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NEARBY

20 COVID patients shifted out from Hindu Rao

NEW DELHI
The North Delhi Municipal Corporation on Saturday shifted 20 COVID-19 patients from Hindu Rao Hospital to two government hospitals, said officials. Doctors and staff of the hospital have given notice for a strike.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

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Police, media and the spectacle of grief in Boolgarhi

Hathras victim's family struggles to come to terms with intrusive media, changing narratives, and a formidable security presence

ANUJ KUMAR
HATHRAS

A week after the Hathras victim of alleged gang rape and brutal assault was consigned to flames in the dead of night, the family is struggling to come to terms with the intrusive gaze of the media, changing narratives on the basis of selective leaks, and a formidable security presence in the village.

"We have said enough to the government, now justice should be done and we should be allowed to grieve in peace," said the victim's

aunt, squatting at the door behind which the family shuts itself for several hours during the day.

When this correspondent visited Boolgarhi on Thursday, the road to the village was thickly dotted with khaki-clad police personnel. Two mobile lavatories indicated the long hours they had been putting in to secure the village that has seen an unusual rush of political delegations and media teams over the last week.

There was an imposing metal detector in the outer



Keeping watch: Police personnel outside the residence of the 19-year-old rape victim at Boolgarhi village in Hathras. ■ PTI

courtyard that was bustling with relatives and activists last week. Now, there is a sprawling tent for police

men to rest between their shifts. The narrow lane leading to the residence is also lined with policemen.

A woman police constable holding a heavy register asks visitors to provide their details. There are eight CCTV cameras, multiple LED bulbs, and two "shadows" for each member of the family to ensure their zero movement and that no questions of the media go unnoticed.

Not moving court?

An official claimed, "This is what the family and the situation demanded."

As the news of the family approaching the Allahabad

High Court against their illegal detention spreads, two woman officers request the father of the victim to come out and record a clarification. Answering in half sentences to leading questions, he says he is satisfied with the security and is not planning

SPECIAL

ning to shift out. He denies that he asked anybody to approach the High Court on his behalf.

When they leave, he mumbles, "What to say...

Every word is accounted for and can be used against us... We are simple people... Is mahaul main suraksha to chahiye, par... (We need security in this atmosphere, but...)"

Meanwhile, impatient crews from the electronic media are looking for ways to swoop on the family, including a "sting" on unsuspecting family members. Behind these "journalists" was an official, doing his own "sting" for "official reasons".

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 7

T.N. defends Mullaperiyar dam panel

It tells SC powers not passed on to sub-committee

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Tamil Nadu government has rebutted allegations made in the Supreme Court that the Supervisory Committee for Mullaperiyar dam "abdicated its duties" to evaluate the safety of the structure and water levels.

The State countered allegations that the Supervisory Committee constituted by the top court in 2014 had



Systematic spillways: Tamil Nadu said it informs downstream authorities before releasing water from the dam. ■ FILE PHOTO

"delegated" its duties to a sub-committee.

The court had in September sought a reply from the

pressing their apprehension about the lack of proper supervision of water levels in the over-a-century-old dam located along the Periyar Tiger Reserve.

The State explained that the sub-committee is chaired by the Executive Engineer, Central Water Commission (CWC), with headquarters in Kochi. It has members from both Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The sub-committee periodically inspects the dam, collects data on seepage, collects water samples from the lake and seepage water, conducts water quality tests on

them and so on, and reports the details to the Supervisory Committee.

"The sub-committee members do not have any powers to give direction to the States. It is only doing the job of collecting information and data pertaining to the dam once in every two months, and if required, more frequently, as per directions of the Chairman of the Supervisory Committee, and furnishing the same to the committee," the affidavit said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 7

Gehlot govt. announces aid for priest's kin

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The family members of Babu Lal Vaishnav, a 55-year-old temple priest who was set on fire in Bukna village of Rajasthan's Karauli district, performed his last rites on Saturday after the State government announced ex-gratia assistance of ₹10 lakh to the next of kin.

The priest's son, Deshraj, conducted the last rites in the presence of a large police force. The priest was killed over a land dispute.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 7

Line of fire



On their toes: Army men attempting to destroy a 120-mm mortar shell, fired by Pakistani forces, in Dabraj village near the Line of Control in Poonch district on Saturday. ■ PTI (SEE ALSO PAGE 8)

Scientists welcome these winged 'infiltrators'

Pak butterfly, Chinese dragonfly, miles from known habitats, now listed in India

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

Unlike human migrants, rare winged visitors from across India's western and eastern borders have been welcomed by naturalists and included in lists of indigenous species.

Miles away from their native habitats, a Pakistani butterfly and Chinese dragonfly have been recorded by citizen scientists – non-professionals who contribute to scientific research and data collection – for the first time in the India.

The butterfly, *Spialia zebra*, was found in Dungarpur district of Rajasthan, far south of its known habitat of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab province of Pakistan.

The dragonfly *Atratothemis reelesi* was recorded in southern Arunachal Pra-



Far from home: Zebra skipper butterfly and, right, the *Atratothemis reelesi* dragonfly. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ground," said Peter Smetscek of the Bhimtal centre.

Bonus bug' Minom Pertin, Roshan Upadhyaya, Tajum Yomcha and Arajuash Payra were on a butterfly-spotting trip in May in Namdapha. They ended up recording a dragonfly representing the westernmost range of its species and adding to the Indian Odonata fauna.

"It was a bonus find, never before recorded in the eastern Himalayas. It augurs well for the biodiversity of this region," Mr. Pertin said.

The quartet's finding was reviewed by Parag Rangnekar, Goa-based entomologist specialising in butterflies and dragonflies. The *Atratothemis reelesi* was found to resemble other blackish dragonflies, one of them confined to Australia.

Wildlife Sanctuary," Mukesh Panwar told *The Hindu* from Sagpara in Dungarpur.

He collected a specimen and provided photographs for the Butterly Research Centre at Bhimtal in Uttarakhand to record it as the first of its kind in the country.

"India now has 1,328 species of butterflies. The zebra skipper is difficult to observe because it is quite small and flies rapidly low over the

ground," said Peter Smetscek of the Bhimtal centre.

Bonus bug' Minom Pertin, Roshan Upadhyaya, Tajum Yomcha and Arajuash Payra were on a butterfly-spotting trip in May in Namdapha. They ended up recording a dragonfly representing the westernmost range of its species and adding to the Indian Odonata fauna.

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Assam begins closure of 614 madrasas

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Assam government has set in motion the process of transferring 148 teachers, following a decision to close down State-run madrasas or Islamic educational institutions.

"...I am directed to inform you that government has decided to close madrasas. Therefore, the 148 numbers of madrasa contractual teachers may be shifted to schools under general secondary education," read an official memo from Assam Secondary Education Department's Deputy Secretary S.N. Das to the Director of Secondary Education earlier this month. Copies of the memo were sent to the office of Education Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and the mission director of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan in Assam.

The Assam government, a couple of years ago, decided to shut madrasas and tuls (educational institutions focussing on Sanskrit learning) under State boards. Mr. Sarma on Thursday said that the State government would come up with separate notifications for madrasas and tuls in November.

The Assam government runs 614 madrasas, while 900 are run privately, mostly by the Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind. There are about 100 government-run and 500 private Sanskrit tuls in the State.

While the madrasa education system started in Assam in 1780, Sanskrit education became official under the Assam Sanskrit Education Act, 1957.

LSR sets perfect score for 3 courses

SHINJINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI

Delhi University announced its first cut-off list for merit-based undergraduate programmes on Saturday with Lady Shri Ram College setting an asking score of 100% for three honours courses: political science, economics

and psychology.

Last year, the cut-off for economics and political science at the college was 98%, while for psychology it was 98.75%.

Both BA (Hons.) Economics and BA (Hons.) Political Science have high cut-offs at several colleges.

At Hindu College, the cut-off for economics is 99.2% followed by 99% at SRCC. The cut-off for Economics (Hons.) in Hans Raj and Miranda House is 98.75%, while at Kiroli Mal College (KMC) it is 98.5%.

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LSR sets perfect score for 3 UG courses

DU releases first cut-off list; bar set high for economics and political science courses at several colleges

SHINJINI GHOSH

NEW DELHI

Delhi University (DU) announced its first cut-off list for merit-based undergraduate courses on Saturday with Lady Shri Ram College (LSR) setting an asking score of 100% for three honours courses: political science, economics and psychology.

Last year, the cut-off marks for economics and political science at the college was 98%, while for psychology it was 98.75%.

Both BA (Hons.) Economics and BA (Hons.) Political Science have high cut-offs at several colleges.

Other colleges

At Hindu College, the cut-off for economics is 99.2% followed by 99% at SRCC.

The cut-off for the same subject in Hans Raj and Miranda House is 98.75%, while at Kirori Mal College (KMC) it is 98.5%. Off campus colleges like Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma (ARSD) and Aryabhatta Colleges set the cut-off for economics at 98%.

Political science also saw a rise in cut-offs with Hindu College asking for 99.5%, followed by Miranda House, KMC and Ramjas College setting the cut-off at 99%.

BCom (Hons.) at LSR this year is set at 99.75%, fol-

	B.Com	B.Com (Hons.)	BA (Hons.) English	BA (Hons.) History	BA (Hons.) Pol Science	BA (Hons.) Economics	B.Sc (Hons.) Mathematics	B.Sc (Hons.) Physics	B.Sc (Hons.) Chemistry
Aryabhatta	96	97.5	95	93	95	98	94	-	-
ARSD	96	98	96	96	97	98	95	94	93
Daulat Ram	96	97	97.5	96.5	97	97	96	97.66	96
Gargi	96	97	98	97	97	97	97	97	97
Hans Raj	-	99.25	98	97.5	-	98.75	96.5	97.33	96.33
Hindu	-	99.25	98.5	98.75	99.5	99.25	97.75	98.33	97.33
IP	-	97	96.5	96	97.5	98	95.5	-	-
Kamala Nehru	94	96	95	92.5	95	96	95	-	-
Kirori Mal	98	98.75	97.5	97.25	99	98.5	97	96.66	96
LSR	-	99.75	99	99.5	100	100	96.75	-	-
Miranda House	-	-	99	98.75	99	98.75	96.75	97	96.67
Ramjas	98	99	97.5	97.75	99	98.5	97	97	96
Sri Venkateswara	97	98	97	96.5	97	98.5	96.75	97.33	96
SRCC	-	99.5	-	-	-	99	-	-	-
Zakir Husain	97	97	96	93	96	97	94	-	94

SOURCE: DELHI UNIVERSITY

lowed by 99.5% at SRCC and 99.25% at both Hindu College and Hans Raj College.

Courses like BA (Hons.) Journalism has an asking score of 99.5% at LSR and 98% at Delhi College of Arts and Commerce (DCAC).

Science courses like BSc (Hons.) Computer Science saw a cut-off of 98% at Dyal Singh College, while Hindu College set a cut-off of 98.33% for BSc (Hons.) Physics. Shri Guru Teg Bahadur Khalsa College has set its BSc (Hons.) Computer Science

cut-off at 98% and BSc (Hons.) Electronics and Maths at 97%.

Admission to the university this year is entirely online and officials have urged applicants not to visit college campuses.

Portal to open tomorrow
The admission portal will be open from Monday and students can select their course and college as well as submit relevant documents.

Verification of documents will also take place online

this year. The portal for admissions under the first list will be open till October 14 and students can pay the fees by October 16.

DU officials said that a suggestive calculator will also be available to applicants in order to ascertain their respective eligibility to the various courses in different colleges.

Under one particular list, students can apply to a single college and course, for which officials have advised aspirants to check before submitting the applications.

Nearly 70,000 undergraduate seats are up for grabs.

Officials of the university had said that cut-offs would be higher this year owing to more students scoring above 90% marks in Central Board of Secondary Education examinations.

Fee payment

This year, the university saw over 3.51 lakh applications as opposed to around 2.58 lakh applications in 2019.

The new session will commence from November 18.

Hindu Rao shifts 20 COVID patients to 2 govt. hospitals

Doctors of civic hospital have given strike notice over salary

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The North Delhi Municipal Corporation on Saturday shifted 20 COVID-19 patients from its Hindu Rao Hospital to two Delhi government hospitals, said officials.

Earlier in the day, Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain had said that officials had been directed to shift 20 COVID-19 patients admitted at Hindu Rao Hospital to any Delhi government hospital, as doctors and staff of the municipal-run hospital have given a notice for a strike because their salaries have not been paid for many months.

DDMA directives

Meanwhile, the North Corporation spokesperson said that the shifting was done on directions of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), which is headed by L-G Anil Baijal, who is appointed by the Central govern-

ment. The North Corporation is ruled by the BJP.

"The North Corporation shifted 20 patients to Delhi Govt hospitals – 17 to Lok Nayak Hospital and three to Aruna Asaf Ali Hospital. Three COVID patients are in

Virus spread

Total number of COVID-19 cases	Total deaths
3,06,559	5,740
New cases in the past 24 hours	New deaths
2,866	48

SOURCE: DELHI GOVERNMENT HEALTH BULLETIN

Delhi government hospital."

He added that the corporation is not paying salaries of employees, despite having funds. "The BJP is doing politics, we have told them now that if you cannot run the hospital, then give the hospital to us. There is no deficiency of funds [in corporations]. They collect a lot of money in taxes, but there is no account of where it goes," the Minister said during the press conference.

2,866 fresh cases

Meanwhile, the city reported 2,866 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, taking the total to 3,06,559, according to a health bulletin released on Saturday.

The death toll has reached 5,740 following 48 more fatalities in the past 24 hours.

Of the total cases, 2,78,812, people have recovered and there are now 22,007 active cases.

The positivity rate on Saturday stood at 5.76% while the recovery rate crossed 90% and case fatality rate stood at 1.87%.

The number of containment zones has dropped to 2,715, from 2,727 on Friday.



Artisans busy preparing the idols ahead of Durga Puja celebrations at C.R. Park; a file photo of Dussehra celebrations at Ramlila grounds in the Capital. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA AND SANDEEP SAXENA

VIRUS DAMPENS FESTIVE CHEER

While the oldest and most popular Ramlilas stand cancelled, smaller idols, slashed budgets, restricted entry and live-streaming of rituals comprise the modest bouquet of muted Durga Puja celebrations across the Capital



in the Red Fort grounds since 1924, making it slightly younger than the Shri Ramlila Committee but the second oldest in the Capital, said that his committee too was mulling a similar alternative. "There seems to be no other choice than cancelling the event this year. We will exhibit episodes of the Ramayana instead," he said.

Waiting for directives

While some Durga Puja committees are still waiting for government directives, most have already chalked out guidelines to be followed. The Delhi Durga Puja Samiti at Kashmere Gate, which is also the oldest in the city, will not be worshipping the idol this time – a first since 1911.

The organiser, Som Prakash Mitra said, "We are literally going back a hundred years this time considering this is the first time since 1911 that instead of worshipping the idol a 'ghot puja' will be done. It has only happened for the first two years since this puja's inception in

1910."

"Even our practice of getting theatre artists and bands will be discontinued this year. Due to the current situation, we are also not forcing people for a donation. Everything will depend on the voluntary donations made by the members," said Mr. Mitra.

The Matri Mandir in Safdarjung Enclave will also be dependent on voluntary donations and online streaming of rituals this year, said committee member Debasish Saha.

"While all rituals will be followed to the core there will be no idol this time. It will be a low-key affair and all rituals will be streamed online. This time, we are entirely dependent on voluntary donations and have also decided to donate the money

among the needy, including the dhaakis and our regular cooks who are out of work this time," said Mr. Saha.

The little fix

Ashok Goel Devraha, general secretary of the Delhi Dharmik Sangh which is an umbrella body that facilitates the organisers of Ramlilas, said traditional patrons were as certain of the fact that "something, no matter how small" needed to be organised as they were of the cap of 100 persons per religious gathering prescribed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, subject to the go-ahead of respective State governments, not being amenable to the staging of traditional celebrations.

"It is more or less clear that

the Ramlila will not be able to manifest itself at the usual scale; so, we will either shift the venue of the celebrations from larger ones to temple courtyards, banquet halls and even large houses with stilt parking if required," Mr. Devraha said.

"The consensus among organisers, so far, is that those who can make arrangements for small performances in such settings with volunteer actors should go ahead and do so. Gatherings revolving around the recitation of the Shri Ram Katha can be organised," he said.

Rajesh Gehlot, chief patron of the Dwarka Sri Ram Leela Society which has been a traditional crowd-puller to its venue in Sector 10 for decades and saw Prime Minister Narendra Modi in attendance last year, said a cap of 100 people on an event which used to accommodate as many as 150 artistes on stage per se and provide employment to 1,000 people in total every year was just not feasible enough to work around.

"We have also decided that unlike other years, general bhog will not be distributed. It will be delivered to those who pre-book it in sanitised tiffin boxes. While all rituals will be followed and it will be live-streamed," said Mr. Gehlot.

Shanker Chakravarty, president of the Samiti said, "Considering the fact that celebrations have been scaled down, we have

decided to book a private hall. Usually, the footfall used to be around 20,000 per day, but this time the responsibility is on us. Hence we decided to impose restrictions on the number of people who can attend. Only members and their families will be allowed. The priest will be kept in isolation and no devotee will have direct contact with him."

Mr. Gehlot pointed out that while the most that visitors would confront due to the reduced scale of celebrations this year was disappointment, for innumerable others it would mean irrevocable economic hardship.

Actors, idol makers affected
"At least a thousand people are involved in every big Ramlila: the actors and stage artistes, those who make the three effigies, those involved in the arrangements and the ones who set up stalls for visitors. Smaller celebrations due to the pandemic will, unfortunately, mean no business for them this festive season," he said.

Nitin Chauhan, now 34, has been playing the character of Demon King Ravana since he was 18 years old. A builder, director and talent manager by profession, Mr. Chauhan jovially said he comes from "a family of Ravanas".

"My father, Santosh Chauhan has played Ravana in several Ramlilas followed by my elder brother Naveen. Having a family meal together these days ends up in disappointment and tears for us because we feel empty since we won't be able to perform this year," he said.

"While we can do with the fact that we will not be able to get contracts for performing this year because we are economically stable, I have had to send junior artistes from my group to events all over the country so that they can make ends meet. Some of them have gone to Ayodhya to participate in small Ramlilas to get by," Mr. Chauhan said.

Idol makers, among others, are the ones critically affected by the curtailed celebrations. Gobindo Nath, a third-generation idol maker has received an order of eight idols as opposed to the 50-60 orders he received in previous years.

For Niranjan Chitrokar, an annual visitor to the Capital from West Bengal, the situation has been similar. "I used to bring a team of 12-13 people three months in advance due to the number of idols we had to make. This time only my son is accompanying me. Usually the earnings we made from this season helped us survive the entire year. With the condition this bad I don't know how we will survive," he said.

OUR IS THE OLDEST RAMLILA IN DELHI. This will be the fourth time that it is being cancelled in our 170-year history after 1948 due to the Partition, 1962 war [with China] and 1965 war [with Pakistan]. This [COVID-19] is a global problem and even the Olympics had to be deferred

RAJESH KHANNA,
Shri Ramlila Committee general secretary

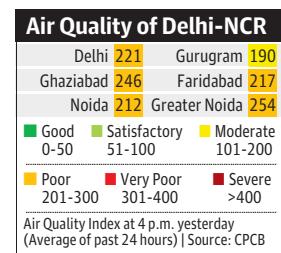
Timings DELHI		
SUNDAY, OCT. 11		
RISE 06:20	SET 17:56	
RISE 00:05	SET 14:23	
MONDAY, OCT. 12		
RISE 06:20	SET 17:55	
RISE 01:07	SET 15:09	
TUESDAY, OCT. 13		
RISE 06:21	SET 17:54	
RISE 02:11	SET 15:52	

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	35	19
Safdarjung	35	19
Palam	34	21

Delhi Palam Today
35°C A comfortable morning and sunny day with light winds.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
34°C Dry weather with few clouds and warm afternoon likely.

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Delhi's air quality likely to improve today: SAFAR

'Situation is expected to get better from Monday onwards'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi's air quality continued to be in the 'poor' category on Saturday after it dropped to the level on Wednesday for the first time in over three months.

However, it is expected to marginally improve to the reach the 'moderate' category on Sunday, said government-run monitoring agency System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR).

"The air quality index [AQI] is forecast to marginally improve to 'moderate' category on Sunday. It is expected to further improve by Monday, but will remain



An anti-pollution cannon sprinkling water near Anand Vihar ISBT. ■ FILE PHOTO

terly by Monday and this could have a positive influence on the air quality during the week. Northwesterly winds bring in pollution from farm fires in Punjab and Haryana to the city.

The AQI in Delhi was 221 on Saturday, slightly up from 202 on Friday, as per Central Pollution Control Board data.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee on Saturday imposed a fine of ₹20 lakh on a demolition site of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Tansen Marg for violating dust pollution control norms, as per an official order.

Sisodia reviews content of 'Deshbhakti' curriculum

Work in final stages of preparation: govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia reviewed the content of the 'Deshbhakti' curriculum and chaired the third joint review meeting of a new board in addition to the new curriculum committee to take stock of the progress so far here on Saturday.

The work on introducing the Deshbhakti curriculum started last year after an announcement by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and it is in the final stages of preparation, the government said in a statement.

According to the government, the Curriculum and

Board committees were constituted this July to recommend new curriculum for children up to the age of 14 and setting up of Delhi Examination Board. Both the committees are likely to submit their recommendations by mid-November.

"Assessment would be the basis of Deshbhakti curriculum. Understanding of the teacher as to where a child stands today and subsequently issues like inclusiveness, gender, different forms of discrimination, integrity, care for public property and natural resources, etc., would be the key to enable a child to become a true Deshbhakti," Mr. Sisodia stated.

The deceased was a Muslim. If we had not agreed, then he would have been cremated. The man deserved a respectable burial

Mohammed Shamim, a third-generation gravedigger at Delhi Gate's Jadid Qabristan Ahle Islam, said he got a call from an AIIMS doctor seeking help to bury an unidentified man who had died of the deadly disease.

"The deceased was a Muslim. If we had not agreed, then he would have been cremated. The man deserved a respectable burial," said Mr. Shamim, who spent around ₹2,000 on the arrangements.

HEMAMI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

In a heart-warming gesture, an unidentified man who was found in a semi-conscious state in Okhla in September and later died of COVID-19 was given a burial at a graveyard by its two staffers.

Mohammed Shamim, a third-generation gravedigger at Delhi Gate's Jadid Qabristan Ahle Islam, said he got a call from an AIIMS doctor seeking help to bury an unidentified man who had died of the deadly disease.

"The deceased was a Muslim. If we had not agreed, then he would have been cremated. The man deserved a respectable burial," said Mr. Shamim, who spent around ₹2,000 on the arrangements.

MOHAMMED SHAMIM
Gravedigger at Delhi Gate's Jadid Qabristan Ahle Islam

AAP to 'gherao' Haryana CM's house today

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will 'gherao' Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal's Karnal residence at 11 a.m. on Sunday to protest the "anti-farmer" laws passed by the BJP, the party said on Saturday.

"AAP is fighting against the anti-farmer and anti-labour laws passed by the BJP-ruled Central government. We are fighting on the streets and also against these Acts inside Parliament. In Haryana, BJP Chief Minister Manohar Lal always takes anti-farmer stands when the time of harvesting comes," said AAP MP Sushil Gupta.

The AAP leader said that farmers are facing difficulties in selling paddy crops.

DU student murder: kin of accused a witness now

She names uncle, brother as 'killers'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 20-year-old woman, whose friend was allegedly murdered by her family as they objected to their friendship, has become a witness in the case, the police said on Saturday.

A senior police officer said that the woman named her brother and her uncle as the killers of her friend Rahul Rajput (18), a resident of north-west Delhi's Adarsh Nagar who was pursuing graduation from DU's School of Open Learning and also tutored students.

"The girl is a witness in the case. She has not asked for protection so far, but if she moves an application, action will be taken," said an officer privy to probe.

Graveyard workers pay for infected man's burial

They spent ₹2,000 on arrangements after no one came forward to claim body

HEMAMI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

The deceased was a Muslim. If we had not agreed, then he would have been cremated. The man deserved a respectable burial

suffering from Tuberculosis," the officer said.

On September 20, the man was shifted to Rajan Baba TB Hospital at Kingsway Camp for treatment. "At the hospital, he was in a semi-conscious state and said his name was Ajgar and he was a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Bijoli village," the officer said.

A police official contacted counterparts in Bijoli and shared the man's photograph, but he was allegedly told that no such person resides there.

On September 25, Ajgar passed away and his body was shifted back to AIIMS for postmortem. A COVID-19 test was conducted and he was found positive for the virus. "The body was not

handed over to the police as he was infected," the officer added.

Finally, 13 days after his death, the unidentified man was buried at the graveyard.

Probe initiated

The police said that inquest proceedings have been initiated and personnel are being sent to Bijoli for physical verification to gather information about the deceased.

Mr. Shamim said that since the outbreak of COVID-19, they had buried six-sever persons whose families were never traced.

The number of bodies coming in had reduced to about one in two days, but for the last 15-20 days, we are burying three-four persons a day again, he added.

Two die after falling into septic tank

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

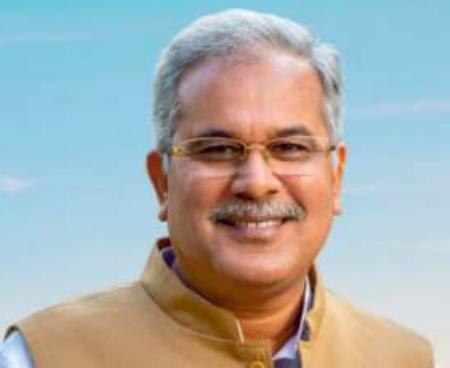
Two persons died when they entered a septic tank of a building in south-east Delhi's Badarpur area on Saturday evening, the police said.

DCP (South-East) R.P. Meena said that the deceased have been identified as Satish Chawla (60), the building owner, and a 40-year-old Devender.

The police said that they received a call around 5 p.m. and were informed that three persons had fallen into a septic tank. When the police reached the spot, they were told that one Manoj had already been taken out and rushed to a hospital. "The fire brigade reached the spot and pulled out the other two from the tank and they were rushed to a private hospital where they were declared brought dead," Mr. Meena said.

"On Saturday, Mr. Manoj, a contractor, arrived with Devender to clean the tank. Devender went inside and felt uneasy and collapsed. Mr. Manoj followed him and fell inside too. Mr. Chawla went inside to save the two but met the same fate," Mr. Meena said.





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Ensuring Mid-day Meal amid Covid-19

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BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

BRIDES WANTED

BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

Classification common for Brides, Bridgrooms, Brides & Grooms

Assamese

Awadhi

Bengali

Bhojpuri

Bihari

Chhattisgarhi

English

Gujarati

Haryanvi

Hindi

Kannada

Kashmiri

Konkani

Malayalam

Manipuri

Marathi

Marwari

Nepali

Oriya

Parsi

Punjabi

Saurashtra

Sindhi

Tamil

Telugu

Tulu

Urdu

MARRIAGE BUREAUS

WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

COSMOPOLITAN

SEEKING 50 to 55 years old highly educated unmarried/divorced/widow(er) (without issues) male compatible match height about 5'9" for a young looking caste Hindu bride 49 years unmarried US citizen working in USA double masters degree holder 5'4"- 52 kg. Only GCUS citizen is considered. Please reply matriad0920@yahoo.com

DELI BASED well settled, educated, V.B/Tul, V.Fair, Punjabi Brahmin girl 33/5.6' Working with reputed MNC, earning 25L P/A+ suitable match upto 35yrs, C/AMBA/ BE/ Employed Professional, never married of a Status family from Delhi / NCR. Contact-Matrimonyfor2020@gmail.com; 99906 26447

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Doctor MBBS MD MRCGP 35/167

fair Protestant Tamil

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Tamil Christian

Doctor Groom MBBS

MD/MS Caste no bar

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PRIYANKA MBBS 25/178CM Fair Kannai Uthiram Works@Hospital,Seeks Doctor/Chettiar/Any Other Caste: 8056941767

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MAHABE MS UK / online tutorials at Coimbatore 6L pa 24 Manai TC/16 veedu fair 1983 born 155cm innocent Divorcee no child seeks any chettiar broadminded groom Bidrada Photo Horoscope mail anugrahams2@gmail.com

WANTED GROOM

Alliance sought for a Malayali Pillai girl, Only child, 25 years, 152 Cms, Utharam Architect M, Arch, from professionally qualified employed / business men with good family background living in India or abroad, Caste: Saliyi/Pattaya/ Pillai/Nair

Contact 9445680777

TAMIL

PROTESTANT BE, MBA, Age - 26, 165cm, MNC, Chennai, very fair, Smart Doctor boy 31 to 33 MS MD MCh from Kerala and Tamil-Nadu preferred. Ct: 9840985383

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

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GOUNDER PREMIER College Chennai, 33, seeks Christian Professionals and Post Graduates, age 33-37, in & around Chennai, Caste No Bar, Contact: 8939829121

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Doctor MBBS MD MRCGP 35/167

fair Protestant Tamil

Christian Nadar BC working in London

UK innocent divorcee no issues seeks

Tamil Christian

Doctor Groom MBBS

MD/MS Caste no bar

PH: 98435 26370

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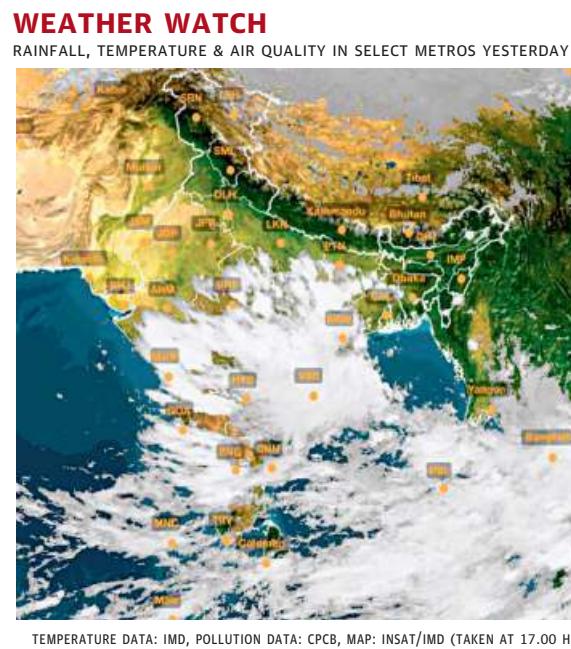
UK innocent divorcee no issues seeks

Tamil Christian

Doctor Groom MBBS

MD/MS Caste no bar

PH



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB; MAP: INSTAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Telangana, coastal and interior Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Andaman Islands, central Maharashtra, Goa, Tamilnadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	34.8	27.0	24.9	Kozhikode	... 30.8...	24.9	
Ahmedabad	37.0	23.1		Kurnool	... 32.0...	25.7	
Aizawl	28.0	19.2		Lucknow	... 35.7...	22.6	
Allahabad	36.6	26.4		Madurai	6.9	37.0...	23.5
Bangalore	10.2	29.4	18.0	Mangaluru	... 31.0...	23.8	
Bhopal	33.2	21.2		Mumbai	1.2	33.7...	27.8
Bhubaneswar	33.0	25.9		Mysuru	55	30.8...	20.8
Chandigarh	... 30.0...	20.0		New Delhi	... 34.9...	19.2	
Chennai	13.9	35.0	24.8	Patna	... 36.0...	25.0	
Coimbatore	0.5	33.0	23.1	Pond Blair	... 29.6...	24.8	
Dehradun	34.6	17.2		Puducherry	0.1	33.0...	24.5
Gangtok	24.1	16.1		Pune	... 31.0...	22.8	
Goa	31.6	31.6	24.5	Raipur	... 33.5...	25.5	
Guwahati	36.0	26.4		Ranchi	... 29.4...	22.6	
Hubballi	28.0	22.0		Shillong	0.2	24.6...	17.0
Hyderabad	30.5	30.5	20.8	Shimla	... 27.4...	16.3	
Imphal	32.8	19.6		Srinagar	... 27.0...	6.4	
Jaipur	36.0	22.1		Thiruvananthapuram	... 29.8...	24.7	
Kochi	31.4	24.8		Tiruchi	... 34.7...	24.2	
Kohima	0.4	25.5	17.4	Vijayawada	... 31.2...	25.8	
Kolkata	5.4	34.4	26.8	Visakhapatnam	1	33.6...	27.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE
Ahmedabad	33	120	25	.123	.111	■■■
Bangalore	15	30	32	.89	.78	■■■
Chennai	.4	5	24	.53	.63	■■■
Delhi	26	29	25	.261	.297	■■■■■
Hyderabad	31	44	23	.75	.94	■■■■■
Kolkata	.9	22	—	.139	.107	■■■■■
Lucknow	.8	19	79	.324	.325	■■■■■
Mumbai	19	28	66	.208	.181	■■■■■
Pune	—	—	—	—	—	■■■■■
Visakhapatnam	.50	18	.133	.145	.145	■■■■■

In observation made at 4.00 p.m. Bhivadi, Rajasthan recorded an air quality index (AQI) score of 310 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya 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. Aggravated 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

Convict serving life term held three months after jumping parole

Sharpshooter was involved in attack on Rakesh Roshan in January 2000

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

THANE
A notorious criminal and sharpshooter, who was allegedly involved in the attack on Bollywood director Rakesh Roshan in 2000, has been arrested in Thane city of Maharashtra nearly three months after he jumped parole, a senior official said on Saturday.

The accused, Sunil V. Gaikwad (52), was nabbed from Parsik Circle area in Kalwa around 9 p.m. on Friday, he said. "We had received a tip-off that Gaikwad is coming to Parsik Circle area. Accordingly, we laid a trap and caught him," senior inspector of the Central Crime Unit Anil Honrao said. "The accused has 11 cases of murder and seven cases of attempt to murder registered against him. One of these includes attempt on Bollywood director Rakesh Roshan's life in 2000," Mr. Honrao said.

Gaikwad will be handed over to the Pant Nagar police, where an offence of escape has been registered," Mr. Honrao said.

Roshan was shot at outside his Santacruz office in Mumbai in January 2000.

The assailants had fired six rounds, of which two bullets had hit Roshan, according to the police.

Gaikwad had been sentenced to life imprisonment in a murder case and was lodged at Nashik central jail. However, he came out on a 28-day parole on June 26 this year," the official said.

"He was expected to return to the jail after completion of the parole period, but he did not do so. He was hiding till his arrest last night," Mr. Honrao added.

According to the official, the accused was active during 1999 and 2000 and was involved in several crimes. He was associated with the notorious gangs of Ali Bux and Subhash Singh Thakur. During the same period, he was also involved in a dacoity in Nashik, where he had opened fire on police personnel, he said.

Gaikwad will be handed over to the Pant Nagar police, where an offence of escape has been registered," Mr. Honrao said.

Shrinking spaces for winged visitors a cause for concern

On World Migratory Bird Day, environmentalists and experts say habitat for flamingos and wetland birds has shrunk to 20% of what it was

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

On World Migratory Bird Day on Saturday, experts from Mumbai came together to discuss ways to protect lesser flamingos.

They said four decades ago, conditions were ideal for flamingos to visit the city but today they are being forced to feed within a tiny piece of land owing to the continuous destruction of wetlands and development activities across many areas.

A webinar titled, 'The Flight of the Pink - How can

Mumbai protect the lesser flamingos' was organised as a part of the 'Biodiversity by the Bay' campaign, initiated by Ministry of Mumbai's Magic – a citizen's collective comprising Mumbaiakars who wish to bring the issue of protecting biodiversity to the forefront.

Speaking on ways to protect the iconic bird and the wetlands where they feed in Mumbai, Stalin Dayanand, Director of Projects, Vanashakti, said, "After the loss of 2,000 hectares of wetlands for the Navi Mumbai Interna-

INTERVIEW | DR. SOUMITRA PATHARE

'We need community-based mental health services'

The psychiatrist says there is a need to modify a host of laws that discriminate against people with mental health issues

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

On World Mental Health Day, Dr. Soumitra Pathare, a consultant psychiatrist and director of the Centre for Mental Health Law & Policy at Indian Law Society in Pune, speaks to The Hindu on how society and laws discriminate against people with mental health issues and the need to stop treating them as second class citizens.

Why is it important to have a Mental Health Day?

All the issues attached to mental health are a 365-day affair. But it is important to at least have an annual reminder that we need to pay attention to mental health issues. The data shows that one out of six or seven people in the world have a mental health problem or illness. So it is one day when people try to get over the stigma around it and reluctance to talk about it. It is a good day to introspect on why and how we discriminate against people with

mental health issues and treat them like second class citizens. We need to ask ourselves and the governments this question and why this is allowed to continue even in 2020.

Do you think over the years awareness has increased?

Awareness has never been a problem. It is not like people don't know of mental health problems. The issue is that there is stigma and discrimination attached to mental health. As a society we very actively and freely discriminate against those who have mental health problems.

How would you explain discrimination and stigma?

Stigma is only an attitude and discrimination is actively behavioural. People discriminate, which has an impact on your life. What anyone thinks about you does not necessarily affect you, but how one behaves with you affects you. That is

discrimination. It is active discrimination which makes people's lives miserable.

Can you give an example of how people are discriminated on the basis of mental health?

Our society discriminates and our government discriminates. If you look at the laws, whether it is the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, or the Special Marriage Act, 1954, if you have a mental illness, then it is a ground for divorce. If mental illness is a health issue, then why is one health problem a ground for divorce and not one other health problem? Even HIV is not a ground for divorce. What a law like this says is if the State can discriminate then it is alright for everyone to discriminate. So that goes on to say that they are lesser human beings and they have lesser rights. There are so many cases of employment – where there is no protection from unfair dismissal if you



What anyone thinks about you does not necessarily affect you, but how one behaves with you affects you. It is discrimination which makes people's lives miserable

have a health problem.

What are the other laws that discriminate?

There is a need to look at laws that actively and passively discriminate. There is a host of laws that definitely need to be modified. For example, in the Representation of the People Act, 1951, with respect to voting. Why

should somebody with a mental health problem be denied voting? The government will say 'mental illness' is not mentioned in the Act and the legislation says with an 'unsound mind'. However, electoral officers across the country have interpreted that 'unsound mind' means mental illness. There is a clear need to clarify that. In the Hindu marriage Act, it is very interesting that when the Act was amended and 'leprosy' was removed from it. We got rid of 'epilepsy' from the Act almost 20 years ago. However, mental illness still figures in it. Over time, leprosy and epilepsy have been deleted from the law but mental illness still figures in it. It is a discriminatory provision that needs to be removed.

How much of the government's budget is allocated to mental health?

Simple statistics show that less than 1% of the health budget goes towards mental health. While there is enough data to show that mental health issues constitute 8-10% of the health burden, we do not have enough mental health professionals.

12 pvt. hospitals ordered to refund ₹1.36 crore for overcharging patients

₹32.32 lakh returned so far

RAINA ASSAINAR

NAVI MUMBAI

The Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) has ordered 12 private hospitals to refund ₹1.36 crore to patients overcharged for COVID-19 treatment. As of September 13, ₹32.32 lakh has been returned.

"Six teams deployed by the NMMC have been scrutinising bills of private hospitals to find discrepancies instead of waiting for complaints," NMMC PRO Mahendra Konde said. In 662 of the 812 bills scrutinised, the team found discrepancies of ₹62.88 lakh.

The team found that Fortis Hospital in Vashi overcharged ₹17.86 lakh, Frisson Hospital in Ghansoli ₹14.41 lakh, Sunshine Hospital in Nerul ₹12.32 lakh, MPCT Hospital in Sanpada ₹10.90 lakh, and MGM hospital in Vashi ₹3.77 lakh.

Meanwhile, the NMMC's Covid Bill Complaint Center found discrepancies of ₹41.38 lakh in bills. The team found that ₹9.64 lakh was overcharged by Terna Hospital in Nerul, ₹6.36 lakh by DY Patil Hospital in Nerul, ₹1.14 lakh by Siddhika Hospital in Koparkhairane, ₹56.16 by MGM Hospital in Belapur, and ₹29,000 by Indravati Hospital in Airoli.

The State government in notification dated May 21 and August 31 had fixed the rates for COVID-19 treatment in private hospitals on a case-by-case basis. NMMC chief Abhijit Bangar had issued notices to healthcare providers in his jurisdiction, warning them of legal action under Section 3 of the Prevention of Infectious Diseases Act, 1897, and Sections 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, in case of discrepancies in bills.

The NMMC has appealed to residents to call the helpline 022-27567389 or WhatsApp 7208490010 to file complaints.

Man held for raping minor

RAINA ASSAINAR

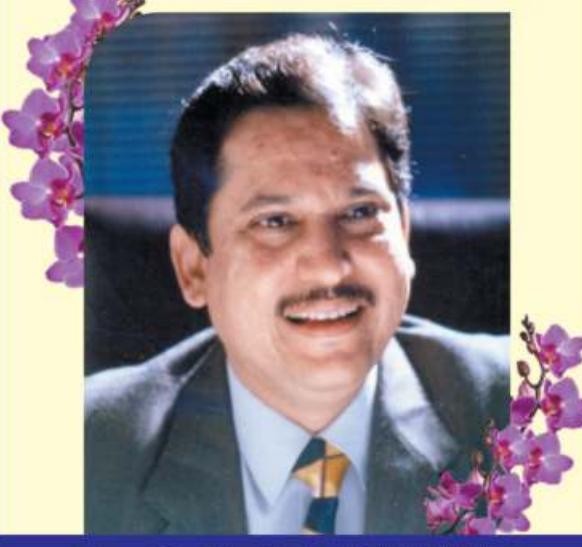
NAVI MUMBAI

Nitin Patil, a 34-year-old contractor, was arrested on Friday for allegedly raping a 16-year-old tribal girl in Raigad. The police said the accused hired the girl in January last year and she has been living with him and his parents since then.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

HOMAGE



Dr. C. K. RAJKUMAR
Great Visionary and Pioneer of Sachet Revolution in India
Founder Managing Director
Sujatha Bio Tech & Velvette International

Passed away in Chennai on 07.10.2020

A Loving Tribute to our
'SACHET KING OF INDIA'

Deeply mourned by

Sujatha Rajkumar	C.K. Ashok
Rati & Arjun Shetty	C.K. Andal
Krishika & Karthik	C.K. Ranganathan
Arjun Rajkumar	C.K. Vijayalakshmi
Grand Children	C.K. Kumaravel

Family, Staff & Friends

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e-Procurement Notice

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer Seraj Division HP.PWD Janjehli Distt. Mandi on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HP.PWD Department.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earrest Money	Cost of Tender	Eligible class of Contractor
1.	C/o Chowkidar quarter for Govt. Degree College Lambahach in Tehsil Thunag Distt. Mandi (SH:- C/o Building portion i/c WS & Sl)	10,22,612/-	21,500/-	500/-	Class C&D
2.	Additional accommodation Govt. Senior Secondary School Bara Distt. Mandi(SH:- C/o Laboratory , art and craft room i/c stair case)	15,64,2465/-	31,500/-	1500/-	Class C&D
3.	Balance work M/T on Baga said to Thunag road via Rainbar road Km 0/000 to 9/500 (SH-P/L M/T, R/Wall, V-shape drain)	90,58,587/-	1,21,500/-	2000/-	Class C&D

2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <https://htptenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HP.PWD may obtain the same from the website <https://htptenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

3. Key Dates:

1. Date of Online Publication	17.10.2020 1100 HRS
2. Document Download Start and End Date	17.10.2020 1100 HRS upto 30.10.2020 09.00 HRS
3. Bid Submission Start and End date	17.10.2020 1100 HRS upto 30.10.2020 09.00 HRS
4. Physical Submission of EMD Cost of Tender Document and original technical document	30.10.2020, 1030 HRS
5. Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid.	30.10.2020 1100HRS

4. TENDER DETAILS:

The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover:
i) Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/ Eligibility Information".

ii) Cover 2: shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

5. SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS: The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents in **O/o Executive Engineer Seraj Division HP.PWD Janjehli Distt. Mandi** as specified in Key dates Sr. No. 4 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

6. BID OPENING DETAILS: The bids shall be opened on 30.10.2020 at 11.00 HRS in the office **Executive Engineer Seraj Division HP.PWD Janjehli Distt. Mandi** H.P by the authorised officer. In their interest the tender are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.

8. The Bidder are advised to quote rates inclusive of GST as applicable. GST shall not be paid extra

9. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

Sd/-
**Executive Engineer
Seraj Division HP.PWD
Janjehli Distt Mandi H.P**

HP / 3619/20-21 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

CM YK

Gehlot may call Assembly meet on farm laws

House to discuss States' rights to legislate, says CM

MOHAMMED IQBAL

JAIPIUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Saturday hinted at convening a special session of the Assembly soon to discuss the impact of farm Acts and protect the interests of farmers by examining the laws for amendments. He said the House would deliberate on the constitutional power of States to legislate on agriculture.

"We will hold a debate on the Centre's interference in the legislative domain of States and see what rights the Assembly has. We are examining all possibilities after the Presidential assent... Every possible action will be taken to extend relief to farmers," Mr. Gehlot said at a convention organised by the Congress against the farm laws here.

Black legislations'

Mr. Gehlot questioned the intent of the BJP government at the Centre behind bringing the "black legislations" during the pandemic. The bills were tabled without any discussion with the State governments and other stakeholders and passed in a "questionable manner", he said.

He said Rajasthan had a robust network of Krishi



Ashok Gehlot questions the intent of the Central government.

Upaj Mandis for supporting the small and marginal farmers, which would be demolished by the new statutes. The contract farming at small land holdings and the absence of minimum support prices would destroy agriculturists and deprive all the connected people of their livelihood, he added.

A large number of representatives of farmers' organisations, which have launched a campaign against these Acts, attended the convention. Agriculture Minister Lal Chand Kataria, Minister of State for Technical Education Subhash Garg and Pradesh Congress Committee president Govind Singh Dotasra also addressed the gathering.

Mr. Dotasra said the farmers in the State would expose the designs of the Centre and the Congress workers would carry out a signature campaign against the farm laws. A memorandum with these signatures will later be submitted to President Ram Nath Kovind.

The COVID-19 pandemic, followed by a nationwide lockdown, forced schools to

shut down. When restrictions began to be eased, classes moved online. With the Union Ministry of Human Resource and Development issuing guidelines for schools to re-open from October 15, Haryana plans to ask students from Class 9 to 12 to return to schools while others will continue to take video lessons, explains District Education Officer Jogiinder Hooda, who launched the helpline.

Fourteen-year-old Gauri's classmates remember her as a hard-working student who attended school despite sickness or heavy rain. She is also known to take keen interest in both dancing as well as martial arts. Today, her friends in Rewli village are unaware of her whereabouts.

The toll-free helpline (1800180135) aims to provide counselling to children with mental health problems due to COVID-19, lend an ear to those unable to cope with academic challenges, counsel parents threatening to deny access to school education due to gender bias and extend career guidance. It will also help parents who are migrants from States like U.P. and Bihar apply for admissions for their children after their families were displaced during the lockdown.

Five resource persons will operate the helpline, who will then put callers in touch with a counsellor from a pool of 60 psychologists, psychiatrists, NCERT-

Helping girls at risk of dropping out

Helpline aims to counsel students and counter gender bias in Haryana district

JAGRITI CHANDRA
SONIPAT

Panic-stricken Gauri, a student of Class IX who doesn't use a surname, recorded a quick audio message to alert a community worker that her father had forbidden her from using a mobile phone to access pre-recorded school lectures. Two months after the incident, the local administration had earlier this week launched a toll-free helpline in her district Sonipat in Haryana, in collaboration with NGOs Breakthrough and Samarthya, to reach out to students like her who are at risk of dropping out.

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District Education Officer Joginder Hooda at the launch of helpline 'Bachchon Ka Saathi' in Sonipat. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

CBSE-certified career and academic counsellors. Various school principals in the district will be responsible for disseminating information about the new helpline among students through WhatsApp groups.

Child marriage

"Dropping out of school or school closures for long periods have the potential of exacerbating cases of early marriage. Since families treat school expenditure on girls as a liability, when schools are shut, parents think marriage is the best possible solution. Statistics show that if girls are in school, the chances of marriage become much less and the longer they are in education, the longer they are able to delay marriage. If they can stay longer in education, their aspiration for themselves change, they are more self-aware," explains Sohini Bhattacharya, CEO, Breakthrough.

Fifteen-year-old Priyanka Sahni is able to spend only one hour studying at home during her 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. 'school hours'. "Because I am now at home, my mother asks me to help with domestic chores." A demand never made of her brothers. Her household responsibilities have more than doubled as she has to sweep the house clean and wash utensils, in addition to helping her mother in the kitchen, which she also used to do before the lockdown.

Her classmate, Kajal Kanna, complains that she even has to do the heavy lifting at home such as fetching water, though her brother is the one with perks like owning a phone.

Assam to submit report on ST status by Oct. 30

Tribal groups are against the move

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

Assam's Group of Ministers has set October 30 as the deadline for submitting to the Centre its final report on granting Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to six communities.

The six communities are Chutiya, Koch-Rajbongshi, Matak, Moran, Tai-Ahom and 'Tea Tribe', some of which are categorised as Other Backward Classes. The State's tribes are opposed to granting ST status to these communities.

The Group of Ministers headed by Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had met the leaders of the six

communities. Later, he said "60% of the issues" pertaining to granting ST status had been resolved.

"We will submit the report to the Centre on or before October 30," he said, adding the government would wait for the Centre's decision for the next step.

Dr. Sarma insisted the issue was not linked to the 2021 Assembly election.

The government had in January 2019 formed the GoM to recommend the rights and benefits for new STs. The Centre had sought the group after the introduction of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill in the Parliament.

NC, PDP oppose tax on property

PEERZADA ASHIQ

Regional parties, including the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party, on Saturday opposed implementation of the recently introduced property tax, first time ever, in J&K.

NC general secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar, who chaired a meeting in the Srinagar constituency on Saturday, "expressed concern over the imposition of property tax". "Amidst depressing economic activity and soaring unemployment, the government wants to suck the life and blood of people. The tax has come at a time when the economy is reeling under slowdown," he said. He said the businesses have crumbled and people have lost their jobs after the unilateral abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A.

PDP leader Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra said, "The government is justifying August 5 in the name of development. However, in 'Naya Kashmir' nonlocals get domiciles, jobs, land, contracts, houses, financial aid under the PM package, while those who live here will face property tax on own properties."

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR

Telefax: - 0194-2496089, Email ID: xenmhchdk@yahoo.in

Gist of e-tender
NTT No: MHCHD/TS/2020-21/50/e-tendering

Dated 08.10.2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited (in 2 cover system) on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs.)	Cost of T.Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Lacs. of Rs)	Time of completion (In Days)	Position of AAA / funds	Class of contractor
1 Construction of Building for Housing of Oxygen Plant(s) at Govt. SMHS Hospital, Srinagar.	176.95	3000	3.55	90	Available	AAY

1. **Download of Bids:-** The NTT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from 08.10.2020 (18.00 hrs) downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 09-10-2019 (18.00 hrs).
2. **Uploading:** The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 12.10.2

FROM PAGE ONE

Police, media & spectacle of grief in Boolgarhi

He rushed in to record every time the victim's sister-in-law (wife of the victim's elder brother), who was present in the village, gets agitated with the constant probing. She says, "A narrative is being built to malign the victim by leaking the call details. It is a conspiracy to discredit us. The victim was uneducated and didn't know how to use a phone."

She says she usually keeps the said phone, which is in her father-in-law's name. Call data records reportedly show calls made from Sandeep's (one of the accused) phone to the phone of the victim's brother, and vice-versa.

The family of Chanderpal, uncle of the victim's father who purportedly was one of the four close relatives of the family who participated in the last rites, is worried because the old man has been taken to Hathras to record his statement. "He went to the cremation ground after his nephew asked him to do so. When he reached there, the pyre was already lit," says Prakash, his son.

Policemen took wooden sticks and cow dung cakes from their residence, adds Prakash, and says, "But at that time, the body hasn't reached the village and we didn't know that they would burn it without even showing us the face."

Prakash and his wife maintain what they had heard of an argument between the two families about the phone calls made by Sandeep, one of arrested accused. "I don't know the exact date but it happened before the lockdown. When the father of the victim complained, Guddu, Sandeep's father, had slapped him. After that, Sandeep left the village," says Prakash, adding his cousin did not reveal it because "in a village such things bring a bad name only to the girl".

While Guddu and his wife are not in the village, Rajawati, mother of Ramu Singh, another arrested accused, who is also Sandeep's uncle, says she is not aware of the incident but confirms that

Sandeep had left the village in March to work with a courier company in Delhi and returned about 10 days before the incident.

She says that though Sandeep has attended high school, he could not write a letter. "I cannot say about Sandeep, but my son Ramu was at the dairy at the time of the incident," she insisted.

Some of the men of the accused's household have returned to the village and have recorded their statements with the Special Investigation Team (SIT). "We hope we will get justice," says Hariom, Ramu's elder brother. "We are not aware whether the girl and Sandeep were in touch and have come to know about the letter only through the media," he says.

But he has no answer as to why it took Sandeep so long to divulge the details of the "relationship", considering he was arrested on September 19. "We were all hiding because earlier the police would detain anybody related to the accused," he said.

Towards the end of the day, when *The Hindu* asked the father of the victim about the phone calls, he said, "The purpose of those calls should also be revealed. It could have been part of his conspiracy. She has already died a thousand times in the last week..."

Seema Kushwaha, lawyer of the victim's family, who will accompany the four members of the family before the Allahabad High Court's Lucknow Bench on October 12, says, "Even if the calls were made, did it give the accused the right to rape and kill the victim?" she wonders, refuting the honour killing narrative. "The victim's first statement, made at the Chandpa police station on September 14, was enough to invoke sections of rape," asserted Ms. Kushwaha. "Burning the body without the family's consent was inhuman," she said.

(The names of the relatives of the victim have been changed.)

Tamil Nadu defends Mullaperiyar dam panel

The sub-committee is only assisting the Supervisory Committee. This cannot be called the delegation of the authority of the Supervisory Committee, the affidavit filed through advocate M. Yokes Kanna argued.

The State said releases from the dam are done in a systematic manner. "Before operating the spillway gates during flood time, warning

would be issued well in advance to the downstream authorities of Kerala before releasing water.

The answering Respondent (Tamil Nadu) ensures and takes care that no release is made without any warning. The releases are made in steps so as not to cause any problem to people living downstream," the affidavit said.

Concern over import of mountain clothing for Army

The Army has been maintaining troops in high altitude areas of Siachen glacier at heights of 20,000 feet for decades. With the ongoing standoff along the disputed border with China, the Army has procured clothing and shelter to house the troops through the winter in Ladakh as there has been no progress in talks for disengagement.

Lt. Gen. Saini also highlighted the need for security

key to combating the threat.

Gehlot govt. announces aid for priest's family

Vaishnav's family has alleged that the accused wanted to encroach on land belong to the temple and were erecting a shed, leading to the dispute.

The priest was farming on 15 bighas (6 acres) of land belonging to the Radha Krishna Temple Trust. The State government has also agreed to give a job on contract to a fa-

Kerala cases soar to 11,755 as positivity rate up

At 17.7%, test positivity metric at a new high in State; Karnataka adds over 10,000 cases; graph stays flat in Telangana, A.P.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

day and 1,896 on Wednesday.

Barring Tuesday, when 2,154 cases were recorded, the incidence dropped below 2,000 over the last eight days. On October 1, 2,008 cases were reported.

With another nine COVID-19-related deaths, total fatalities rose to 1,217.

The number of active cases on Friday were 26,104 including 21,551 in home or institutional isolation and 4,553 under treatment in the government and private hospitals.

Testing on Friday covered 50,469 samples. The samples tested per million ratio touched 94,046.

Andhra Pradesh's case tally crossed 7.5 lakh with 5,653 new infections on Saturday.

The death toll also went up with 35 new fatalities in various districts. In the past day, 73,625 samples were tested and overall positivity rate was 11.56%.

Karnataka's total cases

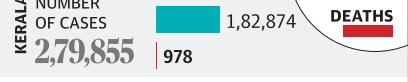
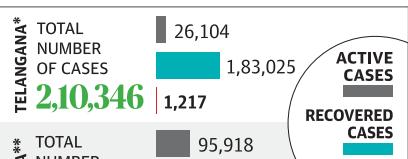
Long fight

Civic authorities are sparing no effort to keep the virus at bay. The graph shows the spread of the pandemic in the southern States



Keeping it clean: A health worker disinfecting the area near a mobile testing centre in Vijayawada on Saturday. ■ V. RAJU

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



The tests per million rose from 44,099 on September 1 to 72,541 on September 30. The State started Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) in June, going up to 1,68,472 samples in July, 7,24,469 in August and 9,13,158 in September.

Tamil Nadu's overall tally of COVID-19 cases crossed the 6.50 lakh-mark on Saturday as another 5,242 persons tested positive for the infection. Of this, Chennai recorded 1,272 cases, while Coimbatore, Salem and Chengalpattu had 300-plus cases each.

Till date, 6,51,370 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the State. Of this, 5,97,033 were discharged after treatment, while 44,150 persons were presently under treatment. Another 67 persons died, taking the toll to 10,187.

Of the 5,222 persons, who were discharged on Saturday, 1,173 were in Chennai.

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

breached the seven lakh mark on Saturday, and the State reported 10,517 new positive cases.

With 102 more deaths, the toll also rose to 9,891. Bengaluru Urban reported 4,563 cases. Also, 30 of the 102

deaths were from this urban district.

Karnataka, which was testing over one lakh samples daily for four consecutive days, conducted a record 1,12,770 tests including 64,367 RT-PCR tests.

The State ramped up its testing from May. From 1,587 tests in March, the State conducted 3,21,115 tests till June, 7,65,945 in July and in August, 15,93,892 tests. It went up to 20,18,194 in September.

PM praises Kerala girl who sang Himachali song

Video of Class 9 student has gone viral

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOCHI



Devika

singing 'Chamba kitni ki door' on Facebook.

Ms. Devika, a student of Kendriya Vidyalaya in Thiruvananthapuram, had sung the song under the 'Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat' programme.

"I am proud of Devika. Her melodic rendering strengthens the essence of 'One India, Great India,'" the Prime Minister said in his tweet in Malayalam.

His tweet came a day after Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jairam Thakur shared the video of Devika from Thiruvananthapuram

HC comes to rescue of Karnataka student

It tells CBSE to declare result; Board had asked her to reappear for Biology paper

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Observing that "a tender age student, even when delinquency is established, cannot be treated as an offender of the war crime," the Karnataka High Court has directed the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to immediately announce the result of a student of Class XII, who was asked to reappear for an exam in one of the subjects, without announcing the result, for carrying a mobile phone inside the examination hall on March 14.

Justice Krishna S. Dixit passed the order while allowing a petition filed by Shuchi Mishra, who had appeared for the CBSE Class XII main examinations in Bengaluru.

An extreme penalty violates the rule of proportionality, the High Court ruled.

The court directed the CBSE to immediately announce the results for the Biology exam.

The court, from the records, found that the petitioner had inadvertently car-

ried a mobile phone inside the exam hall and had handed it over to the invigilator just before commencement of the exam, but the CBSE had treated her case as "unfair means" for "using mobile phone during examination".

"The student's assertion that she had deposited the mobile at 9.55 a.m., that is prior to commencement of examination, to the centre invigilator becomes evident by the fact that it was sent to her school, which in turn delivered it back to her after examination and on the same day," the court observed.

The court also noted that the CBSE committee had not made any effort to view vi-

deo footage of the exam hall, with every hall under electronic surveillance, and had denied a personal hearing to the student.

Pointing out that there was no allegation that the petitioner had clandestinely stored the examination material in the said phone for making "unfair use" of the same, the court said,

"though a student is expected not to carry such instrument into the exam hall but human fallibility, more particularly in case of children going to exam with associated anxiety, needs to be kept in mind, as an extreme penalty cancelling exam violates the rule of proportionality and it shakes the consciousness of the court, to say the least."

SC judge influencing A.P. High Court orders, Jagan tells CJI

He says recent High Court judgments benefit the TDP

STAFF REPORTER
GUNTUR

In an unprecedented move, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has urged Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde to ensure that the State's judicial neutrality is maintained.

In a letter addressed to the Chief Justice of India, Mr. Reddy alleged that Justice N.V. Ramana of the Supreme Court has been influencing the sittings of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, including the roster of a few judges. He also alleged that cases important to the opposition Telugu Desam Party (TDP) had been "allocated to a few judges".

The letter cites the recent order passed by the Chief Justice of the High Court were clearly the politicians of the TDP, he recalled that Justice Ra-

man had been a legal adviser and Additional Advocate-General in the previous TDP government.

Evidence submitted

Adviser to the Chief Minister Ajeya Kallam told reporters on Saturday night that the State government had submitted all evidences to the Chief Justice of India pertaining to "interference by a sitting Supreme Court judge in matters dealt by the High Court of Andhra Pradesh".

"In larger public interest and in order to put to rest the speculations in a section of media concerning these developments, the government deemed it fit to officially speak on the above to ensure the dignity of all the institutions of the State is preserved," said Mr. Kallam.

Stating that the beneficiaries of both the judgments of the High Court were clearly the politicians of the TDP, he recalled that Justice Ra-

mna had been a legal adviser and Additional Advocate-General in the previous TDP government.

not know whether the generation before them was also born there.

The Mallannasagar project turned their lives upside down. Mr. Kumar's extended family has given about three acres as their share in the combined family land, and they were paid a total ₹8 lakh for it. They also received some amount for a house. Spending all of this amount, they could only buy 150 yards of a residential plot at Siddipet, which cost them a total of ₹24 lakh.

Chennai all set to get full quota of Krishna water

Kandaleru receives record storage

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE

Chennai can breathe easy as the Kandaleru reservoir in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh, which augments the drinking water supply to the metropolis, has attained a record storage of 52.94 tmcft for the first time since the launch of the Telugu Ganga canal system in 1996.

Tamil Nadu can expect to get its full quota of Krishna water this year as the storage in the reservoir is expected to go up further in the coming weeks to reach closer to its full capacity of 68.05 tmcft.

"We will maintain the storage at 60 tmcft, leaving a flood cushion of about 8 tmcft, to ensure the safety of the reservoir," Telugu Ganga

project Chief Engineer C. Harinarayana Reddy said while overseeing the water release to meet the needs of, among other cities, Tirupati and Chennai.

It was in the year 2010 that the reservoir had a relatively comfortable storage of 50.65 tmcft against the full capacity of 68.05 tmcft.

Once the farm season begins in November, the water realised from Kandaleru by Tamil Nadu will come down a bit to about 600 cusecs from the present 800 cusecs, after accounting for evaporation losses and seepage.

"Going by the present trend, we are in a position to continue the water release to Chennai till March 2021," Mr. Harinarayana Reddy indicated.

IN BRIEF



Veteran film-maker B. Vijaya Reddy no more

'Follow SOP in crimes against women'

MHA asks States to ensure mandatory action by police, underlines need to record victim's statement

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued an advisory to all States regarding "mandatory action by the police in crimes against women".

The Ministry reiterated that the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, provides that the statement, written or verbal, by a person who is dead shall be treated as relevant fact in the investigation.

Recently, the role of the Uttar Pradesh police had come under scanner after the Hathras gang-rape when a 19-year-old woman had given a statement from the hospital bed that she was sexually assaulted by four men from her village. The police claimed that the forensic examination had established that the victim was not raped. She later succumbed to injuries at Delhi's Safdarjung hospital.

Supreme Court ruling
"Section 32 (1) of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, provides that the statement, written or verbal, by a person who is dead shall be treated as relevant fact in the investigation when the statement is made by a person as to the cause of his death, or as to any of the

Standard procedure

Some of the mandatory measures that have to be taken in cases of crime against women

- 1 Compulsory registration of FIR in cases of cognisable offences, including sexual assault
- 2 Collection of evidence for forensic examination
- 3 Use of Sexual Assault Evidence

- 4 Completion of investigation in sexual assault cases in 2 months
- 5 Use of the national database on sexual offenders for identifying and tracking repeat offenders

The Ministry of Home Affairs reiterated that the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, provides that the statement, written or verbal, by a person who is dead shall be treated as relevant fact in the investigation



circumstances of the transaction which resulted in his death. Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 7th January 2020, in the matter of Criminal Appeal Nos. 194-195 of 2012 in the case of Purshotam Chopra & Anr. v. State (Govt. of NCT Delhi), directed that a particular statement, when being offered as dying declaration and satisfies all the requirements of judicial scrutiny, cannot be discarded merely because it has not been recorded by a Magistrate or that the police officer did not obtain attestation by any person present at the time of making of the statement," the advisory said.

The MHA also said Section

173 of the Code of Criminal Procedure provides for completion of investigation in rape cases within two months.

"In order to facilitate the State police to monitor compliance, in this regard MHA has provided an online portal called Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences for monitoring the same. This is available exclusively to law enforcement officers," the Ministry said.

It reminded the States regarding compulsory registration of FIR in cases of cognisable offences.

"The law also enables the police to register FIR or a 'Zero FIR' (in case the crime is committed outside the jurisdiction of police station in the event of receipt of information on commission of a cognizable offence, which includes cases of sexual assault on women," the MHA said.

The MHA said Section

164-A of the Cr.P.C. provides that in rape/sexual assault investigation, the victim shall be examined by a registered medical practitioner under consent within 24 hours

from the time of receiving the information relating to the commission of such offence.

The MHA also asked States to adhere to the guidelines issued by the Directorate of Forensic Science Services for collection, preservation and transportation of forensic evidence in sexual assault cases.

"In order to facilitate the State Police, Bureau of Police Research and Development has issued Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits to every State/UT. It is necessary to use these SAEC kits in every case of sexual assault reported," it said.

The MHA asked States to investigate lapses in matters of women safety.

"However, even with stringent provisions in law and several capacity building measures undertaken, any failure of police to adhere to these mandatory requirements may not augur well for the delivery of criminal justice in the country, especially in context of women safety. Such lapses, if noticed, need to be investigated into and stringent action taken immediately against the concerned officers responsible for the same," the Ministry said.

LeT 'commander' among 4 militants killed in J&K

Arms smuggling bid foiled along the LoC in Kupwara

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR

Four militants, including an LeT 'commander', were killed in two separate operations in south Kashmir on Saturday.

A police spokesperson said two militants were killed in the Chinigam area of Kulgam in a joint cordon and search operation. They were identified as Tariq Ahmad Mir, a resident of Zangalpora Dvarsar in Kulgam, and Sameer Bhai alias Usman, a resident of Punjab in Pakistan. "Both were affiliated to the Jaish-e-Mohammad," the spokesperson said.

The MHA asked States to investigate lapses in matters of women safety.

"However, even with stringent provisions in law and several capacity building measures undertaken, any failure of police to adhere to these mandatory requirements may not augur well for the delivery of criminal justice in the country, especially in context of women safety. Such lapses, if noticed, need to be investigated into and stringent action taken immediately against the concerned officers responsible for the same," the Ministry said.

The police said due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the bodies will be sent to Handwara for burial, and only the closest family members will be allowed to participate in the last rites.

In another encounter

which broke out on Saturday afternoon, two militants

were killed in Pulwama's Dadura area.

"Lashkar-e-Taiba's top commander Zahid

Nazir Bhat, alias Zahid Tiger,

was among the two slain militiamen. It's a big success for



On alert: Jawans standing guard near the encounter site in the Chingam area of Kulgam on Saturday. • NISSAR AHMAD

the security forces," IGP Vijay Kumar said.

Arms smuggling

The Army foiled a bid to smuggle weapons from across the LoC at the Keran Sector in north Kashmir's Kupwara. Four AK-47 rifles, eight magazines and 240 rounds were recovered during the anti-infiltration operation, the Army said.

"Pakistan has not stopped helping militants to infiltrate into this part of Kashmir and to fan violence. According to sources, 250-300 militants are ready to infiltrate at

launching pads established on the other side of the LoC," General Officer Commanding 15 Corps Lieutenant General B.S. Raju said.

BSF jawans injured

In another incident, two Border Security Force men suffered injuries during the unprovoked ceasefire violation by Pakistan along the LoC in the Mendhar sector of Poonch district. "Two BSF men guarding a forward post sustained injuries. They were evacuated to a hospital where they are under treatment," officials said.

No indication of missile sites in PoK: Army

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR
Amid reports that China is helping Pakistan set up sites for surface-to-air missiles in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), a top Army commander here on Saturday said there is no indication of any tactical help being extended by Beijing to Islamabad.

Corps Commander of the Srinagar-based Chinar Corps Lt. Gen. B.S. Raju, however, said there is military cooperation between Pakistan and China in terms of equipment.

Media reports quoting intelligence inputs have claimed that China is helping Pakistan set up sites for surface-to-air missiles in PoK as soldiers of their armies have been carrying out joint patrols in the region. Gen. Raju said there has not been any such indication.

"I have seen the reports in the media. Whether Pakistan is helping China or China is helping Pakistan, we have no such indication," he told reporters on the sidelines of a passing out-cum-attestation parade at the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regimental Centre on the outskirts of the city here. "But because of the CPEC [China-Pakistan Economic Corridor], there is the presence of China in Pakistan. The military cooperation in terms of equipment is there but we are not seeing any tactical help."

Farewell to Paswan



Last respects: Army personnel leading the cortège of Union Minister and Lok Janshakti Party leader Ram Vilas Paswan before his cremation at Digha Ghat in Patna on Saturday. The veteran leader passed away in New Delhi on Thursday. • PTI

'Inclusive' Cong. gears up for Bihar

Leaders who called for leadership revamp among list of star campaigners

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday sent a list of 30 star campaigners to the Election Commission for the first phase of the Bihar Assembly poll. The list includes leaders who had questioned the party's leadership through a letter in August.

The list, issued by general secretary K.C. Venugopal, included Rajya Sabha member

Ghulam Nabi Azad, Akhilesh Prasad Singh and Raj Babbar, who were part of the Group of 23 who had questioned the leadership, as well Sachin Pilot who had rebelled against Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.

Apart from Congress president Sonia Gandhi, former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, former party chief Rahul Gandhi, general secretary Priyanka Gandhi

Vadra, the list includes film-star-turned-politician Shatrughan Sinha, former cricketer and MP Kirti Azad and popular Urdu poet Imran Pratapgarhi.

Ms. Gandhi and Dr. Singh, however, are unlikely to travel to Bihar in the midst of the pandemic and the party may instead opt for digital rallies for them. The former party chief is likely to be principal campaigner for the

Congress even though Mr. Gandhi's election tour programme is yet to be finalised, said a source.

Chief Ministers of Congress-ruled States, including Amarinder Singh (Punjab), Ashok Gehlot (Rajasthan), Bhupesh Baghel (Chhattisgarh), will also be part of the campaign. Of the 243 seats, the Congress is contesting 70 seats in an alliance with the RJD and the Left parties.

Government sources, however, clarified that the VIP aircraft acquisition was cleared by the United Progressive Alliance government and was delivered during the current regime.

Mr. Gandhi's barbs over the VIP aircraft purchase started after the BJP leaders had attacked him for using a cushion during his tractor rally in Punjab earlier this week.

Rahul targets Modi again on VIP plane

He shares a clip of jawans 'at risk'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Saturday targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi again on the purchase of a VIP aircraft by tweeting a video clip showing jawans in a truck saying that their lives were being put at risk by ferrying them in a non-bullet-proof vehicle.

"Our jawans are being sent in non-bullet-proof trucks to become martyrs, while a ₹8,400 crore plane is for the Prime Minister. Is this justice?" asked Mr. Gandhi on Twitter, tagging the two-minute video clip.

Neither the date of the video nor its location is known but the jawans were seen complaining that they were being sent in a non-bullet-proof vehicle when even a bullet-proof vehicle in their area was not sufficient to protect them.

Mr. Gandhi has targeted Mr. Modi for the second time in two days over the purchase of the VIP aircraft.

Government sources, however, clarified that the VIP aircraft acquisition was cleared by the United Progressive Alliance government and was delivered during the current regime. Mr. Gandhi's barbs over the VIP aircraft purchase started after the BJP leaders had attacked him for using a cushion during his tractor rally in Punjab earlier this week.



Rahul Gandhi

that the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament had sought permission from the Lok Sabha Speaker to visit Ladakh for an assessment on the ground after a Comptroller and Auditor General report flagged delays in the procurement of essential items for soldiers.

Navy ships will hold a PASSEX with USS Ronald Reagan on October 12 as it transits through the Indian Ocean, the official said. The PASSEX is likely to be held in the waters off Kochi.

On September 25, for the first time a U.S. Navy P-8A long range maritime patrol aircraft landed at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, for refuelling under the bilateral logistics support agreement.

In July, front-line warships of the Navy conducted a PASSEX with the U.S. Navy's Nimitz carrier strike group near the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as it was transiting the Indian Ocean. The USS Nimitz was returning from the South China Sea through the Strait of Malacca where it undertook Freedom of Navigation Operations (FO-NOP). The USS Ronald Reagan was in the South China Sea in August to conduct FONOPS amid tensions between China and the U.S.

The trilateral Malabar Naval exercise with Japan and the U.S. is also scheduled to be held in November, though there is no clarity on inviting Australia for the exercise.

INTERVIEW | ABDULLAH ABDULLAH

'India will be playing an important, active role in Afghan peace process'

Hopeful of a ceasefire or significant reduction in violence in Afghanistan, says Chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation

SUHASINI HAIDAR

Afghanistan's Chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation, Abdullah Abdullah, has been in Delhi this week to brief the government on the Doha peace talks with the Taliban. In an interview, he said that in talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, he had received New Delhi's full support for the peace process.

You said you are on a mission to build regional consensus for the reconciliation process. Were there specific assurances you were hoping for during your visit to New Delhi?

We weren't expecting something specific.

We wanted to share the details of what is going on and see how best each country can contribute. That was

actually addressed a gathering including the Taliban. Did you discuss whether India would engage the Taliban more directly now?

I didn't have a specific recommendation as far as engagement with the Taliban is concerned but I will say India will be playing an important role, active role with the rest of the partners of the international community from the region [in the process] and beyond.

Did you receive any assurances on Pakistan's support when it comes to announcing a ceasefire during your visit there last week?

[We are still hopeful of] a ceasefire or significant reduction in violence. [Pakistanis] were supportive of that idea and they also promised that they will communicate this and they will try to use their own influence to achieve that.

Afghanistan needs to stand on its own feet and support from the region for a peaceful, inclusive settlement is important

Even so, are you at all hopeful? Just looking at the figures, 1,300 civilian casualties in the first half of this year, a 60% rise in attacks on Afghan forces from this quarter compared to the previous quarter

The people of Afghanistan were expecting that as the [Doha] talks started, we would have a ceasefire or a significant reduction in violence.

Our negotiating team was ready from day one to start discussions on a ceasefire. The progress so far has been slow, but hopefully, with the help of different players and also with the patience that we will show, the civility we will show there will be a transition to less violence.

Are you on the same page as the President Ghani government? Just 10 months ago, you were in a legal battle with President Ghani, contesting the presidential elections you both fought...

That's democracy. Given the fact that we contested elections [against each other] means that we were not

yet available to us. They already had announced, according to their agreement, to keep 4,500 troops and to pull out the rest, which will be completed by November. So, we are not sure what these announcements refer to. But eventually, Afghanistan needs to stand on its own feet and support from the region for a peaceful, inclusive settlement is important.

President Trump has already said that by Christmas, he hopes to have all U.S. troops return. Are you considering the possibility for a regional peacekeeping force if the Americans do pull out completely?

First of all, on the recent announcement by President Trump, the details are not

yet available to us. They already had announced, according to their agreement, to keep 4,500 troops and to pull out the rest, which will be completed by November. So, we are not sure what these announcements refer to. But eventually, Afghanistan needs to stand on its own feet and support from the region for a peaceful, inclusive settlement is important. Hopefully, we will get to an agreement that will not require security forces from other countries to keep us safe.

But have you discussed that possibility in India?

No, no, that was not part of our discussions.

IN BRIEF



'Taiwan Day' posters put up in Delhi removed

NEW DELHI
Posters wishing Taiwan on its "National Day event", put up by a BJP member, were taken down after the Chinese embassy raised the issue with the Ministry of External Affairs, sources said. The posters were unauthorised, the New Delhi Municipal Council said. The posters were issued by BJP's former Delhi spokesperson Tajinder Singh Bagga.

Row erupts after Sikh's turban falls off at rally

KOLKATA
The controversy over the turban of a Sikh man falling off during a BJP rally earlier this week refused to die down even after the West Bengal police clarified that it had fallen off on its own in the scuffle. Questioning Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's silence, BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya termed the incident "an insult to religious sentiment".

Heavy rain likely in Odisha over next 4 days

BHUBANESWAR
With the fresh low pressure area over Bay of Bengal intensifying on Saturday, many parts of Odisha are likely to be lashed by heavy rainfall over the next four days, the Meteorological Centre here said. Strong surface wind with speed 45-55 kmph and gusting to 65 kmph may prevail along and off Odisha coast from October 11 to 13, it said.

Resolve Tawang church issue in a week: forum

Pastor held in illegal construction case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

A Christian forum has set the BJP government in Arunachal Pradesh a week's deadline to resolve a church construction row in Tawang or face a "democratic protest".

On October 6, the police arrested Joseph Singh, a pastor on charges of constructing a church illegally without any land allotment. The pastor, held on the basis of a complaint by the district Land Revenue and Sur-

Centre suppressing all opposing voices: Soren

Jharkhand CM criticises arrest of rights activist Stan Swamy



In solidarity: A protest in Patna on Saturday against the arrest of Stan Swamy. • PTI

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren has lashed out at the Centre over the arrest of Stan Swamy, a prominent tribal rights activist, by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in connection with the Bhima Koregaon case.

Mr. Swamy, who was arrested on Thursday by the NIA from his house in Ranchi, has been sent to judicial custody till October 23. The agency had filed the second supplementary chargesheet against seven accused and one absconding accused in the 2018 Bhima Koregaon violence case. Mr. Swamy's name figured in the list.

According to the NIA, all these accused "conspired with other accused persons to further the ideology of

terrorist organisation CPI (Maoist) and abetted violence and incited disaffection towards the government".

Two days before his arrest, the activist, who is a Jesuit priest, said he had been interrogated by the NIA for 15 hours during a span of five days (July 27-30 and August 6) and that he had no problem if the agency wanted to interrogate him further through video-conference.

Tribals targeted'

"What kind of message does the BJP-led Central government want to send by arresting 83-year-old Mr. Swamy who has been working for tribals, Dalits and the weaker sections?" Mr. Soren asked on Twitter.

"What kind of stubbornness is this to suppress all

opposing voices," he asked.

Mr. Soren said, "The way the issue was handled, there must be some hidden agenda, given the BJP government's working style." "When they sense a political threat, tribals, Dalits and weaker sections always become the target. Stan Swamy has been working for tribals and Dalits for years. He is above 80 years of age."

When the Maharashtra police had raided Mr. Swamy's residence in June 2019, Mr. Soren, who was then the leader of the Opposition, had strongly condemned the action.

In a statement on Friday, activists appealed to the Jharkhand Chief Minister to oppose Mr. Swamy's arrest. They demanded that Mr. Soren ask the Centre to release Mr. Swamy immediately.

CBI readies to take over Hathras probe

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is in the process of taking over the probe into the alleged gang rape and assault on a 19-year-old Dalit woman in Hathras on September 14, following a reference from the Uttar Pradesh government. The victim succumbed to her injuries at a hospital in Delhi on September 29.

The case is likely to be handed over to the Ghaziabad unit of the agency. A team of forensic experts will soon be sent to the village. The woman was initially admitted to a hospital in Aligarh after she was allegedly assaulted by four upper caste men in her village. She was then shifted to Safdarjung Hospital in south Delhi.

The local police registered a criminal case against Sandeep on a complaint from the victim's brother. The accused was arrested on charges of attempt to murder and under relevant provisions of the SC/ST Act.

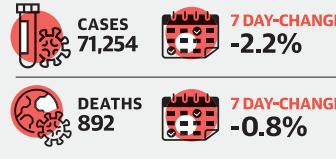
Based on the woman's statement in hospital on September 22, three more persons were booked and an additional provision of gangrape was invoked. The three, identified as Ramu, Lavkush and Ravi, were also arrested.

The victim's death triggered widespread outrage, with Opposition parties demanding action.

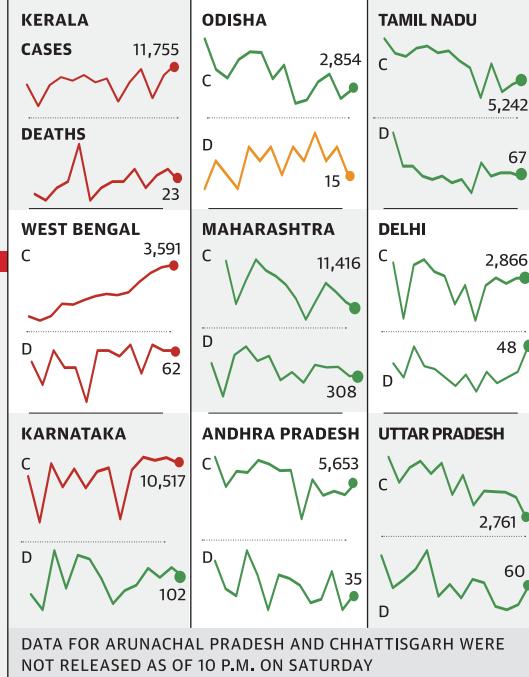
Viral tracker

With 71,254 COVID-19 cases recorded on Saturday, India's tally crossed the seven million mark. The country registered its 7 millionth case 13 days after crossing 6 million. As many as 892 deaths were recorded, taking the toll to 1,08,367.

NEW CASES AND DEATHS



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



Over ₹5.28 cr. cash seized in Assam police paper leak case

Eight more nabbed, taking the total number to 45: police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUWAHATI

Over ₹5.28 crore in cash was seized and eight more persons were arrested for their alleged involvement in the Assam Police recruitment scam, taking the total number of those nabbed to 45, DGP Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta said on Saturday.

Raids were conducted in several districts in the last few days to apprehend the main accused, he said.

"Our prime objective is to find out the person who leaked the paper. So far, we have arrested 45 people in five cases registered in the scam," Mr. Mahanta said.

The police recovered ₹3.4 crore in cash from Bonagaigaon, ₹1.7 crore from Barpeta, ₹3 lakh from Chirang and ₹15 lakh from another place in the last 24 hours, the DGP said.

Speaking about the progress of the investigation,

Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Gyanendra Pratap Singh said, "We have been probing the case for the last 20 days and are now investigating how the question paper was leaked."

Asked if any serving official from the Assam police is involved in the racket, Mr. Singh said, "Patience is the biggest virtue... We are looking at any other conspiracy."

MP's office sealed for COVID-19 violations

Bid to halt my work: Odisha BJP leader

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

A full-blown political war broke out in Odisha after the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation sealed the office of local MP and BJP national spokesperson Aparajita Sarangi on Saturday for her alleged disregard for COVID-19 protocols such as wearing mask and maintaining social distancing.



MP Aparajita Sarangi with party activists recently.

against virus-infected Minister Samir Ranjan Das and Samyabdi MLA Umakant Samantray for participating in the funeral procession of former Minister Pradeep Maharathy recently.

Ms. Sarangi hit back demanding closure of the Biju Janata Dal party office where leaders had reportedly thrown guidelines to the wind while celebrating party leaders' birthday.

Minister of State for Home Digya Shankar Mishra on Friday wrote to Union Minister of State for Home Nitin Gadkari seeking to rein in Ms. Sarangi who is being accused of "habitually violating the pandemic norms". She celebrated her birthday amidst scores of supporters.

Early on Saturday, the BMC officials came to seal the Palaspalli office of the MP. According to the BMC, the office will remain closed for 15 days for sanitisation.

'Shut BJD office'
An enraged Ms. Sarangi presented 17 photographs showing BJD leaders attending functions at party office without masks and maintaining social distance.

The pandemic situation continued to remain grim. With 15 more deaths on Saturday, the toll has risen to 1,006. Similarly, the case load grew to 2,49,693.

Ordnance Factory Board staff stir off

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

After a conciliation meeting on October 9, three staff federations of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) have called off their indefinite strike planned from October 12 against the government's move to corporatise the OFB, the Defence Ministry has said.

"It was agreed by the representatives of the federations and officials of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) that, during the pendency of ongoing conciliation proceedings, the Ministry will abide by the provisions of Section 33(I) of the Industrial Disputes Act 1947, which stipulates that the employer cannot alter the conditions of service of the employees till the conclusion of conciliation proceedings," the Ministry said in a statement. However, it will not affect the government's decision to corporatise OFB, it added.

In July 2020, the government decided to convert OFB, a subordinate office of MoD, into one or more than one 100% government-owned corporate entities, registered under the Companies Act, 2013.

Following this, three federations of defence civil employees gave notice for a joint strike. The MoD referred the matter to the Chief Labour Commissioner, Ministry of Labour and Employment to initiate conciliation.

Mughal aggression still on: Assam CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal invited criticism for saying all the indigenous communities and genuine Indian citizens need to unite to be fully insured against "Mughal aggression".

At an induction programme organised by the State BJP for more than 700 members of two tribal groups on Friday, Mr. Sonowal said the indigenous communities should come together to defeat the "conspiracy of illegal foreigners" to take over Assam.

"The *bhumiputra* [sons of the soil] are not fully safe because the Mughal aggression is still on," he said after the members of the Bodoland People's Front, one of the BJP's two regional allies, and the United Bodoland People's Organisation, representing Bodo people living outside the Bodoland Territorial Council, joined the saffron party.

The Opposition Congress and All India United Democratic Front said the Chief Minister should spell out what he meant by 'Mughal'. Former BJP leader and anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act activist Mira Borthakur asked: "If Mughal aggression has not ended, what has your elected government been doing? What has stopped your government from thwarting the aggression?"

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,(PROJECT) PHED CHURU (RAJ).Tel. 01562-251415, e-mail- acephedchuru@gmail.com Date 23-09-2020

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR WORKS

Online tenders are hereby invited on behalf of the Hon'ble Governor of Rajasthan for the following works from eligible contractor/ Firm as per Rules. Details of this tender notification and pre-qualification criteria can also be seen in NIT exhibited on web site www.dpr.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppr.rajasthan.gov.in, http://rajwater.gov.in and http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. Tenders are to be submitted online electronic format on web site http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, RISL Charges, tender fee and bid security shall be submitted through e-GRAS, only in respective budget head. Date & time for online submission up to 15-10-2020 (3 PM hrs).

NIT	Work Description	Estimated Cost
ACE CHU/17/2020-21	Work of Operation and Maintenance of Urban Water Supply Scheme, Ratangarh including Mechanical, Electrical, Instrumentation installation works of Tube wells, open wells, and pumping stations, periodic cleaning CWRs/OHSRs and Maintenance of feeder/distribution pipelines for Three Years on Single Point Responsibility Basis. UBN is: PHE2021WSOB05684	Rs. 372.40 Lacs.

SAVE WATER- SAVE LIFE

(Ashok Kumar Gupta)
Additional Chief Engineer (Project), PHED, Churu

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL S.M.S.MEDICAL COLLEGE & CONTROLLER OF THE ATTACHED HOSPITALS,JAIPUR No F/MC/Store/2020-21/22671-77 Dated:08/10/2020

E-TENDER NOTICE No.128-130 /2020-21

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

- The Tender Document, Technical Specifications, Estimated Value, Earnest Money and other information related to this NIT can be seen at website <http://sppr.rajasthan.gov.in>. Detailed tender notice and documents can be seen and download on web site <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>.
- Tender shall be submitted online only through website www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.
- Pre-Bid Meeting with the intending bidders shall be held on 12-10-2020 at 11.00 AM at LT-1SMS Medical College, Jaipur. All the respective bidders are requested to send comments/representations on or before pre-bid meeting. Intending bidders will be allowed to seek clarifications on specification, terms & conditions etc.in writing to SMS Medical college Jaipur upto 5 pm on the same day of pre bid meeting. After above period no correspondence will be entertained this matter.
- This NIT can be seen on DIPR Web Site www.dipronline.org.

DIPR/C/8045 Principal & Controller

OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER, P.H.E.D., REGION-II-JODHPUR

Tele-0291-2651730 Email: ace2jodhpur@gmail.com No.ACE(II)/Jodhpur/2020-21/6668-87 Dated: 5/10/2020

Short Term Notice inviting Bid No. 08/2020-21 (UBN No.PHE2021WLR06069)

online bids are invited on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan from eligible "AA" Class contractors of PHED, Rajasthan and meeting eligibility criteria. Contractors enlisted with other departments of Government of Rajasthan and enlisted with CPWD / Postal / Telecom / Railways / MES / other State Government / Central Government undertakings / organization in class equivalent to "AA" Class of Rajasthan and meeting prescribed eligibility criteria, may also apply after depositing prescribed Earnest Money. Details of this Bid notification and pre-qualification criteria can also be seen in NIB exhibited on web site www.dpr.rajasthan.gov.in, <http://sppr.rajasthan.gov.in> and <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>. Bids are to be submitted online electronic format on web site <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>.

1. General details of bid:

S.No.	Item	Details

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Trump set to get back on campaign trail

He appears at WH rally; second Trump-Biden debate scrapped, leaving only Oct. 22 event before polls

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
REUTERS
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump made his first public appearance since returning to the White House on Monday, as he prepares a rapid return to the campaign trail just three weeks before the election.

Mr. Trump spoke from the White House balcony at an event called 'a peaceful protest for law & order,' attended by a few hundred people standing on the lawn below.

The 74-year-old President has also announced a Florida rally on Monday in an attempt to relaunch his stumbling re-election campaign against surging Democratic rival Joe Biden, who called the President's behaviour 'reckless.' Undeterred, the Trump campaign announced two more rallies next week – in battleground Pennsylvania Tuesday and in Iowa on Wednesday.

Seeking to project strength and improved health, Mr. Trump had re-



On the move: President Donald Trump addressing his supporters at the White House on Saturday. ■ AP

fused to participate in next week's scheduled debate after organisers shifted it to an online format out of coronavirus concerns.

On Friday, the Commission on Presidential Debates made it official, saying next Thursday's debate is scrapped, leaving an October 22 event – the final Trump-Biden showdown – before election day on November 3.

That prompted accusations of bias from Trump campaign communications

director Tim Murtaugh, who said "there is no medical reason to stop" the October 15 debate from proceeding.

Knocked off the campaign trail by his three-night hospitalisation last week, the President is in the midst of a frenetic bid to catch up with Mr. Biden.

On Friday, during an extended media blitz, Mr. Trump falsely claimed that COVID-19 now has a cure. He also revealed that he'd been told he was near death at the worst of his bout with the virus.

He visited Arizona on Thursday and campaigned on Friday in Nevada. Mr. Trump won both States in

2016.

At a drive-in style event in Las Vegas, Mr. Biden slammed the President.

"His reckless personal conduct since his diagnosis, the destabilising effect it's having on our government, is unconscionable," Mr. Biden said.

As Mr. Biden boarded his campaign plane, he offered a message for those attending Mr. Trump's public events: "Good luck. I wouldn't show up unless you had a mask and were distanced."

On Friday, Mr. Trump gave a marathon interview to right-wing talk radio host Rush Limbaugh, in which he said the experimental Regeneron antibody cocktail that he took as part of therapeutic treatment was "a cure." It's "a total game changer." In fact, there is no cure and still no approved vaccine for the coronavirus. Later, he appeared in his first interview since he was diagnosed with the virus, telling Fox's Tucker Carlson show he is now "medication-free."

N. Korea displays ICBMs, Kim apologises for economic woes

He thanks troops for preventing coronavirus outbreak

REUTERS
SEOUL

North Korea unveiled previously unseen intercontinental ballistic missiles at an unprecedented pre-dawn military parade on Saturday that showcased the country's long-range weapons for the first time in two years.

Analysts said the missile, which was shown on a transporter vehicle with 11 axles, would be one of the largest road-mobile intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) in the world if it becomes operational.

"This missile is a monster," said Melissa Hanham, deputy director of the Open Nuclear Network.

Also displayed were the Hwasong-15, which is the longest-range missile ever tested by North Korea, and what appeared to be a new submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM).



Show of strength: A grab from a KCNA broadcast showing the Hwasong-15 ICBM during the parade in Pyongyang. ■ AFP

military power would not be used preemptively. He made no direct mention of the United States or the now-stalled denuclearisation talks.

Experts said that the new, larger ICBM is likely designed to carry multiple independent reentry vehicles (MIRVs), allowing it to attack more targets and making interception more difficult.

"I am ashamed that I have

never been able to repay you properly for your enormous trust," he said. "My efforts and devotion were not sufficient to bring our people out of difficult livelihoods."

The video showed Mr. Kim make an appearance as a clock struck midnight. Dressed in a grey suit and tie, he waved to the crowd and accepted flowers from children while surrounded by military officials in Pyongyang's recently renovated Kim-il Sung Square.

Emotional moment

Mr. Kim spoke for nearly half an hour, often visibly sweating despite the cool morning air, shedding tears when thanking the troops, and smiling and laughing as he watched the missiles.

The parade was highly choreographed, with thousands of troops marching in formation, displays of new

conventional military equipment including tanks, and fighter jets launching flares and fireworks.

Experts said that the new,

larger ICBM is likely de-

signed to carry multiple in-

dependent reentry vehicles

(MIRVs), allowing it to at-

ack more targets and mak-

ing interception more diffi-

cult.

The new ICBM is likely in-

tended to dispel doubts

about North Korea's ability

to strike the continental

U.S., and an implicit threat

that they are preparing to

test the larger missile car-

y," he said.

Mr. Kim became visibly

emotional as he thanked the

troops for their sacrifice in

responding to natural disas-

ters and preventing a coro-

navirus outbreak. He said

he was grateful that not a

single North Korean had

tested positive for the dis-

ease, an assertion that South

Korea and the U.S. have pre-

viously questioned.

Truce not holding, say Armenia and Azerbaijan

Both countries accuse each other of breaching the Russia-brokered ceasefire with fresh attacks

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MOSCOW

Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed to a Russia-brokered ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh starting Saturday, but immediately accused each other of derailing the deal intended to end the worst outbreak of hostilities in the separatist region in more than a quarter-century.

The two sides traded blame for breaking the truce that took effect at noon (0800 GMT) with new attacks, and Azerbaijan's top

diplomat said the truce never entered force.

The ceasefire announcement came overnight after 10 hours of talks in Moscow, sponsored by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. The deal stipulated that the ceasefire should pave the way for talks on settling the conflict.

If the truce holds, it would mark a major diplomatic coup for Russia, which has a security pact with Armenia but also cultivated warm ties with Azerbaijan. But the



A building that was hit after the ceasefire announcement in the city of Terter. ■ REUTERS

agreement was immediately challenged by mutual claims of violations.

Minutes after the truce took force, the Armenian

military accused Azerbaijan of shelling the area near the town of Kapan in southeastern Armenia, killing one civilian. Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry rejected the accusations as a "provocation."

The Azerbaijani military, in turn, accused Armenia of striking the Terter and Agdam regions of Azerbaijan with missiles and then attempting to launch offensives in the Agdere-Terter and the Fizuli-Jabrayil areas. Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov

charged that "conditions for implementing the humanitarian cease-fire are currently missing" amid the continuing Armenian shelling.

Armenia's Defence Ministry denied any truce violations.

The latest outburst of fighting between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces began September 27 and left hundreds of people dead in the biggest escalation of the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh since a separatist war there ended in 1994.

Taiwan President calls for 'meaningful' talks with China

Tsai describes situation in the Taiwan Strait as 'quite tense'

REUTERS
TAIPEI



Tsai Ing-wen

Taiwan wants to have "meaningful dialogue" with China on an equal basis, President Tsai Ing-wen said on Saturday, extending an olive branch at a time of heightened military tension with Beijing, which claims the island as sovereign Chinese territory.

Democratic Taiwan has come under increasing pressure from Beijing, which has ramped up Air Force activity near the island in the past few weeks, including crossing the Taiwan Strait's sensitive mid line that normally serves as an unofficial buffer zone.

China says it is responding to "collusion" between Washington and Taipei, angered at growing U.S. sup-

port for the self-governed island. Beijing views this as a precursor to Taiwan declaring formal independence, a red line for China.

If Beijing can heed Taiwan's voice and jointly facilitate reconciliation and peaceful dialogue, regional tension can surely be resolved, she added.

"As long as the Beijing authorities are willing to resolve antagonisms and improve cross-strait relations, while parity and dignity are maintained, we are willing to work together to facilitate meaningful dialogue," Ms. Tsai said.

But China, which cut off a formal talks mechanism in 2016, said on Saturday that Taiwan continued to pursue independence and still held a confrontational mindset.

Kyrgyzstan bans rallies, imposes curfew +

Ex-President Atambayev re-arrested after he was freed by demonstrators

ASSOCIATED PRESS
REUTERS
MOSCOW

Authorities in Kyrgyzstan on Saturday arrested a former President, banned rallies and imposed a curfew in the Central Asian nation's capital, seeking to end a week of turmoil sparked by a disputed parliamentary election.

The declaration of the 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. curfew in Bishkek followed President Sooronbai Jeenbekov's decree on Friday announcing a state of emergency in the city until October 21. He also ordered the military to deploy troops to the capital to enforce the measure.

Convoys of military trucks were seen driving into the city.

Mr. Jeenbekov has faced calls to step down from thousands of protesters who stormed government buildings a night after pro-govern-



On vigil: A soldier standing at a checkpoint in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek on Saturday. ■ AP

ment parties reportedly swept parliamentary seats in Sunday's vote. The demonstrators also freed former President Almazbek Atambayev, who was sentenced to 11 years in prison in June on charges of corruption and abuse of office that he described as a political vendetta by Jeenbekov.

Mr. Atambayev was arrested again on Saturday on charges of organising riots, the State Security Committee said in a statement.

The turmoil marks a third time in 15 years that protesters have moved to topple a government in Kyrgyzstan, a Central Asian nation of 6.5 million that is one of the poorest to emerge from the former Soviet Union.

As in the uprisings that ousted Kyrgyz presidents in

2005 and 2010, the current protests have been driven by clan rivalries that play a dominant role in the country's politics.

Under pressure from protesters, the Central Election Commission has overturned the parliamentary vote results and protest leaders have moved quickly to form a new government. The President's allies in Parliament on Saturday elected lawmaker Sadyr Zhaparov as new Prime Minister.

On Friday, supporters of Mr. Zhaparov assailed pro-Atambayev demonstrators on Bishkek's central square, hurling stones and bottles. A man with a pistol fired several shots at Mr. Atambayev's car, but the former President was unhurt. Two other politicians affiliated with Mr. Atambayev also had their cars shot at. They weren't injured.

Pakistan court asks Sharif to appear before it by Nov. 24

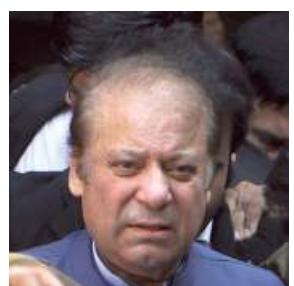
If absent, the HC will declare him a 'proclaimed offender'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

A Pakistani court through newspaper advertisements asked Nawaz Sharif to appear before it by November 24 to avoid being declared a "proclaimed offender" after the former three-time Prime Minister reportedly refused to receive non-bailable arrest warrants at his residence in London.

The Islamabad High Court on Friday noted that it was left with no option but to order issuance of proclamation for intimating Mr. Sharif, 70, who has been living in London since November last year, to appear before it on November 24.

A two-member bench comprising Justice Mohsin



Nawaz Sharif
Akhtar Kayani and Justice Aamer Farooq observed that the examination of statements of witnesses as well as the documents showed that efforts were made to serve the non-bailable warrants on Sharif to ensure his attendance before the court in the Al-Azizia and Avenfield

Israel to bring over 2,000 Ethiopian Jews

13,000 reside in Addis Ababa, Gondar

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ADDIS ABABA

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has told his Ethiopian counterpart that his country has the intention to "immediately" bring over some 2,000 Ethiopian Jews. The announcement came on Friday after a phone call with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

Mr. Netanyahu's office said the decision comes "out of his commitment to the continued aliyah of Jews to Israel".

Some 13,000 Ethiopian Jews are in the capital, Addis Ababa, and in Gondar, most of them waiting to be taken to Israel, which they call home. Most live in dire conditions and have threatened to stage a hunger strike if they're not allowed to travel

to their "homeland".

"Some 250 people have left for Israel within the past year until COVID-19 came. Now the travel has stopped, but Israeli officials are conducting interviews online," Nigusie Alemu Eyasu, programme director for the Ethiopian Jews Community, said.

Activists say Israel's government in 2015 pledged to bring the remaining Ethiopian Jews to Israel. In 1991, while Ethiopia was in the midst of a civil war, Israel carried out the dramatic Operation Solomon, airlifting some 14,500 Ethiopian Jews in less than two days.

Jews are often referred to in Ethiopia as "Falashas," a derogatory word which translates into "strangers" or "migrants".

China protests against U.S. Navy mission in South China Sea

Beijing calls it blatant navigation hegemony and provocation

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIJING

China said it dispatched ships and planes to track the U.S. guided-missile destroyer John S. McCain as it passed near Chinese-held islands in the South China Sea.

The People's Liberation Army accused the U.S. warship of trespassing into Chinese territorial waters on Friday near the Paracel Islands – called Xisha by China – during the latest freedom of



'Worst is over,
recovery
faster than
expected'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mortgage lender HDFC Ltd.'s CEO Keki Mistry on Saturday said the 'worst is behind us' and the economic recovery has been faster than expected.

Stating that the December quarter growth could outperform the expansion logged a year ago, he said the Indian economy had shown its resilience.

Benign interest rate regime will continue going forward and rates will go up only after economic activity gathers more pace and inflation pressure rises, Mr. Mistry said at an online dialogue organised by the All India Management Association (AIMA).

He, however, said interest rates had bottomed out. The government should identify the job-creating sectors and address their issues on a priority, AIMA quoted him as saying.

Qualifies optimism
However, Mr. Mistry qualified his optimism saying that a lot depended on whether another virus wave hits in the winter. The government was aware that India could not afford another lockdown.

Job creation and leaving money in the hands of the people should be the top two priorities of the government, Mr. Mistry said.

RBI appeals to SC to allow NPA classification

'Every regulatory forbearance has its trade-offs in terms of adverse incentives and unintended consequences'

REUTERS
MUMBAI

India's central bank has appealed to the country's top court to let banks classify loans as non-performing, saying a ban imposed to help borrowers in the COVID-19 pandemic could greatly harm the nation's financial system.

The court is set to rule on the matter on Tuesday. The ruling could have far-reaching consequences not only for millions of borrowers, but also for banks and the country, as state-run banks dominate the sector.

To help borrowers weather pandemic-related stress, the RBI has let banks offer a moratorium on loan payments for up to six months and permitted a one-time restructuring of accounts.

The RBI's measures ensured that accounts that were standard prior to the implementation of the nationwide lockdown in late March, would not be classified as NPAs if the borrowers made use of the moratorium, which allowed repayments to be delayed until the end of August but with the loans

continuing to accrue interest.

The central bank's appeal followed a request by the

Blurry future: The stay on loan classification by banks was in response to a plea filed by an Indian optician •REUTERS

court for further details from the RBI and government on their plans to help the borrowers.

The government told the court last week it would waive the compound interest on loans up to ₹20 million

under a separate COVID-19 support plan, in a move that will bring relief to millions of borrowers.

Fuel demand rises in Sept. over August

REUTERS

Fuel demand in September rose month-on-month for the first time since June as easing coronavirus restrictions supported economic activity and travel, but consumption remained weaker than a year earlier, government data showed on Friday.

Consumption of refined fuels rose 7.2% in September from the prior month to 15.47 million tonnes, the first increase since June when demand rose to 16.09 million tonnes.

However, demand fell 4.4% from the same period a year earlier, posting its seventh consecutive year-on-year slide, data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas showed.

'Centre's, RBI's stand in SC on loans is a big blow to MSMEs'

Industry association appeals to PM to reconsider decisions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Consortium of Indian Associations termed as a 'big blow' to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) the RBI's affidavit in the Supreme Court pleading for vacating its stay order on the classification of NPA and the Centre's ruling out further relief measures under the loan moratorium scheme.

Consortium convener K.E. Raghunathan appealed to the Prime Minister to intervene and protect the interests of MSMEs. In a statement, he said, "The lockdown was implemented suddenly in national interest

and it was extended for nearly six months for which MSMEs are not responsible."

He pointed out that uncertainty abounds over the next six months of business activity and that MSMEs continued to pay for fixed costs though revenue has been eluding the sector for the last six months.

Earlier, the consortium had suggested several measures to the Centre.

Mr. Raghunathan said an estimated ₹3.5 lakh crore were due to MSMEs from large industries, PSUs, SPSUs and central/State governments. These, he said, should be paid immediately. He also appealed to the

Centre to waive income tax for the current year for those earning less than ₹15 lakh. "This will spur middle-income individuals to spend, kindling demand."

He also suggested that small enterprises with turnover of less than ₹5 crore be exempted from collection or levy of GST till March. "This will help them offer competitive prices. This move alone can bring down end prices by 18%."

He urged the States and the Centre to spend at least 75% of their budgeted procurements for FY21 before December 2020 to boost order books and create job opportunities.

INTERVIEW | ASHWATH RAM

'We need a scrappage policy'

Clean tech futile if old vehicles keep running: Cummins India

LALATENDU MISHRA

Engines and power equipment supplier Cummins India is expecting full revival of business in 2022, according to its managing director Ashwath Ram. With FY20 revenue of ₹16,000 crore from seven entities employing 11,000 people across 20 manufacturing sites, the company has been hit hard by the pandemic. Excerpts:

How has COVID-19 affected Cummins India?

■ All our factories were shut for the first two months of the lockdown and once the ramp-up started, we have gradually picked up and are now at roughly about 70% capacity utilisation. Demand differs across segments.

Some segments such as construction or our distribution business units are doing quite well and demand is rising pretty rapidly. [But] demand from sectors like rail are badly impacted.

In our power generation segment, demand from data centres, telecom, residential reality and FMCG is moving up rapidly. But segments such as commercial real estate and heavy manufacturing are reviving at a much slower rate. Overall, we are about 70% of the peak of the pre-COVID level.

When do you think the auto sector, mainly HCVs, will bounce back?

■ The heavy commercial vehicles segment has been significantly impacted because it had already slowed down due to many developments such as the NBFC crisis which happened the year before last. It triggered the slowdown and then there were many changes in regulations.

The government allowed 20-25% extra loading on all vehicles already on the roads. Then we were sup-

A lot of export incentives have been taken away; there is no clarity yet on the road ahead. We're going to lose money



posed to do the BS-VI transition in April which was very expensive. It was also the fastest we had to go from BS-IV to BS-VI in three years as against 10 years in other countries.

When we launched products with investments worth thousands of crores of rupees, we were already in the lockdown; so it was like a perfect storm with all variables being bad.

The market for the medium and heavy commercial market is now at a 10-year low. We haven't seen such poor demand since 2008 or 2009. The demand in medium and heavy commercial vehicles is closely linked to GDP; as the economy recovers, this market will also bounce back.

This market will fully revive only by 2022. But it has

already started to come up, slowly. By January 2021 we will be at 50% of pre-COVID levels; now, we are at 30-40%.

India and China are at logger heads. Have your exports to China been affected?

■ No. As a matter of fact, we have had record exports to China during the last 3-4 months and there has been no impact on our business with China. We have created advantages versus China in certain products. We have the scale here as well as a cost advantage. Our labour

cost is roughly 20-25% lower than China's. So, are pricing is competitive.

We are able to get entry as well as continued business from China. If relations between the two countries worsen, I don't know how that will go. But as of today, we continue to have strong exports with China. We sell them gensets, engines, manufactured components...

What would you like the government to do?

■ The government is taking a long time to introduce the scrappage policy. That would certainly help this industry because with BS-VI, the pollution levels will see 60-70% improvement over BS-IV standards. Even today we have BS-I, II and III vehicles running on the roads.

Over 90% of the pollution is caused by these old vehicles. So, we have introduced these ultra-clean engines to the point that [exhaust from] those engines is cleaner than the Delhi air. But, it is not going to have any impact if these old pieces of equipment keep running.

So, the government needs to introduce the scrappage policy immediately. Also, to boost demand, they should [waive] GST. A lot of export incentives have now been taken away and there is no clarity yet on what is going to happen from January. We're going to lose money.

Freight-rate surge stirs call for shipping regulator

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

Several trade bodies have urged the Centre to set up a regulator to deal with the rising freight charges, amid the problem of container shortages that exporters are facing.

Engineering Export Promotion Council of India claimed that shipping lines are demanding high freight charges as inward traffic from different countries, particularly from China, has declined for which the exporters are required to pay a higher amount for outbound consignments.

"Imports from China have fallen and the liners have increased freight rates. No shipping company likes to sail empty after delivery of export consignments," Sanjay Budhia, chairman of CII national committee on exports and imports, told PTI.

He said all the exporters across the country are facing this problem.

"This is leading to a situation where cargo is lying at ports. We urged the government to set up a shipping regulator to control the freight rates," Mr. Budhia said, adding exports have started to pick up despite the coronavirus crisis.

After contracting for six months in a row, exports grew by 5.27% to \$27.4 billion in September.

The shipping companies have raised freight rates due to falling imports from China as liners do not have much cargo while they are returning, an official of the engineering exporters' body said. "This is making Indian exports uncompetitive in the global markets," an EEPIC official said.

After witnessing a sharp fall, engineering exports have somewhat steadied, though the contraction continues, he added.

The RBI responded by detailing the wide range of measures it has put in place to address stress in various sectors. It warned against any further leeway.

'Adequately addressed'

"Every regulatory forbearance has its trade-offs in terms of adverse incentives and unintended consequences," the RBI said. "All the issues that were advanced by the petitioners have been adequately addressed."

The optician and other borrowers had demanded the waiver of what they call "interest on interest," charged by lenders to those who used the moratorium.

The government told the court last week it would waive the compound interest on loans up to ₹20 million

under a separate COVID-19 support plan, in a move that will bring relief to millions of borrowers.

Detrimental to economy

In a separate affidavit on Friday, the Centre said that it would not be possible to further supplement the already announced relief packages. It asked the court not to permit any further judicial review by the petitioners.

"Going any further than what has been decided and submitted to the honourable court may be detrimental to the overall economic scenario, and the national economy or the banking sector may not be able to take the inevitable financial constraints resulting therefrom," Press Trust of India reported the Centre as having submitted in its affidavit.

has improved since then but hasn't crossed the 50% mark," Mr. Singh explained.

These events have forced AAI to avail of a ₹1,500 crore from the State Bank of India for its working capital requirements and it is likely to go into the red for FY21, according to a recent statement in Parliament. AAI has been a profitable entity for several years, paying dividends to the government. In FY20, the AAI earned a profit of more than ₹3,600 crore from a revenue of about ₹14,367 crore.

The AAI expects some relief from an upfront payment that Adani Enterprises is expected to make for taking over three of the six airports awarded to it for operations, management and development, by November 12.

Airlines owe ₹2,400 crore to AAI

Dip in travel demand impacts airport operator's revenue; AI biggest defaulter



Shaky ground: The AAI had to avail of a ₹1,500-crore loan from the SBI for working capital needs. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

GoAir ₹58.75 crore, AirAsia ₹21.61 crore and Vistara ₹2.79 crore. But AAI said these carriers had ensured the dues do not exceed the bank guarantees given by them. COVID-19 had also impacted AAI's earnings from food and beverages and retaining concessionaires at its

airports as they have a revenue-sharing model that has taken a hit because of the drop in passenger footfalls at airports. Arvind Singh, Chairman, AAI said recently.

"The first two months of lockdown led to a revenue shortfall of 80% compared with the previous quarter. It

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CM YK

A N D N D

SNAPSHOTS



Long-term memory

New research reveals new neurons - excitatory and inhibitory networks - that transform short-term memory into long-term. The study on mice published in *Nature* says that excitatory neurons are involved in creating a memory trace, while inhibitory neurons block out background noise, allowing long-term memory to be formed.



Cosmic webs

Using European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope facility astronomers have seen six galaxies close to a supermassive black hole, but back in time - less than a billion years after the Big Bang. This finding helps understand how supermassive black holes grew to such sizes so quickly. It also supports the role of large web-like cosmic structures.



Cold and COVID-19

Being previously infected by a coronavirus, in other words, catching a common cold, could decrease severity of COVID-19, a new study has found. The study led by Boston University School of Medicine and Boston Medical Centre also shows that immunity acquired from previous non-SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus infection does not prevent you from getting COVID-19.



Intersexuality in moles

An article in *Science* explores how female moles show intersexuality. They develop masculinising ovotestes. By sequencing the genome, the researchers found mole-specific genomic rearrangements that alter the landscape of the androgen-converting gene and prototypical factor gene. The study reveals the role played by these genes.

Biological plant-virus 'arms race' uncovered

How tiny geminiviruses that measure a mere 20 nanometres can enter large plants and break through their defences

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

can infect many more host plants."

Attacks, counter-attacks

Plants and viruses are constantly involved in a race to outdo one another, and their lives literally depend on this. A new study with researchers from National Centre of Biological Sciences (NCBS-TIFR), Bengaluru, has discovered a new step in this arms race between the virus called *Synedrella Yellow Vein Clearing Virus* and the plants it attacks. The virus was isolated by the researchers from a plant named *Synedrella nodiflora*, and it was able to infect tobacco and tomato plant in their studies.

Large family

This virus is a representative of the Begomovirus family of viruses. "Begomoviruses are a large family with about 400 members. They infect economically important plants and are a major reason for crop loss," explains Ashwin Nair, from NCBS-TIFR, who is the first author of a paper on the work published in *BMC Biology*. "We think SyYVCV

The fact, however, is that this does not make it better for the plant. It actually makes it difficult for the plant to produce flowers and fruits. "Without BetaCl, a viral protein, the virus will not be able to defeat the host attacks and also will not be able to completely infect the plant, as the virus will not be able to move through the



Fatal attraction: When the virus attacks the plant, it produces vein-clearing symptoms which make the plant look beautiful, but hinders flowering and fruiting. ■ ASHWIN NAIR

veins of the plant," says P.V. Shivaprasad, in whose lab at NCBS-TIFR the work was carried out.

In turn, the plant develops defence mechanisms to destroy the virus. It targets the protein called BetaCl made by the virus which helps in successful infection and in-

tracellular movement within the plant. Plants degrade BetaCl protein of virus by tagging this protein with another smaller protein called ubiquitin.

Viral response

In their study, the researchers found that, in response,

SUMOylation. Essentially, BetaCl mimics or tricks the host SUMOylation machinery as if it is one of the host plant protein requiring SUMOylation," explains Prof. Shivaprasad.

Kiran Chatterjee and Rabindra Das, also at NCBS-TIFR, collaborated in understanding the nano-scale SUMOylation process, because such small interactions can only be studied by special protein-protein structure determining techniques

Tiny virus

The study used tobacco plants. The virus is fairly new. Says Dr Shivaprasad, "We isolated it in 2018 and have not studied its prevalence in other crops. Viruses very similar to this virus are the biggest threat to crop production throughout world." Apparently, in infected fields, up to 60% of horticultural crops are lost due to begomoviral infection.

Viruses can range in size from 5 nanometre to 300 nanometre. The studied virus,

which falls under the category geminivirus, is among the smaller ones, measuring about 20 nanometres. The SARS-CoV-2 virus, for instance is about five times larger than these. Within this small size, they make proteins that are comparable in size with those of the plants that help them function.

The difference comes in the number of proteins they make. While the rice plant makes about 35,000 proteins, and we humans make about 20,000 proteins, geminiviruses code for just 8-10 proteins. The larger SARS-CoV-2 virus codes for about 25 proteins.

New results

"These concepts are new to plant-pathogen interactions. Previously, researchers did find the significance of other protein modifications, but not the ones we have found in this study," says Dr Shivaprasad. "Our results also provide newer tools to identify and generate plants that can resist viruses."

Study says antibody cocktail may protect against COVID-19

Further research in multiple animal models is needed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Testing macaques: The cocktail was administered three days prior to challenging the macaques with virus. ■ GETTY IMAGES

The experimental antibody cocktail which U.S. President Donald Trump received when he tested positive for COVID-19 offers benefits against the novel coronavirus infection, according to a new study in animal models which provides more evidence of the clinical potential of the therapeutic.

While earlier studies had shown that the cocktail of two antibodies targeting the coronavirus spike protein could be used to neutralise the pathogen, scientists from the American biotechnology company Regeneron noted that further research in multiple animal models is needed to test the effectiveness of the formulation.

Mild and severe cases

In the current study, published in the journal *Science*, the researchers tested REGN-COV2 in rhesus macaques, which manifest mild COVID-19 symptoms, and in golden hamsters, which show symptoms that are much more severe, including rapid weight loss.

They found that when the cocktail was administered

three days before challenging the macaques with the virus, the treatment almost completely blocked establishment of infection.

According to the scientists, this ability of REGN-COV2 "matches or exceeds the effects recently shown in vaccine efficacy studies using the same animal models."

"These findings highlight the therapeutic potential of this approach to both protect from and treat SARS-CoV-2 disease," the researchers noted in the study.

Macaques and hamsters

When the macaques were treated with the drug one day after infection, they said there was faster viral clearing than in controls who had not been treated with the cocktail.

In the hamster model, the study noted that the animals treated with the drug two days before infection exhibited a "dramatic protection from weight loss," and decreased viral load in the lungs.

The scientists also reported benefits for hamsters treated one day after infection, as compared to controls.

"In conclusion, our data provide evidence that REGN-COV2 based therapy may offer clinical benefit in both prevention and treatment settings of COVID-19 disease, where it is currently being evaluated," they wrote in the study.

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"In conclusion, our data provide evidence that REGN-COV2 based therapy may offer clinical benefit in both prevention and treatment settings of COVID-19 disease, where it is currently being evaluated," they wrote in the study.

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Three days before challenging the macaques



(From left) Roger Penrose, Andrea Ghez and Reinhard Genzel. • AFP

The Milky Way's secret

What have the three Nobel laureates sharing the Physics prize for 2020 discovered about the black hole?

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

The story so far: The Nobel Prize for Physics, announced on October 6, was shared by three laureates. One half went to Roger Penrose, now at the University of Oxford, for 'the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity'. The other half is shared by Reinhard Genzel of the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics, Garching, Germany, and Andrea M. Ghez of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), for 'the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy'. A statement from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which selects the awardees for the Prize, said the three laureates were awarded "for their discoveries about one of the most exotic phenomena in the universe, the black hole".

What is the early history of the black hole? Over a hundred years before Albert Einstein published his theory of relativity, John Michell and Pierre-Simon Laplace had speculated that extremely dense stars could have such high gravity that not even light could escape them. These would become invisible (dark stars). This idea came back to life in 1916, when just a few weeks after Einstein had published his theory of relativity, German astrophysicist Karl Schwarzschild found a solution to these equations, having a feature that was later named 'event horizon' – the point of no return, beyond which even light, the fastest object in the world, cannot escape. However, these concepts and their implications were so bizarre then that even Einstein refused to believe that it was possible.

An Indian researcher, B. Datt, and independently, Robert Oppenheimer and Hartland Snyder, made the first calculations of the gravitational collapse of a star in the 1930s. However, they had made the simplifying assumption of spherical symmetry.

By the early 1960s, observations of 'quasars', which are now called active galactic nuclei, were preparing the ground for the eventual observational evidence for supermassive blackholes.

What were the key questions when Dr. Penrose came into the picture?

The scenario of a spherically symmetric massive star collapsing under its own gravity until it falls below the Schwarzschild radius (event horizon) to form an infinitely dense singularity had been described

independently by Datt and Oppenheimer and Snyder.

"This was, however, conditional on the high degree of symmetry [spherical symmetry], which almost certainly does not hold for realistic astrophysical collapse," says Prof. Ghanashyam Date, Chennai Mathematical Institute. The question was: would a complete gravitational collapse happen without spherical symmetry?

What was Dr. Penrose's achievement?

Prof. Date sums it up thus: while more solutions of the Einstein equation were found, suggesting blackholes hiding singularities, they all had special symmetries and their realisation under generic astrophysical conditions was in doubt.

Dr. Penrose, through his singularity theorems, conceptualised the formation of 'trapped surfaces' as the condition for formation of black holes in a generic manner. He made it possible for the world of physics to accept that black holes can and will form in the universe, as described by Einstein's field equations.

How did observations of the supermassive black hole at the centre of the Milky Way begin?

American astronomer Harlow Shapley, about a hundred years ago, was the first person to identify the centre of the galaxy. By the 1960s, we learnt that there was a source of radio waves sitting there. This was named 'Sagittarius A*', and it is approximately 26,000 light years away, i.e., light from this point would take 26,000 years to reach us. In comparison, light from the Sun takes approximately eight minutes to reach the Earth.

In the 1990s, larger telescope facilities became available and Dr. Ghez started a research programme from the Keck Observatory atop Mauna Kea in Hawaii. Dr. Genzel's group first used the New Technology Telescope in La Silla, Chile, and later moved to the Very Large Telescope on the Cerro Paranal mountain in Chile.

How did they determine that there was a black hole?

All the stars in the Milky Way orbit the centre. For example, the Sun orbits Sagittarius A* in more than 200 million years. For nearly three decades, the groups observed some thirty stars, particularly one that was named S2 by one group and S02 by the other. They found that the stars move in perfect elliptical orbits, just as if the object about which they were orbiting (Sagittarius A*) is a concentrated mass [compact object] and not diffused or scattered. Given its calculated mass of about four million solar masses, and its invisibility, this could only be a supermassive black hole, they deduced.

Dr. Ghez is the fourth woman to receive the Physics Nobel. Who are the other three?

Since 1901, a total of 114 physics Nobel prizes have been awarded. Before Dr. Ghez, only three had gone to women: Marie Curie (1903, for radiation phenomena), Maria Goeppert-Mayer (1963, nuclear shell structure), Donna Strickland (2018, ultrashort, high-intensity laser pulses).

'Genetic scissors' and rewriting the code of life

How does a method for genome editing developed by two women scientists help in tackling diseases?

JACOB KOSHY

The story so far: The 2020 Nobel Prizes for sciences announced this week made history of sorts when one of it was exclusively shared by two women. Scientists Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier bagged the Nobel Prize for Chemistry "for the development of a method for genome editing". The discovery of "one of gene technology's sharpest tools: the CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors" will lead to the emergence of novel biological applications by making it easier to edit genes, and "may make the dream of curing inherited diseases come true".

What is CRISPR/Cas9?

Much like what Microsoft (MS) Word does for writing, the CRISPR/Cas9 system allows for adding, altering and deleting the genomic code in living beings. Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR) are pieces of DNA that bacteria snip off from viruses that once attacked them, much like file names used to store various documents we write in MS Word.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the fore the importance of 'memory cells', which can quickly produce relevant antibodies to neutralise a repeat infection by a virus. Similarly, the CRISPR are a part of bacteria's immunological systems that help them in recognising threatening viruses. When they sense a lurking virus, the bacteria produce customised RNA, which is necessary to translate DNA into protein, gleaned from the CRISPR libraries. This also contains Cas (CRISPR-associated) genes that are used to produce enzymes such as Cas-9. These enzymes – the Cas-9 being a particularly popular one – can be used to chop the DNA of the virus and destroy them.

How can this be used to edit genomes?

Using the tool, researchers can change the DNA of animals, plants and microorganisms with precision. Emmanuelle Charpentier, who is now director, Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology, Berlin, had studied *Streptococcus pyogenes*, a species of bacteria known to be associated with a range of illnesses such as pharyngitis, tonsillitis and scarlet fever. While studying this, she discovered a previously unknown molecule, tracrRNA. Her work showed that tracrRNA is part of bacteria's ancient immune system, CRISPR/Cas, that disarms viruses by cleaving their DNA, the Nobel release explains. Dr. Charpentier published her discovery in 2011. The same year, she initiated a collaboration with biochemist Jennifer Doudna, now a professor at the University of California, Berkeley.

"Together, they succeeded in recreating the bacteria's genetic scissors in a test tube and simplifying the scissors' molecular components so they were easier to use," says an explainer on the Nobel Prizes website on their work. In a significant experiment, they reprogrammed the genetic scissors. "In their natural form, the scissors recognise DNA from viruses, but Charpentier and Doudna proved that they could be controlled so that they can cut any DNA molecule at a predetermined site. Where the DNA is cut it is then easy to rewrite the code of life," the note adds.

How is the tool different from other editing systems?

Other genome editing systems like TALENs and Zinc-Finger Nucleases can do similar jobs, but several users consider the Charpentier-Doudna tool more adaptable and easier to use.

It is less than a decade since this system gained wide research and commercial interest, but in the past few years, scientists have been able to make precise single-base-pair changes or larger insertions. Coupled with the availability of genome sequences for a growing number of organisms, the technology allows researchers to find out what genes do, move mutations that are identified and associated with disease into systems where they can be studied and tested for treatment, or where they can be



American biochemist Jennifer Doudna, left, and French microbiologist Emmanuelle Charpentier. • AP

tested in combinations with other mutations.

The commercial potential of the system is so compelling that within years of its development, there was a battle over the ownership of the intellectual property rights of the CRISPR/Cas9 involving the University of California and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Broad Institute.

The Charpentier-Doudna CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing tool is considered by several users to be more adaptable and easier to use and 'may make the dream of curing inherited diseases come true'

patent application covered the process more generally. Dr. Zhang's patent was granted before Dr. Doudna's application. The patent dispute is still ongoing, and both sides claim victory in terms of the commercial application of the patents.

The prize to CRISPR/Cas9 may be unusual as it is rare for a method to be announced and conferred a Nobel within a decade of its discovery, but it underlines its game-changing potential. In the last five years, both Dr. Doudna and Dr. Charpentier have been recipients of several important prizes in sciences.

To what uses has the CRISPR/Cas9 been deployed so far?

Earlier this year, a person with hereditary blindness became the first to have a CRISPR/Cas9-based therapy directly injected into her body. Gene-editing company CRISPR Therapeutics announced in June that two patients with beta thalassemia and one with sickle cell disease would no longer require blood transfusions after their bone marrow stem cells were edited using CRISPR techniques.

Earlier this week, according to a report in Chemistry World, Dr. Doudna launched a new company, Scribe Therapeutics, to begin work on treatments for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Reuters reported that Dr. Doudna is already employing CRISPR in the battle against the COVID-19 as a co-founder of biotech startup Mammoth, which has tied up with GlaxoSmithKline to develop a test to detect infections.

This year, the CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB) in Delhi developed a COVID-19 testing kit, nicknamed 'Feluda', after the fictional Bengali detective, based on the CRISPR/Cas9 system. There are commercial CRISPR-based home kits that allow amateur researchers to develop their own

biotechnology applications, triggering a sub-culture called 'bio-hacking'.

Research is already underway for using proteins that are smaller and more efficient than Cas-9, though the system purportedly holds promise for treating more complex diseases, such as cancer, heart diseases, mental illnesses, and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection.

Is there a possibility of the tool being misused?

The most controversial application of CRISPR/Cas9 was in 2018, when Chinese researcher He Jiankui announced that he had used it to create 'gene-edited twins' Lula and Nana via in-vitro fertilisation. He used the gene scissors on the children when they were embryos to edit a gene, CCR5, that in its modified form would ostensibly protect the babies from HIV. The HIV uses the CCR5 to infect cells and the modified gene would shut the door against such an entry. He was widely condemned and sentenced to three years in jail, and stripped of his position at Shenzhen University, where he worked.

While he broke a number of medical rules, what is particularly controversial is that the specific mutations that would supposedly protect the children from HIV were not achieved. There were a host of other unintended mutations too. It is not known how these mutations are going to play out over the children's lifetimes and whether they will spread to humanity more widely in due course. Thus, even though the CRISPR/Cas9 system allows a democratic usage in labs across the world to tinker with genomes, it still has not reached the level of precision required to be sure that it does not cause unintentional side effects.

How often have women been awarded Nobel Prizes?

This year has seen a remarkable representation of women. Four women have been named Nobel Laureates in 2020 against five men so far. The Sveriges Riksbank (Sweden's national bank) Prize for economics, or the 'economics Nobel', will be announced next week. The 2001-2019 interval has seen the maximum number of women Laureates – 24 – compared to just 11 from 1981 to 2000 and 7 from 1961 to 1980. There were only 12 women Laureates from 1901 to 1960. Only one woman, Marie Curie, has been honoured twice, with the 1903 Nobel Prize in Physics and the 1911 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

"Many women think that no matter what they do, their work will never be recognized the way it would be if they were a man," Al Jazeera quoted Dr. Doudna as saying. "And I think (this prize) refutes that. It makes a strong statement that women can do science, women can do chemistry, and that great science is recognized and honoured."

The seminal discovery of the Hepatitis C virus

How did the Nobel scientists identify the infectious agent, and will it impact the ongoing research on COVID-19?

RAMYA KANNAN

The story so far: This year's Nobel Prize for Medicine has been awarded to Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton and Charles M. Rice for their discovery of the Hepatitis C virus. The Nobel announcement said the Prize had been given to "three scientists who have made a decisive contribution to the fight against blood-borne hepatitis, a major global health problem that causes cirrhosis and liver cancer in people around the world".

Why is the finding crucial?

Hepatitis (Greek for liver inflammation) is a disease characterised by 'poor appetite, vomiting, fatigue and jaundice, including yellow discolouration of the skin and eyes. Chronic hepatitis leads to liver damage, which may progress to cirrhosis and liver cancer'. The Nobel release elaborately explains that 'viral infection is the leading cause of hepatitis, with some forms persisting without symptoms for many years before life-threatening complications develop'.

It is said the first description of hepatitis was recorded around 400 BC by the Greek physician Hippocrates. 'Infectious hepatitis may be caused by five different types of RNA or DNA viruses that are the most common cause of hepatitis worldwide,' notes the Nobel communiqué.

Hepatitis A spreads through contaminated food and water, and through direct contact with an infected person, including some sexual activity. Until the 1960s, exposure to blood from infected individuals was a major health hazard, with up to 30% risk of contracting chronic hepatitis following surgery or multiple blood transfusions. It was Nobel laureate Baruch Blumberg, a geneticist working at the United States' National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, who discovered the Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and made way for almost everything that followed in the hepatic virology field. This year's laureate, Harvey Alter, worked with Blumberg in the lab during this phase. But even the identification and classification of the HBV, and the eventual elimination of HBV-contaminated blood through testing, only partially reduced the risk of getting hepatitis from blood. Clearly, the HBV was only a part of the riddle. Efforts were renewed to identify the missing pieces.

Hepatitis C is the fourth woman to receive the Physics Nobel. Who are the other three?

Since 1901, a total of 114 physics Nobel prizes have been awarded. Before Dr. Ghez, only three had gone to women: Marie Curie (1903, for radiation phenomena), Maria Goeppert-Mayer (1963, nuclear shell structure), Donna Strickland (2018, ultrashort, high-intensity laser pulses).



(From left) Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton and Charles M. Rice. • AP

The Nobel announcement said the discovery of the Hepatitis C virus is a 'landmark achievement in the ongoing battle against viral diseases'. The recognition of pioneering work in this field is likely to boost research on COVID-19

Thereafter, the work of Charles Rice provided conclusive evidence that HCV alone could cause transfusion-mediated hepatitis, persist for a long time, and stimulate a specific antibody response – all features of the human infection.

Why is this award important? The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet lauded the discovery of the Hepatitis C virus as a 'landmark achievement in the ongoing battle against viral diseases'. The significance of choosing the work done by virologists and geneticists, at a time when others are sweating it out trying to decode the SARS-CoV-2 virus, cannot be missed. The Nobel's recognition of pioneering work in this field is likely to be a boost to researchers whose battle with the COVID-19 virus has probably been as challenging as the decoding of the causative factors for hepatitis.

Interestingly, Science, an academic journal, notes that till 2015, 106 Nobel prizes in Physiology or Medicine had been awarded to 210 laureates, and only 33 of these prizes were related to the realm of infectious diseases, clinical microbiology, and immunology.

What more needs to be done in the field? Once the puzzle was cracked, screening methods were developed that have now dramatically reduced the risk of acquiring hepatitis from contaminated blood. Effective anti-viral drugs have also become available, the Nobel acknowledgement states.

In 2016, the World Health Assembly endorsed the Global Health Sector Strategy (GHSS) on viral hepatitis 2016-2021, calling for the elimination of viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030. Ensuring access to affordable testing and to viral therapeutics that will improve the quality of life and reduce deaths due to hepatitis should be the priority of governments, the WHO Global Hepatitis Report advises.

The work of Dr. Alter and Dr. Houghton established a critical link between the NANBH and the HCV infection.



WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

Leading the global fight against hunger

The UN humanitarian organisation, which won this year's Nobel Peace Prize, says there won't be a peaceful world as long as there is hunger

SURESH SESHADRI

The most devastating conflict of the 20th century, even arguably of all known history, was the Second World War. The war and its aftermath saw large-scale hunger and privation across all of Europe and other parts of the world that the conflict had touched, on a scale hitherto unknown.

It was against this backdrop that one of the war's most decorated Allied Generals spoke these words. "The children of today are forming each day the mental concepts, the mental prejudices, the emotions, that are going to rule and govern them through their lifetime; and

over at least half of the year, they are hungry. In many instances, in many countries, almost universally, they are going in packs, up and down alleys, they are searching for a garbage heap in which they find all too little of any kind of sustenance that will keep them alive. Every man here who served with me in Europe has witnessed this with his own eyes. How can we expect

children, who are reduced almost to an animal-like level of existence, struggling each day for any kind of scrap that will keep them alive, how can we expect them to develop the ideas and the ideals that in the future will bring them to be apostles of peace. They are,

by the very nature of the struggle they are carrying on, wedded to the philosophy of force, whatever they get, they get by their own efforts and by scratching in the garbage heap. That cannot go on if we are to have peace." This was the kernel of a stirring speech made by General Dwight D. Eisenhower, in 1948, to the UN General Assembly.

Eisenhower's experience as the Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force, which landed on the beaches of Normandy in 1944 and ultimately oversaw the final phase of the war in western Europe that ended with Germany's defeat, had given him a unique insight into

the deadly privations the devastating conflict had wrought on children in almost every country on the continent. It was this experience that forged his conviction that childhood hunger and peace were incompatible.

In 1960, Eisenhower, who was by now into his second term as President of the United States, again focused an address to the UN on global hunger and proposed that the UN spearhead the creation of a multilateral effort to provide food aid wherever it was needed. "The United States is already carrying out substantial programmes to make its surpluses available to countries of greatest need.

My country is also ready to join with other members of the UN in devising a workable scheme to provide food to member states through the UN system, relying on the advice and assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization," he told the UN General Assembly. This proposal was then brought to fruition in 1961, when another American Second World War veteran, George McGovern, led the efforts of President John F. Kennedy's administration at the UN to help establish the World Food Programme (WFP) – the winner this month of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Within months of its creation, in September 1962, the WFP faced its first test. A deadly earthquake in northern Iran had claimed the lives of more than 12,000 people and rendered tens of thousands homeless and desperate for succour. The UN's infant agency flew in 1,500 tonnes of wheat, 270 tonnes of sugar and 27 tonnes of tea, marking its baptism.

By 1965, the experimental agency with an initial mandate of three years had proved its worth to the world after responding to multiple crises and was enshrined as a fully fledged UN programme: it is to last for "as long as mul-

tilateral food aid is found feasible and desirable".

Largest operation

The next two decades saw the organisation facing some of its sternest tests in terms of the scale of humanitarian crises it had to address. From the famines in the Sahel in northern Africa in the 1970s to the famine in Ethiopia in 1984 and the conflict in southern Sudan in the late 1980s, the WFP learnt to marshal resources as varied as camel caravans and flotilla

In the six decades since its founding, the WFP has grown to become the world's largest humanitarian agency, providing aid to almost 100 million people in more than 80 countries

of cargo planes provided by national air forces. "In 1989, Operation Lifeline Sudan is launched: leading a consortium of UN agencies and charities alongside UNICEF, WFP releases 1.5 million tonnes of food into the skies above what has since become South Sudan. The dawn-to-dusk, 20-aircraft, three-sorries-a-day airdrop remains, to this day, the largest in history. It saved hundreds of thousands of lives," the WFP says on its website.

In the six decades since its founding, the WFP has now grown to become the world's largest humanitarian agency, providing aid to almost 100 million people in more than 80 countries. Commanding

one of the biggest non-military and non-commercial logistics operations worldwide, the Rome-headquartered agency on any given day has up to 5,600 trucks, 30 ships and almost 100 aircraft engaged in delivering food and other assistance to those needing aid as well as developmental support, including in some of remotest and often conflict-stricken parts of the globe.

The organisation has widened its operational remit and is now a leading provider of not just emergency food

aid but also an agency engaged in supporting the nutritional requirements of communities through food assistance programmes. These vary from supporting school meals projects in different countries, including India, to the provision of cash and vouchers as a complement to in-kind food distributions.

While theatres of conflict remain the largest areas of widespread deprivation and hunger, the WFP's interventions have been witnessed in the wake of multiple natural disasters: the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2010 earthquake in Haiti and closer home Nepal's devastating tremor five years ago.

The organisation has also honed its response capabilities to the point where it is able to serve as the frontline telecommunications and logistical support provider to all UN agencies and NGOs in any crisis situation – from the Ebola outbreak in West Africa to the Nepali earthquake of 2015.

Not free from criticism

For an agency funded entirely by donors ranging from governments, companies and individuals, the WFP has had to face its share of criticism. These range from charges that the aid it provides encourages corruption among local politicians and officials, who often sell the food supplies in the black market hurting local farmers and traders, to complaints that it destabilises whatever rudimentary market conditions that may be prevailing by making it hard for small local producers to compete.

But with conflicts still raging from Syria to Yemen and Afghanistan, communities threatened by climate change and the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic pushing millions more to the brink of starvation, as the WFP's executive director David Beasley says in a statement acknowledging the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize: "Every one of the 690 million hungry people in the world today has the right to live peacefully and without hunger. Without peace, we cannot achieve our global goal of zero hunger; and while there is hunger, we will never have a peaceful world."

In Focus

■ In 1961, the Kennedy administration of the U.S. led the efforts at the UN to establish the World Food Programme

■ By 1965, the agency, with an initial mandate of three years, had proved its worth to the world after responding to multiple crises and was enshrined as a fully fledged UN programme

■ The Rome-headquartered agency, on any given day, has up to 5,600 trucks, 30 ships and 100 aircraft engaged in delivering food and other assistance to those in need

LOUISE GLÜCK

The revenge against circumstance

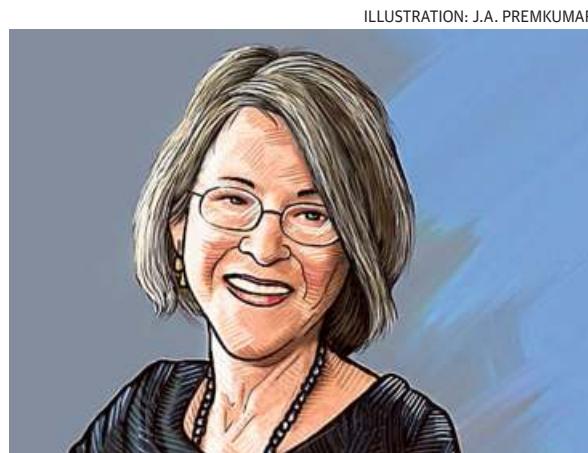
The Nobel laureate writes about life and its harshness with 'austere beauty'

SUDIPTA DATTA

After several years of polarising the globe with its choice for the Literature Nobel, the Swedish Academy gave the 2020 Prize to contemporary American poet Louise Glück "for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal". But such is the state of the world, divided over race, caste, creed, class, that Ms. Glück's first thoughts on winning was that she was astonished.

Then, which Nobel winner isn't? Her surprise was directed elsewhere, "completely flabbergasted that they would choose a white American lyric poet," she told *The New York Times*.

And yet the 77-year-old Ms. Glück (pronounced Glick) is a celebrated poet in America. She has written 12 collections of poetry and essay volumes. Her work is often compared to poets like Emily Dickinson and Sylvia Plath. She has won all the top awards, from the Pulitzer Prize in 1993 for *The Wild Iris* to the National Book Award in 2014 for *Faithful and Virtuous Night*, and was anointed Poet Laureate in 2003. Her poems are spare. She often looks at life's euphoria and struggles – love, loss, relationships, betrayal, death – through the prism of the past, especially the Greek myths. Ms. Glück had a difficult adolescence, often "at war with my mom" as she has said in interviews; struggled with anorexia, but



The Little Black Boy). Her first published collection was *Firstborn* (1968), which was acclaimed by critics. Talking about the process, Ms. Glück said she "feels alive" when she writes poetry. For her, writing is a kind of "revenge against circumstance - bad luck, loss, pain..."

Witness to intimacy
Ms. Glück has another vocation, explains Joanne Feit Diehl in her introduction to *On Louise Glück: Change What you See*. "She writes poems that bear witness to intimate occasions – subtle psychological moments captured by the austerity of her diction." Like in 'Parados' (*Poems 1962-2012*): "I'll tell you/ what I meant to be.../ a device that listened.../ Not inert: still/ A piece of wood. A stone... I was born to a vocation/ To bear witness/ To the great mysteries./ Now that I have seen both/ birth and death, I know/ to the dark nature

these/ are proofs, not /mysteries..."

A teacher of English at Yale University, Ms. Glück has said that from poet Stanley Kunitz, she learnt to subordinate her ego to the needs of the poem. Collections like *The Triumph of Achilles* (1985) and *Ararat* (1990), where three characteristics which recur in her writing unite, were mentioned in the Nobel statement. "The topic of family life; austere intelligence; and a refined sense of composition" find echo in the poems, understandably endearing her to both readers and critics. Her new book, *Winter Recipes from the Collective*, is due for release next year.

Erica McAlpine, associate professor of English at Britain's Oxford University, told Reuters that the occasional "bleakness" of Ms. Glück's voice speaks especially well to the "present moment". For Ms. Glück, as she said in her interview to *NYT*, "the hope is that if you live through it, there will be art on the other side". There is an awakening after darkness, she appears to say in 'Snowdrops' (*The Wild Iris*): "I did not expect to survive, earth suppressing me. I didn't expect to waken again, to feel in damp earth my body/able to respond again, remembering/after so long how to open again/ in the cold light/of earliest spring - /afraid, yes, but among you again/crying yes risk joy/in the raw wind of the new world."

GOLDEN DAWN

The party can't go on

A Greek court found the far-right party guilty of running a criminal organisation

GARIMELLA SUBRAMANIAM

Wednesday's landmark guilty verdict against Greece's far-right Golden Dawn party draws a line under the country's violent ultra-nationalist surge in the aftermath of its sovereign banking and debt crises. In a case that has been compared to the Nuremberg trials to investigate the Nazi Holocaust, a three-member tribunal ruled that while the party's several former Members of Parliament, including the founder Nikolaos Michaloliakos, ran a criminal organisation, others were culpable of involvement in various brutalities.

Among the guilty is a Golden Dawn supporter who murdered a hip-hop singer in September 2013, those who attacked trade union members affiliated to the Communist Party the same year and hooligans who assaulted Egyptian fishermen in 2012. In all, 68 defendants and 200 witnesses were involved in four cases in a trial that lasted five years. Greece's Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis has hailed the verdict as a victory for democracy in the country.

Mr. Michaloliakos, a former special forces commando in the Greek Army, launched the neo-Nazi party in the 1980s. A known Holocaust denier and admirer of Hitler, he has described Golden Dawn as a party of patriotic nationalists. By the time of Mr. Michaloliakos's 2010 election to the Athens city council, his black-clad



party cadres, the Swastika-like party emblem and torch-lit parades had gained notoriety for taunting and even physically targeting trade union activists and migrant workers in the capital's working class suburbs. Their hate-mongering was on vivid display even as Greek society was convulsed by crippling austerity and high unemployment. The Mayor of Athens who tried to block the party's food distribution and blood bank programmes exclusively for native Greeks was punched by one of the MPs. Another slapped a woman legislator in the house, and a third attacked a female panellist in a television show.

When the government was debating a new anti-racism law, Golden Dawn countered the proposal with a draft Bill to ban racism against the Greeks. The party was catapulted into the national Parliament in 2012, when it polled 7% of the vote and garnered 18

seats to emerge the third largest in the 300-strong legislature. Its meteoric rise from a few thousand ballots in the previous elections was a direct consequence of the erosion of public trust in mainstream politics, three decades after the end of military dictatorship in Greece. The severe economic strictures that Athens submitted to in return for the EU's three bailout packages served as a fertile ground for the party to peddle its polarising propaganda, pitting the poor and the pensioners against the influx of immigrants.

Murder of a musician
The September 2013 murder of Pavlos Fyssas, a highly popular hip-hop musician and anti-racism campaigner, marked the brutal climax of Golden Dawn's violent track record. Even as the incident drew nationwide outrage and demands for the party to be outlawed, its infiltration into the police ma-

chinery forced the investigation into the crime to be transferred to the anti-terror unit. The subsequent months saw a number of Golden Dawn MPs being stripped of their parliamentary immunity from prosecution to face charges of involvement in racial attacks and belonging to a criminal group. The party's participation in the 2014 European parliamentary elections was, however, cleared by the Supreme Court since the charges were yet to be proved.

The dip in poll ratings following the murder of Fyssas was but short-lived. In the January 2015 election, Golden Dawn retained almost all of its seats. Significantly, the party failed in last year's polls to secure the minimum 3% vote threshold to gain entry into the legislature. Notwithstanding these reverses and Wednesday's ruling, it would be premature to downplay the potency of the party. It is the raison d'être of the far-right anywhere to tap into popular disaffection with the government over the conditions of living and fuel divisions of race, religion, nationality and all other conceivable social cleavages. Europe's far-right has demonstrated a capacity to mobilise across countries. The singular focus of the judicial trial on holding Golden Dawn accountable for the brutalities, as distinct from the party's narrow nationalist ideology, to counter the party perhaps holds wider significance.

Kohli piles on the misery for CSK

RCB captain's expertly paced 90 n.o. consigns Dhoni's men to their fifth defeat

IPL 2020

SPORTS BUREAU

After seven matches, Chennai Super Kings' mid-term report card will just read 'lack of intent'. The side produced yet another dull display on Saturday, going down to Royal Challengers Bangalore by 37 runs at the Dubai International Stadium.

Chasing 170 for victory, CSK's batting woes played out in a familiar manner. The openers failed to give a good start and the middle-order showed no urgency, as last edition's runner-up crawled to its fifth defeat of the season.

Shifting gears seamlessly
Earlier, Virat Kohli slammed an unbeaten 90 off just 52 balls (4x4, 4x6) in an innings where he seamlessly shifted gears between caution and aggression.

At the end of the 15th over, both teams were in a similar situation (RCB: 95/4; CSK: 96/3), but CSK did not have someone to produce a knock like Kohli's. The Indian skipper cut loose in the last five overs to power RCB to 169, which proved more than enough.

On the field, Kohli was brilliant with his calls, using the quicks to unsettle the openers before Washington Sundar removed Faf du Plessis and Shane Watson cheaply.

Ambati Rayudu (42) and debutant N. Jagadeesan (33) weren't able to accelerate, and the RCB bowlers used the scoreboard pressure to close out the match without much trouble.

Electing to bat, RCB had a



Improvisation: Virat Kohli did as he pleased during his 52-ball knock which contained four fours and four sixes. *BCCI/IPL

sedate start, with Aaron Finch falling early and Devdutt Padikkal not at his fluent best. Padikkal (33) and Kohli steadied things before Shardul Thakur removed the former and AB de Villiers in the 11th over to reduce RCB to 67 for three.

It was then that Kohli, who had reached his 50 off 39 balls, turned it on.

In the 18th over, he hit Sam Curran for two sixes, the second one being the shot of the day – an audacious flick over square-leg.

Innings scan

RCB	CSK
38	Dots 48
8	Fours 12
7	Sixes 1
36/1	PP 26/2
8.45	RR 6.60

Next assignment

CSK: Oct. 13 vs. SRH
Dubai, 7.30 p.m. IST

RCB: Oct. 12 vs. KKR
Sharjah, 7.30 p.m. IST

SCOREBOARD

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Devdutt Padikkal c du Plessis b Shardul 33 (34b, 2x4, 1x6), Aaron Finch b Deepak Chahar 2 (9b), Virat Kohli (not out) 90 (52b, 4x4, 4x6), A.B. de Villiers c Dhoni b Shardul 0 (2b), Washington Sundar c Dhoni b Sam Curran 10 (10b, 1x6), Shivam Dube (not out) 22 (14b, 2x4, 1x6); Extras (1b-1, w-10, nb-1); 12; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 169.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-13 (Finch, 2.5 overs), 2-66 (Padikkal, 110.2), 3-67 (de Villiers, 10.5), 4-93 (Washington, 14.3).

SUPER KINGS BOWLING

Deepak Chahar 3-0-10-1, Sam Curran 4-0-48-1, Shardul 4-0-40-2, Bravo 3-0-29-0, Karn 4-0-34-0, Jadeja 2-0-7-0.

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

Shane Watson b Washington 14 (18b, 3x4), Faf du Plessis c Morris b Washington 8 (10b), Ambati Rayudu b Udana 42 (40b, 4x4), N. Jagadeesan run out 33 (28b, 4x4), M.S. Dhoni c Gurkeerat b Chahal 10 (6b, 1x6), Sam Curran c de Villiers b Morris 0 (1b), Ravindra Jadeja c Gurkeerat b Morris 7 (6b, 1x4), Dwayne Bravo c Padikkal b Morris 7 (5b), Deepak Chahar (not out) 5 (5b), Shardul Thakur (not out) 1 (7b); Extras (w-5); 5; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 132.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-19 (du Plessis, 3.6 overs), 2-25 (Watson, 5.4), 3-89 (Jagadeesan, 14.2), 4-106 (Dhoni, 15.6), 5-107 (Curran, 16.2), 6-113 (Rayudu, 17.3), 7-122 (Bravo, 18.4), 8-126 (Jadeja, 18.6).

RCB BOWLING

Morris 4-0-19-3, Saini 4-0-18-0, Udana 4-0-30-1, Washington 3-0-16-2, Chahal 4-0-35-1, Dubi 1-0-4-0.

Toss:

Man-of-the-Match: Kohli.

Royal Challengers Bangalore won by 37 runs.

Rahul's Kings choke and surrender

Knight Riders sneak home by two runs after Punjab's chase unravels

SPORTS BUREAU

Kolkata Knight Riders pulled off a narrow two-run win over Kings XI Punjab in an Indian Premier League clash on Saturday.

Chasing 165 at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi, Kings XI seemed to be in control till the 18th over, with captain K.L. Rahul on 71 off 55 balls.

Quick wickets

However, things went horribly wrong thereafter. Needing 20 off 12 balls, KXIP lost two wickets – including Rahul's – in the space of three balls in the 19th over bowled by Prasidh Krishna.

It came to a point where a six was needed off the last delivery to take the game to the Super Over, but Australian Glenn Maxwell missed out by inches.

Not long before, things had looked promising for Kings with openers Rahul and Mayank Agarwal (56, 39b, 6x4, 1x6) forging a 115-run partnership.

Move backfires

Even when Shubman Gill caught Mayank at deep mid-wicket off Prasidh, it seemed to be too late for the Knights. But the game took a dramatic turn after Nicholas Pooran's exit.

KXIP's decision to promote youngster Prabhsimran Singh at No. 4 – ahead of Maxwell – backfired. The youngster succumbed to pressure and managed just four runs off seven balls.

Batting first, KKR struggled till the 11th over, making 63 for three.

However, captain Dinesh Karthik's counter-attacking 58 off 29 balls and opener



A tale of two skippers: While Karthik gave the KKR innings the much-needed momentum, KXIP's Rahul couldn't take his team past the finish line. *BCCI/IPL

SCOREBOARD

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS

Rahul Tripathi b Shami 4 (10b, 1x4), Shubman Gill run out 57 (47b, 5x4), Nitish Rana run out 2 (4b), Eoin Morgan c Maxwell b Bishnoi 24 (23b, 2x4, 1x6), Dinesh Karthik run out 58 (29b, 8x4, 2x6), Andre Russell c Prabhsimran b Arshdeep 5 (3b, 1x4), Pat Cummins (not out) 5 (4b); Extras (1b-1, lb-2, w-6); 9; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 162.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-115 (Mayank, 14.2 overs), 2-144 (Pooran, 17.2), 3-149 (Prabhsimran, 18.4), 4-151 (Rahul, 18.6), 5-158 (Mandeep, 19.5).

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING

Cummins 4-0-29-0, Prasidh 4-0-29-3, Nagarkoti 3-0-40-0, Varun 4-0-27-0, Narine 4-0-28-2, Rana 1-0-7-0.

Toss:

KKR.

Man-of-the-Match:

Karthik.

KKR won by two runs.

Glenn Maxwell (not out) 10 (5b, 2x4), Mandeep Singh c sub (Green) b Narine 0 (1b), Chris Jordan (not out) 0 (Ob); Extras (lb-2); 2; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 162.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-115 (Mayank, 14.2 overs), 2-144 (Pooran, 17.2), 3-149 (Prabhsimran, 18.4), 4-151 (Rahul, 18.6), 5-158 (Mandeep, 19.5).

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING

Cummins 4-0-29-0, Prasidh 4-0-29-3, Nagarkoti 3-0-40-0, Varun 4-0-27-0, Narine 4-0-28-2, Rana 1-0-7-0.

Toss:

KKR.

Man-of-the-Match:

Karthik.

KKR won by two runs.

Innings scan

KKR	KXIP
47	Dots 34
17	Fours 16
3	Sixes 2
25/2	PP 47/0
8.20	RR 8.10

MI and DC in a battle for bragging rights

RR, which takes on SRH, hopes the return of Stokes will spark a revival

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ABU DHABI

Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals, the two most consistent teams of the season, cross swords in a clash of equals on Sunday.

However, experience in the pace-bowling arsenal may give MI the edge. Jasprit Bumrah and Trent Boult could make the difference.

The good news for Capitals is Shimron Hetmyer getting his touch back.

TODAY'S MATCHES

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD vs. **MUMBAI INDIANS**, DUBAI, 3.30 P.M. IST

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 11
SRH 6 | RR 5
In 2019
Played 2 | SRH 1 | RR 1
STAR SPORTS 1 & SELECT 1 (SD & HD)

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 24
MI 12 | DC 12
In 2019
Played 2 | MI 1 | DC 1

Points table

Team	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Delhi Capitals	6	5	1	10	1.267
Mumbai Indians	6	4	2	8	1.488
Kolkata Knight Riders	6	4	2	8	0.017
Royal Challengers	6	4	2	8	-0.820
Sunrisers Hyderabad	6	3	3	6	0.232
Chennai Super Kings	7	2	5	4	-0.588
Rajasthan Royals	6	2	4	4	-1.073
Kings XI Punjab	7	1	6	2	-0.381

After the CSK-RCB match on Oct. 10

Shubman and Abhishek have bright future: Yuvraj

Former India international Yuvraj Singh feels KKR's Shubman Gill and SRH's Abhishek Sharma have a good future and all they need is guidance.

"I spent about a month-and-a-half with them and worked with them. They have great skill levels, but it was more about working on their mindset – how to approach a T20 game."

"For Abhishek as a middle-order batsman and Shubman as an opener, you have to approach (the roles) differently. These youngsters have a good future, they just need some guidance," Yuvraj said on the Tissot presents Sportstar Extras T20 Time show.

Yuvraj had long sessions with a few young Punjab cricketers, including Shubman and Abhishek earlier this year. He

monitored the duo's fitness levels and made them sweat it out in his personal gym.

According to him, time management is very important in T20s. "

TV PICKS

Eifel Grand Prix: Main Race, Star Sports 3 (SD & HD), 5.35 p.m.
Nations League: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 6.30 p.m., 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Monday); Sony Six (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m. & 12.40 a.m. (Monday)
PGA Tour: Eurosport (SD & HD), 2.30 a.m. (Monday)

IN BRIEF



Kim goes on birdie binge, grabs lead

NEW YORK South Korea's Kim Sei-young, seeking her first Major title, birdied five of her last six holes to seize a one-stroke lead after Friday's second round of the Women's PGA Championship. She fired a five-under par 65, including an event record-tying 29 for the front nine, to stand on four-under 136. AFP

Shubhankar makes the cut; Bhullar misses again

WENTWORTH (UK) Shubhankar Sharma shot two-under 70, with five birdies against three bogeys, to make the cut at the BMW PGA Championship. However, Gaganjeet Bhullar (73, 77) missed his third cut in a row. Five-time European Tour winner Matthew Fitzpatrick (67, 65) and reigning Open champion Shane Lowry (67, 65) carded seven-under 65 each to share the halfway lead at 12-under. PTI

Cantlay in line for rare feat at Shriners meet

LOS ANGELES Scotland's Martin Laird and Americans Austin Cook, Brian Harman, Peter Malmati and Patrick Cantlay shared the lead on 14-under 128 after two rounds of the PGA Shriners Hospitals for Children Open. Meanwhile, Cantlay put himself in position to become only the fourth player since 1960 with a top-two finish at the same PGA event over four consecutive years. AFP



Ibrahimovic 'cured' of coronavirus: AC Milan

ROME AC Milan striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic has been given the all-clear to end his quarantine period and return to action after testing negative for coronavirus, the Serie A club announced on Friday. Milan confirmed in a statement that the Swedish striker had "tested negative" twice in a row. Ibrahimovic, 39, sounded a more triumphant note on his social media: "You are cured! The health authority says the quarantine is over, you can go out!", he wrote on Twitter. AFP

SFI launches video campaign to highlight key guidelines of SOP

AHMEDABAD The Swimming Federation of India (SFI) on Saturday launched a video campaign to highlight the key guidelines of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by the Sports Ministry, ahead of the reopening of pools. The guidelines, including regular temperature checks and sanitisation, will be posted on SFI's social media handles and will be shared with parents and swimmers across various centres. PTI



Rashford's campaign for children gets UK honour

LONDON Manchester United footballer Marcus Rashford was honoured by Queen Elizabeth II on Friday in recognition of his campaign to feed vulnerable children, alongside hundreds of key workers who helped in the fight against the coronavirus. The England international is one of the highest-profile figures in the honours list. Rashford said he was "honoured and humbled" to receive the award. AFP

Heat take it to Game Six

Butler's triple-double overshadows James' 40-point effort

NBA FINALS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ORLANDO

Jimmy Butler's triple-double propelled Miami Heat to a 111-108 victory over Los Angeles Lakers on Friday. The win kept Heat alive in the best-of-seven NBA Finals, which Lakers lead 3-2.

Butler scored 35 points with 12 rebounds and 11 assists and Heat withstood a 40-point performance from Lakers superstar LeBron James. Game Six is on Sunday, and seven, if needed, will be on Tuesday.

Rare rally

Heat can become just the second team to rally from a 3-1 deficit to win the championship series. The only other team to do it was the James-led Cleveland Cavaliers against Golden State in 2016.

Butler drained two free-throws with 16.8 seconds left to put Heat up by one.

James, stymied under the basket, found Danny Green for a wide-open three-pointer with 7.1 seconds remaining but Green missed and Tyler Herro added two more free-throws to seal the game.

On a night that saw Heat lead much of the way, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope's three-



Fighting every inch: Miami Heat's Jimmy Butler goes for a basket past LA Lakers' Anthony Davis. ■ AFP

pointer with 6:18 remaining put the Lakers up 97-96.

But Heat dug in, Duncan Robinson's three-pointer put the team ahead 101-99 with 3:16 remaining, and it was a heavyweight slugfest the rest of the way, the lead changing hands seven more times.

Robinson added 26 points for Miami. Kendrick Nunn had 14, Bam Adebayo 13, Herro 12 and Jae Crowder 11. James added 13 rebounds and seven assists for the Laker-

ers, Anthony Davis 28 points and Caldwell-Pope 16.

Multiple triple-doubles

Butler is just the sixth player in NBA Finals history to have multiple triple-doubles in the title series, and just the second, along with James, to have multiple 30-point triple-doubles in the same Finals.

The result: Finals: Miami Heat 111 (Butler 35, Robinson 26) bt LA Lakers 108 (James 40, Davis 28) Lakers 3-2.

Pattinson happy to play supporting role

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

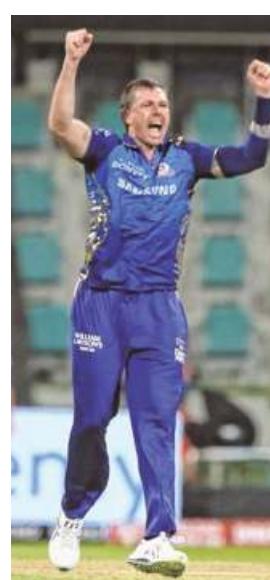
Replacing Lasith Malinga, in any outfit, is a humongous task. But James Pattinson has so far ensured defending champion Mumbai Indians has not missed the highest wicket-taker in the tournament's history.

"They're big shoes to fill... I played my part and we have two really good white-ball bowlers in Jasprit (Bumrah) and Trent (Boult). So, just nice to play a back-seat role," Pattinson said ahead of Sunday's battle for the table-topper's slot versus Delhi Capitals.

The MI pace triumvirate has been the best unit in the tournament, with Bumrah picking up 11 wickets from six games and Boult 10. Pattinson is not too far behind.

The best thing about MI's bowling attack is that it can contain as well as take wickets, he said.

"A team like (DC), it is so-



James Pattinson... filling some big shoes. ■ BCCI/IPL

metimes really hard to stop them. They have got a wonderful batting-line up, similar to ours, it should make for a really good game," he said.

Easy day at the office for Brazil against Bolivia

Colombia hardly breaks a sweat in blanking Venezuela

WC QUALIFIERS

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SAO PAULO

Brazil and Colombia had no trouble beating two of the weakest South American teams to score their first wins in the opening round of World Cup qualifiers.

The matches took place without fans due to health protocols from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Brazil easily beat Bolivia 5-0 in rainy Sao Paulo while Colombia scored all of its goals in a 3-0 victory in the first half in Barranquilla.

After the first round, Brazil, Colombia, Uruguay and Argentina lead with three points. Peru and Paraguay have one. Ecuador, Chile, Venezuela and Bolivia have none.

All five matches in the second round will be played on Tuesday: Peru vs. Brazil, Bolivia vs. Argentina, Chile vs. Colombia, Ecuador vs. Urugu-

'Wolff exit may mark downturn for Hamilton'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NURBURGRING

Nico Rosberg has warned that if Toto Wolff quits as Mercedes chief it could have an effect on Lewis Hamilton's future and mark a downturn for the team.

Wolff has guided Mercedes to six consecutive constructors' titles, but the Austrian has hinted that he is ready to move on. Rosberg believes Wolff's uncertain future is a reason for Hamilton's reluctance to sign a new contract.

Speaking to Sky Sports F1 at the Eifel Grand Prix, he said: "I do think it matters because Lewis is very convinced that Toto is an integral part of the success of that team, which is true, because Toto absolutely is. And it's not guaranteed that if Toto goes and there is a new leader that the stability remains. Also, if Toto goes, it could potentially have a spiralling effect."

Rosberg also suggested that Sebastian Vettel will have a good opportunity to rebuild his career and reputation at Aston Martin next year after losing confidence in a car that did not suit him at Ferrari.

Valtteri Bottas drives to pole

Mercedes teammate Hamilton to share front row

EIFEL GP

REUTERS
NURBURGRING

Valtteri Bottas seized pole position for the Eifel Grand Prix on Saturday with Mercedes teammate and Formula One championship leader Lewis Hamilton alongside on the front row of the grid at the Nurburgring.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen, who had been on provisional pole after the first flying laps of the final session at the German circuit, qualified in third place with Ferrari's Charles Leclerc fourth.

Bottas' pole was his third of 2020 for Mercedes but this one looked in the balance right to the end.

Great last lap

"It's such a nice feeling when you get it on the last lap, with the last chance," said the Finn after celebrating his 14th career pole. "The last lap in Q3 (the final phase) was spot on."

Bottas is 44 points behind six-time World champion Hamilton, who will still fancy his chances of a record-equalling 91st career win on Sunday at a track that last hosted an F1 race in 2013.

"Valtteri did a great job so congrats to him," said the



Setting the pace: Valtteri Bottas speeding around the Nurburgring circuit. ■ REUTERS

nault; Row 4: Esteban Ocon (Renault), Lando Norris (McLaren); Row 5: Sergio Perez (Racing Point), Carlos Sainz Jr. (McLaren); Row 6: Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari), Pierre Gasly (AlphaTauri); Row 7: Daniil Kvyat (AlphaTauri), Antonio Giovinazzi (Alfa Romeo).

Row 8: Kevin Magnussen (Haas), Romain Grosjean (Haas); Row 9: George Russell (Williams), Nicholas Latifi (Williams); Row 10: Kimi Raikkonen (Alfa Romeo), Nico Hulkenberg (Racing Point).

Darwin Machis in the first few minutes.

Machis was initially sent off, but video review reversed the decision after it became clear the Venezuelan had not touched Arias.

Colombia showed why it is one of the favourites for one of the four direct South American berths in the Qatar 2022 World Cup in the 16th minute when Duvan Zapata calmly scored from close range after a low cross by Juan Cuadrado.

Ten minutes later Johan Mojica bulldozed through the Venezuelan defence from the left and assisted Luis Muriel to add a second with a classy right-foot touch. Muriel also scored the third Colombian goal in first-half stoppage time.

Philippe Coutinho ended the rout in the 73rd minute with a header, also assisted by Neymar.

"The team took this very seriously, we were very respectful," said Brazil captain Casemiro. "We still need to improve teamwork. Match by match we will get it."

Brazil coach Tite said the team will continue to play aggressively. Bolivia left some of its players in La Paz, looking towards the clash against Argentina at altitude.

The team is in crisis due to a political dispute involving the country's soccer body and major teams.

Serious injury

The match in Barranquilla was marked by a serious left-ankle injury to Colombian defender Santiago Arias after he tackled Venezuelan striker



Man of the moment: Roberto Firmino, right, scored a brace for Brazil. ■ AFP

him during the match.

Defender Marquinhos opened the scoring in the 16th minute with a header. Roberto Firmino netted the first of his two goals in the 30th minute, just pushing the ball into an empty goal after a low cross from Renan Lodi.

Firmino made it 3-0 in the 49th minute, assisted by Neymar, putting the ball between the legs of goalkeeper Carlos

Bengaluru United eyes its first win

I-LEAGUE QUALIFIERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KALYANI

Having lost their respective opening games of the I-League Qualifiers 2020, FC Bengaluru United and Garhwal FC will look to get off the mark when they lock horns here on Sunday.

On the eve of the match on Saturday, Bengaluru head coach Richard Hood sounded cautious, saying he expects nothing less than a "hard battle" from the Delhi-based side.

"Right from the start, we have maintained that there are no favourites or underdogs in this tournament and Garhwal proved us right.

With both the teams on the lookout for their first

win, Hood felt that the upcoming match would not be one for the faint-hearted.

"We both have our backs to the wall and there is no way out but to fight it out for three points," said Hood.

Missed chances

Mohammedan Sporting will look to put the missed chances from the previous game behind as it takes on newcomer ARA FC in Kolkata on Sunday. Sporting head coach Yann Law stressed on the innumerable chances that his side missed in the previous match.

ARA, the first side from Ahmedabad to compete in the second division league last season, will be playing its first match.

brought upon by the COVID-19 pandemic, a postponed Olympics may just help Indian swimmers and Dronacharya awardee coach Nihar Ameen has said the resumption of training is a positive step in this regard.

"I am very optimistic that our Olympic B qualifiers will work very hard to attain the A qualifying time and all our swimmers across the country are very enthusiastic about resuming their training," Ameen said.

"Rivalry is healthy in football as it drives the players on and also the clubs to achieve the very best

to experiencing it first-hand. "Rivalry is healthy in football as it drives the players on and also the clubs to achieve the very best. Myself and Tony (his assistant Anthony Grant) have been involved in various rivalries and derbies...so we know what it is all about."

The former England striker said he had heard a lot about the long rivalry between East Bengal and Mohun Bagan and was looking forward to experiencing it first-hand.

"I am very glad that swimming pools are opening up in India, being able to train by staying at home does make me a lot better especially due to the fact I have my entire support staff available and the schedule can be designed for maximum efficiency," said Srihari. Despite the delays

CSIR-NGRI Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Inaugural Function
Sunday, Oct. 11, 2020, at 11.00 AM

CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI) established in the year 1961, is a premier institute in solid earth research involved in innovative basic and applied research encompassing the fields of Geophysics, Geology, Geochemistry & Geodetics.

CSIR-NGRI's future research efforts are designed towards Deep-Earth and Near-Surface explorations, which are critical to understand the structure and dynamics of the Earth. With its charted vision and mission, CSIR-NGRI will play a vital and pivotal roles in coming years to fulfill the aspirations of the nation.

CSIR-NGRI Virtual Open Day
Popular Lectures
Student - Scientist Interactions
Sunday Oct. 11, 2020, 3.00 PM

All are invited to join through Live Webcast @ <https://www.ngri.org.in/DJYC2020>