



AAP MP Sanjay Singh to appear before Uttar Pradesh police today
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Tata group to launch India's first CRISPR COVID-19 test
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China unveils sanctions regime after U.S. ban on TikTok, WeChat
page 10



Rahul's Kings XI Punjab takes on Shreyas' Delhi Capitals today
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NEARBY



Total COVID-19 cases in Delhi near 2.5 lakh mark
NEW DELHI
As many as 4,071 new COVID-19 cases were reported in Delhi in the past 24 hours, taking the total to 2,42,899, said a government health bulletin.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Three LeT terrorists arrested in Rajouri

SRINAGAR
The J&K police said three Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists were arrested with weapons dropped by a drone from across the LoC on Saturday.

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Delhi journalist held for 'passing info' to Chinese

Woman from China among 3 arrested

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Days after freelance journalist Rajeev Sharma was arrested by the Delhi police under the British-era Official Secrets Act (OSA) for allegedly passing on "sensitive information" to Chinese intelligence, the police said on

Saturday that two of his associates – a Chinese woman and a Nepalese man – have also been arrested.

An officer said, so far the role of any officials from the Ministry of Defence is not under the scanner.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 7

+ Last journey



All set: INS Viraat, the decommissioned aircraft carrier of the Indian Navy, being towed away from the Naval Dockyard to Alang ship-breaking yard in Gujarat on Saturday. ■ VIVEK BENDRE (REPORT ON PAGE 9)

Nagaland apples: sowed by conflict, marketed in COVID

The Kashmir-origin fruit is being sold as branded farm produce, thanks to efforts of a local students' union

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

The unfamiliar apple travelled from Kashmir to Nagaland's Thanamir via Assam Rifles soldiers during the peak of conflict in 1980, when the extremist National Socialist Council of Nagaland was born.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made Thanamir's apples, sowed from the 'fruits of friendship' between a Gurkha soldier and a village guard, J. Yongphukhing, travel out four decades later as a branded farm produce marketed by a local students' union.



The Thanamir Students' Union also organises an annual Apple Festival to attract experts and visitors. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Community. Thanamir was primarily known as the last stop for trekkers to Saramati, Nagaland's highest peak at 3,840 m above sea level, until the State government declared it a vegetable village in 2013, almost five years after it was connected

"We could not organise the annual Apple Festival this year after eight editions due to the COVID-19 restrictions. This made us work on a project to market our apples to the nearest urban centres in an organised way," TSU vice-president N. Lemchimong told *The Hindu*.

High on demand
This meant delivering the apples to Kohima, more than 300 km away, and Dimapur further beyond in August-September. At a wholesale price of ₹1,000 a carton of 7 kg each, the apples sold out in no time.

Vatsu Meru, a former Minister, said the Thanamir apples had been high on demand but difficult to get

earlier. It needed an initiative like the TSU's for urban consumers to get them nearer home.

"The apples are quite large, sweet and juicy," said homemaker Adeno Koutsu.

Thanamir's Head Gaon Bura (village elder) Rethrongki said more than 150 apple farmers had a better harvest this year compared to 2019.

Our project to market the apples is for three years. We are also looking at coordinating with students of other apple-producing villages for marketing fruits on a larger scale," Mr. Lemchimong said.

powerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 – will come up in the Rajya Sabha, where it is expected to sail through, since the Opposition barely has the numbers to put up a reasonable resistance.

According to sources, the Congress has demanded a discussion on COVID-19. The Rajya Sabha has already held a debate on the pandemic and its management. DMK MP T.R. Baalu has sought a discussion on the National Education Policy.

Give us same rights to progress and development, says Farooq

NC leader stresses the 'need to hold talks, find solution'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah said in the Lok Sabha on Saturday that the people of Jammu and Kashmir should have the same rights to progress and development as the rest of the country.

"The sad reality of today is the fact that children in Kashmir are not even able to get quality education due to various reasons. People there do not have access to 4G facility, when this is available to everyone else across the country," he said.

Like India was now in talks with China to resolve various issues, "we need to hold talks with the other neighbouring country as



Farooq Abdullah

well because people are dying every day, border skirmishes are on the rise. We need to find some solution," he added.

Release J&K leaders'
Trinamool Congress MP Sougata Ray, also speaking during Zero Hour, said the situation in J&K, even after one year of blunting of Article

370, was a cause for concern. He demanded the release of all 230 political leaders who were in detention in Kashmir. "Political leaders are still not released, journalists are being harassed... State Human Rights Commission is closed, education of children is adversely hit and jails have become COVID-19 hotspots. We demand that the situation be remedied immediately," he said.

MP Sumalatha Ambareesh, raising the issue of "imposition" of Hindi, especially in the southern States, said the insistence of learning and using the language by the Central government would kill regional languages. "This is not acceptable," she said.



Nine suspected al-Qaeda operatives held

NIA conducts simultaneous raids in Kerala, West Bengal; says Pakistan-sponsored module busted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Nine "al-Qaeda terrorists" were arrested in simultaneous raids at several locations in Ernakulam, Kerala, and Murshidabad in West Bengal on Saturday, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) said.

The accused were associated with a "Pakistan-sponsored module of the Al-Qaeda", the agency said.

Murshid Hasan, Iyakub Biswas and Mosaraf Hossen were picked up from Ernakulam, while Najmus Sakib, Abu Sufyan, Mainul Mondal, Leu Year Ahmed, Al Mamun Kamal and Atitur Rehman were held in Murshidabad.

"The NIA had learnt about an inter-State module of al-



In the net: A suspected al-Qaeda operative after being arrested by the NIA in Ernakulam on Saturday. ■ PTI

Qaeda operatives at various locations in India, including West Bengal and Kerala. The group was planning to undertake terrorist attacks at vital installations with an aim to kill innocent people

pons, country-made firearms, a locally fabricated body armour, articles and literature used for making home-made explosive devices have been seized from their possession, the NIA stated.

"As per preliminary investigation, these individuals were radicalised by Pakistan-based al-Qaeda terrorists on social media and were motivated to undertake attacks at multiple places, including the National Capital Region. For this purpose, the module was actively indulging in fund raising and a few members of gang were planning to travel to New Delhi to procure arms and ammunition. These arrests have pre-empted possible terrorist attacks

in various parts of the country," the statement said.

Produced before courts
The accused were produced before the courts concerned in Kerala and West Bengal for custody and further investigation, the NIA added.

The raids in Ernakulam were conducted in a joint operation involving the anti-terror squad and nearly 30 personnel of the Ernakulam Rural wing of the Kerala police and the NIA. It began around 2 a.m. Murshid Hasan was held from the Pathalam industrial area, while Iyakub Biswas and Mosaraf Hossen were arrested from Perumbavoor near Aluva.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 7

It's miles to go for a safer childbirth in Odisha's Kalahandi

Women brave arduous journeys to reach hospitals



A group of women with a newborn en route to their village. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

ti Community Health Centre in Nabarangpur district.

Three men and four elderly women from Ghutrukhal village escorted Ms. Nayak on July 13 on the walk down the hill road, the boat ride over the 4 km-wide Indravati reservoir and the last leg in an autorickshaw to the hospital.

Earlier on May 24, Chandhala Majhi from the nearby Bhitarbunga village embarked upon a similar journey to the hospital.

"Lack of connectivity to the mainland is a curse for us. We cannot access emergency health services like child delivery as no ambulance can reach our village," said Ms. Majhi, who gave birth to a baby girl at the Tentulkhun-

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 7

SPECIAL

N. Podapadar panchayat in Odisha's Kalahandi district as they prepare to reach the nearest hospital 35 kms away.

'Additional pain'

"Labour and giving birth is one of the most exhilarating events in one's life. However, we undergo an additional pain thanks to the lack of connectivity. The pain is worth taking if the baby is born healthy," said Ms. Nayak, who gave birth to a baby girl at the Tentulkhun-

Monsoon session may be cut short owing to rising virus cases

It is expected to end on Sept. 23



An illuminated Parliament House on Saturday. ■ PTI

ing 11 Bills replacing ordinances issued since March, when the Budget session ended.

The Lok Sabha has passed six Bills, including three agriculture-related ones – the approval of which led to the exit of Shiromani Akali Dal leader Harsimrat Kaur from the Narendra Modi Cabinet.

On Sunday, these three Bills – the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020; Farming Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 and the Farmers (Em-

powerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 – will come up in the Rajya Sabha, where it is expected to sail through, since the Opposition barely has the numbers to put up a reasonable resistance.

According to sources, the Congress has demanded a discussion on COVID-19. The Rajya Sabha has already held a debate on the pandemic and its management. DMK MP T.R. Baalu has sought a discussion on the National Education Policy.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 3

Devise plan for containment zones: L-G

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal directed the authorities to chalk out a strategy to reduce COVID-19 cases to non-existent levels in containment zones across the Capital.

Sources said expert groups and the Delhi Health Department have been tasked with preparing reports on the zones over the weekend.

They are scheduled to meet early next week to figure out strategies to reduce the number of cases being reported from containment zones, which account for roughly 40% of the total daily COVID-19 cases in the city.

This will be followed by a meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), sources said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 3

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MP Sumalatha Ambareesh, raising the issue of "imposition" of Hindi, especially in the southern States, said the insistence of learning and using the language by the Central government would kill regional languages. "This is not acceptable," she said.

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

On the day the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) won the Delhi Assembly election by winning 62 of the 70 seats in February, the party also rekindled its hopes of growing beyond the Capital.

There were huge flex boards at the party headquarters here with a message "join AAP to build the nation", and addressing volunteers, senior AAP leader Gopal Rai said, "The fight has only begun. I want to tell you and volunteers across the country, you gear up, not just in Delhi, the whole country needs change."

Since then, the party has announced that they will fight in all seats in the Uttarakhand Assembly election in 2022 and has been working in Uttar Pradesh too. The party has also announced that they will be fighting all local body elections, whether they have a unit.

Political experts said that this will help AAP in building a national organisation, but they may not win seats immediately.

AAP leaders told *The Hindu* that they have learnt their lessons from previous elections and are confident.

Raising core issues

AAP Uttar Pradesh in-charge and Raja Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, who has been touring the State, said that they were raising core issues such as COVID-related corruption and rise in crime in Uttar Pradesh, which no other party is talking about. "Several incidents [of crime] happened against the Brahmin community in U.P. and we are raising it on a regular basis. In COVID-related corruption, 800% commission was taken. Oximeters which you get online for ₹800, was bought by the U.P. government for ₹4,000 and ₹5,000. Analyser is available on the government



AAP SETS SIGHTS ON OTHER STATES

Political analysts say the party's renewed attempt for visibility elsewhere is essentially aimed at building a national presence for now.

portal for ₹1.45 lakh, but was bought from Chinese company for ₹3.3 lakh. We are trying to make people aware of all these," he said.

AAP Delhi MLA and Uttarakhand in-charge Dinesh Mohaniya was precise about their activities in the State. "We are doing three things. One is organisation building. We are welcoming new volunteers and also focusing on booths. We are appointing at least one person per booth and have already done so at 4,500 of the over 10,000 booths. Secondly, we are roping in people from social organisations and other parties. Third is the oximeter

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DINESH MOHANIYA,
AAP Delhi MLA and Uttarakhand in-charge

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SANJAY SINGH,
AAP Uttar Pradesh in-charge and Raja Sabha MP

campaign. We are visiting at least 10,000 houses in the State," Mr. Mohaniya said. "Here, the fight is going to be between BJP and AAP," the leader added.

Failures in the past

Since 2017, the Aam Aadmi Party has been contesting Assembly elections in at least 14 States out-

side Delhi, but has failed to win even a single seat in 13 States.

The only State in which the AAP tasted some victory was in Punjab in 2017, where it won 20 seats and is the main Opposition. But AAP leaders said they have learnt from their mistakes and are focusing on organisation building.

"In different States, the politi-



AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal and party leaders wave to supporters after winning the Delhi Assembly elections earlier this year; party workers celebrating the victory. ■ FILE PHOTOS: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA, R.V. MOORTHY

cal atmosphere is different. So what works in Punjab won't work in Uttar Pradesh. But our basic learning is that we need a strong organisation to fight and win elections," Mr. Singh said.

Party building

"We are building the party in more States. Party building is not easy. We are a small party and have limited resources. But we are making plans and following it strictly," Durgesh Pathak, party in-charge of AAP's National Organisation Building Team said.

The AAP MP said that in Uttar Pradesh the party was strengthening their State, district organisations, and frontal organisations for women, students, farmers, minorities. Mr. Singh said that the party will be fighting the panchayat election in 2021 in the State, before the Assembly election in 2022.

Mr. Pathak said that the party will be going forward with organisation, local faces, and party chief Arvind Kejriwal's face to

fight the election outside Delhi. "In U.P., we have Sanjay Singh looking after the whole campaign; in Goa, too, we have local faces," he said.

He said that the party will fight Punjab, Gujarat, and Goa Assembly elections in 2022. The AAP had fought elections in these three States in 2017.

In August, Mr. Kejriwal had launched a nationwide oximeter campaign under which AAP volunteers will go from house to house and check people's oxygen levels. Multiple AAP leaders said that due to COVID-19-related restrictions, this is the only outreach programme they have at this point.

"It's a door-to-door programme to check oxygen levels and through this, we make our presence felt in these areas and build inroads," an AAP leader said.

But the campaign ran into trouble in Punjab with the Chief Minister asking the AAP to stay out of the State with the programme.

Political analyst Neerja Chowdhury said that the party's aim is not exactly to win elections at this point. "They are aiming to build an organisation nationally, but incrementally. They know the importance of organisation now. If they win, well and good. But it is not that they are trying to capture a State," she said.

The Kanshi Ram approach

"In the long term, they would eye the Congress votes. They would try to replace the Congress, but it is a long-term plan. At least 10-15 years or even more, depending on how things pan out, you can't say exactly. Their approach is what Kanshi Ram of the BSP used to have: To use every election to build the organisation. Now, AAP will do exactly the same. They will fight local body and State elections. The idea is to build an organisation. Without an organisation you're nowhere and the Congress is finding it the hard way now that they don't have people to even man the booths," she said.

Ms. Chowdhury said that she doesn't feel that the AAP is going to challenge the BJP in Uttar Pradesh, at least during the first time they fight the State election. "In Uttarakhand, they might mop up some seats. But in U.P., there is a vacuum and which they can come to occupy," Ms. Chowdhury added.

She also said that the AAP is shifting "Hindu ward," towards right socially, and it was evident from the Delhi Assembly election. "Kejriwal understands that the country has turned that way. Also, he had made up with the Centre," she said.

"In States, the BJP might welcome them to undercut the Congress. In the long-term, the BJP will be worried about the AAP, but for now they might welcome them," she added.

DMRC sells over 80K smart cards

Around 8,500 cards sold per day between September 7-16

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI



With the discontinuation of tokens in the Delhi Metro as part of precautionary measures to curb the spread of COVID-19, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has sold around 8,500 smart cards per day between September 7 and 16.

Under Unlock 4 guidelines issued by the Centre, metro services got the nod to resume operations from September 7 after a five-month hiatus. The DMRC had said that tokens had been discontinued to curb chances of virus transmission and had made the use of smart cards

mandatory.

The public transporter had also launched a new version of smart cards having an auto top-up feature, while existing smart card users can get the feature activated.

Man arrested for cheating

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

According to DMRC data, around 10,000 registrations have taken place on the Auto-top app, through which smart cards get recharged automatically at the Automatic Fare Collection gates.

DMRC officials said that 4,000 Auto-top cards have been issued so far. "The smart cards issued by Auto-top will offer auto top-up functionality whenever the value of the smart card goes below ₹100 and will automatically recharge the card with ₹200 at the AFC gate.

The police said that they received a complaint from Ajay Gujral and many others that Verma and his accomplices are running a company by the name Power Real Developers (India) Pvt Ltd at Pusa Road and publicised an investment scheme wherein general

the public were lured by assured returns of 20% per month. "It was misrepresented by accused persons that their company is engaged in investing in power sector. The complainant and 63 other victims invested crores in the scheme," Mr. Mishra said.

The accused, however, fled after taking the money and shut his office, the police said. The police said, it was confirmed that the company had no business as projected by the accused persons at the time of investment.

The police said that the accused is involved in several criminal cases registered against him.

Sporting spirit



Cricket fever catches up with youngsters in the Capital as the IPL began in Dubai on Saturday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

Requires for its building and premises :

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Interested parties are requested to send interest to Deputy Director General, ICWA at ddgoffice@icwa.in, with copy to us@icwa.in.



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(Jmu) 0191-2459028/2459255 (ax)

e-NIT No. 43 of 2020,
Dated: 17.09.2020

Online e-tenders in two cover system (Technical & Financial Bid) are hereby invited from original manufacturers / authorized dealers (having specific authorization from their original manufacturer/s) to quote against this tender (as per format provided in Appendix-I) for finalization of rate contract for supply of Stationery items to J&K Police as detailed in Annexure A to this NIT, (as indicated in the detailed SBD and BOQs). The download of NIT shall start on 17.09.2020 at 1300 hours. Tenders shall be submitted online on J&K e-Procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in before 8.10.2020 upto 1600 hours. The samples shall be submitted at Police Central Store, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu before closing date of submission of e-tender. Samples received after the prescribed date or time shall not be accepted.

The tenders (technical bids only) will be opened online on 10.10.2020 at 1100 hours at Police Headquarters J&K Jammu / Srinagar. In case of unforeseen circumstances, the date of opening will be next working day. Detailed tender documents (SBD) with terms and conditions are available on J&K State e-Procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in.

Sd/-
Rayees Mohammad Bhat-IPS
AIG (Provision / Transport)
For Director General of Police,
J&K- Srinagar

DIPK-5895/20

E-Tendering Notice-02

Sr. Divisional Materials Manager, N.E.Railway, Varanasi for and on behalf of President of India, invites Tender through E-Procurement system "Open Tender" for the supply of the following item.

Complete description of the item and other terms and conditions are available on website www.irps.gov.in. Sr.No.: 01, E-Tender No.: 50205110A, Due Date: 17.11.20, Description :- Supply, Installation and commissioning of Passenger elevators (Lift), Quantity :- 09 Nos., Earnest Money:- Rs. 382500.00

Sr. Divisional Materials Manager CPRO/S-26 Varanasi

About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794849595

Do Not Smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train

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ADMISSION NOTICE - MFA

Academic Session - 2020-21

The Prospectus data for the admission to Masters of Fine Arts (MFA) and Post Diploma for Hearing & Speech Impaired (PDPA) will be available on the College Website <http://colart.delhidis.gov.in>. The Application Form for admission will be available through a URL on the College Website.

Details regarding Qualifications, Intake of Seats for all specializations, Fees, Courses and Reservations are all mentioned in the MFA Prospectus Data, which is available on the College Website <http://colart.delhidis.gov.in>.

Note: Only for the Academic Session 2020-21 due to the prevailing conditions of COVID-19 and for the safety and security of the applicants:

1. The admission to post graduate (MFA) courses are merit-based that is, based on marks scored in Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree (BFA-Regular Mode) Final Year (Total of semester VII & VIII) in the relevant specialization.
2. Post Diploma Courses For (H&SI-Hearing & Speech Impaired candidates): No examination (interview/viva) will be conducted in the campus (College Premises) for any specialization. Hence in respect to the Post Diploma for Hearing and Speech Impaired (PDPA) candidates the application form will be submitted directly to the Director (D) of the concerned specialization.
3. The Applicants are advised to regularly check the College Website-Admission Portal for the Academic Year 2020-2021, for details/contents on the online Admission Procedure and uploading of the Application form along with relevant/compulsory documents.

4. All reservations shall be as per the Delhi Government Policy and will be subject to any change/amendment made by the Delhi Government (GNCTD).

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Timings
DELHI

SUNDAY, SEP. 20
RISE 06:09 SET 18:20
RISE 09:04 SET 20:38
MONDAY, SEP. 21
RISE 06:09 SET 18:19
RISE 10:12 SET 21:22
TUESDAY, SEP. 22
RISE 06:10 SET 18:18
RISE 11:19 SET 22:08

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	37	28
Safdarjung	37	28
Palam	37	28

Delhi Palam Today
38°C Dry weather with hot day condition. Light winds likely with partly cloudy sky.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
38°C Day would become very warm and humid with partly cloudy sky.

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THE HINDU

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IN BRIEF

Delhi minorities panel member dies of COVID

NEW DELHI
A member of the DMC has died due to COVID-19, said its chairman Zakir Khan on Saturday. AAP leader Dilip Pandey condoled the death of Kavita Singh in a tweet.

Total cases in Delhi near 2.5 lakh mark

Positivity rate has dipped to 6.5%

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

As many as 4,071 new COVID-19 cases were reported in Delhi in the past 24 hours, taking the total number of cases to 2,42,899, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Saturday.

Also, 38 fatalities have been reported in a single day, taking the death toll to 4,945. Of the total cases, 2,05,890 people have recovered and there are 32,064 active cases.

Out of the total 14,652 beds available for COVID-19 treatment in the city, 53.03% were vacant, as per government data on Saturday. But 61.3% of the ICU beds with ventilators are occupied and 72.42% of the ICU beds without ventilators are occupied.

The positivity rate (percentage of people testing positive for every 100 tests done) came down to 6.5% on Saturday. Health Minister Satyendar Jain said the rate is less compared to last week.

"The positivity rate yesterday [Friday] was 6.76%. Positivity rate has been less than 7% for the past couple of days. Last week it was

Virus spread

Total number of COVID-19 cases	Total deaths
2,42,899	4,945
New cases in the past 24 hours	New deaths in the past 24 hours
4,071	38

SOURCE: DELHI GOVERNMENT HEALTH BULLETIN

more than 8%. Also, the total cumulative rate now is less than 10% for the first time. It is 9.83%. Earlier it was 11.15%. The positivity rate has come down a little," Mr. Jain said.

He said the average death rate for the last 10 days is 0.69% and the case fatality rate is 2.05%.

"In the past few days we have increased more than 500 ICU beds in private hospitals and more than 50% beds are vacant in hospitals," he added.

The Minister said that the government was keeping a strict watch and will increase the beds if needed.

"When the number of cases is this high in Delhi and rest of the country, community spread should have been accepted. But only ICMR and the Centre can say this," he said.

Chalk out a plan to reduce virus cases in containment zones: L-G

Over 80 such zones created daily between Sept. 7 and 17 due to enhanced testing

JATIN ANAND

NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal directed authorities to chalk out a strategy to reduce COVID-19 cases to nonexistent levels in containment zones across the Capital.

By next week Sources said expert groups and the Delhi Health Department have been tasked with preparing reports to this end over the weekend.

They are scheduled to meet early next week to figure out strategies to reduce the number of cases being reported from containment zones, which account for roughly around 40% of the total daily COVID-19 cases in the city, to 'zero'.

This will be followed by a meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), sources added.

Over 80 containment zones were created across the city every day between September 7 and 17 as enhanced testing for COVID-19 led to the detection of more cases, according to government records.

Till Saturday, there were as many as 1,820 active con-



A woman gets tested for the SARS-CoV-2 virus in New Delhi on Saturday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

tainment zones in the city with a majority of these located in the South-West and West districts.

Cases reported from containment zones account for roughly 40% of the total daily COVID-19 cases seen in the city

blueprint on re-strategising the containment policy.

Out of the total 3,044 containment zones created in the city so far, 2,710 were created after June 21 and 825 between September 7 and 17.

A total of 1,293 zones have

been decontaminated so far.

According to government records, between September 7 and 17, the maximum number of containment zones existed in the South-West district (299), followed by 219 in the West district, 195 in the North district, 166 in the North-West district, 165 in the South district and 162 in the Central district.

The number of active COVID-19 cases in U.P. stood at 66,874 on Saturday. The death toll has reached 4,953.

G.B. Nagar records 83.16% recovery rate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA

Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddha Nagar on Saturday recorded 174 new COVID-19 cases, pushing the district's tally to 11,217.

The number of active cases has, however, come down to 1,840 – from 1,868 on Friday and 2,004 on Thursday, according to data released by the U.P. Health Department.

As many as 202 patients were discharged and recoveries in the district have reached 9,329. The recovery rate, which saw a steady rise over the week, stood at 83.16% on Saturday. This is higher than the State's average recovery rate of 79.39%.

Low mortality rate

The district has so far recorded 48 deaths linked to the pandemic and has one of the lowest mortality rates in the State at 0.42%. The State's average is 1.42%. Gautam Buddha Nagar now ranks ninth among U.P.'s 75 districts in terms of active cases, seventh in recoveries and 29th in death toll.

The number of active COVID-19 cases in U.P. stood at 66,874 on Saturday. The death toll has reached 4,953.

Warriors without wages



Problems on the frontlines: Nurses of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation's Kasturba Hospital protest against non-payment of salaries for the past four months, in Delhi on Saturday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

NGT seeks environment plan for Najafgarh Jheel

Bench asks Delhi, Haryana to submit document within three months

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

While hearing a plea on declaration of the Najafgarh Jheel as a water body, the National Green Tribunal (NGT)

has directed the Delhi and Haryana governments to prepare an environment plan within three months to prevent encroachment and construction in the area.

A Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel directed the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) to oversee the proceedings for preparation

said, adding that the CPCB may coordinate as a nodal agency.

The directions came when the green panel was hearing a plea moved by the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, which sought execution of a 2017 NGT order. The plea had contended that authorities had failed to take appropriate steps to curb encroachment.

Revisit exemptions for poultry farms'

Green panel tells CPCB such units can damage environment

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Observing that operation of poultry farms has the potential to damage the environment, the National Green Tribunal has directed the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to revisit existing guidelines that place such units under the green category, which exempts them from various regulations.

"Sustainable development is part of right to life. Leaving out poultry farms below 1 lakh birds unregulated by State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and merely requiring registration with local bodies or treating them at par with agricultural farms, is against the mandate of sustainable development," the NGT Bench said, adding that only small poultry farms with

less than 5,000 birds should be placed in the green category.

Fresh orders
Directing the CPCB to issue fresh orders within three months, the NGT Bench said: "Till then, SPCBs can strictly enforce environmental norms and take remedial action against any violation of water, air and soil standards."

Campaign against dengue seeks to engage residents

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Delhi government's campaign against vector-borne diseases – 10 Haft 10 Baje 10 Minute Haft Ravivar Dengue Paar Vaar – will enter its third week on Sunday.

The campaign now seeks to engage Delhi residents to pick up the phone and call 10 of their friends/relatives and advise them on the good practices of preventing dengue.

Launching the campaign on September 6, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal inspected his residence for signs of stagnant clean water to prevent the breeding

of mosquitoes at 10 a.m. on Sunday for 10 minutes.

He had tweeted: "Today on the second Sunday of the campaign against dengue, I inspected my house again and replaced the accumulated water. It only took me 10 minutes, you must also check your house. Dengue will lose again."

Some preventive measures for dengue include draining stagnant water from home, surroundings, and vases, changing the water stored in coolers, or adding a small layer of oil or petrol in the accumulated water, and always covering the water tanks with a lid.

Minister distributes food, sweets to slum dwellers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Union Minister Parshotam Rupala on Saturday distributed food and sweets to the residents of the Bilaspur slum cluster in Badarpur Assembly Constituency.

Mr. Rupala, along with Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, Ramvir

RALCO TYRES TREAD NEW PATHS

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Take action
for wrong
test reports'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DEHRADUN

The Uttarakhand government on Saturday ordered stern action against Dehradun private labs in giving wrong COVID-19 test reports.

Chief Secretary Om Prakash asked Dehradun DM Ashish Kumar Shrivastava to take stringent action against such labs. The order came following complaints that some people who tested positive for COVID-19 at private labs tested negative at government hospitals, an official said.

AAP MP to appear before U.P. police today

Charges against Sanjay Singh include sedition, promoting enmity between classes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjay Singh is scheduled to appear before the Uttar Pradesh police on Sunday in connection with a sedition case filed against him, a party spokesman said.

The Uttar Pradesh police had lodged an FIR against the Rajya Sabha MP under various IPC sections on September 2 at the Hazratganj police station here for undertaking a survey, a senior State government official said.

A sedition charge under 124(A) was also included in the notice sent to Mr. Singh

by the police on Thursday, sources said.

'May be arrested'

"Sanjay Singh will appear before the Hazratganj police on Sunday morning and give arrest," AAP State spokesman Vaibhav Maheshwari said

on Saturday.

The notice, sent to Mr. Singh at his New Delhi address, besides other charges also mentions charges under IPC 124 A, 153 A (promoting enmity between classes), and 153 B (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration).

"The charges are serious



I exposed the Yogi govt.'s scams, says Sanjay Singh.

and non-bailable. You are requested to reach on September 20 at 11 a.m. for presenting facts and evidence. If you fail to remain present, action will be taken against you," the notice, sent by Hazratganj police station Investigator

Officer A.K. Singh, read.

Besides Mr. Singh, the company which conducted the survey has also been slapped with sedition and other charges, the IO said.

On Friday, Mr. Singh had said that a case of sedition was filed against him in Uttar Pradesh after he exposed in Parliament the alleged corruption and scams taking place under the Yogi Adityanath government.

"I know I will be sent to jail soon because I exposed the Yogi government. Why, just because I raised the issue of killings and scams in U.P.," he had said.

Odisha forms narco coordination centre

Police seize marijuana worth ₹1 crore, arrest five in Koraput

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

Meanwhile, the Odisha police seized one ton ganja in Koraput on Saturday. Acting on a tip-off, the Koraput police stopped a van at Kokriguda junction under Semi-liguda police station limit of Koraput and seized the drug.

"We have arrested five persons. One ton ganja, with market value ₹1 crore, was seized. We are investigating to unravel the smuggling network in the State," said Semi-liguda Inspector in-charge Dhiren Kumar Behera.

Going by the frequent seizures by the police, the excise department and the Special Task Force of the Crime Branch, alleged smug-

glers are getting desperate to shift ganja which is grown and harvested in hinterlands of Odisha, the police said.

Mr. Behera said the Semi-liguda police had confiscated 30 quintals ganja being smuggled out of the State in recent times.

Big seizures

The State Crime Branch STF had seized 10.46 quintals (1,046 kg) ganja at Jeypore-Baipariguda road and arrested two alleged drug peddlers on August 21. The STF claimed two big seizures – 474 kg ganja on August 19 and 850 kg weed on July 28 in Koraput.

CLASSIFIEDS

thehinduads.com

MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

BRIDES WANTED

BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

Classification common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms

Assamese

Awadhi

Bengali

Bhojpuri

Bihari

Chhattisgarhi

English

Gujarati

Haryanvi

Hindi

Kannada

Kashmiri

Konkani

Malayalam

Manipuri

Marathi

Marwari

Nepali

Oriya

Parsi

Punjabi

Saurashtra

Sindhi

Tamil

Telugu

Tulu

Urdu

Advocate

Business

Defence

Doctor

Engineer

Finance/ Banking

Government/ Quasi-Govt.

IAS / Allied Services

Information Technology

MBA / CA / ICWA

NRI

Cosmopolitan

Divorcee

Physically Challenged

MARRIAGE BUREAUS

WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

DOCTOR

Hindu Doctor 32 / 156 well settled. Wanted MBBS / MD groom. Caste no bar. Ct: 98430 75979.

DOCTOR, M.S.(OG), Fair, Good looking, 29yrs, 163cm, SC, AD girl in Govt service seeks MD, MS, DM, MCh Groom from 33 years. Caste no bar, Ct: 9788855751

VANEELA CHETTIAR DOCTOR 26/152cm MS(ENT) Karaikal, Pondy. Doctor parents. Seeking handsome (MD/MS) doctor clean habit groom. Ct : 98427 74997

MD ANESTHESIA, final year, Chennai girl, 31 / 165, slim, beautiful, homely. Father Malayalee Mother Tamil. Smart Doctor boys 31 to 33 MS MD MCh from Kara and Tamil-Nadu preferred. Ct: 9840985383

NAIR GIRL, 29/162cms, Final year MS General Surgery in National Institute seeks alliance from PG/Speciality doctors. Parents Doctors (Thrusur). Contact 9447527366

WE ARE looking for an alliance for our daughter, aged (26) years, residing in (USA), height (160 cm), doing MD medicine in USA, (Sunni Muslim). The bridegroom should be religious. Malayalam/ Tamil , post graduate doctor/ engineer, willing to pursue career in USA. Age (28-32) years. Contact details: 00966502212067 or Email: mdnooh17413@gmail.com.

SC ARUNTHI Kannai Astham, B.E, MBA, 29Yr, 163cm, IT Professional Chennai based. Caste No Bar. Ct Bar: 9840763795

HINDU SC PR, 24yrs/ 5.6, Poosam, Kadagam, MBBS, Parents Govt. Govt. MBBS with MD/ MS/ MCh Groom preferably Govt below 28yrs. Contact: 94446 53878

GRAMMANI, 32/152 cm - Thiruvallikeni, B.Com, MBA, Seeks Edu Employed groom, Caste No bar. Ct: 9445287838

HINDU DKV Pallan MD Paediatric fair good looking girl 28/158 cm from same caste Ct: 0875228968

SEEKING ALLIANCE for SC/ AD bride, 30 yrs/ 158 cm, B.E, Kettai/ Viruchigam, AD girl in PSU. Ct: 8056404941/4449595634

SC ARUNTHI Kannai Astham, B.E, MBA, 29Yr, 163cm, IT Professional Chennai based. Caste No Bar. Ct Bar: 9840763795

DOCTOR GROOM WANTED

Doctor MBBS MD MRCPCH 35/167 fair Protestant Tamil Christian Nadar BC working in London UK innocent divorcee no issues seeks Tamil Christian Doctor Groom MBBS MD/MS Caste no bar PH: 98435 26370

Kerala Hindu Lady Doctor Working in UK 31/153, 48yrs. Seeks Alliance from Doctors of Professionals below 36 years Working in UK. Contact : 9004596546

ENGLISH

31 YEARS/ 5'4", Mudaliar/ Naidu, very fair, good looking Doctor bride from affluent family, pursuing super speciality seeks tall, good looking well placed girl preferably Doctors/ Civil services/ Engineers. Contact 8825800162/940219064

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

HINDU MBBS, I.R.S (I.T), Seeks Groom SC/ Caste No Bar. Contact : 9382743021

MALAYALAM

MALAYALI VISWAKARMA GS Uthiram, MBA, 31/55", Sr. IT Consultant in MNC. Seeking educated and employed Groom. Ct No. 09445651626, 09790739037

VISWAKARMA-EZHAVA girl, 33/154, Uthiram, M.Sc., M.Phil, PhD in Madras University in Chennai, seeks well educated grooms of similar background. Ct: 7902427861

TM BASED fair girl .BTech doing final MBA (IIM). Well settled family. Elder brother super speciality doctor ..Looking for professionally qualified, well placed fair boys 27-31. Email: madhupriya187@gmail.com. Contact no.7356873976

PROPOSALS INVITED for Ezhava Bride P.G Doctor 33/5 from P.G Doctors, Cont-9846633668

NAIR GIRL, 26/158 Mahiram Rasi MBA only daughter seeks well educated same caste boy. Ct: 9679514281

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN VELLALAR / REDDIAR - Caste No Bar,29.154 cms, Business Analyst, Masters from Premier University in Europe with B.Tech in India. Looking for a suitable match for abroad/ India Contact: 9841411280

CHRISTIAN NADAR born again girl, fair, good looking, 14-10-1994 born / 163 cms tall / B.A, B.Ed, working in Chennai. Suitable alliance wanted, employed or business man in TamilNadu, with clean habits from same community. Contact: 9478203593

FROM DECENT family background for divorced, good looking educated BE, employed, aged 29, AD alliance proposed, decently employed broad minded invited. Caste no bar. CT: 9487203593

AGAMUDAIYA MUJALIR / Devar : 23/ Fair, MBBS, Having own Educational Institutions, Chennai, Elite Family, Seeks Groom Doctor / Business - 9839012419

HINDU ADDRAVIDAR Kongu Parayar 29 BE, M.Tech, PhD seeks Educated Prof. Ct: 9755814647/ 8973345370

TAMIL IYENGAR Girl 36 B.Sc seeking any Brahmin Boy- 9940511022

SAVA PILLAI (Kaar Kaarthar), 29/165cm, Sc. Computer Science, Divorcee, Ear ms 160 Cms 32 yrs affluent similar profiles welcomed language no bar. Ph: 9894 38642

COSMOPOLITAN

35/ 162 cm/ MBA/ Pokanati/ own business/ Magam Star/ No Cheval Dosham/ ph- 09176297452

SM 29/154 Kama, Doctor, Divorcee Non Consummated Marriage and Affluent from Doctors, Engineers, Business Families. Whatup- 9979848042/ director7765@gmail.com

DIVORCEE

MAHAM BE MS UK / online tutorials at Coimbatore 6L pa 24 Manai TC/16 vedu fair 1983 born 155cm innocent. Divorcee no child seeks any chettiar broadminded groom Biocdata Photo Horoscope mail anugraham29@gmail.com

HYD BASED Muslim issueless divorcee girl 33/ 5'4" seeks suitable match of a boy divorcee/widow. Contact: 9703003891, 9959015705

SC 36 Tamil BSMS Pvt Clinical Trial Bangalore. Contact: 9629540705.

DOCTOR

DOCTOR MD Premier Institute Gynaecologist Yes/ Vadam 30 Fair 172 Seek Suitable Boys Doctors CT: 8289011900 8301090414

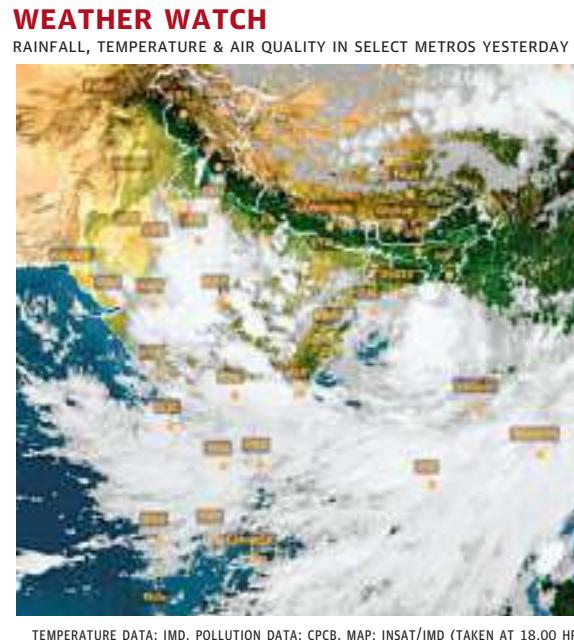
TAMIL

SAIVA PILLAI 27/169 MCA working in MNC Bangalore looking for suitable Groom from Saiva Pillai/ Mudalar/ Chettiar Ct: 9444916819

RC CHRISTIAN Fernando Doctor, 25/ 170 cm looking for a Doctor Groom from Same Community. Contact email: holyspiritpm20@gmail.com

SUITABLE CHRISTIAN groom for my daughter aged 33 years. Caste no bar, Ct: 98403 75979.

CSI CHRISTIAN



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

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at a few isolated places over Tripura, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, coastal Karnataka, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Rayalseema, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...36.0...	27.0	20.0	Kozhikode	37.7...	26.2...	23.8
Ahmedabad	...35.0...	27.3	20.0	Kurnool	54.5...	28.1...	23.6
Aizawl	...29.9...	21.3	15.0	Lucknow	...35.7...	27.6	20.0
Allahabad	...34.1...	27.8	20.0	Madurai	...32.6...	25.8	20.0
Bengaluru	...25.8...	20.9	15.0	Mangalore	71.2...	26.2...	23.0
Bhopal	...35.0...	25.2	20.0	Mumbai	2...	30.1...	25.0
Bhubaneswar	4.8...	36.3...	26.2	Mysuru	...27.0...	21.0	15.0
Chandigarh	...36.6...	24.8	18.0	New Delhi	...37.3...	28.0	20.0
Chennai	76.2...	30.6...	23.1	Patna	...34.0...	26.2	18.0
Coimbatore	...29.2...	22.8	17.0	Port Blair	11.1...	28.4...	24.1
Dehradun	...33.0...	23.9	18.0	Puducherry	0.3...	32.7...	25.3
Gangtok	...24.7...	16.9	10.0	Pune	...30.2...	22.4	15.0
Goa	29.8...	29.7...	22.9	Raipur	...35.0...	25.5	20.0
Guwahati	...36.0...	24.8	18.0	Ranchi	15.8...	29.4...	22.5
Hubballi	...26.0...	22.0	17.0	Shillong	0.1...	27.0...	17.9
Hyderabad	0.5...	30.4...	23.7	Shimla	...28.4...	18.6	10.0
Imphal	0.5...	33.2...	19.8	Srinagar	...29.6...	10.4	5.0
Jaipur	...36.0...	28.6	20.0	Thiruvananthapuram	12.6...	30.5...	23.9
Kochi	12.2...	28.0...	24.4	Tiruchi	...31.4...	25.4	20.0
Kohima	11.4...	29.3...	17.6	Vijayawada	0.5...	31.7...	26.0
Kolkata	0.1...	35.4...	26.1	Vishakhapatnam	...34.6...	27.6	20.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bhopal, Rajasthan recorded an unhealthy quality index (AQI) score of 224 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Kannur, Kerala recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

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

KKM artistes remanded in judicial custody till Oct. 3

Trio was in NIA custody till Saturday in Bhima-Koregaon violence case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) court on Saturday remanded three Kabir Kala Manch (KKM) artistes in judicial custody till October 3 in the Bhima-Koregaon violence case.

While the NIA arrested Sagar Gorkhe (32) and Ramesh Gaichor (38) on September 7, Jyoti Jagtap (32) was picked up from Kondhwa in Pune the next day. The NIA, however, allowed the trio to carry some books to read and write. With the arrest of the members of the Pune-based cultural group, the number of accused in the case has gone up to 15.

Earlier, the trio was remanded in NIA custody till September 19. Special public prosecutor Prakash Shetty, who appeared for the NIA, had sought Ms. Jagtap's custody on the ground that her name figured in the original FIR registered in the case on



Kabir Kala Manch members at a performance. ■ FILE PHOTO

January 8, 2018. Mr. Shetty said Ms. Jagtap, along with the other arrested accused, hatched a "deep-rooted conspiracy" and committed serious offences having severe impact on society are under investigation since a long period. In this situation, she requires to be interrogated in the line of the earlier progress of investigation. Prima facie, there is

lodged, several accused were arrested and a probe was launched. He said, "As noticed, serious offences having severe impact on society are under investigation since a long period. In this situation, she requires to be interrogated in the line of the earlier progress of investigation. Prima facie, there is

Modi govt. has brought two anti-farmer bills: Sena

Party questions Centre's policies on trade, agriculture; praises Vajpayee-era NDA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The Shiv Sena on Saturday questioned the Narendra Modi government's policies on economy, trade and agriculture, and alleged that the Centre was moving towards privatisation of airports, the Air India and the Railways and giving the control of farmers' lives to traders and private players.

The party alleged that the Centre introduced Bills on agriculture "without consulting" its allies, farmers' organisations or opposition parties, and said the resignation of Union minister Har-simrat Kaur Badal has brought the issue to the fore.

In an editorial in its mouthpiece *Saamana*, the Sena said the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) dur-

ing the time of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was "different" as they used to "treat the NDA constituents with respect and consult with them". Shiromani Akali Dal [SAD] member Har-simrat Kaur Badal has resigned from the Union Cabinet. The Modi government brought two anti-farmer bills [in Parliament] and she resigned in protest. The Shiv

Sena has already walked out of the NDA and now comes the SAD's move," it said.

"During the time of Vaj-

payee, the NDA allies used to be treated with respect, affection and trust. There used to be consultations on policy decisions and BJP leaders would hear out the views of the allies. In those times, spoken word had value," the Sena said in the editorial.

Tiger kills woman in Yavatmal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NAGPUR

A 60-year-old woman was killed by a tiger at a village in Pandharkawda forest division in Yavatmal district on Saturday.

The woman was attacked while she was working in a field at Mouza Andharwadi village at 12 p.m., an official from Pandharkawda forest department said. The tiger from Tipeshwar reserve has been on the move in farms of Andharwadi, Kopamandhi, Vasri and Kobai villages for the last two months and has preyed on cattle.

Personnel from the Special Tiger Protection Force from Melghat and forest staff of Pandhakawda have been tracking and monitoring the tiger, he said.

The boy is at the David Sassoon shelter home and will join his parents as soon as possible, the officer said.

can in Wadala and he told her he had run away from his home. "The success in tracing Dhruv shows what could happen if community safety networks existed in India," said Rahi Suryawanshi, senior associate in Communication and Advocacy at Aangan Trust, of which Sunita is a volunteer.

"The next time a child goes missing, a community safety volunteer can immediately alert peer networks and locate and repatriate the child to safety," Rahi's colleague Mizaan Tejani said.

The boy is at the David Sassoon shelter home and will join his parents as soon as possible, the officer said.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

HOMAGE TO OUR FOUNDER TRUSTEE

None can forget his astounding contribution to Ayurveda.

He was kind and generous to the core.

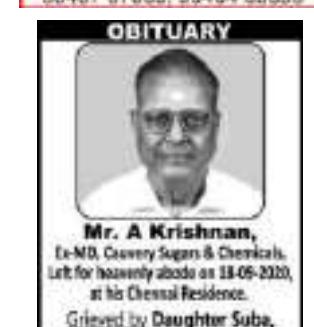
He was a Superhuman passing through a human experience.



DEATH



MR. C.B. THOTHADRI
Retd. Chief Manager,
Bank of Baroda
Ex-employee, Sri City
DOB 05th SEP 1944
DOD 14th SEP 2020
15th Day Ceremony
On 28th Sep 2020 At 9 am.
4D, Ellora Apartments, 20,
Thirumurthy Street,
T.Nagar, Chennai - 600017
98407 07005, 99404 03336

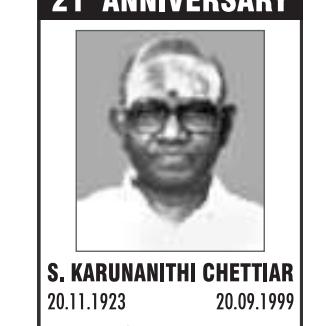


MR. A. KRISHNAN
Ex-MD, Covery Sugars & Chemicals.
Left for heavenly abode on 18-09-2020,
at his Chemical Residence.
Grieved by Daughter Suba,
Son in Law Ganesh, Grandson Praneet,
Relatives and Friends.
Phone no : 98846413982

P.HARINATH (82), Retired Deputy Accounts Officer, THE HINDU, Chennai passed away on 18-09-2020. Address: 29, DABC Layout, Venkataapuram, Menambedu, Ambattur, Chennai-600053. Ct: 9840690320

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21st ANNIVERSARY



S. KARUNANITHI CHETTIAR
20.11.1923 20.09.1999
of Devakottai
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Padmashri P.R.KRISHNAKUMAR
23rd September 1951 - 16th September 2020
*Adveshta sarvabutanam maitrah karuna eva cha
Nirmamo nirahankarah samaduhkhasukhah kshami ||13||
Santushtah satatam yogi yatatma
Drdhanischayah
Mayyarpitamanobuddhhyo madbhaktah sa me priyah ||14||
- Bhagavat Gita Chapter XII (verses 13 & 14)*
**TRUSTEES AND STAFF OF
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SRIPERUMBUDUR, TAMILNADU**



'SC mute spectator as students, academics charged under UAPA'

Court's decline coincides with NDA rule from 2014: Justice Shah

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

Justice A.P. Shah, retired Chief Justice of Delhi and Madras high courts, said the Supreme Court was a mute spectator while the police charged protesters, students, academics and poets with sedition and booked them under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the Delhi riots case this year.

He said protesters were labelled anti-national and accused of "destabilising the government", but the apex court found reasons not to address the case.

Justice Shah made the comments while delivering the Justice Hosbet Suresh Memorial Lecture on the topic, 'The Supreme Court in Decline: Forgotten Freedoms and Eroded Rights', through videoconferencing.

"The start of the Supreme Court's decline coincided with the coming to power of the BJP-led NDA government in 2014. Every institution, mechanism or tool that is designed to hold the executive accountable is being systematically destroyed since 2014," he said.

A former chairperson of the Law Commission, Justice Shah spoke about the role of the Supreme Court in different times. He said the apex court is tilting more towards the executive than making it accountable through constitutional me-



Justice A.P. Shah

chanisms and institutions. The court has failed to protect rights and counter majoritarianism, he said.

Justice Shah cited the Sabarmati and Ayodhya judgments, where the apex court compromised the principle of rule of law to rule in the favour of the government. "In the Ayodhya judgment, the court despite acknowledging the illegalities committed by the Hindus in 1949 and 1992, effectively rewarded the wrongdoer," he said.

Justice Shah said the Supreme Court instead of dealing with the issue of fundamental rights over the internet and communication shutdown in Jammu & Kashmir handed over the issue to the executive-led Special Review Committee. He said, "This has added to the sufferings of the population of Jammu & Kashmir on the fronts of health, education, business and economy."

Akalis feared loss of 'farmer' vote bank

Quitting govt. is 'nothing but a face-saving act of the party'

VIKAS VASUDEV
CHANDIGARH

After flip-flops on the Centre's agriculture sector legislations, the Shiromani Akali Dal's decision to quit the government is being seen as a last-ditch effort of the party to save its core "farmer" vote bank, said political analysts.

They feel that the entire episode shows the disconnect of the Akali Dal with the masses, and for the party, it would be a Herculean task to win back the trust of its core vote bank.

'Not an easy task'
"The SAD extended support to the ordinances, and it was only after watching farmers' anguish over the ordinances that it took a U-turn on the issue. Resignation of Ms. Harsimrat Kaur Badal seems to be a damage-control exercise to appease farmers, who had been their core vote bank. But it may not be an easy task. Farmers realise that it was after their protests and agitations that the Akali Dal took a decision to back them, until then, the party was supporting the ordinances," said Ronki Ram, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Chair professor of political science at Panjab University.

"In the backdrop of this episode, the farmers would now be apprehensive of expectations from the Akali Dal. What is the guarantee that in future the party will take up and address their concerns on its own? The Akali Dal will find it difficult to convince farmers on this question. It won't be an easy task for the Akali Dal to regain trust," he said.

Another possible reason



Harsimrat Kaur Badal resigned on Thursday. ■

behind the resignation has been the pressure from within the party. "Many leaders, including seniors P.S. Chandramajra and former Minister Sikander Singh Maluka, had cautioned the party leadership on the issue. This pressure had also worked it seems," Mr. Ram added.

Ashutosh Kumar, professor of political science at Panjab University, said the episode showed the disconnect of the Akali Dal with the masses. "The leadership finally realised that they are in trouble of losing their vote bank. They claim themselves to be saviours of farmers, but after seeing farmers' protests surrounding the Bills, the Akali Dal had to change their stance," he noted.

"It's nothing but a face-saving act of the party," he added.

Harsimrat's letter

Ms. Harsimrat Badal in her resignation letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, wrote, "In view of the decision of the Government of India to go ahead with the Bill on the issue of marketing of agricultural produce without addressing and removing the apprehensions of the farmers and the decision of my party, Shiromani Akali Dal, not to be a part of anything that goes against the interests of the farmers, I find it impossible to continue to perform my duties as a Minister in the Union Council of Ministers."

'Oppn. picking Congress manifestos selectively'

Nowhere had the party spoken about bringing changes Centre is imposing, says Punjab CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Saturday accused the Aam Aadmi Party of misleading the people by picking selective portions of Congress manifestos "which did not even remotely propose" any of the anti-farmer moves that the BJP-led Centre government was trying to push.

Instead of flashing the manifesto copies, AAP should have made the effort to read the relevant parts first, said the Chief Minister in a statement.

Referring to Congress manifestos for the Lok Sabha as well as the last Punjab Assembly elections, Capt. Amarinder pointed out that nowhere had the party spoken about bringing any of the changes that the Centre was trying to impose on the nation with its legislations. "In fact, the manifestos had clearly talked about strengthening the APMC (Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee) system to make it even more beneficial for the farmers," he said.

He said the State Congress manifesto of 2017 had stated that the updation of the APMC Act would be done to ensure direct access of farmers to the national and international markets through digital technology without tinkering with the existing Minimum Support Price system, while the Lok Sabha manifesto had gone a step forward to talk of further strengthening the marketing



AAP misleading people, says Amarinder Singh ■

system by repealing the existing Act and bringing in new provisions that would provide for establishment of thousands of Kisan markets to provide easy access to farmers within a range of two-three kilometres.

"When and where did the Congress ever talk of replacing APMC with contract farming and private procurement," the Chief Minister asked, lashing out at the AAP for blatantly misleading the people on the issue.

Officer shifted

Separately on Saturday, a Block Development and Panchayat Officer (BPDO) was shifted for issuing a letter claiming that a farmers' protest would be organised by the Punjab government over the issue of the farm ordinances on September 21.

Taking serious cognisance of the matter, the Chief Minister ordered shifting of the Sardulgarh BPDO to the headquarters, and immediate withdrawal of the letter issued by him regarding some farm protests which he incorrectly claimed to have been organised by the Punjab government, a government statement said here.

The directions came a day after Shiromani Akali Dal leader Daljit Singh Cheema had uploaded the BPDO letter on his Twitter handle ac-

BKU to hold protest today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

The Bharatiya Kisan Union's Haryana unit will hold a State-wide protest against the Centre's farm Bills on Sunday and block roads for three hours, even as Chief Minister Manohar Lal appealed for deferring the stir and invited them for talks.

Haryana BKU chief Gurnam Singh said the Centre did not withdraw the three ordinances and presented them as Bills which have been passed in the Lok Sabha. "Tomorrow, we will be holding a protest and block roads for three hours. However, the GT Road will not be blocked," he said on Saturday.

He said farmers from Haryana and Punjab will start a movement against the anti-farmer measures.

cusing the ruling Congress of outsourcing its programmes to the Panchayati Raj department.

The Punjab government has not organised any such protest, as claimed by the BPDO, according to the statement issued on Saturday.

Far from organising any protests, the government has in fact been appealing to all political organisations to refrain from organising any public gatherings in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic, it said.

The Chief Minister has asked the officials concerned to inquire into the whole affair and pin down the responsibility for this incorrect communication, it said.

(With inputs from PTI)

INTERVIEW | LALCHAND KATARIA

'Bill will affect welfare measures'

Application of State's Act will be restricted: Rajasthan Minister

MOHAMMED IQBAL

The market fee and farmers' welfare cess will come down sharply in the coming years, adversely affecting mandis and various welfare measures as a result of the Farmers' Produce Trade & Commerce Bill, says Lalchand Kataria in an interview. Excerpts:



Rajasthan policy was formulated keeping in mind the development of supply and value chains with emphasis on a cluster-based approach

chnery initially. Agriculture input shops and machine part shops were allowed to remain open and mandis were also exempted from the lockdown. Farmers were able to sell their produce close to their fields with new mandis being opened and direct purchase licences being issued.

What steps is the government taking to strengthen the rural economy?

■ The Bill will restrict the application of the Rajasthan Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1961, to the physical boundaries of mandis and sub-yards managed and run by the market committees formed under the law. The warehouses, silos, cold storages or other structures notified as deemed markets will also feel the impact in addition to the direct collection centres and farmer-consumer yards managed by persons holding licences. The market fee and cess will come down sharply in the coming years, adversely affecting mandis and various welfare measures for agriculturalists. The 2% cess was imposed to facilitate ease of doing farming and boost financial resources. It will be utilised for activities such as post-harvest management, market intervention and pledge loan scheme.

How did the COVID-19 lockdown affect the agriculture sector in Rajasthan?

■ The lockdown made a negligible impact on the agriculture sector though there were difficulties in smooth movement of harvesting ma-

■ A record procurement of wheat and black gram at MSP has been achieved this year. Against the Central government's target of 21.24 lakh tonnes wheat, 22.25 lakh tonnes were procured from 21.19 lakh farmers, who were paid ₹4,282 crore. Similarly, 6.16 lakh tonnes gram was procured from 2.38 lakh farmers and ₹3,001 crore were paid. The procurement of rapeseed and mustard at 3.47 lakh tonnes was less because the market price was higher than the MSP.

Have schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana benefited the farmers?

■ More than 1 crore farmers in the State have benefited from the PMFBY since 2016, with claims worth ₹10,700 crore paid to them. In the revamped scheme, the Central government has capped its previous share of premium subsidy in the ratio of 50:50 to only 25% in irrigated areas and 30% in unirrigated areas. Because of this, the State government has to pay ₹138 crore more than the Centre for insurance of kharif crops in 2020.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has laid emphasis on connecting the farmers with the industry and increasing their income. How will you help the farmers in this respect and promote value addition in agriculture?

■ The Rajasthan Agro-Processing, Agri-Business and Agri-Export Promotion Policy, 2019, has been formulated keeping in mind the development of supply and value chains with special emphasis on a cluster-based approach. The 50% subsidy provision for aggregation and collection centres, pack-house, warehouse, cold storage, reefer van, etc., will strengthen the supply chain.

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S. No	Name of work	Bid Security (EMD)	Bid Document Cost	Bid Processing fees Beltron	Contract Duration
1.	Setting up solid waste processing facility and landfill facility for Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga Municipal Corporations and its operation & maintenance for 10 years	Rs. 5,00,000.00	Rs. 20,000.00	Rs. 17700.00	9 Months
2.	Date of downloading of bid document :	From 29-09-2020 to 27-10-2020 up to 12:00PM Through website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in			
3a.	Place & Date of Pre-bid meeting :	Date 05-10-2020 Time 03:00PM ; Office-Near RajapurPul, West Boring Canal Road, Patna-80000			
3b.	Last Date of Receiving of queries :	Date 07-10-2020 upto 5:00 PM on email id- mdbuidco@gmail.com			
4.	Last date and time for uploading of bids :	Date 28-10-2020 up to 03:00PM Through website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in			
5.	Last Date and time for Submission of hard copy of bid :	Date 29-10-2020 up to 03:00PM ; Office-Near RajapurPul, West Boring Canal Road, Patna-80000			
6.	Time and date of opening of technical bids :	Date 29-10-2020 Time 04:00PM			
7.	Time and date of opening of financial bids :	To be communicated later on			
8.	Place of opening of bid :	Through website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in			
9.	Period of bids validity :	120 days			
10.	Officer inviting bids :	Chief Engineer, Design, Planning & Monitoring, (UD&HD), Patna			

11.The detailed NIT can be obtained through website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in and Chief Engineer,
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Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation, Near RajapurPul, West Boring Canal Road, Patna-800001
(Tel: 0612-2558412,Email: mdbuidco@gmail.com)
PR No. 7175(N.I.N.I.) 2020-21
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Two forest officials suspended in M.P.

Department denies incident of alleged custodial thrashing of rights activists

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

More than 1,000 villagers suspended their sit-in on the fourth day on Saturday in Burhanpur district after two forest guards were suspended for allegedly thrashing two rights activists in custody last month.

The agitation outside the Napanagar police station, led by the Jagriti Adivasi Dalit Sangathan (JADS), started on September 16 after its complaints calling for action against the forest officials responsible went unheard.

Police probe

Meanwhile, the police has started an inquiry into the alleged illegal arrest of JADS activists Kailash Jamre (38) and Pyar Singh Waskale (42) from the Burhanpur district court



Villagers staging a dharna at the Napanagar police station in Burhanpur district. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

complex on August 30, where they had gone to secure bail for two other activists, and their alleged thrashing at the Khankar range office.

JADS demanded an FIR against the Range Officer under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, and his arrest, said Nitin Varghese of the organisation.

Rename museum after Surajmal, demand Jats

Community organisation says Shivaji didn't do much for the Braj region

ANUJ KUMAR
GHAZIABAD

The renaming of the Mughal Museum in Agra by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath after Maratha warrior Shivaji has opened a Pandora's box.

Even as the officials of the Tourism department were scratching their heads to find a cogent link of Shivaji with Agra, the Jat Mahasabha on Friday presented a memorandum addressed to the Chief Minister to the district administration demanding that the museum be named after Jat ruler Surajmal as he ruled parts of the Braj area for a significant period of time and he and his son Jawahar Singh emerged as strong counter forces to the Mughals in the region.

Kapton Singh Chahar, the district president of the Mahasabha, said that though they had great respect for Chhatrapati Shivaji, he didn't do much for the

region.

"In fact, when he was imprisoned by the Mughals during Aurangzeb's reign, Raja Surajmal's forefather Rajmal Jat helped him escape from Agra when he was imprisoned in the haveli of Ram Singh," he claimed.

Getting bizarre

Ali Nadeem Rezavi, eminent historian and former chairperson of the history department at Aligarh Muslim University, said it is getting bizarre by the day. "Having burned the bones of Akbar by digging up his grave (in Sikandra), they (Jats) have a better claim for the museum?" he wondered.

Mr. Chahar said it was a reaction to the brutal killing of farmer rebel Goluka during Aurangzeb's reign.

U.P. Tourism department Deputy Director Amit Shrivastava said the government had roped in a private architectural firm, Archohm, to chalk out a business plan for

the museum.

Sanctioned during the Samajwadi Party government, the museum is located on the eastern gate of the Taj Mahal. "It is a ₹194-crore project out of which ₹72 crore has been sanctioned so far. It will take at least a year for it to be completed."

On what will be displayed in the museum, Mr. Shrivastava said it was still early days but confirmed a part of it would be dedicated to Braj culture.

Manvendra Kumar Pandhir, professor of history at AMU, said Braj culture had no links with Shivaji. "And if it is about Braj culture, how far will you go back? Will the Kushana artefacts also be included?" he said.

For Braj culture, he said, it would be better to create a research centre in Mathura or surrounding areas of archaeological importance.

Lamenting that we are living in times when ignorance and hate reigns supreme,

Prof. Rezavi said, "To date, records of Mughal grants to Brindavan temples survive."

He felt as per well-laid-out traditions, the site of museum dictated the theme.

Continuous history

Asking what's in a name, Sugam Anand, head and professor of history at Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Agra, said the city's history was not limited to one period. "It is almost a continuous history. So, if a museum is built, I believe it should showcase as many facets of its past as possible," he said.

Remains of Buddhist, Jain, Shakya and Vaishnav temples have been found in the region, said Prof. Anand. Naming an institution, he said, was often a political tool used by the government of the day. "If it was

FROM PAGE ONE

9 suspected al-Qaeda operatives arrested

The police said Hasan reached Pathalam after the lockdown restrictions were eased. Iyakub Biswas was working in a hotel at Perumbavoor. Mosaraf Hossen has been settled in Perumbavoor with his family for the last 10 years. The accused had taken up various jobs at construction sites and factories, they said.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said in Thiruvananthapuram that the arrest of the suspected al-Qaeda operatives posed no immediate security threat to Kerala.

(With inputs from Kochi)

Miles to go for a safer childbirth in Kalahandi

The ordeal of the new mothers does not end with childbirth as they face the punishing return journeys home with their fragile newborns.

However, despite the immense challenges, an increasing number of women have been opting for an institutional delivery.

Of the 40 deliveries reported from the water-locked 16 villages in 2019-20, 13 were recorded from the hospital. Further, a majority of women who had delivered their babies at home, came to the hospital for antenatal care.

Role of health workers

The deployment of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) and Auxiliary Nursing Midwives (ANMs) in the 16 villages proved to be the turning point. The health workers persuaded the women to opt for institutional deliveries. Moreover, a conditional transfer of ₹5,000 as maternity benefit under the 'Mamata Scheme', referral transport assistance and an additional ₹1,000 in transport costs for women in inaccessible areas have also encouraged them to approach hospitals.

The expenses incurred on institutional deliveries for the women of N Podapadar, however, far exceed the benefits extended by the government. The two-way boat ride across the reservoir and the autorickshaw trip cost around ₹2,200, while a woman is entitled to a transport subsidy of ₹1,400 only. The additional ₹1,000 transport cost announced by the government is yet to reach many of the

beneficiaries. Added to this are the expenses borne by the family members or friends who must accompany the woman on the long journey and her stay at the hospital. Each day also means loss of earnings for these daily wage labourers.

"More than 200 villages, mostly in remote areas of Nabarangpur and Kalahandi districts, depend on our hospital. We register about 700 births every year. Despite difficult terrain hindering access to health services, more and more mothers are coming forward for institutional deliveries," said D.B. Panda, a doctor at Tenthulikunti CHC.

N. Podapadar panchayat lost links to the mainland due to Indravati reservoir project for which former Prime Minister Morarji Desai had laid the foundation stone on April 4, 1978. In the early 1990s, more than 17,000 families faced displacement. Those who did not opt for resettlement continued to live in villages whose surrounding areas were submerged in the reservoir.

Dillip Das, chairman of a Bhawanipatna-based NGO, said more than 200 people have so far drowned in the Indravati reservoir. "In 2014-15, a fund of ₹54 crore was sanctioned for construction of a bridge to connect the 16 water-locked villages.

Another ₹60 lakh was sanctioned for expediting the construction of another bridge. However, the bridge that could have been a lifeline remains elusive," Mr. Das said.

Delhi journalist held for 'passing info' to Chinese

Agencies are trying to establish how Mr. Sharma accessed the sensitive information. The nature of information shared with the Chinese was also not clear.

Wrote for think tank
Mr. Sharma, 61, a political commentator accredited by the Press Information Bureau, and strategic analyst, has earlier worked with *The Tribune* newspaper and was also associated with the Vivenkanda International Foundation (VIF), a think tank whose founding director is National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval. Following his arrest, a webpage linking his work to the VIF has been removed.

On the day of his arrest, he posted on his LinkedIn page that, "Despite the five-point peace plan reached between #india and #china in #moscow last week, China can still do much mischief and the only mantra for India in dealing with the #chinese must be: distrust and verify."

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Sanjeev Yadav said on Saturday that the other two accused have been identified as Qing Shi and Sher Singh alias Raj Bohra, a native of Nepal, who were allegedly supplying money to Mr. Sharma, routed through hawala channels for sharing sensitive information to Chinese intelligence.

Police said they had received an input from an intelligence agency that Mr. Sharma, resident of Pitam-

pura, was having links with foreign intelligence officer and had been receiving money through illegal means and Western Union Money Transfer following which a case under sections of the OSA was registered on September 13 and Mr. Sharma was arrested the next day. "Laptop, confidential documents related to Indian Defence department and other incriminating documents were recovered," Mr. Yadav said.

During interrogation, Mr. Sharma allegedly told police of his involvement in procurement of sensitive information and then conveying it to his handlers Michael and George, based in Kunming in China.

"He said he had sent several documents in the form of reports to his handlers and got a handsome remuneration for it," Mr. Yadav said.

Who is Qing Shi?

A senior government official said Qing Shi, 30, first arrived in India in 2013 on a student visa. She enrolled in two courses at a Central university in Delhi and pursued Masters in nursing and completed a course in English language. Her latest "business visa" was issued on July 18 last year.

Till 2017 while living in Delhi, she worked for KEDI Healthcare, a Nigeria-based healthcare products company with business interests in pharma sectors in China, promoting traditional Chinese medicines globally.

Second wave of cases likely, says Kerala CM

Failure to adhere to safety norms taking a toll; Kerala adds 4,644 cases, T.N. 5,569, A.P. 8,218, Karnataka 8,364 and Telangana 2,123

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The COVID-19 tally continued its steady rise in the southern States with Karnataka reporting 8,364 new cases on Saturday. With 114 more people dying, the toll rose to 7,922.

After remaining at over one lakh for three days, active cases dropped to 98,564. Of these, 822 patients were in hospital ICUs. Bengaluru Urban reported

3,733 cases. With 33 of 114 deaths from Bengaluru, the city's toll rose to 2,625.

The daily testing rate stood at 63,784 including 28,822 rapid antigen tests.

Kerala's rising trend continued with 4,644 new cases on Saturday; 47,452 samples were tested in one day. The State's official death

toll surged to 519, as 18 deaths, which occurred between August 29 and September 17 were added to the provisional list.

Among new cases, almost 84% were locally acquired infections.

New cases in Thiruvananthapuram surged to 824 on Saturday. The capital district had the highest number of active cases at 6,721.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan told the media that lack of vigil and protocol violations were exacting a heavy price.

An institutional cluster around a private hospital in Pathanamthitta had resulted in 55 cases.

COVID-19's second wave was imminent in the country, when the situation could become worse, Mr. Vijayan said, quoting experts.

Telangana recorded 2,123 cases on Friday. While 54,459 people were tested on

Viral fight

Spraying disinfectants is one of the strategies adopted to contain the spread of COVID-19 in many States. The graph shows the spread of the pandemic in the southern States



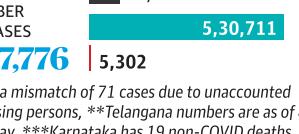
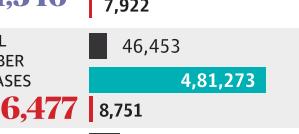
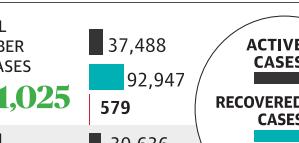
All set: A sanitation worker readying to disinfect a mobile testing centre in Vijayawada on Saturday.

■ V RAJU

September 18, results of 1,025 were awaited. There were nine more deaths. There were 305 cases from Greater Hyderabad, 185 from Rangareddy, 149 from Med-

chal Malkajgiri, 135 from Nalgonda, 112 from Karimnagar, 93 from Khammam. Of the 30,636 were active cases.

For the sixth day, Andhra



*Kerala has a mismatch of 71 cases due to unaccounted deaths, missing persons, **Telangana numbers are as of 8 p.m. on Friday, ***Karnataka has 19 non-COVID deaths

81,763. In the last two weeks, an average of 71,311 samples were tested per day and 9,317 of them returned positive.

Tamil Nadu reported 5,569 COVID-19 cases on Saturday, taking the total tally of cases reported till date to 5,36,477. The number of COVID-19 patients reported as recovered was 5,556. With the total number of recoveries being 4,81,273, the State's recovery rate was at 89.7%. The State had 46,453 active cases as of Saturday.

A total of 66 persons lost their lives due to COVID-19, according to the media bulletin, taking the total death toll to 8,751.

A total of 83,265 persons were tested in the past one day, the bulletin said. The State has so far tested 61.9 lakh people.

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

Kochi prepared to deal with any terror threat, say officials

'Southern Naval Command under heightened security'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOCHI



Alleged al-Qaeda terrorists (L-R) Abu Sufiyan, Murshid Hasan and Mosaraf Hossen after being arrested by the NIA. ■ PTI

pared to deal with any form of terror threats," a senior officer said. "People suspected to have terror links are put on surveillance. We are always on the lookout for such elements," another senior officer said.

BJP, Cong. flay govt.

Meanwhile, the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) attacked the State government over the issue.

KPCC President Mullappally Ramachandran said, "...it is

evident that that law and or-

der machinery in the State has collapsed and it has become fertile soil for terror groups."

BJP State president K. Surendran said Kerala has become a "hideout" for terrorists under the rule of both CPI(M)-led LDF and the Congress-led UDF.

He added that the State government ignored a recent UN report on terrorism that warned that there are "significant numbers" of ISIS terrorists in Kerala and that al-Qaeda terrorists were planning attacks in the country.

Justice R. Hemalatha, the other judge in the Division Bench, agreed with the dismissal of the bail application

Observing that the country was facing danger more from elements within the country than those in enemy countries, Justice Kirubakaran said the recent Galwan valley conflict between India and China "exposed people who are lovers of the neighbouring nation as they openly support the enemy country".

He expressed shock over the existence of many such persons in the media industry.

They are not giving straightforward news and only disseminate their views in the name of news to mislead people. These elements are a threat to our nation," he added. The judge also claimed that many anti-national forces masquerade themselves as non-governmental organisations, human rights bodies and political outfits.

"There is a huge difference between fighting against people in power and fighting against the country. These elements do a lot of damage to our country and democracy and therefore people should be wary of those elements," he added.

Stating that these forces use Tamil race, Tamil culture and Tamil language as weapons for their sinister plans, the judge said that any act of the Centre perceived to be discriminatory against a particular language would add fuel to the mischievous propaganda by secessionist forces.

Crack down on secessionist forces, Madras HC tells Centre

'Don't create impression of any language being neglected'

MOHAMED IMRANULLAH S.
CHENNAI

Impressing upon the need for the Centre to prevent youth from being misled by secessionist forces functioning on the grounds of race, region, religion and language across the country, the Madras High Court has advised the Centre to not create an impression among people of any State that their language was being neglected.

Justice N. Kirubakaran made the suggestion while denying bail to R. Kalalingam, 33, of the Tamil Nadu Liberation Army (TNLA), a banned organisation. The bail applicant is accused of planting bombs in Madurai and Sivaganga districts and also under the car of Puducherry Chief Minister V. Narayanasamy in 2014.

He added that the State government ignored a recent UN report on terrorism that warned that there are "significant numbers" of ISIS terrorists in Kerala and that al-Qaeda terrorists were planning attacks in the country.

Justice R. Hemalatha, the other judge in the Division Bench, agreed with the dismissal of the bail application

but did not concur with any of the observations made by Justice Kirubakaran in the 48-page verdict, which accused many political parties too of encouraging "linguistic chauvinism to harvest political dividends".

The senior judge also said Naxalism was now raising its ugly head in Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and the borders of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

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Poll to Ladakh council on October 16

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

The Ladakh administration on Saturday announced that the election for the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Leh (LADHC-Leh) will be held on October 16 in 26 constituencies.

"The voting will take place on October 16 in 26 constituencies of the Council," said Saugat Biswas, Secretary, Election Department, in a notice.

Sachin Kumar Vaishya, District Magistrate, Leh, announced a model code of conduct for the district and directed all political parties and independent candidates to follow the guidelines.

The decision comes amid the objections raised recently by some major parties like the Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the BSP. The parties argued that the ongoing Indo-China border tensions have left many border areas out of bounds for campaigning.

The 26-member LAHDC-Leh was established in 1995 to handle governance issues at the local level. The previous polls were held in 2015.

Army races to stock for winter

Thousands of troops need to dig in along the LAC in sub-zero temperatures

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

As India and China prepare for another round of Corps Commander-level talks for disengagement and de-escalation along the disputed boundary in Ladakh, the Army is racing to complete advance winter stocking in forward locations and build habitat for the thousands of additional troops deployed in high-altitude areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), a defence source said.

The sixth round of talks are likely to be held in the next two or three days, another defence source said. Ahead of the talks, the ground situation and future course of action was reviewed at a high-level government meeting on Friday.

"It is not just about stocks reaching Leh. It's about the rations and other essentials reaching the forward areas where troops are deployed. It is under way in full swing. Then there is also storage. Stocks cannot be left out in the open. There are limitations of storage space with additional stocks coming in. They are also being created," the source said. In Leh, heavy snowing occurs by the end of November, so there is



Racing against clock: A convoy carrying material on the Manali-Leh highway on Saturday. ■PTI

still some time, the source stated. Frosting has already started in many places and any stagnant water gets frozen at night. Temperatures have already dipped to minus zero degrees Celsius in super high-altitude areas, the source added.

Two major roads

The two major road axis used by the Army for sending supplies to Leh are Zojila and Rohtang. Rohtang gets blocked by the end of October, while Zojila can continue till mid-November. The routes are being kept open longer than normal, a senior Army officer had stated ear-

lier. After that, it will be only air maintenance using Indian Air Force C-17 and IL-76 transport aircraft to move loads to Leh, and helicopters to deliver them to forward locations.

The logistical management needs careful planning so that supplies to high-altitude areas in other sectors is not affected, the source said.

The Army has moved around 30,000 troops to Ladakh and forward areas since the beginning of the stand-off in May, and the massive build-up of forces by China at several places in Ladakh and along the LAC. Stating that with these addi-

tional troops, there is not enough warm habitat available to house them in the peak winter, the source said orders have been placed in time and work is on to set them up. "Extra engineering task forces have been moved but they are racing against time," the defence source said.

The second source said that since the meeting between External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Moscow on September 10, the situation has been quiet along the LAC. The Ministers had agreed on a five-point plan for disengagement.

Three LeT terrorists arrested in Rajouri

Weapons dropped by a drone found

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) police said three Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists were arrested with weapons dropped by a drone from across the Line of Control (LoC) on Saturday.

"Three persons had travelled from Kashmir to Rajouri to receive a weapon and cash consignment from across the LoC from a drone. On Friday, the trio was chased by the police and the Army. One of them hurled a grenade at the forces, which luckily did not explode and all the three persons were caught alive," said Director-General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh at a press conference in Rajouri.

The police said the three arrested persons were located at Gurdan near Rajouri town. They were identified as Rahil Bashir, alias Ayan Bhai, from Pulwama, Amir Jaan, alias Hamza, from Pulwama and Hafiz Younis Wani, alias Zubair, from Shopian.

"Amir, alias Hamza, is the one who threw a hand grenade at the search party," the police said. Mr. Singh said all the



The three terrorists during a press conference in Rajouri on Saturday. ■PTI

three are affiliated with the LeT outfit. "They were in touch with the handlers from across and had received weapons and cash through drones," he said. The neighbouring country is trying hard to keep the pot of militancy boiling in Rajouri and Poonch districts, he added. "Two AK-56 rifles, two pistols, four grenades and ₹1 lakh in cash have been recovered," he said.

Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Jammu, Mukesh Singh, said a huge consignment of heroine weighing 7 kg and worth ₹7 crore was also recovered on September 14 and one person was arrested from Kargil.

10 women IAF fighter pilots since 2016

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Ten women officers have been commissioned into the fighter stream of the Indian Air Force (IAF) since the stream was opened up for women in 2016, Parliament was informed on Saturday.

The strength of women officers serving the IAF as on September 1, 2020, is 1,875, Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha. There were also 18 women navigators.

Selection board

Separately, the Army said the Special Selection Board constituted to screen women officers for grant of Permanent Commission has commenced its proceedings at the Army headquarters on September 14.

"The board is headed by a Senior General Officer and includes a woman officer of the rank of Brigadier. Women officers have been permitted to witness the proceedings as observers in order to add transparency to the process," a statement said.

The orders follow a Supreme Court verdict in February.

SAD stood on right side of the line on farm Bills: Badal

Farmers' issue relates to overall national interests, says ex-CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

After Harsimrat Kaur Badal of the Shiromani Akali Dal, one of the oldest alliance partners of the NDA, stepped down as Minister from the Union Cabinet in protest against the Centre's three agriculture sector Bills, former Punjab Chief Minister and SAD patron Parkash Singh Badal on Saturday said the party had tried to act as a bridge to find an amicable way to accommodate farmers' interests, but when that did not seem possible, and a line had to be drawn, it stood on the right side of the line.

Mr. Badal described the party's decision to pull out of the Union government to fight alongside the farmers as "a proud and landmark moment in the party's long history of standing up for the principles and of always



Parkash Singh Badal
being on the side of the people".

Wider consultations

Mr. Badal said the legislation on the marketing of the farmers' produce needed wider consultations, especially with the stakeholders, the farmers and with parties like SAD. The party tried to convey the sentiments of the farmers to the Union government and also tried its best to persuade it to refer the legislation to an all-party se-

lect committee of MPs for wider consultations with the farmers.

"The party tried to act as a bridge to find an amicable way to accommodate the farmers' interests. But I am glad that when that did not seem possible, it did the only thing that its proud heritage demanded – quit the government. The SAD could never be a party to anything which harms the interests of the farmers."

Mr. Badal said the farmers' issue relates to the overall national interests.

The former Chief Minister said with the resignation of its sole representative in the Union Cabinet, SAD has demonstrated yet again that nothing is dearer to it than its principles and the interests of the people, especially the farmers, the farm labour and other poor classes who are toiling for their rights.

Cong. justifies objections to Bills despite similar promises

Chidambaram accuses BJP of 'surrendering to corporates'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

With the Rajya Sabha set to consider the agriculture marketing reform Bills on Sunday amid protests from most of the Opposition, the Congress is trying to refute the ruling BJP's narrative that it had promised similar reforms in its own election manifesto last year.

Rajya Sabha member and Congress leader P. Chidambaram said the party had promised to promote farmers' companies and markets with sufficient infrastructure before repealing the existing laws.

The BJP is accusing the Congress of duplicity in its opposition to the two Bills that promote barrier-free trade and facilitate the sale of farm produce outside the mandis notified under the Agricultural Produce Market Committee.

In its 2019 poll manifesto,

the Congress had gone a step further, saying it would "repeal the Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC) Act and make trade in agricultural produce – including exports and inter-State trade – free from all restrictions".

Mr. Chidambaram noted that the Congress manifesto had also promised to "promote Farmers Producer Companies/Organisations to enable farmers to access inputs, technology and markets," and to "establish farm

ers' markets with adequate infrastructure and support in large villages and small towns to enable the farmer to bring his/her produce and freely market the same". Only after these promises were accomplished, giving farmers the choice of multiple accessible markets would the Congress have gone on to repeal the APMC Act, he claimed. "The Prime Minister and the BJP spokespersons have deliberately and maliciously distorted the Congress Manifesto," said his statement.

Mr. Chidambaram accused the BJP of "surrendering to corporates and traders" and "undermining the only regulated market available to the farmer today, without creating thousands of alternative markets that will be accessible to the farmer".

The Bills were passed by the Lok Sabha on Thursday. He added that doctors

the Congress had gone a step further, saying it would "repeal the Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC) Act and make trade in agricultural produce – including exports and inter-State trade – free from all restrictions".

Mr. Chidambaram noted that the Congress manifesto had also promised to "promote Farmers Producer Companies/Organisations to enable farmers to access inputs, technology and markets," and to "establish farm

5 killed in scrub typhus outbreak

Over 600 tested positive for the disease

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The outbreak of scrub typhus, a bacterial disease, has claimed the lives of five people in Nagaland's Noklak district bordering Myanmar, officials said. More than 600 others tested positive for the disease but recovered following treatment.

Scrub typhus, also known as bush typhus, spreads to people through bites of larval mites. The symptoms include fever, headache and body ache.

The district's Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil) C. Phuniang said Noklak has had to grapple with the disease in the past too, although there has been no scientific study on the whys.

"People recover if treated in time. Unfortunately, five people died probably because they were ignorant about the disease," he said.

He added that doctors

and other healthcare workers in the district have been trying to create awareness on a large scale to contain the spread of the disease.

"Doctors have advised people to visit a hospital in case they have the symptoms. The hospitals are well-equipped with testing kits," Mr. Phuniang said.

String of diseases

Scrub typhus has been the latest in a string of viral and bacterial fatalities in the Northeast.

Apart from the novel coronavirus, which has killed 911 people in the region, vector-borne diseases such as malaria and Japanese encephalitis have accounted for 53 lives in Assam so far.

Animals have also fallen to "exotic" diseases. More than 17,000 pigs have died in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya due to African swine fever.

MSMEs not to be hit by new IBC Bill: Minister

Sitharaman says it's not a recovery law

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Saturday passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill (IBC), 2020, to ensure that fresh insolvency proceedings will not be initiated for at least six months starting March 25 amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The Bill replaces an Ordinance passed in June.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman informed the Rajya Sabha on Saturday that the IBC is not a recovery law, and saving the lives of the companies is more important than recovery of loans, which may be utilised through other options.

She said that there is a distinction between small and large borrowers, and the amount varies from ₹1 lakh to ₹1 crore. "IBC cannot be initiated for companies below ₹1 crore. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) are not going to be affected," she said.

The Finance Minister said that the provisions of the IBC will be confined to only those default payments that may arise due to the COVID-19 period, and will not affect the applications filed before March 24, when the

Three Bills in Lok Sabha to bring in changes in labour sector

To allow companies with fewer than 300 workers to cut jobs without approval, provide social security for gig workers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government on Saturday introduced three Bills in the Lok Sabha to amalgamate laws on social security, occupational safety and industrial relations, which would, among other changes, allow companies with fewer than 300 workers to terminate employment without prior approval and provide gig and platform workers social security schemes.

Labour and Employment Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar introduced the Industrial Relations Code, 2020; the Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code, 2020; and the

Code on Social Security, 2020, after some Opposition MPs opposed them citing the lack of public consultation.

Mr. Gangwar also withdrew the 2019 versions of the Bills, which were introduced and then referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour. Mr. Gangwar said the government had accepted 74% of the 233 recommendations of the committee. The three Bills are part of the government's labour law reforms agenda, of which the first, the Code on Wages, was passed in 2019. He said 29 labour laws are to be amalgamated into four codes.

Congress MP Manish Te-

riani said the government had not followed the pre-legislative consultative policy that was put in place in February 2014 of putting all Bills in the public domain for

30 days for comments. Congress MP from Kerala Shashi Tharoor said the Bills could face "judicial scrutiny".

Mr. Gangwar said the Bills had been drafted after nine

tripartite consultations, four sub-committee meetings, 10 regional conferences and 10 inter-ministerial consultations. He said 6,000 comments had been received after the Bills were put in the Ministry's website for two-three months.

The Industrial Relations Code Bill mandates companies with 300 or more workers to prepare and submit to the government standing orders regarding the conditions of service, including shift timings and termination of employment. As of now, this applies to establishment with over 100 employees, under the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act,

1946, which is among the three Acts the Bill proposes to subsume.

The Social Security Code Bill proposes to bring unorganised sector, gig workers and platform workers under the ambit of social security schemes, including life and disability insurance, health and maternity benefits, provident fund and skill upgradation. Among the 13 Acts the Occupational Safety Code proposes to subsume is the Inter-State Migrant Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, which has been highlighted during the recent migrant workers crisis due to COVID-19.

L-G unveils relief package for J&K

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

With J&K facing an estimated ₹42,000 crore loss in the past 13 months, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Kumar Sinha announced a relief-and-revival package of ₹1,350 crore to revive the Union Territory's business sector on Saturday.

"I am glad to announce the package with a message that this is just a beginning. The ₹1,350-crore economic

package is apart from the ₹1,400 crore package announced for J&K under the Atma Nirbar Abhiyan, of which ₹6,000 crore is for power sector reforms etc," Mr. Sinha said at a press conference in Srinagar.

Mr. Sinha, who met over 35 delegations since taking over the office, had constituted a committee headed by Advisor K.K. Sharma. Kashmir's top business body, the Kashmir Chamber of

Commerce and Industries (KCCI) had projected losses of around ₹42,000 crore first due to the August 5 decision last year and thereafter due to the pandemic.

"It has many components, which seek to help business entities in multiple ways such as provision of liquidity and other financial support," Mr. Sinha said.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ginsburg dies

A liberal and legal icon, she died at the age of 87 from complications caused by pancreatic cancer

SIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a liberal and legal icon, died on Friday at the age of 87 from complications caused by metastatic pancreatic cancer. Democrats and Republicans reacted to news of her death with grief even as they drew battle lines over the possibility of finding a replacement justice before the elections.

At just over 5 feet tall, Ginsburg was considered a giant in the legal world. As a lawyer, she argued cases before the Supreme Court to expand, in stages, the ambit of the U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment on equal protection to cover gender discrimination.

Born in 1933 to a Jewish family in Brooklyn, she faced numerous challenges as she worked her way to the highest court in the land. She lost her mother at 17, entered an almost exclusively male world of lawyers and judges, helped her husband Martin ('Marty') Ginsburg through cancer while they both attended Harvard Law School and raised children. Her marriage to Martin Ginsburg



Huge loss: A file photo of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. ■ AFP

— who campaigned for his wife's supreme court nomination and took on work at home traditionally expected of women — would become one of the defining partnerships of her life.

Oldest SC Justice
In 1993, then President Bill Clinton appointed her to the Supreme Court — the second woman in that position. At the time of her death, she would become the oldest Supreme Court justice and the most senior of the liberal justices. In her 27 years on the court, in writing majority opinions and dissents she

became a liberal icon through her support for gender equality, women's rights, same sex marriage, strengthening the Voting Rights Act and so forth.

Ginsburg's reputation for toughness extended outside the court. She had fought off cancer twice in her life. Treatment for a fall that broke three of her ribs in 2018 led doctors to discover that she had cancer, for the third time.

She had repeatedly said she would work as long as she could physically manage: the 5-4 conservative-liberal split in the court, with

Chief Justice John Roberts sometimes voting with liberals, would become even more conservative had Ginsburg retired. Just days before her death, Ginsburg said she hoped a replacement would not be found before the presidential elections.

"My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new President is installed," she had said in a dictated statement to her grand-daughter Clara Spera.

Popular icon

In recent years, Justice Ginsburg's reputation extended beyond feminism and the law, as she became an icon in popular culture. Known colloquially as the 'Notorious RBG' (named after the late rapper Notorious BIG) mugs, action figures, stickers, T-shirts and books, including one by her personal trainer on the 'RBG Workout' featuring Ginsburg started emerging. The Justice was known to have a tough workout regimen even in her 80s that included lifting weights and doing push-ups.

In the hours after news of her death broke, mourners gathered outside the Su-

preme Court here in Washington, bringing candles and flowers to mark Justice Ginsburg's life and passing.

President Donald Trump appeared to be taken aback when he was told of the news by reporters after a campaign event in Minnesota. "She just died? Wow," he said. "She led an amazing life... what else can you say. She was an amazing woman... whether you agreed or not, she was amazing woman who led an amazing life. I'm actually sad to hear that." He later issued a statement praising her. In 2016, Justice Ginsburg had called Mr. Trump "a faker", words she later apologised for, saying judges should refrain from commenting on candidates running for office.

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden called Ginsburg "not only a giant in the legal profession but a beloved figure". Mr. Biden said the short-term focus was on the loss of the justice and her legacy but "there is no doubt, let me be clear that the voters should pick the justice for the Senate to consider."

Battle begins for Ginsburg's replacement

Biden wants the next President to pick new Justice; Trump signals he will nominate her successor

SIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

Within hours of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death, Washington found itself preparing for an expected and fierce battle on Friday over the timing of a replacement justice for the court, weeks away from the presidential election.

Senate Majority Leader

Mitch McConnell issued a condolence message on Friday night praising Justice Ginsburg's life but also saying, "President Trump's nominee will receive a vote on the floor of the U.S. Senate." In 2016, he had blocked a (GOP controlled) Senate confirmation vote on former U.S. President Barack Obama's justice nominee Merrick Garland eleven months

before the election.

Referring to the 2016 confirmation issue following conservative justice Antonin Scalia's death, Mr. McConnell's statement said that since the 1880s, no Senate has confirmed the nominee of an opposite-party President. Mr. McConnell's statement came despite Justice Ginsburg's final public wish that a new justice not be

found till after the election. By Saturday morning, President Donald Trump had signalled his intent to nominate a new justice. The President, who has already filled two SC seats with conservative justices, tweeted to the GOP on the importance of selection of SC justices: "We have this obligation, without delay!" he wrote.

His opponent, Democratic

Abe visits controversial war shrine

Former PM's visit to the symbol of Japan's militaristic past sparks concerns

REUTERS
TOKYO

Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited the controversial Yasukuni Shrine for war dead on Saturday, his first visit since December 2013, after refraining from doing so for most of his term to avoid angering China and South Korea.

Mr. Abe announced the visit on his official Twitter account along with a photo of himself at the shrine, just days after Yoshihide Suga succeeded him as Japan's leader. Japan's longest-serving leader announced his resignation in late August, citing health problems.

The shrine is seen by Beijing and Seoul as a symbol of Japan's past military aggression because it honours 14 Japanese wartime leaders convicted as war criminals by an Allied tribunal as well as war dead.

Mr. Abe had visited the shrine in person once during



Recalling the past: Shinzo Abe's visit to the shrine in 2013 sparked outrage in South Korea and China. ■ REUTERS

his last tenure as Prime Minister but regularly sent offerings via an aide on the anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War Two and during the shrine's spring and autumn festivals.

2013 visit sparked anger
His pilgrimage to the shrine in 2013 sparked outrage in South Korea and China and

chief government spokesman under Mr. Abe, was not among the Cabinet Ministers who visited the shrine on the 75th anniversary of the end of Second World War on August 15.

Mr. Suga made a visit to the shrine in August 2011, according to a post on his official blog, well before becoming the Chief Cabinet Secretary in Mr. Abe government's in December 2012.

Washington and Tokyo have become close security allies in the decades since the war's end but its legacy has left scars in East Asia.

Ties between Tokyo and Seoul have remained strained due to bitter memories of Japan's 1910-1945 colonisation of the Korean peninsula, including a dispute over compensation for Koreans forced to work on Japan's sites during wartime. Tokyo says the matter was settled by a 1965 treaty normalising bilateral relations.

an expression of "disappointment" from the United States.

On Saturday, South Korea's Foreign Ministry released a statement expressing "deep concern and regret" that Mr. Abe paid respect at the shrine "immediately" after his resignation as Prime Minister.

Mr. Suga, who was the

and consumption locally. As Sri Lanka faces a huge economic challenge in the wake of the global pandemic, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has vowed to boost local production, while restricting import of several products.

Following the August general election, his government created separate covering a range of local products such as batik, vegetables, cane and brass.

Minister Fernando is the second to make headlines with his Ministry-related move, following State Minister of Batik, Handloom, and Local Apparel Products Dayasiri Jayasekara wore a batik shirt to Parliament for the inaugural session last month.

He also pointed to a shortage of "700 million cocoanuts" due to high demand

and consumption locally.

Tens of thousands of people gathered to mourn the controversial leader of Bangladesh's largest Islamist group as his funeral was held on Saturday in a rural southeastern town, police said.

Allama Shah Ahmad Shafi, who led the hardline Hefazat-e-Islam group since it was formed in 2010, died of age-related complications on Friday in Dhaka. He was believed to be over 100 years old.

His death came just a day after an unprecedented revolt involving thousands of students at his madrasa, forcing him to resign after three decades as its helm.

Minister climbs tree to address media

Fernando wants 'to utilise every available plot for the cultivation of coconuts'

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

In a move apparently aimed at showing a greater connect with his portfolio, a Sri Lankan Minister chose an unconventional venue to make a media statement — he was climbing a coconut tree.

Arundika Fernando, State Minister of Coconut, Kithul [palm treacle], Palmyrah and Rubber Cultivation Promotion and Related Industrial Product Manufacturing & Export Diversification, on Friday tried climbing a coconut tree, as locals and camera persons watched and filmed his slow ascent with a gadget made of large metal clips and bands around the tree's bark.

Local media said the video clip, which subsequent-



Desperate measures: Sri Lankan Minister Arundika Fernando speaking to reporters atop a coconut tree. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ly went viral online, was filmed at Dankotuwa town in Puttalam district, the Minister's constituency, located 140 km north of Colombo, in Sri Lanka's North Western Province.

"We hope to utilise every available plot for land for the

China unveils sanctions regime after U.S. ban on TikTok, WeChat

Beijing comes out with list of 'unreliable' American entities

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SHANGHAI



The sanctions will cover "foreign firms, individuals & other organisations". ■ NYT

Chinese companies.

Punitive measures may include fines against the foreign entity, banning it from conducting trade and investment in China, and restrictions on the entry of personnel or equipment into the country.

It covers "foreign enterprises, other organisations and individuals", the Ministry said.

Under Friday's U.S. order against the Chinese apps, Tencent-owned WeChat would lose functionality in the United States from Sunday. TikTok users will be banned from installing updates but could keep accessing the service through November 12.

That timeframe potentially allows for a tie-up between TikTok, owned by China's ByteDance, and a U.S. company to safeguard data for the wildly popular app to allay Washington's security concerns.

U.S. sending more troops to Syria

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

The U.S. has deployed additional troops and armoured vehicles into eastern Syria after a number of clashes with Russian forces, including a recent vehicle collision that injured four U.S. service members.

Navy Captain Bill Urban, spokesman for U.S. Central Command, said the U.S. has also sent in radar systems and increased fighter jet patrols to better protect U.S. and coalition forces.

"The U.S. does not seek conflict with any other nation in Syria, but will defend Coalition forces if necessary," said Capt. Urban.

A senior U.S. official said a half-dozen Bradley fighting vehicles and fewer than 100 additional troops were sent in to eastern Syria. It seems meant to be a clear signal to Russia to avoid 'provocative actions' against the U.S. and its allies there.

MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Government of India

PUBLIC NOTICE

A New and Comprehensive Form for New Companies

SPICe+

As part of Government of India's Ease of Doing Business (EODB) initiatives, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has notified and deployed a new Web Form christened 'SPICe+' (pronounced 'SPICe Plus').

SPICe+ offers 10 services by 3 Central Govt. Ministries & Departments and One State Govt. (Maharashtra), thereby saving many procedures, time and cost for Starting a Business in India and is applicable for all new company incorporations.

SPICe+ is an integrated Web Form. SPICe+ has two parts viz.:

PART A FOR NAME RESERVATION FOR NEW COMPANIES, and

PART B OFFERING A BOUQUET OF SERVICES:

- (i) Incorporation
- (ii) DIN allotment
- (iii) Mandatory issue of PAN
- (iv) Mandatory issue of TAN
- (v) Mandatory issue of EPFO registration
- (vi) Mandatory issue of ESIC registration
- (vii) Mandatory issue of Professional Tax registration (Maharashtra)
- (viii) Mandatory Opening of Bank Account for the Company, and
- (ix) Allotment of GSTIN (if so applied for)

- A new and user friendly Dashboard on the Front Office has been created for company incorporation application (SPICe+ and linked forms as applicable).
- The new web form facilitates On-screen filing and real time data validation for seamless incorporation of companies.
- Registration for EPFO and ESIC is mandatory for all new companies incorporated and no EPFO & ESIC registration nos. shall be separately issued by the respective agencies.
- Registration for Profession Tax is mandatory for all new companies incorporated in the State of Maharashtra.
- All new companies incorporated through SPICe+ are mandatorily required to apply for opening the company's Bank account through the AGILE-PRO linked web form.

Fernando wants 'to utilise every available plot for the cultivation of coconuts'

and consumption locally.

As Sri Lanka faces a huge economic challenge in the wake of the global pandemic, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has vowed to boost local production, while restricting import of several products.

Following the August general election, his government created separate covering a range of local products such as batik, vegetables, cane and brass.

Minister Fernando is the second to make headlines with his Ministry-related move, following State Minister of Batik, Handloom, and Local Apparel Products Dayasiri Jayasekara wore a batik shirt to Parliament for the inaugural session last month.

Bangladesh mourns Islamist leader's death

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DHAKA

Tens of thousands of people gathered to mourn the controversial leader of Bangladesh's largest Islamist group as his funeral was held on Saturday in a rural southeastern town, police said.

Allama Shah Ahmad Shafi, who led the hardline Hefazat-e-Islam group since it was formed in 2010, died of age-related complications on Friday in Dhaka. He was believed to be over 100 years old.

His death came just a day after an unprecedented revolt involving thousands of students at his madrasa, forcing him to resign after three decades as its helm.

CAMS IPO raises ₹666 cr. in anchor leg

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Warburg Pincus-backed CAMS has raised a little over ₹666 crore from anchor investors ahead of its initial share sale that opens for public subscription on Monday.

The company has finalised the allocation of 54,19,230 shares at ₹1,230 apiece to 35 anchor investors, CAMS – which acts as a registrar and transfer agent for mutual funds – said in a filing with the stock exchanges. At this price, the company garnered ₹666.56 crore.

Names of investors include SmallCap World Fund, HSBC, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, Goldman Sachs, Government of Singapore, and Nomura Funds Ireland Public Ltd.

'No decision to stop printing ₹2,000 notes'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Saturday informed the Lok Sabha that no decision had been taken to discontinue the printing of ₹2,000 denomination currency notes.

In a written reply, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur said printing of bank notes of a particular denomination was decided by the government in consultation with the RBI to maintain desired denomination mix for facilitating transactional demand of public.

During the year 2019-20 and 2020-21, no indent was placed with the presses for printing of ₹2,000 denomination notes.

External debt increases almost 3% to \$559 billion at March-end

Private sector debt rises 4.2% to \$457.7 bn, four times sovereign debt of \$100.9 bn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

India's total external debt increased by 2.8% to \$558.5 billion at the end of March mainly on account of a rise in commercial borrowings, a Finance Ministry report showed. External debt was \$543 billion a year earlier.

The ratio of foreign currency reserves to external debt stood at 85.5% as at end-March, compared to 76% in 2019 March.

External debt as a ratio to GDP rose marginally to 20.6%, from 19.8%, 'India's External Debt: A Status Report: 2019-2020' showed.

Sovereign debt shrank 3% to \$100.9 billion, the ministry said, adding, this de-



Debt burden: Loans from multilateral and bilateral sources under external assistance grew 5% to \$87.2 bn. • V. SUDERSHAN

crease was primarily due to a fall in FII investment in G-Secs – the second-largest constituent – by 23.3% to \$21.6 billion, from \$28.3 billion in 2019.

Loans from multilateral and bilateral sources under

external assistance – the largest constituent of sovereign debt – grew 4.9% to \$87.2 billion. Non-sovereign debt, on the other hand, rose 4.2% to \$457.7 billion mainly due to an increase in commercial borrowings – the largest

constituent – by 6.7% to \$220.3 billion.

Outstanding NRI deposits – the second-largest constituent – at \$130.6 billion was almost equal to the level a year earlier.

Non-financial corporations accounted for 42% of total debt.

Valuation gains

Noting that the U.S. dollar is the predominant currency for denomination of India's external debt with a share of 53.7%, it said, the dollar's appreciation as on March 31 resulted in a valuation gain of \$16.6 billion.

Excluding valuation gains, increase in external debt would have been \$32 billion.

Move to aid environment-friendly phasing out of old vehicles

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The government on Saturday said a Cabinet note has been formulated for the vehicle scrappage policy.

"Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has formulated a note for Cabinet on creation of an ecosystem for voluntary and environment friendly phasing out of unfit and old polluting vehicles," Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways V.K. Singh told the Rajya Sabha in reply to a query.

The proposed policy, once approved, will be applicable on all vehicles, the government had said earlier. The policy was sent for a fresh round of consultation



Tide of renewal: The proposed policy, once approved, is likely to be applicable on all vehicles. • NAGARA GOPAL

with stakeholders on the direction of the PMO.

Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari had said earlier this year that once the policy was approved, India could emerge as a hub for automobile manufacturing as key raw material available from scrapping

steel, aluminium and plastic were bound to be recycled, bringing down automobile prices by 20-30%." On July 26, 2019, the government had proposed amendments to motor vehicle rules to allow scrapping of vehicles older than 15 years to spur adoption of electric vehicles.

Net direct tax collection dips 31% in April-August

Net indirect tax receipts decline 11%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The net direct tax collection during April-August declined 31% to ₹1.92 lakh crore compared with the same period of the last fiscal.

The net indirect tax collection during the five-month period till August fell 11% year-on-year to ₹3.42 lakh crore.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur said net direct tax collection was ₹2,79,711 crore in April-August 2019, compared with ₹1,92,718 crore in April-August 2020.

The net indirect tax collection in April-August 2019 was ₹5,98,825 crore, against the revised estimate of ₹6,12,327 crore.

In FY20, actual GST revenue stood at ₹5,98,825 crore, against the revised estimate of ₹6,12,327 crore

against ₹3,42,591 crore in April-August 2020.

'Wide gap'

In the period under review, the Centre's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection stood at more than ₹1.81 lakh crore. The Budget had estimated Centre's GST collection for the full fiscal year at ₹6,90,500 crore.

In 2019-20, the Centre's actual GST revenue stood at ₹5,98,825 crore, against the revised estimate of ₹6,12,327 crore.

HC bars Harsh Lodha from MP Birla firms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court has restrained Harsh Vardhan Lodha from holding any office in any of the entities of MP Birla Group during the pendency of a suit over succession of the MP Birla Estate.

The high court, in a judgment over the administering of the estate by a court-appointed committee by majority decision, has also restrained the Lodhas from drawing any benefit personally from the assets of the estate of Priyamvada Devi, the deceased wife of MP Birla, during the pendency of the testamentary suit over the assets of the MP Birla Group.

Fuel demand to shrink in 2020 by wider 11.5%: Fitch Solutions

Firm sees steep decline in consumer, industrial fuels offtake

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Fitch Solutions has revised downward its forecast for fuel demand contraction in India to 11.5% in 2020 in line with the further deterioration in the country's economic outlook.

"Demand weakness is spread across the board, with both consumer and industrial fuels set for steep decline," Fitch Solutions said in a note. "We have made a further downward revision to our India refined fuels demand forecast for 2020, from -9.4% to -11.5%, in line with further deterioration in the country's economic outlook."

It forecast a 5% year-on-

MTNL lists some Mumbai assets for sale

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

State-run MTNL has submitted a set of assets, including land, staff quarters and telephone exchange in Mumbai, for monetisation, Parliament was informed on Saturday.

Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur said that international property consultants had been appointed for end-to-end transaction advice on monetisation of these properties.

Mr. Thakur said since the asset monetisation process was complex involving multiple stakeholders and agencies, a specific timeline for completion of these transactions could not be defined at present.

INTERVIEW | B. RAMESH BABU

'Aim to regain traders' bank tag'

Keen on commercial loans below ₹25 crore, says KVB MD

N. ANAND

The 104-year-old private sector lender Karur Vysya Bank Ltd., popularly known as a trader's bank, plans to regain its right to the appellation by foraying aggressively into metal loans and co-lending. Current account and savings bank accounts will be major focus areas, the bank's MD and CEO, B. Ramesh Babu, said in an interview. Excerpts:

What was the impact of COVID-19 on operations?

■ Currently, transactions at the branch level remain low. Customers have started using other channels, as also KVB Dlite, a mobile banking app. Current account and savings account (CASA) contribution has gone up from 31% to 35%.

People who don't want to spend are retaining money in their savings accounts. Account openings during the pandemic outnumbered closures.

What are your plans for the current year?

■ Going forward, CASA will be the top-most focus area on the liability side. So, all the branches will focus on opening mid-segment current and savings bank accounts. On the advances side, we consider loans up to ₹25 crore as corporate loans.

Earlier, we were taking exposure up to ₹200-300 crore. Now, we have taken a call to limit exposure to ₹25 crore per corporate account.

Our higher exposures have been brought down to ₹125 crore. Even today, we have about 10 accounts that are of government-owned firms and have good track record.

The bank will aggressively look at gold loans to jewellers and manufacturers

nel and metal gold loans and with a lower focus on corporates. Commercial banking, retail and agriculture will constitute 75% of the loan book and corporate, 25%.

The bank will aggressively look at precious metals, that is, providing gold loans to jewellers and manufacturers.

Earlier, our customers used to take metal gold loans from other banks by using letters of credit issued by us. What we want to do is to give our own customers metal gold loan, 5 kg, 10 kg or 20

kg, whichever way they want and later extend it to others. We will import gold and give it to them, for which we have arrangement with players.

On an average, we have given ₹1,500 crore worth of non-fund base limits to our own customers. It is readily on our platter. We expect to grow by ₹600 crore on this account alone this year.

What about consortium lending?

■ Earlier we were a member of many consortiums. We were taking some 5% and if something happened, we had no say. That is the only reason we are seriously reconsidering; if we do not have a bigger share in the consortium, let us say 20% or 25%, then there is no point being a part of [a consortium].

But, if it is an excellent company and the concession rate is also pretty good, we can [participate] to the extent possible. But, we may not go for smaller exposures in a consortium.

Your take on co-lending?

■ We have started co-lending with a few of the systematically important non-banking, non-deposit taking financial institutions. People can enter into an arrangement wherein, they can source the loan and pass it through our own system.

The loans will be sanctioned and disbursed digitally with no manual intervention. We have tied up with seven NBFCs to take advantage of their wherewithal and footprint.

This particular route may help us to get more business.

External risks, but China's economy still resilient: Xi

REUTERS

BEIJING

China's economy remains resilient and there are ample policy tools at Beijing's disposal despite rising external risks, President Xi Jinping said in remarks published on Saturday.

The world's second-largest economy has steadily recovered from a virus-induced slump, but analysts say policymakers face a tough job to maintain stable expansion over the next several years to turn China into a high-income nation.

"The basic characteristics of China's economy with sufficient potential, great resilience, strong vitality, large space for manoeuvre and many policy instruments have not changed," Xinhua news agency quoted Mr. Xi as saying.

China has strong manufacturing capacity, very large domestic markets and huge investment potentials, he said.

Mr. Xi reaffirmed a "dual circulation" strategy that would help steer the economy towards greater self-reliance, as U.S. hostility and a global pandemic increase external risks.

China still enjoyed "strategic opportunities" in its development, although the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated global challenges as globalisation slows and unilateralism and protectionism are rising. Mr. Xi was quoted as saying at a meeting on the country's 14th five-year plan (2021-2025).

"We must seek our development in a more unstable and uncertain world," he said.

"The great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation can never be achieved easily with the beating of gongs and drums," Mr. Xi added.

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REUTERS

Life markers on Venus

What does the detected presence of phosphine mean? Why are astronomers excited?

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

The story so far: An international team of astronomers led by Jane S. Greaves of Cardiff University and University of Cambridge, U.K., has announced the discovery of traces of a molecule known as phosphine on Venus. This has caused great excitement because, given the chemical and geological composition of Venus, this can imply the existence of life forms that release this substance through bio-chemical pathways.

The researchers say in the paper, "[Phosphine] could originate from unknown photochemistry or geochemistry, or, by analogy with biological production of [phosphine] on Earth, from the presence of life." The paper, published on September 14 in *Nature Astronomy*, is a careful exposition of the work done over many years. Professor Greaves first observed phosphine on Venus using the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope in the Mauna Kea Observatory in Hawaii in 2017. Pursuing the search further with the 45-telescope array ALMA (Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array) in Chile led to a confirmation of their observations by this extremely sensitive instrument in 2019.

Have astronomers found definite signs of life? The detected presence of phosphine on Venus does convey the possibility of life there. After detecting the phosphine and estimating the amount in Venus's atmosphere – 20 parts per billion – researchers have calculated whether this amount of phosphine can be produced by natural chemical processes, such as sunlight, volcanoes erupting and lightning.

The other mechanisms could at most produce only ten-thousandth of the amount of phosphine they have detected. However, they do not rule out the possibility that there could be unknown natural processes (photochemistry or geochemistry) that can produce this amount of the biomarker. Therefore, more work is needed to prove that it is indeed because of bacteria, or some sort of life, that there is so much phosphine on Venus.

Why is phosphine gas considered a biomarker of life? A molecule of phosphine gas consists of a phosphorus atom surrounded by three hydrogen atoms, just like ammonia consists of a nitrogen atom surrounded by three hydrogen atoms. On Earth, this molecule is produced by industrial processes. It is also produced by some anaerobic bacteria, which live in oxygen-sparse environments such as sewers, landfills, or even animal guts. If you can rule out the production of the gas through chemistry, it is the biochemical processes that form a source of the gas – the anaerobic bacteria – hence it is considered a biomarker in astronomy.

Has phosphine been found on other planets? Yes, it has been seen on Jupiter and Saturn. As early as the 1970s, when the first exoplanets were not even discovered experimentally, phosphine was seen on Jupiter. But there it is said to form deep in the interiors of the gas giant and rise to the top, in a purely chemical process. But now, on Venus there is a doubt.

Venus is considered to be a hostile planet. How can life survive there? The surface temperature of Venus, at about 470 degrees Celsius, is too hot to harbour life as we know it. It is hot enough to melt lead. It is hotter than Mercury which is closest to the sun. According to a senior astronomer who is a member of the Astronomical Society of India, this is because Venus has experienced a runaway greenhouse effect which traps all heat that falls on it. But high up in its atmosphere, there are clouds which can provide a cooler home for microbial life. Even there, the atmosphere is teeming with sulphuric acid vapour which makes it extremely hostile, thereby reducing the chance of finding life forms. According to the expert, the phosphine signature could be the sign of some extraordinary chemistry, as it could be of life forms. The next logical step is to actually do *in situ* measurements from Venus's atmosphere by sending space probes there.

Have space missions been sent to Venus? There have been several space missions to study Venus, and some of the recent dedicated missions are the European Space Agency's Venus Express and JAXA's Akatsuki. Many space missions have flown by Venus: for example, NASA's Parker Solar Probe used the gravity of Venus to achieve gravity-assisted boosts to its velocity on its journey to the Sun. NASA is planning a mission to Venus to be launched next year. The Indian Venus mission is being developed. Though formally unnamed, it is referred to as Shukrayaan-1.

Rules of engagement on the LAC

What are the agreements that govern India and China's actions? Why is the troops build-up significant?

DINAKAR PERI

The story so far: On Tuesday, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told Parliament that China had mobilised a large number of troops and armaments along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with several friction areas in Eastern Ladakh including the north and south banks of Pangong Tso (lake). He said the amassing of troops went against the bilateral agreements of 1993 and 1996.

Why are there different perceptions?

Mr. Singh said there had been situations of prolonged stand-offs in the border areas with China in the past which had been resolved peacefully. He said the situation this year "is very different both in terms of scale of troops involved and the number of friction points..." This underscores the magnitude of the current situation along the disputed boundary in Eastern Ladakh. There is no commonly delineated LAC and Mr. Singh said India and China have different perceptions about the LAC. This has led to periodic tensions and the number of transgressions and face-offs went up as India's border infrastructure improved and Indian Army patrols to the claim areas increased over the years. A series of boundary agreements have been signed and confidence-building measures (CBMs) carried out to maintain peace and tranquillity while the two sides attempted to delineate the boundary through Special Representatives.

What happens when agreements are flouted?

While the agreements remain in place, the recent massive mobilisation of troops, tanks, armoured carriers and air defences very close to the LAC is in violation of the terms. Since the Galwan Valley clash on June 15, the Army has empowered its local commanders to take appropriate action as situations unfold and recently shots have been fired in the air, the first on the LAC since 1975. Thousands of troops and armaments continue to be deployed in close proximity, in some places within a few hundred metres of each other, so the chances of an accidental or inadvertent escalation which can spiral into a major confrontation remain high. Mr. Singh said that in response to "China's actions, our armed forces have also made appropriate counter-deployments in these areas to ensure that India's borders are fully protected".

What do the border agreements say?

A key element of both the 1993 and 1996 agreements is



that the two sides would keep their forces in the areas along the LAC to a minimum level, Mr. Singh stated.

However, the agreements do not define what comprises the minimum level. The 1996 agreement limits the deployment of major categories of armaments close to the LAC, including tanks, infantry combat vehicles, guns with 75-mm or bigger calibre, mortars with 120-mm or

above and various missiles. It also limits combat aircraft from flying within 10 km of the LAC. It stipulates that neither side "shall open fire, cause bio-degradation, use hazardous chemicals, conduct blast operations or hunt with guns or explosives within two km" from the LAC.

Use of firearms on the LAC is strictly regulated as per the agreements of

1993, 1996 and 2005. The 1993 and 1996 agreements also mandate that pending a final solution to the boundary question, the two sides shall strictly respect the LAC. Further in these agreements, India and China committed themselves to clarification and confirmation of the LAC to reach a common understanding of the alignment. However, this process has made little progress since 2003. Both sides have so far exchanged maps only in the

central sector, leading to overlapping claims at several points due to "differences in perception".

How should troops deal with face-offs?

In 2012, India and China agreed to establish a Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination to "study ways and means to conduct and strengthen exchanges and cooperation between military personnel and establishments...in the border areas." The 2013 Border Defence Cooperation Agreement lists several mechanisms to reduce misunderstandings and improve communication. Article VI of the agreement prohibits either side from tailing the patrols of the other "in areas where there is no common understanding of the line of actual control".

What is the way forward?

Since the Galwan clash there have been calls for a review of the agreements from various quarters. Following the recent flare-up in tensions on the north and south banks of Pangong Tso, at recent meetings between the Defence and Foreign Ministers of the two countries in Moscow, both sides agreed that they shall abide by all the existing boundary agreements, maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas and "avoid any action that could escalate matters". The five-point plan agreed between External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Moscow on September 10 states that "as the situation eases, the two sides should expedite work to conclude new CBMs to maintain and enhance peace and tranquillity in the border areas".

What are the long-term effects of COVID-19?

Why are some patients who had mild symptoms and have recovered now suffering from other serious concerns?

RAMYA KANNAN

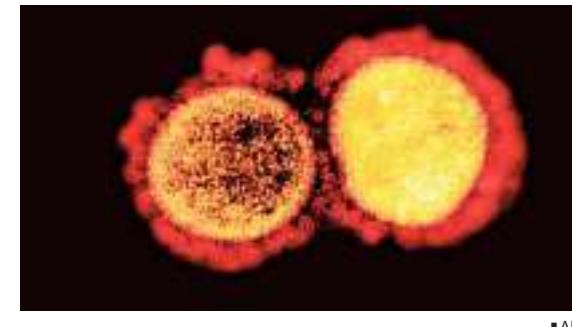
The story so far: Surviving COVID-19 has been only part of the triumph for some patients. While doctors were well aware of the impact of lasting viral infections, the first few months of the pandemic were devoted to preventing transmission and figuring out how to take care of those in hospitals, and not much attention was paid to the after-effects. But over eight months into the epidemic, these can no longer be ignored. Though SARS-CoV-2 is essentially a virus that hits the lungs, in a smaller subset, it also seems to have an impact on the lungs, heart and brain, increasing the risk of long-term health issues, and life-threatening complications.

What kinds of complications may occur?

Gregory Poland, of the Vaccine Research Group, Mayo Clinic, U.S., says: "This is a disease that has a number of mysteries involved, compared to the usual respiratory virus... there is diminution of immunity, long-term fatigue, headaches, vertigo, difficulty with cognition, and cardiorespiratory fitness. But a large portion of that is likely to relate to the significant cellular level damage this disease can cause... This can be a really wicked virus in some people."

Among the more common lingering symptoms are fatigue, cough, shortness of breath, headache, muscle and joint pain. In Chennai, doctors who had recovered from COVID-19 to return to work complained of chronic fatigue, besides myalgia (muscle pain) and weakness.

The Mayo Clinic lists organs that may be affected by COVID-19: Heart: imaging tests taken months after recovery show lasting damage to the heart muscle, even in those with only mild symptoms, increasing the risk of heart failure or other heart complications; Lungs: long-standing damage to the air sacs inside the lungs, leading to long-



term breathing problems; Brain: strokes, seizures and Guillain-Barre syndrome that causes temporary paralysis.

An increased risk of developing Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease is possible; Blood: blood cells are more likely to clump up and form clots. While large clots can cause heart attacks and strokes, much of the heart damage caused by COVID-19 is believed to stem from very small clots that block capillaries in the heart muscle. Blood throwing such clots can affect other organs as well – the lungs, legs, liver, kidneys; Mood disorders: simply surviving this experience can make a person more likely to later develop post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety.

Does everyone face these side effects?

The good news, according to the Mayo Clinic, is that most people who have the novel coronavirus disease recover completely within a few weeks. Only some people, including even those who had mild versions of the disease, continue to experience symptoms after their initial recovery. Even people who tested positive but were asymptomatic during the course of their disease are not immune either.

from long-term effects. In a letter published in *Nature Medicine* in June, researchers from China explained that CT scans done in asymptomatic people revealed abnormal radiological findings in one lung in 66.7% of the asymptomatic people and abnormalities in both lungs in 33.3% of them. While it is said that senior citizens and people with co-morbidities are more likely to suffer long-term effects, even children who had milder versions of the disease are reporting persistent symptoms. The WHO mentions a telephone survey of symptomatic adults who had a positive outpatient test result for SARS-CoV-2: 35% had not returned to their usual state of health when interviewed 2-3 weeks after testing.

Among those 18-34 years in good health, 20% reported that some symptoms were prolonged.

What are the solutions?

Countries across the world are beginning to realise the importance of assessing the long-term impact, and exploring solutions to rectify damage. The U.K.'s PHOSP(post-hospitalisation)-COVID project is one of several such projects globally to study patients who have been hospitalised with COVID-19. Over the course of a year, clinical assessments will track 10,000 patients to gain a comprehensive picture of the impact COVID-19 has had on longer-term health outcomes. The team will then develop trials of new strategies for clinical care to improve long-term health.

Sputnik V and the long road to a vaccine

What do the Russian trials tell us? How will the tie-up with Dr. Reddy's Laboratories help India?

JACOB KOSHY

The story so far: On September 16, Hyderabad-based Dr. Reddy's Laboratories announced that it had signed an agreement with the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) to conduct large human trials (Phase-3) of Sputnik V. A candidate vaccine for COVID-19, it has been developed by Russia's Gamaleya Research Institute and piloted by the RDIF, the country's sovereign wealth fund. If these trials are successful and the vaccine is proved to be safe, Russia has committed itself to supplying 100 million doses to India through Dr. Reddy's.

What do we know about Sputnik V?

Much like the launch of the Sputnik-1 satellite in 1957 heralded the Space Age, Russia claims the vaccine candidate will "reinvigorate" vaccine development and a potential solution to the coronavirus pandemic. Sputnik V is being developed as a two-dose vaccine using two human recombinant adenovirus vectors – rAd5 and rAd26 – known to cause respiratory infections. These vectors have been modified to not replicate in the body. These inactivated vectors are also tweaked to carry the 'S gene' that encodes the 'spike protein' of the coronavirus. The hope is that these vectors will inveigle themselves into a small number of the body's cells, trick the body into registering the coronavirus' spike protein and thus activate the immune system into

producing specialised 'T' cells that can neutralise the affected cells. Once this happens the immune system is expected to produce antibodies as well as 'memory B cells', which can produce the right offensive cells when needed to neutralise future SARS-CoV-2 infections the body may encounter.

Is this a proven approach?

There have been several experimental vaccines and drugs that use human adenovirus vectors but none has been commercially approved for use in people. Sputnik V is also a two-dose regimen, meaning that individual shots are dispensed three weeks apart. The argument is that the second dose acts as a booster shot and Gamaleya has said the use of two vectors is what differentiates the Russian vaccine from the other adenovirus-based approaches. CanSino Biologics of China and the vaccine being developed by Oxford University (ChAdOx1) are also based on adenovirus platforms, except that the Oxford candidate uses an adenovirus vector that is known to infect chimpanzees.

What are the key challenges?

The challenge with using human adenoviruses is that because they commonly infect people, many have pre-existing immunity to the virus and so antibodies may block the vector even before it infiltrates cells and synthesises proteins that can specifically induce immune cells specific to the coronavirus. The rAd5 has been



previously used to produce vaccines as well as drugs against other diseases including HIV, but that didn't work. CanSino Biologics used the same vector to make a vaccine against the Ebola virus during an outbreak in West Africa. The vaccine was tested in people but wasn't licensed, though it reportedly induced a short-term antibody response in those who were inoculated. Researchers suggested that the pre-existing rAd5 immunity in people may have blunted the response. An adenovirus-based vaccine has been commercially licensed for rabies. The second vector being used by Sputnik V, rAd26, is a rarer adenovirus and is devised to work as a backup or a booster to stimulate a stronger response. The risks are that too strong a response may cause severe adverse reactions.

Has Russia started large trials of Sputnik V?

Earlier this month, Russia said it had begun testing the vaccine in the country among 40,000 volunteers as part of its large Phase-3 trials. Experience from Phase-1 and Phase-2 in a smaller group of volunteers and designed to test for safety and efficacy suggested that it was promising enough to progress onto the larger trials. The most controversial aspect of Sputnik V is that it has already been preapproved by the country's health agency even before Phase-1 and 2 trial results were published. According to health experts, this indicated that speed, and not safety, was being prioritised. Pharmaceutical companies in the U.S. and Europe have pledged not to approach regulators before Phase-3 trials concluded. As of Saturday, there were no details of how Dr. Reddy's planned to go about conducting the trials in India.

TALIBAN

The rise, retreat and resurgence of jihadists

The insurgents, driven out of power by the U.S. in 2001, are now on the brink of entering Afghan political mainstream as talks are under way

STANLY JOHNY

In the spring of 1996, the Taliban, who had taken southern Afghanistan under their control, organised a conference of their fighters, commanders and mullahs in downtown Kandahar. The city hosts one of the holiest shrines in the country – The Shrine of the Cloak of the Prophet Mohammed, which keeps a robe that Afghans believe was worn by the Prophet. Very rarely has it been shown to the public. Those who had assembled before an old mosque in central Kandahar were clueless what they were going to see. Then Mullah Mohammed Omar appeared on its roof, with the cloak in his hands. He held it aloft before the cheering crowd, who named him 'Amir ul-Momineen', the commander of the faithful.

Omar appeared with the relic at a critical juncture of the Taliban's history. The militants had not reached Kabul yet. The rank and file were divided on whether the Taliban, consisting of mainly madrassa students, should take the war to the capital. But what happened in Kandahar, as Steve Coll wrote in his profile of the Taliban leader in *The New Yorker*, was Omar's "coronation" as the leader of the most powerful insurgency in the country. The Taliban would capture Kabul within a few months and establish the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

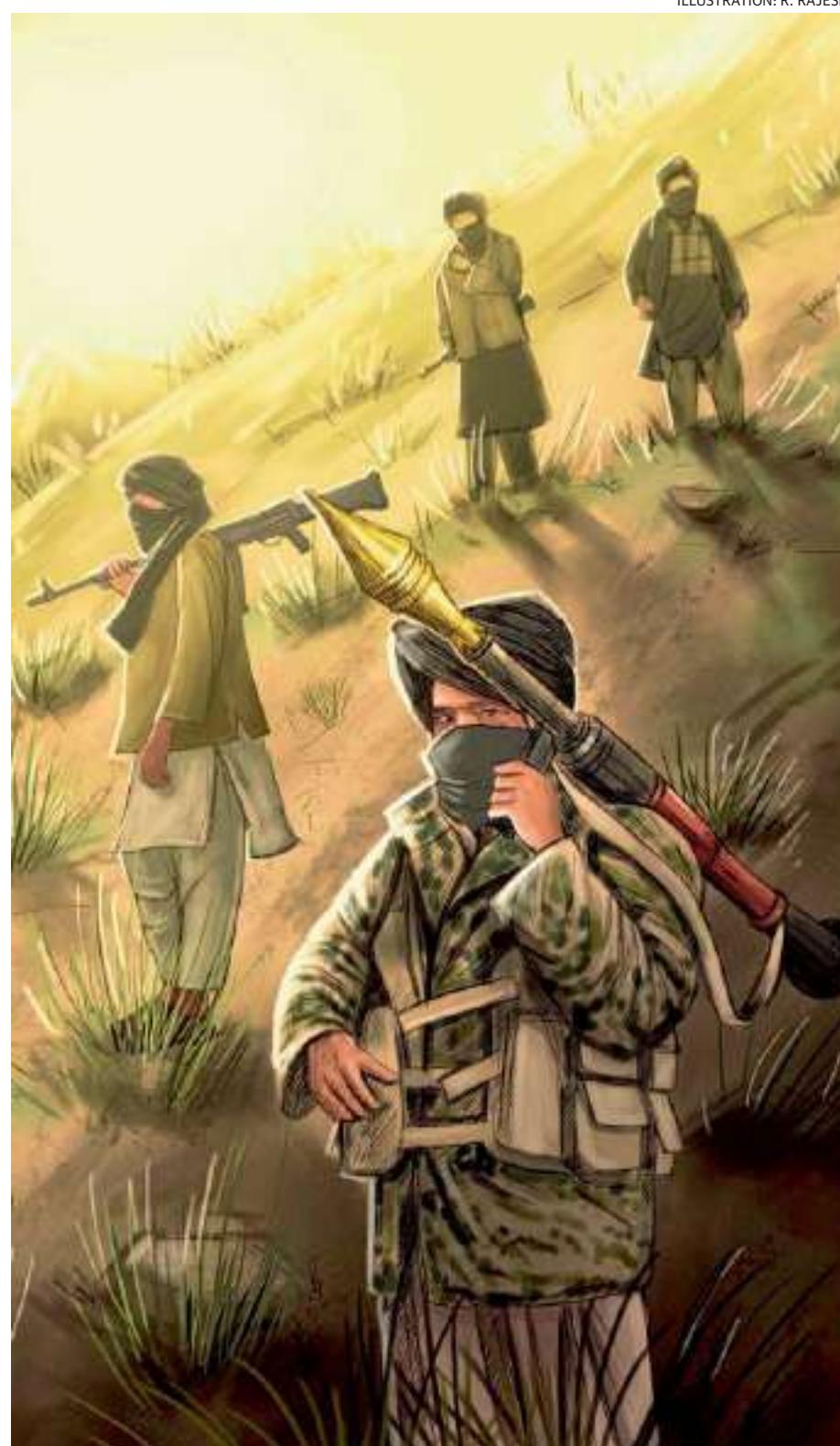
Omar would rule most of the country for the next five years. Overthrown by the U.S. in 2001 following the September 11 terrorist attacks, the Taliban would re-

treat to the mountainous hinterlands of Afghanistan, while their leadership crossed the border to Pakistan. The war continued, killing hundreds of thousands of people, and wounding and displacing many more. Almost 20 years after they lost Kabul, the Taliban are now controlling almost half of the

tions, which were supported by the Central Intelligence Agency, Pakistan's Inter Service Intelligence and Saudi Arabia. After the Soviets pulled back in 1989, the Mujahideen groups started fighting each other, plunging the country into a civil war.

The post-communist Afghanistan was divided along the ethnic lines. There was no central authority. Life was chaotic. Crimes were rampant. Afghanistan, which the poet Mohammed Iqbal called "the heart of Asia", was falling apart. It was against this background a group of madrassa students (Talib), with roots in Deobandi seminaries and support from different Deobandi factions in Pakistan, came together to launch a new "reform" movement. Predominantly Pashtun, their declared goals were: establish order, restore peace, disarm the militias, enforce the Sharia code and unite people under (their version of) Islam. They chose Omar, a young, locally influential preacher who lost one eye in the battle against the Red Army, as their leader.

There are lots of stories about how Omar mobilised the Talib under his command. "The most credible story", writes Ahmed Rashid in his book, *Taliban*, "is that in the spring of 1994, Singesar neighbours came to tell him that a commander had abducted two teenage girls." They were taken to a military camp and repeatedly raped. Omar attacked the base with some 30 Talib, freed the girls and hanged the commander from the barrel of a tank. From the base, they captured arms and ammu-



succeeded Omar, was killed in a U.S. air strike in 2015. Since 2016, the less-known Mawlawi Hibatullah Akhundzada has been the group's leader. Under Akhundzada, the Taliban have taken a 'fight and talk' approach. In 2018, U.S. officials and Taliban representatives held their first meeting in Doha, where the insurgents had opened a political office. Throughout talks with the U.S., the Taliban refused to agree to a lasting ceasefire.

Pakistan played a key role in the Taliban's resurgence. Rattled by India's growing influence in post-Taliban Afghanistan, Pakistan played a double game – it joined the U.S.-led war on terror, while at the same time secretly helping the Taliban. As Steve Coll writes in his book *Directorate S*, the ISI set up a secret unit called 'Directorate S' to handle its Taliban operations and worked from an Army camp in Ojhri, near Rawalpindi.

Now, the war has entered into a stalemate. The Afghan government cannot defeat the Taliban and the Taliban seem unable, for now, to seize the major population centres, including Kabul. This, coupled with the U.S.'s desire to get out of the war, prompted the peace talks. But hard questions remain. With the U.S. agreeing to pull back, the Taliban have met one of their key goals. But they haven't recognised the Afghan Constitution. There is no truce yet. It's not clear what would their eventual goal be.

"There are some differences between the Taliban of the 1990s and today's Taliban. We now have the second generation Taliban. Their links with the military and religious establishment in Pakistan are different. Their working relationship with terrorist outfits like Al-Qaeda are limited today," said D. Suba Chandran, a Professor of strategic and security studies at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore. "But their core ideology hasn't changed. If they were not ready to share power then, they won't do it now. I don't think their approach towards liberal institutions, minorities, women and other groups has changed either."

In Focus

- The roots of the Taliban go back to the Mujahideen movement against the Soviet troops in Afghanistan in the 1980s
- Many of the Taliban's early leadership, including Mullah Omar, fought the Soviets with various Mujahideen factions

- Once in power, the Taliban enforced their version of strict Islamist code, which included banning women working in public offices, keeping girls out of schools and proscribing public music

YOSHIHIDE SUGA

The self-made Prime Minister

The new leader has worked for decades as a shadow power in Japan's politics

PALLAVI AIYAR

Among the few definitive things that can be said about Japan's new Prime Minister, Yoshihide Suga, is that he does not wear his heart on his sleeve. As the right-hand man of his predecessor, Shinzo Abe, Mr. Suga has fielded questions from the press on an almost-daily basis for years. And yet, despite his public role, he has revealed little about himself other than gnomic nuggets like his penchant for pancakes and fishing. But although his inner world remains enigmatic, his skill at deflection, capacity for hard work and unwavering loyalty towards Mr. Abe have proved enough to propel him to the helm of the nation.

Mr. Suga's journey to the political summit has been up a very different road to that of his mentor's. While Mr. Abe's lineage was so robust as to endow his rise almost with a sense of inevitability (both his maternal grandfather and great uncle were former PMs), the 71-year-old Mr. Suga is a self-made man. The son of a strawberry farmer, he was born in the snow-covered hardscrabble of rural Akita province, in Japan's north. To put himself through university in Tokyo, he worked a series of odd jobs – including at a cardboard factory and a fish market. Hiroshi Kawai, a high school classmate told the *New York Times*: "We have such pro-



ILLUSTRATION: J.A. PREMKUMAR

tary included getting telecommunication companies to drop expensive mobile phone fees and opening the borders to greater numbers of foreign workers.

But as Prime Minister, Mr. Suga will need to lead rather than implement, his career specialty thus far. He has promised continuity and stability, and most analysts do not expect him to significantly break with Mr. Abe's policies. But the formidable challenges facing Japan need fresh ideas. Mr. Suga takes over at a time when the administration's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic is widely seen as confused and the Japanese economy is in serious trouble; all this against the backdrop of an ageing demographic and unpredictable geo-strategic environment given an assertive China, bellicose North Korea and unpredictable U.S.

It is unclear whether Mr. Suga will choose to ride out the rest of what would have been Mr. Abe's term until next year, or go to the polls sooner to win a popular mandate. In the absence of an election, it is unlikely that he will rock the boat with any bold policy departures. What is less predictable is Mr. Suga's ultimate fate in the history books: will he join the blur of forgettable short-lived Prime Ministers that have been a standard feature of the Japanese political landscape, or will he emerge as a falcon whose talons prove sharp enough to leave their mark?

His achievements as Mr. Abe's chief Cabinet Secre-

verbs as 'great talents are slow to mature' and 'a wise falcon hides its talons.' Now, I realized that those words were created for Mr. Suga.'

Entry into politics

After graduating, Mr. Suga joined an electrical maintenance company, but soon quit the life of a salaryman to become the secretary to a Parliamentarian. More than a decade on, he won a seat on the port of Yokohama's city assembly, but it was only in 1996 that he made a breakthrough into national politics, getting elected to the House of Representatives on a Liberal Democratic Party ticket. His most astute move was to hitch his lot to the destined star of the political firmament Shinzo Abe. During both Mr. Abe's terms as Prime Minister Mr. Suga was at his side, manoeuvring behind the scenes, executing policy, and helping to bring unwieldy bureaucrats into line.

He emerged as the yin to

his boss's yang. Where Mr. Abe was charismatic, Mr. Suga was self-effacing, even dour. Mr. Abe operated in the spotlight; Mr. Suga was comfortable in the shadows. Mr. Abe had a clear, (if unachieved) vision for his country. Mr. Suga eschewed grand visions for practical goals. But what he lacked in oomph, he made up for in steely resolve. His daily regimen for the last eight years is a window into this tenacity. Mr. Suga is known to have woken every morning at 5:00 am to take a 40-minute walk, followed by a 100 sit-ups. He was at the office by 9:00 am and took up two dozen meetings a day, in addition to addressing press conferences. He preferred to eat soba noodles for lunch, which are easily slurped, to cut down on the time spent eating. For a nightcap, (Mr. Suga is a teetotaler), he completed another 100 sit-ups.

His achievements as Mr. Abe's chief Cabinet Secre-

tes, calling for his resignation. However, the Communist Party of India (Marxist), which heads the ruling coalition, threw its weight behind the Minister, reading the whole episode as one against the Koran.

Break with League

Mr. Jaleel is not a member of the CPI(M). But he has enjoyed the confidence of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan from the time he was fielded by the Left as an Independent candidate in the Kuttippuram constituency in Malappuram in 2006. It was a year after his ouster, following differences with the leadership, from the youth wing of the IUML in which he had functioned as state general secretary. He emerged as a giant killer by trouncing the League strongman, P.K. Kunhalikutty, in what used to be a League bastion until then.

Following his questioning by the ED, the Minister maintained that accepting the Koran from the UAE during the month of Ramzan was part of a 'cultural and religious' custom. The Opposition, especially the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), has launched prot-

K.T. JALEEL

A giant killer in the dock

The Kerala Minister faces protests after being questioned by central agencies

S. ANANDAN

It's ironic that copies of the Koran should give K.T. Jaleel, Kerala's Minister of Higher Education and Welfare of Minorities who swears by the holy text, the biggest test of his political life. The Customs Department suspects an unholy nexus between the Minister and some officials of the Consulate of the UAE in Kerala's capital, Thiruvananthapuram, in "fraudulently importing goods, including a recent consignment of 250 cartons of the sacred text weighing about 4.5 tonnes into the State" using the diplomatic route claiming duty exemption.

The Customs probe is just the latest in the trail of disquieting developments for Mr. Jaleel in the past fortnight, on the heels of his questioning by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in a related case of gold smuggling using the Consulate as cover. A key accused in that case had worked with the Consulate, maintained high-level connections in the government and interacted with the Minister, who is also in charge of the Wafiq Department.

Following his questioning by the ED, the Minister maintained that accepting the Koran from the UAE during the month of Ramzan was part of a 'cultural and religious' custom. The Oppo-

nation (SIMI) in the late 1980s. After severing ties with SIMI, he joined the Muslim Students Federation, the students' wing of the IUML, while studying history at PSMO College in Tirurangadi, Malappuram. He went on to become a lecturer in the same college and his clout within the Youth League grew under the patronage of Korambayil Ahmed Haji, known for his progressive stances.

An abiding interest in history earned him a Ph.D. from the University of Kerala and his work, a rereading of the role of Variamkun Hamed Haji and Ali Musliyar in what came to be known as the Malabar Rebellion of 1921, was later published as a book, the second authored by him, with a forward by Pinarayi Vijayan. The book, which captures the contours of the agrarian uprising in the context of the anti-colonial strife, is in its seventh edition now.



ILLUSTRATION: J.A. PREMKUMAR

When Mr. Vijayan, then State secretary of the CPI (M), took out a pre-election march along the length of Kerala in 2009, Mr. Jaleel marched alongside as the only non-party member of its core team of senior CPI (M) leaders. In the elections of 2011 and 2016, he kept the faith reposed in him by winning the Thavanur constituency as a Left-backed Independent.

It, therefore, surprised no one when he was selected to the Cabinet led by Mr. Vijayan in 2016 as Minister in charge of Local Self-governments. However, in 2018, he came under a cloud following allegations of nepotism after his kin, K.T. Adeeb, was appointed general manager in the Kerala State Minorities Development Corporation. Mr. Adeeb eventually quit the post. Mr. Jaleel put up a brave face when his name cropped up in connection with a well-networked accused in the gold scam in August this year, saying he was ready to face any inquiry. But he soon became resolute in the face of adverse media coverage and as Central agencies began to call him for questioning, turned selective in talking to the media, his assertion of "truth alone will prevail" notwithstanding.

The Assembly elections are less than a year away, and the Left, viewing the developments as political, is unlikely to isolate him. But the heat, for the moment, is definitely on Mr. Jaleel.

Rayudu and du Plessis orchestrate Super Kings' victory

Curran comes up with allround show while Chawla and Ngidi deliver with the ball; Dhoni completes 100 wins for CSK, the first skipper to do so

IPL 2020

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ABU DHABI

Mahendra Singh Dhoni hasn't lost an ounce of his leadership acumen even after a 437-day hiatus as Chennai Super Kings defeated Mumbai Indians in the opening match of the 13th edition of the IPL on Saturday.

Ambati Rayudu blazed his way to a 71 off 48 balls, which included six fours and three sixes, and Faf du Plessis (55 not out off 44 balls, six fours) more than made up for Suresh Raina's absence at No. 3 to help CSK chase down a tricky 163-run target in 19.2 overs with five wickets to spare.

It wasn't a jam-packed Wankhede rooting for the Mumbai Indians nor was it the passionate Chepaak stands with its Yellow Army in full fervour. It was a near empty Sheikh Zayed Stadium in the Arabian desert where Bryan Adams' Summer of 69 or Rocky's theme music Eye of a Tiger blared from the sound systems along with artificial crowd cheers.

In this eerie set-up, Captain Cool's brain kept ticking as the new recruits – leg-spinner Piyush Chawla (one for 21 in four overs) and left-arm seamer Sam Curran (one for 28) – made fantastic first impressions while pacer Lun-



The architects: Rayudu and du Plessis' partnership paved the way for CSK's win after Chawla had put the skids on MI. ■ BCCI/IPL

gi Ngidi (three for 38) and seamer Deepak Chahar (two for 32) came back well in the death overs.

The skipper also sent the match-fit Curran at No. 6 and the left-hander's blistering 18 off six balls ended any hopes that Rohit Sharma and his men would have harboured.

Trent Boult, with an in-dipper, and James Pattinson, with a slightly dodgy decision

going his way, removed Shane Watson and M. Vijay, making it six for two.

Rayudu and du Plessis then launched a counterattack, adding 115 runs for the third wicket.

The former was the more dominant partner while the South Africa played second fiddle.

One of the major aspects was how clueless Jasprit

Bumrah (one for 43 in four overs) looked during the day and his spell cost the team dear.

Earlier, when Mumbai Indians batted, Quinton de Kock (33, 20b, 5x4) and Saurabh Tiwary (42 off 31 balls, 3x4, 1x6) played well but couldn't convert their starts.

de Kock launched into Deepak and Ngidi as 45 came off the first four overs.

Dhoni then introduced Chawla into the attack and he rightaway dismissed Rohit Sharma (12), chipping a delivery straight to Curran at mid-off. Curran then got rid of de Kock with a well-disguised off-cutter.

Suryakumar Yadav (17) and Saurabh Tiwary added 44 to steady the ship, but some outstanding catching and fielding, particularly by

Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 5 (3b); Extras (lb-1, w-4); 5; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 162.

SCOREBOARD

MUMBAI INDIANS

Rohit Sharma c Curran b Chawla 12 (10b, 2x4), Quinton de Kock c Watson b Curran 33 (20b, 5x4), Suryakumar Yadav c Curran b Deepak 17 (16b, 2x4), Saurabh Tiwary c du Plessis b Jadeja 42 (31b, 3x4, 7x6), Hardik Pandya c du Plessis b Jadeja 14 (10b, 2x6), Kieron Pollard c Chawla b Ngidi 18 (74b, 1x4, 1x6), Krunal Pandya c Chawla b Ngidi 3 (3b), James Pattinson c du Plessis b Ngidi 11 (8b, 2x4), Rahul Chahar (not out) 2 (4b), Trent Boult b Deepak 0 (1b), Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 5 (3b); Extras (lb-1, w-4); 5; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 162.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-46 (Rohit, 4.4 overs), 2-48 (de Kock, 5.1), 3-92 (Suryakumar, 10.6), 4-121 (Saurabh, 14.1), 5-124 (Hardik, 14.5), 6-136 (Krunal, 16.1), 7-151 (Pollard, 18.1), 8-156 (Pattinson, 18.5), 9-156 (Boult, 19.1).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING

Boult 3.2-0-23-1, Pattinson

4-0-27-1, Bumrah 4-0-43-1,

Krunal 4-0-37-1, Rahul Chahar

4-0-36-1.

Toss: Chennai Super Kings

MoM: Ambati Rayudu.

CSK beat MI by five wickets

with four balls to spare.



DUCKING: Ambati Rayudu celebrates after his team won the match.

INNINGS SCAN

MI	CSK
40	36
15	16
4	5
51/2	37/2
8.10	8.58

Dots 3-92, Fours 5-124, Sixes 4-121, PP 1-46, RR 1-46.

38-3, Chawla 4-0-21-1, Jadeja 4-0-42-2.

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

M. Vijay lbw b Pattinson 1 (7b), Shane Watson lbw b Boult 4 (5b, 1x4), Faf du Plessis (not out) 58 (44b, 6x4), Ambati Rayudu c & b Rahal 71 (48b, 6x4, 3x6), Ravindra Jadeja lbw b Krunal 10 (5b, 2x4), Sam Curran c Pattinson b Bumrah 18 (6b, 1x4, 2x6), M.S. Dhoni (not out) 0 (2b); Extras (w-3, nb-1); 4; Total (for five wkts. in 19.2 overs): 166.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-46 (Watson, 0.6 overs), 2-6 (Vijay, 1.6), 3-121 (Rayudu, 15.6), 4-134 (Jadeja, 17.1), 5-153 (Curran, 18.2).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING

Boult 3.2-0-23-1, Pattinson

4-0-27-1, Bumrah 4-0-43-1,

Krunal 4-0-37-1, Rahul Chahar

4-0-36-1.

Toss: Chennai Super Kings

MoM: Ambati Rayudu.

CSK beat MI by five wickets

with four balls to spare.

Dhoni more popular than Tendulkar: Gavaskar



M.S. Dhoni ■ BCCI/IPL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The great Sunil Gavaskar on Saturday said Mahendra Singh Dhoni's popularity in India has exceeded the level of fandom even the great Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli enjoy in the cricket-crazy nation.

Speaking about Dhoni before the IPL opener, Gavaskar said, "Since MSD comes from Ranchi, which doesn't have a cricket culture as such, the whole India loves him. Tendulkar has Mumbai and Kolkata, Kohli has Delhi and Bengaluru but when you talk of Dhoni it's whole India."

Staying in self isolation for the first six days after spending five months with family was the hardest phase, according to Dhoni, who spoke for the first time in months.

Warner looking to get SRH off to a good start

Captain happy with the team's balance

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

HYDERABAD

Sunrisers Hyderabad captain David Warner wants his team to hit the ground running in the IPL.

"Back-to-back wins is important. That is the way forward," Warner said at a virtual media interaction from Dubai on Saturday.

On Monday's game against Royal Challengers Bangalore, the SRH captain felt it was important to get early momentum. "Every team has a perfect mix of world-class overseas players and quality Indians. Ours is a pretty well-balanced side in all departments," he said.

He had a message for the team's middle-order: back yourself, play freely, and if a couple of wickets fall, put the pressure back on the bowlers.

Right attitude
Warner said that in the last edition, the middle-order did not get too many opportunities as the top three scored heavily.

"It is good to have a lot of youngsters in the middle-order. They bring enthusiasm and have the right attitude," Warner said.

On being captain again,



Warner. ■ FILE PHOTO: K.V.S. GIRI

Warner said it was a good feeling, but for his team it did not matter who was leading.

"We have plenty of experience with the likes of Kane Williamson, Jonny Bairstow and Vijay Shankar, to name a few. We got a job on our hands for sure," he said.

On opening with England's Bairstow, Warner said the two knew when to take calculated risks and it was time to do it again this year.

The role of spinners would depend on the pitch, he added.

Despite the absence of spectators, all teams would be in a competitive frame of mind once the tournament gets going, Warner said.

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

'Shubman key to KKR's campaign'

McCullum says Cummins will be a vital cog in bowling

Y.B. SARANGI

KOLKATA

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) head coach Brendon McCullum hopes the freshness of pitches will suit his team's pace attack in the early stages of the IPL.

Even in the changed scenario with the tournament being held in the UAE, McCullum said the KKR pacers could 'shock' opponents.

"I think the pitches are going to surprise a lot of people early on in the tournament. They're going to be quite fresh. They could be quite helpful for seam bowling, in which case we've got Shivam Mavi, Prasidh Krishna, Pat Cummins, Ali Khan and Lockie Ferguson.

"We've got a lot of quick bowlers who bowl in excess of 140kmph. We've also got Andre Russell," said McCullum during an interaction.

Happy with spin options
McCullum was happy with KKR's spin options. "Later on, spin

TV PICKS

Premier League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 4.30 p.m., 6.30 p.m., 9 p.m. & 11.30 p.m.
Serie A: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 4 p.m., 6.30 p.m., 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Monday)
NBA: Sony Six (SD & HD), 6 a.m.
Rome Masters: Sony Six (SD & HD), 5.30 p.m. & 9.30 p.m.
Tour de France: Eurosport (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
MotoGP: Eurosport (SD & HD), 2.10 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Tvesa cards 3-under, lies tied second

BORDEAUX
Tvesa Malik put herself in contention with a solid three-under 68 to lie tied second with a four-under 138 after round two of the 2020 Lacoste Ladies Open De France. Sweden's Julia Engstrom was on top of the leaderboard. Diksha Dagar missed the cut. **PTI**



Duplantis erases Bubka's World outdoor record

ROME
Swedish pole vault star Armand Duplantis eclipsed Ukrainian legend Sergey Bubka's 26-year mark, setting an outdoor pole vault World record of 6.15m at the Diamond League meeting recently. Duplantis, who already holds the World indoor record of 6.18m, bettered the mark of 6.14m achieved by Bubka in July 1994 in Italy. **AFP**



LA Lakers dominates Western final opener

MIAMI
Anthony Davis scored 37 points as Los Angeles Lakers dominated Denver Nuggets 126-114 on Friday in game one of the NBA Western Conference final. **The results: WC final: LA Lakers 126 (Davis 37) bt Denver Nuggets 114 (Jokic 21, Murray 21). Lakers 1-0. AFP**



Rare double for Antetokounmpo

LOS ANGELES
Milwaukee Bucks star Giannis Antetokounmpo was named NBA's Most Valuable Player for the second straight season on Friday. The 25-year-old became just the third player to earn MVP and Defensive Player-of-the-Year honours in the same season, after Michael Jordan in 1988 and Hakeem Olajuwon in 1994. The 'Greek Freak' also became the 12th player to win back-to-back MVPs. **AFP**

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
SIGNAL & TELECOMMUNICATION / MADURAI DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE
No. U-SG-08-2020-21 dated 17.09.2020
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Southern Railway, Madurai Division for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-tender for the following work as per detailed tender notice given in our e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in, and only online tenders will be accepted. The cost of tender form & EMD can be made only on online gateway payment through multiple banks, net banking, debit card & credit card. The date of closing is 09.10.2020 at 10.00hrs. All relevant credentials & supporting documents are to be scanned and uploaded along with the offer.

Name of the work:
1. Signal work in connection with Engineering department work (like CTR, TTR, TFTR, TFR, TWR, etc.) in Virudhunagar - Vanchi Maniyachi - Tuticorin, Tirunelveli - Tiruchendur, Manamadurai - Rameswaram, Virudhunagar - Tenkasi, Madurai - Dindigul - Palani, Madurai - Tiruchirappalli-Manamadurai.
2. Annual Zonal Contract of S&T gears under the jurisdiction of ADSTE/MDU for the period of one year.
3. Proposed Railway siding at Kappalur (KFL) for M/s. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited - Taking off from Tirupurankundram station - Rerouting of underground Signal & Telecom Cable Phase-II.
Divisional Railway Manager(S&T) Southern Railway, Madurai

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Reed gets his nose in front

DeChambeau close on his heels; Woods, Mickelson miss the cut

US OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

Masters winner Patrick Reed closed with a birdie to grab a one-stroke lead over Bryson DeChambeau after Friday's second round of the US Open.

Tenth-ranked Reed hit only five fairways but relied on an impressive short game to shoot a level par 70 and stand on four-under 136 after 36 holes.

Day's best

Ninth-ranked DeChambeau sweated out a two-under 68, the day's low round thanks to a closing eagle at nine, to stand on 137.

Spain's Rafael Cabrera Bello and American Harris English, each chasing a first Major title, shot 70 to share third on 138 with American Justin Thomas, the 2017 PGA Championship winner who followed a 65, the lowest US Open round ever at Winged Foot, with a 73.

American Jason Kokrak was sixth on 139, the only other player under par overall after a 71.



Playing it smart: Patrick Reed hit only five fairways but relied on an impressive short game to shoot a level-par 70. **AP**

Fourth-ranked Rory McIlroy, a four-time Major champion, and England's Lee Westwood each followed 67s on Thursday with 76s to share 22nd on 143.

World No. 1 Dustin Johnson fired a 70 to join them on 143. South Africa's Louis Oosthuizen, the 2010 British Open champion, finished

bogey-bogey-double bogey to shoot 74 and stand on one-over 141.

Going out together

Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson both missed the cut for only the second time in the same event after last year's British Open. Woods fired a 77 to finish on 150 while

Mickelson shot a 74 to finish on 153. "It's frustrating that I'm not going to be here for the weekend," Woods said.

The scores:

136: Patrick Reed (66, 70); **137:** Bryson DeChambeau (69, 68)/
138: Rafa Cabrera Bello (68, 70), Harris English (68, 70), Justin Thomas (65, 73)/
139: Jason Kokrak (68, 71).

Harikrishna stuns Carlsen

NEW DELHI: P. Harikrishna stunned Magnus Carlsen and Jeffery Xiong to share the sixth spot with Levon Aronian after 18 rounds of St. Louis rapid and blitz online chess tournament on Friday.

With nine rounds of blitz games left, Carlsen (18.5 points) nosed ahead of overnight leader So (18) in the title-race.

Standings (after nine rounds each of rapid and blitz games):

1. Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 18.5), 2. Wesley So (USA, 18), 3. Ian Nepomniachtchi (Rus, 15), 4-5. Hikaru Nakamura (USA), Alexander Grischuk (Rus) (14.5 each); 6-7. P. Harikrishna, Levon Aronian (Arm, 12.5 each); 8. Jeffery Xiong (USA, 11.5); 9. Leinier Dominguez Perez (USA, 9.5); 10. Alireza Firouzja (FIDE, 8.5).



P. Harikrishna. **FILE PHOTO**

Djokovic in semifinals

Ruud and Halep also make last four



In control: Ruud put it past Berrettini. **GETTY IMAGES**

ROME MASTERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ROME

Top-seeded Novak Djokovic dropped a set before fighting off German qualifier Dominik Koepfer 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 to reach the semifinals of the Rome Masters on Saturday.

The Serbian next plays Norway's Casper Ruud, who earlier battled past Italian fourth seed Matteo Berrettini 4-6, 6-3, 7-6(5).

Meanwhile on Friday, Rafael Nadal swept aside Dušan Lajović 6-1, 6-3 to reach the quarterfinals as he warms up for the final Grand Slam of the season at Roland Garros.

In the women's section, top seed Simona Halep took the first quarterfinal 6-2, 2-0 when Kazakh rival Yulia Putintseva retired during their match on Saturday.

The results: Men: Quarterfinals: Casper Ruud bt Matteo Berrettini 4-6, 6-3, 7-6(5); Novak Djokovic bt Dominik Koepfer 6-3, 4-6, 6-3; **Third round:** Dominik Koepfer bt Lorenzo Musetti 6-4, 6-0; Diego Schwartzman bt Hubert Hurkacz 3-6, 6-2, 6-4; Rafael Nadal bt Dušan Lajović 6-1, 6-3.

Women: Quarterfinals: Simona Halep bt Yulia Putintseva 6-2, 2-0 retd; Garbine Muguruza bt Victoria Azarenka 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; **Third round:** Putintseva bt Elena Rybakina 4-6, 7-6(3), 6-2; Elina Svitolina bt Svetlana Kuznetsova 7-6(6), 6-4.

Neymar to lead Brazil in WC qualifying

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
RIO DE JANEIRO

Brazil coach Tite kept faith with a troubled Neymar on Friday, choosing him to lead the *Selecao* as it launches its 2022 football World Cup qualifying campaign next month.

The five-time World champion Brazil plays Bolivia in São Paulo on October 9, then it will travel to Lima to face Peru four days later.

BFI office-bearers' tenure extended

BOXING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI), on Saturday, extended the tenure of its present set of office-bearers by three months.

The four-year tenure of the BFI office-bearers was supposed to get over on September 25. However, the conduct of the election was impeded by the pandemic.

At a Special General Meeting (SGM), the BFI members were informed that the election would be held within the next three months. Besides, the BFI unanimously amended its constitution to comply with the National Sports Code 2011, an essential requirement to get Government recognition.

The BFI expressed its intention of starting the training of youth and junior pugilists at the National Boxing Academy, Rohtak.



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Hosur Housing Unit of Tamil Nadu Housing Board

has proposed to sell the Commercial sites (Totally - 42)

items through sealed Tender - Cum - Open Auction.

Please visit Tamil Nadu Housing Board website www.tnhb.tn.gov.in from 21.09.2020 for further details regarding scheme. Code No, Plot No, Plot Extent, Upset - price, EMD 15 % amount, Auction date, Cost of Application, Period of Sale of Application and conditions. Also contact below mentioned address for further details.

Address :-

Tamil Nadu Housing Board,
Hosur Housing Unit,
Bagalur Road, Hosur - 635 109.
Telephone No. 04344 242 306.

Exe. Engr. & Adm. Officer,

Hosur Housing Unit.

KARNATAKA STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
"Bheej Bhavan", 4th & 5th Floor, Bellary Road, Hebbal, Bengaluru-24. Ph: 080-23415679, Fax: 080-23415672
Website: www.karnatakawarehousing.in, e-mail: hegdeksw@gmail.com

ONLINE SHORT TERM e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Karnataka State Warehousing Corporation Invites online short term e-tenders from the reputed I.R.D.A registered Insurance Companies for Insurance for Stock Insurance on Standard Fire & Special Perils Policy including STFI cover & Spontaneous Combustion Cover (Excluding terrorism Perils) Floater & Burglary First Loss Basis -10% Value basis Insurance Floater policy for all Agricultural produces, Milled products, Agricultural inputs, Agro chemicals & other notified commodities / materials etc. for a period of one year from 01.11.2020 to 31.10.2021 on 160 Warehouse centers as per online E-tender notification No: KSWC/ACT/SIF/06/2358/2020-21 Dated: 19.09.2020. The value of insurance cover is **Rs.4500.00 crores** (Rupees. Four thousand five hundred Crores only). EMD Prescribed: **Rs.2,00,00/-** (Rs.Two Lakhs only). Tenders are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rule 2000. Tender process involves two cover bid system, consisting of Technical bid and Financial Bid will be followed. 1) Tender documents available in e-Proc portal; from **19.09.2020** to **30.09.2020**. 2) Pre bid Meeting: **30.09.2020** at **3.00 PM.** 3) Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender through online: **09.10.2020** upto **3.00 PM.** 4) Date & Time for Opening of Technical bid: **12.10.2020** at **3.00 PM.** 5) Date & Time for Opening of Financial bid: **14.10.2020** at **11.00 AM.** 6) Tender processing fee as per e-portal.

Sd/-
MANAGING DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL S. M. S. MEDICAL COLLEGE & CONTROLLER OF THE ATTACHED HOSPITALS, JAIPUR

NO. 2110-09/F/MC/Store/2020-21 Dated:- 18-09-2020

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 109-114/2020-21

Online Bids are invited for the supply & installation of various items for various Medical College Rajasthan from their Manufacturers/Authorized Distributors/Dealers/Indian Agents can participate for bidding. You are requested to quote your best offer along with the complete details of specifications