



Men account for 70% COVID-19 fatalities in India: Health Ministry  
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SC expresses dismay at roadblocks faced by women Army officers  
page 10



Jadeja, Karn help Super Kings get the better of Sunrisers  
page 13

## NEARBY



Court seeks transfer of case against Ramani

NEW DELHI  
A Delhi court, which was hearing former Union Minister M.J. Akbar's defamation case against journalist Priya Ramani for her tweets accusing him of sexual harassment, on Tuesday said it cannot hear the case any more because of a recent verdict of the Supreme Court. "As the present matter is not filed against MP/MLA, hence cannot be tried by this court and needs to be transferred to the competent court of jurisdiction," Judge Vishal Pahuja said.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 10

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OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 5

Pawar backs Uddhav, writes to PM

## STAFF REPORTER

MUMBAI  
Nationalist Congress Party president Sharad Pawar on Tuesday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, backing Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray in his verbal spat with Governor B.S. Koshiyari over reopening temples in the State.

Mr. Pawar said he was pained at the erosion of standards of conduct by the office of the Governor.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## India's economy to contract by 10.3% this fiscal, says IMF

It is expected to bounce back with 8.8 % growth next year

SIRIAM LAKSHMAN

WASHINGTON

India's economy is expected to contract 10.3% in the current fiscal year as the country and the world reel from the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Global output is projected to shrink 4.4% in 2020, the IMF said in its World Economic Outlook October 2020 report titled, "A Long and Difficult Ascent".

The projection for India is a downgrading of 5.8 percentage points from its June forecast. India is expected to rebound in the fiscal year beginning in April 2021 with 8.8% growth – an upgrade of 2.8 percentage points relative to the June update.

"Revisions to the forecast are particularly large for India, where GDP contracted much more severely than expected in the second quarter," the IMF said.

Consumer prices in India



### Sliding further

India's economy is projected to contract by 10.3% in 2020, the slowest among BRICS countries. The table lists projections by the IMF for 2020 and 2021

Region	2020	2021
India*	-10.3	8.8
Brazil	-5.8	2.8
Russia	-4.1	2.8
China	1.9	8.2
South Africa	-8	3
World	-4.4	5.2

\*India's figures are for fiscal years. All figures in %

are expected to grow at 4.9% this year and by 3.7% in the next fiscal. The current account balance is projected to grow by 0.3% this year and -0.9% next year.

For the world as a whole, the 2020 growth projection has been revised upwards by 0.8 percentage points relative to June – the result of a less dire second quarter and signs of a stronger recovery

in the third quarter, partly offset by downgrades in certain developing countries and emerging economies (except China). The recovery in 2021 is projected to be at 5.2%, lower than the June 2020 projections.

After 2021, global growth is expected to ease off at 3.5% in the medium term.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## Caught in the wind



**Distress call:** A Bangladeshi ship which ran aground due to strong winds in Visakhapatnam as heavy rain lashed Andhra Pradesh and Telangana on Tuesday. ■ K.R. DEEPAK (REPORTS ON PAGE 8)

## Hathras case: High Court pulls up U.P. govt

Bench unsatisfied with official response on why action not taken against DM

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LUCKNOW

The Allahabad High Court has said it is not satisfied with the explanation of the Uttar Pradesh government on why it had taken action against the district police chief of Hathras but not the District Magistrate (DM) over the alleged rape of a Dalit woman and the hurried cremation of the victim, though it was admittedly a "collective decision".

### 'Rights infringement'

The action of the State authorities, though in the name of the law and order situa-



tion, was *prima facie* an infringement upon the human rights of the victim and her family, stated the court.

The Lucknow Bench also pulled up Additional Director General (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar and asked if

it was proper for anyone not directly connected with the investigation to comment, even when the probe was pending.

Earlier, when the court asked Avanish Awasthi, Additional Chief Secretary

SEE ALSO ▶ PAGE 9

Home, why only the Superintendent of Police had been suspended but the DM was allowed to continue in his job, Mr. Awasthi said the first report of the SIT (Special Investigation Team) had indicted the Superintendent of Police. However, on being asked whether the SIT had absolved the DM and if the role of the DM was the subject matter of the SIT probe, he stated it was not. "He could not give any satisfactory reply in this regard as to why the two officers had been treated differently," said the court.

According to monitoring agency SAFAR, the air quality of Delhi and Gurugram deteriorated on Tuesday and nearly touched the 'very poor' category.

In the exercise of powers conferred under Section 19

The move comes just days ahead of the Supreme Court hearing on her detention.

"In exercise of powers conferred under Section 19

## The principal who won freedom for Indian hostages

Head of the Indian school in Benghazi, Tabassum Mansoor, led the negotiations with militants in Libya

### KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

NEW DELHI

After almost a month of tense negotiations, the hostage situation involving seven Indians in Libya came to an end with their release on October 11.

In the absence of a resident Ambassador in the country, the delicate task of ensuring the safe release of the Indians workers with Al Shola Al Mudea energy company, fell to long-term resident of Benghazi and principal of the city's Indian school Tabassum Mansoor.

The seven men had been abducted by militants at Ashweraif on September 14. A source with knowledge of the operation said the rescue

would not have been possible but for Ms. Mansoor, who carried out negotiations with the militants through the Libyan authorities and tribal elders.

Born in Gorakhpur, Ms. Mansoor has been in Benghazi for more than three decades. Ms. Mansoor has mentored the Indian school in Benghazi over the years and the school has emerged as the only Indian-led English-medium educational centre in the city.

Recognition for her long-standing commitment to education amid difficult circumstances came from the Libyan authorities when she inducted as a member of the National Education Council

This time too Ms. Mansoor

swung into action when requested by the Indian authorities.

### 'Given up hope'

"We had initially given up hope of seeing Umed again. But it was at that time that we found strength and support from Tabassumji. The Indian Embassy in Tunis provided excellent diplomatic support but Tabassum Madam handled the local negotiations to free our people," said an emotional Firoz, brother-in-law of Umed, one of the seven Indians, in an online interview. The local recognition helped the 59-year-old principal in the talks to ensure the safe release of the seven Indians.



Tabassum Mansoor

of Libya. Ms. Mansoor's work in the larger Indian community first came into the spotlight for her efforts during the 2011 evacuation of around 3,000 Indians from Benghazi when the city witnessed intense fighting between pro- and anti-Qadhafi forces.

This time too Ms. Mansoor

declined to speak about her role when *The Hindu* reached out to her. But a source familiar with the developments said the negotiation with the militants was extremely risky as they are known to be unpredictable. As the negotiations reached their conclusion, Ms. Mansoor went personally to Brega with Libyan security officials where the captors handed over the Indians.

The Libyan support to the Indian-led initiative were lauded by the Ministry of External Affairs which expressed "sincere thanks to the Libyan authorities and the tribal elders from the region" for their support in securing release of the men.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10



President Trump back on campaign trail with a roar  
page 11

Jadeja, Karn help Super Kings get the better of Sunrisers  
page 13



Fresh supplies: An army convoy on its way to Ladakh amid the border tension with China. ■ PTI

Wang Yi slams Quad

In Beijing's most high-profile criticism so far on the Quad, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said the U.S. was aiming to build an "Indo-Pacific NATO" that would be founded on the India, U.S., Japan and Australia grouping. ■ PAGE 11

going Tso (lake).

The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, responding to a question at a daily briefing on India unveiling new bridges as part of upgrading border infrastructure in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, blamed India for the LAC situation, and said Beijing did not recognise the legality of Ladakh, a position Beijing took last year as it opposed the creation of the Union Territory because it included within its borders Aksai Chin, currently occupied by China.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## After talks fail to break impasse, China blames India for tensions

Beijing points the finger at infra development, deployments by India along LAC

ANANTH KRISHNAN

CHENNAI

A day after the marathon talks between Corps Commanders, held at Chushul in eastern Ladakh, failed to reach an agreement on disengagement, China on Tuesday said the "root cause" of the recent tensions was India's infrastructure development and military deployments along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

China's claim, which Indian officials have rejected previously pointing to the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) build-up of troops, multiple transgressions and attempt to unilaterally redraw the LAC since May, underlines the difficulty that the seven rounds of military talks have faced in taking forward the stalled disengagement process and achieving a return to the status quo

that India has demanded. Following the sixth round on September 21, both sides, in a joint statement, agreed to "stop sending more troops to the front line".

The build-up of troops, however, remains, and Indian officials believe the Chinese side may be preparing for the long haul and the harsh winter to come.

No timeline

The joint press release on Tuesday shed no clarity on any possible timetable for disengagement.

It said both sides had at the seventh round of talks on Monday held "a sincere, in-depth and constructive exchange of views on disengagement along the Line of Actual Control in the Western Sector of India-China border areas".

"They were of the view

that these discussions were positive, constructive and had enhanced understanding of each other's positions," the release said.

"Both sides agreed to maintain dialogue and communication through military and diplomatic channels, and arrive at a mutually acceptable solution for disengagement as early as possible."

The release did not mention a return to the status quo prior to May's transgressions by China, a prospect that appears unlikely in light of the PLA's entrenching of its positions in areas such as the north bank of the Pan-

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## Mehbooba Mufti released after 14 months

PSA charges revoked; move comes days before SC hearing on her detention

PEERZADA ASHIQ

SRINAGAR



Mehbooba Mufti

ahead of the Supreme Court hearing on her detention.

"In exercise of powers

conferred under Section 19

(1) of the J&K Public Safety Act, the government revokes the detention order dated February 5 and extended for a period of three months on July 31, 2020 against Ms. Mufti," an order issued by Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary, Home, said.

Ms. Mufti was lodged in two separate sub-jails in Srinagar before she was shifted to her official residence,

which was converted into a sub-jail.

A DDP spokesman said Ms. Mufti would address the press in Srinagar on Friday.

Ms. Mufti has not issued any statement since her arrest last year after the Centre abrogated the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

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Sisodia accuses Centre of doing nothing to stop crop burning

## STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Tuesday attacked the Central government over air pollution due to stubble burning and accused it of doing nothing throughout the year to control it.

"The Centre has completely failed to save north India from pollution. While the Delhi government works continuously to stop pollution throughout the year, the Centre sits idle," Mr. Sisodia said, adding that increased pollution caused by stubble burning and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic make for a "dangerous combination".

"North India is suffering from the adverse consequences of Centre's inaction. Why does the Centre not take any steps to save the lives of the residents of north India?" he said.

## Punjab villages

Mr. Sisodia said that pollution from stubble burning is not only a problem for Delhites but also a matter of great concern for people living in Punjab villages the stubble is set on fire.

"I request the Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority to look into why the Centre and other State governments do not do any work to control pollution around the year. Has the EPCA also failed to make these governments take action to control pollution? Now it seems like that," he said.

Mr. Sisodia added that the Centre will have to take responsibility for preventing pollution throughout north India.

# Delhi, Gurugram air quality dips

Capital's air quality likely to be in 'poor' to 'very poor' category for next two days

## STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The air quality of Delhi and Gurugram deteriorated on Tuesday and nearly touched the 'very poor' category.

According to government-run monitoring agency SAFAR, the air quality of Delhi is likely to be in the 'poor' to 'very poor' category for the next two days.

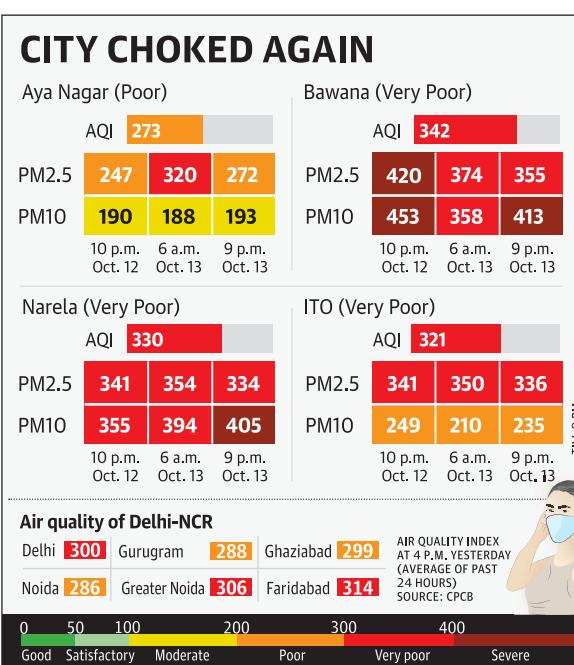
## North body fined

Meanwhile, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has imposed a fine of ₹20 lakh on the North Delhi Municipal Corporation for flouting dust control norms at Bhalswa landfill.

Environment Minister Gopal Rai conducted an inspection of the landfill and found "large scale violations" of the guidelines issued by the Delhi government.

"The incompetence of certain departments in tackling the problem of pollution in Delhi is visible. We have directed the DPCC to take adequate and strict action in the matter," the Minister said.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi on Tuesday was 300 – on the verge of



'very poor' category, up from 261 (poor) on Monday, as per Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data.

The AQI in Gurugram was 288 (poor) on Tuesday, slightly up from 259 (poor) on Monday. The AQI in Noida was 286, up from 274 on Monday.

The AQI for the three cities are the average values of

the past 24 hours, which is released by the CPCB at 4 pm every day, and treated as the official figure.

In Delhi, 19 out of the 34 monitoring stations were showing 'very poor' air quality at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, according to the CPCB. The stations with 'very poor' air included ITO, IGI, Wazirpur, Mundka and others.

Delhi's air quality was expected to improve on Tuesday, but a drop in speed of local surface winds is one of the reasons for the air quality worsening.

"Though boundary layer wind direction has changed from north-westerly to easterly as predicted, the impact of disturbed wind circulation due to deep depression over west-central Bay of Bengal could not be realised in Delhi as it was expected, SAFAR said in a statement.

"In Delhi, temperature and wind speed decreased on Monday night. Also, mixing depth [the height of the atmosphere from the ground in which pollutants can be dispersed] also reduced. Due to this, the pollutants could not disperse and they accumulated," said a SAFAR official, explaining the increase in air pollution.

"There was a rise in stubble burning fires observed on Monday around Punjab, Haryana, and neighbouring border regions with 675 fires. But the transport wind direction is unfavourable and hence, only marginal stubble contribution in PM2.5 is expected," SAFAR said.

## Kejriwal kick-starts use of bio-decomposer solution

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday visited Hiranvi village in Narela to kick-start the process of spraying a newly developed bio-decomposer solution on 700-800 hectares of paddy fields in Delhi to curb the practise of stubble burning.

Mr. Kejriwal said that the solution has been developed under the guidance of

the Pusa Institute and arrangement for spraying is being done free of cost. He added that all governments have to work in tandem to address the issue of stubble burning in northern India.

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai was also present at the launch of the process. "To end issue of stubble burning, the process of production of this liquid solution was started in

Delhi around 10 days ago. The Delhi government has created the solution, which will be sprayed on the fields and convert stubble into manure," Mr. Rai said.

"The solution will be sprayed on 700-800 hectares of land in Delhi in the next few days. The stubble will convert into manure and the land will be ready for sowing in the next 20-25 days," he added.

Mr. Kejriwal said that stubble burning destroys useful bacteria in farms and that the spray solution would increase the productivity of the land and decrease use of fertilisers.

He added that pollution was under control in Delhi for the past 10 months but now he was concerned for residents of the city, Punjab and Haryana due to smoke from stubble burning.

The case was registered at Pataudi police station in the wake of the order of Additional Sessions Judge Ashwani Kumar on a plea by Ra-

mesh Kumar, an RTI activist.

According to the FIR, Haileymandi municipal committee chairman Suresh Kumar, secretary Sushil Kumar and engineer Hemant Kumar allegedly colluded with a construction firm and others to withdraw government money against the payment for the construction of a 500-metre road from Mata Mandir to the house of one Laxmi Narain in ward no.2.

dren of his friend Jaspal Singh on G.T. Road. All four persons were injured in the accident."

During treatment, the seven-year-old girl undergoing treatment at AIIMS Trauma Centre and her four-year-old sister undergoing treatment in Safdarjung Hospital succumbed to injuries, the officer said, adding that Milap and the boy are still hospitalised.

A case under Sections 279 (rash driving or riding on a public way), 304A (causing death by negligence) and 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the IPC has been registered and efforts are being made to trace the offending vehicle, the police said.

## Car mows down minor sisters

Two others, including brother of victims, injured

## STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A seven-year-old girl and her four-year-old sister were killed when they were hit by an unidentified car while they were crossing a road in north-west Delhi's Model Town. A 55-year-old man and a six-year-old boy – brother of the deceased – were also injured.

"Though boundary layer wind direction has changed from north-westerly to easterly as predicted, the impact of disturbed wind circulation due to deep depression over west-central Bay of Bengal could not be realised in Delhi as it was expected, SAFAR said in a statement.

The accident took place on Monday night near Gurdwara Nanak Piao on G.T. Road, the police said.

Initial probe revealed that one Jaspal Singh, along with his wife and three children, and friend Milap Singh were on their way to visit an acquaintance in the area. On the way, Jaspal stopped his car at a CNG station opposite Gurdwara Na-

nak Pio. Milap got out of the car along with Jaspal's three children and were crossing G.T. Road when they were hit by a car.

**Hunt on for driver, car**  
Neither the offending vehicle nor its driver have been traced yet, the police said, adding that they are scanning CCTV cameras in adjoining areas.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North-West) Vijayanta Arya said, "We got a PCR call at Model Town police station around 11.49 p.m. about an accident near Gurdwara Nanak Piao by some unknown vehicle. On enquiry, it surfaced that the accident happened while Milap Singh was crossing the road with the three chil-

## Municipal panel members booked for embezzling ₹9 lakh from govt.

FIR lodged against panel chairman, secretary as well as an SI

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GURUGRAM

The chairman and the secretary of a municipal committee, and four others, have been booked on charges of cheating and criminal conspiracy under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

They allegedly embezzled funds to the tune of ₹9 lakh for building a road but did not carry out the construction work. A Sub-Inspector has also been named in the FIR for not acting on the complaint in the matter.

The case was registered at Pataudi police station in the wake of the order of Additional Sessions Judge Ashwani Kumar on a plea by Ra-

mesh Kumar, an RTI activist. According to the FIR, Haileymandi municipal committee chairman Suresh Kumar, secretary Sushil Kumar and engineer Hemant Kumar allegedly colluded with a construction firm and others to withdraw government money against the payment for the construction of a 500-metre road from Mata Mandir to the house of one Laxmi Narain in ward no.2.

Ramesh said he gave a complaint to Haileymandi Police post-in-charge seeking registration of FIR on March 9 with reference to the probe by the ADC, but the police officer concerned did not register the case.

"It is mandatory for the police to register an FIR for a cognisable offence or inform the complainant in case the complaint is rejected. But the police officer concerned neither registered the case nor informed me," said Ramesh.

## DMRC to conduct survey to reduce overcrowding

## STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Tuesday said that an online survey will be conducted to study the possibility of commuters planning their travel in flexible timings to avoid overcrowding.

The questions are de-

signed to cover basic aspects of metro commute such as timings of travel, line utilisation, flexibility of planning the travel, and whether commuters have an option of working from home.

The link to the survey will be available on DMRC's social media platforms till October 27, it added.

## 3 arrested for beating, stabbing youth

## STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Three men have been arrested for allegedly beating and stabbing a 20-year-old youth to teach him a lesson for allegedly annoying their friend's girlfriend, the police said on Tuesday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-East) R.P. Meena said that the injured has been identified as Rahul, resident of Taimoor Nagar. He

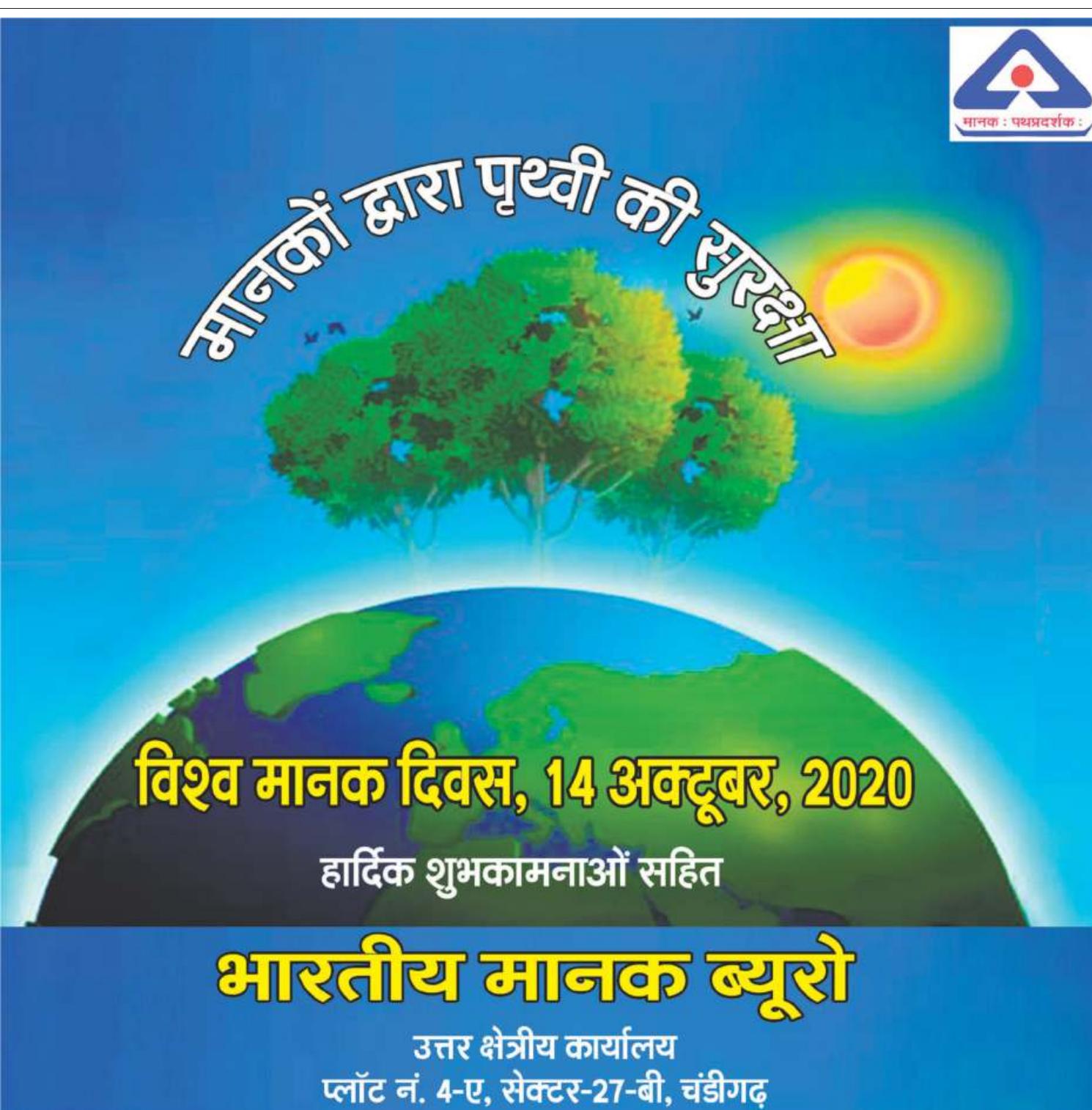
is undergoing treatment but is said to be out of danger.

The police said the three accused identified as Ankush (19), Shahid (20) and Nikhil (19) have been arrested in connection while efforts are being made to nab prime accused Alex Thomas who stabbed Rahul and fled from the spot on October 9 at Kilokari Road.

During investigation, the accused allegedly told the

police that they are friends of Alex Thomas and a few days ago, Alex told Ankush and his accomplices that Rahul was troubling his girlfriend. Therefore, they decided to teach Rahul a lesson, the police said.

On October 9, when the four accused saw Rahul at a juice stall, they caught him and beat him before Alex stabbed him before fleeing away.



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Tel: 0194-2402617 Ext: 2159 E-Mail :mechanicalskims@gmail.com		
Notice Inviting E-Tenders		
Gist of e-NIT NO. 43 OF 2020-21 Dated. 12.10.2020		
For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir U.T. of Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar, Invites online e-bids in two (02) cover systems from Original equipment manufacturers /Authorized Dealers / Authorized representatives / registered firms / reputed firms having expertise as detailed in the tender document for the following works.		
S.No	Name of the Work :-	Estimated Cost (in Lacs)
1	Design, erection, testing and commissioning of "walk in cold storage room for new Drug and Pharmacy Block at SKIMS, Soura.	28.50 Lacs
The complete tender document is available at website <a href="http://jkttenders.gov.in">http://jkttenders.gov.in</a> . Interested bidders/tenderers may view, download the e-bid document, seek clarifications and submit their bids online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Tender Document contains qualifying criteria for bidders. Specifications, Bills of Quantities, & Terms & Conditions of the contract and other relevant details.		
i)	Date and time of downloading/Sale of tender documents (Starting Date).	13. 10. 2020 from 11:00 Hours.
ii)	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/clarification/Pre-bid meet	20.10.2020 at 11:00 Hours.
iii)	Last Date & Time of Bid Uploading	02.11.2020 upto 16:00 Hours
iv)	Date of Submission of hard copies (only Original EMD/DD for Document Fee)	03.11.2020 upto 14:00 Hours
v)	Date & Time of Commercial/technical Bid (Cover-I) opening	04.11.2020 11:00 Hours ( or next convenient day) .
vi)	Date & Time of Financial Bid(Cover-II) Opening of the qualifying Bidders	Shall be intimated separately.
vii)	Cost of e-bid Document	Rs.1500/- (Rupees One thousand and Five hundred only)
viii)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit(CDR/FDR)	Rs. 57000/- (Rupees Fifty - Seven thousand only)
ix)	Completion Time	One (01) months from the date of issue of LOI or Allotment Order.
x)	Budget Head	Ongoing works for the year 2020-21
No.:SIMS 139 EX.521/20-2383-92-5464-67,Dated:- 12.10.2020		Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS
No.:SIMS 5466 Dated:- 13.10.2020		

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Tel: 0194-2402617 Ext: 2159 E-Mail :mechanicalskims@gmail.com		
Notice Inviting E-Tenders		
Gist of e-NIT NO. 42 OF 2020-21 Dated. 12.10.2020		
For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir U.T. of Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar, Invites online e-bids in two (02) cover systems from Original Lift Manufacturers or their Authorised Dealers / Representatives / Registered firms having experience in installation, testing and commissioning of lifts in Govt. Institutions / departments, detailed in the tender document for the following works:		
S.No	Name of the Work :-	Estimated Cost (in Lacs)
1	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Inspecting and Commissioning of Goods lift (01 No) in new Drug & Pharmacy Block with CMC for 03-years at SKIMS, Soura.</	

Timings  
DELHI

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 14
RISE 06:22 SET 17:53
RISE 03:18 SET 16:32
THURSDAY, OCT. 15
RISE 06:22 SET 17:52
RISE 04:24 SET 17:11
FRIDAY, OCT. 16
RISE 06:23 SET 17:51
RISE 05:32 SET 17:50

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	35	20
Safdarjung	35	20
Palam	34	22

Delhi Palam Today  
35°C A comfortable hazy morning. Warm and mainly sunny day likely. Light easterly winds will continue.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow  
34°C Hazy morning turn warm and humid day with few clouds.

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## One more arrest made in Rahul Rajput case

Police harassing witness, claims AAP

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

An 18-year-old youth has been arrested in connection with the killing of a Delhi University student in north-west Delhi's Adarsh Nagar, the police said on Tuesday.

The accused, Shubham Bharadwaj from Jahangirpur, was involved with his friends in the killing, said the police, who have already arrested two people and apprehended three others in connection with the case.

Meanwhile, the Aam Aadmi Party on Tuesday alleged that the Delhi Police, which comes under the jurisdiction of the Centre, is harassing an eyewitness in the murder of Rahul Rajput.

"In The Hindu's article, a reporter had said that in a video call, the eyewitness said at 8 p.m., three police officers came to meet her in plain clothes and a woman officer took her SIM card and damaged it," said AAP chief Spokesperson Sau-

rabh Bharadwaj at a press meet. The AAP leader added that the police is harassing the eyewitness because she has claimed that despite repeated requests, the officers remained silent at the time of the incident.

"On one hand, the BJP says that Hindus are in danger and on the other hand, in front of the Delhi Police, a Hindu boy was beaten to death. Why didn't the police stop them?" he asked.

"The most shameful thing here is that an official eyewitness, who is giving a statement against her own brothers, and who is under police protection in Nari Niketan, had her SIM card changed by a woman officer and the police say they know nothing about it," the AAP leader said.

Rajput, 18, was allegedly beaten to death by a girl's family members, who objected to their friendship as they belonged to different religions.

## City records over 3,000 fresh COVID-19 cases

Hindu Rao Hospital converted into non-COVID facility: govt.

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The city recorded 3,036 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, taking the tally to 3,14,224, said a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Tuesday.

The death toll has reached 5,854 with 45 more fatalities reported in a single day. Of the total cases, 2,86,880 people have recovered and there are now 21,490 active cases.

**Low bed occupancy'**

In a related development, the north corporation-run Hindu Rao Hospital was converted into a non-COVID-19 treatment facility on Tues-

day, read an order by the government. Last week, 20 CO-

VID-19 patients were shifted from the civic hospital to two Delhi government hospitals after healthcare workers of Hindu Rao called for a strike over non-payment of salaries. The order said the hospital was converted into a non-COVID-19 hospital due to "low average bed occupancy" and a request by the civic body commissioner.

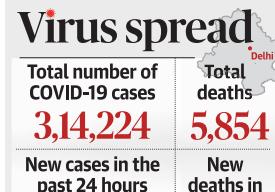
Tuesday's figure of new cases broke an 11-day streak of below 3,000 daily cases.

In the past 24 hours, 54,957 tests were done, which is considerably higher than the past few days.

As per Tuesday's bulletin, the number of active cases has gone up slightly, but the number of people in hospitals, and people under home



Workers being tested for the virus at a DMRC construction site on Tuesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA



isolation have decreased for the third consecutive day.

Out of the total 16,117 beds available for COVID-19 treatment in the city, 68.3% were vacant, as per government data. But 55.1% of the ICU beds with ventilators are occupied and 53.8% of the ICU beds without ventilators are full.

The positivity rate (percentage of people testing positive for every 100 tests done) is 5.5%. The overall positivity rate till now is 8.4%. The number of containment zones in the city on Tuesday was 2,747.



A locality in north-east Delhi after the riots. ■ FILE PHOTO

constables, who recorded statements as witnesses and identified Mr. Rehman, "did not make any daily diary entry as the alleged incident occurred on February 25, whereas the present FIR was registered on March 4."

Justice Suresh Kumar Kait ordered that Mohd. Rehman be released on bail, if not required in any other case, on his furnishing a personal bond of ₹25,000 with one surety of like amount.

No PCR call

The court further noted that the constables did not make a PCR call on the day of the incident.

The special public prosecutor opposed the bail plea on the grounds that during the probe, the primary witness had identified Mr. Rehman along with other co-accused. The prosecutor stated that Mr. Rehman is involved in four other riot cases. The HC, however, remarked: "It is not in dispute that in the present case there is no CCTV footage, video clip or photo to corroborate prosecution's claim."

Justice Kait also questioned why two Delhi police

salaries. The order said the hospital was converted into a non-COVID-19 hospital due to "low average bed occupancy" and a request by the civic body commissioner.

Tuesday's figure of new cases broke an 11-day streak of below 3,000 daily cases.

In the past 24 hours, 54,957 tests were done, which is considerably higher than the past few days.

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### IN BRIEF

**BJP holds event in support of farm Acts**

NEW DELHI

The BJP Opposition on Tuesday held a *Mahila Sammelan* in Khairia village in support of the recently passed farm laws. Leader of the Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, Delhi BJP V-P Barkha Singh and Delhi BJP Mahila Morcha chief Yogita Singh were at the event. "To get freedom from exploitation, we have to stand with the Modi government," Mr. Bidhuri said. "Through the farm Acts, the farmers will now have complete rights to sell their crops at the best price," Ms. Singh said.

## OBC aspirants get time to upload papers

DU approves over 7,600 applications for admission in 2 days

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Following concerns over submissions of certificates under the Other Backward Castes (OBC) category, Delhi University on Tuesday clarified that aspirants will be given a 14-day window to upload the latest certificate.

**'Due to pandemic'**  
Many of the aspirants had failed to procure the latest caste certificates due to the ongoing pandemic.

Putting their applications

on hold, several colleges had asked them to furnish the latest certificate. According to the university, students will be required to take an undertaking that in case the student fails to provide the certificate their admission will stand cancelled.

The university also said: "In case any documents are found false at the time of physical verification of certificates, the admission is liable to be cancelled. In the meantime, applicants may be allowed to take admission

by submitting a self-attested copy of acknowledgment slip and undertaking of ensuring the production of the certificate within the stipulated period."

In two days, DU has received 49,712 applications out of which 7,640 have been approved. Out of the approved students, 6,790 have paid the fees.

Admissions under the first cut-off list will remain open till 5 p.m. on Wednesday. Applicants can, however, pay the fees till Friday.

## 'Seat allocation method didn't achieve 5% quota'

Court raps JNU on Pwd reservation

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on Tuesday informed the Delhi High Court that its method of allocation of seats for disabled did not achieve the mandate of 5% reservation provided under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act.

Reacting to the submission, a Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan said: "You

cannot juggle your allocation of seats in such a way that you achieve only 4 or 4.5% reservation for PWD instead of 5% or more. Can you have an administrative allocation which results in not achieving the 5% reservation in admission? If you are not realising the purpose behind the statute, then we have a problem."

The court has posted the case for further hearing on November 6.

**Government of India Public Enterprises Selection Board invites applications for the post of Director (Planning & Business Development) in Indian Oil Corporation Limited**

Last date of receipt of applications in PESB is by 1500 hours on 16th December 2020

For details login to website <http://www.pesb.gov.in>



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- साप्ताहिक टेस्ट प्रारंभिक एवं मुख्य परीक्षा (रविवार)
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# Court convicts 25 for lynching Assam doctor

Deben Dutta, senior medical officer at a tea estate, was killed in August 2019.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

A court in Assam's Jorhat convicted 25 people for lynching a 73-year-old doctor more than a year ago.

A mob had assaulted and killed Deben Dutta, senior medical officer of a dispensary in Teok Tea Estate on August 31, 2019, for allegedly delaying the treatment of a plantation worker named Somra Majhi. Dutta died on the way to the Jorhat Medical College and Hospital.

## Six acquitted

The police had filed a chargesheet against 32 people but Jorhat district and sessions judge Robin Phukan acquitted six while one had died during the trial.

The quantum of punishment against the 25 convicted on Monday would be

pronounced on October 19.

Sections dealing with murder, wrongful confinement, rioting, use of criminal force to deter public servants on duty and unlawful assembly of people with common objective had been slapped on the accused.

Relevant Sections of the Indian Penal Code were read with those of The Assam Medicare Service Persons & Medicare Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence & Damage to Property) Act, 2011.

## IMA's threat

The lynching had triggered a series of protests, with the Indian Medical Association threatening to withdraw doctors from tea estate hospitals if prompt action was not taken against the guilty.

A four-member special investigation team headed by Siva Prasad, Deputy Inspector-General of Eastern Range, had probed and concluded the case in a "record" time of 21 days and filed a 602-page chargesheet on September 21, 2019.

# Jabalpur doctor calls out fake news over Hathras visit

She plans to take legal action against media

SIDHARTH YADAV  
BHOPAL

A doctor at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Medical College, Jabalpur, has said that she was moving the courts against an attempt by some sections of the media to defame her and hurt her dignity after she visited the family of the Hathras victim.

A Demonstrator in the Pharmacology Department, Rajkumari Bansal earlier this month visited the family of a 19-year-old Dalit girl, who died at a Delhi hospital while undergoing treatment after being allegedly raped last month. Later, sections of the media levelled unsubstantiated allegations against the doctor – that she had Maoist links; that she falsely claimed to be the victim's sister-in-law; and that she was part of an international conspiracy to defame and destabilise the U.P. government. Dr. Bansal has denied all these charges.

Claiming a "big conspiracy" was being scripted against her, Dr. Bansal told *The Hindu*, "I am being framed. Those making such baseless allegations have to supply the proof backing them."

Meanwhile, college Dean P.K. Karar said they had not served a notice on Dr. Bansal as claimed by the media.

# Missing businessman found dead

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GHAZIABAD

The body of Ghaziabad businessman, Panchal Tyagi, who went missing on Monday, was found in the Sahibabad area of the city on Tuesday morning, police said. "His body has been found lying alongside Link Road. There are no obvious signs of injury on the body. His mobile and wallet are missing. The body has been sent for post-mortem," said Keshav Kumar, Circle Officer, Sahibabad, denying reports that suggested strangulation marks.

According to the complaint lodged by the deceased's brother Kuldeep Tyagi at the Sahibabad police station

on Monday, Panchal, 38, who runs a cable wire factory in the Rajendra Nagar Industrial Area, went missing on Monday when he was purportedly going home from the factory for lunch. When he did not reach home, his wife called him but his phone was switched off. She called the factory, where she was told that he had left around 1 p.m. When he could not be traced till evening, Mr. Tyagi approached the police.

An FIR was registered against unknown persons under Section 364A of the IPC. Later in the evening, his car was found near the Haj House," Mr. Kumar said.

# Three killed in cylinder blast

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GHAZIABAD

Three persons died and six were seriously injured in a cylinder blast in a house in the Delhi Gate area of Aligarh on Tuesday, the police said. Sources said an illegal toy pistol factory in Mohalla Khatikan was being run in the dilapidated building owned by Surendra Singh. A part of the building came down due to the impact of the blast. An adjoining house also suffered damage. Fire tenders and ambulances were rushed.

The DM has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the blast.

# CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF 400 MLD SEAWATER REVERSE OSMOSIS (SWRO) DESALINATION PLANT AT PERUR, CHENNAI WITH 20 YEARS OF OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE (DBO BASIS)

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (ICB) (JICA LOAN ID-P267)

TENDER NO:CNT/WSS/ICB/JICA/DESAL/018/2020-2021

- Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) has received an ODA loan from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Chennai Seawater Desalination Plant Project vide Loan Agreement ID-P267, dated 29th March 2018.
- In this regard, CMWSSB intends to seek proposals to prequalify contractors having experience in SWRO Desalination Plants.
- Intending contracting firms can download the detailed Prequalification (PQ) Document from the websites, [www.chennaimetrowater.tn.nic.in](http://www.chennaimetrowater.tn.nic.in) and [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in). Also, the Prequalification documents in the form of CD can be obtained on submission of a written application from the office of Grievances Redressal and Facilitation Officer (GRFO), Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board, No.1, Pumping Station Road, Chintadripet, Chennai 600 002 from **15.10.2020** to **30.11.2020**. All the details are available in the PQ document.
- The cost towards the PQ Document shall be transferred through Electronic Clearing Services (ECS) to the bank details given below by the Applicant or any one of the members of JV for an amount of USD 1000 (inclusive of GST @ 18%) or an amount equivalent in INR, which is non-refundable. If cost is paid in INR, the Exchange rate towards purchase of PQ Document shall be taken 7 days prior to the date of submission of Application for PQ. The proof of ECS transaction shall be submitted along with the submission of Applications for Prequalification.

Name of the Bank : Bank of India  
A/c Name : CMWSSB 400 MLD SWRO Perur- Desal Project  
A/c No. : 800110210000015  
Branch Name : Mount Road, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India  
IFSC Code : BKID0008001  
MICR No. : 600013010  
Swift Code : BKIDINBBMTR  
(Foreign Currency Transaction) : No. 827, Dhun Building, Mount Road, Chennai-600 002, Tamil Nadu, India

5. The Contracting firms who require further information shall obtain the same from the address mentioned below during the working hours (IST 10:00 hours to 17:45 hours). The submission of Application for PQ is acceptable only through hard copy in sealed envelopes on or before IST **15.00 hours on 01/12/2020** at the address given below. Superintending Engineer (Contracts and Monitoring), CMWSSB, No.1, Pumping Station Road, Chintadripet, Chennai 600 002. Telephone: 044 28451300 Extn: 209, Facsimile: 044 28458181, E-mail: [secandm@cmwssb.in](mailto:secandm@cmwssb.in) Website: [www.chennaimetrowater.tn.nic.in](http://www.chennaimetrowater.tn.nic.in)
6. The Prequalification Applications will be opened in the presence of Applicants' representatives who choose to attend at IST **15.30 hours on 01/12/2020** at the office of Superintending Engineer (Contracts and Monitoring), CMWSSB. Superintending Engineer (Contracts and Monitoring) CMWSSB, Chennai

DIPR/3829/TENDER/2020

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## GENERAL

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- Director - Corporate Relations and Career Services

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- Must possess a minimum of Post Graduate degree in Management with relevant specialization.

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Send your detailed CV to  
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dy.registrar.ktr@srmist.edu.in

Last date to apply: 22-Oct-2020

Advt. No.77/2020

Government of India  
Public Enterprises Selection Board  
invites applications for the post of  
**DIRECTOR (MINES)**  
in  
**NLC India Limited**

Last date of receipt of applications in PESB is by

**15.00 hours on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2020.**

For details login to website  
<http://www.pesb.gov.in>

Advt. No. 84/2020

Government of India  
Public Enterprises Selection Board  
invites applications for the post of  
**DIRECTOR (PERSONNEL)**  
in  
**NMDC Limited**

Last date of receipt of applications in PESB is by

**15.00 hours on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2020.**

For details login to website  
<http://www.pesb.gov.in>

**DAMODARAM SANJIVAYYA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY**

(Estd under Govt of A.P. Act No. 32 of 2008)

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Phone & Fax: 08924-248216, website: [www.dsnu.ac.in](http://www.dsnu.ac.in)

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION: Advt. No. DSNU/TS-01/2020

DSNU invites application(s) from eligible individuals for the following Teaching Posts on 5 Year Contract Tenure Basis (Renewable).

Professors - (3) Associate Professors - (2)

Assistant Professors - (3) Lecturers - (2)

Teaching Associates - (3) Research Assistants - (4)

For application form, eligibility criteria, scale of pay, rule of reservation and other details, visit DSNU website: [www.dsnu.ac.in](http://www.dsnu.ac.in). The filled-in application with registration fee of Rs.1,000/- (Rupees One Thousand Only), (Rs.500/- (Rupees Five Hundred Only) in case of SC/ST/BC/PH), by way of Demand Draft drawn in favour of "The Registrar, Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University" payable at Visakapatnam should reach "The Registrar, Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, "NYAYAPRASTHA", Sabbararam, Visakapatnam - 35, Andhra Pradesh" on or before 09.11.2020 by 5.00 P.M.

Visakapatnam Dt.09-10-2020

Sd/-  
REGISTRAR

## HRD PERSONNEL

Advertisement No. 81/2020  
Government of India  
Public Enterprises Selection Board  
invites applications for the post of  
**DIRECTOR (HUMAN RESOURCES)**

### ITI Limited

Last date of receipt of applications in PESB is by

**15.00 hours on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2020.**

For details login to website

<http://www.pesb.gov.in>

## GENERAL

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY HAMIRPUR**  
HAMIRPUR (H.P.)-177005

[An Institute of National Importance under Ministry of Education (विद्या भवनम्)]

### RECRUITMENT FOR TEMPORARY FACULTY

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National Institute of Technology, Hamirpur invites online applications vide Advt. No.03/2020 dated 08-10-2020 from the eligible candidates for the engagement as Temporary Faculty (purely of contract basis with consolidated salary) in various Departments in the Institute. For details of vacancy, qualifications, terms and conditions, emoluments, instructions and online application forms, please visit Institute website <http://www.nith.ac.in>. Opening date of online portal: 12-10-2020

Last date for submission of online application : 02-11-2020 upto 05:00 PM

REGISTRAR

Government of Kerala

Kerala Public Enterprises Selection Board (KPESB) invites application for the post of Managing Director/CEO in

(i) Kerala State Minorities Development Finance Corporation Ltd.

(ii) Kerala State Women's Development Corporation Ltd.

(iii) NORKA - ROOTS

For details such as qualification, experience, age, etc. and for submission of application, please log on to <http://kpesb.kerala.gov.in>.

Last date of receipt of applications in KPESB is by

**15.00 hours on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2020**

Member Secretary (KPESB)

Planning & Economic Affairs (P&E) Department.

Place : Thiruvananthapuram Date : 6.10.2020

VIZHINJAM INTERNATIONAL SEAPORT LIMITED (VISL)

(A Government of Kerala Undertaking)

Thampanoor, Thiruvananthapuram-695001

### APPLICATIONS INVITED

Applications are invited from qualified candidates for selection to the post of Chief Finance Officer (CFO) on permanent basis in Vizhinjam International Seaport Limited.

For more details regarding guidelines & submission of online application, visit [www.vizhinjamport.in](http://www.vizhinjamport.in) or [www.cmdkerala.net](http://www.cmdkerala.net). Printout or hard copy of the applications will not be accepted.

Starting Date for Online Application Submission : 14 / 10 / 2020 (09.00 am)

Last Date for Online Application Submission : 14 / 11 / 2020 (05.00 pm)

14.10.2020 (Sd/-), Managing Director & CEO

Advt. No.83/2020

Government of India  
Public Enterprises Selection Board  
invites applications for the post of

**DIRECTOR (PERSONNEL)**  
IN  
**RASHTRIYA ISPAT NIGAM LIMITED**

Last date of receipt of applications in PESB is by

**15.00 hours on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2020**

For details login to website  
<http://www.pesb.gov.in>



## A slim stimulus

The govt. cannot wait for the pandemic to ease to loosen the purse strings further

**F**inance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's fresh set of measures, on Monday, to spur consumer demand and capital expenditure include an interestingly designed tweak to the LTC allowances of government employees. Her reckoning is that these would lend a ₹73,000 crore demand spurt to prop up the ailing economy in the second half of this year. This could rise beyond ₹1-lakh crore if private sector employers offered similar LTC incentives. With industrial output slipping for the sixth month in a row in August, the clamour for new stimulus measures had been growing ahead of a particularly bleak festive season. But this package, which will cost the exchequer about 0.2% of GDP, taking overall fiscal support through the pandemic to 1.7% of GDP, may not be as persuasive as may have been envisaged. Enhancing the Centre's capital expenditure in specific sectors by ₹25,000 crore from the extant level of ₹4.12-lakh crore is laudable. But pandemic restrictions have affected the ability to get new projects going. Till August, just about ₹1.34-lakh crore of the budgeted capex had been spent. The same problem plagues the ₹12,000 crore offered as an interest-free 50-year loan to States for capital spending over the next six months.

While States have been allowed to use these loans to pay off existing contractors' dues, the amounts on offer are unlikely to have an impact; ₹2,000 crore has been set aside for States that manage to complete three of four reforms mandated in the earlier Atmanirbhar Bharat package, in order to get additional borrowing leeway. Only some States may qualify for this. Too many conditions also pervade the consumption push. Linking LTC perks of government staff who have not availed them yet due to restricted travel during the pandemic to spending on non-travel items is an innovative nudge. But requiring them to spend three times their return ticket fares under LTC on goods and services attracting at least 12% GST from GST-registered vendors, may be too prescriptive and overlooks the reluctance towards discretionary spending due to low visibility on the economy's prospects. Eligible employees may find the scheme complex and too expensive to avail. One hopes the government has more in its quiver to expedite recovery. Waiting too long for the pandemic to ease before loosening the purse strings further could extend the pain. The focus should not just be on conjuring a trickle-down stimulus from those with their jobs and savings intact but also on relief measures for those without. Even the IMF has been urging countries to spend now to diminish the damage. Avoiding spending now to maintain fiscal discipline and prevent a rating downgrade seems sensible, but if the underlying edifices of the country's growth story crumble in the process, a future downgrade will become inevitable.

## Crisis in Caucasus

Azerbaijan, Armenia and the Karabakh rebels should go back to the ceasefire

**T**he ongoing fighting between Armenian rebels and the Azerbaijani Army in Nagorno-Karabakh, a self-declared republic within Azerbaijan, risks becoming a wider regional conflict. Though Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed to a Russia-mediated ceasefire last week after days of fighting, the truce crumbled immediately amid a blame game. Whatever the truth is, an emboldened Azerbaijan, backed by Turkey, seems determined to press ahead with its offensive. The conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh is decades old. The region, largely populated by ethnic Armenians, is located within the international boundaries of Azerbaijan. Under the Soviet Union, it was an autonomous province that was part of the Azerbaijan republic. In 1988, when the Soviet power was receding, the regional assembly in Nagorno-Karabakh voted to join Armenia, triggering ethnic clashes. After the Soviet disintegration in 1991, Armenia and Azerbaijan went to war over this largely mountainous, forested enclave. By the time a ceasefire was reached in 1994, the rebels, with support from Armenia and Russia, had established their *de facto* rule and extended their influence to the Armenian border. Ever since, the border has remained tense.

What makes the clashes now far more dangerous is the external intervention. Turkey has called Armenia a threat to peace in the region; the Azeris and Turks share ethnic and linguistic bonds. Also, the pre-Soviet Azerbaijan was a local ally of the Ottomans when they invaded Transcaucasia in the last leg of World War I. For Turkey, which, under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, is trying to expand its geopolitical reach to the former Ottoman regions, the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh is an opportunity to enter the South Caucasus. Turkey also has a particularly bad relationship with Armenia. But its problem is that Armenia is a member of the Russia-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). Russia enjoys good economic and defence ties with both Armenia and Azerbaijan. But Armenia, as a CSTO member and host to a Russian military base, has more weight. In a wider conflict, Armenia could trigger Article 4 of the CSTO treaty and ask for Russian help. And if Moscow responds favourably, that would pit Russia against Turkey, a NATO member. Russia, already involved in military conflicts in Syria, Ukraine and Libya, may not like opening another front. That is why it has re-emphasised its neutrality and hosted talks in Moscow for a truce. But it will be forced to take sides if the conflict spills into Armenia. Both sides should understand the volatile situation and call off the hostilities. Nagorno-Karabakh has in the past witnessed large-scale ethnic violence. Instead of risking a regional war, Azerbaijan, Armenia and the Karabakh rebels should go back to the ceasefire and open up diplomatic channels.

# The Arab World and the elusive two-state solution

The Arab World in a geopolitical sense no longer exists; the PLO leadership may have to think of a one-state solution



HAMID ANSARI

**W**ords have meanings that are used and misused. A few weeks ago, someone with evident limitations fulminated against a category of faiths depicted as 'Abrahamic'. Around the same time, the global media gleefully proclaimed the newly minted 'Abraham Accord' to describe a happening of political significance. Both expressions sought to trace it to the proper name, Abraham, a patriarchal entity who flourished in the Second Millennium BCE, is revered by three religions – Judaism, Christianity and Islam – and whose followers today account for a little over 55% of the world's population. Mention is also made alongside of a group of languages as Semitic – principally Arabic, Hebrew, Amharic and Aramaic.

### Language as fulcrum

Till the end of World War I, most of the Arabic-speaking lands of West Asia and North Africa were ruled directly or indirectly by the Ottoman Empire. Today, thanks to geopolitical cartography, they constitute the 'Arab World' whose 22 members are members of the UN. The point of commonality is the language.

The seeds of Arab nationalism were sown in the 19th century. The classic work of George Antonius, published in 1938, records the ori-

gins: 'It was at a secret gathering of certain members of the Syrian Scientific Society that the Arab national movement may be said to have uttered its first cry.' A poem by one of its members gave it the battle cry: Arise, ye Arabs, and awake! The poem, viewed as seductive by the Ottoman rulers, did much to foster the national movement in its infancy.

### A critique

In 1945 and reportedly on British prompting, the League of Arab States was formed to 'draw closer the relations between member states and co-ordinate their political activities with the aim of realising a close collaboration between them, to safeguard their independence and sovereignty, and to consider in a general way the affairs and interests of the Arab countries'. It has achieved none of its objectives and its hopes have been 'worn down to disillusion and cynicism' emanating from what Bassem Tibi has called 'the duality of words and deeds'.

The critique of mystifications of Arab nationalism was a promise; but the promise of getting light at the end of the tunnel did not bear the expected results. This was attributed by a UNDP Human Development Report many years ago to deficits of knowledge, freedom and empowerment of women. Thus, absence of participatory governance and its institutions, disregard for individual freedoms, and the prevalence of one-person rule resulted in what Abdullah Laroui characterised as 'living in infra-historical rhythm'. Admittedly, sectional though uneven progress was made, but as the experience

GETTY IMAGES



of the Arab Uprising of 2011 showed, deep disagreements prevented the emergence of an Arab order and its impact on 'Arab unity'. It was most evident in their responses to regional and global problems.

### The Palestine issue

The one problem on which Arab states professed unity of opinion, but not necessarily of approach, related to Palestine and to the demand for a Palestinian state. After multiple resorts to war and popular uprisings, the tenacity of Israel and its American backers forced the Arab states and their international supporters to accept the Camp David and Oslo Accords and finally the Saudi-sponsored 2002 Arab Peace Initiative. It involved a *de facto* recognition of Israel and the latter accepted it with 14 reservations.

The truth behind this Saudi initiative has now been made public in a series of television interviews on Al-Arabiya channel on October 5 by the former Saudi Ambassador to the United States and later intelligence chief, Prince Bandar Bin Sultan. It is candid and revealing and sheds much light on the Saudi

suspicion of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leadership, beginning but not ending with Yasser Arafat.

The ostensible reason for this, according to some Arab-American commentators, is 'perceived threat from Iran, the spread of regional terrorism and the rise of Islamism'. The take-off occasion, according to them, was the conference in Warsaw in February 2019 that was hailed by Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu as 'a breakthrough in Arab-Israeli relations'. This could be seen as a stage in the success of Israel's grand strategy candidly spelt out in Yossi Alpher's 2015 book, *Periphery*, aimed to outflank the hostile core that surrounds it and gain the major political-security goal of countering Arab hostility through relations with alternate regional powers and potential allies. It has been furthered by post-2011 developments in individual Arab countries and the aura bestowed on 'political Islam' or Islamism presented by its protagonists such as Fahmy Howeidy who argued that Arab nationalism is a stage towards greater Islamic unity.

### Public opinion vs. policy

Do these failures to jolt the system at the individual-country and regional levels have an impact on perceptions of the Palestinian problem? The Arab Center Washington DC and its *Arab Opinion Index* for 2019-2020 published last week concluded that 79% of the respondents felt 'the Palestinian cause concerns all Arabs and not the Palestinian people alone'. This figure in 2012-2013 was 84%. It is thus difficult not to conclude that opinion

at the public/respondent level is not in step with official policy orientation on this question. Does this in any manner further the Palestinian cause, more so because the direction of Israeli policy premised on incremental creation of facts on the ground together with furtherance of practical cooperation with individual Arab countries would inevitably result in *de facto* annexation of most parts of the West Bank even if a formal annexation is deferred?

### A way out

The PLO leadership has been left high and dry even if not yet disowned by its own people. Would the new situation propel it to recraft its policies? The promised Two-state solution is nowhere in sight except for some variants of Bantustans. Would it not be better to explore a One-state solution even if involves a South Africa-like apartheid that would sooner or later prick the conscience of world opinion and their governments and allow a Palestinian-Mandela to use Gandhian principles to seek justice?

So the Arab World in a geopolitical sense no longer exists. It will retain its focus on linguistic homogeneity and attendant cultural glory. As for the Palestinians and in the event of hard tactical options being forsaken, they might even explore the creation of a Palestinian point of lamentation, a 'wailing wall', hoping that divine justice would eventually be forthcoming as has been with their Abrahamic cousins.

Hamid Ansari is the former Vice President of India, 2007-2017

## Outline of a pandemic fight, by and for citizens

With changed public behaviour, officials need to recognise the potential of a decentralised control approach



K.R. ANTONY

**T**here needs to be a paradigm shift in the war against COVID-19; a war that has to be and can be fought with success mostly by citizens hereafter. If there is a wider awakening, the novel coronavirus can be handled by citizens. But how is one to raise that level of civic sense is the moot question.

Initially, we never thought that a calamity in Wuhan, China would reach our doorstep. Though the bad news was confirmed as an international emergency since the middle of January, it was only on March 11 that the World Health Organization (WHO) declared it a pandemic. Initially, all nations looked to WHO to be the technical lead, but once there was a reluctance to admit the droplet and aerosol mode of transmission, WHO lost its credibility. Even as doctors and scientists were getting to know the enemy virus, it landed in their midst.

### Gradual change

Using memories and experiences of conquering earlier viral outbreaks such as bird flu, Ebola, the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, technocrats were using a mix bag of approaches. Gene sequences were shared and testing methods and kits developed and shared. Epidemiology is

now better understood, with treatment modalities and experiences in reducing morbidity and mortality getting published. New approaches are being tried. No scientific tool has gone unutilised in the quest for answers. The war is on to save the infected.

Myths and misconceptions prevail despite WHO's campaign against 'infodemics'. But we do have a better understanding of the virus and how it spreads.

Governments have been blamed for lapses such as having delayed stopping international flights, for the dynamics of the lockdowns, for job losses and poor management of migrant workers returning home, for a plummeting economy, for inadequate testing and contact tracing, and for lack of transparency in reporting of cases and deaths.

### Helping governments

In all this, people have learned one big lesson – of the need to look after and take care of themselves. We cannot depend on the government to do everything. We cannot rely on the predictions of technocrats. And, we should be able to interpret the assurances that politicians make. The novel coronavirus is still peaking in India and there is no evidence of the flattening of the epidemic curve in sight promised a few months ago. We need to be objective about debate on testing strategy, the accuracy of reporting deaths, the case load and the recovery rate, and the claims of success in the race for vaccine development. We need to focus on what to do by ourselves.

What matters to all of us is to



stay away from the virus as far as possible and prevent it from infecting us. This responsibility lies squarely on us; not on the government. Such a realisation will not only aid us but also the government in the overall fight against COVID-19. The government can then concentrate on strengthening the health system to test and diagnose the infection and take care of those who are infected. The government can concentrate on hospitals and the related infrastructure.

Our individual responsibility begins with self-protection. Mask wearing is the most important protection shield we have. In the fight against tuberculosis for example, doctors have been advocating its use for TB patients to minimise droplet spread of the TB bacteria. But very few have taken this advice seriously. In some areas, the police check two-wheeler riders for helmet-wearing and also for face masks. Our newly acquired cough and sneezing etiquette is going to stay as a habit to stop aerosol transmission. We are not going to clear our throats and spit anywhere, including from the windows of a moving vehicle. We have also been educated on washing our face and exposed areas of the body once we reach home and

before we sit on furniture.

People are now observing hand-washing. They even use sanitizers which are expensive. But in all this, not only can the spread of COVID-19 be stopped but also that of water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea, dysentery, jaundice, typhoid and even cholera. The novel coronavirus has taught us how to stand in a queue patiently. Physical distancing is now new social behaviour. We avoid crowding, festivals and processions, air-conditioned malls and shopping arcades, movie halls, displays and exhibitions. Even if all of these are allowed as an unlocking step, it is better we observe caution. We can go on a holiday or tour once it is safe to do so.

### Community vigil

Though we were compelled to close places of worship, our attitude has changed to one of caring for the needs of others. But there is a need for changed behaviour by neighbourhood and social groups to prevent transmission. Virtual platforms must be used frequently to discuss the technical and administrative aspects of pandemic control by community groups. Volunteering for such community initiatives must be encouraged by elected representatives and members of local self government bodies. Self-administered and monitored epidemic prevention and community vigilance must be sustained. Monitoring of ground realities and learning from overseas experiences using smartphones, web connectivity and use of need-based new apps will all enhance the efficiency of this community empowerment.

Kerala had 45,000 registered community volunteers to run information desks and carry out screening at airports, railway stations and bus terminals and border check posts apart from carrying out contact tracing, and monitoring quarantine centres, running community kitchens and sanitation facilities. Odisha has its Gaon Unnayan Samitis and Andhra Pradesh its health link workers at the ward level. More States must emulate such initiatives to rope in the community. Reverse quarantine and the protection of the elderly, cancer patients and people with co-morbidities need to be exercised with more community involvement than of enforcement by health, revenue and police authorities.

It is high time policymakers and officials realise the potential of such an approach of decentralised pandemic control. What we have now is patriarchal and technocentric, with unilateral information dissemination and enforcement of strategies either through health staff, the administration and the police. Now, the import of cases has been reduced and nearly 90% cases are through contacts. Finally, enable communities to take control of their own protection and stop community transmission. Invest time and budget for this process. Let their civic sense be the biggest armamentarium to flatten the pandemic curve.

Dr. K.R. Antony is an independent Public Health Consultant from Kochi who has served UNICEF, the State Health Resource Centre, Chhattisgarh and the National Health Mission. The views expressed are personal

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

### LTC scheme

The announcements regarding the LTC scheme must be examined with care. The government has stopped the DA of Union government employees up to July 2021. Further, government employees are perhaps the only ones whose income has not been affected by the pandemic. It is clear that the pandemic-induced economic dislocation will not end this year and the government is unwilling to stretch its finances further. The government needs to think of transfers and enabling direct spending on goods and services.

S.K. KHOSLA,  
Chandigarh

### Move to BJP

It is natural for the public to view actor and former

Congress spokesperson Kushboo Sundar's move to quit the Congress and join the BJP as one more instance of the opportunism of an ambitious politician. Still, for the Congress high command, the development should be a wakeup call, indicating that all is not well within the Tamil Nadu unit of the party. The comment made by the TNCC president, K.S. Alagiri, immediately after her resignation was in very bad taste. Had the TNCC president thanked her for her services to the party until she left it, it would have only enhanced the stature of the party and his.

S.P. ASOKAN,  
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

the news of Ms. Sundar joining the BJP, with even a timeline of her political career. One only hopes that her 'ardent wish' to serve the people of this country is duly recognised by the party she has now joined and that it acts in accordance.

T. YOGANANDH,  
Salem, Tamil Nadu

■ Ms. Sundar, or any other person, is totally free in a democratic system to leave or join a political party at any time. But the question that now arises is whether politicians who often keep changing their political loyalties are genuinely devoted to their party ideologies or treat politics just like any other job which can be discarded. Such habitual party hoppers more often prove to be perennially unsure, diffident and

opportunistic persons in their constant quest to seek greener pastures.

A. MOHAN,  
Chennai

■ Ms. Sundar must remember that she was appointed as a national spokesperson, a high profile post, which is normally assigned to senior partymen, well versed in current affairs and with good command over the language. One cannot buy her argument that it was her duty to attack the policies of government as a person in the Opposition. It exposes her political dishonesty. Will the same argument apply if she quits the BJP?

V.N. GOPAL,  
Chennai

■ I am a reader of the daily for well over 60 years and

wonder what was so important for a prestigious newspaper to publish this news on the front page. I remember the legendary Y.B. Chavan's passing being reported on page 9. Have times changed?

C.K. PREM KUMAR,  
Kovalam, Palakkad, Kerala

■ Was it necessary to devote so much newsprint for a novice in politics? One should never underestimate the feelings of the people of Tamil Nadu as they are aware

KSHERASAGARA SRIKANTH,  
Hyderabad

**CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:**

In the story titled "Sri Lanka in talks to secure \$500 mn in Chinese loans" (Oct.13, 2020) the sentence that read, "If sanctioned, the new loan would take Sri Lanka's total borrowings from China over \$1 billion, after the \$500 million 'urgent financial assistance' that Beijing extended to Colombo in March, to help Sri Lanka cope with the economic impact of the pandemic" should be recast to read: "If sanctioned, the new loan would take Sri Lanka's total borrowings from China this year over \$1 billion, after the \$500 million... impact of the pandemic."

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of the chameleons in politics.  
TILAK SUBRAMANIAN V.,  
Kunigal, Udupi,

# Ferment in the heartland

Caste rivalries are causing fissures in BJP's Hindu unity plank in U.P., opening an opportunity for Rahul Gandhi



VARGHEESE K. GEORGE

In 2019, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won 62 of the 80 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh, and in 2014, 71. U.P. elects 15% of the Lok Sabha members, but it contributed 20% of the BJP members in 2019 and 25% in 2014. The concentrated support in regions above the Vindhyas, the Hindutva heartland, enabled the BJP to win 56% of the Lok Sabha seats with 38% votes in 2019. In U.P., the Congress won two seats in 2014 and one in 2019. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi lost his own heartland seat of Amethi in 2019; to enter the Lok Sabha, he chose a seat in the geographical and social periphery of Hindu nationalism – the minority-majority Wayanad seat in Kerala.

Mr. Gandhi has now sought to bring the battle back to the heartland, in Hathras in U.P., by rallying public opinion against caste violence, and in Punjab and Haryana, by spearheading farmer protests. He managed to put the spotlight on oppressive caste violence often invisibilised by slogans of Hindu unity as well as on the political self-quarantine of two champions of social justice, former Chief Ministers Akhilesh Yadav and Mayawati. Further turns in U.P. will depend on whether Mr. Gandhi remains consistent and whether the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) intervenes to enforce order in its tent. Threatening the BJP's pre-eminence in U.P. is not so much the upper caste violence against Dalits as the intensifying rivalry between two upper caste groups that form the social core of Hindutva in its geographical core – the Thakurs and the Brahmins.

## The Yogi model

Affinity, privilege and dispossession linked to caste are not uncommon anywhere, but in U.P. politics, they are all uniquely intense. Caste has been a major obstacle to Hindu unity. Rejection, at least in theory, of untouchability, remained a common thread across all attempts of Hindu unification in history, but the question of inequality was rarely con-



fronted. In the 1980s, when the Sangh Parivar ramped up its efforts to reach out to the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Dalits, it consciously chose the word *samrasta* (harmony) over the word *samata* (equality). Harmony does not reject or preclude hierarchy.

Narendra Modi's rise marked Hindutva 2.0 – political Hinduism contoured to demands of the market and Mandal aspirations – which created a national Hindu majority, concentrated in the heartland. The Vishva Hindu Parishad captured the ongoing process in a statement following the acquittal of Parivar leaders in the Babri Masjid demolition case thus: "We call upon the society to now look forward to the urgent tasks at hand, the completion of a Grand Temple at Shri Ramjanmabhoomi, the eradication of social inequalities and establishment of *samrasta*, to bring about social, educational and economic upliftment of the Scheduled Castes, Tribes and other economically backward sections of the society as also to build a strong and stable Bharat; capable of fighting the attacks and challenges from *within* and at the borders" (emphasis added).

The BJP has been far more open and successful in accommodating marginalised castes than the Congress in the heartland. The Parivar also overlooked, sidelined, or confronted autonomous intermediary and Dalit groups, as has been the case with the Marathas in Maharashtra, the Patels in Gujarat, the Yadavs in Bihar, and the Yadavs and Jatavs in U.P. It chose upper caste leaders only in non-threatening environments for the rest – a Thakur in Chhattisgarh or a Brahmin in Maharashtra. The appointment of Yogi Adityanath as Chief Minister of U.P. in 2017 marked a change in this pattern. It also coin-

cided with an upper caste impatience to reclaim their marginal losses during the Mandal surge. Mr. Adityanath's strident commitment to Hindutva was a factor that endeared him to the Parivar. If his Thakur background was deliberately overlooked, it may have been motivated by a belief – which now stands challenged – that being a priest in saffron, his identity was solely Hindu.

The Parivar's preferred instrument for Hindu unity is hegemony as opposed to domination. Domination is used occasionally, for instance, against Ambedkarites. The disproportionate association of negative attributes such as inefficiency, corruption, nepotism and policy paralysis with OBCs, Dalit and minority leaders in public debates is not accidental but often an outcome of curated hegemonic discourses. The 2007 slogan that heralded the Jatav-Brahmin social coalition that catapulted Ms. Mayawati to power in U.P. creatively linked the emergence of any fresh political narrative to caste hierarchy – "*Brahmin Shankh Bajayaenge Tho Haathi Badta Jayega* (If the Brahmin keeps blowing the conch, the elephant will keep moving forward)". The Brahmins, estimated to be above 10% of the U.P. voters, are the most impactful swing voters anywhere in India at the moment. In 2007, their support brought Ms. Mayawati to power; in 2012, they moved en masse to Akhilesh Yadav who became the Chief Minister; and in 2017, they moved en masse to the BJP that won.

Though Brahmins remain loyal to the BJP generally speaking, they feel sidelined and threatened in U.P. The social media chatter following the killing of gangster Vikas Dubey in July was instructive of how the community perceives its ties with the Yogi administration. If the Thakur-Brahmin

rivalry is settled amicably by the RSS leadership, the current turmoil in the State could recede and its memory will fade.

## Rahul's second coming?

Mr. Gandhi is one leader who is beyond caste and even religion. While this could be his biggest advantage in a society reeling from sectarianisms of various types, this could be his biggest disadvantage too. He belongs to a cohort that is 'truly Indian,' in the sense Ashis Nandy describes as one who "cannot be easily identified with any specific regional culture in India." "You cannot fit them into anything local. They can only be called Indians... They are partly deracinated." These 'true Indians' are hence also disconnected from the rural, communitarian milieu. In an overwhelmingly Hinduised political climate, being disconnected from particularities is a double-edged sword. Mr. Gandhi's grandmother and father had to assert their Hindu identity. He is evidently conflicted over the question – he is unsure of his *tilak* and *rudraksh*. The disconnect from the local and the sectarian is also the reason why the Congress remains insular to the aspirations of backward and Dalit politics. To be fair, it has been responsive in policy – the expansion of Mandal to higher education during the United Progressive Alliance regime is instructive. The challenge is in representation. The Congress has no Dalit or OBC leader in the heartland who is identified as such. Mr. Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi forced a rethink among their critics through their tenacious intervention in Hathras, but the exclusion of U.P. Congress chief Ajay Kumar Lallu, himself an OBC, from the scene was inexplicable. What Mr. Gandhi lacks is not courage or conviction, but attention to detail and consistency, which are more important.

The caste rivalries in U.P. at the moment are a strictly regional housekeeping challenge for Hindutva, with no immediate implications for Mr. Modi's politics. However, their inherent contradictions have resurfaced more violently than any time in at least a decade and this potentially opens a fresh opportunity for Mr. Gandhi in the heartland.

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# A concerted attack on RTI

The worst blow to the right to information regime has come in the form of a persistent attack on the transparency watchdogs



ANJALI BHARDWAJ & AMRITA JOHRI

has potentially created 1.3 billion whistleblowers and auditors. It has empowered citizens to question those who govern and hold them to account. Consistent attempts by governments to denigrate the law bear testimony to this tilting of the balance of power.

## Attack on the transparency watchdogs

The worst blow to the RTI regime has come in the form of a persistent and concerted attack on the transparency watchdogs set up under the law. Information Commissions at the Centre and in the States are the final adjudicators empowered to act against violations of the legislation. In 2019, regressive amendments were made to the RTI Act which did away with statutory protection of fixed tenure and high status conferred on the commissioners. Despite stiff opposition within and outside Parliament, the government pushed the RTI (Amendment) Act which allows the Central government to determine the tenure and salaries of all Information Commissioners, signalling that directions to disclose inconvenient information could invite adverse consequences.

The functioning of commissions has been severely impeded by governments not appointing Information Commissioners in a timely manner. Vacancies in Information Commissions lead to large backlogs of appeals/complaints and long delays in the disposal of cases, effectively frustrating the people's right to know. The track record of the BJP-led government at the Centre has been particularly abysmal. Since May 2014, not a single commissioner of the Central Information Commission (CIC) has been appointed without citizens having to approach courts. Despite Supreme Court orders to fill all vacancies, six out of 11 posts of commissioners are currently vacant in the CIC, including that of the chief. The CIC is headless for the fifth time in the last six years! State governments appear to have adopted a similar strategy. Eight State Information Commissions are functioning without a chief. Two commissions – Tripura and Jharkhand – are totally defunct with no commissioners.

The right to question is the hallmark of a democracy. Any attack on the RTI law, which has empowered citizens to question those in power, is an attack on the foundation of our democratic republic. It is a clear reflection of the lack of political will of governments to be answerable to the people of the country.

As the RTI law completes 15 years, it is again time for those whom it empowers – the citizens – to assert themselves and protect their fundamental right to information, which they attained after a long struggle.

Anjali Bhardwaj and Amrita Johri are members of the National Campaign for People's Right to Information

# Quadrilateral home truths

The Quad would do well to heed four lessons drawn from Asia's history and geopolitics

SOURABH GUPTA

Regardless of how or when China's misbegotten military adventure is going to wind down in Ladakh, one thing is clear: it has breathed fresh life into the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue as a loose, consultative entente of like-minded democracies in the Indo-Pacific. On October 6, the foreign ministers of Australia, India, Japan and the U.S. held a standalone meeting in Tokyo. If the Quad is to prosper as a geopolitical construct, it would do well to heed four lessons drawn from the long arc of Asia's history and geopolitics.

## No Indo-Pacific system

First, there is no such thing as an 'Indo-Pacific system'. There has never been one, as such, ever since the rise of the port-based kingdoms of Indo-China in the first half of the second millennium. Rather, there were two Asian systems – an Indian Ocean system and an East Asian system – with intricate sub-regional balances. The sprawling British empire never managed to combine the Indo and the Pacific into a unitary system and the effort by a U.S. in global retreat and relative decline to artificially manufacture one to encircle China will be no more successful.

Second, the Indo-Pacific region possesses no prior experience of enduring peace, prosperity and stability engineered from its maritime fringes. Rather, dynamic long cycles of Chinese influence radiating outwards have alternated with sharp periods of centripetal turmoil as China and the Asian system collapsed upon itself.

The emerging practice of ASEAN-centred multilateralism is more in tune with regional tradition and historical circumstance than the post-18th century European 'balance of power' system, where the 'flanking powers' (Britain and Russia) resisted revisionist challengers to periodically restore the continent's equilibrium. For their part, the Indo-Pacific's 'flanking powers', India and Japan, have never balanced Chinese power throughout their illustrious histories.

Third, the sea lines of communication constitute the connective tissue

that links the Indian Ocean to the Western Pacific. It is also a valuable arena of leverage vis-à-vis Chinese shipping and resource flows. This leverage must be wielded judiciously on India's terms, not on the Quad's terms. The latter, after all, has little to offer materially with regard to New Delhi's continental two-front dilemma but ceding this chokepoint leverage will invite overwhelming Chinese pressure against the full range of India's South Asian interests – to which the other Quad members possess neither will nor desire to answer. For the threat of interdiction to be credible furthermore, it must not be brandished off-handedly. Except during a general war, no sustained and significant campaign to interdict the maritime trade of a major power has ever been successfully mounted since the Napoleonic Wars of the 19th century.

**A check on China's ambitions**  
Finally, the Quad has a valuable role to play as a check on China's Indian Ocean ambitions. India must develop ingrained habits of interoperable cooperation with its Quad partners and, thereby, pre-emptively dissuade China from mounting a naval challenge in its backyard. On the other hand, it will be more than a decade or two before the People's Liberation Army Navy will be credibly capable of projecting power in these waters.

The shores of the Indo-Pacific littoral are strewn with the bones of Cold War-vintage, pan-regional architectures that were divorced from the underlying security dynamics. The Quad must resist this temptation for precipitate design over purpose.

In 2018, in his keynote address at the Shangri La Dialogue, Prime Minister Narendra Modi noted that India would "work with [its friends] individually or in formats of three or more for a stable and peaceful region, but [that these] friendships are not alliances of containment". Reconciling this capacity to resist armed revisionism while nudging the region's geopolitics towards cooperation as opposed to conflict should be India's, and the Quad's, priority.

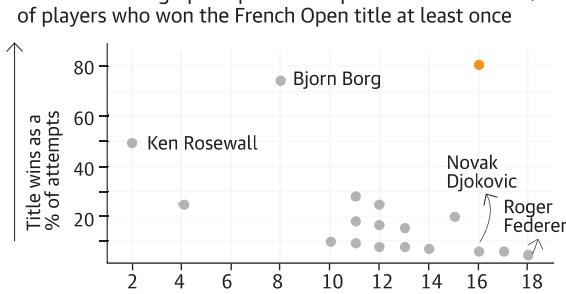
Sourabh Gupta is a senior fellow at the Institute for China-America Studies in Washington, D.C.



## DATA POINT

### King of clay

**STRIKE RATE** | In 16 attempts at the French Open, Nadal won 13 titles at an unmatched strike rate of 81%. Bjorn Borg, with eight attempts, comes closest with a 75% strike rate. The graph depicts attempts and the title win % of players who won the French Open title at least once

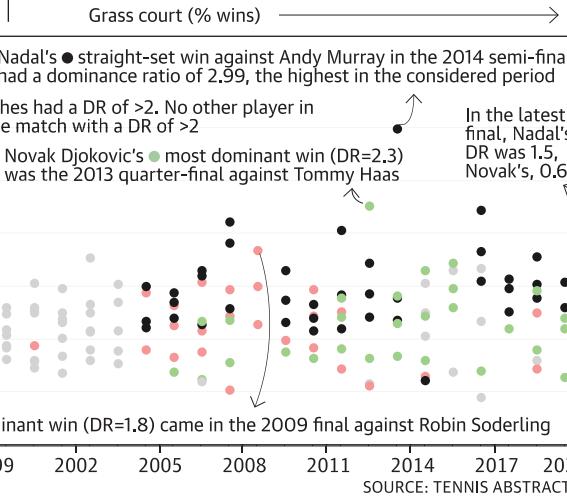
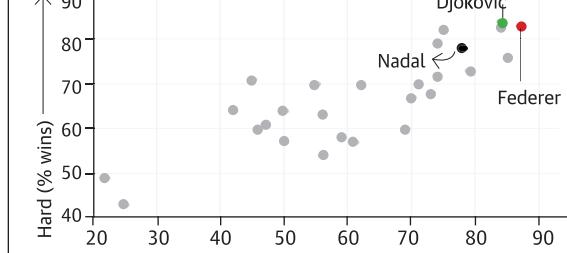


### Dominant Wins

**DOMINANT WINS**  
Dominance ratio (DR) is a metric which combines the performance of a player in both his service and return games. DR is calculated as the % of return points won divided by the % of serve points lost by a player in a match. The graph plots the DR for all the French Open quarter-final, semi-final and final matches played by Roland Garros winners since 1991.

### ALL-ROUNDER

| The graph plots the % of wins on grass against the % of wins on hard court in the careers of all French Open winners since 1968. For a dominant clay court player, Nadal has also won 78% of matches each on grass and hard courts, slightly behind Federer and Djokovic.



## The Hindu

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 14, 1970

Chances of accord on Cauvery remote

The chances of an accord on the Cauvery waters dispute, principally between Mysore and Tamil Nadu, at the next inter-State conference in Madras on October 27, are considered difficult in view of the basic differences in the approach of the two States. This was the assessment of knowledgeable people after yesterday's inter-State talks in New Delhi. Tamil Nadu swears by the 1924 agreement on sharing the waters. Mysore, without repudiating that agreement, has reservations on its application to Mysore following reorganisation of States in 1956. The Mysore Chief Minister, Mr. Veerendra Patil, who returned today (October 13), is understood to have done some "plain-speaking" at the Delhi talks about the Centre's attitude all these years to the dispute. On a number of previous occasions, Mr. Patil has criticised the Centre for not adopting a helpful attitude towards Mysore's rights under the 1924 agreement, even as the Government of India had been reportedly insisting on Mysore to keep to the "limit flows" theory. This, it is pointed out here (Bangalore), took away Mysore's rights to utilise its share of 45 t.m.cft. of the Cauvery waters.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCT. 14, 1920

### Ireland

(From an Editorial)

The problem of Ireland is intensifying to an acute, desperate stage. Sinn Fein is as busy as ever with its two-fold method of organising republican institutions and of waging a guerilla warfare on the agents of Government. Amazing success still attends its moves and the movement reveals no sign of breakdown, hesitancy or perturbation. On the side of Government, however, the trend of events seems to cause a self-blinding panic. Chafing at the uncontrollable triumph of Sinn Fein, and lacking courage to take the only remedy suggested by the logic of the situation, the Government have decided on a policy of reprisals, tooth for tooth, nail for nail. Murders and loots from the Sinn Fein side are answered with loots and murders by the Government police; the insurgents reply with counter-reprisals and provoke Government afresh; and the chain of bloodshed and anarchy thus lengthens out to an unforeseeable end. The Government's drift into such a policy has already been the subject of severe comment, but Mr. Lloyd George appears to think it all perfectly right.

FROM PAGE ONE

## After talks fail, China blames India for tensions

"First, I want to make it clear that China does not recognise the Ladakh Union Territory illegally set up by the Indian side and [does not recognise] Arunachal Pradesh," said the spokesperson, Zhao Lijian. "We stand against the development of infrastructure facilities aimed at military contention along the border."

China has already upgraded its border infrastructure in Tibet and Xinjiang, and enjoys an asymmetry in its favour. It is also in the process of extending its railway network in Tibet up to the border. India has been moving to speed up the construction of roads and bridges to reduce the gap.

The COVID-19 toll touched 1,046, with 21 more deaths added to the official list. Kozhikode counted eight deaths, while four each took place in Alappuzha and Ernakulam, three in Malappuram and one each in Kannur and Kasaragod.

## India's economy to contract by 10.3%: IMF

Except for China, where output this year was expected to exceed 2019 levels, the advanced, developing and emerging market economies were expected to see lower output even next year, IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath said in a note that illustrated the uneven recovery across country groups.

The U.S. economy is expected to shrink 4.3% this year and grow by 3.1% next year. The corresponding numbers for the euro Area are 8.3% and 5.2%. For China, they are 1.9% and 8.2% respectively.

"The crisis is however far from over," Ms. Gopinath noted. She warned that the labour market had become more polarised, with low-income workers, women and youth being hit harder.

The world would not catch up fully to its pre-pandemic 2020-25 projected growth trajectory, the IMF said, reversing the progress

sions between the two sides. We urge the Indian side to earnestly implement our consensus and refrain from actions that might escalate the situation and take concrete measures to safeguard peace and tranquillity along the border."

China has already upgraded its border infrastructure in Tibet and Xinjiang, and enjoys an asymmetry in its favour. It is also in the process of extending its railway network in Tibet up to the border. India has been moving to speed up the construction of roads and bridges to reduce the gap.

The COVID-19 toll touched 1,046, with 21 more deaths added to the official list. Kozhikode counted eight deaths, while four each took place in Alappuzha and Ernakulam, three in Malappuram and one each in Kannur and Kasaragod.

State adds over 8,700 cases; Karnataka reports 8,191 cases; A.P. incidence below 5,000; HC frowns at Telangana data

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Of the new cases, 8,643 (98.6%) were locally acquired infections, including among 76 healthcare workers.

Thiruvananthapuram district, reporting the highest number of cases for over three months, fell to sixth place.

There were 4,622 new infections and 35 new deaths in Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday.

Also, 72,082 samples were tested with a positivity rate of 6.41% while the overall positivity was 11.39%.

The tests per million ratio was 1,25,520 and cases per million ratio 14,299. There was a small increase in new cases in Godavari and Chittoor districts consistent with their larger share of new infections in recent days.

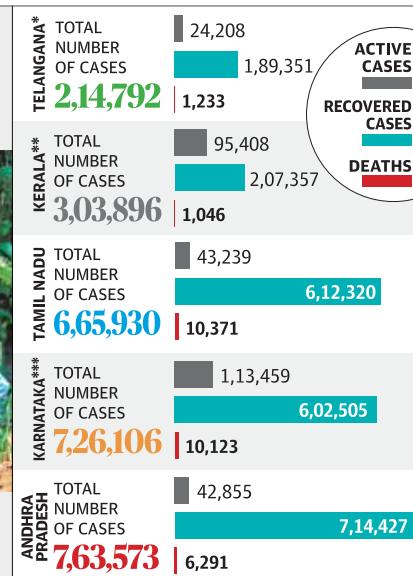
Telangana recorded 1,708 cases on Monday. While 46,835 people underwent

### Grave situation

COVID-19 has brought about a sea change in the burial protocol across the country. The graph shows the spread of the pandemic in the southern States



**Death and after:** A woman who died of COVID-19 being buried with the help of an earth mover in Malappuram on Tuesday. ■ SAKER HUSSAIN



\*Telangana numbers are as of 8 p.m. on Monday | \*\*Kerala has a mismatch of 85 cases due to unaccounted deaths, missing persons \*\*\*Karnataka has 19 non-COVID deaths

tests on October 12, the results of 1,034 were awaited. Five more COVID-19 patients died.

The High Court for the State on Monday stated that

the statistics on deaths due to COVID-19 furnished by the Public Health department were not trustworthy.

Karnataka on Tuesday reported 8,191 new cases tak-

ing the total number of cases to 7,26,106. and 87 more deaths.

On the State's claim of a rising recovery rate, Giridhar Babu, member, State

Covid-19 Technical Advisory Committee, said it was a positive sign: "As recoveries increase, we will soon reach a stage where the growth rate of recoveries too will plateau till active cases come down."

Tamil Nadu reported another 4,666 new cases of COVID-19 on Tuesday. Of the fresh cases, 1,164 persons tested positive in Chennai and 398 persons in Coimbatore. The State also recorded 57 deaths.

For the second consecutive day, the State saw less than 5,000 COVID-19 cases. With this, a total of 6,65,930 persons have tested positive for COVID-19 in the State so far.

Of this, 43,239 persons were under treatment. Another 5,117 persons were discharged. The toll increased to 10,371.

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

## Five killed as rain lashes coastal districts of A.P.

### Deep depression crosses the coast at Kakinada

#### STAFF REPORTER

VIJAYAWADA

In Andhra Pradesh, coastal districts of Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari and Krishna were battered by incessant rain, as the deep depression crossed the coast early on Tuesday at Kakinada.

At least five persons were killed in three districts due to rain and flood-related incidents.

A woman and her daughter in Visakhapatnam and a man in Krishna district died due to landslips. In East Godavari's Bommaru village near Rajahmundry, one person died due to wall collapse and in Visakhapatnam, a woman died after being swept away in a car in a



**In surplus:** Water flowing out of the Mahboob Sagar tank in Sangareddy district on Tuesday. ■ MOHD ARIF

stream. Several mandals witnessed very heavy to extremely very heavy rainfall during the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday.

The deep depression crossed the coast between 6.30 a.m. and 7.30 a.m. at a speed of around 65 kmph. This caused extremely heavy rain, registering over 204.4 mm rainfall in 26 mandals of

East Godavari, eight mandals of West Godavari, seven mandals of Visakhapatnam and one mandal of Krishna district in 24 hours ending Tuesday morning.

As many as 146 mandals witnessed heavy rain while 278 witnessed moderate rainfall.

Several areas were inundated due to the heavy rain and increasing flood in Godavari and Krishna rivers.

## Heavy rain batters Telangana districts

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

Heavy rainfall was recorded across Telangana due to the impact of deep depression over the Bay of Bengal that made landfall near Kakinada in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday. Also,

the southwest monsoon has been vigorous over Telangana and north interior Khammam.

According to the Disaster Management

department of the Telangana government, very heavy rainfall was recorded at a few places in Khammam and Bhadrak-Kothagudem districts and heavy rainfall occurred at some places in Khammam, Bhadrak, Ma-

habubabad, Suryapet, Nagarjunakonda and Wanaparthy districts. A highest rainfall of over 19.6 cm rain was recorded at Vemsoor in Khammam district.

The heavy rainfall flooded vast swathes of fields under cotton and other crops and disrupted normal life in both Khammam and Bhadrak-Kothagudem districts. The incessant rains have triggered flash floods in Wyra, Munneru, Pedda Cheruvu, Rathoni Cheruvu, and various other rivulets and streams across Khammam district.

(With inputs from Khammam and Bhadrak-Kothagudem)

## Man who set woman ablaze dies in A.P.

### He was upset over complaint to police

#### STAFF REPORTER

VIJAYAWADA

A 25-year-old man who allegedly set ablaze and killed a nurse died of burns at a hospital on Tuesday.

Gurajala Nagabhushanam, 25, died hours after C. Chinnari, 24, who was working in a private hospital, died on Monday due to severe burns at her room in Harena Pet of the city.

The duo belongs to same community and village of Sriramapuram in Reddipet mandal of Andhra Pradesh and were reportedly in a relationship in the past, according to the Governor-pet police.

Nagabhushanam, who suffered 80% burns, said in his dying declaration that he set himself ablaze, the police said.

In his police complaint, Chinnari's uncle C. Pullaiah said Nagabhushanam was warned not to "trouble"

Chinnari and the latter agreed to the same in the presence of elders.

As Nagabhushanam allegedly continued to trouble Chinnari after coming to the city for work, Mr. Pullaiah, on behalf of Chinnari, lodged a complaint on October 5. However, no FIR was registered as the case was withdrawn a few days later.

Reportedly upset over Chinnari complaining to the police, Nagabhushanam came to her place with kerosene and allegedly set her ablaze after an argument, police said.

Nagabhushanam, who suffered 80% burns, said in his dying declaration that he set himself ablaze, the police said.

The CBI had booked the case for FCRA violation on a

## Kerala HC stays CBI probe into LIFE Mission project

Wadakkanchery Congress MLA has alleged FCRA violation

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOCHI

The Kerala High Court has stayed for two months the inquiry by the Central Bureau of Investigation into the alleged Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) violation in the acceptance of funds from the UAE-based Red Crescent for the Wadakkanchery LIFE Mission housing project.

The order was passed on a petition filed by U.V. Jose, Chief Executive Officer of the mission.

In his judgment, Justice V.G. Arun noted that the provisions of the FCRA and materials on record did not justify arraying the petitioner as accused in the case.

The CBI had booked the case for FCRA violation on a

complaint by Anil Akkara, Congress MLA representing the Wadakkanchery Assembly constituency.

### Petitioner's contention

Counsel for the petitioner had contended that the complainant in the case did not make out even a prima facie case and the hasty manner in which the crime was registered indicated a deliberate attempt to malign the Kerala government.

He also contended that the allegations in the complaint, even if accepted in their entirety, were inadequate to implicate the petitioner or other officials of the mission.

In his order, the judge noted

that "undisputedly, the LIFE Mission has not received any foreign contribution directly from the sponsor. The amount received by Unitac Builders and Developers and Sane Ventures LLP, in terms of the agreement entered between them and the foreign source being towards the cost in lieu of goods or services rendered in the ordinary course of business, is exempted" from Section 3 of the Act, which deals with prohibition from accepting foreign contribution.

The contention that the LIFE Mission would fall under Section 3 (1) (c) is liable to be rejected on a plain reading of the Section, the judge noted.

## Pawar backs Uddhav, writes to Prime Minister

"I was shocked and surprised to see the letter of the Governor released to the media and the kind of language used," he wrote.

"In the very Preamble the word 'secular' is added that equates and shields all religions and hence the Chair of the Chief Minister must uphold such tenets of the Constitution. Unfortunately Hon. Governor's letter to Chief Minister invokes the connotation as if written to the leader of a political party," said Mr. Pawar.

In his letter, Mr. Koshiyari said, "I wonder if you are receiving any divine premonition to keep postponing the reopening of the places of worship times and again or have you suddenly turned 'secular' yourselves, the term you hated?"

for his moving performance of a lonely old man getting emotionally attached to a robot in *Android Kunjappan* and for his portrayal of a deaf and mute man getting his life turned upside down by a social media post in *Vikruthi*.

From his early days of slapstick comedy roles to his National Award winning turn in *Perariyathavar* and now being the go-to-actor for a wide range of roles, he certainly has found his place.

Kani Kusru, who made her transition from the stage to the screen, won the best actor (female) award for her portrayal of a woman strug-

ging hard to survive in a deeply religious, patriarchal society in Sajin Baabu's *Biryani*. (Shinos Rahman & Sajas Rahman) won the best film award. The film also picked up the award for the best screenplay. Madhu C. Narayanan's *Kumbalangi Nights* won the award for the best film with aesthetic value and popular appeal.

Lijo Jose Pellissery picked up his second best director award in three years for *Jallikattu*, an immersive, sensory experience that bristles with gob-smacking visuals that blur the line between animals and humans.

*Kenjira*, a film in Paniyam language directed by Manoj Kana, won the award for the second best film. Ratheesh

Suraj Venjaramoodu won the best actor (male) award

Pothuval won the best debut director award for *Android Kunjappan*.

### Year of debuts

The jury headed by Madhu Ambatt said the large number of debut directors this year, constituting a total of 71 films out of the 119 films submitted, bodes well for the industry. Many of these were experimental films that have taken forward the industry with regard to aesthetics and content.

The shift in the awards' character is visible even in the best music award for Sushin Shyam's moody, acoustic tunes from *Kumbalangi Nights*, signalling a shift from the established names and traditional tunes of Malayalam film music.



## JD(U) expels 15 leaders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PATNA

A day after the BJP expelled as many as nine party leaders for contesting on a Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) ticket against National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidates in the upcoming Bihar Assembly poll, State president Basistha Narayan Singh of the ruling alliance partner Janata Dal-United (JD-U) expelled 15 leaders from the party for six years for their "anti-party activities".

The expelled JD(U) leaders are: Dadan Singh Pehlwan, Rameshwar Paswan, Bhagwan Singh Kushwaha, Ranvijay Singh, Sumit Kumar Singh, Kanchan Kumari Gupta, Pramod Singh Chandravanshi, Arun Kumar, Tajmul Khan, Amresh Chaudhury, Shiv Shankar Chaudhury, Sindh Paswan, Rakesh Ranjan, Mungeri Paswan and Kartar Singh Yadav.

"The party has acted upon them for their anti-party activities...some of them are also in the fray to contest the Assembly election against official NDA candidates," said a JD(U) leader.

## Chemical thrown at 3 sleeping girls in U.P.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

Three minor girls were attacked with some chemical on their faces while they were sleeping in their house in a village in Gonda district in Uttar Pradesh, the police said on Tuesday.

While the family said the girls had acid thrown on their faces, the police are yet to identify the chemical and have launched a forensic examination.

The father of the girls said the crime took place at 1.30 a.m. on Tuesday.

He was sleeping on the verandah along the ground floor while the three girls were sleeping on the first floor, he said.

He said he had no clue about who attacked the girls and believed that the suspects used a ladder to break into the room.

## BJP rebels blame party leaders in Bihar

Candidates whose Assembly seats went to the JD(U) unhappy with seat distribution in the alliance

NISTULA HEBBAR  
NEW DELHI

Rebel Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidates fighting on Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) ticket in the Bihar Assembly election blame senior leaders in the BJP for their rebellion, saying they have been forced to seek ticket from other parties and the BJP in the State is being "pawned" to the Janata Dal(U).

Senior leaders had given warnings of expulsion once it had become clear that the LJP would be fighting separately from the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and there were signs that some BJP candidates were approaching that party for seats. These candidates were among those whose Assembly seats had gone to the JD(U) in the NDA seat distribution.

Senior BJP leaders like Rajendra Singh, Usha Vidyarthi and Rameshwar Chaurasia moved to the LJP and on Monday, they, along with six others, were expelled from the party.

Speaking to *The Hindu* over the telephone, Mr. Chaurasia, who is fighting from Sasaram on LJP ticket, said that he did not hold a grudge



Polls amid pandemic: Volunteers put together a kit of masks and sanitizers for polling officers in Patna. ■ PTI

against the party as such but only towards certain leaders. "It is an open secret that there are certain leaders in the BJP who have pawned the party (party 'ko girwa ha') to Nitish Kumar as it suits them. All the people who have sought ticket from the LJP have done so as those seats, despite being our traditional stronghold, were given away to the JD(U) in the seat distribution," he said.

While Mr. Chaurasia said he was referring to Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi as one such leader, "there are

others who are with him," he added. He also said that the BJP's threat to go to the Election Commission (EC) if the LJP candidates used the image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in their posters was "silly". "We will follow EC guidelines on all these issues. Besides, Prime Minister Modi belongs to all," he said.

**Surprise rebels**  
Mr. Chaurasia and Mr. Rajendra Singh were surprise rebels as both have been rooted in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)

BJP organisation in the State for years, with the former also being given charge of the Kashi and Kanpur sambhag (division) during the 2014 Lok Sabha election, reporting directly to the then BJP general secretary in charge of U.P., Amit Shah.

Mr. Chaurasia, along with Union Minister Giriraj Singh, was also among those who regularly celebrated the birthday of then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi in Patna, in defiance of Nitish Kumar, who had managed to persuade the BJP not to allow Mr. Modi to campaign in successive Assembly elections in Bihar while in alliance with the party.

### Two streams

The expulsion, indeed the seeking of LJP ticket, once more focuses attention on the two streams of thought within the BJP in Bihar.

One set is comfortable with the alliance with the JD(U), where despite the BJP having a better strike rate in terms of electoral victories vis-a-vis seats fought, the JD(U) is given a larger share of seats.

The other set has protest-

ed the "big brother attitude" of the JD(U).

Despite the fact that both the parties are more or less contesting an equal number of seats this time around, ceding of specific seats has led to the rebellion, with the rebels stating that their less than cosy equations with certain Bihar BJP leaders had led to the deliberate ceding of these seats.

The LJP's decision to part ways with the NDA while remaining friendly with the BJP and fighting polls only in seats where the JD(U) is contesting was expected to help the BJP.

The anger of the JD(U) at this supposed ploy, and the BJP's determination to pacify its ally, has meant disciplinary action against the rebels. The matter has further complicated an already complex caste pitch in the State.

Senior BJP leaders admit that while Mr. Chaurasia may yet lose the polls, others like Mr. Rajendra Singh and Anil Kumar (fighting on LJP ticket from Vikram), may win.

Post-poll, the BJP may have to pay attention to whoever is left standing in this face-off.

## Congress denies dropping key leaders

Bihar State unit is said to be sidelined

SANDEEP PHUKAN  
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday issued a strong denial that senior leaders from Bihar have been dropped from a panel that is selecting candidates for the Assembly election over complaints of "irregularities" in ticket distribution.

The episode, however, brought into focus the party's Bihar fault lines, prompting former party chief Rahul Gandhi to intervene.

There was a news alert on Twitter (now deleted) by All India Radio that Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee chief Madan Mohan Jha, Congress Legislature Party leader Sadanand Singh and former Union Minister Akhilesh Prasad Singh had been dropped from the party's screening committee.

"@INCIndia party is in complete denial of the news," Avinash Pande, chairman of the screening committee, tweeted.

However, last Sunday, party chief Sonia Gandhi's announcement of key pa-

nels to oversee the campaign was a clear indication of the State unit being sidelined. Party general secretary Randeep Surjewala, a close aide of Mr. Gandhi, has been put in charge of the election management and coordination committee, which includes prominent leaders like Meira Kumar, Shakeel Ahmed, Tariq Anwar, Kirti Azad, Shatrughan Sinha and Nikhil Kumar.

Mr. Jha, Mr. Sadanand Singh and Mr. Akhilesh Prasad Singh were not named to any of the panels.

To add to the confusion, the party's central election committee, headed by Ms. Gandhi, postponed its Monday meeting to Wednesday to clear the list for the remaining 49 seats.

A senior leader said the delay was because of last-minute differences between the RJD and the Congress over seven to nine seats.

"The central election committee is meeting tomorrow [Wednesday], and we hope to clear most of the pending seats," he said.

## Why are sub judice cases out in the media, A-G asks

K.K. Venugopal poses query to SC

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

Attorney General K.K. Venugopal asked the Supreme Court on Tuesday to examine how sensitive details of sub judice cases (cases pending in court) made their way to the media and were published on penultimate days of court hearings, threatening to injure the rights of parties.

"When a bail application is coming up, there are conversations on TV very damaging to the accused... On the day Rafale [case] is argued, an article with documents is published. The issue of sub judice has to be contended," Mr. Venugopal told a Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar.

The submission was made while hearing a con-

tempt case against civil rights lawyer Prashant Bhushan for comments he made about Supreme Court judges in an interview to *Tehrik-e-Hukum* magazine in 2009.

But senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, for Mr. Bhushan, mildly quoted his Shakespeare at Mr. Venugopal's views. "When Shylock's case is going on, can we tell the Press not to talk about it?" Mr. Dhavan said. "If we get into the sub judice issue, we will get into Sahara judgment, which does not ban comment. Other thing is this is an extremely wide area."

The court asked the senior lawyers to coordinate and "refine" the issues which needed to be examined. The case was shifted to November.

## CBI inspects crime spot in Hathras

Team led by DSP Seema Pahuja speaks to family, takes victim's brother with them

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GHAZIABAD

The Central Bureau of Investigation team probing the alleged gang-rape and the murder of a Dalit woman visited the crime scene in Boolgarhi village in Hathras on Tuesday, and took the older brother of the victim with them, possibly for questioning at the camp office in Hathras.

In a related development, a Chief Judicial Magistrate court in Mathura granted permission to Enforcement Directorate officials to question the four alleged Popular Front of India members who were arrested last week near Maant toll plaza when they were on their way to Hathras.

According to local sources, the team led by Deputy Superintendent of Police

Seema Pahuja visited the crime spot and measured its distance from the village road. After that, the officials checked the spot where the victim was cremated by officials in the early hours of September 30, allegedly without the consent of family members.

The team also questioned the family members separately. The victim's older brother, who had accompa-

nied his sister to Chandpa police station after the alleged assault on September 14, was taken to the camp office. Sources said the team spent much of the time with the brother.

The younger brother of the victim told reporters that they had been told he (the older brother) would be sent back soon, but it was not clear where he had been taken. He said officials asked

the family members had returned to the village late on Monday night after a hearing before the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court.

Vineet Jaiswal, Superintendent of Police, Hathras, said the district administration had made arrangements for the stay of CBI officials in Hathras during the period of their investigation. He refused to comment on where the victim's brother would have been taken. "We have handed over all the documents related to the case to the CBI," he said.

The submission was made while hearing a con-

cerning questions such as where each of the family members had been at the time of the incident.

On Tuesday, the mother of the victim felt unwell and was taken to a hospital for a check up by local officials.

The family members had returned to the village late on Monday night after a hearing before the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court.

Vineet Jaiswal, Superintendent of Police, Hathras, said the district administration had made arrangements for the stay of CBI officials in Hathras during the period of their investigation. He refused to comment on where the victim's brother would have been taken. "We have handed over all the documents related to the case to the CBI," he said.

### Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice

#### WORKS DEPARTMENT

Bid Identification No. S.E.K.C. Keonjhar No. 08/2020-21

e-mail : sekcpwd\_keonjhar@yahoo.com

Letter No.2720 Dt:09-10-2020

1.No of work: : 09 Number of Building Works

2.Estimated cost : Rs. 412.34 Lakhs to Rs. 571.78 Lakhs

3.Period of completion : 11 (Eleven) Calendar Months

4.Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal: From 11.00 Hours of 22.10.2020 to 16.00 Hours of 05.11.2020

5.Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal : 16.00 Hours of 05.11.2020

6.Date of opening of Bid from Portal : 12.00 Hours on 06.11.2020

7.Name and address of the officer inviting Bid : Superintending Engineer,

Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar-758001,

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<http://tendersodisha.gov.in>"

Sd/- A.N. Das Superintending Engineer

Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar

OIPR No. 3403/11/0009/2021

Dt:10-10-2020

: 09 Number of Building Works

: Rs. 412.34 Lakhs to Rs. 571.78 Lakhs

: 11 (Eleven) Calendar Months

: From 11.00 Hours of 22.10.2020 to 16.00 Hours of 05.11.2020

: 16.00 Hours of 05.11.2020

: 12.00 Hours on 06.11.2020

: Superintending Engineer,

Keonjhar (R&B) Circle,

Keonjhar-758001,

The online application form and instructions are available in the TNAU website: [www.kvk.tnau.ac.in](http://www.kvk.tnau.ac.in)

Complete the online application process on or before 5.00 p.m. on 09.11.2020. A copy of the printed application along with the required documents and Online payment receipt should reach this office on or before 5.00 p.m. on 13.11.2020.

Coimbatore 14.10.2020 Registrar

DIPR/919/Display/2020

Registrar

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Coimbatore 14.10.2020 Registrar

DIPR/919/Display/2020

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## IN BRIEF



Chidambaram slams latest stimulus

NEW DELHI Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram on Tuesday said the Modi government's latest stimulus package was another "sly attempt" to dazzle the people with exaggerated numbers. Using a Hindi idiom he said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's announcements on Monday were like "digging a mountain to find a mouse" and asserted the latest announcements were an admission the ₹20 lakh crore Atma Nirbhar package was a "hoax".

## 'Govt. doesn't view crime from a caste prism'

NEW DELHI Union Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy said on Tuesday the government does not believe in viewing crime from the prism of caste, creed or region as any crime is against humanity and peace. Mr. Reddy said the government would never tolerate crime against women and the downtrodden. The comments come in the wake of the alleged gang rape and killing of a 19-year-old Dalit woman in Hathras.

## Aadhaar not mandatory for birth, death records

NEW DELHI The provision of Aadhaar is not mandatory for the registration of births and deaths, the Registrar General of India (RGI) has clarified in a recent reply to an RTI request. If Aadhaar is provided voluntarily, it must not be printed on any document or stored in any database of births and deaths in full form, according to an RGI circular cited in the RTI response. The RTI request was filed by Visakha Patnam-based advocate M.V.S. Anil Kumar Rajagiri.

## SC junks plea for re-test of ICSE class IX, XI exams

NEW DELHI The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to entertain a plea to direct the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (ICSE) to conduct a re-test for students who have failed their Class IX and XI exams. A Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar dismissed the petition filed by Ojas Achyut Gupta, represented by advocate Alakh Alok Srivastava, the immediately "adopt, formulate and implement" norms similar to the one issued for school-level re-test in these two classes by the (CBSE).

## JEE-Advanced candidates to get another chance

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

All candidates who had successfully registered to appear in JEE-Advanced 2020 but were absent for the examination will be allowed to reappear in 2021, as a one-time measure due to COVID-19. They will not have to re-qualify by writing JEE-Main 2021 and will be allowed to directly appear in the JEE-Advanced examination, which is the entrance test for admission to the

## ‘70% of virus fatalities are men’

Health Ministry cautions those below 60 against ignoring preventive measures

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry on Tuesday cautioned those below 60 against ignoring COVID-19 preventive measures. Nearly 14% of COVID-19 fatalities are those in the 45-60 age group with comorbidities and 1.5% without co-morbidities.

At a press conference, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said 70% of COVID-19 fatalities were men and the rest women. "We have 1% fatalities reported from the below-17 age group and the 18-25 age group," he said.

Across the country, the number of fatalities had been lower than 1,000 for 10 successive days. In the past 24 hours, 706 fatalities had been reported. Of these, nearly 75% were concentrated in 10 States and Union Territories. More than 23%, or 165, were from Maharashtra, he said.

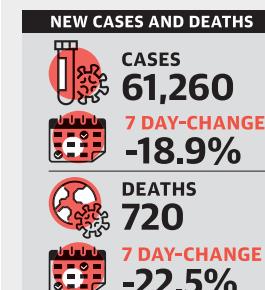
Vinod K. Paul, member, NITI Aayog, urged the public to use the social vaccine against the virus.

"The pandemic is stabilising but winters are known to be conducive for the spread of viruses. If we are not careful, large gatherings for festivals could turn into super spreading events," he said.

India had one of the lowest cases per million and reported deaths per million. While the global figure for cases per million was 4,794,

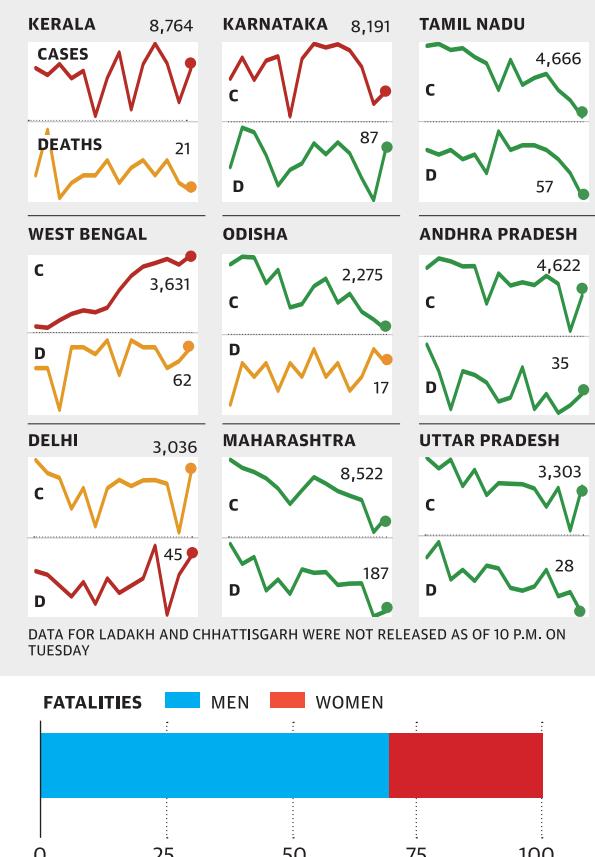
## Viral tracker

With 61,260 COVID-19 cases recorded on Tuesday, India's tally stood at 72,34,525. As many as 720 new deaths were registered, taking the toll to 1,10,630. The graphs depict new cases and deaths in the last 14 days in selected States. The States are classified based on where cases/deaths are rising (red), falling (green) or showing a mixed trend (orange).



## COVID-19 claims more men

The Union Health Ministry said that 70% of all COVID-19 fatalities were male



India was clocking 5,199. The deaths per million in India were 79, while the world average was 138, he said.

Karnataka in the lead

Data released by the Ministry noted that India was reporting a consistent slide in the new confirmed cases.

As many as 55,342 new cases were registered in the

last 24 hours. "From the last five weeks, there is a continuous decline in the average daily new cases. The weekly average of daily new cases fell from 92,830 cases in the second week of September to 70,114 cases in second week of October," the data noted.

As much as 76% of the new confirmed cases are

from 10 States and UTs, it stated. Karnataka had overtaken Maharashtra with the highest number of new reported cases. "Both are contributing more than 7,000 new cases. The States which are reporting a spurt in cases are Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh," the Ministry said.

## eVIN network to handle COVID-19 vaccine supply

Meet takes stock of identification of frontline workers

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The eVIN network, which can track the latest vaccine stock position; temperature at storage facility; geo-tag health centres; and maintain facility-level dashboard, is being repurposed for the delivery of the COVID-19 vaccine, said the Union Health Ministry in a release issued on Tuesday.

Vinod K. Paul, member, NITI Aayog, in his presentation at the 21st meeting of the high-level Group of Ministers (GoM) on COVID-19 on Tuesday, chaired by Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, added that the listing of healthcare workers would also be complete by October-end or early November, while the task of identifying frontline workers, recalibration of the digital platform, the logistics of non-vaccine supplies, and cold chain augmentation, are being carried out as per the detailed implementation plan.

During the meeting, he presented a comprehensive study on the priority sections of the population that would have initial access to the vaccine, drawing upon the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control, U.S., and the World Health Organization, said a release issued by the Health Ministry.

During the meeting, Su-



Keeping count: Kochi Corporation workers undergo antibody tests. Kerala currently has the lowest recovery rate due to a sudden surge in cases. ■ FILE PHOTO

## Awareness campaign aims to reach out to 90 crore people

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Secretary Amit Khare said on Tuesday.

The first phase of campaign will be run intensively for two months till March. The communication strategy has been developed in view of the winter, which is conducive to the spread of respiratory viruses, and the opening up of all activities.

covery rate of 96.25% in India, followed by Andaman & Nicobar Islands (93.98%) and Bihar (93.89%). Kerala has the lowest recovery rate of 66.31% because of the huge surge in cases in recent days," he said.

## Farmers to hold talks with Centre today

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

At least 28 farmer unions in Punjab, which have been protesting against the controversial new farm marketing laws, have agreed to hold discussions on the issue with the Union Agriculture Ministry in Delhi on Wednesday, after rejecting a previous invitation just days ago.

However, they emphasised that protests will continue.

Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agarwal's invitation to the unions to hold talks in Delhi was the trigger for much debate and argument among farmer leaders at a coordination meeting in Chandigarh on Tuesday evening.

## Our institutions are very patriarchal: Soumya

WHO's Chief Scientist says she had faced many kinds of challenges and biases during her ICMR stint

## JAGRITI CHANDRA

NEW DELHI

She is counted among the country's top scientists and public health experts, but for Soumya Swaminathan, who is the Chief Scientist at the World Health Organization and the former Director-General (DG) of India's top medical research body, the Indian Council of Medical Research, it wasn't always easy to be heard as a young researcher, and a woman at that. She was often "talked down to" or had her ideas dismissed, Dr. Swaminathan recounted before a global audience at an event on Tues-

day.

my MD, I never felt that I was treated differently as a girl or a woman. Perhaps that is very unusual. It was only after I started my career in a government research institution that I experienced the culture of a male-dominated committee room. That is when you feel you were being talked down to or made fun of almost. And then you become diffident of expressing your opinion the next time. I was in my thirties," Dr. Swaminathan said about her time at the ICMR, where she was first a part of the Tuberculosis Research Centre in Chennai, later rose to become its Director, and finally the head of the ICMR in New Delhi.

"I was lucky perhaps that during my school, college days or right through education, even when I was doing



It is more difficult for women researchers to get their grants approved...

SOUMYA SWAMINATHAN

Chief Scientist, WHO

and if I had ideas, they would be shot down. I think that is the way many of our institutions function. They

are very patriarchal," she said at the fourth Women Leaders in Global Health Conference, 2020, which is being organised online. The conference that was instituted in 2017 serves as a rallying point for gender equity in health.

"It is more difficult for women researchers to get their grants approved, significantly smaller portion of research grants go to women, and women also have difficulties in getting their results published if you are from developing countries in journals because of perceived biases. I have faced those kinds of challenges and biases," Dr. Swaminathan said, adding that this is prevalent even today, where women have a tougher time defend-

## Delhi court seeks transfer of case against Priya Ramani

Matter not filed against MP/MLA, cannot be tried by this court: Judge

## STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court, which was hearing former Union Minister M.J. Akbar's defamation case against journalist Priya Ramani for her tweets accusing him of sexual harassment for about two years, on Tuesday said it cannot hear the case any more because of a recent verdict of the Supreme Court.

"As the present matter is not filed against Member of Parliament (MP)/Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), hence cannot be tried by this court and needs to be transferred to the competent court of jurisdiction," Judge Vishal Pahuja said.

Candidates getting a second chance will be considered in addition to and not a part of those who will qualify from JEE-Main 2021.

## CBI probe into complaint against official

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation has initiated a fact-finding inquiry into its public prosecutor's allegation that he was assaulted by a Deputy Inspector-General level official over the delay in framing of charges

On September 16, the apex court had asked the Chief Justices of all High Courts to list before an appropriate Bench all pending criminal cases involving sitting and former lawmakers where stay was granted.

**Case record**  
In terms of this order, certain cases that did not pertain to sitting and former lawmakers but were already being heard by Judge Pahuja were transferred to other courts. On Tuesday, when Mr. Akbar's case came up for hearing, Judge Pahuja said, "Let this matter be put up before the court of Principal District and Sessions Judge (Rouse Avenue District Courts) for October 14... for further appropriate orders."

Speaking to *The Hindu*, senior advocate Rebecca John said since this case was instituted by Mr. Akbar, the

court has referred it to the Principal District and Sessions Judge. If the case is transferred to another court, it will commence at the stage of final argument where it left off. "The record of the case goes with the case," said Ms. John.

At the height of the 'MeToo' movement in 2018, Ms. Ramani had accused Mr. Akbar of sexual harassment during his previous role as newspaper editor. Following Ms. Ramani's accusation, about a dozen former colleagues of Mr. Akbar also came out with different allegations against him.

Days before he resigned from his post of Minister of State for External Affairs in October 2018, Mr. Akbar filed a criminal defamation case against Ms. Ramani, citing her open letter published in a magazine and her tweets naming him.

Judge Vishal Pahuja, who was hearing the case, said the court has referred it to the Principal District and Sessions Judge. If the case is transferred to another court, it will commence at the stage of final argument where it left off. "The record of the case goes with the case," said Ms. John.

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## Tanishq pulls ad over 'hurt sentiments'

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Following an uproar on social media over its latest advertisement, Tanishq, the Tata Group's jewellery brand, on Tuesday said it withdrew the advertisement "keeping in mind the hurt sentiments and well-being of our employees, partners and store staff".

The advertisement, released ahead of the festive season, shows a baby shower being thrown by a Muslim family for their daughter-in-law, who is a Hindu. Towards the end of the video, the young woman points out to her mother-in-law that baby showers are not a tradition in their household. To which the mother-in-law replies: "Isn't it a tradition for every home to keep daughters happy?"

The ad drew severe criticism from a section of social media users who alleged that it promoted 'love jihad' – a derogatory term used by fringe groups to describe interfaith relationships.

The hashtag #BoycottTanishq has been trending across social media sites such as Twitter since Monday. Buckling under the pressure, Tanishq pulled down the ad.

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**Power and poise** There's far more to the GLE 53 than meets the eye  
• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



RAHUL KAKAR

The new Mercedes-Benz GLE Coupé has been launched in India, in high-performance AMG 53 guise. The second-gen model has grown in size and price, but also packs more in tech, and a new mild-hybrid 3.0-litre, in-line six, twin-turbo petrol engine. So, can it recreate the success its predecessor?

The GLE 53 Coupé looks sharper and more attractive than the outgoing 43 and has massive road presence. The shovel-like nose makes it instantly recognisable as a GLE, and while styling is similar to the standard SUV, the roof-line dips from the B-pillar onwards ending in an integrated spoiler on the tailgate to give that coupé profile.

The 53 also gets aggressive design elements such as the AMG 'Panamericana' grille, power bulges on the bonnet, and quad exhaust pipes. Inside, the GLE 53's

cabin is in line with the standard GLE, but with a lot more pizzazz and character. The dashboard looks a tad special due to the carbon-fibre trim and other sporty touches.

The cabin feels big and airy, and the front seats are large and comfortable. Rear accommodation is also very spacious, headroom is more than sufficient, the seats are supportive and two occupants can sit in comfort.

There is plenty of kit bundled in too – head-up display, four-zone climate control, a 13-speaker Burmester sound system, 64-colour ambient lighting, connected car tech and more.

For a performance SUV, it is what is under the hood that matters. While the 53 is not a full-fat V8 AMG, the twin-turbo, direct-injected, in-line six petrol makes 435hp, which is more than sufficient for this 2,250kg SUV. And



#### SPECIFICATIONS

LENGTH	4961mm
WIDTH	2014mm
HEIGHT	1716mm
WHEELBASE	2935mm
ENGINE	2999cc, 6-cyl, twin-turbo petrol, mild hybrid
MAX POWER	435hp at 5500-6100rpm + 22hp e-boost
MAX TORQUE	520Nm at 1800-5800rpm + 250Nm e-boost
GEARBOX	9-speed automatic
TANK SIZE	85 litres

A 9-speed gearbox, plenty of kit and a silky smooth engine are a few of the many features that make the GLE Coupe stand out

when it is off. Of course, this changes the second you tap on the throttle and the 435 horses under the hood make their presence felt.

Apart from being silky-smooth, the new straight-six is also quick to respond and pulls strongly in a brawny, muscular manner. This is partly due to the 48V mild-hybrid system that adds up to 22hp and a significant 250Nm of torque under hard acceleration. Even nicer is that the engine is free-revving and loves visiting its 6,800rpm redline. The unit is also very flexible and feels very comfortable cruising. Another highlight is the quick 9-speed gearbox and the steel paddle-shifters behind the steering wheel that make it more engaging while attacking corners.

Despite its obvious bulk, the 53 allows you to enjoy corners. The steering feels better connected than in the GLE, and agility and directional changes are fairly quick. With the new four-wheel-drive system it has huge grip and can carry a fair amount of speed.

At ₹1.20 crore (ex-showroom, India), the GLE 53 is also more affordable than its rivals. The 53 comes loaded with tech, it is superbly built, luxuriously appointed, and delivers a strong performance, all in one attractive package.

#### AUTO SNIPPETS



#### MG Gloster launched

MG has launched its new flagship SUV, the Gloster in India with prices ranging from ₹28.98 - ₹35.38 lakh (ex-showroom, Delhi). The prices are introductory and valid till October 31 or for the first 2,000 customers. The Gloster comes in a choice of four trim levels – Super, Smart, Sharp and Savvy, with either a six or seven-seat cabin layout depending on the variant. The Gloster gets two diesel engine options – both paired with an 8-speed automatic gearbox.



#### Mercedes launches all-electric EQC at ₹99.30 lakh

Mercedes-Benz has launched its all-electric SUV, the EQC in India at an introductory price of ₹99.30 lakh (ex-showroom, India). The introductory price is only valid for the first 50 customers. With this launch, Mercedes becomes the first luxury automaker to introduce an all-electric car in India. The EQC will initially be available in Mumbai, Delhi, Pune, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Chennai, and via the brand's online portal. Power comes from two asynchronous electric motors, one on each axle. They produce a combined 408hp and 765Nm of torque and come paired with a floor-mounted 85kWh lithium-ion battery pack. The set-up gives the electric SUV a WLTP-certified 400km range on a single charge. Owners will be able to access over 100 EQ charging points in 48 cities across the country.



#### Hyundai Creta prices hiked; new petrol E variant introduced

Hyundai has hiked prices for the Creta across variants along with introducing a new entry-level petrol variant. The petrol line-up which previously began from the EX trim now sees the introduction of a new E variant which until now had only been available with the diesel engine. The Creta E petrol is priced at ₹9.82 lakh and is offered with the naturally aspirated 1.5-litre engine. Hyundai has hiked prices for its popular mid-size SUV by ₹12,000 to ₹62,000 for the petrol models. Prices for the petrol Creta now range from ₹9.82 lakh to ₹17.32 lakh for the fully-loaded SX(O) Turbo automatic. The diesel Creta, on the other hand, has seen prices hiked by a flat ₹12,000 for all but the base Creta E. The Hyundai Creta competes in the mid-size SUV segment in our market. All prices, ex-showroom, India

#### Q AND A WITH HORMAZD



#### Aftermarket cruise control

Is it possible to install an aftermarket cruise control on my 2019 Honda Amaze?

**AK, Bengaluru**

• Retrofitting cruise control involves high-precision work with the vehicle's electronics. While the second-generation Honda Amaze gets cruise control, it only does so in its VX manual transmission variants. So, an upgrade would only be possible if your car is an MT. Get in touch with your service centre to check if it is possible to get the body control module (BCM), steering mounted controls and wiring harness from the VX variants installed in your car. This could be very expensive and if the installation goes wrong, it could lead to huge safety issues. We would advise against it.

**Pre-owned petrol car wanted**

I want to buy a pre-owned petrol car at a budget of ₹18 lakh. It should be feature-rich and with a Sport mode. I don't prefer Korean cars. What about the MG Hector and Honda Civic?

**Rithul, via email**

• With a budget of ₹18 lakh, we would suggest you consider the Skoda Octavia 1.8-litre TSI, which comes with a dual-clutch automatic transmission. It offers strong performance, has ample cabin space and a large boot. You could easily get a 2018 or 2019 model for the money, and we would recommend you extend your warranty at the earliest after closing the deal.

Hormazd Sorabjee is the editor of Autocar India. Mail your feedback and queries to [roadshow@thehindu.co.in](mailto:roadshow@thehindu.co.in)

## New wine, old wineskin

CYRUS DHABHAR

Under its partnership with Maruti Suzuki in India, Toyota will introduce a number of badge-re-engineered models borrowed from the former. We got a taste of the first model under this partnership in the form of the Glanza, which was simply a Baleno with Toyota badging and little else to set it apart. The Urban Cruiser, the second model under the partnership, does get a few changes that helps differentiate itself from its sibling, the Maruti Suzuki Vitara Brezza.

We take a closer look at Toyota's first compact SUV for India.

Toyota has changed the front end of the Urban Cruiser to differentiate it from the Vitara Brezza and give it a more Toyota family look. This includes a new dual-slat grille with squarish indentations that are flanked on either side by vertical chrome trim pieces. The bumper itself gets a very typically Toyota angular vent design on each end, with a large central opening and a silver skid plate. An intriguing design element is a circular slot in the lower half of the bumper on the driver's side, behind which the horn is mounted.

Other than a few variants, there is not much to tell apart the Urban Cruiser from the Vitara Brezza

**Buyer's choice** The Urban Cruiser is an assertive version from the Toyota stable • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



<b>SPECIFICATIONS</b>
L/W/H 3995/1790/1640mm
WHEELBASE 2500mm
BOOT CAPACITY 328 litres
KERB WEIGHT 1115-1150kg
ENGINE 1462cc, four-cylinder, petrol*
POWER 105hp at 6000rpm
TORQUE 138Nm at 4400rpm
GEARBOX 5-speed MT/4-speed AT

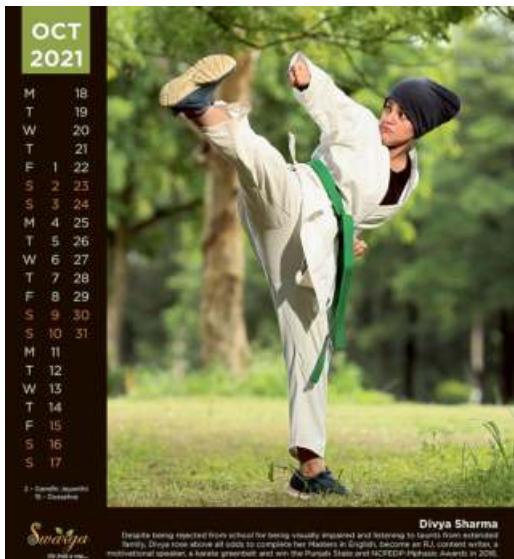
\*Engine gets mild-hybrid system with automatic gearbox option

the automatic is rated at 18.76kpl.

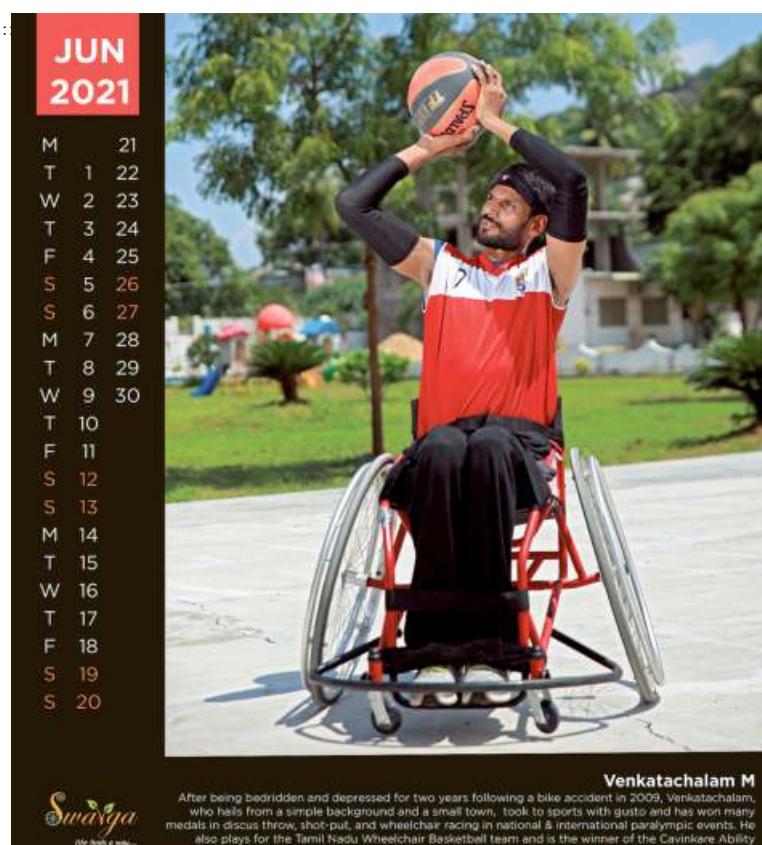
It is when you look at the variants do things get a bit interesting. While available in three variants – Mid, High and Premium, the Urban Cruiser does not offer a bare bones entry-level variant like the Brezza. Like for like, the Mid, High and Premium trims are comparable to the Brezza's VX, ZXi and ZXi+ trims so even the 'base' variant gets you kit such as LED headlamps with DRLs, power folding wing mirrors, 2-DIN audio system, key-less entry and go and auto AC. Additionally, all three variants are available with both gearbox options.

Prices for the manual version range from ₹84.40-₹98.80 lakh while Urban Cruiser automatic prices range between ₹9.80-₹11.30 lakh. Compared to the Maruti Vitara Brezza, this is just ₹5,000-₹15,000 more depending on which variant you choose.

Coimbatore-based Swarga Foundation launches the sixth edition of its I'm Special calendar that features 12 models with disabilities



**Changing narratives**  
(Clockwise from left) Divya Sharma, M Venkatachalam and Swarnalatha J  
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Venkatachalam M  
After being bedridden and depressed for two years following a bike accident in 2009, Venkatachalam, who hails from a simple background and a small town, took to sports with gusto and has won many medals in discus throw, shot-put, and wheelchair racing in national & international paralympic events. He also plays for the Tamil Nadu Wheelchair Basketball team and is the winner of the CavinKare Ability Award for Mastery in 2019.

Chatterjee, film assistant director Amritha Sivadas, and artist and life coach Manjoo Shree N. The process took about seven months. "We got around 160 entries from across the country and it was a tough task to finalise options from them. Most of the shooting was done during lockdown, and the photographs were taken by photographers from the neighbourhood as we couldn't travel there ourselves," says Swarnalatha.

Divya Sharma, one of the models, is from Punjab and is an RJ, content manager and visibility activist. She was diagnosed with glaucoma as a child. "But I never felt it would stop me from achieving my dreams. There are always aids available to make our lives easier," she says. She has been creating awareness at educational organisations on the importance of inclusion and the aids available, since 2016. "I was asked to leave school because of my disability. I went through emotional trauma and I didn't want that to happen to

anyone else," she says. Another person featured is M Venkatachalam, a para-athlete and basketball player from Vellore. "I met with a bike accident in 2009 and had a spine injury. I was introduced to sports as part of my physiotherapy sessions. It helped me both physically and mentally," he says. He has represented India at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix held at Beijing in 2017 and is also a member of the Tamil Nadu wheelchair basketball team. "I identify people with special needs in my area and introduce them to various sports events. I believe it will make a positive impact on their lives."

Swarnalatha says that such initiatives have created awareness among people on the needs of people with disabilities. "That is our biggest achievement. But there is still a long way to go for real change," she says.

*I'm Special calendar is available as a tabletop for ₹350. Visit [swargafoundation.org](http://swargafoundation.org) or call 8012522522, 7397168333 for details.*



SUSAN JOE PHILIP

According to the World Health Organization, nearly 15% of the world's population has some form of disability. "That is a huge number and in many cases, people in this segment are not acknowledged for their achievements. I want to show the world what we are capable of through our calendar," says Swarnalatha J, the managing trustee of Coimbatore-based NGO Swarga Foundation. The organisation recently launched the sixth edition of its I'm Special calendar for the year 2021 to celebrate the talents of people with special needs.

The edition is on youth icons and

has people from across the country who have showcased their prowess in sports, fitness, fashion, and academics. The calendar is a fund-raising initiative to offer hydrotherapy for those who need it. "This will be a big help to people with limited mobility. Proceeds from last year were used to provide physiotherapy for about 2,000 people in Coimbatore," says Swarnalatha, who has progressive multiple sclerosis.

Models for the calendar were selected by a jury comprising disability rights activist Javed Ahmed Tak, educationist P Krishna Kumar, wildlife photographer and artist Hemalatha Madathil, photographer Swaarup S

## New year, new dreams

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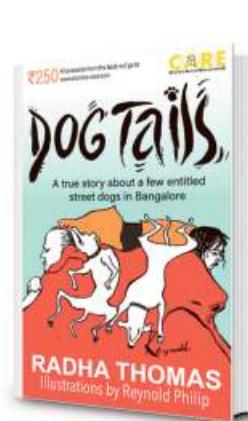
## A canine calling

In *Dog Tails*, Radha Thomas shares her journey from being an accidental dog lover to a crusader for the cause of strays

RUTH DHANARAJ

When Radha Thomas and her son Stefan chanced upon a stray pup with a broken paw in their neighbourhood about 10 years ago, little did they know it would be a pivotal moment in their lives.

Radha was afraid of dogs as a child, a fear she carried into adulthood with her, something that the arrival of Daisy (the pup with a broken paw), put an end to. "I used to get terrified if I went some place and a dog started barking. Street dogs moving about in a pack would scare me immensely. But now there has been an about turn



**Forever friends** Radha (far left) also draws attention to issues concerning stray animals in the book  
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

galureans would be familiar with.

Radha, who finished penning the book in about two months, has interspersed chapters of her personal experiences with ones on stray dogs. The genetic contamination of native Indian breeds, laws regarding strays, consequences of culling and the ABC Method, are a few topics she covers under the 'Did You Know?' heading.

"Back then, I never thought about writing a book about dogs. It is only on looking back at so many weird things that have happened since then, I realised it would be a fun book to write," says Radha.

Encounters with a dog-whisperer, a pet-nap and ransom situation, doggie-sitters and a fancy lady dog with a car of her own, all feature in *Dog Tails*, playing out in Cooke Town – a part of the city most Ben-

+ gurus would be familiar with. Radha, who finished penning the book in about two months, has interspersed chapters of her personal experiences with ones on stray dogs. The genetic contamination of native Indian breeds, laws regarding strays, consequences of culling and the ABC Method, are a few topics she covers under the 'Did You Know?' heading.

"A lot of this information is available online, but because I wanted to learn more about them, I began researching. I hope it helps people understand strays better," says Radha, who as an author and former journalist, values the importance of true sources for information.

"After a while you can get through to any dog," adds Radha who is currently tending to three more strays.

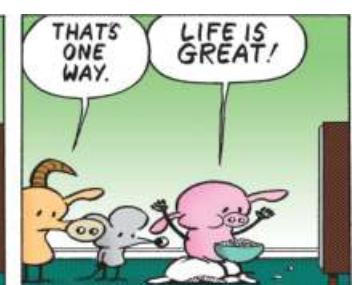
Written with sassy, tongue-in-cheek references to herself, her family, her dogs and her corner of Bengaluru, Radha's experiences will leave you chuckling, dog lover or not.

All proceeds from the sale of *Dog Tails* available on Amazon Kindle will go to CARE (Charlie's Animal Rescue Centre), Bengaluru which takes in all stray animals.

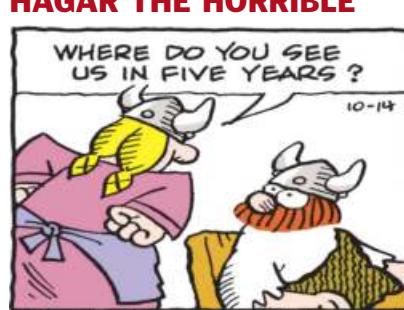
### POOCH CAFE



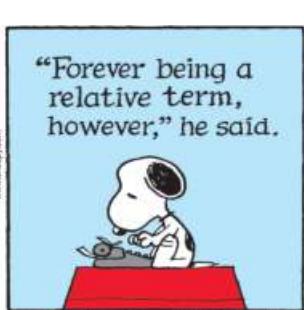
### PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



### HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



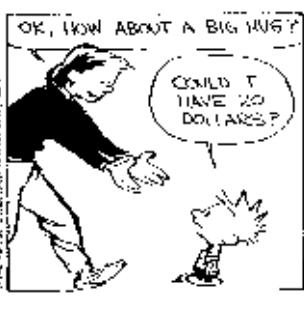
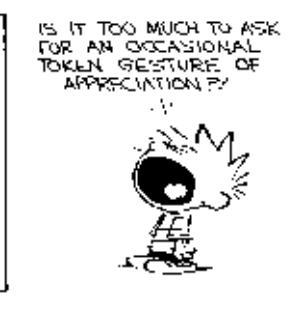
### PEANUTS



### TIGER



### CALVIN AND HOBBES



# 'U.S. aiming to build an Indo-Pacific NATO'

Quad seeks to trumpet the Cold War mentality and to stir up confrontation: China's Foreign Minister

**ANANTH KRISHNAN**  
China's Foreign Minister on Tuesday said the United States was aiming to build an "Indo-Pacific NATO" that would be founded on the four-nation India, U.S., Japan and Australia grouping, in Beijing's most high-profile criticism so far on the "Quad".

Wang Yi's remarks, during a visit to Malaysia, underline how Chinese officials who once sought to downplay the Quad as an over-hyped idea are now highlighting it prominently, describing it as part of a broader American effort in the region to "contain" China, as ties continue to worsen between Beijing and Washington.

Mr. Wang had, in 2018, dismissed the then recently-revived Quad and the Indo-Pacific concept as a "headline-grabbing idea" that would "dissipate like sea foam".

On Tuesday, he hit out at



**U-turn:** In 2018, Wang Yi had spurned the Quad as a "headline-grabbing idea" that would "dissipate like sea foam". • AP

the U.S. approach to the region during his visit to Malaysia, the second stop on his five-nation tour to Southeast Asia. He arrived there following a visit to Cambodia, and will later travel to Laos and Thailand, and stop in Singapore.

"What it pursues is to trumpet the Cold War mentality and to stir up confrontation among different groups and blocs and to stoke geopolitical competition. What it

## Taiwan dismisses latest China spying accusations

TAIPEI

Taiwan on Tuesday dismissed new spying allegations by China as a further attempt to smear the government of the island that Beijing claims as its own territory. On Sunday, CCTV broadcast a confession by a man who said he had been working to destabilise China and harm the Communist Party's reputation. CCTV claimed security personnel had solved more than 100 spying cases. AP

maintains is the dominance and hegemonic system of the U.S."

"In this sense, this strategy is itself a big underlying security risk. If it is forced forward, it will wind back the clock of history," he added.

Last week, following the October 6 Quad ministerial meeting in Tokyo, China said it was opposed to "organis-

ing closed and exclusive cliques".

At the Tokyo meet, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo singled out China as a threat to the region, although the three other Foreign Ministers, including External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, did not directly mention China.

They did, however, express broad concerns about maintaining a rules-based order, freedom of navigation and the peaceful resolution of disputes in the region.

"As partners in this Quad, it is more critical now than ever that we collaborate to protect our people and partners from the Chinese Communist Party's exploitation, corruption, and coercion," Mr. Pompeo said.

"We've seen it in the South China Sea, in the East China Sea, the Mekong, the Himalayas, the Taiwan Straits. These are just a few exam-

## 9 million to be tested in Chinese city

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**

BEIJING

More than four million coronavirus test swabs have been taken in a matter of days in Qingdao, the Chinese port city where a minor outbreak elicited a sweeping health response.

Authorities detected six virus cases on the weekend and swiftly swung into action to head off a wider outbreak.

The city is aiming to test its entire population – around 9.4 million – within five days of the detection of the first cases at a hospital on Sunday.

## J&J pauses coronavirus vaccine trials

Unexplained illness in a participant; AstraZeneca resumed trials after similar halt

**REUTERS**

WASHINGTON

Johnson & Johnson has paused clinical trials of its coronavirus vaccine candidate due to an unexplained illness in a study participant, delaying one of the highest profile efforts to contain the global pandemic.

The move comes around a month after AstraZeneca also suspended trials of its experimental coronavirus vaccine – which uses a similar technology – due to a participant falling ill.

J&J said on Monday the illness was being reviewed by an independent data and sa-



The J&J and AstraZeneca vaccines are both based on a so-called adenovirus. • AP

fety monitoring board as well as the U.S. group's clinical and safety physicians.

The company, which re-

ports quarterly financial re-

sults on Tuesday morning,

said such pauses are normal in big trials, which can include tens of thousands of people. It added the voluntary "study pause" in giving doses of the vaccine candidate was different from a "regulatory hold" imposed by health authorities.

AstraZeneca last month paused late-stage trials of its experimental coronavirus vaccine developed with the University of Oxford due to an unexplained illness in a British study participant.

While AstraZeneca's trials

in Britain, Brazil, South Africa and India have since res-

umed, its U.S. trial is still on

hold, pending a regulatory review.

The J&J and AstraZeneca vaccines are both based on a so-called adenovirus, a harmless modified virus that instructs human cells to produce vaccine proteins.

### Safety concerns

They are both also part of the U.S. government's Operation Warp Speed programme to support vaccine development.

"This could be a second case of adenoviral vaccine to spur safety concerns," said Bryan Garnier analyst Olga Smolentseva.

"I can share with you that he tested negative, on con-

## President Trump back on campaign trail with a roar

"They say I am immune. I feel so powerful," he boasts at rally

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**

SANFORD

"Here we are!" President Donald Trump announced with a triumphant roar – made slightly hoarse by his bout with COVID-19 – at the opening of a rally in Sanford, Florida, on Monday.



**In centre stage:** Donald Trump tossing a face mask into the crowd as he takes the stage for a rally in Florida. • REUTERS

being administered oxygen by doctors.

"They say I'm immune," he boasted. "I feel so powerful."

From ditching his mask to parking the iconic Air Force One jumbo right behind the podium, this was a rally stage-managed to push Mr. Trump's image as freak of nature unbound by the laws governing ordinary folks.

Maybe he wasn't wearing a Superman shirt under his suit, as *The New York Times* reported he considered doing on being discharged from hospital October 5, but the crowd wouldn't have been fazed had he done so.

"We love you, we love

you," they cheered.

Mr. Trump talks of enjoying a "protective glow" after getting over COVID-19.

The way Mr. Trump tells it, his special powers make him invincible against Mr. Biden too. Since reemerging from heavy treatment for the coronavirus he has mocked the Democrat's travel schedule, his mask wearing and coughing.

"He's got no strength left, he's got no power left," Mr. Trump told Monday's crowd.

"He may be the worst presidential candidate in history and I got him," he scoffed.

The polls do not bear this out.

## Trump has tested negative: doctor

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**

WASHINGTON

Donald Trump has been found negative for COVID-19 using a rapid test, his White House physician said on Monday, 10 days after the President announced he had contracted the potentially-deadly illness.

The doctor said the negative determination had taken into account a number of measurements, and not just the rapid test alone.

Antigen tests are less sensitive than the more traditional PCR diagnostic test to

low levels of virus.

Dr. Conley, who does not specify the days on which the tests were performed, nevertheless added that the data allowed the medical team to conclude "that the President is not infectious to others."

This statement was issued while the President was en route to Florida for a rally.

## For talks, Turkish ship must pull back: Greece

Row over exploration in Mediterranean

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**

ATHENS

Greece will not hold talks with Turkey on defusing tension in the eastern Mediterranean unless Ankara withdraws an energy research ship from contested areas, a senior Minister said on Tuesday.

Greece's government is expected to discuss the issue with German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas who is visiting later Tuesday.

A dispute over gas exploration saw the two NATO countries stage rival military drills in August in strategic waters between Cyprus and the Greek island of Crete.

The Turkish Navy said the Oruc Reis ship will restart activities in the region, including the south of Kastellorizo, until October 22 in a message sent to the maritime alert system NAVTEX late on Sunday.

"(Greece) will not sit at the table for exploratory talks while the Oruc Reis

and escorting warships are out there," Minister of State George Gerapetritis told *Paparolitika* radio.

He said Athens would "emphatically" raise the dispute at a European council meeting starting Thursday.

Greece's government is expected to discuss the issue with German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas who is visiting later Tuesday.

Greece claims rights over the waters around its island of Kastellorizo but Turkey says the island's close proximity to its longer coastline makes the territory a legitimate area for its vessels to explore.

Ankara first deployed the Oruc Reis and warships to disputed waters on August 10 and extended the mission, ignoring repeated calls to stop by Greece and the European Union.

### GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD

O/o Chief General Manager (Engg.) STP Circle-II, Kharibatbad, Hyderabad, Telangana State-500004.

### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Expression of Interest (EOI) for Consultancy services for preparation of Detailed Project Report & demand survey for identifying the prospective users in various sectors and potentiality of usage of Tertiary Quality treated wastewater expected to be generated from the existing and proposed STPs of HMWSSB\*

EoNo. 01/HMWSSB/C/GM(E)/STP Circle-II/Treated Wastewater/EoI/2020-21, Dated: 13.10.2020

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) intends to engage the consultants for taking up Consultancy services for preparation of "Detailed Project Report & demand survey for identifying the prospective users in various sectors and potentiality of usage of Tertiary Quality treated wastewater expected to be generated from the existing and proposed STPs of HMWSSB". The Expressions of Interest (EOI) is hereby invited from the reputed consultants having experience in similar nature of projects performed to Government Departments and the consultant should have tie up with premium education institution / university such as IITs / IITs / IITs / IITs for performing this study. They are required to furnish their credentials indicating that they are qualified to perform the said services with client certificates on similar assignments, organization details with their technical expertise of personnel, projects etc capable to undertake such assignments.

The interested consultants may submit their EOI along with a DD for Rs 10,000/- drawn in favor of HMWSSB to the Chief General Manager(E), STP Circle-II, HMWSSB, 5th Floor, Administrative Building, Kharibatbad, Hyderabad or on before 26.10.2020 upto 5.00 PM, to issue RFP & TOR document.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Engg.), STP Circle-II, Kharibatbad, Hyderabad, Telangana State-500004.

### Government of India Department of Atomic Energy BHABHA ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTRE, MYSORE CORRIGENDUM - 1

With reference to the below tender, please note the extension of dates in tender sale period, submission etc.

Tender Reference No. BARC/MYS/PROJ/SS PIPING/01/2020, dated: 13.08.2020

Name of work Fabrication of Stainless Steel piping & related MS structural support including erection & testing works in DF-1 & DF-2, at BARC site, Mysore.

Tender Sale Period Tender sale period is extended From 13-10-2020 11:00 Hrs. To 23.10.2020 15:00 Hrs. (on website www.tenderwizard.com/DAE.)

For other changes in dates of Last date and time of closing of online submission of tenders, Last date for submission of original documents towards Receipt of e-payment towards Tender Processing Fee and EMD, Date and time of online opening of Part 1 etc, please download the corrigendum documents in website www.tenderwizard.com/dae under this tender.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer

For & on behalf of President of India

S. Name of Work Estimated Cost/ Earnest money Date of release of Tender in e-procurement solution Tender Fees Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution

1. Rejuvenation of Roshanara lake in Roshanara Garden, Delhi on DBO Basis under EE (WB)-II Rs. 21,26000/- 12.10.2020 2020\_DJB\_195491\_1 Up to 3.00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen Issued by P.R.O. (Water) Advt. No. J.S.V. 180/2020-21

EE(WB)-II

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (WB)-II DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI ROOM NO. 29, B-BUILDING, VARUNALAYA, JHANDEWALAN, NEW Delhi-110005 Phone: 9650591677 Email: ewaterbody@gmail.com

**"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"**

N.I.T. No. 1 - (2020-21)

D-81 OIPR No. 12002/11/0042/2021

EE(WB)-II

ODISHA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION 19, Dr. P. K. Parija Road, Cuttack.

Letter No. 5272/PSC, Dt. 12/10/2020

**NOTICE**

The Commission have decided to create and maintain a panel of Subject Experts from amongst the in-service/retired Govt. Officers/Officers of the Armed Forces/Professors/Associate professors/Scientist of Universities/ Institutions under State Governments, Govt. of India, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and Private Universities/Institutions for conduct of Scheduled Examinations like Odisha Civil Services, Odisha Forest services and Non Scheduled Examinations on different subjects/disciplines including Medical/Engineering etc. for taking the assistance of the persons as a Subject Expert at the time of Interview/Viva Voce Test for recruitment to different Post/Services in Group 'A' and Group 'B' of the Govt. of Odisha.

The interested persons may kindly confidentially correspond through E-mail: [sr.memberopsc@gov.in](mailto:sr.memberopsc@gov.in) and he/she may kindly furnish his/her Bio-data on the prescribed format online. The person should upload their bio-data article vide <http://www.opsc.gov.in> on or before 10th November, 2020.

Sd/- Addl. Secretary

OIPR No. 12002/11/0042/2021

## MARKET WATCH

	13-10-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	40,626	-0.08
US Dollar	73.35	-0.10
Gold	51,989	-0.16
Brent oil	42.18	-0.93

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	349.90	-7.75
Asian Paints	2064.65	-13.20
Axis Bank	461.35	-6.65
Bajaj Auto	3034.45	11.70
Bajaj Finserv	5867.65	-45.10
Bajaj Finance	3272.60	-54.60
Bharti Airtel	415.30	0.25
BPCL	339.10	-2.50
Britannia Ind	3745.65	14.15
Cipla	787.15	-26.50
Coal India	113.85	0.65
Divis Lab	3139.15	-68.10
Dr Reddys Lab	5168.75	-51.75
Eicher Motors	2219.55	38.20
GAIL (India)	83.15	-0.70
Grasim Ind	749.45	4.75
HCL Tech.	900.40	34.60
HDFC	1943.40	-22.00
HDFC Bank	1198.45	-15.20
HDFC Life	566.70	3.30
Hero MotoCorp	3288.05	3.35
Hindalco	173.25	1.10
Hind Unilever	2138.20	-0.20
ICICI Bank	396.25	-7.80
IndusInd Bank	608.20	-6.25
Infosys	1157.80	25.70
Indian Oil Corp	76.10	0.40
ITC	170.15	-2.05
JSW Steel	289.95	4.80
Kotak Bank	1344.95	32.05
L&T	896.45	-9.30
M&M	627.90	-6.50
Maruti Suzuki	7032.90	-103.75
Nestle India Ltd.	15673.00	-229.20
NTPC	82.65	-0.10
ONGC	69.10	-0.05
PowerGrid Corp	160.45	0.65
Reliance Ind	2280.70	43.65
SBI Life	786.55	-5.10
State Bank	195.70	-3.00
Shree Cement	21088.00	131.90
Sun Pharma	503.15	-10.75
Tata Motors	134.10	-1.80
Tata Steel	366.35	-2.75
TCS	2826.55	-3.45
Tech Mahindra	868.20	11.30
Titan	1228.85	-27.90
UltraTech Cement	4382.75	76.45
UPL	506.50	-0.60
Wipro	375.95	-1.55

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.16	73.48
Euro	86.26	86.64
British Pound	95.52	95.94
Japanese Yen (100)	69.38	69.69
Chinese Yuan	10.86	10.91
Swiss Franc	80.31	80.67
Singapore Dollar	53.87	54.11
Canadian Dollar	55.84	56.08
Malaysian Ringgit	17.64	17.74
Australian Dollar	52.66	52.94

Source: Indian Bank

## CCI okays TII acquisition of CG Power's shares

CHENNAI The Competition Commission of India said in a tweet it has approved the proposed acquisition of CG Power and Industrial Solutions' shares by Tube Investments India (TII).

## + Vimal Agro to tap more local, global markets

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI Processed food manufacturer Vimal Agro Products plans to tap more domestic and global markets to further grow the range of products under the SWAD brand, especially its mango pulp range for mango lassi.

The company has been catering to the Indian food needs of customers for over three decades.

While it has started looking for more export markets, in the domestic market, it is expanding its retail-distribution presence to boost volumes, a top executive said.

"We shall continue to augment our range and enhance products to satisfy an ever-increasing demand," said Subhashchandra Nemani, chairman.

## Work-from-home spurs Epson India printer sales

E-learning also aiding demand: Kumar

## N. ANAND CHENNAI

Printer maker Epson India has reported a surge in sales during the second quarter of FY21, triggered by high demand for its EcoTank printers from work-from-home (WFH) and e-learning consumers, said a senior official.

"After witnessing a decline in the first quarter sales due to COVID-19 and stoppage of billing from March 15, we are seeing fast recovery," said Siva Kumar, senior general manager, inkjet printers, Epson India said in an interview.

"The demand is coming from WFH consumers and e-learning segments," he said.

"In the April to June quarter, we sold 53% of last year's volume, while it rose

## 'Centre may provide further stimulus'

Indications are there could be more, over and above Monday's mini-stimulus package from the FM

VIKAS DHOTU  
NEW DELHI

The government could announce more relief and stimulus measures to pump-prime the economy in the months to come, with senior government sources stressing that the mini-stimulus package announced on Monday did not mean that the Centre had closed the option for more steps going forward.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced a package on Monday to spur consumer demand and capital spending, with estimated benefits in the range of ₹73,000 crore to ₹1 lakh crore. The package, estimated to have a fiscal cost of 0.2% of GDP, includes incentives for government employees and formal sector employees to buy consumer goods and other services by



**Heads together:** We have several ideas from the PM-EAC, NITI Aayog and corporate India, the source said. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

using cash vouchers linked to their leave travel allowances.

"We are not saying that this is the last stimulus package that we are offering to counter the pandemic's effects on the economy," a se-

nior government source said, in response to queries if any further measures could be expected to boost consumer demand in the upcoming festive season.

"All options are still open... we have several ideas

We are not saying that this is the last stimulus package that we are offering

pact (BIPA)," another senior government source said.

"How can the sovereign right of a country to raise taxes be part of a bilateral investment pact... Those are only supposed to protect investments made by either country's firms into each other's markets. BIPAs are about protecting investments, not avoiding taxes," the person said, requesting anonymity owing to the sensitivity of the matter.

The merits and demerits of filing an appeal against Vodafone's victory in an arbitration award to Vodafone are still being evaluated, the source said. One option being considered is that no appeal may be filed in this particular case, but India's right to tax will be asserted in an appropriate manner to pre-empt such incidences in the future.

## Wipro net dips 3%, to buy back ₹9,500-cr of shares

Higher tax, lower income nips profit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

IT services firm Wipro Ltd. on Tuesday announced a share buy-back proposal worth ₹9,500 crore even as the second-quarter net profit dipped 3% to ₹2,484 crore on higher taxation and lower other income.

The company has fixed the buy-back price at ₹400 an equity share, Wipro said.

This is the firm's fourth buy-back exercise, the previous occasions being 2019 (\$1.7 billion), 2017 (₹11,000 crore) and 2016 (₹2,500 crore).

"The net profit is lower owing to a higher effective tax rate and lower other income as we completed a large buy-back in September," said CFO Jatin Datal.

Meanwhile, consolidated revenue dipped 0.1% to ₹15,115 crore from the year-earlier period. The consolidated IT services revenue stood at ₹14,768 crore.

"Wipro had a good quarter with growth [q-o-q] in revenue, expansion of margins, lower employee turnover and solid growth of operating cash flows," said CEO Thierry Delaporte.

The revenue growth of 3.7% in reported terms and 2% in constant currency terms was broad-based and led by a robust pick up in volumes, he added.

## 'IOT, 5G to drive wave'

He further said, "The context for our customers has changed enormously through the pandemic."

These 20 States, the expenditure department said, had conveyed their acceptance of the first borrowing option offered by the Centre to meet GST compensation shortfalls.

Under this, States could borrow ₹1 lakh crore from the market with principal and interest payments to be

paid out of GST cess collections whose levy has been extended beyond 2022.

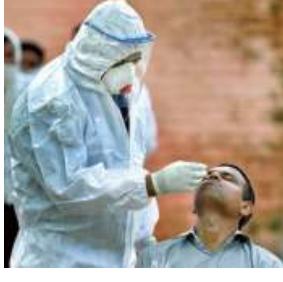
While all BJP-ruled States had acceded to this option, several opposition-ruled States had sought that the Centre borrow from the market and pay them.

Maharashtra's Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA government is the first to break ranks with the Opposition in opting for the market borrowing, and has been permitted to raise ₹15,394 crore, the highest among these 20 States.

Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Punjab and Delhi are yet to communicate their choice.

"Wipro's revenue, though not stellar, are strong given the present circumstances," said Hansa Iyengar, senior analyst, Ovum, a U.K.-based research firm. "Wipro needs to continue sharpening its focus on the services and technologies that can carry it through the next decade and beyond namely IoT, 5G/Edge, AI/ML and cybersecurity," she added.

## IRDAI permits their renewal, migration and portability



age is continued seamlessly. The regulator also advised insurers against imposing additional waiting period of 15 days on renewal.

At the time of renewal, policyholders can change the sum insured, but there will be a waiting period for the enhanced portion.

IRDAL said insurers can

## Sterling Group buys PC firm iLife Digital

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

U.S.-based private equity firm Sterling Group has announced the acquisition of iLife Digital Technology, a personal computer manufacturer, for an undisclosed sum.

Sterling Group said the move would help iLife Digital accelerate growth.

Based in Dubai, iLife Digital plans to enter new channels such as large format retailers, dealers and the enterprise segment with prime focus on the growing education sector.

"With a rapid spread of COVID-19, there has been a surge in consumers buying devices to work-from-home. Hence, partnering Sterling was a strategic move," said Anees Mian, co-founder, iLife Digital.

collection through the route stood at ₹7,727 crore. Investments via SIPs have dropped because investors want to maintain some liquidity at their end at present as the situation is uncertain when it comes to their jobs and businesses," said Harshad Chetanwala of MywealthGrowth.com.

Ms. Bala said SIP inflows were lacklustre as many retail investors stopped SIPs in the lockdown. With markets at a high, those who stopped hesitate to start now, expecting correction.

## EV maker Ather to set up 135 charging stations

The facility can be used by all EVs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

As part of its plans to provide fast-charging infrastructure for electric vehicle (EV) adoption in the country, EV manufacturer Ather Energy has announced it would set up charging stations at an additional 135 locations in 11 cities by December 2020.

The infrastructure is being laid by Ather Grid, which has created charging facilities in Bengaluru and Chennai. Now, fast-charging stations will be set up in nine new markets besides these two, the firm said.

Ather Energy has 37 fast-charging stations in Bengaluru and 13 in Chennai, and the total would be 150 charging stations across India, the company added.

The installation of grid

points will begin before deliveries of its e-scooter Ather 450X in November 2020, it said.

Ather Grid fast-charging network can be used by all electric two-wheelers and electric four-wheelers.

As part of Phase 1 of the rapid expansion, the company will install about 5-10 fast-charging points before delivery in each of the new markets it will expand to.



Siva Kumar

to almost 90% in the second quarter. The recovery in the second half will be greater than last year due to continued demand and stabilisation of supply chain," he said.

According to him, home consumers preferred high-capacity ink-tank inkjet printers (now known as EcoTank printers) due to high yields and low cost.

"The demand is coming from WFH consumers and e-learning segments," he said.

"In the April to June quarter, we sold 53% of last year's volume, while it rose

# Chennai Super Kings' bid to get campaign back on track begins well

All-round team effort helps Dhoni's men beat SRH by 20 runs for third win in eight games

## IPL 2020

### SPORTS BUREAU

**C**hennai Super Kings successfully defended a target of 168 to record its third win of the season, beating Sunrisers Hyderabad by 20 runs at the Dubai International Stadium on Tuesday.

In a throwback to its tried and tested formula when playing in Chepauk, CSK used a decent total and the skills of its spinners to apply pressure in the middle overs and script a crucial win that gives it its campaign a new lease of life.

For SRH, Kane Williamson waged a lonely battle with 57 off 39 balls (7x4).

CSK struck in the fourth over when Sam Curran removed David Warner cheaply, caught and bowled, before Dwayne Bravo's direct hit found Manish Pandey short of his crease three balls later.

From 40 for two at the end of the PowerPlay, Ravindra Jadeja and Karn Sharma kept things tight without conceding a boundary till the last two deliveries of the 12th over. The left-arm spinner also removed Jonny Bairstow in this phase.

Dhoni took a gamble in bowling Karn in the 18th over, when he went for 19 but he removed Williamson which proved vital in the end.

Earlier, electing to bat for the first time this year, CSK made 167 for six thanks to an 81-run stand between Shane Watson (42) and Ambati Rayudu (41) for the third wicket.

CSK had Curran open the



The sparklers: Sam Curran relished the opener's role while Ravindra Jadeja spun a web around the Sunrisers batsmen. ■ BCCI/IPL



innings and the move paid dividends as the England all-rounder sparked with a 21-ball 31 (2x4, 3x6).

After the departure of the openers, Watson and Rayudu rebuilt the innings, being circumspect against Rashid Khan and Shahbaz Nadeem initially. The two batsmen were lucky too as they were dropped when on nine and 20 respectively.

Watson and Rayudu looked like they would make

### INNINGS SCAN

CSK	Dots	SRH
47	41	
12	13	
9	2	
44/2	40/2	
8.35	RR	7.35

SRH pay for the lapses as they waded into Rashid in his final two overs striking three sixes against the leggie.

However, Rayudu and Watson mistimed full tosses and exited. But Dhoni's 13-ball 21 (2x4, 1x6) and Jadeja's unbeaten 25 (10b, 3x4, 1x6) helped CSK regain the momentum, as the last five overs produced 51. The target proved beyond Sunrisers.

### NEXT ASSIGNMENT

**CSK:** Oct. 17 vs. DC  
Sharjah, 7.30 p.m. IST

**SRH:** Oct. 18 vs. KKR  
Abu Dhabi, 3.30 p.m. IST

### SCOREBOARD

#### CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

Sam Curran b Sandeep 31 (21b, 3x4, 2x6), Faf du Plessis c Baird b Sandeep 0 (1b), Shane Watson c Manish b Natarajan 42 (38b, 1x4, 3x6), Ambati Rayudu c Warner b Khaleel 41 (34b, 3x4, 2x6), M.S. Dhoni c Williamson b Natarajan 21 (1b, 2x4, 1x6), Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 25 (10b, 3x4, 1x6), Dwayne Bravo b Khaleel 0 (1b), Deepak Chahar (not out) 2 (2b); Extras (lb-3, w-2); 5; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 147.

#### FALL OF WICKETS

1-10 (du Plessis, 21 overs), 2-35 (Curran, 4.4), 3-116 (Rayudu, 15.2), 4-120 (Watson, 16.2), 5-152 (Dhoni, 18.6), 6-152 (Bravo, 19.1).

#### SUNRISERS BOWLING

Sandeep 4-0-19-2, Khaleel 4-0-45-2, Nadeem 4-0-29-0, Natarajan 4-0-41-2, Rashid 4-0-30-0.

#### SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

David Warner c & b Sam Curran 9 (13b), Jonny Bairstow b Jadeja 23 (24b, 2x4), Manish Pandey

#### RASHID'S HIT WICKET DISMISSAL

run out 4 (3b, 1x4), Kane Williamson c Shardul b Karn 57 (39b, 7x4), Priyam Garg c Jadeja b Karn 16 (18b, 1x4), Vijay Shankar c Jadeja b Bravo 12 (7b, 1x6), Rashid Khan hit wicket b Shardul 14 (8b, 1x4, 1x6), Shahbaz Nadeem c & b Bravo 5 (5b, 1x4), Sandeep Sharma (not out) 1 (2b), T. Natarajan (not out) 0 (1b); Extras (w-6); Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 147.

#### FALL OF WICKETS

1-23 (Warner, 3.3 overs), 2-27 (Manish, 3.6), 3-59 (Baird, 9.5), 4-99 (Garg, 14.4), 5-117 (Vijay Shankar, 16.4), 6-126 (Williamson, 17.2), 7-146 (Rashid, 18.6), 8-146 (Nadeem, 19.3).

#### SUPER KINGS BOWLING

Deepak Chahar 4-0-28-0, Sam Curran 3-0-18-1, Jadeja 3-0-21, Shardul 2-0-10-1, Karn 4-0-37-2, Bravo 3-0-25-2, Chawla 1-0-8-0.

#### Toss: CSK

**Man-of-the-Match:** Jadeja.

CSK won by 20 runs.

### ODI RECORD

ODIs: 2 innnings, 16 runs

Test: 7 innnings, 335 runs

ODIs: 3 innnings, 84 runs

After the SRH-CSK match on Oct. 13

### TEST RECORD

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ODIs: 3 innnings, 84 runs

After the SRH-CSK match on Oct. 13

### HIT WICKETS IN IPL

■ Musavir Khote (MI) vs. KXIP, 2008

■ Misbah-ul-Haq (RCB) vs. KXIP, 2008

■ Swapnil Asnodkar (RR) vs. CSK, 2009

■ Ravindra Jadeja (CSK) vs. Deccan Chargers, 2012

■ Saurabh Tiwary (RCB) vs. MI, 2012

■ Yuvraj Singh (SRH) vs. MI, 2016

■ Deepak Hooda (SRH) vs. Delhi Daredevils, 2016

■ David Warner (SRH) vs. KXIP, 2016

■ Sheldon Jackson (KKR) vs. Rising Pune Supergiant, 2017

■ Risan Parag (RR) vs. KKR, 2019

■ Hardik Pandya (MI) vs. KKR, 2020

■ Rashid Khan (SRH) vs. CSK, 2020

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## IN BRIEF



## Lakshya enters second round of Denmark Open

ODENSE Lakshya Sen made a successful return to competitive badminton, beating Christo Popov 21-9, 21-15 in the first round of the \$750,000 Denmark Open which restarted the international calendar after a coronavirus forced break of seven months. The 19-year-old Indian produced a clinical performance. PTI

## Czech coach Silhavy tests positive

WASHINGTON Czech Republic coach Jaroslav Silhavy has tested positive for the virus and will miss the Nations League game in Scotland on Wednesday. Silhavy's assistant, Jiri Chtry, will take charge of the Czech team in Glasgow. The team says one unnamed player also tested positive and is also in isolation. AP

## Ex-Olympic champion Moore passes away

WASHINGTON Charlie Moore, the 400m hurdles champion at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, has died aged 91. Moore died last Thursday from pancreatic cancer, according to World Athletics. Moore also earned a silver in Helsinki on the United States' 4x400 relay team. After the Olympics, he set a World record of 51.6s in the 440 hurdles at the British Empire Games in London. AP

## Joshna moves into the quarterfinals

CAIRO India's Joshna Chinappa entered the women's quarterfinals of the CIB Egyptian Squash Open here, with a hard-fought 11-7, 11-6, 7-11, 10-12, 11-8 win over Farida Mohamed of Egypt in 59 minutes on Tuesday.

## Ronaldo tests positive for COVID-19



Cristiano Ronaldo.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

## ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cristiano Ronaldo has tested positive for the coronavirus and is in self-isolation, the Portuguese soccer federation said on Tuesday. The federation said Ronaldo was doing well and had no symptoms.

It did not say when he tested positive. Ronaldo played in the 0-0 draw at France in the Nations League on Sunday, and in the 0-0 draw against Spain in a friendly last week.

Ronaldo was dropped from the country's Nations League match against Sweden on Wednesday.

The federation said Ronaldo's result prompted another round of tests for the rest of the Portugal squad. It said everyone else in the team tested negative.

# Keeping it simple has worked: Washington

I didn't want to try too many things, says the off-spinner



**Keeping it tight:** Washington Sundar's parsimony has helped RCB stifle the opponent consistently. ■ BCCI/IPL

## IPL 2020

## P.K. AJITH KUMAR

KOZHIKODE

Washington Sundar has stifled batsmen at this IPL. He has an economy rate of 4.9, after sending down 22 overs of off-spin in seven matches.

He may have taken only five wickets so far, but he has done his bit in Royal Challengers Bangalore's rise to the third spot at the half-way mark.

In the 82-run victory against Kolkata Knight Riders on Monday, he took two

wickets, including that of the dangerous Eoin Morgan.

After the match, the 21-year-old revealed the reason why he had been so good. "I have just wanted to keep things simple and hit the hard length," he said. "That is something that has worked for me this season. I didn't want to try too many things because we were playing in Sharjah."

Washington said the team management felt the spinners would get assistance from the wickets in the UAE. About Sharjah, he said: "The

wicket slowed down a bit. We felt it would before the start of the game."

## Stunning knock

He added that the stunning knock of A.B. de Villiers made all the difference against KKR, when RCB was thinking a score of 160 would be very good. But the South African's 73 not out (33b) gave the team much more.

"The way he batted any (bigger) ground would not have made the difference," said Washington.

# de Villiers made the difference: Karthik

The South African makes batting look easy, says KKR captain

## Y.B. SARANGI

KOLKATA

A.B. de Villiers' belligerent unbeaten knock of 73 off just 33 balls for Royal Challengers Bangalore made the difference at Sharjah on Monday, said Kolkata Knight Riders captain Dinesh Karthik.

"Sometimes he (AB) is a really hard batsman to bowl to because of the way he moves around the crease."

"But today he stood still and made sure that he cleared his left leg and got a lot of balls outside the ground."

"It was not that easy to

bowl to him, but kudos to him for the way he batted," said Karthik at the post-match press conference.

"de Villiers showed why he is a very good player. To come out and score 80 runs off the (last) five overs is not easy, but he made it look much easier than it was," said Karthik.

Karthik defended the decision to play Englishman Tom Banton as opener, replacing the 'versatile' Rahul Tripathi.

"That's where Banton is best at. He has opened in international cricket and done well," said Karthik.



**Tough customer:** A.B. de Villiers earned even the rival captain's praise for his batting on Monday. ■ BCCI/IPL

# Gayle may play vs. RCB

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI

Senior Kings XI Punjab batsman Chris Gayle is likely to play his first game of IPL 2020 on Thursday after recovering from food poisoning.

The 'Universe Boss' had even posted a photo on social media from his hospital bed.

KXIP posted photos of Gayle returning to the nets on Monday.

"He is fine now and it is likely that he will be playing the game against RCB (on Thursday)," a team source said.

The game is at Sharjah, the smallest among the three venues and ideal for someone like Gayle to go on



Chris Gayle. ■ BCCI/IPL

a six-hitting spree.

With the team having a set opening pair in Mayank Agarwal and K.L. Rahul, Gayle has sat on the sidelines so far.

# My role changes frequently in IPL, says KXIP's Glenn Maxwell



**Different scenario:** Maxwell says he has a clearer picture while playing for Australia. ■ BCCI/IPL

Feels he has not got enough time in the middle to make an impact

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Australia's Glenn Maxwell has attributed his inconsistent run in the IPL over eight seasons to frequent changes in his role, something that is very clear to him when playing for his country.

The 31-year-old Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) batsman came to the IPL on the back of a successful tour of England.

Speaking to PTI from Dubai, the Maxwell explained why he has realised his potential while playing for Aus-

tralia and the reason for his inconsistent run in the IPL.

"I probably would not compare IPL and Australia career. The way I have played international cricket, it has been more of a clearer role. I know exactly how the guys will bat around me," he said.

Maxwell has scored 58 runs at 14.0 in seven games so far.

"My role in IPL changes probably for most games. In IPL, teams change their sides a lot. In the Australian set-

**C** My role at the moment is to put the icing on the cake and help our guys in the top four

up, we have the same eleven for most of the games" said Maxwell.

## Support

He is batting at No. 5 for KXIP this season and said his role is to support the top-four.

"When you are only together for two months in the year with IPL, there is going

to be chopping and changing. You are always looking for that right team balance.

We feel we are getting closer to that (team balance). I have had different experiences (in the IPL) where I have not quite performed to the level people expect but there has been no lack of trying or putting the effort in training."

With the top-four facing most of the balls, Maxwell feels he has not got enough time in the middle to make an impact. On the bowling

front, he has got the opportunity to roll his arm over only thrice in seven games

"This year has been a different role (batting at five) and I am trying to get used to it. I would like to think that I have tried to do my role as well as I can."

Would he want to bat higher up the order?

"With the way the team is set up, there is no position there for me. My role at the moment is to put the icing on the cake and help our guys in the top four."

# SAI, NRAI make elaborate arrangements for camp

Foreign coaches Smirnov, Mikhailov will join in due course

## SHOOTING

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

week and undergo the test once again before moving to the range for training.

## Adherence to SOP

NRAI and SAI will share the responsibility of ensuring the strict adherence to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

"The responsibility for maintaining the shooting range lies with the Administrator of the range. To maintain safety, zoning of premises by nature of risk category to minimise the contact between campers and range personnel has been planned into green, orange, yellow and red zones," SAI said in a media release.

As per the plan, the shooters are scheduled to assemble at the hotel on Oct. 15 and there will be a COVID-19 test the next day.

The shooters, coaches and support staff will stay in quarantine at the hotel for a

It was also further stressed that NRAI would make arrangements for stay for all the campers and SAI would provide support "as per existing norms".

The responsibility of the campers at the range will be with SAI, while NRAI will be responsible when they are out of the range.

## Alternate option

For the campers in the Delhi NCR, there is an option to self-isolate at home for quarantine.

However, it is understood that the coaches prefer their shooters to stay in the hotel even during the quarantine period.

Rifle coach Deepali Deshpande said there would be a healthy routine during the quarantine week, with zoom sessions, so that the shooters are ready for training.

"Steps are in place for the shooters to perform in a safe and comfortable environment," NRAI secretary Rajiv Bhatia said in the statement.

Foreign coaches Pavel Smirnov and Oleg Mikhailov would also be joining the camp in due course.

Meanwhile, there was doubt about the availability of some of the shooters selected for the core group training, owing to college examinations other commitments and concerns.

# SFI-Moregold Sports link to boost swimming

## S. DIPAK RAGAV

CHENNAI

The Swimming Federation of India on Tuesday announced a multi-year partnership with Moregold Sports, an Australian sports education and consultancy company, to develop a world-class Swim Coach Education, Development and Certification Pathway and Certifications.

According to Virendra Nanavati, executive director of SFI, the project has also received approval and financial grant from FINA under the OSAP support to NSF's.

Nanavati also added that national competitions might not resume for another four to five months due to the pandemic.

"It will not be possible to conduct competitions if all the states do not allow the reopening of pools. On October 15, not all pools might open, so we need to wait for four to five months," Nanavati said.

## R.N. Jayaprakash, president SFI, during a webinar to announce the partnership.

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# Sumit Nagal bows out in first round

## SPORTS BUREAU

SARDINIA (ITALY)

Laslo Djere of Serbia defeated qualifier Sumit Nagal of India 6-3, 6-1 in the first round of the €271,345 ATP tennis tournament here on Tuesday.

Nagal won two rounds in the qualifying event, which fetched him 12 ATP points.

In the Challenger at Alicante, Spain, Ramkumar Ramanathan lost to Carlos Alcaraz (Esp) 7-6(4), 7-6(3).

Lessons from the master for India's talented youngsters

de Villiers' unbeaten 73 against KKR must count as the innings of the tournament and was a wonderful lesson in adapting to surfaces



## BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

It's always interesting when an expert slips out of his 'professional' garb and allows a child-like excitement to infill his comments.

Such a moment occurred when the great Sunil Gavaskar, in the midst of the artificial enthusiasm all around at the IPL, spontaneously exclaimed while watching A.B. de Villiers strike a six: "Look at his follow-through! Look at the way his bat finishes above his left shoulder! The six was arresting enough, but

what caught Gavaskar's fancy was the technical purity of the shot.

Cricket has always had an element of the Gita about it: the batsman's job is to do his duty (by getting everything right) and leave the result to take care of itself. If you play correctly but no run is added to the score, that's a part of the game. If your feet and hands and head and body mimic the textbook and you score six, then that is perfection. You are hailed both for the process and the product, and there can be no higher praise.

## Definition of perfection

Such moments do not come often in a T20 game where the definition of perfection is different: perfection in batting is a six, or a score of 720 off the 120 deliveries bowled. It doesn't matter if that six comes off the edge of the bat, when an attempted on-drive sees the ball end

up at third man, or, as in the case of Virat Kohli special recently, comes off the back of the bat. The ends justify the means.

Looking good is not an option when scoring fast is the alternative. Two batsmen, Kohli and K.L. Rahul, look good while scoring runs, but already there is a debate about whether Rahul, the highest aggregate scorer (as of Oct. 12), is doing it quickly enough.

For this is another quirk of the format. You work backwards from the result to decide whether an innings is good or not