vernment stands with the aggrieved families in the hour of grief, and "they will be taken care of with all support from the government".

The family members also raised the issue of compensation with Mr. Sinha and expressed faith in the J&K government and the police "for their cooperation in the case so far", officials said.

Three missing youths – Imtiyaz Ahmed, 26, Ibrar Ahmed 20 and Ibrar Ahmed, 16 – were passed off as unidentified militants by the security forces after an operation in south Kashmir's Shopian.

IAF showed capability in Ladakh stand-off: IAF chief

He commends air warriors for their quick response

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI



Shooting star: A Rafale jet making its debut at the Air Force Day celebration at the Hindon airbase. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

my," he said, addressing an Air Force Day parade at the Hindon airbase.

The YSM was also presented to Sq Ldr Minty Agarwal who, as flight controller, directed the IAF fighters

during the aerial engagement when Pakistani fighter jets attempted to bomb Indian military installations on February 27. Wg Cdr Varthaman was awarded Vir Chakra.

MEA defends free press after Chinese note on Taiwan event

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

(TECC) in India. "There is a free media in India, that reports on issues that they see fit," said MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava in response to a question during the weekly online media interaction.

The MEA response came a day after the note to the Indian media urged them not to refer to Taiwan as a "country" or a "nation" while covering a special event on October 10, organised by the Taipei Economy and Cultural Centre

The Chinese Embassy reminded the Indian media that Beijing does not recognise Taiwan as an independent country or a nation and the Indian media should follow that while reporting on the Taiwanese event.

India has officially followed the "One-China principle" and there has been no change in that stance. The TECC does not have a diplomatic status here as India does not recognise Taiwan as a separate entity.

Is it the duty of media to suggest anything to probe agencies?: HC

Pleas seek guidelines to be followed by all media houses

SONAM SAIGAL

MUMBAI

While hearing a plea seeking guidelines for media coverage in the actor Sushant Singh Rajput death case, the Bombay High Court on Thursday observed, "is it the duty of the media to suggest anything to the investigating agencies?"

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice G.S. Kulkarni heard public interest litigations (PILs) seeking a direction to the authorities to issue guidelines to be followed by all media houses - print, TV, radio and Internet to refrain from publishing and curtailing any comments which may jeopardise

involved prejudging a case.

Naming anchors of *Times Now* Navika Kumar and Rahul Shivshankar, Mr. Chinoy said they were crossing the line in reporting the Sushant matter and running hashtags that involved prejudging like #ArrestRhea. He referred to guidelines issued by the Press Council of India: "Norms of Journalistic Conduct", which contained provisions related to investigative journalism.

The court said, "Somebody should be held guilty. Somebody should be arrested. Is it the duty of the media to suggest anything to the investigating agencies?" It adjourned the matter for October 12.

'Allow festival under virus guidelines'

CORRESPONDENT

CUTTACK

The Orissa High Court on Thursday directed the State government to allow the famous annual rath yatra of Maa Biraja Temple of Jajpur district under the prevailing COVID-19 guidelines.

A division Bench of the court, headed by Chief Justice Mohammad Rafiq, took this decision after hearing the parties with respect to a PIL filed by the temple's Mukti Mandap Sevayat Parishad and others.

In view of the prevailing situation and taking into account the rising virus cases in Jajpur district, the local authorities had refused to grant permission for taking out the rath yatra.

dise the reputation of the police that may hinder the cause of administration of justice.

A plea sought a direction to news channels to ensure against media trial place, which has the impact of prejudicing the independent investigation being undertaken by the CBI in the case.

Senior advocate Aspi Chinoy, for former directors general of police and former commissioners of police, in another plea, spoke about media trials. He said media should not report on the criminal investigations in a case.

Media had been commenting on witnesses and the prosecution.

They were running hashtags and a campaign that

physically or telephonically are done regularly. Certain suspicious outliers are also checked directly. BARC India also involves a separate vigilance agency to check on outliers that it considers highly suspicious," the website says.

And as per the guidelines of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, these households rotate every year. This rotation is in such a manner that older panel homes are removed first while maintaining the representativeness of the panel.

The rotation is conducted in a staggered manner every month. The Ministry guidelines further say that the secrecy and privacy of the panel homes must be maintained, and asked the BARC to follow a voluntary code of conduct.

BACKGROUNDER

approximately 3 lakh households from the target population. This is done annually. Out of these, the households which will have Bar-O-Meters or what the BARC calls the recruitment sample are randomly selected. The fieldwork to recruit households is not done directly by the BARC. On its website, it has said that the viewing behaviour of panel homes is reported to BARC India daily. Coincidental checks either

What are the loopholes in the process?

The Mumbai police alleged that households were being paid to manipulate the TRP.

"As in all our previous cases of suspected panel homes intrusions, BARC India continues to follow its established vigilance and disciplinary guidelines. BARC remains steadfastly true to its purpose to accurately and faithfully report 'What India Watches'. BARC India appreciates the efforts of the Mumbai Police and will provide the support asked of it," a BARC India spokesperson said.

Several doubts have been raised on many previous occasions about the working of the TRP. On Wednesday, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar had said that the TRP process needs a rethink and attacked what he called "TRP journalism". Public broadcaster Doordarshan has time and again said that TRP did not reflect the actual viewership. As per reports, about 70% of the revenue for television channels comes from advertising and only 30% from subscription.



Just a few weeks ago, when Ankush Bahuguna hit 4,00,000 followers, he expected it to be a happy day. After all, he had worked hard to achieve this milestone. Instead, he spent the day being anxious. He later posted on his Instagram handle saying, "I've not been in a great mental space since the last few weeks. It feels like I'm in a never ending race. The faster you run to the finish line, the further it gets. Lately, it's bothering me that I am unable to celebrate small wins like these."

The Delhi-based influencer, popular for his short funny videos and for creating characters like DIY Babita and Pankaj, says, "If your daily mood starts depending on the number of likes and views on your posts, that is when you realise something is not right. When I decided to become an influencer I had 10,000 followers and my aim was to reach 1,00,000. But now that I have three times that, I am not happy. My day depends on how many people are talking about my post. The constant need for validation is not healthy."

The business of influence
As the business of influencing is getting more serious with bigger platforms like Netflix and Amazon turning to them for content, several influencers are talking about mental health issues due to the growing scrutiny and criticism that come along with the popularity. Over the past few years, several big names from the industry, including Lilly Singh

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

I like me better

Being online 24/7 is exhausting. Digital creators are increasingly using their reach to talk about mental health issues and the jadedness that comes with being an influencer



Content is king
(Clockwise from right) Dolly Singh and Ankush Bahuguna • GETTY IMAGES/STOCK AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

and PewDiePie, have announced a hiatus from social media citing burnout issues due to their content creating schedules.

"It is just an app, but my life and my career depend on it. It is a heartbreaking thing to say aloud but that is the reality," says Dolly Singh. The content creator – who has a following of one million people on Instagram – says she does go offline when things get overwhelming, then adds, "but I can barely stay away from the app for 24 to 48 hours because, after all, it is my livelihood and there is a fear of losing followers and declining engagement." One of the most difficult things about being an influencer for Dolly is the constant need for validation every single day. "I have to post something daily and my success relies on the number of comments and likes for that particular post. That kind of puts you in a vulnerable state," she says.

Nevertheless, she has a passion for her work, which she says helped her sail through the pandemic. The new circumstances to which the world was adjusting meant newer topics to talk about on her Instagram. "I was busy making content about being locked up and the trends that were happening over social media," she says. But the same lockdown that gave her fodder for her work, eventually eroded her mental health too. "By the end of July I started feeling like I needed a break," she says.

A universal challenge all influencers now deal with is online harassment and trolling. Ankush says, "I recently started putting up makeup videos and how it is important to normalise men wearing foundation or flaunting a winged eyeliner. Though I was appreciated for that, many people



I can barely stay away from the app for 24 to 48 hours because, after all, it is my livelihood and there is a fear of losing followers
Dolly Singh

believer in using her reach to normalise mental health issues. "I was bullied as a child and I had mental health issues even then but I was unaware that it is normal. If only I was informed, I wouldn't have spent my childhood feeling weird about myself," she adds.

Michael Ajay, a 25-year-old fitness blogger with over 50,000 followers on Instagram, talks about how he battled depression after he had an accident three years ago and was bedridden. "Body training helped me recover and also shed 25 kilograms that I had put on. When the lockdown started, my work as a freelance physical trainer got affected and I started having dark thoughts. I was scared that the depression would relapse. My sleep cycle was disturbed and I lacked motivation to do anything," he says.

He got over this slump the only way he knew how: by working out. "I made a routine and tried my best to follow it. I also started posting my workout videos on Instagram and a lot of people appreciated that. It helped me get through the day," says Michael.

Despite the external motivation his blogging provided, he decided to stay away from social media for a few days as it affected his mental health. "I kept seeing happier pictures of me posted in the past. Also, so many people were posting about the fun things they were doing during the lockdown, and I kept questioning why I was having a bad time while everyone else was okay." He adds that it took him a while to understand that his pace of dealing with things was different. "I started using Instagram only to share my content and not consume it, and that eventually helped."

commented saying I was spoiling the generation and I should look for better things to do. Usually, I ignore such comments but on days when you are already feeling low, hate comments hit harder no matter how thick your skin is. Constructive criticism is welcome, trolling is not."

A bit more real
Realising their responsibility as content creators, Dolly and Ankush have been avoiding the façade of perfectly-curated Instagram feeds. "I do not want my followers to think that my life is all fun and games. If they want to like me they have to like the real me," says Ankush. Dolly

Live with the evil Supes

Loving season 2 of *The Boys?* So is Comic Con India (CCI), who will be hosting a pan-India watch party for the season finale (episode 8) via Instagram handle @comicconindia. *The Boys* is based on the comic book of the same name by Garth Ennis and Darick Robertson, and follows the story of famous

superheroes going rogue and abusing their powers. This watch party will unite fans during the showdown between the foul-mouthed vigilantes and the evil Supes complete with Stormfront (Aya

Cash) – and, no, there is no Compound V at this party. Since the premiere of the series, Comic Con India has been running a weekly campaign showcasing highlights of each episode via special artwork posts, illustrated by comic book artists, on their Instagram. The campaign also resulted in lead actors of the show including Antony Starr (Homelander), Karl Urban (Billy Butcher) and Jack Quaid (Hughie Campbell) repost some of the artworks on their respective social media handles.

For the epilogue, the Comic Con India team will be watching the finale and providing live updates and stories from 6 pm. Stand-up comedian Sahil Shah too will be a part of the watch party interacting live with the audience simultaneously.



Sydney beckons, virtually

Here is your chance to explore the nooks and crannies of Sydney, Australia from the comfort of your home. A collective of Sydney tourism operators, including Sea Life Aquarium, Dreamtime Southern X and Sydney Harbour Boat Tours, present Sydney360, an interactive destination guide, co-funded by the City of Sydney. Sydney360 is essentially an online city guide, that uses 360-degree photography from the air, land and sea to provide a virtual tour, with local experts showing off their favourite hideaways. It is free and accessible on any device. Users can navigate their own journey to places of interest. Visit sydney360.guide.

ATHIRA M

'Besura gaata hoon, main bhi singer hoon, aise gaane aajkal zyada views laata hain, jitna besura hain utna natural hain, label wale bolte feel bhi zyada hain...' (I sing out of tune, I am also a singer, such songs get more views these days, the more discordant you sound, more natural it is, [music] label guys say it has more feel.)

That's Benny Dayal at his sarcastic best. The lines are from his latest Hindi single, 'Besura', which he has written, composed and sung. The track is the first song of his EP, SHOSHAL MEDIA MUSIC. "Besura" talks about my frustration about how musicians feel after learning and training in classical music for so many years and yet not receiving any recognition for their hard work sincerity and diligence," explains Benny in the video.

He caught up with us over a Zoom chat from his home in New Jersey, US. Edited excerpts:

Trigger behind 'Besura'

I was disheartened by the approach of certain people to music. Fame is all that matters for many youngsters. Their aim is to make videos, post them on social media and get likes, views, followers and subscriptions.

Writing the song

Words just flowed! I reached the US from Mumbai in August. One day, while checking messages on my Instagram page, I was taken aback by the quality of some of the videos. I couldn't wait to put down my bottled-up thoughts. Once I figured out the chords on my ukulele and finalised the track, I sent it across to fellow musician Raajeev V Bhalla in Mumbai. He was excited about 'Besura' and even pointed that there were no grammatical errors in my lyrics! He came on board with his banjo and bass guitar. My portions in the video were shot in a park near our home, by my wife [Catherine Dayal].

Response from the industry

They were happy and said, 'The truth had to be told'. The song is not meant to hurt anybody or create a feud. My point is that

The singer's new single 'Besura' hits out at social media

Don't make music for the numbers: Benny Dayal

if you are putting up a video, do it properly! Nobody is perfect. But practice holds the key. That brings finesse to your song. Don't make music for the numbers. In fact, 'Besura' itself hasn't garnered a lot of views. But I am happy that I did it.

On the EP, SHOSHAL MEDIA MUSIC
There are four songs and I have written three of them. All of them are in the same flavour.

Music today

Not many composers are using harmonies. Earlier, musicians would suggest using them to add layers to a composition. Now the focus is on the higher and lower octaves. That has become the trend and I don't know where this is heading to.

Beating lockdown blues

I can't wait to get on stage. Since that's not happening soon, I am channelling my energy into making songs, videos and recording tracks at home. Lockdown was a much-needed time for all artists to make their own music. I have been doing that since 2009-10, playing with indie bands and writing songs. Musicians the world over are doing that, thus becoming the face of their work. I recommend fellow artists to create their own productions, even as they do film songs. Because, in India, films are the reason why many of them want to become musicians.

Looking ahead

Film songs will always be there. Alongside I look forward to explore new aspects of

music and try something different. But the main thing is I want to keep my work appealing. I don't want to be a cerebral musician or make music that people don't understand.

Current projects

Shakuntala Devi has been the latest Hindi release. Many exciting projects are yet to be released. During the lockdown, I sang 'Jee Le', a composition by Raajeev. The video featured musicians Vishal Dadlani, Salim Merchant, Armaan Malik, Jonita Gandhi, Siddharth Mahadevan and the like.

Finally... thoughts on SPB [SP Balasubrahmanyam]
He has been an inspiration. I sang my first song, 'Ballela' from *Sivaji* with him. My voice is in the chorus. I shared this with him on the sets of *Super Singer* on Vijay TV. It was a memorable moment and I clicked a picture with him. I was touched when he took my hand and placed it in his for the camera. He used to say, 'I know I am a good singer but I am not such a great singer.'

Benny's latest has lyrics heavy with sarcasm
• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The good old nutrient-rich *laddu* made of sesame, dry fruits and more is back on trend as energy balls, designed for snacking

HARIKUMAR JS

Energy balls, nutri balls, bliss balls, protein balls... a snack ball by any other name tastes just as good and packs as much nutrition. The delectable, low-calorie pick-me-ups are also convenient – to both make and take – just pop one in at work or leisure.

Trad goes rad
Abinas Nayak, winner of MasterChef India Season 6 this year, has fond memories of the *rasi laddus* (sesame balls) his grandmother used to make regularly when he was a kid. "Those days, we used to eat a whole variety of these, such as wheat balls and coconut balls with a smattering of amaranth seeds. Though the concept of snack balls always sustained, it is good to see them come back as healthier alternatives to junk food today," he says.

Abinas says they are quite versatile. "You can prepare them with a variety of cereals or millets as base. It's also nice to have a combination of these or mix and match," he points out. However, it is not just the easy-to-source traditional ones that he roots for, but also some offbeat varieties. "Perhaps the most exotic of these that I have come across were made from a mixture of desiccated berries and an assortment of nuts in Mumbai once," he remembers.

Praveen Anand, Executive Chef – South Indian cuisines at ITC hotels, says he has noticed more common ones like peanut jaggery balls and sesame jaggery balls finding favour during winter, possibly because, "they are believed to generate heat in the body and give you energy".

He explains, "Adding dates or even making it the base ingredient is a great way to cut out sugar. The nutrient-rich additions commonly seen now are flax seeds, amaranth seeds, sunflow-



Keep the snack ball rolling

er seeds, water melon seeds, pumpkin seeds and so on. These lend a difference in taste and enhance scope for experimentation."

Versatility and ease of preparation are also what chef and cookbook author Mallika Badrinath loves about such healthy snack balls. "A variety of cereals and millets commonly available, like ragi, jowar (*cholam*), fox-tail millet, pearl millet, barnyard millet and so on, that can be

used for energy balls. In fact, tasty combinations of these give new flavours," she says.

A hack Mallika is making use of a candy stick. "You can have them like a lollipop," she says. Despite the nutritional boost, she has a word of caution:

"It is a salubrious substitute for junk food but our diet also has to be supplemented with foods containing Vitamin C, especially at a time like now, when natural immunity has never been so pa-

ramount before," she adds.

Hyderabad-based nutritionist and chef Sridevi Jasti feels our sensory and nutritional needs have changed over time. "Our soil is depleted of nutrition and consequently, our foods have less nutrition. As compensation, we have to look at a broader diet," she says. Nutri *laddus* are a popular part of her organic food store Vibrant Living Foods. "For many, snacks are sweets and sweets are snacks. So they should be healthy. One of our popular items is coconut berry balls where palm jaggery, which has a lower glycemic index, is used along with soaked almonds and berries. Sometimes, amla powder is also added," she says. Other snack balls on offer are carrot laddu, pumpkin laddu and pumpkin and pistachio custard laddu, to suit different palates.

Healthy build
Understandably, energy balls are a success with those who hit the gym. Nutritionist and home chef Priyanka Devika J, who runs The Nurturist based in Thiruvananthapuram, says she often



gets enquiries from body-builders for protein balls. "Such people look for simple food items providing better results. Healthy energy balls rightly fit that bill. It can be deemed a superfood and packs a fair amount of fibre too."

Some bakers, like Patric Johnson L from Coimbatore, find more takers for the nutri ball versions than dry fruits and nuts

per se. His online store The Nut On is focussing more on its nut balls. "It comes with dates as base and has roasted almonds, cashew, pista, fig and black-grape raisin. All the ingredients are hand-chopped according to the required size to maintain the right proportion," says Patric. He brings out the energy balls in two variations – without ghee

Well-rounded taste
(Clockwise from top left)
Varied combinations of dry fruits and seeds go into products like The Nurturist Cos peanuts and dates ball, and Vibrant Living's energy balls ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT AND GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

and with A2 ghee from Indian cow breeds.

For many, these balls are the go-to home-made snack option while steering clear of fried favourites. Some, like Priya Ravikrishnan from Thiruvananthapuram, go the extra mile – she makes her own health mix that serves as the base for the nutri balls her family loves. "Along with my home-prepared multi-grain mix, which packs in 18 nutritious items such as bamboo rice, finger millet, foxtail millet, flaxseed, green gram, and horse gram, I add mashed dates, and coarsely powdered almonds, walnuts, cashew, white sesame seeds and a wee bit of honey," she says. The scope for experimentation is wide.

Clearly, these balls are all in your court.

HOMING IN

From a Mani Ratnam rom-com to a visually stunning documentary on Netflix, Malayalam actor Anna Ben's recommendations for this week's **Watchlist** are what she caught during the lockdown

HARIKUMAR JS



Jo Jo Rabbit

I loved this delightful comedy drama, which is a Nazi-era satire. I especially liked the tone of the movie and how it moves forwards through the perspective of a kid.



C U Soon

A hard-hitting experimental film, it is a step up in the Malayalam movie industry. Despite the lockdown-induced restrictions, it was shot so well. It is also India's first screen-based film.



David Attenborough: A Life on Our Planet

This Netflix documentary offers some valuable insights into climate change, Nature and the Earth. Apart from the stunning visuals, it shows why we need to be conscious about what is happening around us. The documentary is quite relevant to the times we live in.



Kireedam

It is a classic from Malayalam with great performances, especially from Mohan Lal. Everything about it – be it the background score or the lead character's arc – is so poignant.



OK Kanmani

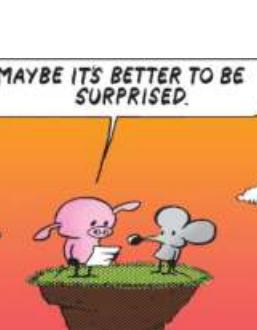
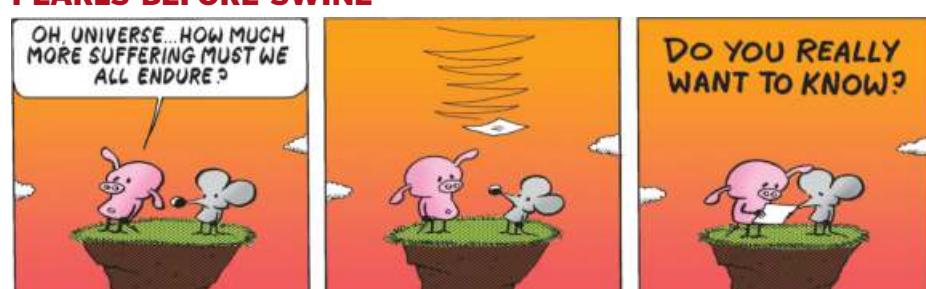
I am fan of Mani Ratnam films in general...this is a rom-com I revisit quite often. It is my go-to film when I am in the mood for something light and nice.

We would love to know how you are keeping busy at home. Tell us what you are watching at metro@thehindu.co.in

POOCHE CAFE



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



PEANUTS



TIGER



CALVIN AND HOBBES



Pandemic dominates Harris-Pence debate

Candidates sparred over Trump administration's COVID-19 response, climate change and economy

SRI RAM LAKSHMAN

WASHINGTON

Against the backdrop of a raging pandemic that has claimed more than 2,10,000 lives across the country, Vice-President Mike Pence and Democratic vice-presidential pick Kamala Harris faced off in the only V-P debate of the season in Salt Lake City, Utah. With acrylic sheet barriers beside their desks – a reminder of the public health crisis the nation faces – the candidates sparred on the Trump administration's pandemic response, the economy, climate, China and Ms. Harris's prosecutorial record.

Ms. Harris described the Trump administration's handling of the pandemic as "the greatest failure" of any administration in U.S. history and said – citing investigative journalist Bob Woodward – that the President knew about the viral threat at the end of January (weeks before a public emergency was declared). She said the administration still did not have a plan to tackle the pandemic.

"And frankly, this administration has forfeited their



Face-off: Kamala Harris, left, debating with Mike Pence in Kingsbury Hall at the University of Utah on Wednesday. ■ AFP

right to re-election based on this," Ms. Harris said.

The debate was noticeably civil and involved some substantive policy discussions unlike the presidential debate last week between President Donald Trump and his challenger, Democratic nominee Joe Biden. Also noticeable – and discussed on social media and in the press – was a fly that landed on Mr. Pence's head during the debate.

Mr. Pence said Mr. Biden, if elected President, was going to raise taxes and that he was going to ban fracking, prompting Ms. Harris to declare – twice – that Mr. Biden would not raise taxes for those making less than \$400,000 a year and would not ban fracking. Mr. Pence said Mr. Biden was a "cheerleader for Communist China". Ms. Harris said the Trump administration had lost its trade war with China and that had an impact on the U.S. economy and jobs.

Dodging questions

Candidates avoided answering questions – Ms. Harris repeatedly did not answer a question on whether or not her party would "pack the court" (increase the number of Supreme Court justices from nine) if Republicans confirmed judge Amy Coney Barrett to the court. There

were instances of Mr. Pence providing information on one subject when he was asked about another.

The Vice President refused to answer whether climate change was an existential crisis.

"The climate is changing, we'll follow the science," he said. The Trump administration has often questioned the role of science as a basis of policy making. In September, at a meeting with state officials in California to discuss the wildfires ravaging the West Coast, Mr. Trump had said, "I don't think the science knows."

Ms. Harris defended a hypothetical Biden-Harris administration's decision to join the Paris climate accord and said they would do so "with pride".

Mr. Pence also did not elaborate on how the pre-existing health conditions would be covered in any alternative plan to the Obama-era Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), which the Trump administration is litigating in the Supreme Court.

"If you have a pre-existing condition... heart disease, diabetes, breast cancer,

they're coming for you," Ms. Harris had said during the debate. "If you love someone who has a pre-existing condition, they're coming for you. If you're under the age of 26 on your parents' coverage, they're coming for you," she said.

Transfer of power

When asked a question on what he would do if Mr. Trump refused to accept the election results, Mr. Pence did not provide a straight answer, instead saying that the Republicans were going to win the election.

"When you talk about accepting the outcome of the election, I must tell you, Senator, your party has spent the last three and a half years trying to overturn the results of the last election," Mr. Pence said, referring, among other things, to the impeachment of Mr. Trump by the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives.

Responding to a similar question on the Biden-Harris strategy if Mr. Trump refused to accept the results, Ms. Harris said: "Please vote. Vote early, come up with a plan to vote."

U.S. wants early return of troops from Afghanistan

We should have the small remaining number serving there home by Christmas, tweets President

REUTERS

WASHINGTON

All U.S. troops in Afghanistan should be "home by Christmas," President Donald Trump said on Wednesday, just hours after his national security adviser said Washington would reduce its forces in Afghanistan to 2,500 by early next year.

A landmark deal between the United States and the Taliban in February said fo-

reign forces would leave Afghanistan by May 2021 in exchange for counterterrorism guarantees from the Taliban, which agreed to negotiate a permanent ceasefire and a power-sharing formula with the Afghan government.

Mr. Trump and other officials have said the United States will go down to between 4,000 and 5,000 troops in Afghanistan

around November.

Beyond that, officials have said that a reduction will depend on conditions in Afghanistan.

On Twitter, Mr. Trump said: "We should have the small remaining number of our BRAVE Men and Women serving in Afghanistan home by Christmas!"

It was unclear whether Mr. Trump was giving an order or verbalising a long-

held aspiration.

Mr. Trump, who is seeking re-election next month, has made walking away from "ridiculous endless wars" the cornerstone of his foreign policy, even though thousands of troops remain in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan.

The Taliban, fighting to expel foreign forces and re-establish their Islamic state since their ouster in 2001,

welcomed Mr. Trump's comments.

The U.S. President's statement was "a positive step towards the implementation of the Doha agreement", Taliban spokesman Mohammad Naeem said in a statement, referring to the February pact signed in the Qatari capital.

The Afghan government did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

American poet Louise Gluck wins Nobel Literature Prize

Her works 'draw inspiration from myths and classical motifs'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

STOCKHOLM

American poet Louise Gluck won the 2020 Nobel Literature Prize on Thursday, an unexpected choice known for themes of childhood and family life that draw inspiration from myths and classical motifs.



Louise Gluck

sephone, and Eurydice – the abandoned, the punished, the betrayed – are masks for a self in transformation, as personal as it is universally valid."

Natural tone

Her collections *The Triumph of Achilles* (1985) and *Ararat* (1990) address "almost brutally straightforward images of painful family relations", the jury said, noting that her use of a "deceptively natural tone is striking", with "no trace of poetic ornament."

Ms. Gluck is also a poet of radical change and rebirth, describing in her poem *Snowdrops* the miraculous return of life after winter, her work often marked by "humour and biting wit".

The jury said her 2006 collection *Averno* was a "masterly collection, a visionary interpretation of the myth of Persephone's descent into Hell in the captivity of Hades, the god of death."

Trump rejects virtual debate with Biden

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump vowed on Thursday not to participate in next week's debate with Democratic nominee Joe Biden after organisers announced it will take place virtually because of the President's diagnosis of COVID-19.

"I'm not going to do a virtual debate," Mr. Trump told Fox Business News, moments after the nonpartisan Commission on Presidential Debates an-

nounced the changes.

The shakeup comes a week before Mr. Trump and Mr. Biden were set to square off for the second presidential debate in Miami. Mr. Biden's campaign insisted its candidate was ready to move forward, but the future of the event is now in serious doubt.

The Commission on Presidential Debates made the decision unilaterally, citing the need "to protect the health and safety of all involved with the debate."

Court to rule on Golden Dawn leaders

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

ATHENS

A Greek court on Thursday will deliver eagerly-awaited sentences after leaders of neo-Nazi party Golden Dawn were found guilty of running a criminal outfit in a landmark case, a court source said.

The court is also expected to announce whether judges would accept any mitigating terms in passing sentences, said the source, who wished to remain anonymous.

After over five years of hearings, the panel of three judges on Wednesday unanimously labelled the paramilitary party a criminal organisation in what was seen as the most important political trial in decades.

The verdict translates into possible prison sentences of up to 15 years for the top members of the party, including its founder Nikos Michaloliakos.

Unless the court on Thursday agrees to suspend sentencing pending appeals, police are standing by to take those convicted to prison, a source said. Key crimes carried out by Golden Dawn are the 2013 cold-blooded murder of anti-fascist rapper Pavlos Fyssas and the beating of Egyptian fishermen in 2012 and communist trade unionists in 2013, the court established.

COCHIN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY KOCHI- 682 022

DST-PURSE II Programme

E-TENDER NOTICE

No.PL/UCM/751(PURSE-II)/2016 Dt. 5/10/2020

E-tenders are invited from reputed firms for the supply various scientific equipments.

Start Date: 09.10.2020, 10:00 AM,

Last Date: 23.10.2020, 05:00 PM,

For details, please visit :

<http://etenders.kerala.gov.in>

Sd/- REGISTRAR

sparent, and mutually beneficial – and if this is what Sri Lanka's relationship with China embodies, then we encourage it," she said, adding that "a 2019 World Bank study concluded that more than 60% of China-funded Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects are allocated to Chinese companies and stressed that tender processes are opaque."

The Chinese Embassy responded strongly, saying the interview "severely violated the diplomatic protocol". "While it's always not surprising to see the U.S. interfere into a sovereign country's internal affairs, the general public is still astonished to witness its despicable attempt to manipulate others' diplomatic relations," the statement said.

Chinese analysts have welcomed the return of the Ra-

japkas to the helm, with PM Rajapaksa's stint at President marking a rapid deepening in strategic and economic ties. Last month, both countries marked the six-year anniversary of the Colombo Port City project, which had been launched by Mr. Rajapaksa and President Xi Jinping in September 2014 as a flagship project in China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Marking the anniversary, China's official Xinhua news agency said last month the project "has powered through a turbulent six-year period, overcoming numerous challenges, including the Easter bombings in April 2019 hitting three luxury hotels near the project and affecting the country's tourism, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic impacting the country less than a year later."

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Dr. Y.S.R. VIDYUT SOUDHA
Corporate Office, Beside Govt. Polytechnic, ITI Road, Vijayawada - 520008
NOTIFICATION DATED: 9.10.2020
Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for filling up of the post of Independent Member, Consumer Grievances Redressal Forum of APCPDCL according to the Regulation 3 of 2016 of APCER published in Andhra Pradesh Gazette No.116, Dt. 16.02.2016
The detail of eligibility criteria, other detailed instructions and prescribed application format may be viewed at APCPDCL website www.apcpdccl.in

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION : 29.10.2020 by 5:00 PM

Place: Vijayawada Date: 9.10.2020

CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF A.P.LIMITED

Corporate Office : H.No.19-13-65/A, Srinivasapuram, Tiruchanor Road, Tirupati-517503

Tender Notice No.01/2020-21, Dt.07.10.2020

Bids through "e" procurement are invited from the eligible bidders for procurement of DTRS, PTRS, Winding Wire, Oil, Fuse Sets, AB Switches, 11 & 33 KV LABS, Metal Parts, Polymer Insulators, Spares for 11KV 200A & 400AA Switches, Stay wire, GI Earth Pipes, Distribution Boxes, CPTPs, CTs etc., for complete tender details please visit our website at www.apeprocurement.gov.in

CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER/P&MM

National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project

Kerala State Disaster Management Authority

Department of Disaster Management, Government of Kerala

e-Procurement Tender Notice

Competitive item rate bids are invited for following works.

Name of Work :- Construction of Multipurpose Cyclone Shelters in Kumarakomuram, G.L.P.S, Karuvatta Village, Alappuzha (ID 2020_NCRMP_388030_1)

The Bid Documents can be downloaded from the Government's e-procurement

Portal (www.etenders.kerala.gov.in) and for more details regarding the tenders and bidding process please visit www.sdma.kerala.gov.in

Sd/- State Project Manager

Enquiries: State Project Manager, NCRMP, 3rd Floor Room No:-E-203, ILDM Building, PTP Nagar, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala-695038;

Email:- nccmp.kerala@gmail.com, Phone-0471-2365494

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE CHIEF WATER ANALYST (W&S)-I WATER WORKS WAZIRABAD, DELHI-110054

"STOP CORONA-WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING & MAINTAIN HYGIENE"

PRESS NIT No.05(2020-21)

NIT No. Name of work Estimate Cost Earnest Money (Rs.) Date of release of Tender in e-procurement solution

5 Supply of Liquid Chlorine (In kg cylinders) conforming to BIS specifications-646-1986 with up to date amendments if any

Tender Id: 2020_DJB_195327_1 Publish Date 07-Oct-2020 04:00 PM onward

NIT along with all terms & conditions is available on DJB website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.

ISSUED BY P.R.O.(WATER) ADVT. NO. J.S.V. 176/2020-21

CHIEF WATER ANALYST (W&S)-I

Indo-Lanka Accord can't be thrown away: Tamil MP

ACTC rejects 13th Amendment

MEERA SRINIVASAN

COLOMBO/CHENNAI

A fortnight after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a virtual summit with his Sri Lankan counterpart Mahinda Rajapaksa, urged the country to address Tamil aspirations with the implementation of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, Tamil MPs questioned the government's commitment to the preceding Indo-Lanka Accord of 1987.

MARKET WATCH

	08-10-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	40,183	0.76
US Dollar	73.24	0.12
Gold	51,153	-0.12
Brent oil	43.07	4.00

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	359.75	-0.90
Asian Paints	2088.65	-16.35
Axis Bank	451.90	-1.20
Bajaj Auto	3074.55	-2.85
Bajaj Finserv	5871.95	-33.30
Bajaj Finance	3226.45	-4.70
Bharti Airtel	424.45	2.00
BPCL	340.05	-2.20
Britannia Ind	3794.70	8.75
Cipla	811.45	37.85
Coal India	113.30	-1.15
Divis Lab	3231.45	49.55
Dr Reddys Lab	5194.40	89.45
Eicher Motors	2208.80	-29.20
GAIL (India)	84.15	-2.55
Grasim Ind	770.35	10.70
HCL Tech.	849.55	21.50
HDFC	1949.25	0.50
HDFC Bank	1191.80	29.55
HDFC Life	583.15	4.20
Hero MotoCorp	3279.15	45.50
Hindalco	174.25	1.40
Hind Unilever	2160.80	21.45
ICICI Bank	387.50	4.85
IndusInd Bank	617.70	-1.40
Infosys	1093.70	27.15
Indian Oil Corp	75.50	0.30
ITC	167.15	-2.35
JSW Steel	292.95	1.50
Kotak Bank	1320.10	-4.60
L&T	881.05	-6.85
M&M	634.15	2.55
Maruti Suzuki	7079.85	32.95
Nestle India Ltd.	16304.60	190.20
NTPC	82.60	-0.20
ONGC	68.45	-2.05
PowerGrid Corp	158.30	-1.30
Reliance Ind	2239.25	-18.25
SBI Life	821.05	-6.90
State Bank	191.50	0.80
Shree Cement	20735.55	23.05
Sun Pharma	524.10	12.35
Tata Motors	140.95	-0.05
Tata Steel	373.65	2.55
TCS	2825.70	89.75
Tech Mahindra	860.30	13.95
Titan	1254.15	0.15
UltraTech Cement	4346.00	132.65
UPL	509.40	-1.45
Wipro	359.45	-2.45

EXCHANGE RATES		
	TT BUY	TT SELL
CURRENCY		
US Dollar.....	73.04	73.36
Euro.....	85.92	86.30
British Pound.....	94.64	95.06
Japanese Yen (100).....	68.88	69.21
Chinese Yuan.....	10.75	10.80
Swiss Franc.....	79.61	79.97
Singapore Dollar.....	53.79	54.04
Canadian Dollar.....	55.17	55.42
Malaysian Ringgit.....	17.57	17.66
Australian Dollar.....	52.32	52.56

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF

#switchtoEQ		
Mercedes-Benz rolls out luxury EV in India		
MUMBAI		
Mercedes-Benz on Thursday rolled out its luxury electric vehicle EQC at an introductory on-road price of ₹99.3 lakh. The EQC has been introduced in Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Chennai and will be available at 13 show rooms besides its e-commerce site. The electric vehicle has a battery range of 445-471 km.		

LIC's first-year premium income rises in first half		
CHENNAI	Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has exceeded last year's collection in first-year premium income for the first six months ended September 2020. For the first six months of FY21, LIC collected more than ₹25,000 crore against ₹24,868 crore for the corresponding year-earlier period. LIC said it settled more than 82 lakh claims amounting to more than ₹48,000 crore.	

Power usage grows 13.7% during Oct. 1-7

NEW DELHI	Power consumption in the country recorded double-digit growth in the first week of October at 25.95 billion units (BU) amid buoyancy in industrial and commercial activities. According to the Power Ministry data, power consumption grew by 13.7% during October 1-7 to 25.95 BU, up from 22.83 BU in the same period last year. Power consumption in October last year stood at 97.84 BU. PTI	
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Talk to publishers on pay for content, Google told

PARIS	Google must open talks with publishers in France about paying to use their content, an appeals court said. The ruling compels Google to sit down with publishers and news agencies to find a way to remunerate them under the "neighbouring right" in revamped EU copyright rules, allowing publishers to demand a fee from online platforms for showing news snippets. REUTERS	
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World Bank widens GDP contraction forecast to 9.6%

Poverty reduction suffers setback; 'continue key reforms to reverse virus impact'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The World Bank expects India's economy to contract by 9.6% in 2020-21, revising its earlier estimate in June that output will shrink by just 3.2% amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. This revision reflects 'the impact of the national lockdown and the income shock experienced by households and firms', the Bank explained.

In its South Asia Economic Report released on Thursday, the Bank reckoned there will be a rebound to 5.4% growth in 2021-22, but largely due to base effects and hinging on assumptions that the pandemic-related restrictions are



Sliver of hope: Growth may rebound to 5.4% next fiscal but only if restrictions are fully lifted by 2022, says the Bank. ■ AFP

completely lifted by 2022.

India's gross domestic product (GDP) contracted 23.9% in the first quarter of this year and official estimates for the second quarter are expected at end-Novem-

ber. The Bank mooted continuation of critical reforms to reverse the sudden and steep impacts of COVID-19.

"Monetary policy has been deployed aggressively and fiscal resources have

LVB receives non-binding offer from Clix

N. ANAND
CHENNAI

Cash-starved private sector lender Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd. (LVB) has received a non-binding offer from Clix Group for merger.

In June 2020, LVB had entered into a non-binding agreement with the Clix Group for amalgamation. On Thursday, LVB said that it had received an indicative non-binding offer from Clix Group indicating that the merger was on.

"Three or four options are before us to decide the best way forward," said Shakti Sinha, independent director and member, Committee of Directors. "The board will take a final decision about the merger in the next 3-4 days."

Future's asset sale to RIL breaches pact: Amazon

U.S. firm sends legal notice to retailer

REUTERS
BENGALURU

Future Retail shares fell 9% on Thursday after Amazon.com sent a legal notice to Future Group, alleging the retailer's \$3.38 billion asset sale to Reliance Industries breached an agreement with the e-commerce giant.

Amazon had last year bought a 49% stake in Future Coupons, which owns a 7.3% stake in Future Retail.

Amazon's investment came with contractual rights that include a right of first refusal and a non-compete-like pact, according to media reports. An Amazon spokesperson said it had launched legal proceedings.

"Amazon will try to explore all options to stop or delay the Reliance-Future deal but Reliance has all the muscle power and it won't be an easy battle for Amazon to win at the court," said Satish Meena, senior forecast analyst at Forrester Research.

These are different questions you may be asking. The undisputed answer to all these questions is one - India," he said, urging Canadian firms to consider collaborations with India in education and agriculture, apart from investments in manufacturing and services.

"The webinar will dive into the various aspects of debt MFs including liquidity risk management, credit risk management, and interest rate risk.

Amit Bhosale, head - Risk Management, ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company, will be in conversation with Radhika Merwin, associate editor, The Hindu BusinessLine. To register for this free webinar, log on to: bit.ly/BLICICIRISK

No foreign flights at cost of Indian carriers: Puri

Remarks come amid 'air bubble' row

JAGRITI CHANDRA
SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Foreign carriers will not be allowed flights into India at the expense of Indian carriers, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Hardeep Puri assured on Thursday.

This comes at a time when India is in the process of negotiating and renegotiating special bilateral arrangements for allowing limited numbers of direct flights from and to India.

"Foreign carriers are allowed to fly into India, but the time has come for the message to go out loud and clear that this will not be done at the expense of Indian carriers," Mr. Puri said at a press conference.

The remarks come in the

wake of the first meeting between Germany's Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure and India's Ministry of Civil Aviation on the "air bubble" agreement which recently broke, forcing both Lufthansa and Air India to cancel October flights between the two countries. Another meeting is scheduled between the two sides on Friday.

"Negotiations are on and we are hopeful of a resolution soon," diplomatic sources said.

Air India is the only Indian carrier that flies to both the U.S. and Europe. Vistara recently started flights to London and SpiceJet has plans for London and other long-haul international destinations.

Passenger vehicle retail sales grow first time since March

Overall vehicle deliveries extend their decline in September

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Passenger vehicle registrations rose 9.8% in September, the first retail sales growth since March, data from the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations show. Total vehicle deliveries, however, continued to shrink, sliding 10% to 13.44 lakh units.

"Despite measures to shield vulnerable households and firms, the trajectory of poverty reduction has slowed, if not reversed," the Bank said on India. It said significant disruptions to jobs likely boosted the poverty rate, with 2020 rates back to levels in 2016.

"Policy interventions have



33.7% to 39,600 units. Tractor deliveries surged 80.4% to 68,564 units.

"With social distancing on

customers' minds, coupled with the government's push to further normalise business conditions and banks becoming more considerate to finance vehicles, entry level passenger vehicles saw good demand thus

Bairstow's onslaught and Rashid's sorcery leave Kings XI gasping

Opener sets up Sunrisers' 69-run win with 55-ball 97; Afghan leggie removes dangerman Pooran in a three-wicket spell to seal the contest for the Hyderabad side



Strikeforce: Rashid Khan had the Kings XI batsmen in knots after David Warner and Jonny Bairstow had piloted Sunrisers to 201. ■ BCCI/IPL



SCOREBOARD

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

David Warner c Maxwell b Bishnoi 52 (40b, 5x4, 1x6), Jonny Bairstow lbw b Bishnoi 97 (55b, 7x4, 6x6), Abdul Samad c Arshdeep b Bishnoi 8 (7b, 1x4), Manish Pandey c & b Arshdeep 1 (2b), Kane Williamson (not out) 20 (10b, 1x4, 1x6), Priyam Garg c Pooran b Arshdeep 0 (1b), Abhishek Sharma c Maxwell b Shami 12 (6b, 1x4, 1x6), Rashid Khan (not out) 0 (0b); Extras (lb-1, w-9, nb-1); 11; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 132.

Mandeep Singh b Rashid 6 (6b), Mujeeb Ur Rahman c Bairstow b Khaleel 1 (3b), Ravi Bishnoi (not out) 6 (7b, 1x4), Mohammed Shami lbw b Rashid 0 (1b), Sheldon Cottrell c Natarajan 0 (2b), Arshdeep Singh c Warner b Natarajan 0 (3b); Extras (lb-2, w-2); 4; Total (in 16.5 overs): 132.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-160 (Warner, 15.1 overs), 2-160 (Bairstow, 15.4), 3-161 (Pandey, 16.1), 4-173 (Samad, 17.5), 5-175 (Garg, 18.1), 6-199 (Abhishek, 19.5).

KINGS XI BOWLING

Cottrell 3-0-33-0, Mujeeb 4-0-39-0, Shami 4-0-40-1, Maxwell 2-0-26-0, Bishnoi 3-0-29-3, Arshdeep 4-0-33-2.

KINGS XI PUNJAB

K.L. Rahul c Williamson b Abhishek 11 (16b), Mayank Agarwal run out 9 (6b, 1x4), Prabhsimran Singh c Garg b Khaleel 11 (8b, 2x4), Nicholas Pooran c Natarajan b Rashid 77 (37b, 5x4, 7x6), Glenn Maxwell run out 7 (12b),

SUNRISERS BOWLING

Sandeep 4-0-27-0, Khaleel 3-0-24-2, Natarajan 3.5-0-24-2, Abhishek 1-0-15-1, Rashid 4-1-12-3, Samad 1-0-28-0.

Toss: SRH. MoM: Bairstow. SRH won by 69 runs.

Innings scan

SRH	KXIP
39	Dots
15	Fours
9	Sixes
58/0	PP
10.05	RR

Fastest 50s

In 2020

- 17 balls: Nicholas Pooran (KXIP vs. SRH), Dubai
- 19: Sanju Samson (RR vs. CSK), Sharjah
- 20: Kieron Pollard (MI vs. RCB), Dubai
- 20: Marcus Stoinis (DC vs. KXIP), Dubai
- Overall
- 14: K.L. Rahul (KXIP vs. Delhi Daredevils), 2018

Points table

Team	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Mumbai Indians	6	4	2	8	1.488
Delhi Capitals	5	4	1	8	1.060
Sunrisers Hyderabad	6	3	3	6	0.232
Kolkata Knight Riders	5	3	2	6	0.002
Royal Challengers	5	3	2	6	-1.355
Chennai Super Kings	6	2	4	4	-0.371
Rajasthan Royals	5	2	3	4	-0.826
Kings XI Punjab	6	1	5	2	-0.431

After the SRH-KXIP match on Oct. 8

IPL 2020

SPORTS BUREAU

Nicholas Pooran (77, 37b, 5x4, 7x6) scored the fastest fifty of IPL 2020. Youngster Ravi Bishnoi picked up three wickets, yet Kings XI Punjab couldn't challenge Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Dubai International Stadium on Thursday. David Warner's side won by 69 runs.

Chasing 202, Kings XI lost

its top three – Mayank Agarwal (9), K.L. Rahul (11) and Prabhsimran Singh (11) – inside the first seven overs.

Pooran caused jitters for Sunrisers as he swung his bat with style and guile. The 17-ball 50 did raise Kings XI's hopes before he fell to Rashid Khan, caught at backward point. The star leg-spinner had two other scalps as he ensured a comfortable victory. Batting first, Warner (52, 40b, 5x4, 1x6) and Jonny

Bairstow (97, 55b, 7x4, 6x6) put on a 160-run opening stand that set the tone for Sunrisers.

Sunrisers built on the momentum gained from the first over, when Sheldon Cottrell leaked 13 runs. Bairstow unsettled the West Indian with three boundaries – the first through cover-point, the next over extra cover, and finally a ferocious pull – in the left-arm's second over.

While Bairstow was ruthless, Warner kept the scoreboard moving with quick singles, fours and ambidextrous improvisations. He scored his ninth consecutive fifty against Kings XI. Rahul

kept of late, dropped Bairstow on 19 off Mohammed Shami in the fifth over. The missed chance proved costly, with the Englishman smashing two sixes and a four off leg-spinner Bishnoi's first over.

While Bairstow was ruthless, Warner kept the scoreboard moving with quick singles, fours and ambidextrous improvisations. He scored his ninth consecutive fifty against Kings XI. Rahul

looked clueless at one point as Sunrisers cruised at more than 10 an over. But Kings XI did pull things back in the 16th over. The 20-year-old Bishnoi forced Warner to miscue a slog-sweep off a googly. Three balls later, he trapped Bairstow in front.

Bishnoi also dismissed Abdul Samad to return figures of three for 29 in three overs. Afghanistan spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman looked ordinary, but left-arm seamer Arshdeep

deep Singh, playing in his first game of the season, impressed, as Kings XI appeared to put the brakes on Sunrisers. But despite Pooran's knock, the target proved too far for Kings XI.

Next assignment

KXIP: Oct. 10 vs. KKR

Abu Dhabi, 3.30 p.m. IST

SRH: Oct. 11 vs. RR

Dubai, 3.30 p.m. IST

Royals aim to halt Capitals' march

Will hope to repeat their early Sharjah form against Shreyas' formidable men

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajasthan Royals (RR) will need some quick-fix solutions to snap a three-match losing streak when it takes on a formidable Delhi Capitals (DC) here on Friday.

The Royals were off to a flying start in the tournament, winning the first two games at Sharjah, but have struggled to adjust to the bigger grounds in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

Now, back in Sharjah, RR

TODAY'S MATCH



SHARJAH, 7.30 P.M. IST

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 20

RR 11 | DC 9

In 2019

Played 2 | DC 2 | RR 0

STAR SPORTS 1 & SELECT 1 (SD & HD)

Sofia Kenin sets up summit clash with teenager Iga Swiatek

Top seed Djokovic overcomes injury scare to beat Carreno Busta and make a 10th semifinal at Roland Garros

FRENCH OPEN

REUTERS

PARIS

American fourth seed Sofia Kenin marched into her second Grand Slam final of the year with a commanding 6-4, 7-5 victory against seventh seed Czech Petra Kvitova at the French Open on Thursday. The Australian Open champion, who will face Polish teenager Iga Swiatek on Saturday, was the more aggressive player on Court Philippe-Chatrier.

Setting new records

Earlier, Swiatek became the youngest player to reach the French Open women's final in 19 years when she crushed Argentine qualifier Nadia Podoroska 6-2, 6-1.

The 19-year-old, the youngest to reach the summit clash at Roland Garros since Kim Clijsters (2001), raced to a 3-0 lead and never released her grip on the opening set.

The second set was a mere formality for the World No. 54.

In bowling, Kagiso Rabada has looked ominous, taking 12 wickets, while a fit again R. Ashwin returned figures of one for 26 in his comeback game on Monday.

On Wednesday, top seed



Acing it: Sofia Kenin took Petra Kvitova in her stride by winning in straight sets. ■ GETTY IMAGES

Novak Djokovic reached his 10th French Open semifinal but suffered an injury scare before beating Spain's Pablo

Carreno Busta 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

A month after being defaulted for striking a line

The Swiatek file



past the fourth-round at a Grand Slam and never won a WTA title

■ She is alive in the doubles draw too, where she has reached the last four (with Nicole Melichar of the US) without losing a set. She has the chance to become the first player since Mary Pierce in 2000 to win the women's singles and doubles trophies at Roland Garros

■ At 54, she is the lowest-ranked women's finalist at the French Open since the WTA computer rankings began in 1975

■ The 19-year-old has lost just 23 games en route, with a maximum of five in a match (vs. Su Wei Hsieh and Eugenie Bouchard in the second and third rounds)

■ Prior to this, Swiatek had never been

lost the opening set to the 17th seed. Djokovic looked flat and had to save break points early in the second set before raising his game to level the match.

It looked plain sailing when he led 3-0 in the third set before a dip allowed Carreno Busta back but Djokovic saved a break point at 3-3 before pulling away. Carreno Busta hung on gamely but Djokovic was superior in the big moments and one break in the fourth was enough.

self in trouble once again.

This time it was nothing more serious than pains in his neck and arm as Djokovic

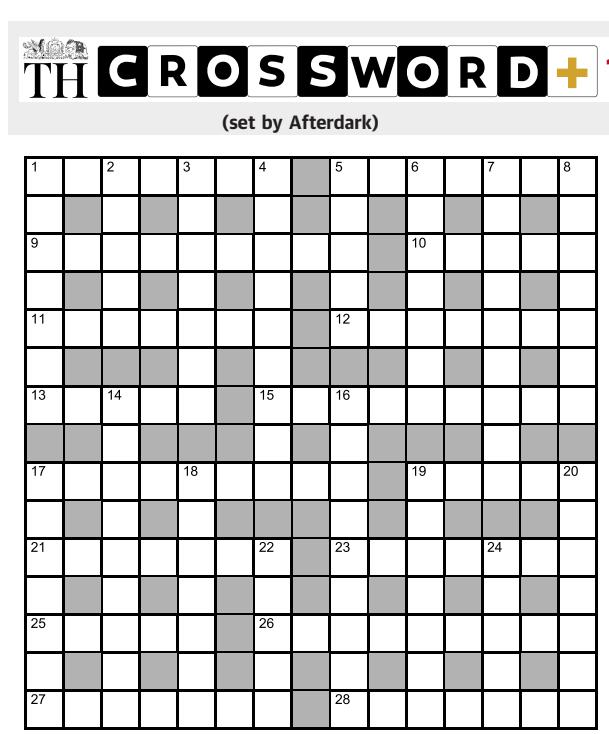
FATH

Ramayana the life saver

Not only was the story of Rama heard with joy, but it was also narrated with relish, said Kidambi Narayanan in a discourse. When Indrajit captured Hanuman and took him to Ravana's court, Hanuman narrated the story of Rama in Ravana's presence. Ravana gave Sita an ultimatum, and said if she did not accept him within a stipulated period, he would kill her. Sita was preparing to end her sorrow, when she heard Rama's story being narrated. It was Hanuman who hit upon the idea of speaking about Rama to save her. Thus Sita's life was saved by Rama's story.

Rama on His return to Ayodhya, after rescuing Sita from Lanka, had to halt briefly at the ashram of sage Bharadwaja. Bharata had threatened to jump into the fire if Rama was not back at the end of the fourteen-year exile. Afraid that he might carry out the threat, Rama sent Hanuman to his brother. Hanuman told Bharata the story of Rama. Bharata was not aware of the abduction of Sita, the search for her and the killing of Ravana. Hanuman was the one who informed him. Bharata's life was saved by Rama's story.

When Rama's avatars was about to end, Rama said to Hanuman that he could come to Paramapada, to be with Him. Hanuman asked if he could worship Rama in Paramapada, if he could hear the Ramayana there. Rama replied that in Paramapada, He could be worshipped only as Paramapadathna, and not as Rama. Also there would be no recital of the Ramayana or Rama nama sankeertana. Hanuman said that in that case, he would choose to remain on the earth. When we lose someone dear to us, we try to keep the memories alive, by listening to someone talking about them. Hanuman said that wherever the Ramayana was discussed upon, or Rama was praised, he would be there.



ACROSS

- 1 Without D, add added to be lauded (7)
- 5 American cat found in case by an agency... (7)
- 9 ... duty levied (6,3)
- 10 Alongside India is France, race is half complete (5)
- 11 Doctor's husband goes out on a date with saleswoman (7)
- 12 Greeter welcomes a late recorder inside (7)
- 13 Little son takes time outside the toilet... (5)

- 15 ... disgusting as brother, an embarrassment (9)
- 17 Discarded claim in UP town (9)
- 19 Bird has bread sandwiches, toast primarily (5)
- 21 Insisted to cut short tour to chapel (7)
- 23 In India, swan's used by Post to deliver dish (7)
-

Change in roles paid off: Mills

'Playing Tripathi as opener and Narine as pinch-hitter helped team win'

IPL 2020

Y.B. SARANGI

KOLKATA
Bowling coach Kyle Mills said the ploy to play an in-form Rahul Tripathi as an opener and Sunil Narine as a pinch-hitter helped Kolkata Knight Riders in its 10-run win over Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League (IPL) on Wednesday.

Keeping it tight

Narine, who batted at No. 4 after failing as an opener in previous matches, scored a quick 17. Bowling late, he kept it tight and took the crucial wicket of Shane Watson (50).

"We used Sunil as a pinch-hitter against CSK. A change is as good as a holiday, they say. We moved Tripathi to the top and it paid off for him. Sunil played a cameo, it gave us a little momentum," Mills said at the post-match press conference.

"With the ball, Sunil came in to bowl a little late, but the job he did at the back-end



Filling in: Russell has a specialist skillset at the back-end, says Mills. ■ BCCI/IPL

was comforting to see for us on the sidelines."

Mills said man-of-the-match Tripathi's impressive 51-ball 81, which enabled KKR to post a competitive 167, was magical to see.

"Not just in the (KKR) aca-

demy, the four weeks leading into the camp here, he was exceptional. He is an example to everyone. He is reaping the rewards."

Mills praised death-over specialist Andre Russell.

"It's a real specialist skill-

set as to how we like him to bowl at the end of the things... He not only bowls very good yorkers, but he has the ability to bowl fast bouncers. He is a great hand at the back-end of the innings."

We could've used the batting resources better, says Fleming

'One of the set batsmen should have seen the chase through'

S. DIPAK RAGAV

CHENNAI

Despite his struggles so far in the tournament, Kedar Jadhav was once again sent ahead of big hitters Ravindra Jadeja and Dwayne Bravo that proved costly for Chennai Super Kings against Kolkata Knight Riders on Wednesday.

The India batsman could only manage seven runs off 12 balls as he failed to get the big shots going.

Reasoning

When asked about the thinking behind this, CSK coach Stephen Fleming said, "we were hoping that Kedar could play the off-spinner (Sunil Narine) well and also Jadeja to come and finish."

The team has often been found wanting in terms of using its batting resources smartly with the big-hitters coming too late.

"We have got so much batting resources. We could



Out of reach: By the time Ravindra Jadeja came to the crease, the writing was on the wall for CSK. ■ BCCI/IPL

have gone a whole lot of dif-

ferent ways. That is one of the things we will look at, could we have done it a little bit better... but it is all in hindsight," he added.

The former New Zealand skipper also added that one

of the set batsmen should have seen the chase

through.

"If we had got one of the batsmen to get 75-plus and continued the partnership for five more overs, then the game might have been a lot different."

"We are disappointed that we let it slip," Fleming said.

Can allow two bouncers per over: Gavaskar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Sunil Gavaskar believes T20 cricket doesn't need much tinkering as it is in the "pink of health" but custodians of the game can consider allowing two bouncers per over, moving ahead.

The shortest format, over the years, has witnessed dominance of batsmen.

"It is loaded heavily in favour of the batsmen for sure, so give a fast bowler two bouncers per over."

"The boundaries can be easily longer, if the ground authorities want it," Gavaskar said.

"Also look at giving an extra over to the bowler who takes a wicket in his first three overs. But seriously there's no need to bring any changes at all."

Talking about rules, Gavaskar suggested that the TV umpire should be empowered to check whether a non-striker is backing up too far even before a bowler has delivered the ball.

IN BRIEF



Shaqiri returns negative test for COVID-19

GENEVA
Switzerland's Liverpool forward Xherdan Shaqiri has finally returned a negative COVID-19 test, the Swiss football federation announced on Thursday. It is not certain if Shaqiri, who had missed Wednesday's friendly against Croatia, will play against Spain in the Nations League on Saturday, although he will travel with the squad. AFP

Professional cricket in NZ to resume on Oct. 19

WELLINGTON
New Zealand's First Class championships will mark the return of professional cricket in the country from October 19, albeit under new COVID-19 playing conditions. Other than six players currently in the UAE for the IPL, all of NZC's contracted players will turn out for their domestic teams for the first half of the Plunket Shield. PTI



Coe backs the right to 'take knee' at Olympics

TOKYO
World Athletics president Sebastian Coe said competitors should be able to "take the knee" on the podium at the Tokyo Olympics, following an outcry over moves to ban protests. "I'm supportive of that. The athletes are a part of the world and they want to reflect the world they live in," said Coe. AFP

Delhi State six-red snooker from Oct. 16

NEW DELHI
The fifth Delhi State Suresh Sharma memorial six-red snooker championship will be held at Megapool Snooker Academy, Sector 3, Dwarka, from Oct. 16 to 23. Offering a prize-fund of ₹50,000, the event will be held according to the safety protocol set by government. Entries close on Oct. 14 with the organising secretary Manmeet Bhatia (7861000999) at the venue. The champion and runner-up will represent Delhi in the National championship scheduled early next year.



Koepka to return next week for CJ Cup

LAS VEGAS
Brooks Koepka is ready to get back to golf, announcing he will play next week in the CJ Cup at Shadow Creek in Las Vegas. "I'm excited to get back out there," Koepka said in a release on Wednesday. AP

The 'Surya scoop'

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

When a Jofra Archer knuckle-ball crashed into Suryakumar Yadav's helmet during Mumbai Indians' clash against Rajasthan Royals on Tuesday, many would have been wondering how the batsman would respond.

The Mumbaikar came up with a perfect riposte, scooping a yorker, bowled at nearly 150kmpm, over third-man for a six. Suryakumar, whose unbeaten 79 off



Suryakumar. ■ BCCI/IPL

47 balls set up MI's first win against Royals in five years, revealed that his batting partner Hardik Pandya was of immense help while producing that extraordinary shot.

Hardik's take
"Hardik was like, 'this is the time, let's try and do something different'. I asked him given his experience what he feels, what he [Archer] was going to try? He was like, 'he may hit a yorker. I said let's get prepared for that,'" Suryakumar said during a media interaction on Thursday.

"That was one of the shots I had been practising during lockdown. I just tried to execute it without thinking about anything else, and it worked."

"The first few hours were a little disturbing. But the physios and doctors took good care of me and I am feeling better now," said Suryakumar about the impact of the Archer delivery.

National camp for core group to start from October 15

SHOOTING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Sports Authority of India (SAI), in consultation with the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), has announced a training camp for core shooters from October 15 to Dec. 14.

The coaches had sought a four to six weeks camp to monitor the schedule of the shooters, who have all been training at home during the lockdown.

The camp, to be held at the Dr. Karni Singh Range in Tughlakabad, will be open for 32 shooters, including all the 15 who have won the Tokyo Olympics quota places.

It is understood that all the shooters, eight Indian and two foreign coaches, and two support staff would stay in a hotel during the camp to ensure all the safety protocols. SAI has estimated the two-



Ready to fire: Anjum and Divyansh are delighted to be preparing together in a team atmosphere. ■ FILE PHOTO

month camp would cost about ₹1.43 crore.

Anjum Moudgil, who won the first Olympic quota for the Tokyo Games with a silver in the World Championship, and Divyansh Singh Panwar, the World No. 1 in men's air rifle, expressed happiness about the camp and preparing together in a team atmosphere.

"Regular shooting in a camp environment will give us a better idea of where we

currently stand," said Anjum. **Raninder elated**
SAI president Raninder Singh was elated with SAI sanctioning the camp.

"Our shooters have been training at home during the lockdown. But, to train together at a camp is going to help them much more."

"We are very happy that SAI has sanctioned this two-month training camp," said Raninder.

Hamilton resumes record trail

FORMULA ONE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NURBURGRING (GERMANY)

Three names synonymous with glory will grab attention for contrasting reasons when the once-legendary Nurburgring hosts a Formula One race for the first time in seven years.

Lewis Hamilton will be seeking, on the second attempt, to equal Michael Schumacher's record of 91 wins while his son Mick is set to make his F1 debut in Friday's opening practice with Alfa Romeo.

Alongside them, Sebastian Vettel – the last winner at the historic venue in 2013 – will be bidding to avoid any banana skins as he embarks on his closing chapter with Ferrari, having admitted on Wednesday that his spell with the Italian team has been a failure.

"All three men and the rest



of the travelling F1 circus are expected to face severely cold conditions with rain and low temperatures forecast for the weekend's inaugural Eifel Grand Prix.

Meanwhile, Mercedes reported that a member of its team had tested positive for COVID-19, but a spokesman said Hamilton and Valteri Bottas were clear.

Cheptegei sets 10,000m world mark

Leteisenbet Gidey runs to a new women's 5,000m record



Memorable outing: It was a Wednesday night to remember for Cheptegei and Gidey at the Valencia World Record Day. ■ AFP

ATHLETICS

REUTERS
VALENCIA

Ugandan Joshua Cheptegei smashed the men's 10,000m world record on Wednesday at the Valencia World Record Day, crossing the line in a stunning 26 minutes 11.02 seconds to take six seconds off a 15-year-old record.

Cheptegei, 24, broke the previous mark of 26:17:53, set by Ethiopia's Kenenisa Bekele, at a special event in a near-empty Turia stadium here as only 400 people including sponsors, journalists and staff were allowed in.

Outstanding 12 months
The achievement capped an outstanding 12 months for Cheptegei, who won the 10,000m gold at last year's World Championships in Doha.

Cheptegei, 24, broke the previous mark of 26:17:53, set by Ethiopia's Kenenisa Bekele, at a special event in a near-empty Turia stadium here as only 400 people including sponsors, journalists and staff were allowed in.



notes 6.62 seconds.

The 22-year-old beat the previous mark of 14:11.15 set by compatriot Tirunesh Dibaba at Oslo in 2008.

The event was organised by Cheptegei's NN Running Team of the Netherlands and he and Gidey were helped to the finish line by pacers as well as Wavelight technology, which flashes lights on the inside of the track to indicate a specific pace.

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Kimi Raikkonen happy to swerve wide of record

Set to start his 323rd Formula One race this weekend

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

NURBURGRING

Kimi Raikkonen is set to start a record 323rd Formula One race at this weekend's Eifel Grand Prix but is happy if his landmark in longevity is overshadowed by the names Hamilton and Schumacher.

The 40-year-old Finn, the oldest driver on the grid, famously loathes publicity and any invasions of his family or private life. So if Lewis Hamilton succeeds in equalling Michael Schumacher's record of 91 victories, he will be delighted.

"It's not something I care about, not really," he said of his own record. "If



someone asked me about the number of races, I would have no idea. I'm here because I like to drive. I still enjoy it."

Familiar with circuit

Raikkonen equalled Rubens Barrichello's record of 322 starts two

weeks ago and believes he knows his way around the circuit.

"I've been here a few times and I think I should have won a couple of races, but we've been unlucky -- that's how racing goes," he said, with a familiar shrug.

Fernando Alonso is third on the list of Grand Prix starters with 3