

HC tells DU to declare PG results by month-end

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The High Court on Monday directed Delhi University to declare results of all post-graduate courses by October 31 and to upload the marksheets on its website.

The court also directed the university to ensure that students are not required to go to a college to physically collect the marksheets.

The Bench also fixed various deadlines between October 20 and 31 for declaration of results of undergraduate courses, with a buffer of maximum three days from the date fixed.

It also said that the marksheets downloaded from the website should not carry any footnote that it requires physical verification. The marksheets shall be valid for all purposes, it added.

Day 1 of DU online admission process sees 19K applications

Most colleges happy with DU portal, some faced glitches viewing marksheets

SHINJINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI

On the first day of admissions for merit-based undergraduate courses, Delhi University (DU) received over 19,000 applications to various colleges. University officials said around 1,628 students were approved while 920 have paid the fees.

Keeping in mind the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the admission process is entirely online, including verification of documents. Students have been advised to not visit college campuses.

The portal opened at 10 a.m. on Monday and will remain available to applicants till 5 p.m. on Wednesday. Due to the rolling process, college-specific data regarding applications and admissions were not available.

Hindu College principal



Students at Delhi University campus on Monday.
• SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Anju Srivastava said, "We got quite a number of applications but cannot give exact data as it is a continuous process. We are processing applications, but we cannot give an exact number at the moment."

At Lady Shri Ram College, which has set 100% cut-off for psychology, economics

and political science, principal Suman Sharma said that several applications had been received for the courses. "We have received quite a few applications for the three courses, especially political science. It is difficult for us to give data as we are still processing. We have approved some applicants already, while things are being clarified for others. All that I can say is that the rush at LSR is the usual," she said.

Smooth process
Stating that the online admission process has remained largely smooth apart from a few glitches, Ms. Sharma added: "We were worried about the procedure but it was quite smooth. There were some minor glitches but we coordinated with DU. They had

given us a comprehensive list of people who we could contact."

Meanwhile, approximately 600 applications were processed at Gargi College till 6 p.m. while around 126 admissions took place at Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College. Ramjas College processed around 155 applications at the department level while 25 applications were approved by the principal till 6.30 p.m.

Regarding verification of documents, Ramjas College principal Manoj Khanna said: "There were some issues with viewing the CBSE marksheets as it was not visible for some applications. Hence, it was becoming difficult to verify the marksheets uploaded by students. We have raised the issue with the university."

Students protest high cut-offs, demand more seats in DU

'Cut-offs are nothing but a policy of educational apartheid'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Various students' groups on Monday carried out protests against the high cut-off scores set by Delhi University colleges for merit-based undergraduate courses.

The protests, organised by the Krantikari Yuva Sangathan (KYS) and Students' Federation of India (SFI), termed the cut-offs "discriminatory" and "exclusionary", and demanded scrapping of the same.



Students protest against the high cut-off scores set by Delhi University colleges, on Monday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

plementing policies such as deprivation points."

In the first cut-off list announced by the university on Saturday, Lady Shri Ram College pegged the asking score at 100% for three honours programmes: psychology, economics and political science.

Quality education

"This cut-off is nothing but a policy of educational apartheid meant to keep public-funded higher education beyond the reach of students from government schools, an overwhelming number of whom hail from socio-economically deprived backgrounds," the

KYS said in a statement.

The students' group added: "Students from marginalised and vulnerable sections find their access to quality education barred due to paucity of seats and consequent high cut-offs. The KYS demands more seats, low cut-offs and im-

Assembly panel continues its proceedings against Facebook

Witnesses stress need for grievance redressal mechanism

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Assembly's Committee on Peace and Harmony continued its proceedings related to allegations against social media platform Facebook on Monday.

Editor of NewsClick Prabir Purkaystha, and the co-founder of non-profit fact-checking website Alt News, Pratik Sinha, were examined by the committee.

In a statement, the committee said that Mr. Purkaystha categorically deposed that there is "a direct correlation" between Facebook's business model, which "purportedly thrives

on hate for maximising its engagement, thus leading to disturbing peace and harmony."

Thrives on virality'
The committee stated that he also deposed that Facebook, through its business model, allegedly thrives on "virality of hate as it catches more eyeballs", and curbing hateful content "does not incentivise them".

He also deposed that there should be more effective measures undertaken by Facebook with respect to grievance redressal mechanism as persons sending their grievances must be entitled to know as to what

fate their complaint met, the committee said.

Calls for transparency
According to the Assembly committee, Mr. Sinha stated there is "total opacity in the functioning and structure of Facebook" as there is "no transparency" in their operations.

He also cited various posts that were widely shared during the Delhi riots in February, but despite being declared as fake, still exist on the platform without any requisite mark of caution, indicating Facebook's alleged "incompetency in eliminating fake content off its platform."

The court said the issue has to be heard expeditiously in terms of a recent direc-

Court seeks response of BJP leader on plea by CM, 3 others

Petition challenges summons issued in defamation case

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday sought response from BJP leader Rajeev Babbar on a plea by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and other AAP leaders challenging summons issued to them in a defamation case for their alleged remarks over deletion of names from the voters' list of the Capital.

The court has posted the case for further hearing on November 23. It had on February 28, this year stayed the defamation proceedings in the trial court.

The court said the issue has to be heard expeditiously in terms of a recent direc-



Arvind Kejriwal •

tions of the Supreme Court asking 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.

The Chief Minister and three others – AAP Rajya Sabha member Sushil Kumar

Gupta and party leaders Manoj Kumar and Atishi Marlena – have sought quashing of a sessions court order, which upheld a magisterial court's decision to summon them as accused in the complaint.

Mr. Babbar, on behalf of the Delhi unit of the party, sought the prosecution of AAP leaders for harming the reputation of the outfit by blaming it for the deletion of names from the voters' list.

AAP leaders in their plea before the High Court have claimed that the trial court failed to appreciate that they did not make or publish any statement against Mr. Babbar or his party as alleged by him.

Kejriwal meets V-C of new skills university

'First academic session from next year'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday met with the newly appointed Vice-Chancellor and Board members of the Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University at its first Board meeting.

The university, which has been established through an Act of the Delhi Assembly, will impart skills and training to ensure that students easily get a job as soon as they pass out or can pursue a business.

"We have appointed a Vice-Chancellor and Board members. I spoke to all members and told them that the only objective and

ideology of this university will be ensuring jobs for every student passing out from this institute, or they should be able to pursue business," he said at a virtual briefing.

First Vice-Chancellor
Prof. Neharika Vohra has been appointed the Vice-Chancellor. She was the chairperson of the Centre for Innovation and Incubation at IIM Ahmedabad.

Mr. Kejriwal expressed confidence that the university would be a global model and many such universities would come up in the country. The first academic session is expected to start next year, he added.

33 years after crime, police arrest 3 dacoits

Men had looted moneylender's home

ASHOK KUMAR
NUH

After managing to evade the long arm of the law for over 30 years, three proclaimed offenders in a dacoity case were finally arrested by the police on Monday.

In the case that became infamous in the late 1980s, over a dozen armed men had laid siege to the house of a prominent moneylender, Swami Ram, in Punjiana, and decamped with 1 kg of gold, 150 kg of silver and some cash. They also shot his neighbour Jagdish Patel.

Nuh police arrested three of those accused from U.P.'s Bulandshahar on Monday.

As part of its special campaign against proclaimed offenders and those who have jumped bail, the police stumbled upon the records of the three accused in the 33-year-old dacoity case in Pinjwana village.

The accused – Yaseen, Babu and Manjor Ahmed – were declared proclaimed offenders in 1988 and were leading normal lives in their

respective villages. Two of the accused were held soon after the dacoity in 1987. The other 10 accused are now dead," said SP (Nuh) Narendra Bijarniya.

Recounting the horror, Naresh Singla, one of the sons of Mr. Ram, told The Hindu that around 30 armed dacoits had laid siege to their house at 10 p.m.

"Some construction work was going on in our house and a few of the dacoits climbed up the terrace via the scaffolding. They then opened the door to allow their accomplices inside. When the villagers tried to raise an alarm, the dacoits opened fire at them. One of our neighbours was killed and many sustained bullet and shrapnel injuries," said Mr. Singla, 53.

He recalled how there were no means of communication and the police reached only in the morning. "Two men were arrested, but the rest managed to flee." The police recovered only six kg of silver then.

Owner of app-based taxi aggregator firm arrested for duping investors

Accused lured over 900 people by promising high returns

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 47-year-old woman was arrested from south Goa for allegedly duping people by inducing them to invest in her app-based taxi aggregator company on the pretext of assured high returns, the police said on Monday.

However, they neither paid the interest nor returned the money. There were more than 900 investors so far and the amount involved is around ₹250 crore, said the police.

"During investigation, it was found that the directors of the company actively induced the victims to part with their money on the pretext of high returns by investing in Hello Taxi company," Joint Commissioner of Police (EOW) O.P. Mishra said.

The company accepted bookings from the investors without taking approval from the authorities con-

cerned like RBI or SEBI, the police said.

They initially paid returns to the investors to win their confidence, but later stopped the payments after collecting huge amounts, and escaped, the police said.

The locations of the company also changed frequently to trap new victims.

Initially, the company started its operation from Ghaziabad. After a couple of months, they shifted to Patparganj Industrial Area and then Sector 16 in Rohini, Mr. Mishra said.

The firm's bank accounts were frozen after scrutiny of statements. Rajesh Mahto was arrested on August 23, the police said.

NGT breather for unit

It reduces penalty imposed by DPCC

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Following a plea challenging an order passed by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) which imposed an environmental compensation of ₹3 lakh for violation of environmental norms by a MSME unit, the National Green Tribunal observed that the compensation assessed by the DPCC was "disproportionate" and reduced it to ₹25,000.

The directions came when the green panel was hearing a plea moved by Kee Diagnostics Private Limited – engaged with the manufacturing of diagnostic reagent kits – against an order passed by the DPCC.

"The DPCC collected sample of waste water on January 24 from the unit appellant and the result of test showed minor deviation from prescribed standard.. Contentions in appeal are that variation in norms was marginal which was later rectified to the satisfaction

of the DPCC, we are of the view that compensation assessed is disproportionate... having regard to the entirety of the matter, we reduced the compensation to ₹25,000".

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Dust control steps must be adopted at all worksites: Rai

Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Monday said dust control measures should be adopted by big and small construction sites, including construction of houses, and the government will take action against violators.

"Any construction site in Delhi, big or small, government or private, have to give guarantee of five things: a 10-metre-high metal sheet wall has to be installed, a tarpaulin to cover the wall, water has to be sprinkled at the site, construction materials have to be covered, and vehicles transporting materials have to be covered," said Mr. Rai.

He added that the government has started micro-monitoring of 13 air pollution hotspots and has appointed nine Deputy Commissioners of the municipal corporations as nodal officers of the hotspots.

Bio-decomposer launch

Mr. Rai further said that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will inaugurate bio-decomposer spraying in paddy fields on Tuesday in Hiranki village in Narela.

The air quality in the city continued to be in the "poor" category on Monday at 261, and is expected to improve to "moderate" on Tuesday.

HC advises Lt. Colonel to let his son choose his life path

Court says father's ambition doesn't define standards for selection as Commissioned Officer in Army

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Observing that it is not a father's ambition that defines the standards for selection as a Commissioned Officer in the Indian Army, the Delhi High Court has rejected the plea of a young aspirant seeking to take him back in the training at the Indian Military Academy (IMA).

The aspirant's father, a Lieutenant Colonel himself, had made a fervent plea to consider the case of his son leniently, as the commissioning of his son as an Officer of the Indian Army meant a lot to him as it would be the fourth generation from his family to join the Indian Army.

However, a Bench of Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw

and Justice Asha Menon said that while it may be possible for them to sympathise with the Lieutenant Colonel, the records reveal that the aspirant Dhruv Jakhar was finding it difficult to settle into the regimented and highly disciplined lifestyle at the IMA.

Absenteeism, lying
Mr. Jakhar used to absent himself from training and special and critical events by malingerer or reporting sick. "It was this absenteeism and lying about the reasons for such actions that led to several of the punishments as also the Honour Code Committee being constituted against him," the court noted.

"He was punished for misbehaviour too.

Repeatedly he was found disregarding the chain of command and punishments did not seem to bring about the desired result," the court said.

"Right from the first term till the third relegation, the petitioner [Mr. Jakhar] continued committing the same kind of offences which were in the areas most crucial to the Armed Forces, namely, building physical and mental strength and

Timings
DELHI

TUESDAY, OCT. 13
RISE 06:21 SET 17:54
RISE 02:11 SET 15:52
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

Delhi Weather	max min
Delhi City	34 19
Safdarjung	34 19
Palam	34 21

Delhi Palam Today
35°C Hazy morning and warm day with mainly sunny sky and light to moderate easterly winds.

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IN BRIEF

Five arrested for duping people in need of tickets

NEW DELHI
Five persons of a gang were arrested for allegedly duping people on the pretext of providing them confirmed tickets of bus or trains, the police said on Monday. The accused have been identified as Sanjay Yadav (40), Lal Babu Sahani (27), Santosh Kumar (27), Rakesh Mandal (26) and Rajeev Mandal (22), they added. One laptop, ₹13,500, 42 mobile phones and other things were recovered from the accused, who also disclosed their involvements in a number of cases.

Adarsh Nagar murder witness claims police damaged her SIM

She has accused police of inaction in the case; DCP denies all allegations

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police personnel allegedly damaged the SIM card of the 21-year-old woman who has accused the police of inaction in the October 7 murder case of Rahul Rajput in Adarsh Nagar.

The woman, who has become a witness in the case, made a video call from her phone on Sunday and alleged police inaction when she approached them after Rahul was attacked by her brother and cousins.

The second-year student at Delhi University's School of Open Learning was allegedly beaten to death by the woman's relatives.

On Sunday afternoon, the woman had called up a police personnel related to the case and requested that she be al-



People gather near the murder victim's residence in Adarsh Nagar. • FILE PHOTO

lowed to meet Rahul's parents otherwise she would go to the media for help.

Around 8 p.m., three police personnel, including a woman in civvies, reached the shelter home where the woman is staying.

"On pretext of getting some details in the case, they took my phone. Two other

policemen engaged me in some paperwork and the woman somehow damaged my SIM card. When I found there was no network in my phone and confronted the police personnel, they left the shelter home," said the woman on a video call to a friend.

Forced to write'

She alleged that the police men asked her to write on paper that she is getting full support from the police.

She allegedly followed their instructions in the hope that she would get help in the investigation of the case.

The police personnel left after allegedly promising her a new SIM card, but she has allegedly not received anything yet. She managed a call up a friend with the help of the shelter home's warden.

DCP (North West) Vijayanta Arya has denied the allegations made by the woman about the conduct of the police personnel.

Rahul and the woman are said to have known each other for three months. The woman's brother was against their relationship as they belonged to different faiths.

Meanwhile, AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj on Monday said that the party would launch a protest if action is not taken against police personnel for allegedly not saving Rahul. The party added that the police destroyed the woman's SIM card so that they and the BJP would not be "exposed".

The AAP leader added that the BJP was trying to give a communal colour to the incident.

New COVID-19 cases dip below 2,000

Only 35K tests done in 24 hours, compared to 60K in mid-Sept.

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The city recorded 1,849 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, taking the total number of cases to 3,11,188, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Monday.

The number of tests done in the past 24 hours was less than last week's daily average by 26.3%. The drop in the number of tests is usual in Monday bulletins as it reflects tests done on Sunday.

Also, 40 more deaths have been reported, taking the total number of deaths to 5,809. Of the total cases, 2,84,844, people have recov-

ered and there are 20,535 active cases.

The number of new cases has been less than 3,000 for the past 11 days. But the number of daily tests, which was above 60,000 in mid-September was only 35,947 in the past 24 hours.

As per Monday's bulletin, the number of active cases, people in hospitals, and people under home isolation have decreased for the second consecutive day.

Bed availability
Out of the total 16,118 beds available for COVID-19 treatment in the city, 68.04% were vacant, as per govern-

ment data. But 54.9% of the ICU beds with ventilators have been occupied and 54.2% of the ICU beds without ventilators are full.

The positivity rate (percentage of people testing positive for every 100 tests done) was 5.1%, which is lower than September. The overall positivity rate till now is 8.5%. The number of containment zones in the city on Monday was 2,726.

Union Home Secretary took a meeting on public health response to COVID-19 with senior officials of various States, including Delhi, the bulletin added.

Hand over any hospitals that you are unable to run, govt. tells civic bodies

Municipalities told to submit report to Satyendar Jain

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Delhi's Urban Development (UD) Department on Monday wrote a letter to the three municipal corporations asking them to consider handing over their hospitals to the Delhi government if they are unable to pay salaries of medical staff, and in case they are unable to do so, they must consider handing over their hospitals to the Delhi government. Around 20 COVID-19 patients were recently shifted from Hindu Rao to Delhi government hospitals.

In a letter addressing the commissioners of the civic bodies, the department raised concerns regarding non-payment of salaries and other dues to doctors as well

as paramedical and other staff working in Hindu Rao and Kasturba hospitals – both run by the north corporation. The letter said civic bodies should "expeditiously" clear the salaries of medical staff, and in case they are unable to do so, they must consider handing over their hospitals to the Delhi government.

"It is evident that the civic bodies are finding it difficult running their hospitals, which has led to anguish among medical staff and inconvenience to patients during the ongoing pandemic," he added.

The letter asked the civic bodies to submit a report in this regard to Mr. Jain.

government at MSP. Farmers are demanding that 100% of produce should be purchased at MSP and the price should be 1.5 times the cost of production and you did the opposite. You have left the farmers to die," Mr. Kejriwal said, attacking the BJP.

Through the laws that have been passed by the Centre, the BJP wants to take farming away from farmers and give it to corporates, Mr. Kejriwal said.

"When the country got independence, there was a heavy scarcity of grains in the country for the next 20-25 years. The farmers of Punjab made the country self-reliant in grains. Today, our farmers are being turned into poor labourers and the farming sector is being handed over to the companies," he said.

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2 weeks into paddy procurement, farmers still waiting for payment

Delay would hamper sowing for the rabi season, they say

VIKAS VASUDEVA
KHARAR

Amid the COVID-19 scare, 44-year-old Gurpreet Singh from Tole Majra village with his paddy-laden tractor-trolley arrived at Kharar's grain market in Punjab on a sunny day on October 10 – he seems content with the procurement arrangements at the 'mandi' (market yard). However, he, as many other farmers, is anxious about "timely payment" of produce purchased by government agencies.

"I brought 40 quintal paddy in the morning to the mandi here and by afternoon my produce was sold. I didn't have to wait for long... everything was seamless. There's no space crunch in the mandi nor labour shortage. However, my main concern is about receiving the payment. My 'arthishi' [commission agent] told me that I'll get the payment at least 12-15 days later because the process of payments has not yet started from the government's end," said Mr. Gurpreet.

'Pay within 3-4 days'
"I'll get around ₹75,500 for the paddy that I had sold. But if I get the payment after 15 days then it will create difficulties for me. I need to prepare my field for sowing of wheat for which I need money immediately. If my payment is delayed how will I plant my next crop? The government should make the

payment within 3-4 days at the most after the crop is sold," he said.

Mr. Gurpreet's commission agent, who requested anonymity, said: "Till October 10, at least 30 farmers have sold paddy at the Minimum Support Price through me, but payment for none of them has been received from the government agencies. As far as I know, only three days ago the cash credit limit has been sanctioned by the RBI for making MSP payment. So, now I am hopeful that payments would start coming in from the ensuing week," said the agent.

'It will add to woes'

Expressing similar concern, Harbans Singh of Jandpur village said the delay in timely payment would hamper his sowing for rabi (winter) season. "I have to buy seeds and other things for wheat sowing, but if there's a delay in the payment, which is quite evident, then I'll have to borrow money from someone... It will only add to the woes," said Mr. Harbans, who has planted paddy in close to 20 acres.

4,200 purchase points

To ensure hassle-free and safe procurement amid COV-19, the Punjab Mandi Board has notified over 4,200 purchase points for procurement of paddy. To avoid mass gatherings and ensure staggered procurement, the Mandi board has issued 7.71 lakh passes to farmers till October 10. Four State procurement agencies besides the FCI are procuring paddy. The A grade paddy is being procured at the MSP of ₹8,888 per quintal.

ment operations would continue till November 30.

Till October 10, 23.11 lakh tonnes of paddy has arrived in the 'mandis' across Punjab, of which 21.93 lakh tonnes has been procured by various agencies. Punjab is targeting procurement of 171 lakh tonnes in the ongoing season.

Kesar Singh, a farmer from Khanpur village, said procurement arrangements are far better this season in comparison to the wheat procurement in April-June. "The State government has increased the number of centres for crop's purchase, which has reduced crowding. I have come with over 100 quintals and my commission agent has informed me that payment is expected to come in my account in the next 15 days... It's a long wait," said Mr. Kesar, who has planted paddy in close to 20 acres.

18th century structure

Several renowned personalities from J&K have asked Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday to intervene and stop any move to set up government offices in two protected monuments: Mubarak Mandi in Jammu and Shergarh complex in Srinagar.

Declare entire Punjab as notified principal market area, says SAD

It threatens to take protests to CM's house if he fails to convene Assembly session

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Shiromani Akali Dal on Monday said the Punjab government should in the next seven days convene a special Assembly session to declare the entire State a notified 'mandi' (principal market area) and reject the Centre's recent agriculture laws. It should also repeal its own amended APMC Act of 2017.

The SAD core committee announced that in the event of the State government's refusal to convene the session, the party would 'gherao' Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's residence. The meeting was chaired by party chief Sukhbir Singh Badal here.

Harcharan Bains, prin-



Farmers raise slogans as they take part in 'Rail Roko' protest against farm laws in Amritsar district on Monday. ■PTI

pal adviser to the SAD chief, said: "The ultimatum to Amarinder Singh has become necessary in view of the CM's continued refusal to take a clear stand against the anti-farmer Acts, besides his stubborn refusal to declare the entire State a prin-

cipal market area where the Central Acts would no longer be implementable."

The committee also decided to take up the issue of early reopening of the Kartarpur corridor with the External Affairs Ministry soon.

Punjab BJP chief's car attacked

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Punjab BJP president Ashwani Sharma's vehicle was allegedly attacked by a group of people on Monday near the Cholang toll plaza in Hoshiarpur district. Mr. Sharma said the windowpanes of his car were damaged in the attack.

Senior BJP leader Manoranjan Kalia said the incident was the handiwork of the Congress, an allegation rubbished by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh.

Deceased MLAs' sons in Odisha bypoll

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

With less than a month left for the byolls for two Assembly seats in Odisha, the Biju Janata Dal and the Bharatiya Janata Party have fielded sons of the deceased MLAs who had represented Tirtol and Balasore Sadar seats.

The ruling BJD on Monday announced Bijaya Shankar Das for Tirtol seat, represented by his father late Bishnu Charan Das. He would cross swords with BJP candidate Rajkishore Behera in the reserved seat for the Scheduled Caste candidates.

The BJP has fielded Manas Kumar Dutta in Balasore Sadar seat which fell vacant after his father, former MLA Madan Mohan Dutta, died of cardiac arrest in June last. Swapnil Kumar Das, who had a successful stint in the civic body elections, is the BJD candidate.

The two politicians in their early thirties have already started campaigning seeking votes in the name of their late fathers.

Mr. Bijaya Shankar said his victory margin would be 50,000. "Our key issues will be unemployment and issues of farmers which were addressed by the BJD government."

Mr. Manas Kumar said, "My father was very popular in Balasore. He was always available when people needed him. I have confidence on the goodwill my father used to carry."

'Stop plan to move govt. offices into monuments'

Renowned personalities from different walks of life seek J&K L-G's intervention

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Several renowned personalities from J&K have asked Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday to intervene and stop any move to set up government offices in two protected monuments: Mubarak Mandi in Jammu and Shergarh complex in Srinagar.

A joint letter signed by 22 dignitaries from different walks of life pointed out that Shergarh complex, Srinagar,

an 18th century structure, was declared a State Protected Monument in July 2017.

"We have received disturbing information that the Union Territory administration is proposing to shift some government departments to the complex. This will irreversibly tamper with its historic character. It is requested that no action should be taken to dilute the integrity of the complex, like locating government offices in protected

monuments," the signatories said.

The joint petition underlined that "any inappropriate use of these buildings will go against the letter and spirit of their status as State protected monuments."

Those who signed the petition included academic Prof. Amitabh Matoo; former deputy chairman, legislative council, M.Y. Taing; former principal secretary to Prime Minister S. Misra; poet and

Gyan Peeth Awardee Prof. Rehman Rahi; former Vice Chancellor of Jammu University Prof. R.R. Sharma; former chief secretaries Hindal Tyabji and Dr. S.S. Billouria; former chairman of the J&K Public Service Commission M.S. Pandit; and former secretary, tourism, Government of India, Parvez Dewan.

Film-maker Mohiuddin Mirza and Santoor maestro Pandit Bajan Sofi have also signed the petition.

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Anjali D/o Sh. Dan Singh Rawat R/o H.No. A-292, Gali No. 8, Keshav Nagar, Ibrahimpur, Delhi Aged-about 16 Years has been reported missing since 09.08.2020 at 7.30 PM from her house vide FIR No. 399/2020, Dated 14.08.2020 U/s 363 IPC registered at Police Station Srawoop Nagar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-



Anjali

Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'2", **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** Black coloured t-shirt and black coloured pajami. Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform AHTU/Crime Branch, Sect-16, Rohini, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Sd/-
SI, Ramesh Kaushik
AHTU/Crime Branch, Sect-16, Rohini, Delhi
Mob.: 9212081801
DP/38/Crime/2020

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय पेटजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रन्दल, मेदिनीनगर

ई-प्रोक्योरेंट निविदा आनंदन शूचना

(1st Call)
निविदा शूचना संख्या – DWSD/RPWS/Med-02/2020-21 दिनांक 12.10.2020

कार्य का नाम कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय पेटजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रन्दल, मेदिनीनगर

प्रकाशित राशि लगभग (लाख में) 1780.18 (सत्ररह करेंगे अस्सी लाख अपराह्न लगभग लाख)

अग्रणी की राशि (लाख में) 17.81 (सत्ररह लाख एकासी हजार रुपये मात्र)

परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य 10,000/- (दस हजार रुपये मात्र)

कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि 24 (चारोंस) महीना + 3 (तीस) महीना Trial & Run

वेसाइट पर निविदा प्र काशन की तिथि एवं समय 19/10/2020 / 12.30 बजे अपराह्न तक

6 ग्रो ग्रॉ की तिथि एवं समय 22/10/2020 / 12.30 बजे अपराह्न तक (अभियंता प्रमुख का कार्यालय, पेटजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, झारखंड, रोही, नेपाल हाउस)

7 ग्रो प्राइट की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय 03/11/2020 / 05.00 बजे अपराह्न तक

8 अग्रणी की राशि एवं परिमाण विपत्र 04/11/2020 / 05.00 बजे अपराह्न तक (श्रीत्रीय मुख्य अभियंता, राँची प्रकाशित राशि, पेटजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, झारखंड, रोही, पेटजल एवं स्वच्छता अभियंता, मेदिनीनगर का कार्यालय, पेटजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रन्दल, मेदिनीनगर।

9 निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 05/11/2020 / 04.00 बजे अपराह्न तक

10 निविदा आनंदकरने करने वाले कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेटजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रन्दल, मेदिनीनगर।

11 निविदा खोलने का पाता कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेटजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रन्दल, मेदिनीनगर।

12 प्रकाशित पदाधिकारी का सम्पर्क 9835068475

13 ई-प्रोक्योरेंट सेल का हेल्पलाइन 0651-2490920

नोट:- निविदा का प्रकाशित राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है। तपश्चात् अग्रणी की राशि देय मात्र होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु वेसाइट <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

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NOTICE OF INTENDED MARRIAGE

To,
The Marriage Officer,
Consulate General of India, Munich.

We hereby give you notice that marriage under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969

is intended to be solemnized between us within six calendar months from the date hereof: 9th October 2020

Name/ Father's Name	Condition/ (marital Status)	Occupation	Age (date Of Birth)	Present Dwelling Place	Permanent Dwelling Place If Present Dwelling Place Not Permanent	Length of Residence In the Present Dwelling Place
Mr. Sagar Wadhwa S/O Tarun Wadhwa	Unmarried	Scientific Researcher	28 (4 April 1992)	Germany	New Delhi, India	6 yrs
Miss. Shiti Handa D/O Virender Handa	Unmarried	Product Manager	26 (21 August 1994)	Germany	New Delhi, India	5 yrs

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BATCH TIMING

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)
Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Odisha, south Chhattisgarh, central Maharashtra, Vidarbha, Marathawada, Konkan & Goa, Telangana, north coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, coastal, north & south interior Karnataka, Kerala, Mahe and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.1	34.8	27.0	Kozhikode	31.8 ...	29.8	24.0
Ahmedabad	-	37.9	23.3	Kurnool	15 ...	31.6	22.9
Aizawl	-	30.1	20.5	Lucknow	-	37.4	22.6
Allahabad	-	36.0	24.0	Madurai	-	35.2	23.6
Bengaluru	3	25.4	20.0	Mangalore	13 ...	29.0	22.9
Bhopal	-	34.4	19.8	Mumbai	-	32.5	27.0
Bhubaneswar	2.5	33.4	25.6	Mysuru	-	27.0	21.0
Chandigarh	-	34.9	20.3	Nagpur	-	35.4	19.4
Chennai	-	34.2	26.6	Patna	-	34.0	26.0
Coimbatore	-	32.0	22.6	Pond Blair	18.5 ...	30.4	23.7
Dehradoon	-	32.9	18.3	Puducherry	0.3	33.9	25.4
Gangtok	-	23.0	15.9	Pune	3.2 ...	30.9	21.1
Goa	11.8	29.8	22.7	Raipur	-	34.0	24.7
Guwahati	-	36.0	25.2	Ranchi	1.8 ...	32.6	23.0
Hubballi	-	26.0	21.0	Shillong	0.9	25.3	17.6
Hyderabad	0.7	28.0	22.6	Shimla	-	26.2	16.9
Imphal	-	31.4	19.0	Srinagar	-	26.0	5.2
Jaipur	-	35.8	20.3	Thiruvananthapuram	2.6 ...	29.7	24.2
Kochi	12.8	29.6	23.8	Tiruchi	-	34.9	25.0
Kohima	4.2	25.4	17.8	Vijayawada	10 ...	29.0	24.5
Kolkata	-	36.1	26.9	Vishakhapatnam	-	26.4	24.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE
Ahmedabad	27	111	3.4	138	107	...
Bengaluru	14	23	.66	55
Chennai	7	12	.68	38	38	...
Delhi	44	64	111	351	272	...
Hyderabad	.8	48	31	50	65	...
Kolkata	11	30	.35	71	87	...
Lucknow	.6	81	.35	280	207	...
Mumbai	-.38	108	.124	124
Pune	-.24	21	.19	20	21	...
Vishakhapatnam	12	24

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh, recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 333 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Vatiqu, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 21.

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

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

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

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

PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

COVID-19 hospitals unaffected amid power outage in Mumbai

Navi Mumbai implements rotational load shedding; power restored by noon

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

Despite the unprecedented power outage in Mumbai and its surrounding areas on Monday, COVID-19 hospitals continued to work uninterrupted, said the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

"Even though the frequency of power cuts within BMC limits is less, all municipal hospitals are equipped with automatic diesel generators at all times. Today, after the power outage, the automatic diesel generators started immediately. The solid waste management department was directed to ensure diesel storage. As a result, all hospitals continued to function without interruption," the BMC said.

The civic body said its disaster management department ensures that all private COVID-19 hospitals also has necessary supplies of diesel to run generators in case of emergency. "No health services were hampered due to the power outage in Mumbai," the BMC said.

An AEML spokesman said, "Due to transmission network failure outside of our system at 10.05 this morning, the power grid saw outages across utilities in Mumbai. However, the AEML distribution system operated islanding facility successfully and continued power supply to vital installations with the help of the Dahanu Thermal Power Station. We wish we had more power for which we are dependent on grid input. Power supply to remaining consumers is being restored in a phased manner."

Tata Power, in its statement, said, "It is understood that MSETCL had taken emergency shutdown for 400 kV Kalwa-Padghe line-1 at 6.54 hrs this morning to attend fault and was expected to be revived by 09:30



Stranded: Commuters queue up to board buses to reach offices after train services between Borivali and Churchgate were stalled due to a power outage in Mumbai. ■ AADESH CHAUDHARI

hrs, but could not revive it. As understood, at 09:58 hrs 400 kV Kalwa-Padghe-2 carrying 633 MW tripped. The flow on Pune-Kharhgar rose upto 900 MW and tripped at 10:00hrs, resulting in load drop in Mumbai system. Mumbai's islanding system that saves the city from major power outages was separated, however it could not hold as additional 900 MW load dropped at 10:05 hrs."

It added, "Tata Power swiftly began restoration work to bring back supply from the three hydro units and Trombay gas and coal units as soon as the MSETCL transmission lines were connected. Tata Power started restoring supply to its consumers progressively from 12 noon onwards."

Navi Mumbai and Raigad implemented rotational load shedding throughout the day after the power failure at 10.10 a.m. disrupted traffic signals, online classes, work from home schedules and household chores. Around 12 p.m., power at MSETCL was being re-

ed being restored. "In the afternoon, on a priority basis, we started switching on the feeders providing power to the hospitals with the existing load. Once the work at the main line of fault was completed around 7 p.m., electricity was restored in a step by step manner to avoid overloading," Rajaram Mane, superintendent engineer, Vashi circle of MSEDCL, said.

At the time of going to press, many areas in Koparkhairane, Ghansoli, Airoli, Taloja, Panvel, Nerul, Kharhgar, Kamtothe, where power had been restored in the afternoon, plunged into darkness again. "We started rotational load shedding till the main fault was rectified. The feeders were supplying power in rotation so that power supply to hospitals do not go off," an executive engineer from Navi Mumbai said.

The 400 kV Kalwa-Talegaon line was undergoing repairs since October 10. On Monday, when the 400 kV Kalwa-Padghe circuit no. 1 of MSETCL was being re-

paired, all the load was transferred to circuit no. 2.

Milind Awatade, MSETCL PRO, said due to the sudden technical fault in circuit no. 2, power supply was affected in Mumbai, Thane and parts of Raigad. The officers and employees of MSETCL worked on a war footing to restore power supply.

He said, as three of the four lines supplying power to Kalwa substation tripped, all the load was transferred to the 400 kV Talegaon-Kharhgar and 400 kV Kharhgar-Kalwa lines.

"Due to heavy sparks, those lines tripped too. The Kharhgar-Kalwa line got deenergised (zero load) and the Mumbai system got de-linked," Mr. Awatade said.

As the 500 MW unit of Tata Power tripped, 1700 MW load in MMR region was affected. "This multiple power failure at this massive level at the State Load Dispatch Centre happened for the first time," he said.

(With additional inputs from Lalatendu Mishra and Raina Assainar)

Richa Chadha, Payal Ghosh get 2 days to file consent terms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

sional Commissioner Saubhab Rao. He said the positivity rate had dipped to 15-18% in Pimpri-Chinchwad, while the Pune Municipal Corporation stood somewhat on the higher side, between 21-23%.

Pune Zilla Parishad CEO Ayush Prasad said the case doubling rate in Pune Rural region had improved to 32 from the previous figure of 27 in the first week of October. Despite these positive signs, Mr. Rao said authorities were not taking it easy and were focussing on increasing the bed capacity across hospitals. \

We are striving to increase beds each day and have now reached a situation where we are in a relatively comfortable position with regard to critical care beds. Sarsoor Hospital has increased its capacity by more than 45-50% and Ruby Hall by nearly 40%, he said.

Mr. Rao said quality contact tracing had been the key in checking the spread of the contagion in Solapur.

The Bombay High Court on Monday granted two days to actors Richa Chadha and Payal Ghosh to file their consent terms for settling a defamation suit filed by the former against the latter.

A single judge Bench of Justice A.K. Menon was hearing a suit filed by Ms. Chadha through advocate Saveena Bedi Sachar. The suit says Ms. Ghosh made claims in a video to cause damage to the goodwill, and seeks an apology and an interim injunction against her to withdraw her statement, video, articles and tweets.

On September 19, Ms. Ghosh gave an interview titled, 'Anurag Kashyap Has His Zip & Pushed It Inside-Payal Ghosh' and 'Sensational Things That Payal Told ABN.'

On October 7, advocate Nitin Satpute, for Ms. Ghosh, said his client was willing to tender an apology to Ms. Chadha as she regretted the statements. However, on Monday, Ms. Sachar told the court that Ms. Ghosh put up a post on her social media saying she would never apologise.

Pune division cautious ahead of festive season

Focus on increasing bed capacity

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PUNE

Despite a continuing dip in COVID-19 cases across the five districts in Pune division, authorities have warned that a complacent attitude during the upcoming festive season could result in a further spike.

From being India's worst-hit district, Pune's active cases have come down below 32,000 – a marked improvement from its previous figure of 40,000 a month ago. The district has reported 3.06 lakh cases and until three weeks ago, was reporting alarming daily spikes of over 4,000 cases. That has reduced to less than 1,500 cases in the past fortnight, with Pune's recovery rate surging past 87%.

This dip in cases must be kept up even during the crucial festive season. One must bear in mind that Pune's case positivity rate, while down from 30% from 10 days ago, is still hovering between 20-23%, which is still high," said Pune Division

Commissioner C. Vikas Rao, zonal manager, Western Zone, LIC, to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Administration), Crawford Market, at a ceremony last week.

The gesture was a token of appreciation for the services being rendered by the Mumbai Police.

At the function, Mr. Rao thanked the personnel for their unwavering devotion to duty and said the LIC was proud that 35,643 policies of the Mumbai

Police are being serviced by the LIC's Western Zone. The LIC has in the past been associated with the Mumbai Police. It has donated a police shelter booth at Gateway of India and contributed to setting up traffic barricades.

The Mumbai Police have been

helping hand: C. Vikas Rao (centre), zonal manager, Western Zone of LIC, presents the raincoats to the Mumbai Police. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



1,000 raincoats handed over to support fight against COVID-19

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PUNE

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), Western Zone, has contributed 1,000 raincoats to the Mumbai Police to support its personnel who are fighting on the frontline against the COVID-19 pandemic.

The raincoats were handed over by C. Vikas Rao, zonal manager, Western Zone, LIC, to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Administration), Crawford Market, at a ceremony last week. The gesture was a token of appreciation for the services being rendered by the Mumbai Police.

At the function, Mr. Rao thanked the personnel for their unwavering devotion to duty and said the LIC was proud that 35,643 policies of the Mumbai

At 7,089 cases, State sees lowest surge in 2 months

165 deaths in State; 1,620 cases in Mumbai

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PUNE

<p



Equal stakes

Accommodative politics is often the result of expediency, but it holds intrinsic value

For the first time in nearly 25 years, all members of the Union Cabinet are from a single party, the Bharatiya Janata Party. The death of Lok Janshakti Party leader Ram Vilas Paswan, three weeks after the Shiromani Akali Dal's Harsimrat Kaur Badal resigned from the Cabinet in protest against legislation that her party sees as anti-farmer, has suddenly created this situation, but it has been in the making for a while. In 2019, the Shiv Sena's Arvind Sawant resigned from the Cabinet after the party broke with the BJP. In 2014, the BJP won more than half the seats in the Lok Sabha, the first time a single party won a majority since 1984. In 2019, the party increased its tally and is not dependent on any other party for the government's survival, though it has at least two dozen allies in the NDA. Alliance politics had come to be derided as a sign of instability, indecision and policy paralysis in the dominant discourse of Indian politics before 2014. Conversely, the emergence of a single party's dominance was welcomed as a new era of stability and decisiveness. The BJP chose to be more triumphalist than gracious in its victory. Decisions of far-reaching consequences such as the changes in the status of Jammu and Kashmir and eligibility of citizenship were made with no inputs from regional political groups, including its own allies.

Involvement of regional and smaller parties will only make governance more robust and inclusive at the national level. The tendency to consider regional forces as a hindrance to a national vision is not the BJP's creation, though it amplified it. The emergence of regional and communitarian politics is in part a response to the Congress's failure to be sufficiently sensitive and accommodative of various social and linguistic groups. SAD leader Sukhbir Badal flagged this as a lesson for the BJP – that domination can easily lead to a total collapse. In the case of the BJP, its parliamentary majority itself is concentrated in the north and the west of India, and among particular communities. There is a strong case for the party to be more accommodative towards regions and communities that are not part of its political map. The party has taken some steps such as inducting Nirmala Sitharaman, a Tamil, and V. Muraleedharan, a Malayali, in the Union Council of Ministers though the BJP is not dependent on Tamil Nadu or Kerala for its parliamentary majority. Stability is only enhanced when the stakes are widely distributed in a polity. The situation created by the death of Paswan and the resignation of Ms. Badal opens an opportunity for the BJP to re-examine its approach to regions and social groups. Adequate representation in the Council of Ministers is a necessary condition, and a starting point, towards a more consultative decision-making process that might guarantee more desirable outcomes.

Feat of clay

The French Open stuck to the script despite the changed circumstances

The 2020 French Open was unlike any previous edition of the Major. The COVID-19 pandemic ensured that players who are usually accustomed to embracing the summer warmth of Paris had to endure the autumnal cold and rain. The new retractable roof over court Philippe-Chatrier, play under lights and the reportedly "slow and heavy" Wilson balls made clay-court tennis drastically different. What was unchanged, however, was Rafael Nadal holding aloft the Coupe des Mousquetaires for a record-extending 13th time in 15 years and the patented trophy biting celebration. The straight sets demolition of World No.1 Novak Djokovic, his toughest rival, brought the Spaniard level with Roger Federer's men's record for Grand Slam titles (20) and has set up a mouth-watering 2021. But Nadal's preparation for the tournament was far from ideal. The coronavirus situation, especially in his home country, had left him deeply distressed. A quarterfinal loss in Rome last month meant that the 34-year-old entered Roland Garros without winning a clay event for the first time in his career. But the way Nadal negated all potentially inhibiting factors, and reached unprecedented heights of excellence against an opponent who was undefeated in five straight Slam finals, was gunning for his 18th Major, and whose only loss in 38 matches this year was through a disqualification in unfortunate circumstances, made the victory probably his best.

What also came to the fore was Nadal's longevity – 15 years between the first and latest Slam, and a record six Majors after turning 30 – and his drive to constantly seek perfection. Djokovic's role in this is central. Though they had met 55 times before, very few came when both were at their absolute peaks. Yet, their tactics have continuously evolved like in a cat and mouse game. After the nearly six-hour long Australian Open final defeat to Djokovic in 2012, Nadal spruced up his attacking play. Since the return from the 2015-16 slump, he continuously worked to better his backhand and break out of the losing patterns Djokovic drew him into. Sunday seemed the culmination of all the hard work. While Nadal led Djokovic by just one point in rallies lasting five shots or more (53-52), he crushed the Serb 53-25 in those that had four shots or less. Where Nadal made just nine backhand errors, he drew 26 more from Djokovic's favoured wing. Over the last fortnight, this first-strike strategy was also perfected by the 19-year-old Iga Swiatek. The Pole felled the tactically astute Sofia Kenin with a ruthless display of power and intelligence to claim her maiden Major without losing a set. The French Open has crowned four straight first-time women's Grand Slam champions, rewarding styles ranging from all-out attack to nimble-footed craftiness. Swiatek's all-round game is a worthy addition.

Federalism, now a partisan internal dialogue

India could be living through a reprise of the 'Congress system', but with significant differences in the BJP's re-enactment



SUKUMAR MURALIDHARAN

At the first signs of stress, the grand vision of a nation unified in a singular system of taxation, was supplanted by a policy of every-state-for-itself. Just over three years ago, the introduction of a unified "goods and services tax" (GST) was heralded by a midnight session of Parliament, a theatrical invocation of India's 1947 "trust with destiny". It was a moment of seeming vindication for the vision of a nation united in its singularity, which the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have made their own.

Misused estimates

The triumphalism lived on, but only in the alternative world created by BJP acolytes in the media. In the real world, evidence of seriously misused revenue estimates, premised upon an ideological rather than pragmatic tax rate, was accumulating at an alarming pace.

The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG) recently revealed how a cess meant to remedy shortfalls in GST yields, was retained in central government revenues, in violation of all applicable norms. This revelation does little to build trust at a time when the States' treasuries are running dry and the central government is gratuitously advising them to borrow on the strength of its guarantee. States ruled by the BJP are willing to go along, but others believe that the onus of borrowing should rest with the central go-

vernment, given that it is the absolute sovereign and enjoys vastly greater taxation rights.

Fiscal deficit and investors

It could be surmised that the central government's refusal to contemplate the option that Opposition states are urging, stems from legitimate concerns over its fiscal deficit, a parameter in turn seen as crucial to retaining the confidence of foreign institutional investors. Many of these investors who turn over vast sums of money in India's currency and share markets, have short-term perspectives. Yet, it does little for public confidence that the central government should base policy upon this thin artifice, when the States' fiscal health is in serious jeopardy.

The central government, in May, sanctioned a higher borrowing limit for States through the current year. In the bargain, it imposed conditionalities which reflected two deep dogmas: enforcing a singular standard for the implementation of policies across a vast and diverse country, and improving India's ranking as a place for "doing business". States will have unconditional access to borrowings equivalent to half a percentage point of their gross output. But, subsequently, every tranche of a quarter point will be premised on progress in implementing the "one nation, one ration card" scheme, and improvements in the "ease of doing business".

"Doing business" is a parameter the World Bank has devised as an indicator of country's economic prospects. The Modi government has prided itself on rapid improvements registered in this index since 2014. This, despite criticism that the parameter is indifferent towards issues of equity, welfare and environmental sustainability,



and concerns within the World Bank that data manipulations may have distorted estimates.

The agrarian crisis

The "doing business" objective seemingly guided the central government when it introduced and pushed through – despite loudly vented reservations – laws that transform the infrastructure and regulatory processes of agricultural markets. There is a deep crisis in the agrarian sector that most evaluations have concluded, arises from ingrained asymmetries of market power. Absent a remedy for these, the malaise is only likely to be aggravated by the entry of private corporate buyers, who could overwhelm the fragile yet workable systems built up by State governments.

Federalism has always been a contested concept in Indian politics. Aside from the contents and definitions sections, the word "federal" occurs in only one operational article of the Indian Constitution, in reference to the apex judicial body created in colonial times. When this body was transformed into the Supreme Court at the moment the Constitution came into force, the word seemingly lost all operative value. The administrative matter of the distribution of powers and responsibilities between various tiers of the governmental system, was achieved without explicit recognition of federalism as a governing principle.

In actual operational terms, the relationship of Centre and States followed different paradigms through various phases of politics. In the single-party state that India essentially was at the time of Independence, the distribution of powers between Centre and States was transformed into an internal discussion of the Congress.

Evolution of power sharing

The "Congress system", as the political scientist Rajni Kothari called it, was seen at one time to have sufficient internal flexibility and resilience to absorb all factional pressures and create a grand national synthesis. The challenge to that hegemonic vision came first from the cultural terrain, compelling a reluctant national leadership to concede the principle of the linguistic reorganisation of States. And then, as ambitions of nation-building through rapid industrialisation began to flounder, agrarian interest groups in particular began peeling off, joining other factions to create the possibility of a non-Congress politics.

The Congress lost power in a number of key States in 1967, retaining only a parlous grip at the Centre. Then, as political scientists Suhas Palshikar and Yogendra Yadav have theorised, the polity moved into a new phase, when politics was about "waves" at the national or State level either in favour of, or against the Congress. From 1989 onwards, politics settled into another distinct phase, when outcomes at the national level were the resultant of very separate State-level results. This was a process driven by the emergence of regional parties through the 1970s and 1980s, and the consolidation of Left politics in West Bengal and its continuing relevance in Kerala.

Since emerging in 2014 as the

pole around which the polity revolves and underlining that status in 2019, the BJP has taken all the cues, and now seeks to transform federalism into an internal dialogue. There is a hint here, that India could be living through a reprise of the "Congress system" of the 1950s and 1960s. Significant differences exist, though, which could make a difference to the BJP's re-enactment.

Agriculture subsumed

First, the BJP has grown in most parts of the country by wedging itself firmly into the deepest cultural fault lines in Indian society. This is integral to its ideology and not merely the kind of pragmatic tactical recourse that the Congress on occasion adopted. Second, the Congress's inattention to the rural agrarian sector was relatively benign, born in its belief that agriculture was a vast reservoir that would gladly yield its surpluses of manpower and product to fuel the growth of the urban industrial frontier. In the BJP's vision, agriculture is the tail-end of the economy which should be forcibly absorbed into the logic of private enterprise and the aggrandisement of India's wealthiest business groups.

If there is a parallel to be drawn with the splintering of the Congress system and its replacement by a complex mosaic of politics led by the regions, it is simply this: that the agrarian sector could soon emerge as the force driving change. And typically, these interest groups begin coalescing at the level of State politics and then forge larger unities, which begin to contest the overweening power of the Centre.

Sukumar Muralidharan teaches at the school of journalism, O.P.Jindal Global University, Sonipat

Gene editing, the good first and then the worries

With the Chemistry Nobel thrusting CRISPR-Cas9 into the limelight, India needs guidelines for gene-editing research



BINAY PANDA

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry for 2020 (<https://bit.ly/3iR8Ufj>) which was announced on October 7, Wednesday, has two women scientists as its recipients. That, in it, is a first in the sciences. Emmanuelle Charpentier, a French microbiologist working at the Max Planck Unit for the Science of Pathogens in Berlin, Germany, and Jennifer A. Doudna, a biochemist from the University of California, Berkeley, U.S. shared the honour "for the development of a method for genome editing".

Discovery, likely omissions

The two scientists have pioneered the use of CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) - Cas9 (CRISPR-associated protein 9) system as a gene-editing tool. In a short period of eight years since its discovery, the method has already made a significant impact in biology, medicine, and agriculture. It is not often that one sees practical applications of scientific findings in such a short time. The only other work with such a quick and revolutionary impact, is PCR (polymerase chain reaction) invented by Kary

Mullis in 1983.

The Nobel Prize as the most coveted prize, especially in science, often attracts controversy; this year too is no exception.

The discovery of CRISPR can be traced back to 1987. This was when a group of Japanese researchers observed an unusual homologous DNA sequence bearing direct repeats with spacing in a eubacterial gene. Several important discoveries followed. In subsequent years, Francisco Mojica, Rodolphe Barrangou, Luciano Marraffini and Erik Sontheimer discovered CRISPR and showed it to be a bacterial adaptive immune system and to act on DNA targets. A notable discovery on the use of CRISPR as a gene-editing tool was by a Lithuanian biochemist, Virginijus Šikšnys, in 2012. Šikšnys showed that Cas9 could cut purified DNA in a test tube, the same discovery for which both Charpentier and Doudna were given the credit.

Thus, the conspicuous exclusion of Šikšnys from this year's Nobel, especially when the Nobel Prize can be given to three individuals (the will of Alfred Nobel has it that the Prize can only be shared among a maximum of three individuals), is going to raise discussions. This is especially noteworthy when Šikšnys along with Charpentier and Doudna shared another coveted award, the Kavli Prize for Nanoscience, in 2018 (<https://bit.ly/36UYn06>). However, the Nobel committee recognises Charpentier and Doudna as the sole discoverers for programming a Cas9 protein to cut a piece of DNA at a specific site with the help of a small piece of RNA, thereby proving the ability of CRISPR-Cas9 to function as a gene-editing tool.

Other notable early contributors to the field that many believe deserve mention are Feng Zhang of Broad Institute of MIT-Harvard and George Church of Harvard.

Feng Zhang, a past postdoctoral fellow in Church lab, and Church himself, the named inventor of many genome science methods, have made several early contributions to the field. These notable exclusions may raise controversy, but Church described the reason for the exclusion best. He saw it this way – that Charpentier and Doudna made a discovery, which is what the committee prefers to reward, and he and Zhang were inventors.

In the male-dominated world of science, this year's Nobel chemistry prize should be widely celebrated worldwide. The recognition that Charpentier and Doudna's work has received will encourage women to take up



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science as a career, despite the hard struggle to balance family life and an arduous life in a scientific career. Although CRISPR became a household name for its ease of use, other systems discovered before CRISPR can cleave DNA at specific sites, an example being the Zinc-finger nucleases. In this, Dana Carroll, who developed the system, is another notable exclusion from this year's chemistry prize. It would have been an excellent and befitting reply to all who say that women cannot compete with men in science if the Nobel committee had named Carroll alongside Charpentier and Doudna.

When the world was shocked

In India, there is a long way to go before realising the utility of gene editing for therapeutic applications. That said, we cannot be complacent and wait for a rogue individual or entity to try it out in humans. The world was alarmed by such a mission in 2018 when Chinese scientist He Jiankui edited genes in human embryos using the CRISPR-Cas9 system that were subsequently implanted and resulted in the birth of twin girls. He claimed this was ostensibly to prevent them from contracting HIV, and the incident became known as the case of the first gene-edited babies of the world. Following a global outcry, the World Health Organization formed a panel of gene-editing experts which said "a

central registry of all human genome editing research was needed in order to create an open and transparent database of ongoing work". It called upon WHO to start setting up such a registry immediately.

Situation in India

In India, several rules, guidelines, and policies backed by the "Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989" (<https://bit.ly/33OIuXx>) notified under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, regulate genetically modified organisms. The above Act and the National Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical and Health Research involving human participants, 2017 (<https://bit.ly/34LyGJ>), by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), and the Biomedical and Health Research Regulation Bill implies regulation of the gene-editing process. This is especially so in the usage of its language "modification, deletion or removal of parts of heritable material". However, there is no explicit mention of the term gene editing. It is time that India came up with a specific law to ban germline editing and put out guidelines for conducting gene-editing research giving rise to modified organisms.

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moment alcohol comes in contact with the flower-like stubs, the proteinaceous entities projecting on the surface of the coronavirus. Now, soap is a surfactant to remove oil (lipid)-based entities which will target the lipid-based membrane covering the virus. Alcohol-based sanitizers are approved by the World Health Organization and in use for a long time including in medical practice and surgery. Conventionally, antibiotics are referred to those organic compounds produced by one kind of microorganisms to act against another, say a pathogen. Hence, in nature, the existence of antibiotic-resistant microorganisms can be expected in any ecosystem. It is only by the erroneous use of antibiotics that disturbance has been

caused to natural ecosystems and the emergence of antibiotic-resistant pathogenic microorganisms.

**Dr. RICHARD JOSEPH,
Mysuru**

Cooperatives, farming
The Centre has not done its homework before pushing through and passing the Farm Bills in a novel coronavirus-affected Parliament where it bulldozed the Opposition's voice. Earlier, it failed to interact with farmers' bodies to understand what they felt. The continuing farmers' protests are an indicator of the resentment which is spreading across India. The Centre's pro-urban and pro-corporate policies are explicitly visible, seen in the way it seeks advice from MSMEs and other industrial bodies

before framing policies for the manufacturing sector. But never before have farmers bodies been united as seen now. Farmers are apprehensive that the big corporates are going to reap the benefits as most farmers are small and marginal farmers with not much understanding of the commercial issues in these laws. Farmers too are in search of solutions. In such a situation, the role of farmers' cooperatives need to be explored rather than encouraging industrial corporates who are known to profit from the expense of farmers.

**BRJ B. GOVAL,
Ludhiana, Punjab**

Pandemic lessons
I find it unfortunate as well as surprising that the Spanish Flu, even with the one of the largest human

tolls in modern times by any epidemic, has not found much space in history textbooks. Now, a century later, history seems to be repeating itself. The writer of "Pandemics and the collective consciousness" (Editorial page, October 12) is right in his observations, but one thing needs to be ensured – that we learn the lessons well by not repeating mistakes. This pandemic is neither the first nor the last and we need to be better prepared and equipped to deal with the future.

**AJAY YADAV,
Rewari, Haryana**

Clay king
Rafael Nadal's hundredth match win at Roland Garros coinciding with his 20th Grand Slam title is probably his greatest win in Paris. To vanquish the indomitable

The purpose of protests

Protests cannot be time bound; they will be indefinite if injustice is indefinite



APOORVANAND



BIBEK CHETTRI

Shaheen Bagh is not past us. The recent order of the Supreme Court on the protests in Shaheen Bagh in Delhi can help the state or the government further subjugate the people, and that too lawfully. The court made the dangerous observation that "the mode and manner of dissent against colonial rule cannot be equated with dissent in a self-ruled democracy."

The term "self-ruled" is a trap. Mahatma Gandhi had famously said that "we want English rule without the Englishman". He was blunt: "I have no desire to exchange 'king log' for 'king stork'."

The temptation to colonise was not unique to the British. The state in itself is coercive, and people have to be eternally alert so that they are not robbed of their sovereignty. One is also compelled to ask: who is this 'self' in 'self-rule'? Does it encompass all our diverse selves?

The answer again comes from Gandhi. He said: "Real Swaraj will come not by the acquisition of authority by a few, but by the acquisition of the capacity by all to resist authority when it is abused. In other words, Swaraj is to be attained by educating the masses to a sense of their capacity to regulate and control authority."

An attempt to restore equality

Resistance to authority or protest is thus intrinsic to citizenship or peoplehood. Protests cannot be made to order. Protests are speech acts. What to speak and how to say it is something you and I decide. Governments cannot be allowed to dictate to you or me in these matters. This is precisely what the Supreme Court has unfortunately tried to do in its judgment on the propriety of the nature of the Shaheen Bagh protests.

When you speak, you expect a willing listener. But protests happen because the conditions for dialogue seem non-existent. Dialogues presuppose equality. People protest because they feel that they have been forced into an unequal situation. Protests attempt to gain or restore equality.

It is not the protests which cause a crisis. Protests arise simply because the go-

vernments create a crisis – that too by lawful means, through the passage of discriminatory laws. Protests do not disturb the balance in society; they erupt only because a balance has been upset. Is it not true that the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) of 2019 was designed to upset the equilibrium in society? It was the severe feeling of discrimination inherent in the law which brought not just Muslims but many others out on the streets.

Police action

The CAA not only diminishes Muslims; it demeans India by making discrimination and inequality lawful. The protesters were there not only fighting for their rights, but also for a universal principle which does good to all.

When Muslims and believers in the principle of equal citizenship came out to lodge their protest, they were brutalised by the police. Observers have noted the viciousness of police action in Uttar Pradesh, Jamia Millia Islamia and Aligarh Muslim University. Police action was carried out not to maintain order, but to teach the protesters a lesson. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh had said that he would take revenge on those involved in violence, effectively treating protesters as vandals.

When senior lawyers Indira Jaising and Colin Gonsalves approached the Supreme Court requesting it to restrain the police, the court said first the violence on the streets needed to stop. The court effectively negated the right to protest then. It failed the people.

It was this impossible situation which led to the imagination of Shaheen Bagh. It has been rightly observed that the court should have thought about the compulsion of the protesters to choose a site like this, which is not in the centre of the

Apoorvanand teaches Hindi at Delhi University

capital. Many Shaheen Baghs across India are celebrated, but should lead institutions like the Supreme Court to introspect and take a hard look at the Indian reality where Muslim women do not feel safe and comfortable to protest in spaces which are available to other sections of the society? Shaheen Bagh was a choice arising out of a huge trust deficit in society, which has only been aggravated by this majoritarian regime.

Balancing two rights

The court was hearing a petition by a citizen who felt aggrieved by the Shaheen Bagh sit-in as the protest and, as a consequence, the blocked roads had deprived him of his right to mobility. The court equated the two and felt that there had to be a balance between the right to mobility and the right to protest. The court was convinced that the prolonged sit-in caused traffic snarls and violated the right to mobility of the people.

The court did not feel the need to find out if the traffic congestion was entirely due to the protests or whether it was caused by the Delhi Police and the Uttar Pradesh Police which had blocked alternate roads leading to the capital. It did not ask the police why they were causing inconvenience to the commuters by closing certain routes. When asked about the same during the protest, the police said it was "a security measure". Was this not done to create animosity against the protesters? Should this not have been treated as a clever way of instigating violence against the protesters? Why were they turning one section of society against the other?

The court thought it fit to send interlocutors to the protesters to persuade them to stop the sit-in, but it did not ask the government a simple question: why was it not talking to the protesters? Why were its Ministers spewing venom against them, instigating violence against them?

The court accepts that democracy is not democracy if dissent is disallowed, but it says protests cannot be indefinite and have to be done in designated spaces. Protests are not done for the sake of pleasure. It has to be appreciated that peaceful protesters endure suffering to force the unjust party or the powers that be to speak to them. Protests cannot be time bound. They'll be indefinite if injustice is indefinite.

Apoorvanand teaches Hindi at Delhi University

The tyranny of TRPs

Who should regulate channels and how should they be regulated?



SRIVATSA KRISHNA



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK PHOTO

Nothing can better describe the current TRP (target rating points) controversy better than the Hindi proverb 'Hamaam mein sab nange hain' (Everyone is naked in a public bath). Before understanding the controversy, may I scan, let's understand the ecosystem at play.

In India, no one wants to be regulated. The judges believe that they can self-regulate better than the National Judicial Appointments Commission ever can. The media, especially television media, swears by self-regulation. Energy regulators are mostly parking places for retired civil servants, few of whom have the guts to implement genuine 'open access' or tariff fixation.

Today TV is perhaps the single biggest window of entry into any home for any business. About 760 million-800 million individuals view TV in India per week. While TV penetration in rural India is about 52%, in urban India it is about 87%. Of this DTH (Direct to Home) is used by about 70 million-80 million households, cable is used by 60 million, and terrestrial by about 10 million-20 million households. About 550 million individuals tune into the TV daily and spend roughly 3.45 hours per day watching TV. The industry boasts of more than 800 channels across various genres. Of the total revenue of about ₹66,000 crore, about 40% is attributable to advertising and 60% to distribution and subscription services. India's total advertising market is \$10 billion-\$12 billion, of which digital advertising is about \$2 billion, according to Dentsu in 2020.

The nature of the game
What channels are not admitting is that the TRP system has been rigged for many moons now, by the channels themselves. That is the nature of the game. Channels cannot play the game without rigging the system. In the TAM (Television Audience Measurement) and INTAM (Indian Na-

tional Television Audience Measurement) days, motorcycle riders used to be sent to follow those from TAM to retrieve data/install meters and identify 'confidential homes'. Those homes would be given a new plasma TV, in vogue those days. In those households, a particular channel would be turned on and put on mute on the new TV. And the people in the house would continue watching whatever they wanted to on their regular TV sets. Needless to say, TAM and INTAM gave different ratings reports to suit different clients. Soon, they discovered that it was best to have the cake and eat it too, so they merged. When BARC (Broadcast Audience Research Council) came about, it took over the flawed TAM meters which are now said to constitute about a third of its own metering.

I have learnt everything I learnt in statistics to make sense of the fact that about 22,000 bar-o-meters (or 44,000 households) are used to distribute digital advertising goodies worth about ₹25,000 crore. So, a back-of-the-envelope, and not scientific, bar-o-meter equals approximately ₹1 crore of ad revenue, though the geographical coverage is tiny. Don't ever ask how 22,000 bar-o-meters can be statistically significant to explain a TV viewing universe of 200 million households (Z-Tests and P-values be damned, they matter only for PhD theses, not in the real world).

There are other goodies for media-buying agencies in the form of fees, commissions, kickbacks, both over and under the table. Even a cursory glance at the balance sheets of the top agencies would reveal these staggering amounts. It is no wonder that no advertising agency worth its salt wants to upset the applecart and look at a 'better' rating system.

In today's world of hyperconnectivity, can we not become self-reliant enough to manufacture bar-o-meters connected to the Internet securely which give us not only channel-wise, but also programme-wise and hour-wise data? That way, measurement would be continuous and transparent instead of being discrete, periodic, and tamperable. Netflix and YouTube not only know what you watched and how long you watched it, but also what else you may like and what you may ignore. Why can't India come up with connected bar-o-meters or set top boxes when almost everything is now down to digital zeros and ones and measurable?

The way forward
What is the way forward? If you take Ofcom or the Federal Communications Commission, the two main independent regulators in the U.K. and the U.S., respectively, they consist usually of government-appointed officials along with distinguished members from the corporate world. But in India, we all disagree on what constitutes 'independent'. If a government of a particular ideology appoints a regulator, it will be almost certainly deemed partisan. So, it really comes down to this: who do we trust more, the private sector or the government? Do we want BARC self-regulation or an independent authority established by a constitutionally elected government? This opens up a Pandora's box on who should regulate, how they should regulate, and who should regulate the regulators. The hype will end soon, but it looks like nothing is going to change, for 'Hamaam mein sab nange hain'.

Srivatsa Krishna is an IAS officer. Views are personal. Twitter: @srivatsakrishna

Towards cleaner air in Delhi

Controlling emissions, reducing private vehicles and increasing electric vehicles could help

VINOD THOMAS

Every year, Diwali fireworks blanket Delhi in a haze, compounding air pollution's health risks, particularly to children, the elderly and those with underlying illnesses. The difference this year is that rare respite from pollution as COVID-19 slammed the brakes on economic activity. But with air pollution returning to pre-COVID levels, it is opportune that the Delhi administration has launched a major anti-pollution campaign this month.

The campaign is rightly focused on cutting the deadly smoke from thermal plants and brick kilns in the National Capital Region as well as on chemical treatment of stubble burning from nearby States. Delhi's long-term solution will depend importantly also on abating emissions from transportation. This agenda could cut air pollution from all sources combined by one-quarter to one-third by 2025, which, if sustained, could extend people's lives by two-three years, ameliorating respiratory complications from COVID-19.

Air pollution before COVID-19 was dire. Particulate matter, PM2.5 and PM10, exceed national standards and the more stringent World Health Organization limits. Delhi's toxic air also contains high doses of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide. The lack of wind worsens the pollutant concentration.

Delhi needs a 65% reduction to meet the national standards for PM2.5. Vehicles, including trucks and two-wheelers, contribute 20%-40% of the PM2.5 concentrations. Tackling vehicle emissions would be one part of the agenda, as in comparable situations in Bangkok, Beijing, and Mexico City. A three-part action comprises emissions standards, public transport, and electric vehicles.

Control emissions

The first part is stricter enforcement of emission controls – and a willingness to impose tougher penalties. Two-wheelers and three-wheelers were as important as cars and lorries in Beijing's experience. Bangkok ramped up inspection and maintenance to cut emissions. The first order of business is to implement the national standards. Emission testing of vehicles under Delhi's Pollution Under Control Policy was only 25%.

The second prong is reducing private vehicles on the road by strengthening public transport. Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) systems in Mexico City, Bogota, Istanbul, and Johannesburg show how the sizeable investment cost is more than offset by the benefits, and that financing pays off. Delhi has lessons from its BRT experience in designating better BRT lanes, improving the ticketing system and synchronising with the Metro. The Supreme Court's ruling to increase Delhi's bus fleet and align it with the Metro network must be carried out. The 'odd-even' number plate policy can help, but the system should reduce exemptions, allow a longer implementation period, and complement it with other measures.

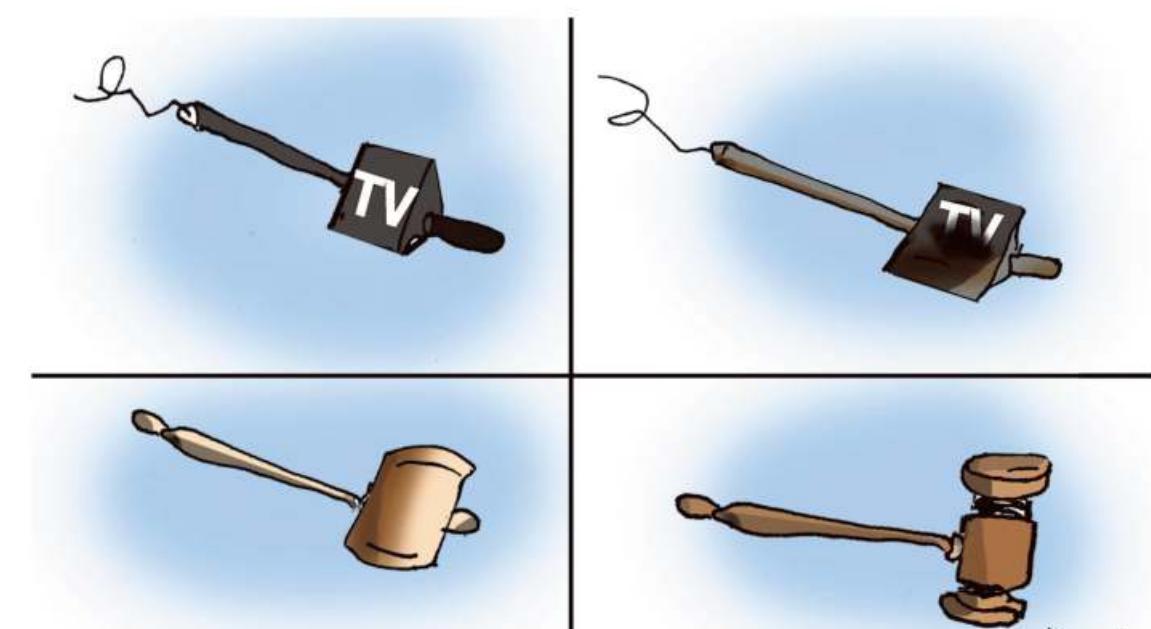
A longer-term solution

The third prong, even if longer term, involves electric vehicles (EVs). Subsidies and investment will be needed to ensure that EVs are used to a meaningful scale, without fossil fuels for charging them. The Delhi government's three-year policy aims to make EVs account for a quarter of the new vehicles registered in the capital by 2024. EVs will gain from purchase incentives, scrappage benefits on older vehicles, loans at favourable interest and a waiver of road taxes.

Transport solutions need to be one part of pollution abatement that includes industry and agriculture. Delhi's own actions will not work if the pollution from neighbouring States is not addressed head on.

Technical solutions need to be underpinned by coordination and transparency across Central, State, and local governments. Public opinion matters. Citizen participation and the media are vital for sharing the message on pollution and health, using data such as those from the Central Pollution Control Board. It is a matter of prioritising people's health and a brighter future. Once the pandemic is over, Delhi must not stumble into yet another public health emergency. The time to act is now.

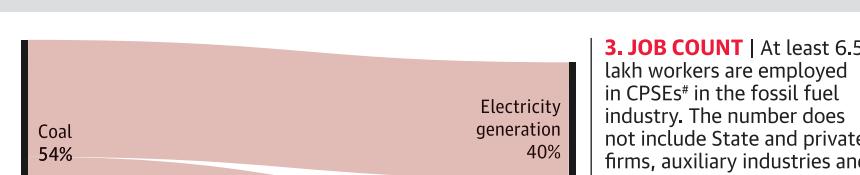
Vinod Thomas is Visiting Professor at the National University of Singapore and a former senior vice president at the World Bank. He tweets @thomas14. This article is based on research with Alyona Seth, Nimrita Singh and Chitranjali Tiwari at the National University of Singapore



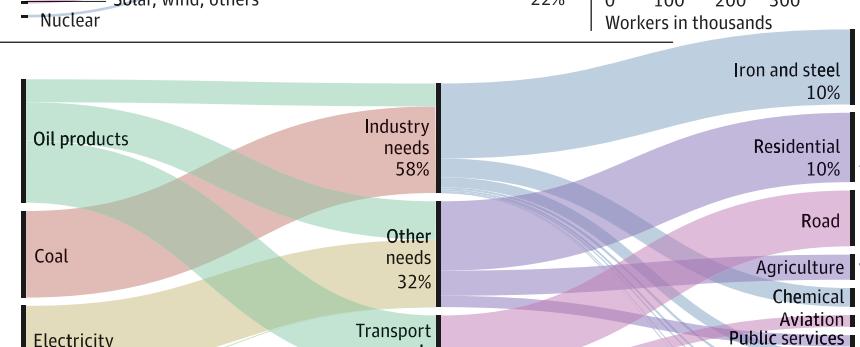
DATA POINT

Energy mix

1. PRODUCTION | The chart shows the % of the total energy produced from various sources, and where this energy was spent in FY19. On the left are energy sources in descending order of their contribution. On the right are the reasons for which such energy was consumed, in descending order of consumption. The higher the consumption, the thicker the arm. >97% of energy needs were served by fossil fuels: coal, crude oil, oil products and natural gas.



2. CONSUMPTION | The chart shows the share of total energy consumed for various reasons in FY19. On the left are energy sources. In the middle are broad sectors where energy was consumed. On the right are specific endpoints in descending order of consumption. The higher the consumption, the thicker the arm. The % consumption at the endpoint will not add up to 100 as "others/unspecified" were not included.



*One tonne of oil equivalent is equal to the energy released by burning one tonne of crude oil (= 11.63 megawatt-hours)

^Calculations exclude biomass fuels used for cooking in low-income homes as no official data are available.

^Central Public Sector Enterprises. Source: Energy Statistics 2020, Public Enterprises Survey 2018-19

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 13, 1970

Anti-English 'Satyagraha'

A group of 36 anti-English agitators including two members of Parliament were arrested while staging a 'satyagraha' outside the Supreme Court to-day [October 12, New Delhi]. Those arrested included Mrs. Tarakeshwari Sinha (Cong.-O) and Mr. Ramgopal Shalwale (J.S.), both M.P.s., Mr. Sanwal Das Gupta (SSP), President of the "Angrezi-Hatao Sena", and a few members of the Samajwadi Yuvjan Sabha. One of the five women arrested carried a child with her. For over an hour, the volunteers shouted anti-English slogans and demanded that Hindi and other regional languages be allowed in courts. They were addressed by Mr. Raj Narain M.P. (SSP), Mrs. Sinha and Mr. Shalwale. Mr. Raj Narain left the scene before the arrests were made. Mrs. Sinha said that the Chief Justice of India had "reversed" his decision to constitute a Bench of Hindi-knowing judges to hear Mr. Raj Narain last month, and this, she contended, was against the spirit of the Constitution. The satyagrhis wanted an assurance from the Chief Justice that people would be allowed to argue their cases in their own language. In a memorandum, they demanded that the Supreme Court should permit all languages being allowed in Parliament.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 13, 1920
The Congress and Non-Cooperation

There have been very few comments in the British Press on the Non-Co-operation Resolution passed at the special session of the Indian National Congress. The "Times", the "Daily Telegraph," and the "Morning Post" have all written in that strain of uncomfortable hostility which was to be expected of them. They cannot conceal their misgivings as to the insecurity of the existing regime, but they affect to believe (as they always have done) that the considered declarations of the Congress are nothing but the vapourings of a noisy minority of extremists.

But they are not the only people who have misgivings as to the tendency of Indian politics at the moment. With every desire to support the indignant protest of the Indian nation against the misgovernment of which they have been the victims, there are not many British Radicals and Socialists who agree with the policy of general boycott. They are not yet convinced that the wrongs inflicted upon the Indian people can be righted in no other way, and they are far from being satisfied that a withdrawal from a participation in the administration of the country can be made effective.

CM YK

FROM PAGE ONE

Central govt. takes steps to spur demand

Private sector employers and State governments could also extend this facility to their employees, Ms. Sitharaman said.

The full value of 10 days of leave encashment that was taxable but could be availed by employees along with their LTC, would also be paid out on submission of similar proof of payment for equivalent value of goods. Separately, a flat ₹10,000 special festival allowance has been announced for all Central employees to be utilised by March 31, 2021, that could be repaid in 10 interest-free instalments. This would be given in the form of a prepaid Rupay card.

"If people spend all this, those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic will see a demand rise and livelihood improvement," the Minister said. The 12% GST rate had been specified so that people didn't spend this payout on essential items such as food.

"We are telling people that money which would have gone into your ticket fare for travel, spend three times that return fare to claim that LTC allowance. Spend it on items that have 12% or more GST - if you look at the items that have 12% GST, you will know that is the kind of things people normally buy during festivals," she noted.

While the Centre hoped to spur an additional consumer demand of ₹ 36,000 crore from the LTC vouchers and festival allowance, the possible additional capital expenditure from the States and the Centre added up to ₹37,000 crore.

"Another ₹28,000 crore boost can be expected if potential private sector spending also happens. We would suggest to the private sector to consider this [the LTC voucher scheme]. This is a conservative estimate [but] the total additional demand could total ₹1 lakh crore, I believe," she stated.

No consensus on States' GST compensation

Instead Ms. Sitharaman said the Finance Ministry was ready to facilitate the States that have decided to borrow to meet urgent spending to counter the pandemic. The Centre has argued that 21 States have backed this resolution. Parrying queries on the Centre's strategy in case some States move the Supreme Court on the issue, Ms. Sitharaman said, "We are open to talk with all States who wants us to facil-

itate a borrowing."

Kerala Finance Minister Thomas Isaac said Ms. Sitharaman's announcement that she is going to permit 21 States to borrow is illegal. "Option one involves deferral of compensation payment beyond five years for which a Council decision is necessary as per the Attorney General's opinion. No such decision has been made in the Council," he said in a late-night tweet.

Hathras victim's family records statements in HC

Third, security should be ensured for them till the trial is concluded.

Ms. Kushwaha said she would submit an affidavit on behalf of the family before November 2.

The police maintained that the cremation of the girl took place with the family's permission but had no answers when cross-questioned by the court.

India, China discuss border disengagement

He is soon to be replaced by Lt. Gen. P.G.K. Menon, who has been part of the Indian delegation during the earlier round of talks as well.

A representative from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) was also present.

In the last round of talks, China insisted that disengagement on the south bank of Pangong Tso (lake) be discussed first, while India insisted on complete disengagement and de-escalation along Eastern Ladakh.

Troops remain deployed

While troops continue to be deployed in several locations on the north and south banks of Pangong Tso, the situation on the ground has been calm since the five-point consensus decided between the two foreign Ministers in Moscow on September 10.

"His utterly disgusting and mortifying remark comparing a woman member, who had been badly let down by this organisation

A.P. reports least new cases in three months

Kerala, Telangana also record fewer cases as weekend testing rate drops; Karnataka's overall death toll crosses 10,000

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh reported the lowest daily infections and test positivity rate in about three months on Monday. It added 3,224 infections, the lowest in 86 days, and 32 deaths.

In the past day, 61,112 samples were tested with a positivity rate of 5.28%, the lowest in 95 days. So far, 66.30 lakh samples were tested

COVID-19

and the positivity rate was 11.45%. The number of patients under treatment stood at 43,983.

Telangana's incidence on Sunday was a low 1,021 cases with only 30,210 tests conducted. Daily tests were normally between 50,000 to 55,000 samples. Six more patients died on October 11.

The new cases included

228 from Greater Hyderabad, 84 from Medchal Malkajgiri, 68 from Rangareddy district. Results of 628 people were awaited.

On Sunday, of 30,210 people tested, 28,310 underwent tests at government labs and 1,900 at private labs.

Kerala reported a sharp dip in cases on Monday after testing dropped by nearly half the usual number of samples, a regular phenomenon following a weekend. The test positivity rate was still high at 15.4%. While 38,259 samples were tested in 24 hours, the State reported 5,930 new cases.

The toll stood at 1,025, after 22 more deaths from the past few weeks were added to the official list. Of the new cases, 5,157 cases were locally acquired infections, and 195 cases had no known source of infection.

Cases continued to rise in Kozhikode and Malappuram,

Ground work

With the number of COVID-19 cases continuing to rise, the authorities are taking extra measures to ensure cleanliness. The graph shows the spread of the pandemic in the southern States



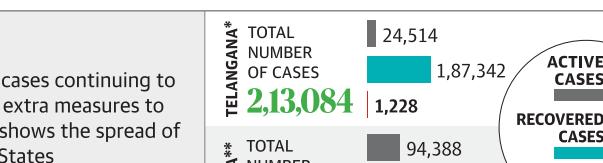
Spick and span: A municipal staff spraying bleaching powder in the Udhagamandalam hill station in Tamil Nadu on Monday. ■ M. SATHYAMOORTHY

*Telangana numbers are as of 8 p.m. on Sunday | **Kerala has a mismatch of 85 cases due to unaccounted deaths, missing persons

***Karnataka has 19 non-COVID deaths

while Thiruvananthapuram, saw a comparative reduction.

Kozhikode had 869 cases, Malappuram 740, Thrissur 697, Thiruvananthapuram



629, Alapuzha 618, Ernakulam 480, Kottayam 382, Kollam 343, Kasaragod 295, Palakkad 288, Kannur 274, Pathanamthitta 186, Idukki 94 and Wayanad 35 cases.

Karnataka's COVID-19 toll breached the 10,000 mark on Monday. With 70 more deaths, the toll touched 10,036. After reporting over 10,000 cases for the last one

week, new cases dropped to 7,606. Over 41% (4,199) of Karnataka's deaths were reported since September 1 and 1,042 in the last 12 days. In all, 5,146 were among those aged above 60.

With 3,362 deaths Bengaluru Urban contributed 33.4% of the total deaths.

More than a month after consistently reporting 5,000-plus COVID-19 cases a day, Tamil Nadu's daily count dipped to 4,879 on Monday, taking the State's overall tally to 6,61,264. Another 5,165 persons were discharged after treatment and 62 persons died in the State. With this, a total of 6,07,203 persons were discharged till date and 10,314 persons have died. A total of 43,747 persons were presently under treatment in the State.

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

IN BRIEF

Music director Rajan passes away

BENGALURU Acclaimed music composer Rajan, of Rajan-Nagendra fame, passed away at his residence in Bengaluru on Sunday. Some of the best-remembered Kannada film songs of the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s were composed by the brothers. "My father was healthy and took music classes online even the day before his death," said the 85-year-old composer's son R. Ananth Kumar. Rajan's brother Nagendra had passed away in 2000, ending possibly one of the longest music collaborations in the film industry.

Kavitha elected to Legislative Council

HYDERABAD As expected, K. Kavitha of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) has been elected to Legislative Council from the Nizamabad Local Authorities Constituency with a huge majority. Counting of votes for the poll held on October 9 was taken up on Monday. According to information reaching here, Ms. Kavitha, daughter of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, secured a majority of 672 of the 823 votes polled.

Cardiologist invited to open Mysuru Dasara

mysuru Receiving an official invitation from Minister in-charge of Mysuru district S.T. Somashekhar on Monday for inaugurating the Dasara festivities atop Chamundi Hills on October 17, Director of Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, C.N. Manjunath, said it's an honour to inaugurate the Dasara festivities in Mysuru. Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa was officially invited to Dasara by Mr. Somashekhar.

Sriramulu was consulted on rejig: Sudhakar

Medical Education Minister, who was allocated Health portfolio, thanks Karnataka CM for his 'trust'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSORE

Karnataka Minister for Medical Education K. Sudhakar, who has been allocated the Health and Family Welfare portfolio, on Monday said Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa had discussed the issue last week with him and B. Sriramulu, who was handling the Health Department.

"Mr. Sriramulu, who was also looking after Backward Classes Welfare along with Health, was given an important portfolio of Social Welfare on his request," said Dr. Sudhakar, who will now be handling both the Medical Education and Health Departments for containing the spread of COVID-19. The Social Welfare portfolio was with Deputy Chief Minister



K. Sudhakar and, right, B. Sriramulu

Govind Karjol.

Speaking to reporters here, Mr. Sudhakar said the Health and Family Welfare and Medical Education Departments in the State had independent Ministers, but the departments at the Centre and in most States had one Minister. When there was no upper limit for

the Cabinet, the portfolios were bifurcated to accommodate more ministerial aspirants. But for technical and administrative reasons, both should be handled by one Minister; otherwise the management would become difficult, he said.

While thanking the Chief Minister for "trusting" him with the Health portfolio, Dr. Sudhakar said he would strive to improve public healthcare in the State.

Sriramulu upset

Meanwhile, Mr. Sriramulu is said to be deeply upset with how the Health and Family Welfare Department has been wrested from him. As he is learnt to have decided to approach the BJP high command over the "injustice meted out to him," the Cabinet reshuffle fiasco Mr. Yediyurappa has carried out without consulting the central leadership now threatens to backfire against him, sources in the party said. Mr. Yediyurappa is said to have reached out to Mr. Sudhakar and the duo are likely to meet over breakfast on Tuesday.

Mr. Sriramulu is upset with the timing of the change in portfolio though he is not averse to the Social Welfare Department, sources close to him said. In fact, he had sought the department over Health and Family Welfare in 2019, but the Chief Minister was insistent. Ever since COVID-19 became an issue from March, he has been deeply upset with how he has been sidelined. "By stripping him of COVID-19 responsibilities and now the Ministry itself, the Chief Minister seems to have expressed his lack of confidence in Mr. Sriramulu's efficiency, which no political leader will accept," a source close to the leader said.

A.P. HC orders CBI probe into social media posts on judges

Such personal attacks are an affront to the judiciary: Bench



Circumstances under which the judges are targeted need to be probed, the HC said.

the High Court, while questioning the reason for the alacrity with which the objectionable remarks made on elected representatives of the ruling party were acted upon.

The Bench, comprising Justices Rakesh Kumar and J. Uma Devi, observed that the CBI had better resources at its command to dig out the facts.

Advocate-General S. Sri Ram said he would not object if the court did not cast any aspersions on the government or the CID on posts against the judges.

The court said the circumstances under which the judges were targeted need to be investigated thoroughly as such personal attacks were an affront to the judicial wing of democracy.

It may be recalled that the YSRCP leaders attributed motives to the judges for the orders issued by them in diverse matters which included the "three capitals."

A petition was filed on Monday urging the Supreme Court to issue a show-cause notice against Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy for his "frivolous and unsubstantiated allegations against a sitting judge of the Supreme Court".

The petition filed by a lawyer, Sunil Kumar Singh, accused Mr. Reddy of making these allegations in a letter to the Chief Justice of India on October 6.

The petition said the letter's contents were then shared with the media in a press conference held on October 10 by Mr. Reddy's Principal Adviser. Mr. Singh asked the Su-

preme Court to issue an order to bar Mr. Reddy from making such public statements against the judiciary and holding press conferences to malign the judicial institution.

"What is at stake is the confidence that courts inspire in the public in a democracy ... Discussions can go wild in the media within hours or days and affect the image of the judiciary," the petition said.

The right places to bring allegations against the higher judiciary were Parliament or the State Legislature and not press conferences.

The petition said the constitutional immunity granted to the judiciary was to allow them to function fearlessly.

Actor Parvathy resigns from AMMA

She protests against 'mortifying' comments made by its general secretary



Parvathy Thiruvothu

and consequently left it, to a dead person is beyond correction. Mr. Babu may believe he just used a metaphor, but it shows his naughtiness attitude and I pity him. I am sure that when the media starts discussing this remark, many of his peers will support him. I

"In 2018, when my friends resigned from AMMA, I stayed back thinking at least a few should continue to work within a broken system and help repair it. But after watching [the] AMMA general secretary speak, I have abandoned all hope that anything will ever change within this association," she said in the Facebook post.

She demanded that Mr. Babu resign from the post and expressed the hope that other conscientious members would also demand the same.

"I will be keenly watching to see who will come forward. I urge every member to see that it is a hazy bubble of "welfare" that is wrapped around a core of corrupt morals," she said.

More security sought for Sabarimala, Pampa

Special Commissioner submits report

HIRAN UNNIKRISHNAN
PATHANAMTHITTA

Amidst protests over two motorcycle borne youths trespassing on the trek route to Sabarimala from Pampa last month, the Sabarimala Special Commissioner has requested that these locations be notified as special security zones round the year.

The report says there is no proper system to verify the goods being transported in tractors to the Sanidham. The possibility of miscreants transporting hazardous and prohibited articles to the Sanidham cannot, therefore, be ruled out.

Two youths on a motorcycle had bypassed the forest check-post and the TDB guard room and trespassed into Swami Ayyappan Road on September 26. Forest officials, however, intercepted them at Paramada.

India, China discuss border disengagement

He is soon to be replaced by Lt. Gen. P.G.K. Menon, who has been part of the Indian delegation during the earlier round of talks as well.

A representative from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) was also present.

In the last round of talks, China insisted that disengagement on the south bank of Pangong Tso (lake) be discussed first, while India insisted on complete disengagement and de-escalation along

Two LeT militants killed in J&K

Pakistani 'commander' Saifullah infiltrated into Kashmir earlier this year: police

PEERZADA ASHQI
SRINAGAR
Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) 'commander' Saifullah was among two militants killed in an operation in a dense residential area of Barzulla in Srinagar on Monday.

"Saifullah, a Pakistani national, infiltrated into Kashmir earlier this year. In the last two months, he shifted his base from north to south Kashmir. He was involved in planning and executing major terror attacks, including the killing of a CRPF officer at Chadoora on September 24 and two CRPF personnel in Pampore on October 5," Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh said.

Saifullah and his associate, Irshad Ahmed Dar alias Abu Usama, a resident of Pulwama who was active since May 2019, were trapped in a house in the Barzulla area on Sunday night.



Deadly impact: A house that caught fire during the encounter in Srinagar on Monday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

"They were given the opportunity to surrender after evacuating all civilians. However, they fired indiscriminately," Inspector General of Police Vijay Kumar said.

The police said incriminating materials, including arms and ammunition, were recovered from the site of encounter.

"The bodies of the terrorists will be sent to Baramula for burial after the completion of all medico-legal formalities. The nearest fa-

Three teachers booked

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Three teachers have been booked under the Public Safety Act in south Kashmir's Shopian after "the students and alumni of the school were found involved in militant activities". "We have booked three teachers of the school affiliated with the banned Jamaat-e-Islami," Inspector General of Police Vijay Kumar said.

mily members of the killed local terrorist will be allowed to participate in the last rites," the police said.

One house was fully damaged and three others partially hit during the operation.

Kushboo quits Congress, joins BJP

Actor and former Cong. spokesperson says she was being 'pushed and suppressed'



Fresh start: Actor Kushboo with BJP leaders in New Delhi on Monday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI
Actor and former Congress spokesperson Kushboo Sundar on Monday joined the BJP, having sent in her resignation letter to Congress president Sonia Gandhi. She said she had been contemplating the action since March last.

Ms. Sundar, who lives in Chennai, joined the BJP in New Delhi in the presence of the party's State unit chief, L. Murugan, and national general secretary C.T. Ravi, along with two others from Tamil Nadu – journalist Madan Ravichandran and former Indian Revenue Service officer Sarvana Kumar.

"I promise to carry out any assignment given to me by the party and express faith in the leadership of our honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi," she said at a press conference.

The reasons
Later, speaking to *The Hindu*, Ms. Sundar was more candid. She said she had spoken of the reasons for quitting the Congress in her letter to Ms. Gandhi. In it,

she referred to a "few elements, seated at a higher level within the party, people who have no connectivity with the ground reality or public recognition" who were "dictating terms". She added, "People like me, who wanted to work for the party sincerely are being pushed and suppressed."

Ms. Sundar said, "This letter was ready way back in March, and since I had joined the Congress in the presence of Ms. Gandhi, I wanted to hand over the re-

India, U.S. too cautious on China'

Senior U.S. official calls for fundamental alignment along shared security goals

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

India and the United States have been "too cautious" when it comes to China's concerns about their strategic ties, said a senior U.S. official, who called China the "Elephant in the room" during bilateral talks.

Speaking at a think-tank event during his visit to Delhi, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun said Washington respected India's tradition of "strategic autonomy", and did not seek to pull it into a security alliance, but hoped to build a partnership in the region through the Quad (Australia-India-Japan-U.S. Quadrilateral dialogue), which he dubbed "Pax Indo-Pacific".

"We have seen the conditions emerge for an organic and deeper partnership between India and the U.S. – not an alliance on the post-war model, but a fundamen-



Stephen Biegun

tal alignment along shared security and geopolitical goals, shared interests, and shared values," Mr. Biegun said at an India-U.S. Forum event in Delhi, where he shared a session with Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla.

Crucial 2+2 talks

Mr. Biegun arrived in Delhi for a two-day visit to prepare for the upcoming 2+2 talks between U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esp-

er with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Mr. Biegun said the talks will be held "later this year", although sources indicated that the 2+2 is scheduled for October 26-27.

The arrival of senior U.S. officials, including Mr. Biegun, less than a month before the U.S. presidential elections is unusual, especially given curtailed travel during the coronavirus pandemic, and the fact that Mr. Jaishankar and Mr. Pompeo just met for the Quad ministerial dialogue in Tokyo last week. However, the sources suggested that an exception for the U.S. is indicative of the close personal ties shared between the Trump administration and the Modi government.

The ongoing stand-off between the Indian and Chinese troops at the Line of Actual

Control (LAC) is also likely to be a factor in strengthening bilateral arrangements as well as coordination in the Indo-Pacific region at this time.

"As we advance in this direction [of the stronger partnership], there is an elephant in the room: China," Mr. Biegun said, making a specific reference to comments made by former diplomat Ashok Kantha in a recent interview to *The Hindu* about the need to be less "cautious" about developing the Quad and strategic linkages with the U.S.

"I could not agree more with Ambassador Kantha. We have been too cautious. Last week's important and successful Quad ministerial leaves the United States confident that perhaps, just maybe, we can say that we are present at the creation of those strategic linkages," Mr. Biegun added.

'Pak. action on terror funding insufficient'

FATF affiliate highlights slow progress

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

Noting that Pakistan's measures against money laundering and terror financing "are not yet sufficient to justify a re-rating", a regional affiliate of the Financial Action Task Force on Monday retained the country on its "Enhanced Follow-up" list, according to a media report.

The first Follow-Up Report on Mutual Evaluation of Pakistan released by the

Asia-Pacific Group (APG) underlined that the country's progress on the 40 FATF recommendations on the effectiveness of anti-money laundering and combating financing terror (AML/CFT) system largely remained unchanged – non-compliant on four counts, partially compliant on 25 counts and largely compliant on nine recommendations, the *Dawn News* reported.

India welcomes release of 7 abducted citizens in Libya

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India on Monday welcomed the release of seven nationals who had been abducted in September by fighters in war-torn Libya.

The Ministry of External Affairs acknowledged the support that the authorities in Tripoli have extended in ensuring the release of the seven persons hailing from

Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. "All of them are in good health and are currently staying in the company's premises in Brega. We are trying to complete the formalities to enable their return to India," said the Ministry about the men who were handed over to the representatives of energy company Al Shola Al Mudea.

Atmanirbhar package failed: Cong.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday said the latest announcements by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman about a fiscal stimulus were an admission that the much hyped ₹20 lakh crore Atmanirbhar package was a "dismal failure to protect or revive the ravaged economy".

The party said the Minister's intent was really to manage headlines and "somehow believe that the economy will respond to these headlines".

Addressing a joint press conference, Praveen Chakravarty, Congress's data analytics head, and

Gourav Vallabh asked why the Narendra Modi government took six months to realise that the lack of demand was the main problem facing the economy instead focusing on credit expansion and debt restructuring.

Though the Congress leaders welcomed the announcement about capital investment in infrastructure for States, they said the amount of ₹12,000 crore for this year was merely 1.33% of the ₹9 lakh crore already budgeted for this purpose in the current financial year.

"Today's announcements are also a clear message that the Prime Minister's much hyped ₹20

lakh Atmanirbhar package announced in May is a dismal failure in both protecting and reviving our ravaged economy... Just because the Prime Minister or the Finance Minister or the Government of India says that this is an economic stimulus, the economy does not obey and get stimulated," Mr. Chakravarty said.

"A stimulus by definition means something extra, more, additional. What is extra today? Is anything extra today in terms of money in the hands of people to stimulate demand?" he said, while reiterating that the Congress demanded direct cash transfers to stimulate demand.

HC order trivialisation of rape victim's trauma, says plea in SC

Accused asked to meet victim on Rakshabandhan

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Nine women lawyers have approached the Supreme Court against a Madhya Pradesh High Court order which directed a man accused of sexual assault to visit his victim at home on Rakshabandhan and "allow" her to tie a rakhi on him as a condition of bail.

The lawyers, led by advocate Aparna Bhat, said the High Court order was a "trivialisation of her [victim's] trauma".

Rakhi gifts

The law prescribes the victim to be kept far away from the accused. Instead, here the High Court has ordered the accused to visit the home of the woman – the very place where the crime is alleged to have occurred. The case is that the accused forcibly

entered the victim's house to commit the crime. The petition said the High Court further ordered the accused to gift the woman ₹1,000 "as a customary ritual usually offered by brothers to sisters on such occasion and shall also seek her blessings."

The High Court also ordered the accused to offer ₹5,000 to the woman's son for the "purchase of clothes and sweets".

Stay the order

The order only succeeds to victimise the woman and retards the years of work done to sensitise the courts about how damaging it would be to attempt a compromise "by way of marriage or mediation between the accused and the survivor".

The petition urged the top court to stay the condition for bail passed by the High Court in July.

NOTIFICATION

कॉलेज ऑफ फिजिशियन्स अंड सर्जन्स ऑफ मुंबई

सोसीटीस लाइन, अं. १, वोर्जेस मार्ग, परल, मुंबई – ४००१२८
दस्तावेज क्र. १-२२-२४११८२३ वेबसाईट : www.cpsmumbai.org

In accordance with by-laws of College of Physicians and Surgeons of Mumbai, Election for three Members of Council of College of Physicians and Surgeons of Mumbai is scheduled.

The nomination form shall be available at office of Dy. Secretary, CPS house, Dr. E. Bores Road, Parel, Mumbai-400012 from 17th October, 2020 to 23rd October, 2020 (both days inclusive) from 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

For more details and updates about the election please visit our official website or office on working days during working hours.

Sd/-
Dr. Meherosh J. Jassawalla
Election Officer

Dr. Naresh G. Alreja
Election Officer
Date: 13/10/2020

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION Mechanical Engineering Department

M.E.C.D.No.M1/0023B/2020

E-Tender Notice
E-Tender is invited for the following work by Superintending Engineer (Mech) as per tender condition

Ref No.	Name of Work	EMD
M1/0023B/2020	Purchase of 5 Nos. of Truck Mounted Crane.	Rs.3,80,000/-

Last date and time of submission - 11.11.2020 @3.00 P.M

Tender details can be downloaded from: <http://tntenders.gov.in>

Superintending Engineer (Mech/Br)

DIPR/3804/TENDER/2020

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNega)

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online tenders are invited by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNega), towards Selection of System Integrator for developing/customizing and maintaining Integrated & Inclusive Public Grievance CM Helpline Management System (IPGMS) for Government of Tamil Nadu.

The tender document (RFP) can be downloaded at free of cost from <https://tnegatender.gov.in/> from 13.10.2020,13:00 hrs

Pre-bid meeting is scheduled online through Video Conference (VC) on 16.10.2020 at 11:00 hrs and the link for the VC is available in the RFP.

EMD for an amount of Rs. 30,00,000/- has to be paid through online mode. Last date and time for online submission of bids through <https://tnegatender.gov.in/> (e-Tender) is 28.10.2020 till 16:00 hrs. Technical Bid shall be opened online on 29.10.2020 at 16:00 hrs. Bidders are advised to participate in the pre-bid meeting scheduled by TNega.

Chief Executive Officer, Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency

DIPR/3804/TENDER/2020

THE ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED

OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha

CIN: U13100OR1956SGC00313, www.omcltd.in

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR ENGAGEMENT OF MINE DEVELOPER CUM OPERATOR (MDO) FOR GANDHAMARDAN (BLOCK A AND B) IRON ORE MINES IN THE KEONJHAR DISTRICT OF ODISHA

OMC invites proposals from experienced Mine Developer cum Operators for development, operation and maintenance and carrying out production and dispatch of Iron Ore from each of the Gandhamardan (Block A and B) Iron Ore Mines, located in the Keonjhar district of Odisha, with a total Peak Rated Capacity of 9.47MTPA.

The e-NIT is freely available on the portal of MSTC Limited (www.mstccommerce.com/eprohome/omc) and website of The Odisha Mining Corporation Limited (<http://www.omcltd.in>).

The Bid Documents can be downloaded from the portal of MSTC Limited from 14.10.2020 after registration on the portal of MSTC Limited upon payment of the Bid Document Cost of INR 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Lakhs only) plus applicable GST.

Bid Due Date: 14.12.2020

Any further communications, amendments, etc. will be uploaded on the above portal of MSTC Limited. OMC reserves the right to reject any or all Bids without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Nodal officer for this Bidding Process :

IN BRIEF



Himachal Pradesh CM tests positive for virus

CHANDIGARH Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur tested positive for COVID-19 on Monday. Mr. Thakur, who had been in self-quarantine for the last one week at his residence after coming in touch with a positive person, got himself tested. "In the past two days owing to some symptoms of corona, I got a corona test done today [Monday], which has been reported positive. On the advice of doctors I have isolated myself at my official residence," he said in a tweet.

Bihar Minister Vinod Singh passes away

PATNA Bihar Minister for Backward and Extremely Backward Classes Welfare Vinod Singh passed away in Delhi on Monday. Mr. Singh, 50, was a BJP MLA from the Pranpur Assembly constituency of Kathar district. He was elected MLA thrice from the constituency. Mr. Singh was infected with COVID-19 in June and had not fully recovered. He was admitted to a private hospital in Delhi on August 16. He died on Monday following a brain haemorrhage.

BJP slams Farooq for Article 370 remarks

NEW DELHI The BJP on Monday sharply criticised veteran National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah, terming his remarks seeking Chinese help in restoring Article 370 as "seditious and anti-national". "Article 370 was abrogated by Parliament and done in a constitutional manner," said BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra. Dr. Abdullah had, in an interview, said the face-off between India and China in Eastern Ladakh was a direct consequence of the abrogation of Article 370 which China had not accepted.

Maharashtra records a steady surge in new cases and deaths

Decline in active COVID-19 cases continues for fourth day, says Health Ministry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Maharashtra continues to report more than 10,000 new COVID-19 cases, followed by Karnataka and Kerala with more than 9,000 cases each, said a Union Health Ministry release on Monday. It added that 816 fatalities have been reported in the past 24 hours and of these, nearly 85% are concentrated in 10 States and Union Territories. More than 37% of the new fatalities reported are from Maharashtra (309 deaths).

The Ministry, however, added that India continues to report a trend of steadily decreasing active cases and the decline continues for the fourth day. Active cases have now dropped below 9 lakh. "Presently, the active cases comprise 12.1% of the total positive cases of the country, standing at 8,61,853. India is also reporting a high number of recoveries. The total recovered cases are close to 61.5 lakh [61,49,535]. The difference between active cases and recovered cases is consistently increasing and

Viral tracker

With 53,516 COVID-19 cases recorded on Monday, India's tally stood at 71,72,737. As many as 676 deaths were registered, taking the toll to 10,09,899. A total of 9.9 lakh samples were tested on October 11, according to the ICMR.

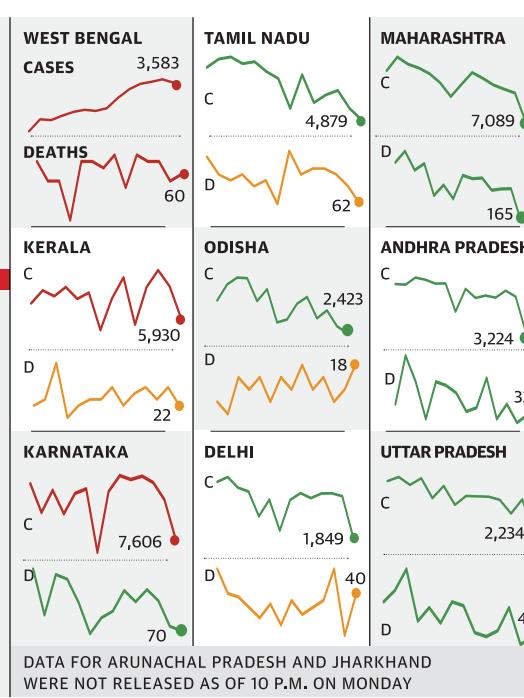
NEW CASES AND DEATHS

CASES	7 DAY-CHANGE
53,516	-24.5%
676	-31.3%

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

stands at 52,87,682 today," the Ministry said. It added that 71,559 patients have recovered in the last 24 hours, whereas the new confirmed cases are 66,732.

Of the new recovered cases, 77% are observed to be



concentrated in 10 States/UTs. Maharashtra and Karnataka contributed more than 10,000 to the single-day recovery.

As many as 66,732 new confirmed cases were recorded in the last 24 hours

and 81% of these are from the same 10 States and UTs.

The Union Health Ministry has also released material encouraging youth to advocate against the discrimination/stigma during COVID-19.

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The leaders are Rajendra Singh, Usha Vidyarthi, Rameshwar Chaurasia, Minal Shekhar, Ravindra Yadav, Shweta Singh, Indu Kashyap, Anil Kumar and Ajay Pratap. They were ticket hopefuls in the NDA.

The LJP had declared that it would contest the election against the JD(U) but not the BJP. Names of all the nine BJP leaders had figured in the list of the LJP.

Earlier, the BJP leaders had categorically announced that those who contest the election against NDA candidates would not be in the party.

Moreover, they would not be allowed to use Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pictures during the election campaign.

"We would also request the Election Commission to take action against those using Prime Minister Modi's pictures except NDA candidates," Mr. Jaiswal said.



Sanjay Jaiswal

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BJP expels 9 leaders contesting in Bihar

They had filed their nomination papers for the Assembly election on LJP ticket

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) late on Monday night expelled nine of its party leaders, who have filed their nominations for the Assembly election on the Lok Janashakti Party (LJP) ticket, on disciplinary grounds.

State president Sanjay Jaiswal expelled them for six years for anti-party activities.

"You all are contesting the elections against NDA candidates and it tarnishes not on-

from the party for six years," said the letter issued by Mr. Jaiswal.

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REVIEW

The Samsung Galaxy Z Fold2 has a lot to offer, most noticeably its larger tablet display — but is it just a gimmick?

Double trouble

DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

Today we will just dive right into the Samsung Galaxy Z Fold2; the device does not need a flowery introduction. It is pricey, flashy and comes with a host of new features... but is it worth the hype?

A major design upgrade from its predecessor, in the Galaxy Fold, bezels are thinner, the stainless steel body is sturdier, and the front screen is larger. If you are keen to be part of the brand's chic Mystic Bronze gang, there is a variant available.

The Galaxy Z Fold2 is not pocket-friendly, quite literally. It stands out like an awkward, long brick in a typical skinny jeans' pocket and is a tight squeeze. Weighing 282 grams, it is certainly not on the lighter side, given most recent smartphones range between 180 to 220 grams. Those using or investing in this device will know full well the weight comes out in the double screen and the hinge mechanism.

Two-faced experiences

Speaking of the screens, the front screen may take some getting used to; after all, a 21:9 aspect ratio means this device has the tallest screen on a smartphone so far.

I would recommend the front screen for quick tasks, simple browsing, checking texts, playing music — basically things that do not require much visual fuel. Texting and emailing will be a hassle as the touch keyboard keys seem too congested for a seamless typing experience.

The front screen has a maximum of 90Hz refresh rate, which makes sense as Samsung clearly aims to prioritise the fold-out screen which has a 120Hz refresh rate. The front screen comes with Corning Gorilla Glass Victus which is pretty tough but not exactly as invincible as it has been marketed. (The Samsung Galaxy Note 20 Ultra I reviewed — which debuted the Victus — got two rather noticeable scratches pretty early on.)

The fold-out 7.6-inch Infinity-O Cover main screen has Samsung Ultra Thin Glass, which does not exactly feel tough. Its design is anchored by the Hideaway Hinge (as seen in Samsung's Galaxy Z Flip), which fits seamlessly into the device body with the CAM (computer-aided manufacturing) mechanism and enables free standing capabilities that power all new Flex mode experiences. Plus, the hinge itself comes with modified fibre composition and adjusted fibre density on the screen, so it is bendable but not weak.

I wouldn't use the Galaxy Z Fold2 as a productivity alternative to, say, a larger tablet or a laptop, but I was impressed by the ability to multi-task with two apps on the Cover Screen, and how I was able to move it to the Main Screen, open a third app with Split Screen, which was useful during interviews and team meetings when I wanted several things

Given there is such a heavy multitasking focus on this device, the option of including an S-Pen would be appreciated



Eye-catching The Samsung Galaxy Z Fold2 comes with two impressive displays ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SPECIFICATIONS

DISPLAY: Main Screen : 7.6" QXGA+ Dynamic AMOLED 2X Display (22.5:18) Infinity Flex Display (2208 x 1768), 373ppi ; Cover Screen : 6.2" HD+ Super AMOLED Display (25:9), 2260 x 816, 386ppi

DIMENSIONS & WEIGHT:
Folded: 68.0 x 159.2 x 16.8mm (Hinge) - 13.8mm (Sagging), Unfolded: 128.2 x 159.2 x 6.9mm(Frame) - 6.0mm(Screen) ; 282g

FRONT & COVER CAMERAS:
10MP Selfie Camera : F2.2, Pixel size: 1.22 micrometres, FOV: 80°

AP: 7nm 64-bit Octa-Core Processor (3.09 GHz + 2.40 GHz + 1.80 GHz)

BATTERY & CHARGING:
4500mAh (typical) dual battery, Fast Charging-compatible



thrown up on my screen.

Given there is such a heavy multitasking focus on this device, the option of including an S-Pen for this would be appreciated. Using the camera on this device is actually a surprising treat; though it is not as elaborate a camera as the S20 Ultra, it does produce great results, particularly in video. The aspect ratio can be customised before shooting so be sure to adjust that as needed.

The Galaxy Z Fold2, with this in mind, employs sweeper technology (first introduced, once again, on the Galaxy Z Flip) within the gap between the body and hinge housing to repel dust and undesirable particles. At this point of my review, I cannot say this feature works completely, but we can point out this exists and hopes to work in the long-term to avoid gross buildup that would be difficult to clean.

Unfolded, the smartphone forays into ta-

ble territory. The 120Hz refresh rate makes for an impressive gaming experience; I played a couple of hours of Fortnite and the display kept up with the instincts of the quick-fire battle royale game. The 4500mAh battery holds up extremely well, given I was considering the main screen to be a single display instead of a double display. Paired with the Galaxy Buds Live made the experience more immersive with improved sound latency. I was able to get about a day and a half's worth of battery from this model.

Ultimately, the Galaxy Z Fold2 is a good bucket-list smartphone for those with deep pockets — pun intended — but it is only a matter of time before similar concepts are brought out in other brand smartphones for far less. For me, though, this device takes a lot of getting used to; I do not need multiple options on a single device. I am fairly happy with my 'so 2019' single screen smartphone, thank you.

The Samsung Galaxy Z Fold2, available in Mystic Bronze and Mystic Black, retails for ₹149,999 across major retailers and e-tailers.

A visa-less VR trip

If you are bored at Delhi Airport, hop into a planetarium-like dome to teleport to your next holiday



DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

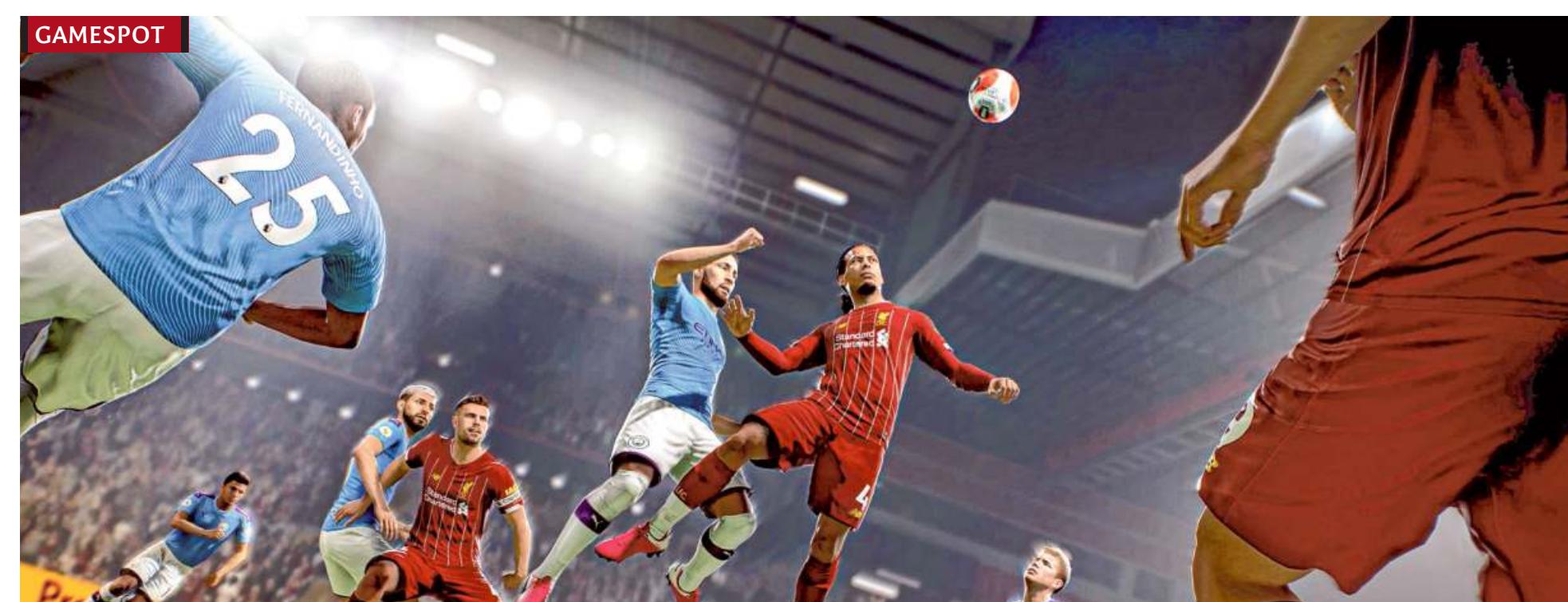
Instagram and Facebook can only go so far to satiate your 'travel thirst'. If you happen to be in Terminal 3 near Gate 41 at Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi, for yet another quarantine-related trip, you can take a spontaneous journey by stepping into a lime green dome in the terminal which will instantly transport you to a place of your choice for a fraction of the cost. This is the latest VR project (which does not require a head-set) of QuaQua, a Hyderabad-based end-to-end virtual travel platform focussed on providing people with 360-degree experiences.

Sandesh Reddy, co-founder of QuaQua, says the optics and timings for this three-year installation are apt, but the ideation has been since pre-COVID-19 times. He recalls, "We had been sitting on so much content, we wanted to monetise it and take it to the general public. What better place than Delhi airport which sees huge amounts of traffic, both local and international?" QuaQua realised that no airport in the world has a theatrical experience, so they came up with the first permanent installation of a dome in an airport in the world.

So how does it work? As per airport rules, sanitisation, mask-wearing and physical distancing rules are strict. The dome, which is sanitised hourly, can hold up to 16 people, but physical distancing measures allows a maximum of four people in, after a travel experience is chosen. What follows is a projection of five to seven minutes.

Experiences include a day/night walk-through of Venice, Italy, and of Luxor Temple, Egypt. So far, the feedback has been one of collective excitement. "The content, based on feedback, is refreshed every month and a half. We started with two titles on launch day and now we are close to 10. We have child-friendly animated content such as outer space or underwater titles for really immersive experiences."

GAMESPOT



Sport and spirit

On the surface FIFA 21 may seem the same, but under the hood are small tweaks that bring the game closer to the offline sport

JULIAN ALMEIDA

Sports games that come out every year have it tough; tweaking gameplay, updating stats and rosters, and rolling out novel features, all to justify another purchase — especially after the powerhouse release last year which introduced VOLTA, EA Sports' narrative innovation, which will permit gamers to take football back to the streets, away from the familiar arenas of big clubs. (Volta is also Portuguese for 'return')

That said, there seems to be a pattern, as FIFA 21 — launched globally on October 9 — seems to be an all-round improvement this year, not just in the look but in the feel.

After the hue and cry around the disappointing career mode in FIFA 20, the latest game buffs up the single-player experience. FIFA 21 plays like a management simulation, where you lay down

strategies for a successful team. You seem to become a more active football manager, where you can realistically simulate a game and play out different plans in real time. However, if you want to get a bit hands on, you can jump anytime into the game and play it yourself. The abilities to trade players on the market, train your team and set your tactics are fun.

The other single-player mode comes with VOLTA, too. The other modes too, such as Ultimate Team, have got small improvements and key additions — including co-op with a friend to take on rival teams — that make the game a lot more fun. All welcome features but nothing revolutionary.

New kicks

The best user experiences are the invisible ones, and FIFA 21 has a lot going for it under the hood. There is more focus on the defensive aspects of the

New kicks
Screenshots of FIFA 21, taken on a PlayStation 5 ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

game, given FIFA has always been attacker-friendly. A favourite gameplay feature is Agile Dribbling, which holds down the right shoulder button and use the thumbstick to allow the player with the ball to have precise control of the ball; a skilled player can ma-



nœuvre out of tight player dragnets on the pitch towards the goal. Creative Runs, another great feature, allows some control on how your teammates move around you, easily positioning them for a strategic pass. EA has also added a

better player AI personality, so players in the game will behave a lot like the real players, in both offence and defence vertically. Other behind-the-scenes

changes include a better collision system, that aims to bring about more natural movements and interactions between players, which in previous games saw a lot of falling down and other goof ups. It goes without saying that the game looks great, updated

FIFA 21
DEVELOPER: EA Sports
PUBLISHER: EA
PRICE: ₹2,499 on Playstation 4, Xbox One and PC ; coming soon on Playstation 5 and Xbox Series X/S

with all the latest rosters of your favourite matches. FIFA has shaped itself over the years as a true interactive representation of not only the sport but also its spirit: from the fans' animation in the stands to the on-pitch emotions running wild, this release captures everything loved about the entire franchise.

As expected, EA has also included two sets of distinctly different soundtracks (from more than 100 artists from 23 different countries) for both the tournament and VOLTA modes.

If your next gen console pre-order has not been cancelled in the ensuing supply scarcity following the pandemic, then wait and play FIFA 21 on your brand new next gen console as soon as it arrives. If you skipped out on FIFA 20, it is a great reason to jump on the new game. A lot of FIFA 21's changes prove that it is one of the best football games on the market today, and while it is short on large features, its improvements are worth its price tag.

The writer is a tech and gaming enthusiast who hopes to one day finish his sci-fi novel



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At 46, Thaika Street, in seaside Kayalpattinam, stands an ancestral home that now drives change in the town by showcasing local talent and craft



House of history

CHITRADEEPAN ANANTHARAM

Chennai in a Box, captures the essence of the city within a small bamboo frame, including *bajji* shops, the Lighthouse, Central Station and other heritage buildings.

The painting is by an Engineering student from Chennai, who returned home to Kayalpattinam, a seashore town in Thoothukudi district, during the lockdown. It is now on Instagram, @46Thaikastreet, an account run by Jariya Azeem in Kayalpattinam.

Jariya launched Abati (which means 'My Father' in Arabic), a store focussing on handmade products at her ancestral home, with the intention of giving back to her town. "Most of the women here (predominantly Muslim) remain homemakers, with no opportunity to exhibit their knowledge and talent," says 29-year-old Jariya, an MBA.

"Although I am from Kayalpattinam, I was raised in Chennai and we visited only during vacations. When we decided to settle here a few years ago, I began to see this town from a different perspective," she adds, explaining that she is currently focussing on tapping into the talents of women from her community and highlighting the rich cultural heritage of Kayalpattinam.

"The town is one of the oldest trading ports along the coast of Tamil Nadu. A strong Arab and Sri Lankan influence is seen in its cuisine and culture," she explains.

Jariya motivated her sister Afeera Azeez, a home baker, to launch Abati Cakes and the venture was an instant hit. By then Jariya was familiar with Kayalpattinam, and had made some friends. "I began to spot talent in tailoring, embroidery, calligraphy, *mehendi* art, painting and so on. Then, I started giving them ideas and motivated the women, who would otherwise never openly exhibit their skills."

For instance, she came across a handmade *vattuvam*, an ethnic sling bag made of cloth, which women traditionally used to carry money. On learning that 80-year-old Ayesha *kamma* (grandmother) was adept at making *vattuvams* in all sizes, she collaborated with her to create a range using recycled cloth.

Jariya says, "She was thrilled by the attention she got and her family also encouraged her. They are completely handmade, with double lining and compartments. Many young girls learn from her and today we design *vattuvams* in silk and other material as well," says Jariya adding that they also embroider the bags.

Abati also sells terracotta artefacts,



clothes, palm leaf and wooden show pieces. Jariya focusses on upcycling and recycling. She says the products are valuable as material is sourced locally, designed by local artists and hand-crafted.

For calligraphy, she developed and designed mementos using terracotta plates sourced from a village nearby. "We have an artist who creates wonders with these plates and in combination with artistic calligraphy, these are constantly in demand," she says.

As palm trees are in abundance in the region, palm leaf baskets are part

Going local (Clockwise from top-left) Palmleaf products at the shop; terracotta plates; Chennai in a box; the Abati store and handcrafted greeting cards • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

of the culture – Jariya has put up a range of these eco-friendly products as well.

Slowly the boutique began to grow within her home. She says, "I put my heart and soul into bringing out the local art of Kayalpattinam, and gradually, I set up a shop in a portion in my house."

Soon, her house, initially known only for Abati Cakes, became a hub for arts and crafts and she started promoting them on social media. "As many who hail from this town live overseas, they connected with this project and youngsters who live in neighbouring towns started showing interest," she says.

The address of the craft shop, 46 Thaika Street, is Jariya's social media handle. "There is heritage in every street here, with centuries-old *dargahs*, fascinating local history and amazing traditional food," says Jariya. Though the pandemic is a challenge now, she has plans for when life returns to normal. "I hope to conduct a heritage walk in Kayalpattinam in the future."



Wallet and faith, found

Thanks to a vigilant cyclist in Mumbai, a lighting store owner had his wallet returned to him

SUNALINI MATHEW

Last Saturday in Mumbai, Chetan Patel was out at 5.30 in the morning on his motorbike, zipping from Andheri to Santa Cruz, approximately seven kilometres away. "My friend was leaving town, and didn't have money. The ATM near his place wasn't working," says the 25-year-old, who is part of a family that runs a lighting store in the city.

He lost his balance on a speed breaker, but regained it quickly and was on his way to his friend's. There, he realised he had lost his wallet, and proceeded to cancel his debit card.

Behind him was a cyclist, Vijay Malhotra, who saw Chetan lose balance and also saw something drop. He came up from behind, picked up the wallet, and tried to chase Chetan, but was not able to catch up.

"After finishing my ride, I went home and

Reaching out Chetan Patel and Vijay Malhotra • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tried to find his contact in his wallet," says Vijay, who found the money and a driver's license, besides the card in the wallet. "I searched for him on Facebook as per his name on the driving license, but could not find him." He called a friend who suggested they contact the bank, where he himself had an account.

The HDFC relationship manager said he could not divulge customer details, but was happy to patch a call through.

Once that was done, Chetan had his wallet back the same day, with about ₹6,000, his license and card.

"He is the best guy ever," says Chetan, of Vijay, who started Pedal and Tring Tring, a blog about cycling, fitness and the outdoors. Vijay lost a laptop last month, when he stepped out to feed the birds in front of his house, and someone entered and took it away. "Having suffered a loss myself, I could understand the pain of losing something valuable," he says. He advocates for cyclists, who he says are always alert and aware of their surroundings.

A love song for pets

The recently released video of Raghu Dixit's song 'Tsunami', propagating pet adoption, features 100 photographs of people and their pets from all over the country



Puppy power The song features the voices of Raghu Dixit and actress Samyukta Hornad • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SHILPA ANANDRAJ

PERFECT FIT

Though Samyukta Hornad, who started her film career with the Kannada film *Lifeu Ishtene*, has never sung in public, she says that at home she often sings with her mother and grandmother.

As an animal activist who passionately advocates animal adoption, she seemed to be a perfect choice for Raghu Dixit's video. "When Raghu asked me to sing for *Tsunami*, I was apprehensive as I had no training in singing at all," she says. "When we met for the project, Raghu was kind enough to train me. I went through a few days of vocal training and then the song was recorded."

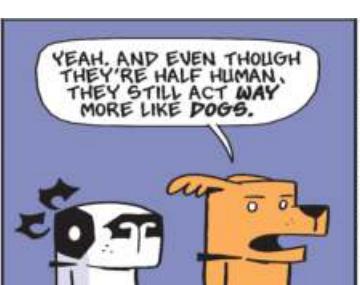
Samyukta is happy that she got to explore her musical side with this project. On the film front, she is looking forward to the release of the Tamil film *Red Rum* and the Kannada film *Arishadvarga*.

Lovers across the country: "Each person had to write two lines about their pet and send it with their pictures. We received images and stories featuring roosters, dogs, cows, ducks and parrots."

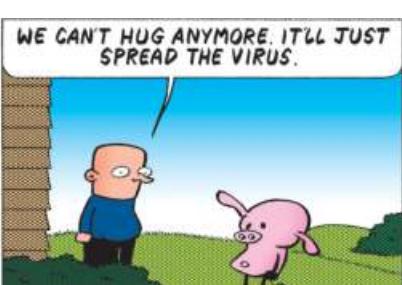
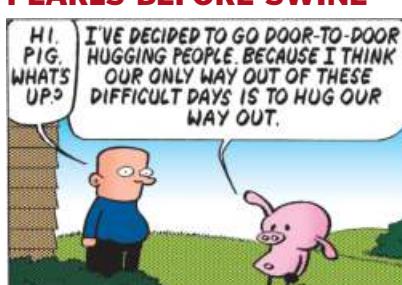
Of the 1,500 photographs they received, they managed to accommodate 100 in the video, says Raghu.

The singer also credits his filmmaker-friend Samuel Adams for shooting the bit at Charlie's Animal Rescue Centre in Bengaluru. The Hindi lyrics have been written by Neeraj Rajawat, and Raghavendra V Kamath has written the Kannada lyrics. Raghu is currently busy composing music for Kannada films *Nina Sanhakke* and *Orchestra*.

POOCH CAFE



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



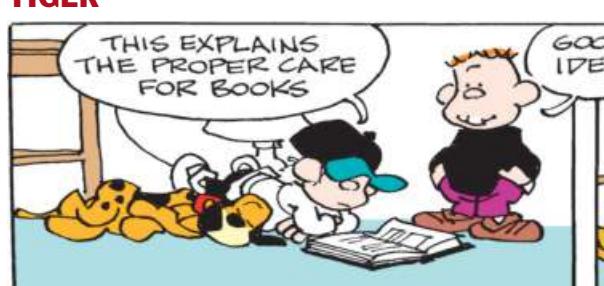
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



PEANUTS



TIGER



CALVIN AND HOBBES



American duo win Economics Nobel

Paul Milgrom, Robert Wilson honoured for their work on auctions that has helped buyers and sellers

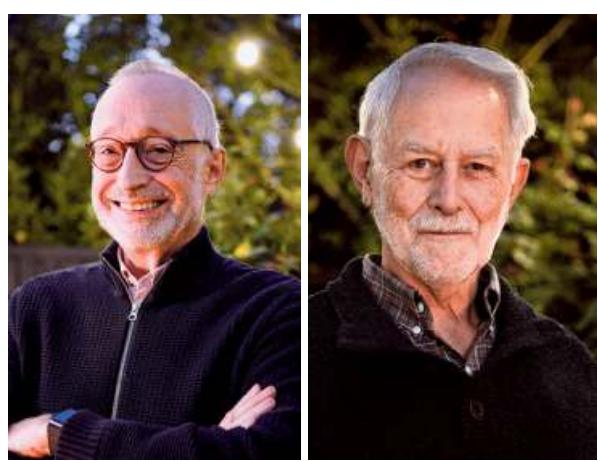
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
STOCKHOLM

U.S. economists Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson won the Nobel Economics Prize on Monday for work on commercial auctions, including for goods and services difficult to sell in traditional ways such as radio frequencies, the Nobel Committee said.

The duo was honoured "for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats," the jury said.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences noted that the discoveries by Mr. Milgrom, 72, and Mr. Wilson, 83, "have benefitted sellers, buyers and taxpayers around the world," it said in a statement.

Mr. Wilson, a professor at Stanford in the U.S., was



Economists Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson. ■ REUTERS

spotlighted for developing a theory for auctions with a common value, "a value which is uncertain beforehand but, in the end, is the same for everyone," according to the academy.

Mr. Wilson's work showed

why rational bidders tend to bid under their own estimate of the worth due to worries over the "winner's curse," or winning the auction but paying too much.

Mr. Milgrom, also at Stanford, then came up with a

more general theory of auctions, by analysing bidding strategies in different auction forms.

The academy noted that while "people have always sold things to the highest bidder," societies have also had to allocate "ever more complex objects... such as landing slots and radio frequencies."

Broad societal benefit

"In response, Milgrom and Wilson invented new formats for auctioning off many interrelated objects simultaneously, on behalf of a seller motivated by broad societal benefit rather than maximal revenue," the academy said.

The winners will share the prize sum of 10 million Swedish kronor (about \$1.1 million or €950,000).

Speaking to reporters in

Stockholm via a telephone link, Mr. Wilson said the announcement had been "very happy news," conceding that despite his research focus he himself had "never participated in an auction".

However, he quickly had to retract his statement. "My wife is pointing out that we bought ski boots on eBay, I guess that was an auction," Mr. Wilson said.

Last year, the honour went to French-American Esther Duflo, Indian-born Abhijit Banerjee of the U.S., and American Michael Kremer for their experimental work on alleviating poverty.

The award closes the 2020 Nobel season, which saw the closely-watched peace prize awarded to the UN's World Food Programme for its efforts to fight hunger.

Sri Lanka in talks to secure \$500 mn in Chinese loans

Pompeo is also likely to visit Colombo later this month

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

On the heels of a top Chinese delegation's visit to Sri Lanka, Colombo is negotiating a \$500 million loan with Beijing as it gears up to repay a daunting \$4.5 billion of its outstanding debt next year.

The Chinese Embassy

tweeted on Sunday that "a \$500 million concessional loan" requested by Sri Lanka's Ministry of Finance to a "China financial institute" is under negotiation, but yet to be finalised. This is in addition to Beijing's \$90 million grant to Sri Lanka, announced days after a visit by a Chinese delegation led by Yang Jiechi, a top foreign policy official in the Beijing administration. If sanctioned, the loan will take Sri Lanka's total borrowings from China over \$1 billion, after the \$500 million "urgent financial assistance" that Beijing extended in March to help Sri Lanka cope with the economic impact of the pandemic.

News of the visit assumes significance, coming a year after Secretary Pompeo cancelled his scheduled visit to Sri Lanka. Though the Embassy cited "scheduling conflicts" as reason last June, the development coincided with considerable resistance here, to the then proposed 'Visiting Forces Agreement' (VFA) with the US. The Rajapaksa administration has also opposed the Millennium Challenge Corporation Agreement – for a \$480 million grant – negotiated by the former government.



Mahinda Rajapaksa, right, and Yang Jiechi in Colombo on October 9. ■ AFP

Colombo had earlier indicated that it was considering making such a request. "The focus now is on possible investment from China, not just loans," an official source said, a fortnight after the U.S.-based credit rating agency Moody's downgraded Sri Lanka's sovereign credit rating by two notches, to the "very high credit risk" category.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, during his visit to New Delhi in February, had sought a debt moratorium from India, to help Sri Lanka tackle the debt repayment schedule.

The negotiations come at a time when Sri Lanka is mulling ways to repay its mounting foreign loans. State Minister of Money and Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms Ajith Nivard Cabral recently told the media that Sri Lanka is "exploring all options", including the \$1 billion currency agreement with India – under negotiation – greater investment in the securities market and bonds, as well as a \$700 million syndicated loan from China.

Theatre of geopolitics

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka is gearing up for yet another likely "high-level visit" later this month, pointing to the heightened geopolitical interest in the strategically located island nation. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo "is expected to

come", Foreign Secretary Admiral Jayanath Colombo told the *Sunday Times*. While the U.S. Embassy here told *The Hindu* "no official visit has been confirmed at this time", sources mentioned October 27 as the likely date, around the time of the scheduled visit of Mr. Pompeo and U.S. Defence Secretary Mark Esper to India.

Further, if Secretary Pompeo visits Sri Lanka, he would be coming weeks after attending the Australia-India-Japan-U.S. Quadrilateral (Quad) Foreign Minister's meeting in Tokyo. Members of the Quad will be closely watching the Rajapaksa administration's engagement with Beijing for more reasons than one. Last month, Sri Lanka ordered the termination of a \$1.5-billion Japanese-funded light rail project on grounds that it is not a "cost-effective solution" for Colombo and raising "environmental" concerns. Moreover, the East Container Terminal in Colombo that India and Japan agreed to jointly develop with Sri Lanka last year, has run into trouble with workers opposing "foreign involvement" in "national assets".

U.S. Senate begins Barrett's confirmation hearing

Democrats will scrutinise the Trump nominee for her views on Obamacare



Judge Amy Coney Barrett

The U.S. Senate kicked off a four-day confirmation hearing of President Donald Trump's nominee Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court, with Republican and Democratic lawmakers outlining their party positions on policy and their views on the fact that a hearing is taking place at all, this close to Election Day on November 3.

Judge Barrett, whose record of judgments and statements puts her on the conservative side of the Bench, was nominated by President Donald Trump on September 26 as a replacement for liberal justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died in September.

The COVID problem in America is real, it's serious, it's dangerous," Mr. Graham said, striking a markedly different note from Mr. Trump and the White House whose nomination ceremony for

tember. The Court will have a 6-3 conservative-liberal split, possibly for decades, if the 48-year-old Ms. Barrett is confirmed.

The hearings are taking place in the shadow of the coronavirus pandemic that has killed more than 2,15,000 Americans. At the start of the hearing, Senate Judiciary Chairman Lindsey Graham said the room had been set up to be compliant with CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) regulations.

"The COVID problem in America is real, it's serious, it's dangerous," Mr. Graham said, striking a markedly different note from Mr. Trump and the White House whose nomination ceremony for

liberal justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died in Sep-

on in the election cycle and had said if a judicial opening occurs in the last year Mr. Trump's term, the Republicans would wait until after the election to decide on a new candidate, sought to explain his volte face in his opening remarks.

"The bottom line here is that the Senate is doing its duty constitutionally," he said, acknowledging that it was going to be a "long, contentious week." Mr. Graham suggested his opposition to nominations in the final year of a Presidency only applied when the President and Senate majorities were from different political parties.

World is watching'

Calling for a "respectful" but "challenging" hearing, he said, "Let's remember the world is watching."

Ranking Member (Democ-

rat) Dianne Feinstein said Democrats too hoped to have a "very good hearing". In her opening remarks, she said the Democrats would focus on the Affordable Care Act (ACA), an Obama-era healthcare policy establishing universal coverage, which the Trump administration is trying to overturn in Court. The Supreme Court will hear the case in November.

"Most importantly, healthcare coverage for millions of Americans is at stake with this nomination," Ms. Feinstein said. She also referred to Judge Barrett's criticism of an opinion by Chief Justice Roberts, who had sided with the liberal judges in, thus far, upholding the ACA.

Democrats had tried to stop the confirmation, which they say should take place after the elections.

'Climate change to blame for doubling of disasters'

7,348 natural disasters since 2000: UN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GENEVA

"We are wilfully destructive," UNDRR chief Mami Mizutori told reporters. "That is the only conclusion one can come to when reviewing disaster events over the last 20 years."

The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction said 7,348 major disaster events had occurred between 2000 and 2019, claiming 1.23 lives, affecting 4.2 billion people and costing the global economy some \$2.97 trillion.

The figure far outstrips the 4,212 major natural disasters recorded between 1980 and 1999, the UN office said in a new report entitled "The Human Cost of Disasters 2000-2019".

The sharp increase was largely attributable to a rise in climate-related disasters, including extreme weather events like floods, drought and storms, the report said.

Extreme heat is proving especially deadly.

The report did not touch on biological hazards and disease-related disasters like the coronavirus pandemic.

But Ms. Mizutori suggested coronavirus was "the latest proof that political and business leaders are yet to tune in to the world around them".

Turkey to send research ship to Mediterranean

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ANKARA

Turkey will redeploy the research ship at the centre of an energy row with Greece to the eastern Mediterranean on Monday, a decision slammed by Athens as a "direct threat to peace".

The row over gas exploration in the eastern Mediterranean saw the two NATO countries stage rival military drills in August.

Greece claims rights over the waters around its island of Kastellorizo but Turkey says its longer coastline makes the territory a legitimate area for its vessels to explore. The Turkish Navy said the Oruc Reis ship will carry out activities in the region, including the south of Kastellorizo, until October 22. The vessel will be joined in the latest "seismic survey" mission by two other ships called Ataman and Cengiz Han, the message said.

with a nerve agent, diplomats said.

Berlin and Paris made their proposal at a meeting of EU Foreign Ministers in Luxembourg. They said they have not had a credible explanation from Moscow for

EU to sanction Russia over Navalny

what the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) said was the presence of the banned Soviet-era nerve agent Novichok in Mr. Navalny's body.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said that Mr. Navalny's poisoning could not "remain without consequences". EU diplomats said there was broad support among the 27 Foreign Ministers for asset freezes and travel bans on several Russian GRU intelligence officials.

Sealed Tenders are invited under Two Bid System (Part I - TECHNO-COMMERCIAL BID & Part II PRICE BID) at C-MET, Hyderabad for the supply, installation, demonstration and training of the following items/equipment:

Kerala State Co-operative Bank E-Tender Notice

The Kerala State Co-operative Bank invites separate bids from eligible bidders through https://etenders.kerala.gov.in for the procurement of the following:

Tender ID 2020_KSCB_390814_1	Selection of service provider for CBS, allied services and setting up of DC/DR/NDR
Tender ID 2020_KSCB_390830_1	Selection of service provider for comprehensive omni-channel solution

Only e-tender through the above platform will be accepted and tender submitted in any other form will be summarily rejected. For further details please visit www.keralacabcon.com

Thiruvananthapuram Date: 09.10.2020

SD/ CEO, The KSCB Ltd.

CENTRE FOR MATERIALS FOR ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY (C-MET) (A Scientific Society, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Govt. of India)

IDA Phase-III, Cherlapadu, HCL (PO), Hyderabad - 500 051
Telangana State, INDIA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Date: 13.10.2020

Sealed Tenders are invited under Two Bid System (Part I - TECHNO-COMMERCIAL BID & Part II PRICE BID) at C-MET, Hyderabad for the supply, installation, demonstration and training of the following items/equipment:

Name of the Item: Bench Top EDXRF Spectrometer

Tender No.: HD/PUR/SP-44/EDXRF/01/2020-21

Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : 09.11.2020 up to 17:00 Hrs IST

For Details and Tender Document, please visit our website http://www.cmet.gov.in & also CPPP portal.

Sd/- DIRECTOR

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

CIN: U8511KA1970SGC001919

No. KPCL/2020-21/PS/WORK_INDENT/1034/CALL-2 Dated: 08.10.2020

NOTICE INVITING BID

DOMESTIC COMPETITIVE BIDDING-ABSTRACT TENDER NOTIFICATION

KPCL invites bids through GoK e-procurement platform www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in from the qualified bidders for the work of Design, engineering, manufacture, Quality Surveillance, inspection & testing at supplier's works, supply, packing, forwarding to site, transportation, F.O.R. BTFS, unloading, storage, preservation, handling at site, all mechanical, C&I systems, electrical equipment and systems, steel structures, civil works with new chimney, insurance, erection, painting, start-up, trial operation, testing, commissioning, performance guarantee testing and warranty for wet lime stone flue gas desulphurization plant for 2X500MW, Units-1 & 2 and 1X700MW, Unit-3 of BTFS of KPCL, Kudlithini, Bellary District, Karnataka and handing over to the Owner an operating plant and Operation & Maintenance of FGD system including supply of spares & consumables for Three (3) years as per the scope identified in the technical specification of the Bid document of BTFS 2X500MW, Units-1 & 2 and 1X700MW, Unit-3. Those who have not registered in e-procurement portal www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in may do so in order to participate in the bid. Last date for receipt of queries if any through e-procurement cell only. Date of pre-bid meeting, if required for technical clarification at KPCL, Bangalore. Uploading replies to queries. Last date for submission of Technical Bid Cover-1 along with EMD and Price Bid Cover-I through e-procurement cell: 04.11.2020 at 17:00 Hrs. Opening of Technical Bids (Cover-I): 04.11.2020 at 11:00 Hrs. Opening of Price Bids (Cover-II): Will be intimated later. Further details can be had from the office of the Chief Engineer (Thermal Designs), KPCL, No. 3, 2nd Floor, Green Building, Drug Controller Department Premises, Palace Road, Bengaluru-560 001. E-mail: cetcpcp@karnataka.gov.in; sem1cetc@karnataka.gov.in; eem3cetc@karnataka.gov.in Website: www.karnatakaphower.com

Death penalty for rape in Bangladesh

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DHAKA

Bangladesh introduced the death penalty for rape on Monday after days of protests sparked by a string of sexual assaults, the government said.

Demonstrations have broken out across the country after harrowing footage of a group of men stripping and attacking a woman went viral on social media. The clip sparked outrage in the South Asian country, where activists say only a tiny percentage of sexual assault victims see justice.

Previously, the maximum punishment for rape was life imprisonment.

Anti-microbe drug can fight coronavirus, say scientists

Common drug used to treat stomach ulcers shows promise

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

An affordable anti-microbial drug used to treat stomach ulcers and bacterial infections has shown promise in combating the coronavirus in animals, scientists in Hong Kong announced on Monday.

MARKET WATCH

	12-10-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	40,594	-0.21
US Dollar	73.28	-0.16
Gold	52,073	-0.10
Brent oil	41.79	-3.38

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	357.65	0.45
Asian Paints	2077.85	27.25
Axis Bank	468.00	-0.05
Bajaj Auto	3022.75	-37.05
Bajaj Finserv	5912.75	-2.45
Bajaj Finance	3327.20	9.30
Bharti Airtel	415.05	-10.15
BPCL	341.60	-3.40
Britannia Ind	3731.50	-13.60
Cipla	813.65	10.50
Coal India	113.20	-1.70
Divis Lab	3207.25	17.25
Dr Reddys Lab	5220.50	67.50
Eicher Motors	2181.35	-36.60
GAIL (India)	83.85	-1.85
Grasim Ind	744.70	-0.40
HCL Tech.	865.80	10.05
HDFC	1965.40	7.75
HDFC Bank	1213.65	19.90
HDFC Life	563.40	-10.40
Hero MotoCorp	3284.70	-42.70
Hindalco	172.15	2.15
Hind Unilever	2138.40	-1.25
ICICI Bank	404.05	2.55
IndusInd Bank	614.45	-8.60
Infosys	1132.10	25.30
Indian Oil Corp	75.70	-0.80
ITC	172.20	4.35
JSW Steel	285.15	-6.85
Kotak Bank	1312.90	-6.95
L&T	905.75	-2.70
M&M	634.40	1.20
Maruti Suzuki	7136.65	74.25
Nestle India Ltd.	15902.20	-131.90
NTPC	82.75	-0.15
ONGC	69.15	-1.15
PowerGrid Corp	159.80	1.80
Reliance Ind	2237.05	3.60
SBI Life	791.65	-14.25
State Bank	198.70	0.40
Shree Cement	20956.10	-242.40
Sun Pharma	513.90	1.00
Tata Motors	135.90	-2.55
Tata Steel	371.10	1.60
TCS	2830.00	17.05
Tech Mahindra	856.90	2.75
Titan	1256.75	1.55
UltraTech Cement	4306.30	7.95
UPL	507.10	9.80
Wipro	377.50	3.50

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.07	73.39
Euro	86.29	86.69
British Pound	95.13	95.54
Japanese Yen (100)	69.20	69.52
Chinese Yuan	10.83	10.88
Swiss Franc	80.18	80.55
Singapore Dollar	53.85	54.09
Canadian Dollar	55.63	55.90
Malaysian Ringgit	17.62	17.72
Australian Dollar	52.77	53.00

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



Rajeshwar Rao to look after regulation at RBI

MUMBAI The RBI on Monday reallocated the portfolios of deputy governors, with the department of regulation entrusted to the newly-appointed M. Rajeshwar Rao. Mr. Rao was executive director of the Reserve Bank before being elevated to the post of deputy governor. He took the new charge last week. Mr. Rao was appointed to the post vacated by N. S. Vishwanathan. PTI

TVS Motor rolls out 4-millionth TVS Apache

CHENNAI TVS Motor Co. Ltd, a maker of two- and three-wheelers, on Monday rolled out the 4-millionth TVS Apache from its Mysuru factory. "It is a momentous day for us at TVS Motor Company, as we achieve the 4-million global sales milestone for our premium motorcycle brand, TVS Apache," said K.N. Radhakrishnan, director and chief executive officer, TVS Motor Co. Ltd.

'Telecom ARPU poised for structural uptrend'

NEW DELHI The Telecom industry's Average Revenue Per User (ARPU) is expected to see a 'structural uptrend' via a mix of tariff hikes, a report said. The note by JM Financial said, with the consolidation in India's telecom industry largely complete, the wireless industry's revenue is expected to double to about ₹2,60,000 crore by 2024-25 as an increase in ARPU looks 'inevitable.' PTI

Sundaram Blue Chip NFO to reopen on Oct. 14

CHENNAI The New Fund Offering (NFO) by Sundaram Blue Chip Fund, an open-ended equity scheme of Sundaram Mutual, has garnered more than ₹650 crore. The NFO was open from September 17 to October 1. The fund will reopen for subscription on October 14. Despite the challenges of the lockdown, this figure was a significant rise over the previous two NFOs, the fund house said.

CMYK

Factory output shrinks for sixth month

Industrial production contracts 8% in August; food, transport costs drive consumer inflation to 7.3%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India's industrial output fell for the sixth month in a row this August, even as consumer price inflation surged past the 7% mark, hitting 7.34% in September, with food price spikes reaching 10.68% compared with 9.05% in August.

The index of industrial production (IIP) shrank 8% in August on a year-on-year basis, quick official estimates suggest, marking a marginally improvement compared with July when output contracted 10.8% as per revised estimates. Earlier quick estimates had pegged July's contraction at 10.4%.

August's output does mark the lowest contraction since factory production began falling in March. Output had shrunk 18.7% in March, followed by contractions of



Can't hold up: The effects of the boost given earlier are now wearing off, says Mr. Sabnavis of CARE. ■ V. SREENIVASA MURTHY

57.3% in April and 33.4% in May. Between April and August, industrial output has now shrunk 25%.

Heightened inflation, driven by food inflation and transport costs, will make it difficult for the Reserve Bank of India to cut rates in its December policy review meet-

ing, economists reckoned. "CPI inflation came in higher at 7.4% against our forecast of 6.4%... This number will be in the range of 6%-7% in October too as vegetable prices continue to rise and will exert pressure," said Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at CARE Ratings in a

note titled 'Double Jeopardy for the Economy.'

All segments of industrial production contracted in August, including food, pharma products and fast-moving consumer goods, which Mr. Sabnavis termed as a surprise.

"Quite clearly, the initial boost received (after the lockdown began to wind down) has [become] diluted post the unlock," he noted, adding that basic metals, tobacco and transport equipment were the only manufacturing sectors that saw some growth.

Overall, the mining sector shrank 9.8% in August, manufacturing output declined 8.6%, while power sector output contracted 1.8%. Capital goods, primary goods and consumer durables all clocked negative growth

'Cash-for-LTC a big blow to tourism'

Consumer durables see positive signs

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

While the tourism sector has termed Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's cash-for-LTC announcement a 'major blow' to the sector, the consumer durables sector has welcomed it along with the festival advance scheme, calling these a boost to consumer sentiment and economic activity.

However, experts warn that this 'boost' is likely to be temporary and the measures may be inadequate to sustain demand.

The Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH) said the government's move to redirect LTC funds to consumer durables was a 'vote of no-confidence' for the sector, which is among the worst-hit by COVID-19. After eight months of almost zero tourism activity, the industry was expecting the festive season to give the sector a boost. However, the government's decision is likely to sap funds that could have gone into travel, FAITH said.

"The government's move is contrary to our suggestions where we demanded that LTAs be used to incentivise travel. But the government announcement will discourage travel as even those who have savings would like to encash their LTAs," said Jyoti Mayal of the Travel Agents Association of India (TAII). An industry source however, said there will be no material impact on the industry as the LTA money would not have come to the travel industry in any significant way before March 2020. FAITH added that since this is a four-year block scheme, it will also cut away funds for future travel recovery," it added.

Aditi Nayar, principal economist, ICRA, said she anticipated the announcement to result in a temporary boost to consumer sentiment and economic activity, with sharper pick-up in festive season sales that would "subsequently fizzle out".

Value of homes sold fell 43% in 9 months of 2020: Anarock

July-September sales saw value improve to ₹29,731 crore*



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI Homes worth about ₹88,730 crore were sold during the first nine months of the current year in the top seven markets, which was a decline of 42.5%, or ₹65,590 crore, over the same period last year, according to Anarock Property Consultants. The decline was attributed to the impact of COVID-19.

The total value of homes sold in the seven markets – Bengaluru, Pune, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Chennai, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) and Delhi NCR, stood at about ₹1.54 lakh crore in the same period of 2019.

Between January and September 2020, as many as 87,460 units were sold across these cities as against about 2.02 lakh units sold in the year-earlier period, as per Anarock.

MMR clocked sales of ₹49,313 crore, followed by

Bengaluru (₹12,569 crore), Delhi NCR (₹9,430 crore), Pune (₹8,692 crore), Hyderabad (₹3,116 crore), Kolkata (₹2,833 crore) and Chennai (₹2,777 crore).

'Worst is over' However, it added that the quarterly numbers indicated that the worst was over for the residential sector.

In July-September 2020, the value of homes sold rose by more than 2.3 times to about ₹29,731 crore, up from ₹12,694 crore in the preceding quarter (April-June 2020). In the January-March 2020 quarter, home sales value stood at about ₹46,306 crore.

The applied AI research centre, INAI, here will act as a catalyst to accelerate India's leadership in AI while creating national assets such as curated data sets and computing infrastructure with the aim to attract global talent for high-impact research towards social sector development, Intel India

said. In his address, Union IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said India was bound to be a robust player in AI application as data was the 'oxygen' for AI and India's huge population, along with a robust digital ecosystem, was going to generate huge amounts of data.

+

Ravi Shankar Prasad

PAG-led group set to acquire Anjan Drug

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

PAG, an Asia-focussed private equity firm, along with its consortium partners CX Partners and Samara Capital, is all set to acquire a controlling stake in Anjan Drug Pvt. Ltd, a Chennai-based manufacturer of active pharmaceutical ingredients (API).

However, the terms of the deal were not disclosed.

The acquisition is part of the PAG-led consortium's strategy to create a platform for the development and production of bulk drug ingredients, PAG said in a statement.

"We see the Indian API market as a very attractive opportunity and well-positioned for the future," said Nikhil Srivastava, managing director and head, India private equity, PAG.

Delhi, Male ink \$400-mn pact for connectivity

India had previously loaned \$800 mn

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Following up on India's announcement of a \$500 million package to the Maldives, the Exim Bank of India and the Maldives' Ministry of Finance on Monday signed an agreement for \$400 million in Male.

The line of credit (LoC) will fund the Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP), a key pledge of President Ibrahim Solih, a statement from the Indian Embassy in Male said. India has also pledged a grant of \$100 million for the initiative.

The initial announcement was made at a virtual meeting between External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Maldives Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid in

receive the required number of shares to delist the firm. A large number of unconfirmed bids and some technical glitches in the tender process are likely to have contributed to the failure.

The BSE, on October 9 evening showed 137.74 crore shares, out of a total 169.73 crore shares held by the public, to have been offered for sale to promoters, larger than the threshold of 134.12 crore. Some bids, however, were pending confirmation from custodians.

Reconciliation of data led to the number of shares offered for sale being trimmed to 125.47 crore. This, Vedanta said, was "less than the minimum number of offshore shares required to be accepted by the acquirers in order for the delisting offer to be successful."

On the NSE, the stock debuted at ₹214.90 apiece, rising 48.2% from the issue price. During the day, it zoomed 49.4% to ₹216.65. It later closed at ₹213, a gain of 19.3%.

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A.B. de Villiers' masterful blitz flattens Kolkata Knight Riders

Royal Challengers Bangalore bowlers back up the South African's unbeaten 33-ball 73 to seal 82-run win, lifting the side to third on the table

IPL 2020

SPORTS BUREAU

When A.B. de Villiers finds form, there is not much the bowlers can do, as Kolkata Knight Riders found out at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Monday. The blistering 73 not out off just 33 balls (5x4, 6x6) from the South African powered Royal Challengers Bangalore to an 82-run victory.

The fifth win also took RCB to the third spot on the IPL table. On a night when de Villiers ruled, skipper Virat Kohli (33 not out, 28b, 1x4) was content to play the spectator's role during their unbroken 100-run stand for the third-wicket.

The de Villiers show began with a straight drive off Prasidh Krishna; not even the stumps at the bowler's end could take the power off the shot. He plundered 18 off Kamlesh Nagarkoti's last over, hitting him for two massive sixes off successive balls.

Earlier, openers Aaron Finch (47, 37b, 4x4, 1x6) and

Devdutt Padikkal (32, 23b, 4x4, 1x6) put on 67, justifying Kohli's decision to bat first.

KKR would have appreciated a solid start from Shubman Gill and Tom Banton, who was making his IPL debut. It didn't prove a particularly memorable beginning for the highly rated 21-year-old who was bowled by a Navdeep Saini delivery clocked at 148.1kmph.

Nitish Rana was then beaten and castled in his attempt to sledge-sweep the impressive Washington Sundar.

Watching all this from the other end was Gill (34, 25b, 3x4, 1x6). He was dropped on 31, but failed to capitalise on it; he was run out.

KKR plunged into deeper trouble in the next over when captain Dinesh Karthik was castled by Chahal. Four balls later, Eoin Morgan was sent back by Washington.

Only a series of mighty sixes from Andre Russell could have revived KKR's hopes, but the giant only managed one before holing out to extra cover off Isuru Udana.



The AB show: de Villiers smashed six sixes during his whirlwind knock. • BCCI/IPL

Bayliss calls for better plan execution

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

Sunrisers Hyderabad has to ensure it executes its plans better, said head coach Trevor Bayliss.

After the loss to Rajasthan Royals on Sunday, Bayliss said the team had batted well on a slow surface, but could have done with a few more runs.

"But credit to them (Royals). They bowled extremely well on that surface. It is all about adjusting to it," he said. "Any loss is difficult, obviously we were in a good position for almost three-quarters of the match."

Bayliss also had words of praise for T. Natarajan.

CSK needs to dig itself out of a crater

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

CSK finds itself in a hole at the halfway mark – just two victories and five defeats.

The side needs to win six of its remaining seven matches and even then, may have to reckon with net run-rate. There is a remote possibility of CSK going through with seven wins overall provided many other results go its way.

From the time the prolific Suresh Raina, at the pivotal No. 3, flew home because of personal reasons, things have gone wrong for CSK.

Baffling

Tactically, CSK has been baffling. The Chennai outfit is a side of multi-dimensional cricketers but these men are of little consequence if they



Future tense! A better man-management strategy is what Super Kings need from captain M.S. Dhoni. • BCCI/IPL

surface too late in the order.

For instance, Dhoni arrived in the 15th over against RCB. Ideally, the skipper should have surfaced at No. 3 and given himself the space, time and freedom to bat through the innings.

Ravindra Jadeja has been indifferent with the ball, but

quick bowlers and missing his shots rather than caressing them with footwork and timing as he did in 2018.

N. Jagadeesan showed promise on debut, but CSK needs some serious rethinking on its composition.

In bowling, someone as skilful as Josh Hazlewood can swing games in Dubai where there is assistance for pacemen. Sam Curran, zestful and enthusiastic, has his limitations. Mitchell Santner is a match-winning, left-arm spinning all-rounder and he is warming the bench.

Energy-booster

Then there is Imran Tahir, who can create a buzz on the field and lift the side with his energy. Specialists, who come with a clear role definition, have their advantages.

ICC chairman: nomination by Oct. 18

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

The ICC on Monday set October 18 as the deadline for its board of directors to send names of potential candidates for the chairman's post to replace Shashank Manohar, ending the impasse on the nomination procedure.

The process will be overseen by an independent chairman of the ICC Audit Committee. However, the global body has not specified the voting procedure in case there are multiple candidates. The ICC has stated that the next chairman might assume office only from the month of December.

It means a lot to share this number with Roger'

Nadal says he's happy to pull level with Federer on 20 Slams

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Rafael Nadal's 13th French Open was hailed as "one of sport's greatest achievements" by close friend and rival Roger Federer, but for the chasing pack of players, it was another dagger in their hearts.

Nadal, who has now gone level with Federer on 20 Grand Slams, has won six since turning 30. World No. 1 Novak Djokovic has won five of his 17 since leaving his 20s while Federer, now 39, claimed four after his 30th birthday.

The numbers illustrate how big the gap remains between the Big Three and the rest.

Nadal's 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 win over Djokovic in the Roland Garros final allowed him to beat the Serb in winning Majors in three different decades.

The 34-year-old Spaniard insisted that he won't become obsessed with ending his career as the all-time highest Slam winner.

"I would love to finish my career being the player with more Grand Slams," he said after winning his 100th

match at Roland Garros against just two losses in 15 years.

Practical

"But I'm not going to be thinking all the time Novak has this one, Roger is winning the other one. You can't be always unhappy because your neighbour has a bigger house than you, a bigger boat or a better phone."

"In terms of these records, of course I care. For me, it means a lot to share this number with Roger. But let's see what happens when we finish our careers."



Icons of Paris: Rafael Nadal posing with the Coupe des Mousquetaires, with the Eiffel Tower in the background, on Monday. • AP

POWERPLAY

Sample collection of players has started: NADA

NEW DELHI

The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) tweeted on Monday that it has started collecting samples of IPL players after enlisting personnel from Dubai, and the agency is likely to send samples for testing to the WADA-accredited lab in Doha. PTI

Ishant Sharma out of IPL with rib cage injury

DUBAI

Ishant Sharma has been ruled out of the Indian Premier League with a rib-cage injury, his team Delhi Capitals said on Monday. The 32-year-old has played only one game this season, going for 0/26 in his four overs against Sunrisers Hyderabad. PTI

De-stress at home with some fun brain-teasers. Try out at never-before prices

@ <https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn>

SCAN TO PLAY

- 15 Let's go around eastern border of Dharamkot to take a hike (3,4)
18 Recollecting deception, close associate leaves spouse (7)
20 Trace rascal smuggling ecstasy and heroin (6)
22 Appeal by English wicketkeeper to begin with is out of line (5)
24 Rush to enter fancy techno club (9)
25 Proposal during dinner leaves maiden tearful (9)
26 Antelope in national park around middle of trail (5)
27 Execute the rogue holding Bond (6)
28 Wind up in dump, tackling debt on retirement (8)
Down
1 Languid union avoided moving cargo (6)
2 Connoisseur welcomes popular investor (9)
3 How movies were once filmed on record (2,5,3,5)
4 Genuine guilt before snorting cocaine (7)
6 Risk taking back husband with start of emotional outbursts in private (6,3,6)
7 Compelled to take rook for bishop in game (5)
8 Mineral in area around pit essentially turning scarlet (8)
9 Covering part of lawn in garden (6)
16 Where one might strike a hammer without delay (2,3,4)
17 Father reviewed creator's patent (8)
19 Possible tear in part of the eye (6)
20 Stewed meat in course, mostly foul, getting a bit of indigestion (7)
21 Fight with anger to remove Republican for good (6)
23 Loop around top of ugly whip used for punishment (5)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13064

SETBACKS GROPESS

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Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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