

on Sunday



Soumya Swaminathan
warns against
'vaccine nationalism'
page 6



Lockdown has hit
nutritional services, says
UNICEF's Arjan De Wagt
page 8



China-U.S. ties
plunge further over
Hong Kong sanctions
page 9



Butler and Woakes lead
England's rearguard
action
page 14

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NEARBY



G.C. Murmu takes
charge as new CAG
NEW DELHI
Former Jammu & Kashmir L-G Girish Chandra Murmu on Saturday took charge as the new Comptroller and Auditor General. Mr. Murmu was sworn in by President Ram Nath Kovind, the Rashtrapati Bhavan said in a communiqué.
NEWS ▶ PAGE 7

Gauhati University to start classes from Sept. 1

GUWAHATI
A week after the Assam government set September 1 as the tentative date for reopening schools and colleges, Gauhati University has decided to resume regular classes from that date. Exams for UG and PG students will be held from September 22 and September 25 respectively.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 7

DCW chief meets police over minor girl's assault

NEW DELHI
Delhi Commission for Women chief Swati Maliwal met senior Delhi police officers on Saturday and raised questions over their action in the case of a 12-year-old girl who was sexually assaulted and stabbed in west Delhi.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

CLASSIFIEDS ▶ PAGE 4

MAGAZINE ▶ 8 PAGES

Kerala crash toll hits 18, probe begins

Flight data recorder recovered; normal operations resume at Calicut airport day after flight accident

STAFF REPORTER
MALAPPURAM

The crucial flight data recorder of the ill-fated Air India Express flight AXB 1344 that crashed after overshooting the runway of Calicut International Airport at Karipur on Friday evening was recovered as investigations into the accident began.

The toll from the mishap rose to 18 on Saturday, with one more passenger succumbing to injuries, officials said. Of the 149 people injured, 23 are in critical condition, while another 23 have been discharged after initial medical assistance.

Normal operations resumed at Karipur airport a day after the crash amid safety concerns, even as Union Minister for Civil Aviation Hardeep Singh Puri and Union Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan, who visited the site, dismissed the fears. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had given clearance to the airport after inspecting all aspects and satisfying the requirements, they said.

₹20 lakh for kin
The Centre and the Kerala government have announced separate interim relief of ₹10 lakh each to the families of those killed in the crash.

Normal operations res-

Critical path | The crash involving an Air India Express flight at the Karipur airport has brought table-top runways to the spotlight



In ruins:
Wreckage of the Air India Express jet that overshot the runway of the Calicut International Airport in Karipur on Friday.
■ SAKEER HUSSAIN

PAST INCIDENTS ON TABLE-TOP RUNWAYS:

1 On May 22, 2010, an Air India Express flight from Dubai overshot the runway at the Mangalore airport, hit a boundary fence, fell into a gorge and caught fire. As many as 152 passengers and 6 crew members died

2 On August 4, 2017, a SpiceJet flight with close to 70 passengers had a narrow escape at the Karipur airport when it skidded off the runway and briefly careered off its path but recovered soon and came to a halt

WHAT ARE TABLE-TOP RUNWAYS?

THE FIVE TABLE-TOP RUNWAYS IN INDIA:
Kozhikode (Kerala)
Mangalore (Karnataka)
Shimla (Himachal Pradesh)
Pakpong (Sikkim)
Lengpui (Mizoram)

After the May 2010 crash at the Mangalore airport, many recommendations proposed by the safety committee were implemented. Though the runway length could not be altered due to lack of space, the Runway End Safety Area was extended
■ ARUN KUMAR, Director General of Civil Aviation

umed at the airport, despite initial concerns about the safety at the two runways. "There is no debris on runway so there is no need to cancel operations," said a senior official.

DGCA chief Arun Kumar told *The Hindu* that several recommendations in 2011 and 2019 to improve safety standards at the airport were complied with, though some suggestions such as extending the length of the runway could not be implemented due to lack of land availability. But he said that the run-

way at 8,000 feet was sufficiently long for narrow body and wide body aircraft operations.

Top officials visit site

Mr. Puri, who visited the site along with top officials of Air India and Airport Authority of India, said the investigation would reveal the exact reason for the crash.

Appealing to the media not to speculate on the causes of the accident, Mr. Puri said only the investigation report could authoritatively fix the reason for the crash.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 6

SATHE WAS A DECORATED PILOT ▶ PAGE 7

COVID-19 test for passengers

As one of the deceased tested positive for COVID-19, the Kerala Health Department is conducting COVID-19 tests on all passengers of the Air India Express flight that crashed at Calicut airport on Friday. Health Minister K.K. Shylaja has urged all those who took part in rescue operations to go in self-quarantine. ▶ PAGE 7

also of deficiency of drugs in many cases. "IMA thus requests the Government of India to provide adequate attention for the safety and welfare of doctors during the pandemic," said Rajan Sharma, national president, IMA.

As per the data collected by the IMA, of the 196 doctors who lost their lives, 170 were above the age of 50, with general practitioners making up around 40% of the deaths.

'Disturbing reports'
The Association, which represents 3.5 lakh doctors spread across the country, said there have been disturbing reports of doctors and their families not getting beds for admission, and

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 6

Idukki landslip: 8 more bodies found

Toll in natural calamity rises to 26; at least 44 persons estimated to be missing

GIJI K. RAMAN
IDUKKI

With the recovery of eight more bodies, the death toll in the Pettimudy landslip rose to 26 on Saturday.

Four *layams* (workers quarters) in the Nayamakkad tea estate, near Rajamala, in Munnar were buried under the debris of a major landslip on Thursday night.

The search operations, which were discontinued late on Friday due to unfavourable weather, resumed on Saturday morning.

Devikulam subcollector S. Premkrishnan said the ground was prepared for burying the bodies near the accident area.

After completing the autopsy and other formalities, the bodies would be buried there. It was estimated that 44 people were still missing, he added.



Racing against time: Rescue workers looking for survivors at the landslip site in Pettimudy on Saturday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Six persons hit by the landslip were staff of the Forest Department. They are Mayilswami, Ganesan, Rekha, Raja, Manikandan, and Achutan. The bodies of Raja and Mayilswami had been recovered.

The news of the tragedy reached outside only on Friday morning due to the inaccessibility of the area.

The residents reached a forest check-post at Rajamala and informed the officials there.

Revenue Minister E.Chandrasekharan and Electricity Minister M.M. Mani are coordinating the rescue operations. Earlier, Dean Kurikose, MP, visited the spot and camped there.

Kanan Devan Hills Plantation Ltd. has announced a financial assistance of ₹5 lakh each to the kin of the bereaved families.

continue on Sunday.

So far, 24 bodies have been identified. It is feared that 21 persons from a family are among the victims. Mayilswami, his brother Ganesh, Ananthasivam, and their families were trapped in the accident. Mayilswami was a driver at the Eravikulam National Park.

REVENUE MINISTER E.CHANDRASEKHARAN AND ELECTRICITY MINISTER M.M. MANI ARE COORDINATING THE RESCUE OPERATIONS. EARLIER, DEAN KURIKOSE, MP, VISITED THE SPOT AND CAMPED THERE.

KANAN DEVAN HILLS PLANTATION LTD. HAS ANNOUNCED A FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OF ₹5 LAKH EACH TO THE KIN OF THE BEREAVED FAMILIES.

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SO FAR, 24 BODIES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED. IT IS FEARED THAT 21 PERSONS FROM A FAMILY ARE AMONG THE VICTIMS. MAYILSWAMI, HIS BROTHER GANESH, ANANTHASIVAM, AND THEIR FAMILIES WERE TRAPPED IN THE ACCIDENT. MAYILSWAMI WAS A DRIVER AT THE ERAVIKULAM NATIONAL PARK.

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DCW chief meets police over minor girl's assault

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A meeting on the issue of sexual assault of a 12-year-old girl in west Delhi was held between Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal and senior Delhi Police officers on Saturday.

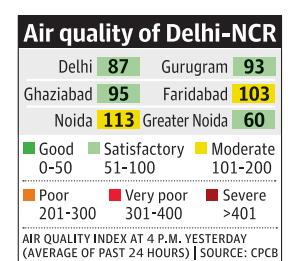
The women's panel had earlier summoned senior officials seeking a detailed action-taken report in the matter.

Ms. Maliwal questioned the delay in the arrest of the accused in the case, despite him being a repeat offender. "What is most shocking is that there are existing murder charges on him for which he had been jailed. So how was he roaming free? How many such men are there who are involved in such cases but roaming free? The DCW will work on this aspect as well," said Ms. Maliwal.

She added that the victim's medical records have been sought from AIIMS, where she is undergoing treatment and from Sanjay Gandhi hospital. "The accused should be sentenced to death within six months," said Ms. Maliwal.

₹10 lakh to kin

Meanwhile, AAP MLA Atishi on Saturday met the girl's family and handed over a cheque of ₹10 lakh as promised by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.



Come 2023, new policy will drive 50% delivery fleet to e-mobility

Half of State-run buses to be procured over next 3 years will be electric buses

POLICY POINTERS

- The objective of the policy is to drive rapid adoption of Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) so that they contribute to 25% of all new vehicle registrations by 2024
- The policy will also seek to put in place measures to support the creation of jobs in driving, selling, financing, servicing and charging of electric vehicles
- The policy shall remain valid for three years
- A purchase incentive of ₹5,000 per kWh of battery capacity will be provided per vehicle to the registered owner of two-wheelers, subject to maximum incentive of ₹30,000 per vehicle
- Registered owners of electric two-wheelers will also be eligible for a scrapping incentive for scrapping and deregistering old two-wheelers registered in Delhi, up to ₹5,000
- Ride-hailing service providers will be allowed to operate electric two-wheeler taxis
- Delivery service providers
- Related to food delivery, e-commerce logistics providers, couriers are also expected to switch to electric two-wheelers
- To ensure the switch happens in a time-bound manner, all delivery service providers are expected to convert 50% of their fleet operating in Delhi to electric by March 31, 2023 and 100% by March 31, 2025
- To incentivise the purchase and use of new electric autos an open permit system will be applicable for e-autos. Permits will be given on first come, first served basis and a purchase incentive of ₹30,000 per vehicle will be provided
- A purchase incentive of ₹10,000 per kWh of battery capacity will be provided per electric four-wheeler, subject to a maximum of ₹1,50,000 per vehicle, to the registered owners of the first 1,000 e-cars to be registered in Delhi after the issuance of the policy
- Road Tax and registration fees will be waived off for all BEVs while the policy is in place
- Changes will be made in building by-laws to make all new home and workplace parking 'EV-ready' with 20% of all vehicle-holding capacity/parking required to be electric vehicle-ready with conduits and power supply infrastructure in place for electric vehicle chargers



to those with valid light motor vehicle driving licences and a Public Service Vehicle badge.

No cap on permits

Unlike the existing cap on the number of CNG-run autorickshaws, which are allowed to ply in the city, the Delhi government, according to the policy, is in favour of not having any cap on permits issued to e-autos in Delhi, since they are zero-emission vehicles and can be very effective in ensuring clean, last-mile connectivity.

"Pending further orders

Pending further orders on this matter by the Supreme Court, the open permit system for e-autos shall be subject to the cap on maximum number of autos in Delhi as fixed by the court

ELECTRIC VEHICLES POLICY 2020

on this matter by Hon'ble Supreme Court, the open permit system for e-autos shall

be subject to the cap on maximum number of autos in Delhi as fixed by the apex court," the policy states.

A Purchase Incentive of ₹30,000 per vehicle will be provided by the government to registered owners of e-autos.

1,000 e-buses by 2020

Half of the State-run buses to be procured for commuters by the Delhi government over the next three years, according to the policy, will be "pure electric buses" starting with the induction of 1,000 pure electric buses by 2020.

NDMC plant told to fix foul smell from it or shut down

CM gives municipal council 10-day deadline to clean area

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday visited the New Delhi Assembly constituency, which he represents, and directed New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) officials to immediately address problems of the residents.

He also paid a visit to the NDMC compost plant set up in Sector-4 of Gol Market area. Residents complained of foul smell emanating from the compost plant and of mosquito and fly menace.

The Delhi government said that Mr. Kejriwal has assured the residents of speedy disposal of the problem and has given a deadline of 10 days to NDMC officials to ensure cleanliness in the area. The plant has also been given an ultimatum that it will be

shut down if the problem is not addressed by August 20.

A year ago, the NDMC had set up a compost plant in the nursery behind Bharti Public School. Wet garbage is brought and compost manure is made from it at the plant before being later used for plants.

Residents from 39 to 69 in Sector-4 in Gol Market are the most affected by the stench. At the same time, the plant has also led to fly and mosquito menace in the area.

"NDMC officials have sought 10 days. It would be okay if the steps taken by the officials solve the issue of the foul smell, otherwise, the plant will be shut down. I am inspecting the area with residents. The local people have pointed out many other problems, including cleanliness. I have ordered the officers of the NDMC to resolve the issues," he told reporters here.

Mr. Kejriwal planted a medicinal sapling in a park and heard the problems of members of RWAs in the area. The government said that the RWAs brought up problems related to scarcity of drinking water, power cuts and lack of pruning of trees following which Mr. Kejriwal directed

the authorities concerned to expedite work to solve these issues.

"NDMC officials have sought 10 days. It would be okay if the steps taken by the officials solve the issue of the foul smell, otherwise, the plant will be shut down. I am inspecting the area with residents. The local people have pointed out many other problems, including cleanliness. I have ordered the officers of the NDMC to resolve the issues," he told reporters here.

Kejriwal kick-starts consultation process for new start-up policy

It aims at building robust economic and policy infrastructure

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday convened a meeting with a panel of industry leaders and young entrepreneurs to kick-start the consultation process for Delhi's new policy for start-ups and to discuss its development as a leading choice for start-ups.

The objective of the draft policy, the government said, is to support entrepreneurs and build a robust economic and policy infrastructure that will create new jobs and bring new competitive dynamics into the current economic

system.

"Prominent business leaders and entrepreneurs expressed interest and joined hands with the Delhi government in this initiative. The industry leaders who joined today's meeting includes pioneers like Ajai Chowdhry [co-founder, HCL], Rajan Anandan [MD, Sequoia Capital], Padmaja Ruparel [co-founder, Indian Angel Network]," the government said in a statement.

Others like Sriharsha Majety, co-founder and CEO, Swiggy; Farid Ahsan, co-founder, ShareChat; Suchita Salwan, founder and CEO, Little Black

Book; Tarun Bhalla, founder, Avishkaar; Riyaz Amlani, CEO & MD, Impresario Handmade Restaurants also attended the meeting.

The Delhi government will soon release a draft start-up policy and launch an online forum to seek inputs from the public for "a fresh perspective."

"I believe Indians are the smartest entrepreneurs in the world and all they need is the right opportunity and the right conditions. With this start-up policy, we aim to make Delhi one of the top five global destinations for start-ups," Mr. Kejriwal said.

DEPARTMENT OF TRAINING & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi

Muni Maya Ram Marg, Pitam Pura, Delhi - 110034
Website-www.tte.delhigovt.nic.in
Last date of online registration:- 23-08-2020
On-line applications are invited from 8th pass/10th pass interested candidates for admission in various certificate level Engineering & Non-engineering trades/courses of one year/two years duration, running under NCVT/SCVT in the Delhi Government, Industrial Training Institutes for the academic session 2020.
APPLY ONLINE:- Candidates have to apply ONLINE through www.itidelhiadmissions.nic.in
Fee of Rs. 200/- is payable at the time of online registration. Along with submitting the on-line registration form, the candidates must upload the necessary documents as per the instruction on website.
The detailed information on Trades/courses, eligibility and other particulars are available at website: www.itidelhiadmissions.nic.in.
Candidates are advised to read the instructions/Prospectus carefully before applying.
The complete admission process(Registration, Verification, Choice filling, Counseling etc.) will be through online portal only.
IMPORTANT DATES
1. Date of start of registration, choice filling & verification: 10-08-2020
2. Last Date of Registration : 23-08-2020
3. Last Date of verification(Online) & choice filling : 24-08-2020
4. Tentative Rank Display : 25-08-2020
Candidates may visit the department website for other schemes and courses available under the aegis of the department of Training and Technical Education.
[Director]
Department of Training & Technical Education, Delhi
DIP/shabdharth/0213/20-21

दर्दर मिला पुणरागम अहमर, डिवेलपर सारत रवम टेक्निस				
दर्दर मिला पुणरागम अहमर, डिवेलपर लैंगे मिले हिंग बढ़ाए जा रहे अगड़वाली मंटरा विंस बढ़ाए जाए वाले हो रहे लिये कीं लदी आह-लाईन बेलीओं दी भेंग करदा है-				
लकी नं.	बीम दा नाम	अल्मान्त लागत (लाख-हजार)	समा	विसं वयस
1	मिला विलेपन दे लैंग-लैंग बढ़ाए दे 50 लैंग लैंग-लैंग मिले हिंग बढ़ाए अगड़वाली मंटरा विंस	7.15 लैंग	1	मरीना
2	मिला विलेपन दे लैंग-लैंग बढ़ाए दे 50 लैंग लैंग-लैंग मिले हिंग बढ़ाए अगड़वाली मंटरा विंस	11.09 लैंग	1	मरीना
3	मिला विलेपन दे लैंग-लैंग बढ़ाए दे 50 लैंग लैंग-लैंग मिले हिंग बढ़ाए अगड़वाली मंटरा विंस	9.41 लैंग	1	मरीना
4	मिला विलेपन दे लैंग-लैंग बढ़ाए दे 50 लैंग लैंग-लैंग मिले हिंग बढ़ाए अगड़वाली मंटरा विंस चिल्ड फ्रेंडी पेंटिंग वरना	18.38 लैंग	3	मरीना
दर्दर खरीदारी दी अधरी मिली 17-08-2020 सम 4:00 बो ढेर दरम जानू बरवाइ दी अधरी मिली 17-08-2020 सम 5:00 बो ढेर 19-08-2020 सहेरे 11:30 बजे उक्त दरम जानू बरवाइ दी अधरी मिली 08-08-2020 ते मिली 17-08-2020 ढेर 500/- रुपये पड़ी दरम दर्दर मिला पुणरागम अहमर, डिवेलपर ते खरीदारी जा सकदा हो। वर्षे नांदकरी लदी दर्दर दे टेलीन नंबर 01632-245410 सर्वर बींगा जा सकदा हो। उक्त दरम जानू बरवाइ दी अधरी मिली 01632-245410 सर्वर बींगा जा सकदा हो। उक्त दरम जानू बरवाइ दी अधरी मिली 01632-245410 सर्वर बींगा जा सकदा हो।				

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL email:mechanicalskims@gmail.com		
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS		
Gist of e-NIT NO. 27 OF 2020-21 Dated. 05.08.2020		
For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir U.T., E-tenders in two covers are invited for the following work from Registered Self Help Groups Engineers(SHG) registered with competent Authority who's enlistment cards are valid in terms of standing rules:-		
S.No.	Name of the Work :-	Estimated Cost (in Lacs) Rs. 15.64 Lacs
1	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of HVAC facility to the newly constructed Pulmonary lab of Internal Medicine at ground floor of OPD at SKIMS, Soura.	
The complete tender document is available at website http://jklanders.gov.in . Interested bidders/tenderers may view, download the e-bid document, seek clarifications and submit their bids online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Tender Document contains qualifying criteria for bidders. Specifications, Bills of Quantities, & Terms and conditions of the contract and other relevant details.		
i)	Date and time of downloading/Sale of tender documents (Starting Date).	07. 08. 2020 from 11:00 Hours.
ii)	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/clarification/Pre-bid meet	11.08.2020 at 11:00 Hours.
iii)	Last Date & Time of Bid Uploading	17.08.2020 upto 16:00 Hours
iv)	Date of Submission of hard copies (Original EMD/FDR/DD only)	18.08.2020 upto 14:00 Hours
v)	Date & Time of Commercial/technical Bid (Cover-I) opening	19.08.2020 11:00 Hours (or next convenient day).
vi)	Date & Time of Financial Bid(Cover-II) Opening	Shall be intimated separately.
vii)	Cost of e-bid Document	Rs.1000/- (Rupees One Thousand only).
viii)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit(CDR/FDR)	Rs. 15700/- (Rupees Fifteen Thousand Seven Hundred only)
ix)	Completion Time	Thirty (30) Days
x)	Budget Head	CD-165 For the Year 2020-21
No.:SIMS 139 EX.55720-1623-33-5135-5138,Dated- 05.08.2020		
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS		

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



SAD DEMISE
W/o : Dr. T.S. Subbiah, MS, FICS.
Expired on 08-08-2020

In loving memory of a soul so dear, Family and Friends
she always cheered. Dearest Aachi, we'd always revere.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

8TH ANNIVERSARY

Deeply Mourned by

Justice T S Sivagnanam
Mrs Krishnaveni Sivagnanam
Dr T S Subbiah
Mrs. Vasanthi Subbiah
Mr T S Sundaram

Mrs Sarada Venimmalai
Mr M Venimmalai
Mr V Manickavasagam
Dr V Subbiah

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DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

All set for capping blowout: OIL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DIBRUGARH

PSU major Oil India Limited on Saturday said that preparations have been made for capping the blowout in its well at Baghjan in Assam. The well head and its plinth have been made ready for the fire control operation, a release by OIL said.

The rig-up load testing of

the complete wagon is planned for Saturday and treatment of well killing fluid is underway, it said.

Well number five at Baghjan has been spewing gas uncontrollably for the last 66 days since May 27. It caught fire on June 9, killing two of OIL's firefighters at the site, besides injuring three foreign experts.

ANDHRA PRADESH POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED VIDYUTH SUDHA :: VIJAYAWADA TENDER NOTICE
NIT.No:M100016494/P42/2019-2020/CE/I&M/Dr.NTPPS/Pur/Telecom APGENCO invites tenders for "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Server based IP PBX supporting Virtualization in Active-Active Model and Integrate with Analog VOIP Media Gateways". Estimated value of work : Rs.51.27,500/- Tender Schedule Available Date & Time : From 06.08.2020,16:00:00hrs. Bid Submission Closing Date & Time : up to 27.08.2020,14:00:00hrs. For further details visit website: www.apgenco.gov.in or <https://etender.apgenco.gov.in>.

Government of Jharkhand Office of the Executive Engineer National Highway Division, Chaibasa – 833201
-: Corrigendum of Tender reference no:- NH/CHAIBASA/RFP/423/2020-21 dated 29.07.2020, published vide PR No. - 231306 (West Singhbhum)20-21#D and Postponed vide PR 231494 (West Singhbhum)20-21#D..-

Due to Unavoidable reasons, invitation of National Competitive Bidding invited through this office e-procurement notice reference No. NH/CHAIBASA/RFP/423/2020-21 dated 29.07.2020, published vide PR No. - 231306 (West Singhbhum)20-21#D had been postponed vide PR 231494 (West Singhbhum)20-21#D.

Now the same e-procurement notice reference No. NH/CHAIBASA/RFP/423/2020-21 dated 29.07.2020, published vide PR No. - 231306 (West Singhbhum)20-21#D and postponed vide PR 231494 (West Singhbhum)20-21#D is being invited with some corrigendum, according to which availability of tender online will be from 08.08.2020 at 11.30 AM to 15.09.2020 up to 3:00 PM, BID submission period will be from 08.08.2020 at 11.40 AM to 15.09.2020 up to 3:00 PM and date of opening of BID being 16.09.2020 at 3:30 PM. All other information will be same and unchanged as published in PR No. - 231306 (West Singhbhum)20-21#D.

(Ram Bilash Sahu)
Executive Engineer
NH Division, Chaibasa
Mob No.: 7979945893
Email- eenn.chaibasa@gmail.com

PR 231542 West Singhbhum (20-21#D)

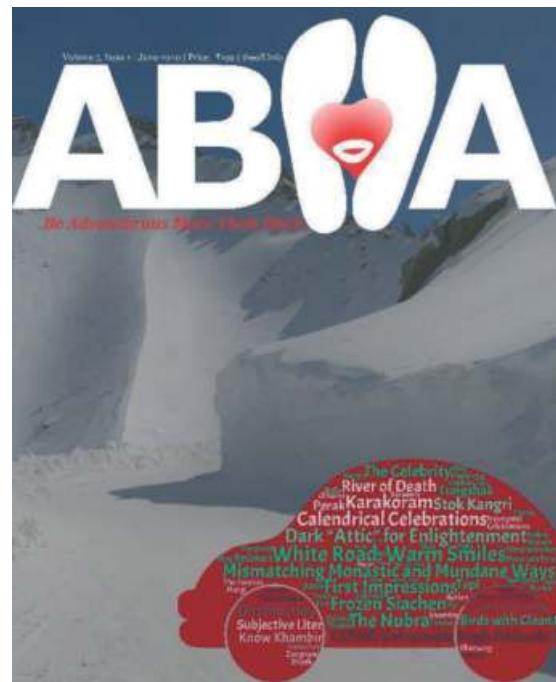
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Classification common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms

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Hindi

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Kashmiri

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Malayalam

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Marathi

Marwari

Nepali

Oriya

Parsi

Punjabi

Saurashtra

Sindhi

Tamil

Telugu

Tulu

Urdu

MARRIAGE BUREAUS

WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

DIVORCEE

DOCTOR

DOCTORS

ENTERTAINERS

FAMILY

GENERAL

GOVERNMENT

Special trains to Konkan for Ganesh Chaturthi

Valid confirmed ticket will serve as e-pass for travellers

RAINA ASSAINAR
NAVI MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government has given its nod to run special trains to the Konkan region for Ganesh Chaturthi.

The director of the State Disaster Management Unit in a letter informed the principal chief operations manager of the Central Railway that special trains may be scheduled for the 10-day festival, which begins on August 22. "The number of trains may be determined as

per the demand. A valid confirmed ticket for the trains will serve as the e-pass for travellers," the letter said.

The Central Railway had written to the unit seeking its views on running special trains to the Konkan region.

The Disaster Management Unit has asked the Central Railway to ensure that all norms of the State and Central governments with regard to COVID-19, including physical distancing and sanitisation, are followed in

trains and at railway stations. An officer from the Central Railway said, "The permission has been granted. Now we need to schedule the trains and the timings with a clear standard operating procedure. Till now, trains were permitted only for long journeys. Now for the festival, people would be able to travel within the State. Along with Western Railway and Konkan Railway, we will chart the train schedule soon."

CID files third charge sheet in Palghar lynching case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
THANE/MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has filed a third charge sheet in the Palghar lynching case in a local court. "It relates to a police officer opening fire," an official said on Saturday.

Another official said, "The State police is preparing a report on the inquiry against police personnel and the action taken against them, as the Supreme Court on Thursday ordered the Maharashtra government to bring on record those details too."

The CID also filed a charge sheet against two minor accused in the case in a juvenile court at Bhivandi on Friday. "They were found to be involved in the attack," the official said. Nine other juvenile accused have not been named in the charge sheet.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, who criticised Mr. Modi for "re-laying" of the refinery's foundation stone, has said that this would be a significant industrial project resulting in the establishment of a model oil refinery.

Process licensor work for Barmer oil refinery over

The ₹43,129-crore project is again on Congress govt.'s priority list

MOHAMMED IQBAL
JAIPUR

The process licensor work for Rajasthan's Barmer oil refinery has been completed with the targets set for progress of infrastructure works before the project is finished by October 2022. The ₹43,129-crore project, which was earlier caught in a political quagmire, has come back to the priority list of the Congress government here.

Additional Chief Secretary (Mines & Petroleum) Subodh Agarwal said on Saturday that the project would have nine refinery and four petrochemical units, for which the basic design engineering work had been completed. A survey has been undertaken for laying the pipelines for crude oil, natural gas and water.

Mr. Agarwal said the pro-

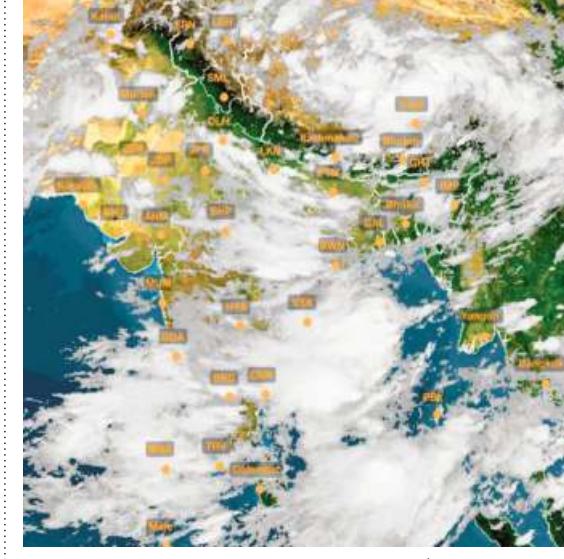
ject would become operational in March 2023, though some of its works were adversely affected because of the COVID-19 lockdown. As many as 155 purchase orders for ₹20,500 crore worth of construction and other works have been released till July-end.

After the UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi laid the project's foundation stone in 2013, the previous BJP regime stalled it and renegotiated the terms with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated "commencement of work" at the project site in Pachpadra in 2018 and accused the Congress of announcing the project without any clearances or budget allocation.

The CID also filed a charge sheet against two minor accused in the case in a juvenile court at Bhivandi on Friday. "They were found to be involved in the attack," the official said. Nine other juvenile accused have not been named in the charge sheet.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPWB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan, Muzaffarabad, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Konkan & Goa, coastal Andhra Pradesh, coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY RAIN MAX MIN CITY RAIN MAX MIN

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	... -	35.3...	27.3	Kozhikode	... -	28.2...	23.4
Ahmedabad	8.8...	33.7...	26.2	Kurnool	... -	33.6...	25.5
Aizawl	... -	26.8...	19.8	Lucknow	0.4...	34.5...	27.2
Allahabad	15.8...	36.0...	26.8	Madurai	... -	39.0...	27.5
Bengaluru	... -	27.4...	21.3	Mangaluru	20.3...	26.7...	23.8
Bhopal	2.6...	28.4...	24.0	Mumbai	0.1...	31.0...	25.4
Bhubaneswar	25.4...	32.6...	25.6	Mysuru	9...	26.9...	20.0
Chandigarh	... -	36.6...	29.2	New Delhi	0.2...	37.6...	28.1
Chennai	34.9...	39.4...	28.2	Patna	0.2...	37.6...	27.4
Coimbatore	... -	31.4...	22.4	Port Blair	17.5...	29.9...	24.3
Dehradun	... -	34.6...	25.4	Puducherry	... -	36.4...	27.6
Gangtok	3...	23.5...	19.5	Pune	0.9...	29.5...	22.4
Guwahati	27.7...	31.0...	24.8	Raipur	... -	32.6...	26.5
Hubballi	... -	36.0...	26.6	Ranchi	75...	31.0...	22.5
Hyderabad	24.0...	32.0...	22.0	Shillong	... -	24.8...	19.6
Imphal	... -	32.0...	23.4	Shimla	4.4...	27.5...	21.1
Jaipur	0.3...	28.4...	22.0	Srinagar	... -	34.6...	20.9
Kochi	106.2...	28.0...	23.0	Tiruchi	... -	35.5...	26.8
Kohima	4.8...	26.4...	18.8	Vijayawada	... -	36.6...	27.6
Kolkata	... -	34.6...	27.6	Visakhapatnam	... -	35.1...	28.2

(Rainfall in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	16	36	.32	55.2	... -	■
Bengaluru	... -	19	.18	34	.81	■
Chennai	.4	14	102	.71	... -	■
Delhi	.8	34	.52	105	122	■
Hyderabad	.6	49	.27	15	.26	■
Kolkata	12	15	.10	.58	.77	■
Lucknow	.6	.7	.55	.137	.102	■
Mumbai	12	22	.12	.19	.69	■
Pune	.24	.9	.47	.22	.22	■
Visakhapatnam	.8	31	.15	.45	.72	■

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

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

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

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

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

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Nagercoil recorded an overall Air Quality Index (AQI) score of 277 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution.

In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 12

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FROM PAGE ONE

Kerala crash toll hits 18, probe begins

"I have been Civil Aviation Minister since June 2019. We have addressed all concerns. We would not have given clearance to the airport without addressing the issues," he said.

"Tabletop runways do pose a challenge. But that challenge is factored in when you give clearance for commanders with a certain amount of experience," Mr. Puri said.

The Minister praised the captain of the ill-fated flight, Deepak Vasant Sathre, for his services, saying, "He was a decorated pilot."

Mr. Muraleedharan, who accompanied Mr. Puri, also dismissed reports that the runway had been dangerous. Reiterating that permission had been granted for large aircraft to operate after detailed examinations and clearance by the DGCA, he said he had not heard or seen any official report describing the airport as "unsafe."

Mr. Puri announced an interim relief of ₹10 lakh to the kin of the dead, ₹2 lakh to the seriously injured and

₹50,000 to those with minor injuries. "This is only an interim relief from Air India," he said.

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, too, visited Karipur along with several other members of the State Cabinet. Announcing a relief of ₹10 lakh to the family of the victims, Mr. Vijayan said the State would sponsor the treatment of the injured. He also visited the injured at different hospitals.

"If any further assistance is required, the State will take an appropriate decision to support them to get back to normal life," Mr. Vijayan said.

Among the 18 dead, four were children. Eight of the victims were from Kozhikode, six from Malappuram and two from Palakkad districts.

Mr. Vijayan lauded the quick response of the local people to the accident. He said the speed in rescuing the victims had been instrumental in reducing the number of casualties.

IMA flags death of 196 doctors to PM

"For doctors and their families who are at special risk, the government must ensure timely and standardised care. Every life saved of a doctor directly benefits the thousands of patients who depend on them for medical care," he said.

The Association, in its letter, also asked for extending state-sponsored medical and life insurance facilities to doctors in all sectors.

"A good percentage of doctors who have lost their lives are general practitioners," said the IMA, adding that these doctors, who have died in the line of their professional duty, merit favourable consideration for succour and solace to their families.

India, China Major Generals discuss Depsang

The Depsang Plains along with the Pangong Tso are the two major areas of concern in the ongoing stand-off along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

This is the first Major General-level talks since the stoppage of all established meetings between Colonels, Brigadiers and Major Generals following the violent clash at Galwan on June 15.

Military talks since then have been limited to Corps Commander level.

As reported by *The Hindu* on June 2, there is heavy Chinese presence in the Depsang Plains, at a crucial area called the Bulge, and

"An increasing number of doctors are getting infected and losing lives due to COVID. General practitioners are usually the first contact for most patients and a significant proportion of the population consult them for routine fever and related symptoms. They also happen to spend quality time in consultation and practise clinical medicine. As of today, we have lost 196 of our doctors. It is pertinent to mention that COVID does not differentiate between government and private sector," the Association noted.

"Also, it is pertinent to draw your attention to the demoralising effect to our healthcare community," said the Association.

Kodagu landslip: body of one victim recovered

PLA troops have also been blocking Indian Army patrols from reaching the Patrolling Points (PP) 10 to 13. There has also been build up of tanks and armoured vehicles on the Chinese side very close to the LAC.

The Chinese ingress in this area threatens Indian positions at Burtse and Raki Nala well inside Indian territory and further DBO by bringing Chinese troops closer to the 255 km long crucial Darbuk-Skyok-DBO road.

Depsang is also close to the Karakoram Pass, overlooking the very strategic Saltoro Ridge and Siachen glacier.

BJP shifts Rajasthan MLAs to Gujarat

According to sources in the BJP, all the 72 MLAs of the party will be shifted to Gujarat, while the three MLAs of Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP), supporting the BJP, will be sent to a different location.

Congress MLAs supporting Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot have been staying at a resort near Jaisalmer since the ruling party accused the BJP of hatching a conspiracy to topple the government by horse-trading of MLAs. The legislators supporting the ousted Deputy CM Sachin Pilot, who staged a rebellion, are staying in Haryana.

BJP State president Satish Poonia said the Congress was trying to influence the BJP legislators, particularly those elected from the Udaipur division, and spreading

rumours about them. "We decided that all of them should be at one place where they can be protected against harassment. They are depressed and tense," he said.

Mr. Poonia, representing Jaipur district's Amber constituency, said the BJP Legislative Party was "intact" and its meeting would be convened shortly before the Assembly session. There was no distrust and all the legislators were united, which was proved during the recent Rajya Sabha election, he said.

The Bharatiya Tribal Party (BTP), which has sent two members from the Udaipur division to the Assembly for the first time, has extended support to Congress during the ongoing election, he said.

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A.P. reports 97 deaths, Kerala cases at new high

1,420 cases in Kerala, 2,256 in Telangana show higher incidence; Karnataka's 7,178 positive cases also set a record

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Andhra Pradesh reported 97 new COVID-19 deaths on Saturday, the biggest spike in a day, and 10,080 new infections. The death toll stood at 1,939 and the tally of infections at 21,740.

Kerala reported the highest single day high in new cases, when 1,420 persons tested positive. Four deaths

In Andhra Pradesh, there were 85,486 active cases.

So far 24.24 lakh samples were tested including 62,123 samples in the past day.

Kerala's cumulative cases stood at 33,120. Patients currently under treatment in hospitals were put at 12,109.

Of the 1,420 new cases, 1,252 were locally acquired infections, including 30 health care workers. No epidemiological link was found in 92 cases.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said Thiruvananthapuram

615.

Of the total 77,513 cases so far, 22,568 were active. The percentage distribution of deaths attributed to COVID-19 and co-morbidities remained unchanged in the past 11 days (July 28-August 7). Asked about this, senior State Health department officials said the total used for the calculation was the cumulative number of deaths.

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Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said Thiruvananthapuram

Safety protocols

After being shut for months to contain the spread of COVID-19, several places of worship have opened their doors to public. The graph shows the spread of the pandemic in the southern States



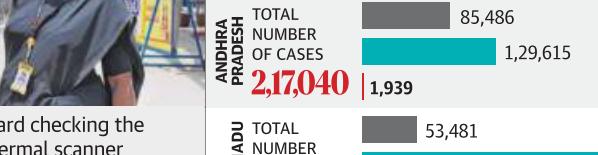
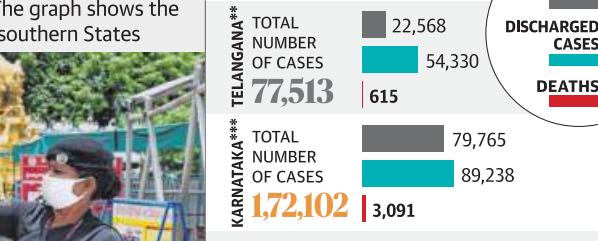
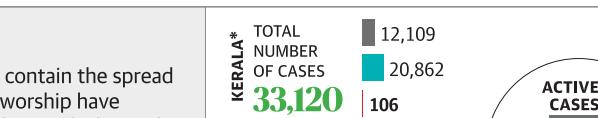
Thorough check: A security guard checking the temperature of a priest with a thermal scanner before entering the Kanaka Durga temple in Vijayawada on Saturday. ■ V. RAJU

*Kerala has a mismatch of 43 cases due to unaccounted deaths, missing persons **Telangana numbers are as of 8 p.m. on Friday ***Karnataka has 8 non-COVID deaths

ram district would require prolonged interventions.

Karnataka's COVID-19

death toll went up to 3,091 on Saturday, with 93 new fatalities. New cases reported



on Saturday stood at 7,178, the highest in a day, raising the total to 1.72 lakh, Health and Family Welfare department data said.

Active cases stood at 79,765 cases as of Saturday.

Saturday saw 43,883 fresh tests being conducted, of which 22,310 were rapid antigen tests.

For the 10th day in a row,

more than 5,000 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in Tamil Nadu, and the capital, Chennai, reported less than 1,000 cases for the second day.

A total of 5,883 persons tested positive in the State on Saturday, taking the overall tally to 2,90,907. Of this, 53,481 persons were under treatment. However, fatalities continued to rise with another 118 deaths recorded by the Health department. Twenty of these were in Chennai, while there were 10 deaths in Coimbatore, eight in Chengalpattu and seven in Tirunelveli. Till now, a total of 4,808 persons succumbed to the infection.

The number of individuals tested came to 30,41,529 and in the last 24 hours, 67,553 samples were tested.

(With inputs from Vijaya-wada, Thiruvananthapuram, Bengaluru and Chennai bureaus)

IN BRIEF



Rehana Fathima surrenders before police

KOCHI
Rehana Fathima, a gender-rights activist, who was in May charged with circulating on social media a video in which her son and daughter were seen painting on her semi-naked body, surrendered on Saturday at the Ernakulam police station. This follows the Supreme Court dismissing her anticipatory bail petition on Thursday. The Kerala police charged her with violating provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act and the Information Technology Act.

Capital issue: A.P. files Special Leave Petition

VIJAYAWADA
The Andhra Pradesh government has filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court appealing for a stay on the order for status quo issued by the High Court on the implementation of Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Act and the CRDA Repeal Act. Mahfooz A. Nazki, government's advocate-on-record in the court, stated in the petition that the High Court had stayed the operation of the two legislations without even a *prima facie* examination of their Constitutional validity.

34 police trainees in A.P. test COVID-19 positive

CHITTOR
Thirty-four trainee police personnel at the Police Training College at Kalayani Dam in Andhra Pradesh's Chittor district tested positive for COVID-19 on Saturday. They are among the 348 male trainees at the college awaiting their passing-out parade, put on hold owing to the pandemic. A few days ago, some trainees showed COVID-19-like symptoms, after which 100 of them were tested. Results of 50 trainees are awaited. "We will initiate steps to test all of them on the campus," a college official said.

Chief Scientist Soumya Swaminathan calls for a multilateral approach to vaccine deployment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

With over 200 COVID-19 vaccine candidates in development and 27 of them on clinical trials across the world, Chief Scientist at the World Health Organisation (WHO) Soumya Swaminathan raised the need to have a multilateral or global approach to vaccine deployment and distribution, rather than a more nationalistic approach.

Noting that the term "vaccine nationalism" was being used to describe the fact that many countries are only thinking about their own population, she said, "The argument we are making is that the virus is everywhere in the world and it would be impossible for the world to go back to normal, and for the economy to recover if only pockets of people are protected..."

Dr. Swaminathan was delivering the Lawrence Dana Pinkham Memorial Lecture on "COVID-19 pandemic: What we know and the role of the media" – the com-

The Hindu scribe awarded

The K.P. Narayana Kumar Memorial Award for Social Impact Journalism went to *The Hindu's* Shiv Sahay Singh for his report on "Death by digital inclusion: on faulty public distribution system in Jharkhand." The award was instituted by the 2001 batch in the memory of their classmate who died in 2019.

The ACJ Investigative Journalism Award went to Nitin Sethi for his se-



Shiv Sahay Singh
ries on electoral bonds published by *HuffPost, India*.

responsibility. At the same time, in this particular case, it is not enough to protect only their citizens. It is important to ensure that people around the world have access in an equitable way.

What we are proposing is, if we have a limited supply of vaccines at the beginning of 2021, let's say a few hundred million doses, how do we

distribute that? Who should get it first? All frontline workers, health workers and social care workers, police and others at high risk of getting the infection. Should they not be prioritised before the otherwise healthy adult population," she stated.

Difficult choice
Elaborating on this, Dr. Swaminathan said there were two options – a few countries vaccinate their entire population, while others wait for a long time.

"Today, 10% of all infections have occurred in healthcare workers. It would be unfair not to protect them before everyone else gets a chance," she said. This was an ongoing dialogue happening globally, and getting a consensus was a challenge, she added.

Referring to the WHO's Solidarity Trial in which 25 countries were participating and over 6,500 patients were recruited, she said this was something that they wanted to promote for vac-

ines as well. "There are a large number of vaccine candidates in development. Some of them are big companies; multinationals have the resources and expertise to run their own trials, while smaller companies may not get the same opportunities. We want to provide a platform for vaccines to be tested," she said.

Bad experiences

Stressing on equitable access, she said, "We have had bad experiences in the past in previous epidemics including the H1N1 pandemic when vaccines were cornered by high income countries, and very little left for low income countries. Only when the pandemic turned out not so serious that those countries, which had stockpiled vaccines, gave up some of their stock for distribution in low income countries. This could be a terrible thing to happen this time around."

More than 4,000 clinical trials were registered with WHO, she said.

Five persons had gone missing on Thursday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU/HASSAN

Probe, safety teams land in Kozhikode

Relief flights
ferry families of
the two pilots

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Three relief flights were operated in the early hours of Saturday from Mumbai and New Delhi to ferry family members of the two pilots, investigation teams as well as the top brass of Air India.

A flight departed from Mumbai to Kozhikode at 6 a.m., along with the relatives of the pilots who died of their injuries – Captain Deepak Sathe and co-pilot Akhilesh Kumar.

They were accompanied by Air India's aircraft recovery team, flight safety team and ground personnel, who will coordinate with various rescue agencies.



Crushed metal: Officials inspect the wreckage of the Air India Express jet on Saturday. ■ AFP

Two flights from New Delhi also left for Kozhikode early on Saturday, along with the Chairman and Managing Director of Air India and the Chief Executive Officer of Air India Express.

Officials from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau were also on the flight.

Officials from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau were also on the flight.

Many were
returning after
months

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Air India Express plane from Dubai that crashed in Kozhikode on Friday was a repatriation flight operated under Vande Bharat, and those on board were returning after being stranded for several months.

The passenger manifest shows that as many as 56 of the total 175 on board were stranded tourists reuniting with their families after months. There were 10 infants, as well as six crew members on the flight, taking the total to 191.

Sathe was a decorated pilot

A Sword of Honour recipient, he had served in the IAF

JAGRITI CHANDRA

NEW DELHI

Air India Express lost two of its pilots in Friday's crash, Captain Deepak Vasant Sathe and First Officer Akhilesh Kumar.

Captain Deepak Vasant Sathe, 59, Commander of the ill-fated flight, was a highly decorated pilot. He received the Sword of Honour at the Air Force Academy given to the top-ranking cadet, and was an accomplished fighter pilot. He was also a test pilot for Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. He joined Air India Express in 2013, and had earlier served Air India.

An airline colleague remembered him for his "officer-like gentlemanliness". "He was very approachable



Deepak Vasant Sathe

and many junior pilots looked up to him because he often counselled and mentored them. He was an asset to the airline and a humble person despite his long career as a pilot," a senior pilot said.

The Indian Air Force colleagues were also devastated by the death. "My association with him started at Air India.

Force Station, Bidar, earlier called Elementary Flying School. We were commissioned as pilot officers in 1981. He was best in our course, extremely good, hard working and knowledgeable. As a fighter pilot, he flew MiG-21," Air Commodore (Retd.) Ashit Mehta said.

He said Sathe, who took voluntary retirement as Wing Commander, was an experimental test pilot – a demanding job that requires testing planes. Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Puri said the Captain had flown 27 times to the Calicut airport.

First Officer Akhilesh Kumar, 32, was very familiar with the airport and its 'critical' status. His home base was Kozhikode.

All injured in plane crash to undergo COVID-19 test

One of the dead tests positive, hospitals report rise in cases

STAFF REPORTER

KOZHIKODE

As one of the dead tested positive for COVID-19, the Kerala Health Department is conducting COVID-19 tests on all those injured in the air crash at the Calicut International Airport on Friday.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan confirmed the status of infection of the deceased on Saturday.

Earlier, State Health Minister K.K. Shylaja urged all those who had engaged in rescue operations at the crash site to go into self-quarantine. She said several people had participated in the work and it was becoming



Tragic flight: A passenger injured in the plane crash being taken to a hospital in Kozhikode on Friday. ■ AFP

difficult to track all of them. It would be better if they went into quarantine on their own, she added.

Reports from various private hospitals said more people were testing positive.

The condition of 12 people admitted at the Government Medical College Hospital and 16 at the Government General Hospital is reportedly stable. Seven at a private hospital tested negative.

The safety area on both sides of the runway was increased, and some other measures were also adopted. These were implemented in several batches until 2017. However, the length of the runway could not be increased because of land availability issues," the

Several safety steps implemented: DGCA chief

'At 8,000 feet, length of the two runways is adequate for narrow-bodied and wide-bodied aircraft'

JAGRITI CHANDRA

NEW DELHI

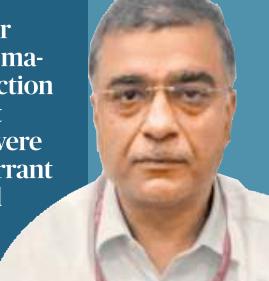
Several recommendations made for the Calicut airport in 2011 by an air safety committee constituted in the aftermath of the Mangaluru crash were implemented, while a few could not be executed due to the lack of land availability, said the chief of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Arun Kumar, in an interview on Saturday.

"The safety area on both sides of the runway was increased, and some other measures were also adopted. These were implemented in several batches until 2017. However, the length of the runway could not be increased because of land availability issues," the

AAI procured rubber removal equipment machine and did periodic friction tests as well [at the Calicut Airport]. Several actions were taken, including against errant officials. We were satisfied with compliance

ARUN KUMAR

DGCA CHIEF



DGCA chief said.

The DGCA is the aviation safety regulatory body of the country.

Mr. Kumar said the length of the two runways at the Calicut airport is 8,000 feet, which he claimed is adequate for wide-bodied and narrow-bodied planes. Friday's ill-fated aircraft was the narrow-bodied Boeing 737.

"These actions were acted upon. AAI procured a rubber removal equipment machine and did periodic friction tests as well [at the Calicut Airport]. Several actions were taken, including against errant officials. We were satisfied with compliance," Mr. Kumar said.

He also told *The Hindu* that the aircraft touched down in the second attempt, after aborting landing in the first instance – an indication of adverse conditions making the landing tough. Pilots are encouraged to abort landings if they have apprehensions.

He said that the aircraft landed beyond the touchdown zone of zero feet to 3,000 feet, increasing the chances of overshooting the runway, and stopped 10 feet

beyond the runway safety area.

Mr. Kumar said he will not speculate about the cause of the accident. "Only the flight data recorder and the voice data recorder (two black boxes) will reveal the cause. Anything could have gone wrong – adverse wind conditions or some technical malfunction," he said.

A team of the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau – the agency in-charge of probing accidents – arrived at the accident site on Saturday morning. The team will seek help from Boeing, as well as their U.S. counterpart, the National Transport Safety Board, for downloading the data and analysing it. This is likely to take "a day or two".

Reaching an understanding with China is a big challenge

External Affairs Minister speaks at CII summit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Reaching an understanding with China is one of the big challenges before Sino-Indian relations, said External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S Jaishankar. Addressing the India@75 summit organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the Minister said India and China had similarities in various aspects as two of the biggest economies of the world, but an understanding between the two is a crucial issue.

"We are demographically



two very unique countries, only two with billion-plus [population] categories. We are seeing parallel but differential rise of the two countries. But all of these are hap-

pening at a time when we are neighbours as modern states. To my mind, what it does is that it puts a huge premium on reaching some kind of equilibrium ... And how to do that is one of the big challenges that we face," Mr. Jaishankar said, arguing that the "world has a lot riding on this given our size and our impact".

He said the Chinese were probably also discussing this internally. "Certainly this is something which I feel is very central for our foreign policy calculation," he said.

In a virtual interaction organised by the Research Department of the AICC and moderated by former MP Rajeev Gowda, Mr. Ramesh said the proposed changes

People should tackle EIA legally: Jairam Ramesh

'Law will take away powers of States'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Former Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh on Saturday said the Environment Impact Assessment Act (EIA) 2020 as a subordinate legislation violated the parent Environment Protection Act, adding that the Modi government had proposed the changes keeping in mind the 'Ease of Doing Business' criteria.

In a virtual interaction organised by the Research Department of the AICC and moderated by former MP Rajeev Gowda, Mr. Ramesh said the proposed changes

would not only dilute the environment laws but would take away the powers of the States. "I think the legal reason against the EIA is very strong and I would encourage people to take to legal recourse," he said.

He also alleged that the MoEF had blocked its sites to prevent public comments on the EIA from coming in. "When I was the Minister, once I got 800 mails, I knew Greenpeace was behind it. I gave them a call, told them one mail was enough. I laughed, they laughed but I didn't block the site," Mr. Ramesh said.

AirAsia plane aborts take-off after bird-hit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

An AirAsia India aircraft departing for Mumbai on Saturday morning aborted its take-off at Ranchi airport after encountering a bird hit, said the airline spokesperson.

"AirAsia India aircraft VT-HKG operating from Ranchi to Mumbai as flight i5-632 encountered a bird hit during scheduled departure at 11:50 hrs, today, 8th August 2020," stated the spokesperson.

The pilot aborted take-off and the aircraft was being inspected, the spokesperson said.

Gauhati Univ. to resume classes from September 1

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

A week after the Assam government set September 1 as the tentative date for reopening schools and colleges after the COVID-19 break, the Gauhati University has decided to resume regular classes from September 1.

"This is for the information of all concerned that the Gauhati University is preparing to restart regular classes for post-graduate (PG) 4th semester, undergraduate (UG) 6th semester, LLB 6th semester and BALLB, BBALLB and B.COM LLB 10th semester," the university said in a notification.

Hostels will also be reopened and exams for UG and PG students with physical presence of the students will be held from September 22 and September 25 respectively, it said. According to the notification, resuming classes was subject to any changes the UGC may come up with.

Accused in Bikru shootout 'surrenders'

Shukla pleaded for security, say police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LUCKNOW

An accused in the Bikru ambush, in which eight policemen were killed, 'surrendered' before the police on Saturday, over two months after the incident.

Along with his wife and daughter, Umakanth Shukla, carrying a bounty of ₹50,000, reached Chaubeypur police station and surrendered, police said. He

had covered his face and had hung a placard from his neck in which he allegedly pleaded for his security, and claimed that he was involved in the shootout, for which he felt "guilty", said the police, adding that he is being interrogated.

The Uttar Pradesh police had earlier shot dead the main accused, Vikas Dubey, and five of his associates in separate incidents.

G.C. Murmu takes charge as new CAG

He resigned as L-G of J&K on Aug. 5

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Former Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) Lieutenant-Governor (L-G), Girish Chandra Murmu on Saturday took charge as the new Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

Mr. Murmu was sworn in by President Ram Nath Kovind, the Rashtrapati Bhavan said in a communiqué.

The ceremony, held in the Ashoka Hall of the Rashtrapati Bhavan, was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, among others.

Mr. Murmu, a 1985-batch IAS officer of the Gujarat



G.C. Murmu

cadre, will have a tenure up to November 20, 2024. Appointed as the first L-G of the newly created Union Territory of J&K, Mr. Murmu resigned on August 5, the first anniversary of the Centre abrogating special status for J&K under Article 370. He was then appointed the CAG to replace Rajiv Mehrishi, who was completing his tenure this week.

Applications are invited for first year admission to 1) B.E. / B.Tech. / B.Arch. 2) M.C.A. degree programmes for the year 2020 – 2021 from the eligible Other State candidates for the seats reserved in the University Departments of Anna University, Chennai – 25. The candidates can register the application only in the web portal: www.annauniv.edu/otherstate2020

Commencement of online Registration 12.08.2020

Last date for Registration and Online Submission 03.09.2020 (5.30 p.m.)

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IN BRIEF



CBI took up Sushant case in haste: Mumbai police

NEW DELHI The Mumbai police on Saturday told the Supreme Court that the CBI had proceeded with "indecent haste" to register a case into the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput. It said the CBI should have waited for a final decision from the Supreme Court on a plea by actor Rhea Chakraborty to transfer a case of abetment to suicide registered against her from Patna to Mumbai.

Naresh Gujral tests positive for COVID-19

NEW DELHI Akali Dal MP Naresh Gujral, who attended a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law and Justice on August 6, has tested positive for COVID-19. All other members who attended the meeting have been told to take the necessary precautions. Ironically, the meeting was to discuss the efficacy of online court proceedings in the time of COVID-19 pandemic. The panel was headed by BJP MP Bhupendra Yadav.

BSF guns down Pakistani infiltrator in Rajasthan

NEW DELHI A Pakistani infiltrator was killed by the Border Security Force (BSF) on Saturday along the India-Pakistan international border in Rajasthan's Barmer district, officials said. "BSF troops observed a Pakistani intruder who crossed the IB. He was challenged but he still crossed the fence. Troops fired upon him and he hid behind a bush, but was found dead during search of the area," the BSF said. Officials said that this was the first time that an infiltration attempt had been made at night in the area. PTI

13 districts account for 9% cases

They show low tests per million and high confirmation percentage, Ministry says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Thirteen districts in eight States and Union Territories, including Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Kolkata and Delhi, account for nearly 9% of the active COVID-19 cases and about 14% deaths, said the Health Ministry on Saturday which has now asked these areas to tighten measures to contain the virus.

The Ministry said a surge in cases has been reported from four districts – Kamrup Metro in Assam, Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram and



Pep talk: The States have been advised to address low lab utilisation and low tests per million population. •PTI

Alappuzha. Officials held a meeting with the States reporting high case loads, and said these areas also had re-

ported low tests per million and a high confirmation percentage. The 13 districts include Patna, Ranchi, Gan-

jam, 24 Paraganas North, Hooghly, Howrah, Kolkata and Maldah and Delhi.

The States were advised to address low lab utilisation, low tests per million population, decrease in absolute tests from last week, delay in test results and high confirmation percentage among healthcare workers.

"They were advised to ensure timely referral and hospitalisation in view of reports from some districts of patients dying within 48 hours of admission," the Ministry said.

Rajapaksa's victory a fresh chance to boost ties: envoy

Indian High Commissioner calls on Sri Lankan PM

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi telephoned his Sri Lankan counterpart Mahinda Rajapaksa to congratulate him on his party's big win in the recently held parliamentary polls, the Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Gopal Baglay, called on the newly elected leader in Colombo to congratulate him on the "emphatic victory".

"The strong mandate received by Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa provides a fresh opportunity for the two countries to enhance bilateral engagement, including mitigating the adverse economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic," the Indian High Commission here



Mahinda Rajapaksa

overnment and Parliament in Sri Lanka for further strengthening comprehensive bilateral cooperation. He looked forward to continued guidance from Sri Lanka's leadership in this endeavour," the statement said.

Mr. Modi's call and the High Commissioner's subsequent meeting, on the eve of Mr. Rajapaksa's swearing-in ceremony, comes amid persisting opposition from trade unions at the Colombo Port to Indian involvement in developing a terminal there.

India has been keen on partnering Sri Lanka in developing the East Container Terminal, along with Japan, and the three governments signed a Memorandum of Cooperation last year.

As floodwaters ebb in Assam, hunters kill rhino for horn



At risk: Almost 50% of the Kaziranga National Park in Assam is now under water. •PTI

cass at about 11 a.m.

"The staff took time because of the slushy conditions and recovered six empty cartridges of a .303 rifle

on Friday evening. They followed the footprints of the hunters early on Saturday morning and located the car-

river at night," the park's Divisional Forest Officer Ramesh Kumar Gogoi said.

A joint team of police and forest officials detained a suspected poacher in the park's Biswanath Wildlife Division.

Ration card portability yet to gain pace

Fewer than 2,000 inter-State transactions carried out under the scheme

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

Ration card portability needs Aadhaar linking and biometric authentication.

Around 11 a.m. last Tuesday, 35-year-old Babu Lal went to a ration shop in the Gujarati town of Amreli and bought 9 kg of wheat and 3.5 kg of rice at subsidised rates, just like crores of other ration-card holders across the country. More unusually, however, his ration card is not registered in Amreli, but more than 400 km away at a shop in the small village of Marol in Rajasthan's Sirohi district.

Mr. Lal is one of the first participants in the One nation, one ration card scheme that the Centre has hyped as the solution to the problems of migrant workers whose ration cards are registered in their home villages, leaving them unable to access subsidised foodgrain in their workplaces, often hundreds of kilometres away. However, while four additional States were integrated into the scheme this month, increasing its coverage to 65 crore beneficiaries, Mr. Lal is

The challenge is that at the receiving end, we must

encourage workers to go to the nearest fair price shops and get themselves registered. So that is what now State governments have started doing proactively. It will take time, a month or two," Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey told *The Hindu* on Saturday, adding that intra-State usage has been higher, with the total number of such beneficiaries crossing 1.2 crore since the scheme began. "Now the reverse migration is also happening, they are going back. But still the COVID scenario is not very clear, sometimes lockdown somewhere, factories gearing up gradually. It will take a couple of months before it reaches its peak," Mr. Pandey said.

Workers given option

However, Mr. Pandey says that if workers are returning to the cities with jobs, some may choose to leave the entire ration allocation for their families back home. "It depends whether the person

is wanting to draw that ration or not. You cannot force him, you can give him an option, but if he still feels that he would prefer his family to draw his share of ration also back home, and here the employer is giving him something, maybe a free meal at the factory, he may not be interested in taking the ration," he said.

According to the Ministry's portal, Mr. Lal seems to have taken the option of buying a partial share of his family's ration allocation in Gujarat, picking up a total of 12.5 kg out of the five member family's monthly allocation of 25 kg. The remainder may have been left for other family members to buy back home in Marol village.

There are still 12 States and Union Territories yet to join the scheme, including Delhi with its large migrant population. Ration card portability requires integration with Aadhaar and electronic point of sale machines using biometric authentication.

+ SC asks Registry to explain case listing

Plea was against law making 'scandalising of court' a ground for contempt

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has sought an explanation from its Registry officials involved in the listing of a writ petition filed jointly by veteran journalists N. Ram and Arun Shourie, along with advocate Prashant Bhushan, challenging a law that makes "scandalising of court" a ground for contempt.

A short note from an official source in the court said a 'mistake' had been made by the Registry in the listing of the case.

The writ petition was listed for hearing before a Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and K.M. Joseph on August 10. The court website now shows the petition has



been dropped from the list of cases before that Bench on that day.

The note explained that the petition, as per established procedure, should have been listed before the Bench which was already seized of a "similar matter".

A three-judge Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra had recently initiated and heard a *suo motu* contempt case

against Mr. Bhushan for "scandalising the court" with his tweet featuring a photograph of Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde on a heavy motorbike and another about the role of the court in the past six years. The Justice Mishra Bench has reserved the case for orders.

Appeal for stay

The present writ petition is accompanied by an application for stay of all contempt proceedings initiated on the ground of "scandalising the court", which includes the *suo motu* proceedings before the Justice Mishra Bench.

The writ petition has challenged the legality of Section 2(c)(i) of the Contempt of

Court Act, which deals with contempt on the ground of scandalising the court and the "chilling effect" it has on free speech and right to dissent.

Section 2(c)(i) holds it is criminal contempt if a person publishes, by words spoken or written or by any other act, anything "which scandalises or lowers or tends to lower the authority of any court".

"Scandalising the court" is rooted in colonial assumption and objects, which has no place in legal orders committed to democratic constitutionality and maintenance of an open robust public sphere," the writ petition said.

16 senior IRS officers shifted in reshuffle +

Changes in top tax bureaucracy intrigue Revenue Service officials

MAHESH LANGA
AHMEDABAD

A major reshuffle in the country's Income Tax bureaucracy was carried out by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on Friday involving as many as 16 senior Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax) cadre officers of the rank of Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax (PCCIT) and Chief Commissioner of Income Tax (CCIT).

Notable changes figuring in the list issued on Friday include Patanjali Jha, who has been shifted from Bengaluru where he was Director General (Investigation) to CCIT-II in Mumbai. Another noticeable change is that of Amit Jain, who was trans-

ferred from Gujarat to Mumbai only recently but has been moved back to Gujarat in less than two months, even without his taking charge in Mumbai.

The changes brought by the CBDT have apparently flummoxed Revenue Service officials by the way appointments and transfer orders at the top level are happening in the Finance Ministry's Revenue wing.

Extensions given

Sources said it could also be causing a sense of resentment among the senior officials who feel that, on the one hand, there are vacancies in the CBDT as well as at the PCCIT level in several places, and on the other, cer-

tain officials are not only given extension in deviation of the established norms but also given multiple charges despite the availability of top-ranking officials.

The post of PCCIT Mumbai has not been filled and is continued to be held on in-charge basis by S.K. Gupta, a Member of the CBDT and recently given extension as Member, a first instance where a Member of the top tax body has been granted extension.

After Mr. Gupta's extension order issued by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet on July 27, the CBDT on August 5 had issued an order handing over charge of PCCIT and CCIT-II Mumbai to Mr. Gupta.

In the CBDT, Mr. Gupta was inducted as Member (Tax Payers Services and Systems) but has also been given additional charge of Member (Income Tax and Revenue). "It's not common that a Member of the CBDT would continue to hold the post of PCCIT and CCIT on in-charge basis," a retired IRS official said.

In another instance of one person holding multiple charges, Amit Jain as PCCIT Gujarat would hold Additional Charge of DG (Investigation) as well as CCIT-I.

The CBDT's Chairperson P.C. Mody, whose one year extended tenure is ending this month, was not available for comment despite several calls.

Six BSP MLAs in Rajasthan move SC

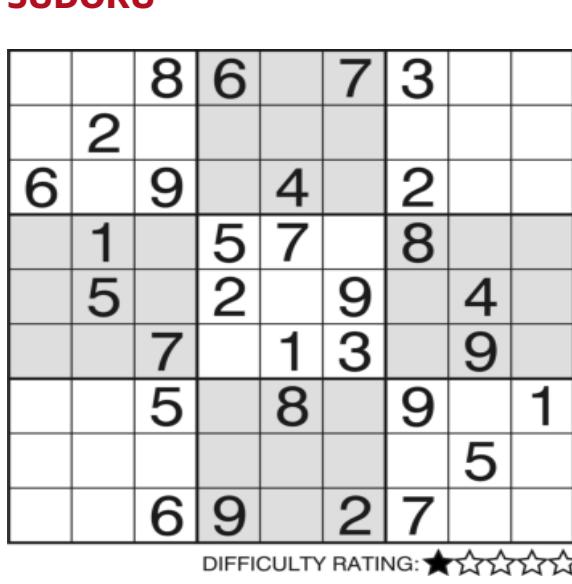
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Six Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MLAs, who "merged" with the Congress in the Rajasthan Assembly, have moved the Supreme Court seeking transfer of a case, seeking their disqualification citing defection, which is pending in the State's High Court.

The MLAs, led by Lakan Singh, said the merger of two legislative parties in the House is protected under Paragraph 4(2) of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.

According to the paragraph, a merger is not deflection if two-thirds of the members of the legislature party has agreed to it. The MLAs said the BSP's Legislature Party was a total of six members in the Rajasthan Assembly and all of them had agreed to the move. Hence, there is no deflection, they said.

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



INTERVIEW | ARJAN DE WAGT

'Lockdown has hit nutritional services'

There is need to return to January-February levels of investment of resources, says UNICEF official

JAGRITI CHANDRA

Increase in joblessness and poverty due to the pandemic will lead to a rise in hunger as well as malnutrition in the country, Arjan De Wagt, UNICEF's India Chief for Nutrition, says adding that the extended lockdown has hit many nutritional services. He stresses that COVID-19 sensitive strategies must be developed to continue them.

What has been the impact of COVID-19 on nutritional services?

■ We know that in March and April many services were affected, but some such as take home ration delivery did take place because it is a legal entitlement under the National Food Security Act, 2013. There was quick adaptability and there was door-to-door delivery of take home ration, but at the same time there were people on

the move who could not be reached. The limited data we have from making phone calls, not scientific data, we know that restoration of services started to happen and improved in the months of May and June but the reach and coverage is still lagging behind. During the pandemic it is important to make health and nutrition services COVID-19 sensitive. We need the same essential services, but need to deliver them through new platforms such that they do not contribute to possible spread of COVID-19.

What are the challenges India is facing vis-a-vis nutrition?

■ There is COVID-19 induced food insecurity, there are job losses and incomes have reduced which will lead to an increase in malnutrition. According to a *Lancet* study last year, of the 10.4 crore

under-5 deaths in India in 2017, as many as 7,06,000 deaths could be attributed to malnutrition. So on an average, every day 1,934 children under five die with malnutrition as underlying cause; they could all be alive if there was no malnutrition. But due to COVID-19 induced food insecurity and malnu-

trition these figures will go up. We need to go back to January/ February levels of investment of resources, community engagement and energies and work on the additional nutritional challenges posed by COVID-19.

Were there increased admissions in Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) where severe acute malnourished children are brought for treatment?

■ In the beginning, some of these NRCs were declared COVID-19 centres or staff members were diverted to support the COVID-19 response. But in many States, they have reopened. We noticed that there was a fall in the numbers of children being admitted to NRCs because of several reasons – either parents were reluctant to bring their children to these centres due to fears

China's ties with U.S. plunge further

Beijing slams 'barbarous' sanctions imposed on Hong Kong; city government backs countermeasures

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

HONG KONG

China on Saturday slammed the U.S. for imposing "barbarous" sanctions in response to Beijing's crackdown in Hong Kong, capping a dramatic week of deteriorating relations between the world's two biggest economies.

In the toughest U.S. action on Hong Kong since China imposed a sweeping new security law on the territory, Washington on Friday imposed sanctions on a group of Chinese and Hong Kong officials – including the city's leader Carrie Lam.

The move came after President Donald Trump's administration forced Chinese Internet giants TikTok and WeChat to end all operations in the U.S., in a twin diplomatic-commercial offensive set to grow ahead of the U.S. presidential election in November.

China on Saturday criticised the sanctions as "barbarous and rude".

"The ill intentions of U.S. politicians to support people who are anti-China and messing up Hong Kong have been clearly revealed," Beijing's Liaison Office in Hong



The temperature rises: Protesters demonstrating against U.S. outside its consulate in Hong Kong on Saturday. ■ AFP

Kong said in a statement.

The Treasury Department announced it was freezing the U.S. assets of Chief Executive Carrie Lam and 10 other senior officials, including Luo Huining – the head of the Liaison Office.

Politics of suppression'

It accused the sanctioned individuals of being "directly responsible for implementing Beijing's policies of suppression of freedom and de-

mocratic processes".

The move criminalises any U.S. financial transactions with the sanctioned officials.

In a short statement, Mr. Luo said he welcomed the blacklisting. "I have done what I should do for the country and for Hong Kong," he said. "I don't have a dime's worth in foreign assets."

The Hong Kong government described the sanc-

tions as "shameless and despicable". "We will fully support the Central government to adopt countermeasures," it said in a statement.

The city's commerce secretary Edward Yau warned that the "savage and unreasonable" sanctions could have blowback for American businesses in Hong Kong.

China's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office said the sanctions list "rudely tramples on international law"

and "will be nailed to the historic pillar of shame forever."

Facebook barred Ms. Lam and the 10 other sanctioned officials from advertising on the platform, with a spokesperson saying on Saturday that it had "a legal obligation to take action."

Tensions spike

Beijing's security law was imposed in late June, following last year's huge pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong, sending a political chill through the semi-autonomous city.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the security law violated promises made by China ahead of Hong Kong's 1997 handover that the city could keep key freedoms and autonomy for 50 years.

"Today's actions send a clear message that the Hong Kong authorities' actions are unacceptable," said Mr. Pompeo in a statement.

The U.S. measures come three months ahead of the November election in which Mr. Trump, who is behind his rival Joe Biden, is campaigning hard on an increasingly strident anti-Beijing message.

An alliance of Malayaha Tamil MPs that stood out

TPA, which backed Premadasa's alliance, retained all 6 seats

MEERA SRINIVASAN

COLOMBO

For almost all Opposition parties in Sri Lanka, Wednesday's general election spelt huge losses in the face of the landslide victory secured by the ruling party of the Rajapaksas. But one group stood out.



Mano Ganesan

C Our achievements in the last 4 years have outnumbered all past performances of other parties

MANO GANESAN,
TPA leader

know what they are doing. It is important to pay attention."

Trust built over 4 years

But for this trust built over four years, it may not have been easy for the candidates to win, especially from Mr. Premadasa's Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB), which has been on a weak footing since last November's presidential poll.

Nine months after Mr. Premadasa lost to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the SJB secured just 54 seats, about 24% of the votes, in Wednesday's general election. Its parent party, the United National Party has been reduced to a single seat.

It is both consistent work on the ground and efforts to bring about structural changes that the people have acknowledged, according to B. Gowthaman, a lawyer and civil society activist.

"The TPA's work especially with land rights and bringing local government authorities to work inside the estates, appealed not only to the workers, but also to the intelligentsia within the community, like teachers and other professionals," he said.

While much of TPA's accomplishments are linked to the Ministries its MPs held, they are not afraid to sit in Opposition now. "We will play a constructive role in Opposition, keeping in mind the interests of the people we represent. We will also work with all Tamil and Muslim parties along with progressive minded Sinhalese, keeping the Sri Lankan identity in mind," said Mr. Ganesan, a vocal legislator in the last Parliament.

'Beijing wants unpredictable Trump to lose election'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

WASHINGTON

China has boosted its efforts to influence the U.S. presidential election in November and wants President Donald Trump to lose because it sees him as "unpredictable," a top U.S. intelligence official said Friday.

"We assess that China prefers that President Trump – whom Beijing sees as unpredictable – does not

win re-election," said William Evanina, Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center.

"China has been expanding its influence efforts ahead of November 2020 to shape the policy environment in the United States, pressure political figures it views as opposed to China's interests, and deflect and counter criticism of China," Mr. Evanina said in a state-

ment. He pointed to China's criticism of Mr. Trump's handling of the COVID-19 epidemic, of the U.S. closure of China's Houston consulate, and of the U.S. administration's stances on Chinese actions in Hong Kong and the South China Sea. "Beijing recognises that all of these efforts might affect the presidential race," said Mr. Evanina.

Mr. Trump enthusiastically agreed with the warning, which cast him as a threat to Beijing. "China would love us to have an election where Donald Trump lost to sleepy Joe Biden," he told journalists.

Mr. Evanina said Iran is using social media disinformation to divide the country and hurt Mr. Trump, while Russia is meddling to damage the campaign of his Democratic opponent Joe Biden.

This is consistent with Moscow's public criticism of him when he was Vice-President for his role in the Obama administration's policies on Ukraine and its support for the anti-Putin opposition inside Russia," he said.

Mr. Trump dismissed the warning that Russia wanted him to see him re-elected, claiming that no U.S. leader has been tougher on Moscow than him.

den. "This is consistent with Moscow's public criticism of him when he was Vice-President for his role in the Obama administration's policies on Ukraine and its support for the anti-Putin opposition inside Russia," he said.

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Trump to sign order extending COVID-19 aid

Payroll tax, loan payments to be deferred

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Friday that he was poised to sign executive orders to extend aid to Americans facing hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic, though negotiations continued between his administration and Democratic leaders in Congress on a new emergency spending bill. "End of the week," Mr. Trump said on the possible timing of the orders.

But he also said his economic team "continues to work in good faith to reach an agreement with Democrats in Congress" on a relief package including unemployment benefits and protections against evictions.

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said her party had agreed to lower the relief package size to \$2 trillion from \$3 trillion, but the White House continues to resist aid to State and local governments that economists say will be critical to avoiding a new round of layoffs. Mr. Trump said his executive orders would defer payroll tax until at least the end of the year, defer student loan payments and extend an eviction moratorium. He also said he would extend enhanced unemployment benefits until the end of the year – a key source of contention between the White House and Democrats.

An additional \$600 in weekly federal payments to the unemployed expired at the end of July, and Republicans want to slash the figure. Mr. Trump did not say how much the payments would be under his executive order.

Anti-regime protest rocks Beirut

5,000 demonstrators gather near Parliament building

REUTERS
BEIRUT

Riot police fired tear gas at demonstrators trying to break through a barrier to get to the Parliament building in Beirut on Saturday during a protest over the government's handling of this week's devastating explosion.

About 5,000 people gathered in Martyrs' Square in the city centre, some throwing stones. Police fired tear gas when some protesters tried to break through the barrier blocking a street leading to Parliament, a Reuters journalist said.

The protesters chanted "the people want the fall of the regime," and held posters saying "Leave, you are all killers."

"We want a future with dignity, we don't want the blood of the victims of the explosion wasted," said Rose Sirour, one of the demon-

strators. Tuesday's blast in the port, the biggest explosion in Beirut's history, killed 154 people, injured 5,000 and destroyed a swathe of the city. Some residents, struggling to clean up shattered homes, complain the government they see as corrupt has let them down again.

Lebanon's Kataeb Party, a Christian group that opposes the government backed by the Iran-aligned Hezbollah, announced on Saturday the resignation of its three lawmakers from Parliament.

President Michel Aoun said on Friday an investigation would examine whether it was caused by a bomb or other external interference.

Mr. Aoun said the investigation would also weigh if the blast was due to negligence or an accident. Twenty people had been detained so far, he added.

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Before the virus forced New Zealand to seal its borders, the polls had pointed to a cliffhanger election on September 19, but support swung sharply towards the centre-left Labour Party as the country eliminated community transmission in a matter of months.

In a country of five mil-

Ardern begins campaign after taming virus

The PM scores high in opinion polls

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

AUCKLAND

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern kicked off her Labour Party's election campaign Saturday riding high in the opinion polls after a successful response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Ms. Ardern's popularity as preferred Prime Minister topped 60% in the latest surveys following her leadership through the Christchurch mosque attacks, the White Island volcanic eruption and the pandemic.

Before the virus forced New Zealand to seal its borders, the polls had pointed to a cliffhanger election on September 19, but support swung sharply towards the centre-left Labour Party as the country eliminated community transmission in a matter of months.

"When people ask, is this a COVID election, my answer is yes, it is," the charismatic Ms. Ardern, 40, said as she launched the campaign with a NZ\$311 million (\$205 million) pledge to boost jobs.

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Divi's Labs Q1 net surges 81%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Drugmaker Divi's Laboratories reported an 81% jump in first-quarter consolidated net profit at ₹492.06 crore.

In the year earlier period, it had reported a net profit of ₹272.44 crore.

The higher net profit came on the back of revenue from operations increasing 49% to ₹1,730.47 crore (₹1,162.88 crore).

Forex gain during the quarter was ₹5 crore as against a loss of ₹6 crore in the corresponding quarter of last year.

The company said it had near normal operations during the quarter, with minimal impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While a significant part of ongoing capex programmes were completed in the last fiscal year, there was a delay in the completion of the balance work due to the non-availability of workmen with some contractors engaged for the projects, the firm said.

Abbott India Q1 net jumps to ₹180.35 cr.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Drug firm Abbott India has reported a 54.2% rise in net profit to ₹180.35 crore for the quarter to June 2020.

The company had posted a net profit of ₹116.94 crore for the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year, Abbott India said in a late night BSE filing on Friday.

Revenue from operations stood at ₹1,064.27 crore for the quarter under consideration. It was ₹989.89 crore for the same period a year earlier.

Life insurers post 7% rise in new business after dismal Q1

Private insurers lead rebound in July after 18.6% decline in April-June period

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

For the first time this fiscal monthly new business or the first-year premium of life insurers turned positive in July, with an almost 7% increase as India accelerated the reopening of the pandemic-hit economy.

Collectively, the first-year premium of the 24 insurers stood at ₹22,986.10 crore, 6.87% more than the ₹21,509.25 crore they reported in July 2019, as per the latest data released by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). Last month's growth ended a period of decline that began in March as COVID-19 took hold and the country resorted to a strin-



Off the mark: LIC, the only public sector competitor, reported a 0.92% decline at ₹15,170.95 crore. ■ ARUNANGSU ROY CHOWDHURY

gent nationwide lockdown to contain the virus's spread.

New business in March, one of the busiest months for insurers in other times, plunged 32% year-on-year.

In April, at the peak of the lockdown, the decline was

almost 33%. May and June saw the declines ease to 25% and 10.5%, respectively. For the quarter ended June, the total first-year premium was 18.6% lower.

Industry officials have been hinting at a rebound as

the economy reopens. As the pandemic rages, health insurance seems to have become a priority for customers though some life insurers said protection plans were also in demand.

Private insurers gain

In July, private sector insurers collectively did better clocking a 26% increase in first year premium to ₹7,815.14 crore (₹6,197.37 crore). However, while 11 private insurers reported an increase, the remaining 12 posted declines.

Interestingly, the only public sector competitor, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), reported a 0.92% decline at ₹15,170.95 crore (₹15,311.87 crore).

'Timely approval of recast key to avoiding sharp credit cliffs'

Move will help ease liquidity pressure on companies: Crisil

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The success of the Reserve Bank of India's decision to allow lenders a one-time restructuring of loans availed by corporate borrowers will ultimately hinge on the timeliness and terms of the restructuring of debt by banks, Crisil Ratings said.



nises default on the first instance of missed payment on a rated instrument. Therefore, any stoppage of debt servicing without final documented approval of the respective bank may lead to rating action," he added.

"Several corporates are likely to explore the opportunity to restructure their loans in order to conserve liquidity, especially given the continued weakness in demand amid economic recession," noted Crisil, which covers over 18,000 large to mid sized corporates and financial institutions.

were not in default for more than 30 days with any lender as on March 1. Given that the moratorium announced by the RBI will end on August 31, 2020, and the cash flows across a vast majority of rated entities are taking time to normalise, timely support from the lenders in terms of approving restructuring plans quickly will be critical to avoid sharp credit cliffs, the rating agency said.

"Several corporates are likely to explore the opportunity to restructure their loans in order to conserve liquidity, especially given the continued weakness in demand amid economic recession," noted Crisil, which covers over 18,000 large to mid sized corporates and financial institutions.

Centre releases ₹553 cr. for farm mechanisation

Funds provided to States under SMAM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Centre has released ₹553 crore to States under a scheme to promote mechanisation in the agriculture sector.

The Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM) was introduced in April 2014 with an aim to have inclusive growth of farm mechanisation to boost productivity.

"In the year 2020-21, budget of ₹1,033 crore has been provided for the scheme, out of which ₹553 crore has been released to state governments," an official statement said. Agricultural mechanisation helps in increasing production



through timely farm operations and cut in operations by ensuring better management of inputs. Individual farmers are also provided subsidies for procurement of machinery. Total funds of ₹11,78.47 crore were provided in the years 2018-19 & 2019-20 to Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT.

Economy may need stimulus on demand side: Panagariya

Economist sees growth pick up as a signal for intervention

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

As India's economic growth begins to pick up, the country is going to need perhaps 'a little bit of stimulus' on the demand side, noted economist and former Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman Arvind Panagariya said on Saturday.

Mr. Panagariya also said that he was more worried about the general trend of rising import tariffs in India.

"Down the road, as the economy is continuing to open up, if we see that inventories are accumulating rapidly then that would be a clear sign that there is a demand deficiency problem.

At that point, I think stimu-



Arvind Panagariya

lus would be very useful," he said at CII's India@75 virtual event.

Mr. Panagariya pointed out that even with the current level of intervention, India was staring at debt-to-GDP ratio rising from 72% to about 85% at least by the end

of the current year.

"And we are going to need perhaps a little bit of stimulus on the demand side as the economy begins to pick up," the eminent economist said.

'Already in stress'

The Centre in May announced a ₹21 lakh crore stimulus package to help the economy tide over the crisis induced by the coronavirus and subsequent lockdowns.

Mr. Panagariya, a professor of economics at Columbia University, said the economy was in stress even before COVID-19 hit it. India's economy grew at 4.2% in 2019-20.



menced operations.

"Given the situation, we are hopeful to end the year with 650-660 million tonne of production," he added.

The miner is witnessing a 7-8% growth in demand in August.

The Maharatna PSU had produced 602 million tonne of coal last year as against a target of 630 million tonne.

Demand for city warehouses to rise as delivery targets quicken

E-com firms eye same-day supply of food during lockdowns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Demand for small warehouses within city limits is expected to rise over the next one year as e-commerce firms are targeting to ensure same-day deliveries of food and groceries to customers, according to a report.

The demand is likely to be for warehousing of 5,000-10,000 sq ft size, property consultant Colliers International said. "E-commerce companies are focussing on same-day delivery with the pandemic-influenced lockdowns placing greater dependency on e-commerce for food and grocery items," the firm said.

The consultant said e-commerce companies are now trying to stock a larger proportion of inventory



closer to their customers' locations for efficiency and to improve the quality of products upon delivery.

"Over the next 12 months, we believe in-city warehouses will gain traction, to be used as small distribution hubs. We expect occupiers to scout for in-city warehousing space in the range of 5,000-10,000 sq ft. in major demand hubs such as Mumbai, Bengaluru and

Identify sectors to boost exports'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

To boost the 'self-reliant India' endeavour, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Saturday urged the industry to identify the sectors heavily reliant on imports, particularly from China, and look for substitutes towards indigenous production to make India a super power.

"There is seldom any focus on rural, tribal and remote areas. There is a need to change it... Advance sector wise planning is the need of the hour to make India a super power," he said. "China's 70% of exports are from 10 sectors," Mr. Gadkari said and urged CII to identify what was imported in India and how can that be replaced with indigenous production for 'self-reliance'.

Currently, warehouses in top Indian cities are largely restricted to the peripheries, quite far away from a larger customer base. In-city warehouses will help companies to minimise transportation costs and execute faster delivery timelines, Mr. Puri added.

Multiplexes urge malls to review rental model

COVID-19 related curbs have severely impacted their revenue and profitability

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

Multiplex operators have urged mall owners to sharply reduce the rentals or get into revenue-sharing agreements, as restrictions to contain the spread of COVID-19 had severely impacted their revenue and profitability. The lack of good content in the future would also lead to revenue loss adding to their woes, they asserted.

"With a substantial reduction in revenues, but no real change in our fixed costs, the bottom lines do not look safe as and when we reopen," said Shirish Handa, chief business development officer, INOX Leisure Ltd. "Hence, till the business stabilises, a revenue-share based approach is the most suitable option for multiplex and mall owners to tide over this tough phase."



Multiplexes occupy about one-tenth of the space in a mall and fetch a large chunk of the footfalls. ■ AADESH CHOURHARI

resulting in deep revenue losses," he added.

With cinemas closed for more than 100 days in a row, film producers and studios have opted to digitally release content on OTT platforms.

About 20 movies, which were ready to be released in cinemas, have been sold to

Netflix, Amazon Prime and Hotstar, resulting in an immediate content crisis. Films featuring top draw stars like Amitabh Bachchan and Akshay Kumar, which are generally box office hits, will now be screened on digital platforms and not see a theatrical release.

Multiplexes have plans to attract more customers through promotional offers, but will become ineffective in the absence of new releases, multiplex operators said.

Multiplexes bring in new customers, who also shop and grab a meal, and are seen as crucial to a mall's success.

Occupying about a tenth of a mall's space, multiplexes draw a large share of footfalls. In smaller malls, they occupy about a fourth of total retail space and are treated as key anchor tenants.

FRONTLINE

COVID-19 VACCINE Signs of hope 28

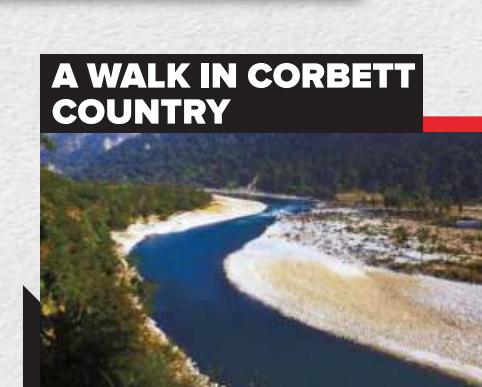
TECHNOLOGY RELIANCE 5G claims and the reality 90

On a collision course

The United States' efforts to check China's rise as an economic powerhouse backed by cutting-edge technology have heightened geopolitical tensions. Preserving strategic autonomy is the best option for India to protect its national interests



A VACCINE FOR COVID-19?



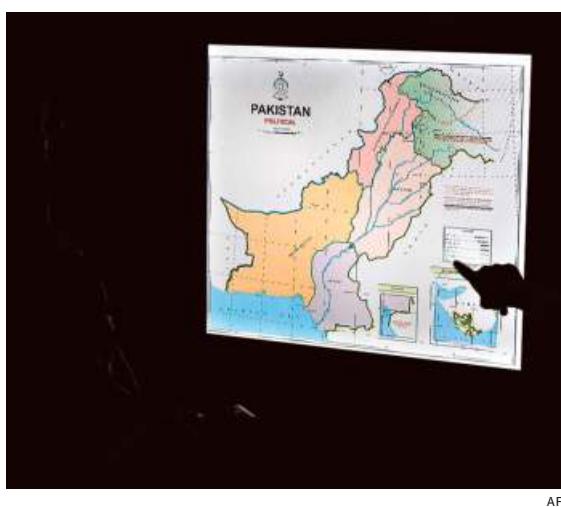
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Pakistan map and border disputes

Why has Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan announced a new political map? What are the claims? What do they mean?

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

The story so far: On August 4, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan announced a new political map of Pakistan (*picture*). With this, Pakistan became the third country to launch a new political map after India and Nepal did the same in November 2019 and May 2020, respectively. India had reiterated its territorial claims in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh with the new map; this triggered a reaction from Nepal which contested Indian claims in the Kalapani region of Pithoragarh district. The territorial claims of Pakistan are, however, of a far greater extent and challenge many of the past understandings and treaties.

What are the features of the new map? The new political map of Pakistan has claimed the entire region of Jammu and Kashmir stretching all the way to the edge of Ladakh. The map also claims Junagadh and Manavadar, a former princely State and territory, respectively, that are part of present-day Gujarat. It leaves out a claim line at the eastern end of J&K indicating Pakistan's willingness to make China a third party in the Kashmir issue. This clearly runs counter to the Simla Agreement which treated Kashmir as a bilateral matter. At the launch of the map, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said the border in that area will be fixed after resolving the Kashmir issue. Pakistan also claimed the entire territory and water bodies that fall in the Sir Creek region in the westernmost part of India.

How different is it from previous ones? A similar map has been part of school textbooks of Pakistan for many years which highlights the territorial aspiration of Pakistan over the northern part of the subcontinent. The document also maintains bits of reality on the ground as it shows the Line of Control in Kashmir in a red-dotted line.

What will be the impact of this cartographical warfare?

The map is likely to lead to changes in Pakistan's position on territorial disputes with India. By demanding the entire Jammu and Kashmir region, Mr. Khan is changing the main features of Pakistan's Kashmir discourse as it includes the Jammu region prominently. The inclusion of Junagadh and Manavadar opens fundamental issues of

territorial sovereignty of India. Manavadar, a princely territory, joined India on February 15, 1948 and Indian troops marched into Junagadh in September that year incorporating it into Indian territory. By normalising Islamabad's claims over these former princely territories, Pakistan is most likely to

assert its rights over the former princely State of Hyderabad as well. The map may be used to provide legal cover for some of Islamabad's territorial ambitions, especially in Kashmir and Sir Creek.

What does Pakistan plan to gain by this exercise? Sir Creek is a collection of water bodies that extend from the Arabian Sea deep inside the territory of Kutch and is rich in biodiversity and mangrove forests. India's position on Sir Creek is based on the Kutch arbitration case of 1966-69. The new map can be used to reassert Pakistan's claims regarding the Rann which it had lost in the arbitration conducted in Geneva. India's position regarding Sir Creek is based on the fact that the arbitration had granted the entire Rann and its marshy areas to India while leaving the solid land across the Rann to Pakistan. By demanding the demarcation to shift towards the eastern bank, Pakistan appears to be going back also on the spirit of the Rann of Kutch arbitration where the overwhelming evidence of maps supported India's claims over the Rann and its marshlands.

Are there any claims on its western borders? The map is silent about territorial claims in the west and northwest of Pakistan. It indicates Islamabad's acceptance of the Durand Line as the border with Afghanistan. The reality on the ground however shows problems that continue to haunt Pakistan on that front as well where law and order has been difficult to maintain because of free movement of armed fighters. A deadly clash between Afghan civilians and Pakistani troops led to the loss of at least 20 Afghan lives during the last *Eid ul Azha* holidays when Afghans wanted to cross to the other side of the traditional Pakhtoon territory which is part of Pakistan's Khyber-Pakhtoonkhwa province. The resultant situation has placed Afghan and Pakistani troops in a confrontational position.

Will the map trigger a diplomatic battle? While launching the map, Mr. Khan described it as a document that depicts the aspiration of the people of Pakistan. However, by describing it as the new political map of Pakistan that will be showcased to the world, Mr. Khan has indicated that the map will eventually trigger diplomatic battles with India as it negates previous understandings. In Delhi, the Ministry of External Affairs said Pakistan's new political map is an exercise in "political absurdity".

How can 'tabletop' airports be safer?

Could the overrun at Kozhikode airport be averted? What are the measures that need to be in place?

MURALI N. KRISHNASWAMY

The story so far: On August 7, a Boeing 737 of Air India Express (the low cost subsidiary of national carrier Air India) on a special 'Vande Bharat' repatriation flight from Dubai to Kozhikode overshot the runway. There were 174 passengers, 10 infants, 2 pilots and 4 cabin crew on board. In what was its second attempt, flight IX-1344 touched down on runway 10 of Calicut International Airport at 7.40 p.m., went past the runway end and safety area, and fell into a valley. The fuselage split in the impact. Both pilots lost their lives; there were casualties and injuries of varying degrees among passengers. There was no fire on board. The Digital Flight Data Recorder and Cockpit Voice Recorder have been recovered. The accident has once again turned the spotlight on operations to what are called 'tabletop airports' in India.

What is a 'tabletop airport' and how many are there in India?

As the name suggests, it is an airport located and built on top of a plateau or hilly surface, with one or both ends of the runway overlooking a drop. The airports in the country which would count as 'tabletops', are namely Lengpu (Mizoram), Shimla and Kullu (Himachal Pradesh), Pakyong (Sikkim), Mangaluru (Karnataka), Kozhikode and Kannur (both Kerala).

A retired aviation official says there is no such term as a 'tabletop airport' in any International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) technical document. But India's statutory aviation body, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), refers to these airports in this manner by way of highlighting safety measures during operations to these runways. The official adds that there are not many differences between a 'normal' airport and a 'tabletop' airport.

Why are these airports drawing attention now? While there have been some aviation incidents at these airports, it was the accident in Mangaluru on May 22, 2010, that highlighted operational risks. Here, an Air India Express flight again, from Dubai to Mangaluru, overran the runway while landing on runway 24. Flight IX-812 hit an antenna and then went down a steep embankment after which there was a fire. Of the 160 passengers and 6 crew, 158 lost their lives. The case focused attention on the nature of operations to such airports, especially their shorter runways.

Kozhikode has two runways of 2,700 metres in length. It was 2,860 metres but 'shortened' to accommodate a safety feature called RESA, or Runway End Safety Area (of 240 metres), which is a means "to limit the consequences when there is an aircraft overrun during landing, a rejected take-off, or even undershoots the landing area". In "tabletop" airport operations, the ICAO says a RESA of 90 metres is mandatory, while 240 metres is recommended. The runways are Instrument Landing System (ILS) CAT I enabled and the airport has a range of visual aids which include simple approach lighting. In addition, all obstacles are lit. Both runways have Required Navigation Performance approach.

The retired official says there have been Code E aircraft (based on wingspan) operations to Kozhikode airport. Kannur and Mangaluru too have had widebody aircraft operations. The largest aircraft at Kozhikode (and at any tabletop airport so far) has been Air India's 423-seater Boeing 'jumbo' 747, operating on the Kozhikode-Jeddah sector.

What were the recommendations made after the Mangaluru crash?

In its report on the crash, the court of Air Marshal B.N. Gokhale, former Vice-Chief of Air Staff, Indian Air Force (and its team of aviation expert assessors) made a series of recommendations in a 191-page document of October 2010. These were addressed to the airline operator (Air India and Air India Express). To the Airports Authority of India, it pointed out issues like "avoidance of the downward slope in the overshoot area particularly on 'tabletop' runways; the need for a ground arresting system for aircraft – such a facility is maintained at almost all airfields of the Indian Air Force"; a visual reference system to alert the pilot (while landing) of the remaining distance to be covered; location of the ATC

What are Confucius Institutes (CI)? Starting with a CI in Seoul in 2004, China's National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language (NOCFL), known as Hanban, has established 550 CIs and 1,172 Confucius Classrooms (CCs) housed in foreign institutions, in 162 countries. The Hanban is under the Ministry of Education. As the Hanban explains on its website, following the experience of the British Council, Alliance Française and Germany's Goethe-Institut, China began "establishing non-profit public institutions which aim to promote Chinese language and culture in foreign countries". These were named CIs.

Even prior to the June India-China border clash, Indian authorities had viewed the Confucius Institutes warily and as treading a fine line with regard to its rules for how foreign educational institutions can operate in India

What is the presence of CIs in India? India is reviewing the presence of CIs in seven universities, in addition to 54 MoUs on inter-school



GETTY IMAGES

tower, approach and area radars; the role of the Rescue and Fire Fighting service, aerodrome risk assessment and, finally, recommendations for the DGCA.

Is there any ICAO document on operations?

The retired official says there is an ICAO document 9981 for airports, which also serves as a guideline for compatibility study of the operation of larger aircraft in a comparatively smaller aerodrome. The issue of growth versus aviation services is a worldwide issue requiring the development of small aerodromes for the use of bigger aircraft in a safe manner, especially as demand for air services grows from existing airports. In this document, the elements to be assessed include aerodrome infrastructure and its ground handling capabilities, and aeroplane characteristics. Each element is assessed technically to see whether these are compatible for new types of aircraft proposed to be operated in such aerodromes. Thereafter, a proper safety assessment is

done to assess the risk associated with the operation of higher category of aircraft. Risk mitigation measures are suggested in order to bring those risks within "tolerable limits". Such a compatibility study and safety assessment

report will be scrutinised by the regulatory aviation authorities and if found satisfactory, the no objection certificate for operation of such higher category aircraft is issued.

When a need was felt to upgrade services at Kozhikode, the airport undertook a runway recarpenting and strengthening exercise between 2015 and 2017.

Could safety measures be better in terms of the ground infrastructure?

While RESA is in vogue, the term EMAS has been tossed up, which is mandatory at all international airports in the United States. Called Engineered Materials Arrestor/Arresting System, it is made of engineered lightweight and crushable cellular cement/concrete.

Used at the runway ends, it acts as a safety barrier and successfully stops an aircraft overrun. Its retarding effect increases as one moves away from the runway edge. In demonstrations in the West, it ensured good aircraft safety. It must be noted that these are laid in easily replaceable blocks in the overrun area. The material is engineered specifically for the airport it is to be used, says the retired official. It is said to be ideal for use in 'tabletop' airports. About 75m of EMAS can serve the purpose of 240m of RESA without causing any damage to the aircraft.

How are operations from a pilot's point of view?

A senior airline commander, who is also an instructor and check pilot, says that in reality, there is no specific training that can be given for 'table top' runways. However, airlines conduct route checks for short runways. He says that one needs to understand that the landing technique and precautions taken are the same for all runways except that there is no scope for error on short and/or 'tabletop' runways. As aircraft accident data show, "runaway overshoots" (excursion) occur often on non-tabletop runways. But in such cases, the aircraft, for obvious reasons, has a much better probability of surviving. However, an overrun by even a few metres can turn catastrophic for 'tabletop' runway landings.

During pilot training, the emphasis is on aiming for 1,000 ft from the beginning of the runway and landing within the touchdown zone. Pilots are also trained to

execute a go around if they do not make contact within the touchdown zone. Now, the senior commander says, there is a lot of emphasis on this aspect and pilots are asked to have this uppermost in mind while operating on a short or 'tabletop' runway. Further, Crew Resource Management is a mandatory training for all pilots following the recommendations made after the Mangaluru crash, which include classroom and simulator training. Here, the senior commander says, emphasis is placed on training the copilot to ask the commander to initiate a go around in case of an unstable approach or if the aircraft has not touched down within touchdown zone. He or she is even trained to take over as a last ditch measure in case the commander does not heed the copilot's safety advice to initiate a go around. Other than this, classroom training and simulator training are provided to explain various types of optical illusions including those caused by 'tabletop' runways. There is a lot of training done on the simulator for landing in low visibility, heavy rain and winds. This happens during initial induction training and every six months thereafter. As the monsoon is a major factor in Indian aviation, monsoon training is given during initial command training before release. The senior commander adds that certain restrictions are placed before releasing the pilot in command for monsoon operations. Such comprehensive training helps in any landing on any runway and can especially be life saver in 'tabletop' operations. The DGCA has mandated a Monsoon Minimum Equipment List as far as aircraft operations are concerned. Here it is mandatory that aircraft devices used in braking or slowing such as brakes and reversers are completely operational.

What is the role of the air traffic control?

The ATC only has jurisdiction to provide the pilots with weather conditions including visibility, rain and winds. The minimum visibility is already prescribed, says the senior commander. The ATC will not give clearance to commence approach if visibility is below this minima, but if the visibility meets the requirements then the ATC cannot stop the pilot. The pilot commences approach when visibility is within minima and descends towards the runway to land. At a point called Decision Height, or DH (normally around 200 ft) in case of ILS, and at a point called Minimum Descent Altitude, or MDA, in case of a non precision approach, the pilot must be aware of the runway environment in order to make a safe landing. If he has not, then he has to initiate a go around, circle and return for another attempt at landing. Many a time, the runway cannot be seen even when reported visibility conditions meet the requirements as the conditions measurable on ground by the meteorological department are not the same as the instantaneous condition on the approach path. Only a pilot can observe this.

So essentially, after a point, the ATC has a limited role, says the senior commander.

If the declared visibility meets the prescribed minima, there is nothing wrong in the pilot attempting an approach. But trying to come in below DH and MDA, if the runway is still not visible is illegal, says the senior commander. No pilot does that, he adds.

One needs to understand, he says, that in heavy rain, even if the runway is visible in time, sometimes due to sudden burst of heavy rain during the final touchdown, it is very difficult for the flight crew to fine tune their judgement of flare height. This may even cause a pilot to land beyond the touchdown zone. Finally, he says, all airline companies ask their pilots to divert in case of a thunderstorm and in their opinion if the weather is unsafe even if it meets the minima. But if there is only rain and no thunderstorm seen on aircraft radar then a pilot will attempt an approach and take decision at DH/MDA.

What must Indian aviation do?

Aviation safety expert Captain Mohan Ranganathan says India needs to move away from the culture where, after every fatal incident, officials say runways will conform to ICAO standards, the investigation will identify the accident cause, and steps will be taken to rectify the deficiencies. He says if the government is serious it needs to declare Kozhikode as a Code 3C airport, for only narrow body aircraft; ban landings on runway 10 during the monsoons; ensure that all runway condition standards are enforced; ensure approach and landing accident training for pilots is enforced strictly and, finally, be transparent and safety-oriented and not look at commercial interests.

Why are Confucius Institutes under the scanner?

How will it impact Beijing's global soft power efforts? Will the Indian government's review hamper ties?

ANANTH KRISHNAN



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE/FILE PHOTO/K. PICHUMANI

Institute brand may even be dropped. While the closures in the West have made news, these cases still represent a minority. Most of the 550 CIs and more than 1,000 CCs around the world are still active, with a presence spanning Africa, Central Asia, Latin America, and across Asia, including in India's neighbourhood in Pakistan (seven), Nepal (four), Sri Lanka (four) and Bangladesh (three), according to Hanban's figures.

What does the CI review mean for India-China relations?

On August 6, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) suggested the government was merely following guidelines established in 2009 requiring Indian institutions entering into such agreements "supported/sponsored by an autonomous foreign organisation, including any Confucius Centre" to seek the MEA's approval. In a statement on August 4, the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi pointed out that CIs and CCs had already been in India for more than 10 years and called on India "to avoid politicising normal cooperation". Even prior to the June 15 India-China border clash, Indian authorities had viewed the CI arrangement somewhat warily and as treading a fine line with regard to its rules for how foreign educational institutions can operate in India, but the government has at the same time worked with Hanban in other areas, for instance, signing an agreement in 2012 to train 300 Indian teachers in Mandarin with a view towards encouraging the study of Mandarin in Central Board of Secondary Education schools. Along with the new move to review CIs, Mandarin has been dropped from the list of foreign languages that can be taught in schools in the new National Education Policy. If the messaging from Delhi is that it cannot be business as usual with China after the border clash, less clear are the long-term objectives. De-emphasising learning Mandarin, experts say, is neither likely to impact China's stance on the border, nor help India in developing the expertise and resources it needs in dealing with China.

What is the presence of CIs in India?

India is reviewing the presence of CIs in seven universities, in addition to 54 MoUs on inter-school

VISHWA HINDU PARISHAD

The monks who led the mandir movement

The organisation has been at the forefront of the legal and political battles for building a Ram temple at the disputed land in Ayodhya

NISTULA HEBBAR

The *bhoomi poojan*, or ground-breaking ceremony, of the Ram temple in Ayodhya has turned the spotlight on the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), one of the first advocates of the Ramjanmabhoomi movement and a group that has been at the forefront of mobilising popular opinion and leading the legal fight for the issue.

In Focus

■ The VHP was formed in 1964, as an affiliate of the RSS, to leverage the influence of Hindu holy men in civil society for the Hindutva movement

■ The VHP's first order of business was to mobilise Hindus around "sacred" geography and Hindu cosmology

■ The group's association with the Ramjanmabhoomi agitation gained prominence in the 1980s, especially after the Shah Bano law and the opening of the gates of the Babri Masjid

Trigger points

"Three trigger points led to the formation of the VHP, a need to network the diaspora Hindus who needed an organisation to maintain cultural ties, the Niyogi Commission report (a report on religious conversion brought out by the Madhya Pradesh government in the 1960s) and the need to bring Hindu religious leaders together to initiate social reforms, especially against caste discrimination," said Arun Anand, research director of the RSS-affiliated think tank Vinimay Kendra.

"The RSS had realised that casteism would hamper Hindu unity and that religious leaders held great sway in ci-

+

TIKTOK

Clock is ticking for Internet giant

The moves in India and U.S. to ban the app have brought its global rise to a halt

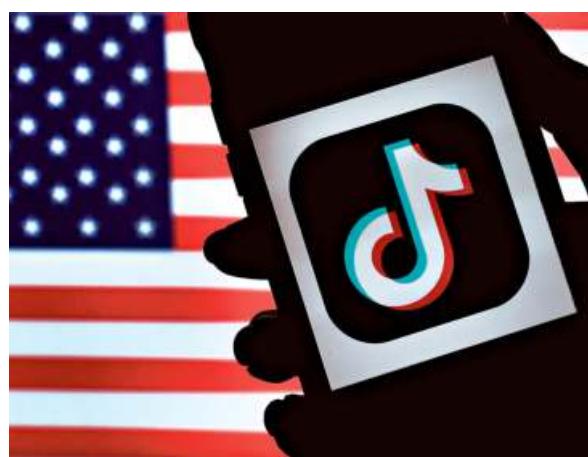
ANANTH KRISHNAN

In an executive order issued on August 6, U.S. President Donald Trump gave the hugely popular short video-sharing social media app TikTok, owned by Beijing-based ByteDance, 45 days to find a buyer. If TikTok didn't sever its China connection in this time, it would be banned in the U.S.

The order on TikTok pointed to the app's links to the Communist Party of China, saying all data collected by it "threatens to allow the Chinese Communist Party access to Americans' personal and proprietary information". It also specifically mentioned India's June 29 ban on TikTok and 58 other Chinese apps, which the Indian government decided "pose [a] threat to [the] sovereignty and integrity of India", citing "compilation of...data, its mining and profiling by elements hostile to national security and defence of India."

The moves in India and the U.S. – TikTok's two biggest markets, with more than 400 million downloads in India and 175 million downloads in the U.S. – have brought the remarkable global rise of an unlikely social media phenomenon to a screeching halt.

TikTok is the brainchild of Zhang Yiming, a 37-year-old Chinese entrepreneur who founded ByteDance in 2012. His first big success was Jinri Toutiao, an AI-powered news aggregator app that is widely popular in



China. In 2016, he founded a short video-sharing platform called Douyin, which became a rage among young Chinese who would post videos not longer than 15 seconds, showing everything from their singing talent to life in rural China. Thus was born TikTok.

Not in China
Rather than take Douyin to the world, Mr. Zhang launched a separate app called TikTok the following year. While Douyin would not be made available outside China, TikTok similarly would only be rolled out for the rest of the world – contrary to the popular perception, TikTok is not used in China. This was a work-around that, Mr. Zhang hoped, would help the app avoid the scrutiny that Chinese companies that operate under suffocating censorship restrictions at home, known popularly as "the Great Firewall of China", faced abroad.

Indeed, the rise of TikTok has triggered a debate about how – and whether – open societies can engage with Chinese firms that operate, back home, under their own laws, and without the checks and balances and transparency that applies elsewhere. The larger question countries face as they respond to the China model is, whether they may ironically end up internalising elements of the very model that they claim to be reacting against, as they move to erect their own firewalls.

That approach seemed to work. By 2018, TikTok ranked fourth in the world as the top non-game app, according to *Harvard Business Review*.

It garnered a huge market in India, becoming the most downloaded app. A 2019 study showed children aged four to 15 in the U.S., the UK and Spain spent 80 minutes a day on TikTok, second only to the 85 minutes spent on YouTube, according to Techcrunch.

Yet in a strange irony, the empowerment and freedom that many young users found in a Chinese app proved to be discomfiting for the countries where it was unleashed, both for social and political reasons. In 2018, the app was banned briefly in Indonesia for "negative" content seen to be "pornographic and blasphemous". If social concerns can be addressed, it's politics that poses the biggest test for the app. In India, the ban followed the June 15

clash on the border, while in the U.S., it was the latest move by the Trump administration amid a trade and technology war with China.

Both India and the U.S. have expressed concerns on data security, and the fact that all Chinese companies, private or public, ultimately answer to the Communist Party. Japan has said it is also considering action against TikTok, while Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison said in August the government would "keep watching them" but "there's no evidence to suggest to us today that [a ban] is necessary".

That India and the U.S. sought to ban the app outright, rather than seek to more tightly regulate it, for instance by insisting on local storage of data, suggest the moves are not just about privacy or security, but about broader ideological concerns about doing business with Chinese companies.

Indeed, the rise of TikTok has triggered a debate about how – and whether – open societies can engage with Chinese firms that operate, back home, under their own laws, and without the checks and balances and transparency that applies elsewhere. The larger question countries face as they respond to the China model is, whether they may ironically end up internalising elements of the very model that they claim to be reacting against, as they move to erect their own firewalls.

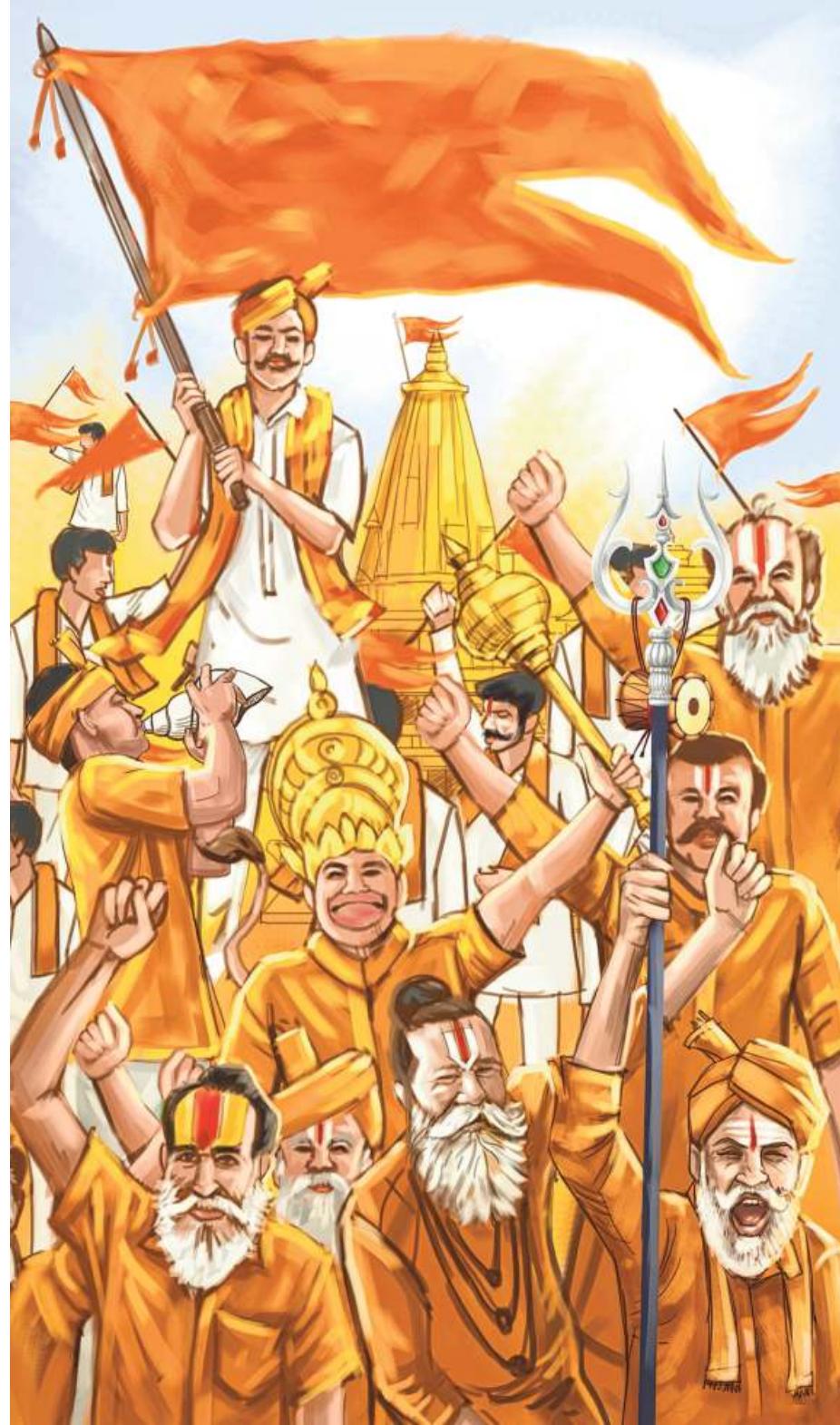


ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

du worshippers access to the structure.

The Ram mandir movement was then given a fillip through a campaign of collecting bricks for the construction of a temple. "Kashi and Mathura were places where a mosque and temple were both present, but at the Ramjanmabhoomi, there was only a mosque and hence the brick collecting campaign was launched,"

said Mr. Chari. Two committees were formed – the Janmasthan Mukti Sangharsh Samiti and the Ramjanmabhoomi Nyas (which also took care of all the bricks and other paraphernalia being sent to Ayodhya). These committees later evolved into bigger organisations as the movement grew.

The Bajrang Dal, the youth wing of the VHP, was formed during the course of the

Ramjanmabhoomi movement. From 1984, the VHP initiated the series of processions called the "Ram-Janaki Rathayatra" in Ayodhya, which ratcheted up communal tensions across the north and central India. The youth wing was then set up to "protect" the yatras but it ended up giving a more muscular, and militant tone to the movement. In the wake of the destruction of Babri Masjid

jid by *kar sevaks* on December 6, 1992, the Narasimha Rao government banned the Bajrang Dal. The ban was revoked a year later, but there had been repeated calls for a ban on the outfit during the UPA government after cases of attacks on members of the minority communities emerged. A special Cabinet meeting was called in October 2008 by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to consider a ban on the Bajrang Dal, after attacks on churches in Karnataka and Odisha, but nothing came of it.

The Ramjanmabhoomi movement got its biggest push when the BJP decided to back it in its Palampur meet in Himachal Pradesh in 1989.

Not on the same page

The BJP, the political wing of the RSS, and the VHP, the organisation the RSS depended on to penetrate and influence civil society, have often been on separate pages through the years, especially under the VHP's former working president Praveen Togadia, who has very public differences with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The RSS, however, has maintained its steadfastness in implementing its agenda, and weighed in favour of Mr. Modi in that face-off. Their faith paid off in the August 5 ground-breaking ceremony. The two single majority governments of Mr. Modi allowed the Sangh Parivar a historic opportunity to push forward with its agenda, be it the temple, the dilution of Article 370 or capture of state institutions.

Now that the temple is going to rise in Ayodhya, what's next for the VHP? Will it lose its raison d'être? Or will it create the same social energy in its call for "liberating" Kashi and Mathura?

The answer, say office-bearers who spoke to *The Hindu*, lies in the first resolution passed by the VHP after its formation in 1964. There's a Sanskrit term in the resolution, 'Na Hindu Patito Bhavet' (No Hindu is beyond the Pale), that aimed at subverting caste discrimination in favour of a unified Hindu society and resisted conversions to other faiths and dilution of Hindu beliefs. That still remains a goal.

BEIRUT

A city in ruins

The Lebanese capital, already on its knees, has been battered by explosions

STANLY JOHNY

The August 4 explosions in central Beirut that killed at least 154 people and injured thousands is the latest blow to a city that has been grappling with many crises. Beirut is no stranger to tragedies. In the past five decades, the city has seen a prolonged civil war, assassination of an elected President and a former Prime Minister, terrorist attacks and foreign bombings. Still, Beirut moved on.

But the last few months have been particularly bad for the Lebanese capital as political and economic crises brought life to its knees. Lebanon is going through one of its worst economic crises. The public, angered over corruption and the government's inability to provide even basic services, are in a permanent agitation mood. The blasts, believed to have been caused by ammonium nitrate stored in a warehouse at the Beirut port, could deepen the economic and political crises.

Once an outpost of crusaders, Beirut was captured by the Ottomans in the early 16th century. The city was locally ruled by Druze emirs, who at times had challenged the Ottoman control. By the 17th century, it emerged as an important trading hub between Europe and the Ottoman Sultanate.

European and American missionaries became active in the city. The Syrian Protestant College, established by American Protectors



tant missionaries in 1866, later became the famed American University of Beirut. After the fall of the Ottomans following the First World War, Lebanon came under the French mandate. France retained its control until the country became independent in 1943.

Civil war
For over three decades since independence, Beirut flourished as trade and finance hub under its western style government. The multi-ethnic, multi-religious city was also seen as a liberal haven in an otherwise authoritarian West Asia.

But there were fault lines, too. The governance system the French left behind favoured the Maronite Christians, whose ties with Europe go back to the Ottoman period. The influx of Palestinian refugees after the 1948 Arab-Israeli war had changed Lebanon's demographics as well. Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) moved to Lebanon after it was expelled from Jordan in 1970. Battles between the Christian militia, Kataeb, and the PLO broke out in April 1975 in Beirut, which would soon slide into a bigger civil war. For Beirut, the civil war opened the gates of hell.

The civil war came to an official end with the 1989 Taif agreement, according to which a Maronite Christian would be President, a Sunni Prime Minister and a Shia Parliament Speaker. This tenuous confessional system held the country together ever since, but with economic troubles mounting in recent years, the old fault lines came back to haunt the country again.

On October 23, 1983, two truck bombs blew apart the buildings in Beirut that housed American and French military members, killing 307 people. Earlier in the year, the US Embassy in the city was bombed, killing 17. The bombings forced the multinational forces to leave the country.

The civil war came to an official end with the 1989 Taif agreement, according to which a Maronite Christian would be President, a Sunni Prime Minister and a Shia Parliament Speaker. This tenuous confessional system held the country together ever since, but with economic troubles mounting in recent years, the old fault lines came back to haunt the country again. And Beirut, being the capital city with an estimated 2.2 million population, has been the fulcrum of conflict.

Since late last year, the city has seen large protests, which sometimes slipped into sectarian violence. Prime Minister Saad Hariri resigned last year amid protests, leading to the formation of a new government of technocrats, but the economy remains in ruins. The blasts, which have battered the downtown Beirut, make matters worse for the city, which is already on its knees. Radicalised by

TV PICKS

Formula One: Main race, SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 6.35 p.m.
NBA: Sony Six (SD & HD), 6 a.m. & 4 a.m. (Monday)
MotoGP: Eurosport (SD & HD), 2.10 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Embiid changes tack, takes Sixers past Magic

Joel Embiid turned aggressive in the second half and finished with 23 points and 13 rebounds as Philadelphia 76ers held off Orlando Magic 108-101 on Friday night in its first game without All-Star Ben Simmons. Simmons is out indefinitely after injuring his knee on Wednesday.

The results: Philadelphia 76ers bt Orlando Magic 108-101; Boston Celtics bt Toronto Raptors 122-100; Brooklyn Nets bt Sacramento Kings 119-106; Memphis Grizzlies bt Oklahoma City Thunder 121-92; San Antonio Spurs bt Utah Jazz 119-111. AGENCIES



Ko takes sole lead at LPGA Marathon Classic

WASHINGTON Lydia Ko produced a barnstorming finish to snatch a one-shot lead with a six under-second round at the LPGA Marathon Classic on Friday. England's Jodi Ewart Shadoff was second and World No. 2 Danielle Kang was third on 11 under, two off the lead. AFP

Shubhankar misses cut for second straight week

HERTFORDSHIRE (UK) Shubhankar Sharma carded a one-under 70 in the second round of the English Championship but that was not enough to keep him alive when the cut was applied at three under. Shubhankar aggregated one-under 141 over two rounds, missing the cut for the second time in as many weeks. Andy Sullivan was one shot ahead of the field. PTI

Five teams set to appeal Racing Point decision

SILVERSTONE Five Formula One teams filed notice on Saturday of their intent to appeal the outcome of the inquiry into Racing Point's copying scandal – including both original protagonists. The FIA stewards published their verdict early on Friday, more than three weeks after Renault's initial protest in a sequence of three complaints at the legality and originality of Force India's 2020 car.

Zimbabwe-Afghanistan T20I series cancelled

HARARE Host Zimbabwe has called off a five-match T20I series against Afghanistan set to begin later this month. The Zimbabwe government suggested the country was not still ready to host visiting teams due to the sudden surge in COVID cases. PTI

Woakes, Buttler power England's win

The two launch a counter-attack after the Pakistan bowlers remove the top-order quickly



Brilliant: Chris Woakes, in the company of Jos Buttler, conjured up a match-winning knock. ■AFP

PAKISTAN IN ENG.

REUTERS
MANCHESTER

A magnificent partnership between Jos Buttler and Chris Woakes propelled England to an unlikely three-wicket win over Pakistan in a topsy-turvy first Test at Old Trafford on Saturday.

Woakes joined Buttler at the crease with England having slumped to 117 for five and seemingly sliding to defeat in its pursuit of a daunting 277 on a bowler-friendly pitch.

But between them Buttler and Woakes launched a sup-

erb counter-attack to turn the tide of the match towards the host with a sixth-wicket stand worth 139 runs.

In a final twist, Buttler was eventually out leg-before for 75 to leg spinner Yasir Shah with England requiring another 21 for victory, thereby reviving Pakistan's fading hopes.

Stuart Broad was also dismissed attempting to knock off the last four runs but Woakes finished on 84 not out to see the host home.

Yasir Shah was the most successful bowler with four for 99.

Pakistan had earlier its

overnight 137 for eight with 32 quickfire runs to be bowled out for 169 – a frenetic flourish that looked to have put the visitors in control.

Quick wickets

England had reached 86 for one in reply with skipper Joe Root looking in control, but four wickets fell quickly to leave it reeling in its attempt at the second-highest successful fourth-innings run chase seen at Old Trafford.

But, Buttler and Woakes had other ideas and went into one-day mode by peppering the boundaries to set up a thrilling win.

SCOREBOARD

Pakistan – 1st innings: 326.

England – 1st innings: 219.

Pakistan – 2nd innings: Shan Masood c Buttler b Broad 0, Abid Ali c Woakes b Bess 20, Azhar Ali lbw b Woakes 18, Babar Azam c Stokes b Woakes 5, Asad Shafiq run out 29, Mohammad Rizwan lbw b Stokes 27, Shadab Khan lbw b Broad 15, Yasir Shah c Buttler b Broad 33, Shaheen Afridi c Burns b Stokes 2, Mohammad Abbas (not out) 3, Naseem Shah b Archer 4; Extras (b-4, lb-5, nb-4): 13; Total (in 46.4 overs): 169.

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-33, 3-48, 4-63, 5-101, 6-120, 7-122, 8-137, 9-158.

England bowling: Anderson 9-2-34-0, Broad 10-3-37-3, Archer 6-4-0-27-1, Bess 12-2-40-1, Woakes 5-1-11-2, Stokes 4-1-11-2.

England – 2nd innings (target 277): Rory Burns lbw b Abbas 10, Dom Sibley c Shafiq b Yasir 36, Joe Root c Babar b Naseem 42, Ben Stokes c Rizwan b Yasir 9, Ollie Pope c Shabbad b Afridi 7, Jos Buttler lbw b Yasir 75, Chris Woakes (not out) 84, Chris

Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-86, 3-96, 4-106, 5-117, 6-256, 7-273.

Pakistan bowling: Afridi 15.1-1-61-1, Abbas 16-4-36-1, Naseem 13-4-45-1, Yasir 30-2-99-4, Shadab 8-0-34-0.

Man-of-the-match: Woakes.

England won by three wickets to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Second Test: August 13-17 (Southampton).

Bottas grabs pole

Hamilton to line up alongside him

70TH ANNIV. GP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SILVERSTONE

Valtteri Bottas outpaced his Mercedes teammate and World champion leader Lewis Hamilton by the finest of margins on Saturday to claim a dramatic pole position for the 70th Anniversary Grand Prix.

The Finn clocked a fastest lap in one minute and 25.154 seconds to beat the six-time champion by only 0.063 in



Valtteri Bottas... speeding around. ■REUTERS

the final seconds of an enthralling qualifying session. It was the Mercedes team's 67th front row lockout.

"It feels good," said Bottas who was securing the 13th pole of his career, 48 hours after signing a new contract to keep him at Mercedes next season.

Starting grid: 1. Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes), 2. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes), 3. Nico Hulkenberg (Racing Point), 4. Max Verstappen (Red Bull), 5. Daniel Ricciardo (Renault), 6. Lance Stroll (Racing Point), 7. Pierre Gasly (Alpha Tauri), 8. Charles Leclerc (Ferrari), 9. Alexander Albon (Red Bull), 10. Lando Norris (McLaren), 11. Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari), 12. Carlos Sainz (McLaren), 13. Romain Grosjean (Haas), 14. Esteban Ocon (Renault), 15. George Russell (Williams), 16. Daniil Kvyat (Alpha Tauri), 17. Kevin Magnussen (Haas), 18. Nicholas Latifi (Williams), 19. Antonio Giovinazzi (Alfa Romeo), 20. Kimi Raikkonen (Alfa Romeo).

Stealing a goal
Real, trailing 2-1 from the first-leg, made a disastrous start, gifting Sterling a ninth minute opener because of Varane's mistake.

City keeper Ederson, could do nothing when Karim Benzema rose to nod

City cashes in on Real's errors

Ronaldo's brace not good enough for Juve; Sarri sacked

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

REUTERS
MANCHESTER

Manchester City reached the Champions League quarterfinals after beating Real Madrid 2-1 (4-2 on aggregate) at home on Friday, with Raheem Sterling and Gabriel Jesus taking advantage of dreadful defensive errors.

City will next face Lyon which knocked out Juventus despite Cristiano Ronaldo's brace. The Italian side's elimination saw manager Maurizio Sarri being sacked after one season in charge.

Sealing it: Gabriel Jesus celebrates after netting Manchester City's second goal. ■REUTERS

home a superb pin-point cross from Rodrygo.

Later, Varane's attempted header back to 'keeper Courtois was too weak and an alert Jesus flicked it in.

At Turin, a 2-1 win was not enough for the Serie A champion as the French side reached the quarterfinals on away goals. Lyon went ahead early from a penalty before Ronaldo levelled from another spot kick. The Portuguese

superstar put the home team ahead as he found space for a shot and blasted a goal from 25 metres, but it was not enough.

The results:

Manchester City 2 (Sterling 9, Jesus 68) bt Real Madrid 1 (Benzema 28); Manchester City won 4-2 on aggregate.

Juventus 2 (Ronaldo 43-pen, 60) bt Lyon 1 (Depay 12-pen). 2-2 on aggregate, Lyon won on away goals.

On-a-roll Carlsen wary of 'tired' Liren

Nakamura and Dubov in a grudge-match in the other semifinal

CHESS

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

A "tired" Ding Liren termed his chances of overcoming an in-form Magnus Carlsen as "low" in the semifinal of the \$300,000 Magnus Carlsen Chess Tour Finals beginning on Sunday.

Initially called the Grand Final, the event brings together USA's Hikaru Nakamura and Russia's Daniil Dubov in the other semifinal.

"It is mainly because of the timing. For me, in China, the games begin at 10 p.m. If each of the four rapid rounds goes for an hour, then for me it is 2 a.m. Thereafter, it is not easy to sleep

events and Dubov one, qualified for the finale. Nakamura and Dubov, the two non-winners, made it on the basis of their points on the Tour.

Answering questions, Liren said, "I am not tired because of the games or playing too many tournaments (since April)."

"It is mainly because of the timing. For me, in China, the games begin at 10 p.m. If each of the four rapid rounds goes for an hour, then for me it is 2 a.m. Thereafter, it is not easy to sleep

"It's going to be unbelievably tough.

Lot of respect
The Norwegian, too, showed a lot of respect for the Chinese when asked to look at the much-awaited clash.

"It's going to be unbelievably

about his chances against Carlsen, Liren said. "I think they are low. I did beat him in the last Sinquefield Cup playoff but that has not happened often."

"If it happens often, then he won't be Magnus Carlsen."

Best of five sets
The semifinals will be best of five sets, with each set comprising four rapid games.

"In case the players are tied 2-2, two blitz games will be played and thereafter, if 3-3, an Armageddon game to break the tie. The final will be the best of seven sets."

Odisha turns to seed-bombs to fight a jumbo problem
Forest officials hope adequate bamboo will germinate and ensure food for elephants

Green shoots: Bamboo seed balls getting ready to be scattered in reserve forests. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

copious rains has helped the villagers and forest department personnel ensure that the seed-balls have germinated.

"They will not stray out of the forest in search of food," said Sasmita Lenka, Athagarh Divisional Forest Officer.

Bamboo shoots are relished by elephants. We are highly optimistic that it will meet the food requirement

phantoms frequently raid villages coming under Athagarh and Khuntuni range and damage standing paddy crops.

"Even fruit-bearing trees and vegetable plants are not spared. The situation becomes extremely volatile when any human gets killed by a marauding elephant," the DFO said.

Last year, the division had thrown seed balls using 950 kg of bamboo seeds inside the forest.

"Elephants love chewing bamboo shoots. Once the shoots come out of the plants, the animal depredation in villages will definitely come down," said Ms. Lenka.

Athagarh Forest Division is one of the worst-hit areas as far as man-elephant conflict is concerned. "Ele-

'Vivo's exit not a financial crisis'

Preparation for a long period gets you ready for losses and success: Ganguly

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

gets you ready for losses and success," Ganguly said in a webinar organised by S. Chand on Saturday.

The BCCI is yet to zero in on a replacement for Vivo.

"BCCI is a strong foundation. The game, the administrators in the past have made it so strong that the BCCI is able to handle all these blips," he said.

Confidence-booster

Ganguly said, "If you look at England, there is county cricket going on everywhere. There's football happening; they just finished the Premier League. That gives you confidence that if they can go around the country and get cricket done, if we have the right medical staff and the teams are spread out in various venues and we do it clinically," the BCCI chief said.

Bit of a blip

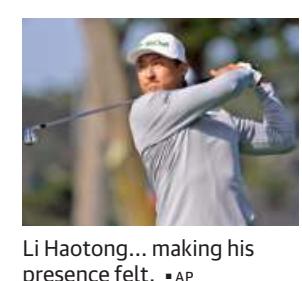
"I would not call it a financial crisis. It's a little bit of a blip and the only way you can do (overcome) that is by being professionally strong over a period of time.

"Big things don't come overnight, big things don't go away overnight. Preparation for a long period of time

Li Haotong outshines big guns on day two

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SAN FRANCISCO



Li Haotong... making his presence felt. ■AP

Fleetwood, Daniel Berger, England's Justin Rose, and France's Mike Lorenzo-Vera are all at six-under 134, two shots behind Li.

Brendon Todd, Paul Casey and Cameron Champ are another shot back at five under.

The scores: 132: Li Haotong (Chn) 67, 65; 134: Mike Lorenzo-Vera (Fra) 66, 68, Jason Day (Aus) 65, 69, Brooks Koepka (USA) 66, 68, Daniel Berger (USA) 67, 67, Justin Rose (Eng) 66, 68, Tommy Fleetwood (Eng) 70, 64; 135: Paul Casey (Eng) 68, 67, Brendon Todd (USA) 65, 70, Cameron Champ (USA) 71, 64.

THEME

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