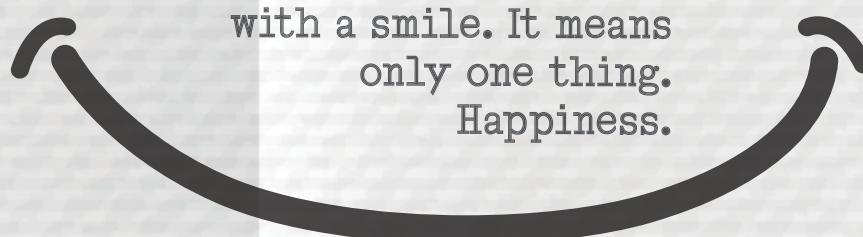




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A smile is considered the universal symbol of joy. It's your birthday. You smile. You receive a promotion. You smile. You see a familiar face in a crowd of strangers. You smile. It pops up when your mom makes your favourite dish. It makes an appearance when somebody plays a tune you are fond of. It rises when the clouds part and the sun shines. There is no ambiguity with a smile. It means only one thing. Happiness.



a smile at all. a smile sometimes isn't that you realise that a different perspective you look at it from because it's only when hilding. Empathy become experts at something they have some friends they have lend a shoulder when speaking in murmur. even when they are friends and loved ones so, listen to your a sad person. from being branded it is an escape fear of being ostracised. it is a fight against the attempt to belong. it touches on to. it is an straw that depression anxiety. it is a feeble bandage over perpetual darkness beneath. it is a mask that covers the not always that. it is suffering from a mental illness, the smile is But for somebody

10th October, 2020-  
World Mental Health Day.

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UN's food agency World  
Food Programme wins  
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page 13



Nadal cruises past  
Schwartzman to enter  
French Open final  
page 15

Hetmyer, Stoines  
and bowlers shine as  
Capitals crush Royals  
page 15

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## NEARBY



**DU first cut-off list today; 70K seats up for grabs**  
NEW DELHI  
Delhi University is likely to release its first cut-off list on Saturday for admission to nearly 70,000 seats. University officials have warned students against visiting colleges for the admission process due to the pandemic.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2



## Temple priest set afire over land issue dies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JAIPUR

A 55-year-old priest of a temple in Bokna village of Rajasthani Karauli district died of burns at the Sawai Man Singh Hospital here after he was set ablaze over a land issue. He was attacked by five persons, who wanted to encroach on the temple land on Wednesday.

On the basis of Babu Lal Vaishnav's statement to the

police before his death on Thursday night, main accused Kailash Meena was arrested on Friday. The police had registered a case of attempt to murder against the five persons. It was converted to that of murder after the priest's death, and a team led by an Additional SP was conducting a probe and searching for the other accused.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 9

## Lalu gets bail in Chaibasa treasury case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PATNA

The Jharkhand High Court on Friday granted bail to RJD president Lalu Prasad in a fodder scam case related to the Chaibasa treasury. However, he will remain in jail as he is convicted in other cases related to the ₹950 crore scam.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## Active COVID-19 cases drop below 9 lakh after a month

They comprise 12.94% of total caseload: Health Ministry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The number of active COVID-19 cases in the country has fallen below the nine lakh mark after a month, the Union Health Ministry said on Friday.

The country registered 8,93 lakh active cases on Fri-

day. On September 9, it was 8,97 lakh, the Ministry said in a release.

"Presently, the active cases stand at 8,93,592 and comprise 12.94% of the total cases, demonstrating a steady falling percentage of the total cases. The declining trend of the percentage ac-

tive cases is commensurately supported by the rising percentage of recovered cases. The total recovered cases stand at 59,06,069. The gap between recovered cases and active cases has crossed 50 lakh (50,12,477)," it said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

+ Shaping up



Festival time: An artist preparing a goddess Durga idol at C.R. Park in New Delhi on Friday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

## Amid pandemic gloom, 544 reasons for India to cheer

New species discovered in the country last year include 364 animal and 180 plant varieties

SHIV SAHAY SINGH  
KOLKATA  
A rock-dwelling gecko, *Cnemaspis anandani*, endemic to the Western Ghats. *Sphaerotheca magadha*, a burrowing frog discovered in the farm fields of Jharkhand. *Enoplotrupes tawangensis*, a dung beetle from Tawang. A wild ginger variety, *Amomum nagamiense*, discovered from the forest behind Kohina Zoo in Nagaland. A wild fern, *Pteris subiriaria*, found not just in Kerala but also Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. India has 544 reasons to cheer with the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) on Friday releasing their annual publications, 'Animal Discoveries 2019' and 'Plant



Clockwise from top: Rock-dwelling gecko *Cnemaspis anandani*; fungi *Hygrocybe indica*; a dung beetle; burrowing frog *Sphaerotheca magadha* and wild fern *Pteris subiriaria*. ■  
Discoveries 2019' respectively.  
They were released by Babul Supriyo, Union Minister of State, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at an event at Acharya Jagadish Chandra

and 73 species spotted for the first time in the country.

### Horticulture value

A.A. Mao, the director of BSI, said among the new discoveries this year are plants with horticulture value as well those which can serve as alternative foods. The number of plant species found in India, according to the 2019 BSI compilation, is 50,012 and accounts roughly for 12% of all flora species in the world.

Both the ZSI and BSI have been releasing 'Animal Discoveries' and 'Plant Discoveries' since 2007 and this is the 13th publication in the series. The data analysis of the past decade reveals a total of 2,444 new animal species and 3,500 plant species from the country.

## 'NRI quota in professional and technical courses not sacrosanct'

Candidates cannot assert their right to admission, says SC

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

Private colleges and institutions that offer professional and technical courses have a complete discretion to do away with their Non-Resident Indian (NRI) quota of seats after giving reasonable prior notice, the Supreme Court held on Friday.

The NRI quota is not sacrosanct and candidates under the quota cannot assert their right to be admitted, the court said in a judgment.

"Private colleges and institutions, which offer professional and technical courses, have some elbow room; they can decide whether, and to what extent, they wish to offer NRI or management quo-

tas," a Bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and S. Ravinder Bhat observed.

### Rajasthan colleges

The 28-page judgment came in an appeal against the change in seat matrix introduced in private medical and dental colleges in Rajasthan for postgraduate courses.

The colleges argued in court that the NRI seats would not be filled during the pandemic. Besides, many NRI candidates have been considered for the management seats on the basis of merit.

The verdict referred to the seven-judge Bench decision in *P.A. Inamdar*, which held that 15% NRI quota was "not

compulsory" but "only potential".

Justice Bhat, who wrote the verdict, said the apex court had consistently been sceptical about the NRI quota and hence suggested limiting it to 15%.

The judgment quoted from the Constitution Bench verdict in the *Inamdar* case, which said the term 'NRI' in relation to admissions was itself a "misnomer".

"Neither the students who get admissions under this category nor their parents are NRIs. In effect and reality, under this category, less meritorious students, but who can afford to bring more money, get admission," the judgment quoted.

## Paswan makes final journey from 12 Janpath

Union Minister's remains taken from New Delhi to Patna for state funeral today



Bidding adieu: Union Minister Piyush Goyal paying homage to LJP leader Ram Vilas Paswan on Friday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

Congress Lok Sabha member Shashi Tharoor was one of the early visitors. Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi, accompanied by the party's Bihar in-charge Shaktisinh Gohil, came in the afternoon. In 2014, Ram Vilas Paswan's son and current LJP president, Chirag Paswan, blamed Mr. Gandhi's indifference towards them as one of the reasons for their shift from the UPA to the NDA.

### Goyal gets charge

A Rashtrapati Bhavan announcement said Railway Minister Piyush Goyal would hold additional charge of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

From the Opposition, NCP leader Sharad Pawar, RJD Raja Sabha member Misa Bharti, CPI general secretary D. Raja and AAP leader Sanjay Singh came to pay homage.

## 'NRI quota in professional and technical courses not sacrosanct'

Candidates cannot assert their right to admission, says SC

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
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Three held for swindling ₹10 cr. funds

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

Three men were arrested for allegedly misappropriating funds of a company to the tune of ₹10 crore, police said on Friday.

The accused – Pramod Goel, Krishan Chand Bansal and Anil Gupta – were directors of M/S Indirapuram Habitat Centre Pvt. Ltd. They have been arrested and sent to judicial custody, police said.

A case was registered against them under Sections 406 (criminal breach of trust), 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) and 120 B (criminal conspiracy) of the IPC on a complaint by a private company. It alleged that in 2016, the accused company had availed term loans of ₹10 crore from them for a period of two years for the completion of its project but failed to repay it and defrauded them, the police said.

## Strict measures in place to reduce pollution as AQI remains 'poor'

All large construction sites need to instal anti-smog gun as per government rules

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

The air quality of Delhi continued to be in the "poor" category on Friday and is expected to improve to "moderate" category on Sunday, according to SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research), a government-run monitoring agency.



Anti-smog gun installed at a construction site in Pragati Maidan on Friday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Also, Environment Minister Gopal Rai visited construction and demolition works at Pragati Maidan and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and said that the latter has not installed an anti-smog gun and work will be allowed to restart only after installing one. All large construction sites need to instal anti-smog gun to control air pollution as per rules.

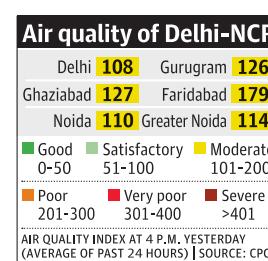
"The Delhi government

has identified 39 sites with more than 20,000 sq meter areas. Out of these, 33 sites have installed anti-smog guns but six sites have not. No relaxation will be permitted to anyone if found to spread pollution, the government's guidelines have to be strictly followed," Mr. Rai said.

The AQI (Air quality Index) of the city was 202 on Friday, slightly down from

208 a day ago, as per Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data. On Wednesday, the air quality of the city had turned poor after more than three months of better air and has remained in the same levels since then.

"AQI is forecast to stay at the higher end of moderate to the poor category for Saturday, further AQI is forecast to improve by October



11, but in the moderate category," SAFAR said in a statement.

### Positive influence

The agency further said that a shift in surface wind direction is predicted in Delhi from north-westerly to south-easterly by October 12 and this could have a positive influence on air quality in the next week. Stubble burning fires were observed on Thursday too in Punjab, Haryana, and neighboring border regions of Delhi.

## DU likely to announce first cut-off list today; 70K seats up for grabs

No one allowed to enter colleges, officials warn applicants

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi University is likely to release its first cut-off list on Saturday for admission to nearly 70,000 seats up for grabs.



The university officials warned students against visiting colleges for the admission process, saying no one will be allowed to enter the premises. The admission process this year will be entirely online due to the pandemic.

### Admission son Oct. 12

"Students will be able to apply for admission on October 12 from 10 a.m. onwards but the entire process will be online. They should not visit colleges or departments since they won't be allowed entry," an official said.

DU received over 3.54 lakh applications this year, the highest till now, and offi-

cials have said the cut-offs are likely to be higher than the last year as more students have scored over 90% in CBSE Class 12 examinations and the majority of the applicants are from the board.

Last month, St. Stephen's College released its first cut-off list for undergraduate courses, with the highest cut-off being announced at 99.25% for BA (Hons) economics. Since classrooms will be able to accommodate a select number of students due to social distancing norms, the cut-offs will have to be higher, the principal said.

According to a principal, DU has asked all the principals to finalise and upload cut-offs by 1 p.m. on Saturday.

### New session

The new session is scheduled to commence on November 18.

## Family members of girl kill 18-year-old youth

Accused objected to the duo's friendship as they belonged to different faiths: police

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

An 18-year-old youth was allegedly beaten to death by a girl's family members, including her brother, who objected to their friendship, the police said on Friday.

The incident took place on Wednesday evening in north-west Delhi's Adarsh Nagar, they said.

### Two arrested

The girl's brother and her relative have been arrested while three juveniles have been apprehended in connection with the incident.

The victim – Rahul Rajput – was pursuing his second-year BA from Delhi University's School of Open Learning. He also tutored school students.

The girl's family was against her friendship with Rahul as they belonged to different faiths, the police said.



Rahul was pursuing BA from DU's School of Open Learning.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

On Wednesday evening, the victim got a call from an unknown person, asking to meet him at Nanda road to discuss his tuition classes. But, when he reached the spot, a group of five men, including her brother, physically assaulted him, a senior officer said.

They slapped and kicked him following which he sustained severe injuries. He was then rushed to a hospital where he died during treatment, the officer said.

"On Wednesday, we re-

ceived a call at 11.59 p.m. from BJRM Hospital about a patient admitted in an unconscious condition. Rahul did not have any visible injuries. After the post-mortem, the doctor said rupturing of spleen led to his death," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (North-West) Vijayanta Arya.

Based on Rahul's statement, a case was registered under Sections 302 (Murder) and 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the Indian Penal Code, she added.

In his complaint, he said his nephew and the girl knew each other for two years. They lived in the same locality but the girl's parents, especially her brothers, were against their friendship.

"On Wednesday at 7 p.m., I got a call from my friend who informed us that four-five boys were

beating up my nephew. When I reached the spot, I found that my nephew was being beaten brutally by the girl's brothers and their accomplices... they slapped, punched and kicked him," he wrote in his complaint.

At the crime spot, the accused told him that they do not like his nephew talking to their sister. The accused told him that they would kill Rahul if he does not stop meeting their sister.

After a lot of pleading, the group let Rahul go, his uncle said. Next, he rushed his nephew to a local clinic.

Later, Rahul was shifted to BJRM hospital for further treatment.

**Officers deployed in area**  
The case is under investigation, the police said, adding that personnel has been deployed in the locality to avoid any tension between the families.

## Woman tries to end life at police chief's office

'She had earlier attempted it twice'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
GURUGRAM

A 28-year-old woman tried to end her life at Police Commissioner's office here on Thursday over a matrimonial dispute. She was booked under Section 309 (attempt to suicide) and 190 (threat of injury to induce person to refrain from applying for protection to public servant) of the Indian Penal Code and arrested.

Assistant Commissioner of Police, Headquarters, Usha Kundu, said the woman had tried to end her life on two more occasions earlier and also got rape cases registered against her husband and a doctor in different police stations in Gurugram.

A rape case was registered against her husband at Sector 51 Women Police Station on October 3. Her complaint came two days after her hus-

band approached New Colony Police Station saying that the woman had married him without being legally divorced from her previous husband. He also accused her of "mentally" and "physically" harassing him and alleged that she had been demanding ₹10 lakh from him. Both the matters are under investigation.

The woman had come in contact with her present husband online during the lockdown. The two got married at a temple on September 2.

Her divorce case with her previous husband has been pending in Allahabad HC since 2017, said Gurugram Police spokesperson Subhash Boken.

**Suicide prevention helpline:** Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday (10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.)

## DDA and residents discuss civic issues in online meet

Road connectivity, other problems raised

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Friday conducted an online meeting with residents of urban and rural villages here to discuss issues like water scarcity,

unplanned construction and encroachment due to lack of regulations.

### Preparing for MPD-2041

The meeting was held as part of a series of consultations that the urban body is holding pertaining to the preparation of the Master Plan for Delhi (MPD)-2041.

"Many villages do not even have defined road networks either in the revenue records or in the master plan, making it difficult to get building permissions from civic bodies. Participants also suggested that integrated village development plans should be

prepared for the Lal Dora areas or villages as local bodies have not prepared these plans," the DDA said.

DDA officials added, "Issues were raised for improved connectivity, access to small shops, social amenities for local community and up-gradation of physical infrastructure." Participants also raised issues pertaining to water scarcity, the urban body said. "They emphasised on the need to create water retention ponds with in existing and new developments, increase unpaved areas and create rainwater storage pits along stormwater drains, which will help in improving the water table. +

"Participants also raised concerns over the lack of parking and building safety that is emerging out of unplanned development and rapid densification of areas," the statement read.

## Two held for shooting at man during robbery bid

### Driver and his helper die after truck rams into wall

'Vehicle was speeding and lost control'

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

Two persons have been arrested for allegedly shooting at a man when he resisted a robbery attempt in Hazrat Nizamuddin, the police said on Friday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South East) R.P. Meena said the accused – Shoaib alias Mangla and Faizal – were nabbed from Jangpura Extension following a tip-off.

On October 1, the police received a PCR call that stated that two persons came on a bike, shot at a man and fled the spot. On reaching the spot, the police were told that the injured, Brijesh Kumar, had been taken to hospital.

Kumar alias Bholu is a daily wage financier at the railway station and gives money to the needy. At 8 p.m., he was near gate number 1 when two persons came and tried to rob him of his bag containing cash. When he resisted, they shot him in his leg and chest and ran away.

During interrogation, the accused said they committed crimes to live a lavish lifestyle with their girlfriends. "They disclosed that it was known to them that two-three persons used to finance money on daily wages at Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station. They said such persons are soft targets as they always have huge cash with them," Mr. Meena said, adding that both of them hold previous criminal records.

that the trailer broke into parts and the driver and the helper died on the spot. The locals informed the police after which the bodies were pulled out. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem and the families informed.

The CCTV footage is being checked from the area to ascertain the sequence of events and to check if another vehicle or person was involved, the police said. No one else was injured when the truck hit a small tempo that was parked nearby. The guard, who used to stay at the godown, escaped unharmed.

A case under sections of rash and negligent driving and death due to negligence has been registered and further investigation is under way.

In another incident on Wednesday morning, two men were killed after a truck carrying a container toppled over their car in Lajpat Nagar.

### In the muck



**Unmasked and how:** A boy collects trash from a garbage dump outside a slum cluster in Seemapuri. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

## Court says witnesses' silence casts doubt, grants bail to riot accused

In its order, it said Irshad Ahmed was not named in the FIR and there were no specific allegations against him in the case

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

the police two weeks later. It further said though two constables were eyewitnesses and had identified the riotous mob on February 25 in Dalipur due to which complainant Zeeshan incurred a loss of about ₹20 lakh.

The court said in its order passed on September 8, Ahmed has also not been named in the FIR and there were no specific allegations

against him in the case.

"In the present matter, as per the statements of Constable Vikrant and Constable Pawan [both are eye witnesses and were present at the scene of crime on the date of incident], they had identified the applicant [Ahmed] and other co-accused persons resorting to rioting. However, they neither made any complaint on the date of inci-

dent, that is February 25, 2020 nor reported about the same to senior officers.

"Till the recording of their statements under section 161 [examination by police] CrPC [Code of Criminal Procedure] by the IO [investigating officer] they remained completely silent about the incident and blew the lids only on March 6, 2020 when their statements were re-

corded by the IO. It casts a serious doubt on the credibility of witnesses," it said in its order.

**Not captured in CCTV**  
It further noted that Ahmed has not been captured in any CCTV footage/viral video of the incident.

Communal clashes had broken out in north-east Delhi on February 6, 2020 when their statements were re-

## DDA suggests changes to MPD-2021

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Friday recommended changes to the Master Plan for Delhi (MPD) - 2021 to include stockists and wholesale dealers of medicines and drugs in mixed use regulations.

The proposal to notify the amendment to the existing master plan was made in a meeting chaired by L-G Anil Baijal, who is also the DDA Chairman.

The urban body in a statement said: "Various representations from the Drugs Control Department as well as chemist and distribution authorities were received regarding grant or renewal of drug sale licenses in residential plots or flats. Accordingly, the authority recommended the inclusion of stockists and dealers of medicines and drugs in mixed use regulations in MPD 2021." This will now be sent to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for issuance of notifications.

In a bid to promote greenery in the Capital, the land-owning agency also approved a proposal by which public sector undertaking, authorities or boards constituted under the government and RWAs can adopt parks of any size instead of the minimum 3 acre parks, which was the norm earlier.

**Land for temple**  
The authority also approved allotment of 400 square metres of land for Guru Ravidas Temple in Jahapanah city forest for further pro-

Timings

DELHI

SATURDAY, OCT. 10	
RISE 06:19	SET 17:57
RISE 00:00	SET 13:33
SUNDAY, OCT. 11	
RISE 06:20	SET 17:56
RISE 00:05	SET 14:23
MONDAY, OCT. 12	
RISE 06:21	SET 17:55
RISE 01:07	SET 15:09

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

Delhi Palam Today  
36°C Pleasant morning and warm afternoon would prevail. Moderate gusty wind likely.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow  
36°C Pleasant morning and sunny day with light winds. S

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Left parties in Haryana declare support for farmers' stir

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM

The Haryana units of four Left parties on Friday declared their active support for the farmers' ongoing agitation against three farm Bills.

At a joint meeting at Rohtak, the parties asked their cadres and urged upon the mass fronts to mobilise all sections of people in support of the programme of action announced by All-India Kisan Sangharsh Co-ordination Committee for boycotting all those public representatives who were supporting the bill for their personal vested political interests.

The meeting held under the presidentship of Prem Singh Gehlawat of CPI(ML) was attended by Surender Singh and Inderjit Singh (CPM), Daryao Singh Kashayap and Satpal Beniwal (CPI), Satyawan and Anoop Singh of SUCI(C).

At the meeting, farmers of Haryana were greeted for putting up a stiff resistance against the three farm Bills imposed in dictatorial manner and were bound to destroy the crucial sector of agriculture as well as the larger national interests, including food security.

The left parties will also support the November 26 and 27 'Delhi Chalo' programme.

The meeting condemned the Hathras horror and denounced the Yogi government of Uttar Pradesh whose conduct was a blot not only on the Constitution and rule of law, but also against the humanity.

# Capital sees 2,860 new COVID-19 cases; active cases stand at 21,955

55.06% of ICU beds with ventilators and 57.6% without ventilators are occupied

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

As many as 2,860 new COVID-19 cases were reported in Delhi in the past 24 hours, taking the total number of cases to 3,03,693, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Friday. Moreover, 39 more deaths have been reported, taking the total number of deaths to 5,692.

Of the total cases, 2,76,046 people have recovered and there are 21,955 active cases. The number of new cases has been less than 3,000 for the past eight days, but the number of daily tests which was above 60,000 in mid-September was only 48,692 on an average during these eight days.

As per Friday's bulletin, the number of active cases, people in hospitals, and peo-

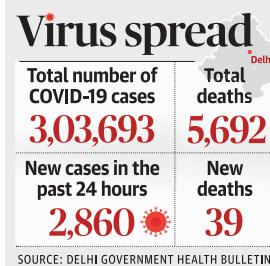


Rapid antigen test in progress in the Capital on Friday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

ple under home isolation have decreased compared to Thursday.

Out of the total 15,833 beds available for COVID-19 treatment in the city, 66.9% are vacant as per government data. But 55.06% of the ICU beds with ventilators and 57.6% of the ICU beds without ventilators are full.

The positivity rate (percent-



tage of people testing positive for every 100 tests done) was 5.8%, which is lower than September. The overall positivity rate till now is 8.6%. The number of containment zones in the city is 2,727.

**Likely surge**  
Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Friday said that a report by an expert committee has directed Delhi to prepare for a surge of 15,000 daily COVID-19 cases and said that they will implement the sug-

gestions given by the committee.

"It has been said [in the report] that there could be 15,000 cases a day. We have to look at it, the last 15 days trend has been decreasing. We have around 16,000 beds and the occupancy is around 40%. Even if cases increase a little we can handle. If we have to increase [beds], we will," he said.

On Thursday, *The Hindu* had reported that the report, which is yet to be made public, said that the Capital should prepare for a surge of 15,000 COVID-19 cases a day during winter months and patients may come from outside Delhi in "large numbers".

The experts have done a lot of hard work [for the report] and the government will implement the recommendations," he added.

Mr. Kejriwal also said that the Delhi government will

form a panel of agencies for tree transplantation and the government departments concerned will con-

tact these agencies.

A few days back, the people of Delhi started a huge movement, 'Yuddh, Pradushan Ke Viruddh', against the air pollution levels. Various measures will be taken under this, includ-

ing EV, tree transplantation, and preventing stubble burning. One of the key components of this campaign was the tree transplantation policy," Mr. Kejriwal said at a digital briefing.

**Save and preserve**  
The woodland of Delhi is very dense and the trees are old and strong because

Delhi is quite an old city and the government constantly tries to save and pre-

serve trees but often due to construction and develop-

ment work trees are cut down, Mr. Kejriwal said.

Until now, he said, the policy entailed planting 10 saplings as a compensatory effort if one tree was sup-

posed to be cut. The tree

which was cut could be

around 400-500 years old and a symbol of how nature

preserved it and nurtured it

for so many years and was

different from newly plant-

ed saplings.

"We have passed the tree

transplantation policy. Del-

hi is the first State in the

country where this policy

has been passed. Along

with retaining the policy of

planting 10 saplings for ev-

ery one tree that is cut, we

can transplant trees addi-

tionally. The process in-

volves uprooting a tree

from a particular spot, lift-

ing it, and planting it at

another spot," the Chief Mi-

nister said.

A minimum of 80%

of trees affected by a project,

he said, over and above

compensatory afforestation

of planting of 10 saplings,

will be transplanted. Also, a

minimum of 80% of the

transplanted trees should

survive and ensuring this

would be the responsibility

of the agencies that will

take permission from us.

The Delhi government

will also form a panel of the

# Delhi Cabinet gives nod for 'Tree Transplantation Policy'

Delhi is the first State in India to pass this policy, says CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Cabinet at a meeting on Friday approved the 'Tree Transplantation Policy' for the preservation of trees in the Capital. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the Cabinet also gave its nod for the installation of the second smog tower in the world at Connaught Place within ten months.



Two smog towers are being installed in Delhi.. one will be done by the Centre at Anand Vihar and the second by the Delhi government at Connaught Place

ARVIND KEJRIWAL  
Chief Minister

around 400-500 years old and a symbol of how nature preserved it and nurtured it for so many years and was different from newly planted saplings.

"We have passed the tree transplantation policy. Delhi is the first State in the country where this policy has been passed. Along with retaining the policy of planting 10 saplings for every one tree that is cut, we can transplant trees additionally. The process involves uprooting a tree from a particular spot, lifting it, and planting it at another spot," the Chief Minister said.

A minimum of 80% of trees affected by a project, he said, over and above compensatory afforestation of planting of 10 saplings, will be transplanted. Also, a minimum of 80% of the transplanted trees should survive and ensuring this would be the responsibility of the agencies that will take permission from us.

The Delhi government will also form a panel of the

# Court rejects PIL claiming EPF Act not being followed while enrolling members

Enrolment of ineligible people leads to loss to Centre, EPFO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday dismissed a PIL which claimed that the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act of 1952 and the schemes framed under it were not being followed while enrolling members.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan declined to entertain the plea, which had alleged that ineligible persons were being enrolled as members in the EPF schemes resulting in "major losses" to the Central government and the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).

The plea had also alleged that "in order to save tax and other benefits, employers enrol their old relatives or even themselves as PF mem-

bers on full pay though they are not eligible for PF membership."

"As there is no age limit for enrolment under PF, they keep on contributing to the fund till their death and are able to get tax-free benefits under EPF schemes and also additional Employees Deposit Linked Insurance scheme of ₹6 lakh," it said.

The petition had sought directions to the Centre to modify the existing EPFO software, in accordance with the provisions of the 1952 Act and the schemes framed thereunder, "so that only eligible employees of the covered establishments may be enrolled as members".

PARENTS move HC against fee hike in DPS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Parents of nearly 150 students studying in various branches of Delhi Public School (DPS) have approached the Delhi High Court against the increase in annual and tuition fees in alleged contravention of government orders.

The application has been moved by the parents seeking to intervene in a plea filed by DPS Society against the Delhi government's orders of April 18 – which directed all the private unaided schools not to charge fee, except tuition fees during the lockdown period – and August 28 – which directed them to refund or adjust the amounts other than the tuition fees charged by them.

Until now, he said, the policy entailed planting 10 saplings as a compensatory effort if one tree was sup-

posed to be cut. The tree

which was cut could be

around 400-500 years old and a symbol of how nature

preserved it and nurtured it

for so many years and was

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ery one tree that is cut, we

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tionally. The process in-

volves uprooting a tree

from a particular spot, lift-

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another spot," the Chief Mi-

nister said.

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of planting of 10 saplings,

will be transplanted. Also, a

minimum of 80% of the

transplanted trees should

survive and ensuring this

would be the responsibility

of the agencies that will</

**THE HINDU**  
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**OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE****DEATH****OBITUARY**

Pttd. Member IRDA, Ex Chief General Manager, RBI  
With profound grief we announce the demise of our beloved father  
On 8th October, 2020.  
Mourned by: M. Rukmani (Wife)  
M. Guruprasad & Vidyalakshmi (Son and Daughter - in law)  
Vidhya and Sridhar (Daughter and Son-in-law)  
Srinidhi, Shreya and Akshobh (Grandchildren), Ph: 9884497754

**DEATH****OBITUARY**

For enquiries on announcements in this section, please contact our office at the following number between 10a.m. and 8p.m.  
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(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)  
E-TENDER NOTICE  
No.SG-CNMTP-2020-3-SA-EI  
dt: 08-10-2020

Name of the work: Provision of Electronic Interlocking Signalling arrangements (Both Indoor & Outdoor) at Salem Junction on Salem Division in connection with Salem - Omalur Doubling. Approximate Cash Value: Rs. 1254.01 Lakhs. EMD: Rs. 7,77,000/- Period of Completion: Six months.

Date and time of Tender Closing: 30-10-2020 at 14.00 hrs.

For further details refer Website address: [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in).

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**TEST SERIES**  
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○ Ethics 12th October  
○ Indian Polity, Gov. & IR 14th October  
○ Economy 22nd October

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**Amarinder accuses Badal of trying to hijack farmers' stir**

CM asks him to answer key questions surrounding farm laws

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH**

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Friday asked Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal to answer three key questions surrounding the agriculture laws, accusing him of trying to hijack the farmers' agitation to push his own party's agenda.

The Chief Minister said that Mr. Badal should refrain from commenting on the farm laws till he gives satisfactory answers to the three questions, the answers to which every single farmer of Punjab wanted to know.

"Why did Harsimrat Kaur Badal not oppose the farm ordinances when they were first approved by the Union

Cabinet, of which she was then a member? Why did Sukhbir not support the State government at the all-party meeting he (Captain Amarinder) had convened to evolve a consensus against the anti-farmer legislations? And why did the Akalis boycott the Vidhan Sabha session in which the other parties (baring BJP) had voted in favour of the resolution on the agricultural laws?"

Captain Amarinder said he had been posing these questions to the Badals for the past several weeks but the Akali leaders had been persistently ignoring them.

Reacting to Mr. Badal's so-called request to the Prime Minister to talk to farmer organisations and to listen to

the voice of the people, the Chief Minister asked why he did not remind the PM of his responsibility towards farmers all those years he was with the BJP.

**Direct talks**

Earlier Mr. Badal had said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should address the grievances of the farmers by holding direct talks with farmer organisations to come out with a solution which was acceptable to all.

Mr. Badal announced that the SAD would initiate formation of a national pro-farmer front by coordinating with other like mind regional parties surrounding the issue of farm laws and take it to a logical conclusion.

**OIL resumes Andaman offshore operations**

Its last activity there was 3 decades ago

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI**

the Andaman shores during the 2013-14 fiscal without commercial success or production.

"After 2014, we are the only company to venture into the Andaman waters for exploration activities. But while ONGC were in deep waters, we are getting into shallow waters with a sophisticated multipurpose data acquisition vessel," an OIL spokesperson said.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas had awarded 32 blocks under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy through two rounds of bidding in January and February, 2019. OIL won bids for 12 blocks, including two covering an area of 9,616.7 sq km in shallow waters off the shores of Andaman Islands.

চিঠি মুক্ত করে আপনার প্রিয়জনের সাথে।  
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Virtual /Walk-in- Interview  
Applications are invited through online for the selection of posts of SRF (Biochemistry)- 1 No, SRF (Biotechnology)- 1 No, SRF (Pharmacology)- 1 No, JRF (Pharmacology)- 2 Nos, in various IMR projects in SCRI, Chennai and Research Associate (Siddha) -1 No in NIMH, Hyderabad through Virtual /Walk-in Interview which will be held on the date to be notified later. Last date for submission of online application is 26.10.2020 (05.00 PM). Details available in the website [www.siddhaCouncil.com](http://www.siddhaCouncil.com) and [www.crisidtha.in](http://www.crisidtha.in).  
Director (Scientist-III) I/C

**Office of The Director General of Police Uttarakhand**  
12, Subhash Road, Dehradun

**Re-Tender**

Tender Identification no: DG-III-319/2020

1. Name of work: Installation and Commissioning of Traffic signal in 13 Tri-Junction of Haldwani City, Distt. Nainital & 11 Junction/ Tri junction of Distt. Udhamsinghgarh.
  2. Date of Issue of Tender : 07-10-2020
  3. Last date of Receipt of Tender : 14-10-2020, 10:00 AM
  4. Date of Opening of Tender : 14-10-2020, 11:00 AM
- Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>.

**IG (P&M)**  
Purchase Committee  
Police H.Q., Uttarakhand  
Dehradun

DIPR/UK/13436

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that one unknown male name and address unknown. Age about 50-55 yrs., height 5'4", shallow complexion, face round, thin build wearing red and white lined shirt blue colour pant and black colour slipper in feet was found dead at line No. 03, downline under flyover near Delhi Cantt. Railway Station, Delhi on 19.06.2020.

In this regard a DD No. 01A Dt. 19.06.2020 U/s 174 Cr.PC has been registered at PS Delhi Cantt. Railway Station, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased may kindly inform to the following.

**S.H.O.,**  
PS Delhi Cantt. Railway Station, Delhi.  
Ph.: 011-25688505

DP/4486/RLY/2020

**Government of Himachal Pradesh,  
Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Department.****E-Procurement Notice****INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

1. The Executive Engineer (HQ) Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Department SDA Complex Block NO. 27 Kasumti Shimla-9 (H.P.) on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh Re-invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 cover system on HPPWD form 8 for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

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

**3. Key dates:-**

1. Date of online publication 10/10/2020  
2. Document Download Start and End Date 10/10/2020 10:00 Hrs upto 24/10/2020 5:00 Hrs

3. Bid submission Start and End date 10/10/2020 10:00 Hrs upto 24/10/2020 5:00 Hrs

4. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document. 26/10/2020 11:00 A.M.

5. Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by opening of Financial Bid. 27/10/2020 11:00 A.M.

3. TENDER DATES:- The Tender Document shall be uploaded online in 2 cover:-

(i) Cover-1 shall contain scanned copies of all Technical Documents/Eligibility information"

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

4. SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS:- The bidders are required to submit

(a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of FDR duly placed in favour of Executive Engineer (HQ) Rural Development Department Shimla-9 and other Technical Document in the O/O the Executive Engineer (HQ) RDD Shimla-9 as specified in Key dates Sr. No. -4 on tender opening date, failing which the bids will be declared non responsive.

5. LIST OF MACHINERY, TOOL, PLANT:- The bidders must have to submit/upload the list of machinery/tools/equipment in the form of affidavit.

6. CONTRACTOR'S REGISTRATION:- The bidders have to produce the enlistment of competent authority in appropriate class valid at the time of tender and upload as pdf.

7. GST REGISTRATION:- The bidders have to produce/upload the GST registration at the time of tender and upload as pdf.

8. EMPLOYEES PVIDENT FUND:- The bidders have to produce/upload the EPF No. as pdf.

9. PAN NO:- The bidders have to produce/upload the PAN No in pdf.

10. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:-

The bidder must have successfully completed one similar nature of work not less than 40% of estimated cost during the last 5 years (without liquidated damages or compensation) for job No. 1.

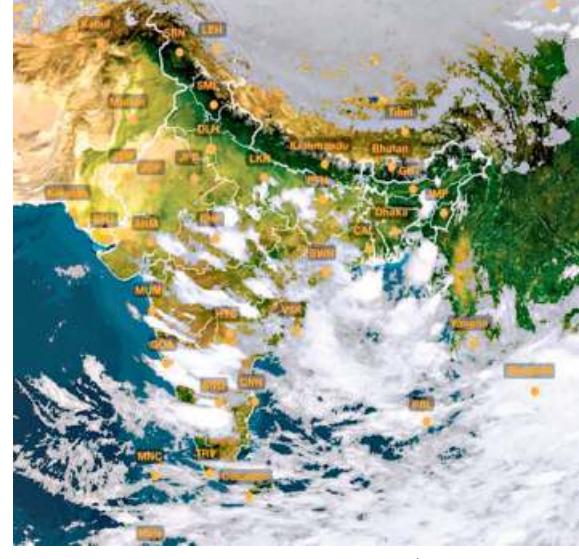
1) Work done certificate and work in hand certificate:- The bidders have to submit/upload the list of work which are completed /in hand (progress) in the proforma given General rule No. 19 in Schedule "F". These statements should be countersigned by the Engineer-in-charge not below the rank of Executive Engineer or equivalent in State/Central Govt. PSU's with his seal. The original/attested copies of same may be submitted at the time of physical submission of tender.

ii) Turn Over:- Bidders have to submit/upload the turnover of last 5 years duly certified from the Chartered Accountant in pdf for job No. 1.

iii) Affidavit:- Contractors have to submit an affidavit wherein mentioned that they have not more than two works in hand in Rural Development & Panchayati Raj

**WEATHER WATCH**

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB; MAP: INSAT/MD (TAKEN AT 18.30 HRS)

**Forecast for Saturday:** Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Chhattisgarh, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Konkan & Goa, Rayalseema, Karikal and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	... -	34.6	26.4	Kozhikode	20.6...	32.5...	24.0
Ahmedabad	-	36.7	23.2	Kurnool	-	34.5...	25.7
Aizawl	-	26.9	-	Lucknow	-	35.4...	22.6
Allahabad	-	36.0	26.4	Madurai	-	36.6...	24.7
Bengaluru	-	30.0	22.0	Mangaluru	25.8...	30.6...	22.2
Bhopal	-	33.6	19.9	Mumbai	-	35.0...	27.0
Bhubaneswar	-	32.8	25.0	Mysuru	12...	30.0...	21.6
Chandigarh	-	35.2	19.0	New Delhi	-	35.2...	19.2
Chennai	-	34.6	28.3	Patna	-	35.4...	26.2
Coimbatore	0.1	33.2	23.2	Port Blair	38.3...	28.1...	23.6
Dehradoon	-	33.2	17.6	Puducherry	-	32.9...	26.6
Gangtok	-	23.6	19.7	Pune	-	33.0...	22.0
Goa	-	32.3	26.8	Raipur	-	33.6...	25.0
Guwahati	-	35.4	28.7	Ranchi	-	31.8...	23.1
Hubballi	-	30.0	22.0	Shillong	5.5...	24.2...	17.4
Hyderabad	-	32.5	23.1	Shimla	-	26.8...	17.3
Imphal	-	31.8	19.3	Srinagar	-	27.0...	7.4
Jaipur	-	36.6	21.4	Thiruvananthapuram	73.4...	32.0...	21.8
Kochi	66.6	30.2	23.2	Tiruchi	-	35.7...	26.2
Kohima	-	25.0	17.6	Vijayawada	16.5...	33.6...	26.6
Kolkata	-	34.7	27.3	Visakhapatnam	13.8...	33.4...	26.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	CODE
Ahmedabad	29	104	1.9	83	113	...
Bengaluru	26	26	.34	103	119	...
Chennai	.5	27	.73	69	...	GREEN
Delhi	33	61	156	235	185	...
Hyderabad	.5	60	13	131	119	...
Kolkata	.9	19	-	96	107	...
Lucknow	10	36	120	259	236	...
Mumbai	18	32	.48	136	171	...
Pune	...	...	...	...	...	...
Visakhapatnam	.8	.48	.11	.83	.92	...

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m. Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 290 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Kozhikode, Kerala recorded a healthy AQI score of 28

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

**SO<sub>2</sub>:** 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<sub>x</sub>:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

**PM<sub>2.5</sub> & PM<sub>10</sub>:** 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

# Maratha leaders bicker on eve of shutdown to demand quota

Sambhajiraje says MVA govt. must fight to vacate Supreme Court's stay order

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

PUNE

While Maratha outfits have called for a shutdown on Saturday in protest over the Supreme Court's stay on the implementation of the quota law, prominent community leaders appear to be bickering among themselves.

On Friday, the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Rajya Sabha MP from Kolhapur, Chhatrapati Sambhajiraje, launched a thinly-veiled attack on other Maratha community leaders like Shiv Sanjran president Vinayak Mete and Praveen Gaikwad for merely giving soundbytes on television instead of actually leading the Maratha activists on the streets.

Considered an influential Maratha community leader, Mr. Gaikwad had attempted to secure a nomination for the Pune Lok Sabha seat in the 2019 general election with the covert backing of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar – an effort which eventually came to cropper.

Mr. Sambhajiraje, who was leading an agitation in Tuljapur in Osmanabad district in Marathwada region, said, "Certain leaders only express their indignation over the apex court's stay [on the Maratha quota] on television... if they have any courage, they must come forward and agitate along with the people on the streets."

The MP said the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government must put its best foot forward in fighting to vacate the Supreme Court's stay order on the implementation of the Maratha quota law in the State. "It will not take much time for these agitations presently comprising



Not backing down: Maratha Kranti Morcha workers stage a protest in Thane. ■ PTI

Certain leaders only express their indignation over the apex court's stay on television. If they have courage, they must agitate with people on the streets

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJIRAJE

BJP Rajya Sabha MP from Kolhapur

only thousands to transform into protests with lakhs of seething and disgruntled Maratha community people," warned Mr. Sambhajiraje.

Meanwhile, the Pune-based Sambhaji Brigade hit out at Mr. Gaikwad as well, while chastising Maratha leaders from both the ruling party as well as the opposition BJP were using the quota movement for their selfish political ends.

"These leaders are not really interested in fighting for the rights of the communities... they have been propped up by the ruling and opposing political factions to drive a wedge in this agitation. The furore over the MPSC issue was a deliberate diversionary tactic," said Mr. Shinde.

exams be held as scheduled on October 11 without any concern for the safety or security of Maratha community students in the time of the pandemic. However, the government has fortunately announced the postponement of the exams, nullifying Mr. Gaikwad's demands," said Manoj Akhare of the Sambhaji Brigade.

Brigade leader Santosh Shinde said in reality, certain Maratha leaders from both the ruling party as well as the opposition BJP were using the quota movement for their selfish political ends.

"They said the Maharashtra Public Service Commission exams should not be conducted till there is clarity on reservation for candidates from the community in government jobs. BJP Rajya Sabha MP Udayanraje Bholase has supported the demand to postpone the October 11 exams.

## Protests across Maharashtra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

Members of Maratha organisations hit the streets in different parts of Maharashtra on Friday to protest against the inept handling of the quota for the community in jobs and education by the Maha Vikas Aghadi government. The protesters accused the State government of adopting a lackadaisical attitude.

They said the Maharashtra Public Service Commission exams should not be conducted till there is clarity on reservation for candidates from the community in government jobs. BJP Rajya Sabha MP Udayanraje Bholase has supported the demand to postpone the October 11 exams.

# Maharashtra expands tele-ICU service to beat COVID-19 in districts

Facility will help patients in remote parts

STAFF REPORTER

MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government on Friday said it is rolling out the tele-ICU service in a number of districts as it has given effective results to combat COVID-19.

On Friday, State Health Minister Rajesh Tope inaugurated the tele-ICU service for Jalgaon and Akola districts. "We have already started this service in Bhavnagar, Aurangabad, Jalna and Solapur. We are now adding two more districts. The method has been proving effective in curing COVID-19 patients. We aim to bring down the fatality rate to 1% using this," said Mr. Tope.

A tele-ICU enables off-site clinicians to interact with bedside staff to consult on patient care.

Last month, participating in a videoconference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray had mentioned about the implementation of tele-ICU

method in the State and had said that the government intends to expand the scheme, especially in remote parts which lack medical experts and can help the patients from distant places using latest communication technology.

"State-of-the-art technology must be used to lower the death rate and to save lives. We are concerned about the death rate of corona patients in the State. We aim to bring it down to 1% or even less," said Mr. Tope.

The Health Minister said that lack of availability of experts in medical field can be compensated using the tele-ICU method. "We have started these services in six districts as of now. But we want to expand the scope of this scheme in all remote areas and primary discussions for the same are complete," he said. Presently, the scheme is being provided under the Corporate Social Responsibility initiative of Medscape India Foundation.



Staying safe: A healthcare worker checks the temperature of a woman at a COVID-19 testing camp in Mumbai. ■ FILE PHOTO

## Four arrested with gutka worth ₹35 lakh in Mahape

3 trucks carrying contraband seized

RAINA ASSAINAR

NAVI MUMBAI

The Anti Narcotic Cell and the Central unit of the Navi Mumbai Crime Branch arrested four people with gutka worth ₹35.53 lakh in Mahape MIDC area on Friday.

The accused have been identified as Priyavrat Abhaykumar Das (29), Munna Shrijanardhan Yadav (28), Jitendra Karthikchandra Das (26), and Akheya Budhadev Khanda (22).

The police have received information that a man based in Gujarat had supplied the gutka to the accused. The accused have been charged under relevant sections of the Food Safety and Standards Act and the Indian Penal Code. They have been remanded in police custody till October 12.

tive for COVID-19 and has been admitted to hospital. He was managing the operations from the hospital. We are investigating the source of the contraband and who was supposed to receive such a large quantity of gutka," senior police inspector Nirvritti Kolhatkar from the Central unit said.

The police have received information that a man based in Gujarat had supplied the gutka to the accused. The accused have been charged under relevant sections of the Food Safety and Standards Act and the Indian Penal Code. They have been remanded in police custody till October 12.

## PRESS NOTICE TO BE ISSUED FOR PUBLICATION IN NEWS PAPERS FOR E-TENDERING

The Executive Engineer IHP Division Hamirpur invites following tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following work(s) through e-tendering Process:-

Name of work	Estimated Cost.	Earnest Money	Time of completion
Balance work for Providing Sewerage Scheme to Nadaun Town in Tehsil Nadaun and Distt Hamirpur (SH- Excavation, laying, jointing and testing of D.I. Pipe of various dia, Manhole chamber of various size, House connection, C/O Pump House , wet well , rising main, S/E of Pumping machinery , genera set and flushing of tank).	Rs. 5,07,52,053/-	Rs. 5,40,021/-	1 Year

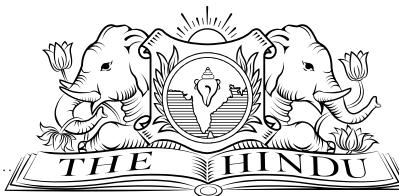
Last date of filing/ uploading the tender through e-tendering 13.10.2020 upto 11.00 AM. The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website www.hptenders.gov.in.

Executive Engineer,  
Jal Shakti Division Hamirpur

## HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT E-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The Executive Engineer HPPWD Division, Kotla Behar, Distt Kangra H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned works from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sr. No. of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD(Rs)	Form cost	Starting date of downloading	Deadline for submission of bid	Eligible class of Contractor	Time Limit
</tbl



## The right balance

Sudden, organic protests should not automatically invite the state's strong arm

Long after Shaheen Bagh became a potent symbol of democratic resistance against a discriminatory law, the Supreme Court has ventured to hold that any such indefinite blockade of a public pathway is unacceptable. And that the administration ought to take action to remove "encroachments and obstructions" placed during such protests. The Court's assertion was made even while "appreciating the existence of the right to peaceful protest against a legislation". On the face of it, the Court's view arises from a straightforward balancing of two contrasting rights – the right to protest and the right to free movement. However, a moot question is whether the manner and content of a protest should always conform to forms deemed acceptable by the law. Protests, by their very nature, are not always rooted in legality, but rather derive legitimacy from the rightness of the underlying cause and the extent of public support. In many cases, they are against laws and regulations perceived as unjust. A flash strike, a spontaneous road block, a call for a complete shutdown, or a campaign to fill up jails by defying prohibitory orders – each of these is not, in a strict sense, legal; but, at the same time, it is an inevitable part of the culture of protest in a democracy. In this case, the Court rightly notes that the administration neither negotiated with the protesters in Shaheen Bagh nor tried to clear the scene.

Any finding that a peaceful protest had continued too long, or in a place deemed inconvenient to others, should not encourage the administration to seek early curbs on the freedom of assembly. After the pandemic led to the end of the protests, there was little left for adjudication, and the Court's remarks might come across as a gratuitous offering to administrators looking to de-legitimise protests. Following the earlier judgment that any 'bandh' is illegal, courts routinely stayed sector-wide strikes. Another aspect of the present ruling is the assertion that protests should be confined to "designated places". Such judicial certitude may end up undermining the larger democratic need for public expression of dissent in a manner and place that would be most effective. While notified demonstrations are subject to regulations regarding time and space, it may not be possible to extend the same to spontaneous, organic and leaderless protests driven by a cause. The ruling should not form the basis for suppression of such protests by the force of the state. Both principles – the need for balance between the right to protest and the right to free movement, and the rule that protests should take place at designated spots – are salutary from an administrative point of view. But these cannot become unquestionable axioms to the point of rendering any and all protests that cause inconvenience to others the target of the strong arm of the state.

## Show of unity

The real test for the reunited AIADMK is in distribution of the party ticket for the election

By ending the rift over the Chief Ministerial candidate for the 2021 Tamil Nadu Assembly election, the leaders of the ruling AIADMK might have enthused the cadres, and also denied political rivals an opportunity to exploit the situation. But the real challenge is in winning on the plank of performance after two consecutive terms in power. In the absence of the party having a mass leader, both Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami and his deputy in government, O. Panneerselvam, appear to have clearly understood their respective political limitations and made compromises. Mr. Panneerselvam, who had held the post of Chief Minister thrice for short tenures, has agreed to let Mr. Palaniswami be the party's face in the election, perhaps realising that the latter has consolidated his hold among people who matter in the AIADMK. On his part, the Chief Minister shed his reluctance to constitute an 11-member steering committee, a long-pending key demand of Mr. Panneerselvam, to avert any rebellion from him, irrespective of its political impact. Though shorn of strong and charismatic leaders such as M.G. Ramachandran and Jayalalithaa, the AIADMK leadership showed enough resolve to stick together. Besides, it looked as if there was no role for any outsider this time, unlike in August 2017 when the Palaniswami and Panneerselvam factions merged, as the latter claimed, on the advice of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This seems an achievement in itself given the public spectacle of Ministers playing messengers between them on August 15 and the sharp exchange of words at a marathon on meeting of the party executive on September 28.

The nomination of Mr. Palaniswami, who became the Chief Minister in February 2017 under dramatic circumstances, ensures continuity; he has over the last few years acquired the image of a doer with a business-like approach. However, conflicts could still arise over the functions and powers of the steering panel, which appears to be an overarching body but with the balance seemingly tilted in favour of Mr. Palaniswami, who has six nominees, all cabinet ministers. The equations between Mr. Palaniswami and Mr. Panneerselvam could be put to the test during the distribution of the party ticket to AIADMK aspirants. Electorally, the impact of the ruling party's latest decisions will depend upon multiple factors including a possible realignment of political forces and actor Rajinikanth launching his proposed party. Besides, a further churning within the AIADMK cannot be ruled out if V.K. Sasikala, Jayalalithaa's aide and the party's ousted interim general secretary, chooses a political role for herself upon her release from jail in Bengaluru. And the party will have to contend with the main opposition, the DMK, which, along with allies, made a near-sweep of the Lok Sabha election last year.

# The U.S. election just became more uncertain

Opinion polls could be misleading and the pandemic's impact difficult to assess; the cyclical shift in politics is unsure



RAKESH SOOD

All elections are unpredictable and the American presidential elections are no exception. Yet, such is the power of incumbency that there have been only four occasions since 1900 where a sitting and elected U.S. President has been defeated by his challenger for a second term. The 2020 election was shaping up to be a cliff-hanger when President Donald Trump announced Friday last week that he and First Lady Melania Trump had tested positive for COVID-19, further darkening the clouds of uncertainty. He returned to the White House after three days of hospitalisation but question marks persist.

### One term presidencies

In 1912, Democratic challenger Woodrow Wilson scored a decisive victory over President William Howard Taft, seeking his second term. However, the reason was a divided Republican vote. President Theodore Roosevelt, the U.S. President from 1901 to 1909, had supported Taft for his first term. Subsequently, he got disenchanted and eventually split the Republican party, running as the candidate of the newly established progressive party, and coming second in the race. Taft, already weakened with the infighting in the Republican party, emerged a distant third.

The second one-term President was Herbert Hoover, defeated in a landslide victory by his Democratic challenger Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932. This election was fought against the backdrop of the Great Depression. Roosevelt won on the promise of the New Deal and then went on to win in 1936, 1940 and 1944. By the time he began his fourth term in January 1945, he was already suffering from high

blood pressure and congestive heart disease and died three months later. Till then, there was no restriction on the number of terms for President; the two-term limit was introduced with the 22nd constitutional amendment in 1951.

In 1976, Democratic challenger Jimmy Carter defeated President Gerald Ford who had taken over the presidency in 1974 after President Nixon resigned when faced with the threat of impeachment. He had earlier been appointed (not elected) Vice-President in 1973 after Vice-President Spiro Agnew resigned. In U.S. history, Ford is the only one to have held both positions of Vice-President and President without having won an election to either.

The 1970s was a decade marked by an energy crisis sparked by oil price hikes, high inflation, economic downturn and rising unemployment. The U.S. Embassy hostage crisis in Tehran in 1979 following the Islamic revolution in Iran became emblematic of eroding confidence among the people that made it easier for Republican challenger Ronald Reagan to trounce Democratic incumbent President Jimmy Carter in 1980. The Democratic party was already polarised as Senator Ted Kennedy had challenged President Carter in the party primaries.

Both 1932 and 1980 also marked deeper power shifts; in 1932, the Democrats took back Congress continuing till the 1950s, introducing social security; the 1980s saw the return of the Republicans with promises of tax cuts and supply side economics.

The last one term President in the 20th century was George H.W. Bush who had won easily in 1988 after being Reagan's Vice-President for eight years. He lost his re-election bid to rank newcomer, Democratic challenger Bill Clinton in 1992 despite having notched up a series of foreign policy successes during the first term – Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan followed by the unification of Germany and the break-up of the Soviet Union.



"It's the economy, stupid", became the catchphrase of the successful Clinton campaign.

### Unresolved questions

The handling of the COVID-19 pandemic was going to be an issue but Mr. Trump testing positive raised a bunch of fresh questions: about implications for continuity for government, and, for the election campaign leading to polling on November 3 and its follow-through till the winner takes office on January 20, 2021.

Presidential succession to ensure continuity of government was addressed in the Presidential Succession Act (1947) and the 25th Constitutional Amendment (1967), triggered by the assassination of President J.F. Kennedy in 1963. In case a President dies, resigns or is otherwise incapacitated, the succession moves to the Vice-President, and then on to the Speaker of the House, the President *pro tempore* of the Senate and the members of the Cabinet beginning with the Secretary of the State.

Campaign continuity is more uncertain. Elections are held every four years in November on the Tuesday after the first Monday of the month. Changing the date would need bipartisan consensus, hardly likely when the country is in the throes of a campaign. This year, the popular election on November 3 will be followed by the 538-member Electoral College voting on December 14. Congress will certify the Electoral College vote on January 6, 2021 officially declaring the President (and the Vice-President) who will assume office at the inauguration on January 20. During this, when exactly does the winning candidate become "President

dent-elect" is a question on which legal experts still differ.

There is no legal guidance in case a candidate dies or is unable to campaign shortly before the November polling or any time thereafter. For 2020, in any event, the ballot papers are already printed and millions of postal ballots were cast when the question surfaced.

Were a vacancy to arise after November 3, the Electoral College will be guided by the two political parties since the primaries process of anointing candidates is their jealously guarded preserve. Under the circumstances they may just find it expedient to bump up the Vice-President to fill the presidential slot but how the Vice-President's slot will then be filled remains uncertain.

### Tight race or landslide

How will this uncertainty play out in 2020? Mr. Trump returned to the White House on October 5 and two days later was back in the Oval Office, announcing that he had recovered fully. Doctors described the cocktail of drugs administered to the President as an experimental therapeutic.

Mr. Trump has refused to participate in any virtual TV debates with Joe Biden, the Democratic presidential nominee and former Vice-President, and then on to the Speaker of the House, the President *pro tempore* of the Senate and the members of the Cabinet beginning with the Secretary of the State.

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seen as a moderate and a liberal voice.

Earlier, ratification of federal judicial appointments was approved not by a simple majority but a larger (filibuster proof) majority of 60. This invariably meant getting support from across party aisles. However, growing polarisation and politicisation of judicial appointments in recent decades often led to prolonged impasses and nominations had to be withdrawn. In 2013, then Democratic Senate majority leader Harry Reid worked out a deal to permit judicial appointments for Circuit and Appeal Courts to be cleared by a simple majority of 51. It boomeranged when the Republican Senate leader Mitch McConnell employed the same 'nuclear option' to approve the appointment of Judge Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court in 2017 and is threatening to use it again.

### Surveys and reality

In all four instances of single term presidencies, the challenger won a decisive victory and in three instances, a landslide victory. Most opinion polls indicate a lead (not landslide) for Mr. Biden but polls can be notoriously misleading; even in 2016, Hillary Clinton led in the polls even winning more popular votes but losing the electoral college.

It is also impossible to predict whether the pandemic will catalyse a cyclical shift seen in 1932 and 1980. Just as there are old-time Republicans who wish they had another candidate instead of Mr. Trump, many staunch Democrats wonder whether Mr. Biden will be sufficiently committed to their progressive agenda. Which party is more fractured internally remains speculative.

Amid the growing uncertainty, only a decisive victory on November 3 will show that U.S. democracy has developed immunity from COVID-19.

Rakesh Sood is a former diplomat and currently Distinguished Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation

## Saving lives under the long shadow of the pandemic

Along with fighting the virus, there is a growing need to make mental health and suicide prevention a priority



LAKSHMI VIJAYAKUMAR &  
SUKRITI CHAUHAN

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted populations around the world in multiple ways. The fear of being infected and anxiety about an uncertain present and future have impacted mental health severely. Lockdowns have led to isolation, in turn heightening anxiety and causing depression in societies, particularly in vulnerable communities.

While the novel coronavirus pandemic is unprecedented in its scope and scale, previous studies suggest an elevated risk of suicide during such times'. There is some evidence that 'deaths by suicide increased in the United States during the 1918-19 influenza pandemic, and among older people in the 1950s.

Unfortunately, India has the dubious distinction of reporting the first COVID-19-related suicide in the world, on February 12, 2020. While the pandemic has affected the entire country, case incidence rates are the worst in States such as Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh. A worrying overlap reveals itself as some of these States are also major contributors to suicidal deaths per year – Maharashtra (18,916), followed by Tamil Nadu (13,493), West Bengal (12,665), Madhya Pradesh (12,457) and Karnataka (11,288). Dire socio-economic conditions arising from the pandemic – mass migration, un-

progress as one of the fastest growing economies led to large paradigm shifts in the daily lives of its citizens. Major lifestyle shifts led to the rise of many lifestyle disorders in the last decade. Mental health disorders are one of the disorders of most concern, which have been swept under the carpet of stigma and discrimination. Many suicides are related to psychological disorders and distress.

### New normal, consequences

The pandemic's massive toll on human well-being – in a physical and mental sense – has completely changed the way people live. Necessary precautions such as social distancing, limited interactions and mask usage have become the new normal, with a huge social, physical, economic and mental consequences.

Unfortunately, India has the dubious distinction of reporting the first COVID-19-related suicide in the world, on February 12, 2020. While the pandemic has affected the entire country, case incidence rates are the worst in States such as Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh. A worrying overlap reveals itself as some of these States are also major contributors to suicidal deaths per year – Maharashtra (18,916), followed by Tamil Nadu (13,493), West Bengal (12,665), Madhya Pradesh (12,457) and Karnataka (11,288). Dire socio-economic conditions arising from the pandemic – mass migration, un-

employment and economic distress – make at-risk groups even more vulnerable during these times.

### Rising stress

While progress on a COVID-19 vaccine is promising, uncertainty as a result of the pandemic is here to stay for the foreseeable future. The fear of getting infected, coupled with a lack of knowledge and the economic fallout has created a new level of stress not seen by many before. This is compounded by isolation from the community, causing high levels of mental distress and ultimately, COVID-19-related suicides for many. This situation is the worse among vulnerable populations who are susceptible to greater risks of infections, such as health-care workers, infected people, the elderly, migrant workers, those from resource-poor backgrounds, women facing domestic violence, individuals with compromised immunity, and those suffering from physical or psychological problems.

A case series of newspaper reports of suicides in India during the early lockdown phase found that suicide was associated with the fear of infection, social isolation and pandemic-related economic

concerns. The findings reveal that one in four of these deaths occurred among hospitalised patients, demonstrating the need for extra care and vigilance during institutional treatment for either COVID-19 or any other illness. The sudden closure of alcohol/liquor outlets resulted in an increase in alcohol-related suicides.

As we continue to fight the novel coronavirus, there is a growing need to make mental health and suicide prevention a priority. At an individual level, any early signs of poor mental health such as a sudden change in behaviour, substance use, anxiety, disturbed sleep and difficulty in communication should not be ignored. While the feeling of uncertainty during this pandemic is normal, being informed and limiting ourselves to authentic sources of information and reducing exposure to distressing news is a good mechanism to help a person cope with the situation.

### Media's role

Suicide prevention requires a mix of a top-down and a bottom-up approach, ensuring that all interventions are rooted in empathy. India has created a task force to develop a national suicide prevention strategy. The plan incorporates the three universal strategies, including a ban or reduction in access to highly hazardous pesticides, reduction in consumption and availability of alcohol, and a non-sensationalised and responsible

portrayal of suicide by the media. The media would need to follow Press Council of India's guidelines on reportage of suicide and also create awareness about suicide prevention (<https://bit.ly/36UGIpI>).

### Seeking support is key

There is an urgent need for destigmatising suicide as a phenomenon and ensure there is an increase in the number of functional and accessible helplines and training of gatekeepers. Most importantly, a system intervention can focus on identifying, supporting and referring suicidal individuals at all levels of the health-care system. It is essential that if suicide has been attempted the individual has the required intervention and regular contact support.

A majority of individuals who are suicidal do not really want to die but find living difficult. Support at the right moment can change this decision. Understanding, compassion and support, at both an individual and the systemic levels, can save a life. On World Mental Health Day (October 10; <https://bit.ly/34J79fq>), there is the most important message for the ones who may be having suicidal thoughts: You are not alone and must reach out for support, as help is available.

Dr. Lakshmi Vijayakumar is Founder, SNEHA, a suicide prevention centre. Dr. Sukriti Chauhan is a public health policy expert and Founder, ETI Foundation



employment and economic distress – make at-risk groups even more vulnerable during these times.

### CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

Factual error: "In search of the muse" (Friday Review article, Oct. 9, 2020) erroneously referred to Sahir Ludhianvi's number "Chalo ek bar phir..." as a song from the film, *Hamraaz* (1967). It is the policy of The Hindu to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition (place of publication), date and page. The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-284297/28576300 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday); Fax: +91-44-2855263; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in; Mail: Readers' Editor, The Hindu, Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860 Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002, India. All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone number. No personal visits. The Terms of Reference for the Readers' Editor are on [www.thehindu.com](http://www.thehindu.com)

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what will be in store for the ruling party. Incidentally, there seems to be no real abatement of COVID-19 in the State; will this be a factor too in the election?

MANI NATARAJAN,  
Chennai

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to [letters@thehindu.co.in](mailto:letters@thehindu.co.in) must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

### Ram Vilas Paswan

The passing of Dalit icon and Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan comes at a time when India has been deeply stunned by the Hathras tragedy, which includes the victim's cremation by the state in a midnight shocker. As a Dalit leader, he was at the forefront in issues concerning Dalits, the Backward Classes and minorities. He was the voice of aspirational Dalits and a tall leader in his right (Page 1, "Ram Vilas Paswan passes away", October 9). P. HARIDAS, Chennai

### ■ Mr. Paswan's passing is a loss not only to politics but

# Killing love with caste pride

In September, the murder of a Vysya man married to a Reddy woman by her family brought into focus once again the incidence of caste-related killings in Telangana. **Serish Nanisetti, Marri Ramu and Abhinay Deshpande** report on murders in the name of honour and the state's inability to curb them

**O**n June 10, 2020, Avanthi Reddy stepped into the sunlight, ready to run away from home and be reunited with her lover. While most people feared leaving their homes in the midst of a raging pandemic, sunlight meant freedom and a new beginning for the 23-year-old. Seven months earlier, Avanthi's family had forced her to quit her job, seized her mobile phone, and locked her up in a room in her own home. She had finally managed to escape that day. Within two hours of eloping, she and her boyfriend Chinta Yoga Hemanth Kumar, 28, got married in a Santoshmata temple in Nalgandla.

But just over three months later, tragedy struck the young couple. On September 24, Hemanth was kidnapped and murdered, and his body thrown into a clump of bushes by the roadside in the neighbouring Sangareddy district of Telangana. According to Avanthi's statement to the Cyberabad police, the murderer was committed at the behest of her father, Donthireddy Laxma Reddy, and other family members. They were furious that their young daughter, who belonged to a family of nouveau riche landowners, had chosen as her husband a man from the Vysya community of traders. Unable to convince her to stay away from Hemanth, they hatched a plot to kill him.

The news about Hemanth's death broke when Amrutha Varshini, 21, was beginning her 140-km journey from Miryalaguda to Hyderabad. The discussions on TV of yet another 'honour killing' vividly brought to Amrutha's mind the gruesome details of her husband's death two years earlier at the hands of killers hired by her father. Amrutha is from the Vysya community; her husband Pranay was a Dalit.

Amrutha, then five months pregnant, was walking with Pranay and her mother-in-law Premalatha towards their car parked outside a hospital gate when the assailant struck. Amrutha heard a loud thud. "I turned and I could not find Pranay for a moment. An unidentified killer who had approached us from behind hit my husband with a machete on his neck," she recalls. The CCTV footage showed the two women screaming for help even as the killer, a tall man in a safari suit, inflicted a second blow on Pranay bringing him to the ground in a pool of blood. He died before he could be given emergency care. That fateful day was September 14, 2018.

"It was shocking that some people from my community cursed me for marrying Pranay even after he was murdered. They even formed a 'fans association' in the name of my father, Maruthi Rao," she says. Rallies were taken out in support of Rao, a top builder. Rao and the hired assassin were later arrested by the police.

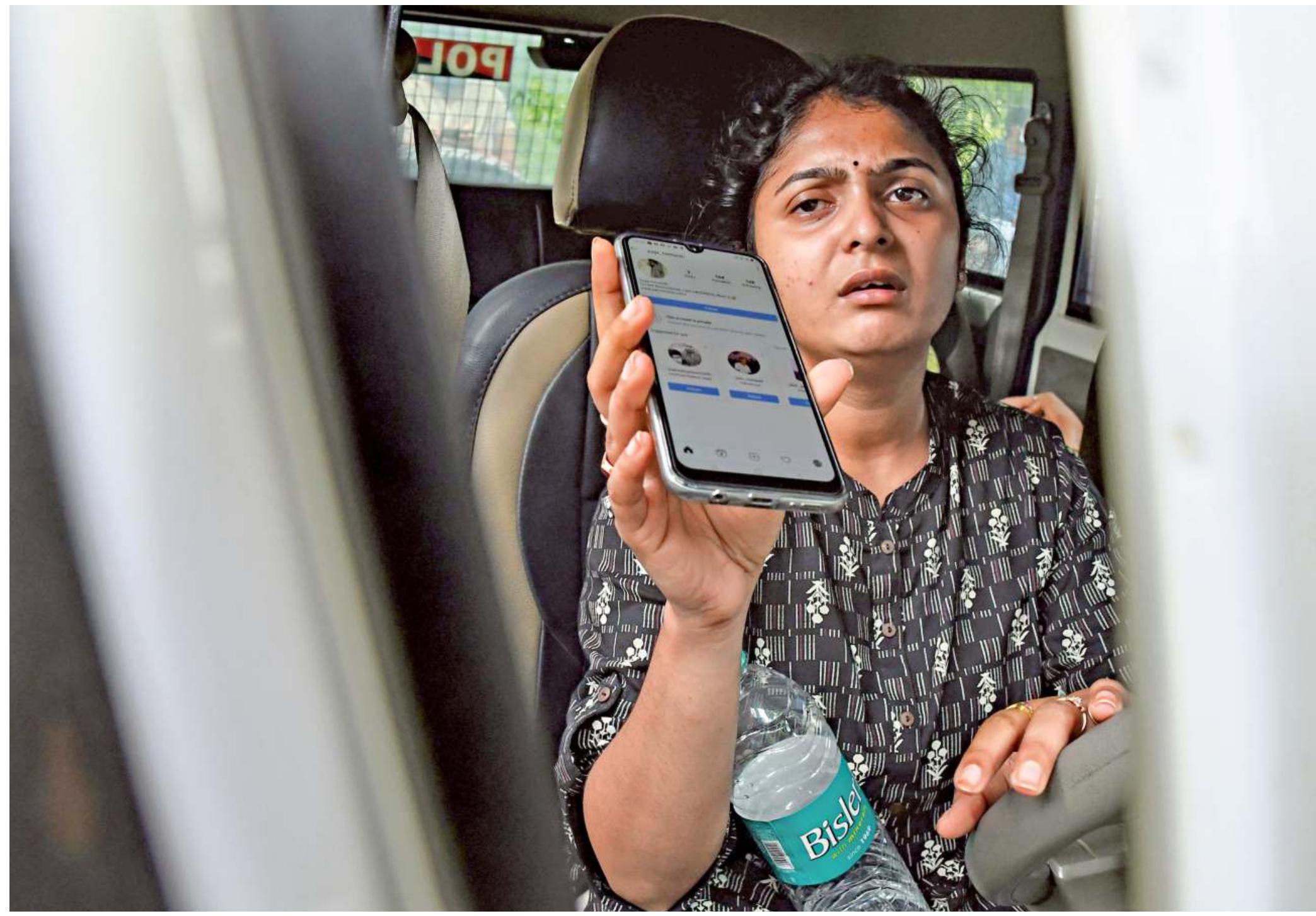
## The police as counsellors

Caste-related killings are not new in Telangana. Citing the incidence of such crimes in Telangana and Uttar Pradesh, even before Hemanth and Pranay were murdered, Jharna Das Baidya, a Member of Parliament of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), made an impassioned plea in Parliament in 2017 for a special law to curb such crimes. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, there were 28 'honour killings' in 2014, 251 in 2015, and 77 in 2016 across India.

The 242nd Law Commission Report, too, sought a new law on 'prevention of interference with the freedom of matrimonial alliances'. Following the Supreme Court ruling on March 27, 2018 in *Shakti Vahini v. Union of India* laying down preventive, punitive and remedial measures to stem such crimes, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued an advisory to all the States. It ordered the States to create special cells in "every district comprising the Superintendent of Police, the District Social Welfare Officer, and District Adi-Dravidar Welfare Officer to receive petitions/complaints of harassment of and threat to couples of inter-caste marriage". The advisory stated that these special cells should create a 24-hour helpline to aid couples in distress. In Hyderabad, the helpline is called 'Bharosa (trust)'.

However, instead of protecting young couples, the police is reportedly counselling them. Hemanth's killing could have been averted, says Avanthi. "If the police official had not slammed the phone down when I called him up less than a month into my marriage, Hemanth would have been alive today. They refused to acknowledge the letter submitted by us about our safety (a few days after the marriage)," she says.

Avanthi says the police often summoned the family for counselling. She narrates the time she was called to the Chandanagar police station along with her in-laws on June 17. "There were more than 50 people from my parents' side. They came in batches of 10, fell at my feet, spoke about 'honour' and asked me to come back home. This went on for five hours. Finally, close to



Avanthi Reddy, whose husband Hemanth Kumar was killed by assassins hired by her family, waits outside the Osmania General Hospital mortuary in Hyderabad. (Below): Pranay's mother Premalatha weeps next to her son's body at Miryalguda in Nalgonda district. Pranay, a Dalit, was killed for marrying Amrutha, who is from the Vysya community, by a killer hired by her father. ■ NAGARA GOPAL, SINGAM VENKATARAMANA



midnight, I spoke to the police and left the station," she recalls. Avanthi is now at her in-laws' place. Her parental home is just a short distance away.

"It isn't just about caste. My family spoke of differences in financial status too, but that's also not much (between our families). They kept telling me about *paruvu* (Telugu for 'pride' or 'honour')," says Avanthi.

About 50 km from Hyderabad is Gomaram, the ancestral village of Donthireddy Laxma Reddy. Dalits say they are not allowed to enter the temples of Shiva and Hanuman there. "We are not allowed into the temples," says Errala Seenu who lives in the basti nearby. Reddy's house is adjacent to the temple. It is this caste pride that Reddy brought to Hyderabad and embossed in large letters on his three-storeyed mansion.

## Tricked into stepping out

On September 24, Avanthi was about to open the refrigerator to plan lunch for the day when she heard a loud knock on the door. Her relatives stood outside, pleading with her to go home with them. They tried to persuade her to meet her parents. After 40 minutes of cajoling, they finally convinced Avanthi to meet her parents. But she insisted that Hemanth accompany her. Hemanth called his parents too. "My aunts and cousins were so anguished that I felt they were reaching out to us," says Avanthi.

The couple got dressed for the visit. When they were about to get into their vehicle, Avanthi's relatives forced them to get into the vehicles they had come in. "They were rough with us," she says showing a bruise on her forearm.

Hemant's parents reached just in time to see the cars leaving the house. When Hemanth tried to wave to them to get their attention, Avanthi's cousins pulled his hand into the car. But Hemanth's parents saw him and tried to follow the vehicles. However, they were unable to tail the cars that zoomed away. Suspecting foul play, they alerted the police.

Meanwhile, fear gripped Avanthi

when the cars turned towards the Nehru Outer Ring Road instead of turning towards her parents' house. She asked Hemanth to jump out of the car, and they both did. Avanthi held Hemanth's hand and ran barefoot shouting for help. But the passers-by and commuters at the Gopanpally Tanda crossroads turned out to be mute spectators. In the chase that ensued, her maternal uncle Yugandhar Reddy grabbed Hemanth and pushed him into the car with the hired killers. The car sped away on the Outer Ring Road. Avanthi sat by the roadside wailing for help, but no one came forward. When her in-laws arrived, the family rushed to the Cyberabad Commissionerate. There they were instructed to go to the nearby Gachibowli police station since this was a case of kidnapping. Losing precious time, Avanthi rushed to the Gachibowli police station to file a complaint. In less than an hour, about 10 of her relatives were detained and brought to the police station, but it was too late to save Hemanth. His body was discovered a few hours later; he had been strangled.

The police could have prevented the murder as most of the accused were in their custody in less than an hour of the kidnapping, says Avanthi. "They had enough time to save Hemanth, but they couldn't."

## A tragic love story

Avanthi and Hemanth dated for eight years. She got to know him when his family moved from Guntur to Hyderabad to the same area that she lived in: Chandanagar. In 2013, when Avanthi was in Class 11, a lecturer informed Avanthi's father about her relationship with Hemanth. Her father warned her against meeting him. When she completed her engineering degree, Donthireddy Laxma Reddy gifted his daughter an iPhone.

Avanthi joined an educational firm as

a marketing coordinator in June 2019. The job entailed visits to schools in Hyderabad and its neighbouring districts. "During that time, Hemanth and I used to travel together. It was the only time we got to spend together. He used to pick me up and drop me at the sites," she says.

But their happiness was short-lived. On November 27, 2019, a 'stranger' photographed the couple while they were together and sent it to Donthireddy Laxma Reddy. "That day, when I returned home at 8.30 p.m., I saw my whole family gathered at home. They began quizzing me about our relationship. They snatched my mobile phone to check my messages and calls, but found none. I used to delete messages and call logs after every conversation. But they stumbled upon Snapchat, where they found our photographs," says Avanthi.

That was her last day of freedom. Avanthi's family forced her to resign and stay at home. They took away her mobile phone and confined her to a room for seven months and six days before she managed to escape and get married.

"I was under house arrest. Whenever my cousins visited us, I would secretly take their phones and call Hemanth. We never spoke for more than 20 seconds," she says.

While Avanthi was confined at home, Hemanth, who owned an interior painting company, approached several astrologers with their horoscopes. The books he had read on astrology lie beside his garlanded photograph at home.

In the first week of June, three months after she last spoke to him, Avanthi called Hemanth and asked him if he was interested in marrying her. She proposed three possible dates: June 5, June 6 or June 10.

"As June 5 was my parents' wedding anniversary, I did not want to ruin their day. So, I stayed at home. The next day, everyone was at home. Finally, on June

10, I left a letter at home and somehow sneaked out and called Hemanth. We rushed to the Santoshmata temple in Nalgandla and got married within an hour. We had rented a house at TNGOs Colony the previous day, so we went there," says Avanthi.

On discovering that their daughter was missing, Avanthi's parents lodged a kidnapping case against Hemanth. His parents were called in for questioning. The police asked Hemanth's father Murali Krishna to surrender his phone.

On June 12, the newly-wed couple met Cyberabad Commissioner of Police, V.C. Sajwan, who in turn told the Chandanagar police to close the case as both of them were consenting adults. Following this visit, the police counselled the families and sent them away. Later, Avanthi's parents demanded that three properties which were registered under her name be transferred back to them.

Avanthi thought that her parents had reconciled to the marriage. However, her parents were now plotting Hemanth's murder with the help of her uncle Yugandhar Reddy. Assassins were allegedly hired for ₹10 lakh and were paid ₹1 lakh in advance.

"As a part of their plan, they did a recce of the area for more than two weeks. On September 24, they kidnapped Hemanth and strangled him," says Madhapur in-charge Deputy Commissioner of Police, M. Venkateshwarlu.

Reconstructing the crime, Venkateshwarlu says Yugandhar Reddy and the three hired assassins kidnapped Hemanth and drove him all the way to Zeeherabad, which is more than 100 km from Hyderabad. While returning to Hyderabad, they strangled him inside the car and dumped the body in the bushes.

An inconsolable Avanthi told her father later that he may have "succeeded" in taking away her husband physically from her, but he cannot take away her love for him or annul the marriage. "All your money could not buy my husband's love for me," she said sobbing. "You lost your daughter as well."

## Awaiting trial

The state is directly supporting people indulging in such heinous acts, says Lakshmaiah, convener of the All India Struggle Association for Annihilation of Caste Inequalities. To illustrate his claim, he gives the example of the murder of a young Dalit woman, K. Sushrutha, and her four-month-old son, Devarsh, by her husband M. Ramesh, who belongs to a backward community, in Ghatkesar. The incident was reported on February 9, 2019.

Sushrutha and Ramesh fell in love and got married in 2015 against Ramesh's parents' wishes. Police records

suggest that Ramesh, influenced by his family members who disapproved of his marriage with a Dalit woman, began distancing himself from his wife. The couple applied for divorce. But after giving birth to Devarsh, Sushrutha tried to reunite with her husband.

In the second week of February 2019, Ramesh called his wife and said they could try and sort out their issues. Sushrutha, who was living with her mother, agreed to meet him. Her brother dropped her and her son at Uppal on the outskirts of Hyderabad. Ramesh picked them up from there and took them to a secluded place in Ghatkesar. Police say following an argument between the couple, Ramesh throttled his wife and son to death and burnt their bodies with petrol.

Following the incident, Sushrutha's family members approached the government seeking appointment of a special public prosecutor to argue the case under the provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The government appointed lawyer V. Raghunath as the special public prosecutor in the case. "After examining the charge-sheet filed by the police, I found that the investigation was not done properly. I suggested to the Rachakonda Police Commissioner that a further probe be done," Raghunath says.

Interestingly, the accused moved the High Court saying Raghunath was actively associated with organisations supporting the victim and therefore cannot be their lawyer. The High Court gave an interim order suspending his appointment. Though the writ petition was pending final adjudication, the government issued an order revoking Raghunath's appointment.

"If this is not an example of the state supporting the accused in murders driven by caste hatred, what is," asks Lakshmaiah. The state's biased approach can also be seen in the arrest of four of Sushrutha's family members for carrying out hunger strikes in front of Ramesh's house, he says. After demonstrating for 150 consecutive days, the four family members were arrested and lodged in Warangal prison for a week.

Sandhya, president of the Progressive Organisation of Women, who is fighting for the rights of women, feels it is inaccurate to describe killings related to inter-caste marriages as 'honour killings', as is the norm in India. The very term 'honour killings' means we are accepting the killers' intentions and actions. "These murders are driven by class, caste and patriarchal hegemony," she says.

Charge-sheets have been filed in the murder cases of Pranay, Sushrutha and Ramesh, but trials are yet to begin.



## FROM PAGE ONE

**RBI forecasts end to contraction by Q4**

Although the RBI expects private investment and exports to be subdued in view of anaemic demand conditions, Mr. Das said the farm sector could well lead the growth revival through a rural demand spurt.

"Manufacturing firms expect capacity utilisation to recover in Q3... If, however, the current momentum of upturn gains ground, a faster and stronger rebound is eminently feasible," the Governor said. Wading into the debate about the possible alphabet shape for India's recovery, Mr. Das dug into cricketing terminology to espouse his own expectation of a three-speed recovery. Apart from agriculture, sectors such as fast-moving consumer goods, automobiles, pharma and power would "open their accounts" first, he reckoned.

"The second category of

sectors to 'strike form' would comprise sectors where activity is normalising gradually. The third category of sectors would include the ones which face the 'slog overs', but they can rescue the innings. These are sectors that are most severely affected by social distancing and are contact-intensive," Mr. Das said.

Apart from slashing a layer of red tape to expedite exports, the central bank also announced a rationalisation of risk weightages assigned by banks for all new home loans sanctioned up to March 31, 2022. This would give a fillip to the job-intensive real estate sector that has been flailing in the pandemic, the RBI said. The stock markets reacted favourably to the RBI policy statement, with the BSE Sensex closing the day at 40,509 points, up 0.81%.

**NIA files chargesheet in Bhima Koregaon case**

The NIA said, "It also included various documents regarding mobilisation against the Constitutionally established Government by the Maoist cadres, information about movement of the security forces with an intention to cause heavy damage to the State. Discreet codes were used for secret communication amongst themselves to avoid detection by security forces regarding their conspiracy and planning."

The agency further said, "Investigation also revealed a systematic network of Maoists operating for supply of arms and ammunitions having close nexus with other banned proscribed organisations within and outside India. The Strategy & Tactics adopted by Maoists to carry out so-called urban revolution with their frontal outfits has also been revealed during investigation. Beside this, funding activities of Maoist cadres and their sympathisers to carry out Maoist work in rural as well urban areas came to the fore."

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## Parties get more radio, screen time

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Friday decided to double the broadcast and telecast time allotted to all national and State parties on All India Radio and Doordarshan for the Bihar Assembly election with the increased importance of non-contact based campaigning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Considering the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and enhanced relevance of non-contact based campaign, the Election Commission of India, in consultation with the Prasar Bharati Corporation, has decided to double the broadcast/telecast time allotted to each national party and recognised State party of Bihar on Doordarshan and All India Radio during the ongoing general election to the Legislative Assembly of Bihar, 2020," an EC statement said.

The parties are allotted a base time of 90 minutes each and additional time based on their performance in the previous Bihar election.

## Cong. to stress need for change

Party's manifesto 'Parivartan Patra' in Bihar to promise jobs, benefits for farmers

SANDEEP PHUKAN  
NEW DELHI

Creating employment opportunities, including filling government vacancies, benefits for farmers, plans to tackle large-scale migration of labour and improving security for women are among the key promises that the Congress will make in its manifesto for the Bihar Assembly election, a party leader said on Friday.

To be called the *Parivartan Patra* (a document for change), the Congress is likely to focus on recent issues that have shaped the Opposition party's politics.

### Farmers' concern

For example, to go with the party's ongoing protests over the three recently enacted farm laws, the manifesto will promise farmers minimum support price (MSP) for their produce and government procurement of the harvest.

Though large sections of the population in the State are engaged in agriculture, the MSP system is not followed, as in Punjab and Haryana.

Another recent issue that will figure in the manifesto



**On the fringes:** The Congress will direct its campaign at the migrants who suffered during the lockdown. ■ FILE PHOTO

will be the party's plan to prevent large-scale migration from the State.

Bihar, along with Uttar Pradesh, witnessed the largest reverse migration in the initial days of the lockdown. Nearly 40 lakh migrant workers from the two States were estimated to have returned, many on foot from their workplaces in other States, after losing their livelihoods because of the COVID-19 shutdown.

"The Congress manifesto will talk about increasing rural employment opportunities by increasing avenues under the MGNREGS (Ma-

hatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme), so that more people can be absorbed within the State," the party functionary said.

There will also be a plan for skill development for workers, and a promise of equal pay for equal work, he said.

### Law and order

Law and order and crimes against women will have a special focus as Bihar had seen 18,587 cases of crimes against women in 2019, going by the latest National Crime Records Bureau data.

On Thursday, Mahila Congress chief Sushmita Dev attacked the ruling Janata Dal (U) and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for giving ticket to former Minister Manju Verma from Begusarai as her husband, Chandrashekhar Verma, is accused in the Muzzafarpur shelter home scandal in which 34 minor girls were sexually abused.

### Call to PM

"Immediately, they should cancel her candidature. I hope Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who consistently says *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao* (save the girl child, educate the girl child) walks the talk and makes sure that this lady's candidature is cancelled," Ms. Dev said at a press conference.

Of the 243 Assembly seats, the Congress is contesting 70 in an alliance with the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Left parties. The RJD, the coalition leader, is contesting 144.

Polling for the three-phase election will be held on October 28, November 3 and November 7, and results will be declared on November 10.

## 'Stan Swamy's arrest a violation of human rights'

Activists flay 'vindictive attitude' of NIA

SATYASUNDAR BARIK  
BHUBANESWAR

extracts allegedly taken from his computer shown to him by the NIA were fake and fabricated and that he disowned them," says the statement.

"Among other issues, he works on displacement, corporate loot of resources, the condition of undertrials and the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act. Mr. Swamy has been a vocal critic of the BJP government's attempts to amend land and democratic norms, the activists said.

Mr. Swamy, arrested on

Thursday from his Ranchi house, was sent to judicial custody till October 23.

Terming the arrest a gross

violation of human rights

and democratic norms,

the activists said

in the statement.

"Army officers generally respect women. It was the reason for which my parents chose him for me. It was an arranged marriage. But I have been subjected to both physical and mental torture for years now," the wife of the officer told the court.

## Court sends Major into Army custody

STAFF REPORTER

BHUBANESWAR

A local court in the city heard a domestic violence case involving a Major-ranked officer of the Army well past midnight on Thursday.

The officer was sent into Army custody by the Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate who heard the matter. The court continued the hearing till 1.30 a.m.

"Army officers generally respect women. It was the reason for which my parents chose him for me. It was an arranged marriage. But I have been subjected to both physical and mental torture for years now," the wife of the officer told the court.

### 'I was tortured'

"Family members, including my husband, mother-in-law, father-in-law and sister-in-law, never missed any opportunity to torture me. For the sake of my marital life, I kept quiet for years. When the torture became unbearable, I decided to take the assistance of the police," she said.

## Senior U.S. official to visit Delhi ahead of 2+2 talks

He will focus on advancing U.S.-India Strategic Partnership

SIRRAM LAKSHMAN  
WASHINGTON DC

In the run-up to the U.S.-India 2+2 foreign and defence Ministers' meeting this year, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun is scheduled to visit New Delhi from October 12 to 14.

The dialogue, between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and their American counterparts, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defence Secretary Mark Esper, is scheduled to be held on October 26 and 27 in New Delhi.

Mr. Biegun will meet senior government officials and deliver the keynote address at the India-U.S. Fo-



Stephen Biegun

rum (a platform convened by the Ananta Centre and the External Affairs Ministry).

Building on Secretary Pompeo's October 6 meeting with Indian Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar and ahead of the U.S.-

India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue later this year, Deputy Secretary Biegun's engagements in India will focus on advancing the United States-India Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership," a statement from the U.S. State Department said.

Mr. Jaishankar and Mr. Pompeo held a bilateral meeting in Tokyo on October 6, along the sidelines of the second Quad ministerial meeting between India, the U.S., Japan and Australia.

The agenda for the 2+2 is expected to include defence, economic cooperation, and cooperation at multilateral forums, a senior State Department official told reporters last week in Washington.

The police had registered

a case of attempt to murder against the five persons. It was converted to that of murder after the priest's death, and a team led by an

## Temple priest set afire over land issue dies in hospital

Main accused Kailash Meena arrested, search on for others

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
JAIPUR

A 55-year-old priest of a temple in Bokna village in Karauli district of Rajasthan died of burns at Sawai Man Singh Hospital here after he was set ablaze over a land issue. He was attacked by five persons, who wanted to encroach on the temple land on Wednesday.

On the basis of Babu Lal Vaishnav's statement to the police before his death on Thursday night, main accused Kailash Meena was arrested on Friday.

The police had registered

a case of attempt to murder against the five persons. It was converted to that of murder after the priest's death, and a team led by an



Kailash Meena, the accused in the death of the priest.

■ @KARUILIPOLICE/TWITTER

Additional Superintendent of Police was conducting an investigation and searching for other accused.

After the post-mortem examination, the body was taken to the village for cremation.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said no guilty person would be spared. "There is no place for such an act in a civilised society. The main accused has been arrested and further action is in progress," Mr. Gehlot tweeted.

The priest, along with his family, was farming on 2.5 hectares of land belonging to the Radha Krishna Temple Trust, while the accused had been allegedly trying to encroach on the land. He was attacked by the accused on Wednesday.

Slamming the State government for the incident, the Opposition BJP alleged that law and order had collapsed in the State, and criminals had no fear of law in the Congress rule.

## Priyanka hails BSP founder Kanshi Ram

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Friday, while paying tribute to the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) founder Kanshi Ram on his death anniversary, described him as a "strong pillar" who strengthened the politics of social justice in India.

"My salute to Honourable Kanshi Ram ji who emboldened the voice of the Dalit and the deprived and was a strong pillar of strengthening the politics of social justice and Constitutional values," Ms. Vadra tweeted.

The Congress leader's remarks on the BSP founder is in sharp contrast to her recent Twitter barbs at BSP supremo Mayawati, whom she had described as an "informal spokesperson for the BJP".

Her latest tweet also reflects the Congress party's attempt to reach out to the Dalit community, once its traditional vote bank along with Muslims in Uttar Pradesh, and create a political space for the party.

## J&K HC quashes FIR against journalist

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR

The J&K High Court has quashed a First Information Report (FIR) against a journalist in Srinagar and questioned whether "fearless and frank reporting" should attract Section 505 of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC).

"The complaint does not disclose the particulars of any such person who has been induced to commit an offence against the State because [of] the publication of the news report in the question. The contents of the FIR, which is based upon the complaint filed by some association of travel agents, are absolutely vague and devoid of any particulars in this regard," Justice Sanjay Dhar observed on Thursday.

The court quashed the FIR registered against *Times of India* reporter Mohammad Saleem Pandit in 2018 for publishing news regarding stone pelting on tourists at several spots across the Kashmir valley.

### GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH HIGHER EDUCATION (UE) DEPARTMENT

#### NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited for the post of Vice-Chancellor of the Universities mentioned below:

1. Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Ananthapur

2. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, Srikrishna

Applications along with bio-data, filled in proforma and other requisite documents may be sent on or before 30-10-2020 by 5.00 PM, by registered post to **The Chairman, A.P. State Council of Higher Education**, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floors, Neeladri Towers, Sri Ram Nagar, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Road, Atmakur(M), Guntur-522 503, Andhra Pradesh. Please visit [www.apscb.org](http://www.apscb.org) for more details.

Date: 9-10-2020

Place: Velagapudi

SATISH CHANDRA, IAS

Special Chief Secretary to Government

### GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

"The Department of Agriculture, Government of Andhra Pradesh invites proposal from reputed companies towards development of Android Mobile application for usage by farmers to hire the farm machinery from the Custom Hiring Centers. More details on the services to be provided are mentioned in the Request for Proposal available on website [www.apagrisnet.gov.in](http://www.apagrisnet.gov.in). The last date for submission of proposal is 21.10.2020. DIPR 368PP/CL, Dt: 09/10/2020

Sd/- Commissioner of Agriculture

### TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI NOTIFICATION

ALLOTMENT OF OLD REST HOUSES FOR RECONSTRUCTION / RENOVATION AT TIRUMALA UNDER COTTAGE DONATION SCHEME

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh is inviting applications from the aspirant donors for Reconstruction / Renovation of Old Rest Houses at Tirumala. All relevant details and documents can be downloaded from [www.tirumala.org](http://www.tirumala.org). The filled in application complete in all respects may be dropped in the sealed box kept in the office of the FA & CAO, TTD, Tirupati during working hours on working days w.e.f. date of publication of notification till 03.00 p.m. on 09-11-2020. Sealed Box will be opened at 04.00 p.m. on 09-11-2020 at the same premises.

RoC No.PRA/13923/Adv.No.170/PRO/2020; Dated:09-10-2020

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

### SOUTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE No:

SA/E/10/2021-W1 DT: 08-10-2020

Divisional Railway Manager/Electrical/ Salem-5 Invites E-Tender for the further mentioned work. Name of Work:

1) SA/E/10/2020-21/W1 DT: Southern Railway - Soft upgrades improvements at Stations - SA Division- Erode: Provision of soft upgrades to stations over DEN/WEST/SWA jurisdiction - Electrical Arrangements. Details: Approx. Cost: Rs. 52,37,362/- EMD: Rs. 1,04,800/- Completion Period: 6 Months Closing Time & Date: 15.00hrs on 11-11-2020.

Complete details & Tender document will be available at <http://www.railway.gov.in>. The EMD shall be made in Online gateway.

Payment Start Date: 10-08-2020

Construction of at-grade covered Walkway connecting Ernakulam South Metro Station and Ernakulam Junction Railway Station As part of NMT initiative of Kochi Metro.

Tender ID: 2020\_KMR\_389775\_1

Last date of Submission: 21-10-2020

Tender documents can be downloaded from [www.etenders.keralagov.in](http://etenders.keralagov.in) and [www.kochimetrorail.org](http://www.kochimetrorail.org)

Further corrigendum & addendum will be published only on websites

Follow us on: [twitter.com/GMSRailway</](https://twitter.com/GMSRailway)

## IN BRIEF



## Odisha CMO tweets fake report, deletes it later

BHUBANESWAR

A dubious news report citing a purported Oxford University study that praised measures to contain COVID-19 spread in Ganjam district was projected by the top Odisha administration on social media. The Office of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik tweeted to highlight the 'recognition', only to delete it later after doubts were cast on the said study.

## Gujarat govt. bans garba during Navaratri

AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat government on Friday banned garba events during the Navaratri festival, which begins on October 17, as the State is in the grip of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has claimed 3,500 lives. The government also released a set of guidelines for the festive season. Group prayers of up to one hour will be allowed, but the number of participants should be fewer than 200.

## Kolkata police book senior BJP leaders

KOLKATA

The Kolkata police on Friday booked BJP leaders and MPs on charges of unlawful assembly and damage to public property during a march to the Secretariat on Thursday, in protest against the law and order situation in the State. A case filed at the Hastings station named 24 people, including senior leaders Kailash Vijayvargiya, Mukul Roy, MPs Arjun Singh and Locket Chatterjee.

## Public transport vehicles to run at full capacity

GUWAHATI

Assam on Friday became the first State in the northeast to allow all types of public transport vehicles to operate at 100% occupancy, almost eight months after the COVID-19 curbs kicked in. This followed a negotiation with the State government to end a strike called by the All Assam Motor Transport Association, seeking an increase in fares if they were forced to carry only 50% passengers.

## Panel will hear CLAT aspirants

SC directive comes after petitioners complain of 'erroneous, faulty evaluation'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday allowed several Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) aspirants who have complaints about the exam – held online last month – to approach a grievance redressal committee headed by a former Chief Justice of India within the next three days.

"We are of the view that ends of justice be served in giving liberty to the petitioners to submit a representation to the grievance redressal committee with regard to their grievance within three days from today. We order accordingly. We have no doubt that the petitioners' representation will be considered by the committee at an early date," a Bench led by Justice Ashok Bhushan re-

curred in its order.

The court did not, meanwhile, interfere or stay the counselling or admission process. It said counselling had started and a large number of candidates had completed theirs.

The petitioner-aspirants, represented by senior advoca-

cate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, alleged that the CLAT and the evaluation of answers were "erroneous, faulty, defective, discriminatory and violative of fundamental rights of the Constitution".

## Plea to scrap exam

The petition had been filed by several students from across the country led by Uttar Pradesh-based Lavanya Bhatt. They urged the court to quash the exam and order it to be reconducted.

The plea further asked the court to direct the consortium to set up a high-powered committee to examine the numerous complaints about "software glitches" and mismatched questions and answers so that students are not put in a quandary. The petition said a foolproof me-

chanism should be built to avoid these problems in the future.

The online CLAT 2020 was conducted on September 28.

The complaints about the exam included results displaying answers different from the ones ticked; results displaying or calculating marks for questions that were not even attempted by the candidates; and 10 wrong questions followed by erroneous answers.

The petition also complained about the "unreasonable lengthy design of the CLAT examination".

Over 75,000 candidates had applied for CLAT, while 68,833 downloaded the admit cards. Over 86% took the exam across 300 centres, the petition mentioned.

## DRDO tests anti-radiation missile

New-generation weapon hits target after a Sukhoi fighter jet launches it

DINAKAR PERI  
NEW DELHI

**On target:** An IAF fighter releasing the RudraM-I test missile on Friday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A new-generation anti-radiation missile, RudraM-I, was successfully flight-tested on Friday by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). This is the first indigenous anti-radiation missile.

An anti-radiation missile can locate and target radiation-emitting sources such as enemy radars, communication sites and other radio frequency-emitting targets. They can play a key role in neutralising any jamming platforms of the enemy or take out radar stations, thereby clearing a path for fighter jets to carry out an offensive and prevent own systems from being jammed.

## Pinpoint accuracy

"The RudraM-I was successfully flight-tested onto a radiation target located on Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha. The missile was launched from an SU-30 MKI fighter aircraft," the DRDO said in a statement. It hit the radiation target with pin-

point accuracy, the statement said. The missile, after the launch, manoeuvred towards the target based on direction detected by the seeker and all mission objectives were successfully met, a defence source said. "It has a range of up to 200 km depending upon the launch conditions. The missile can be launched from altitudes of 500 m to 15 km and speeds of 0.6 to 2 Mach," the source added.

The missile, integrated with the SU-30 MKI aircraft,

has a capability of varying ranges based on the launch conditions. Having the Inertial Navigation System (INS)-Global Positioning System (GPS) navigation with Passive Homing Head (PHH) for the final attack, it is a potent weapon for the Indian Air Force for suppression of enemy air defence effectively from large stand-off ranges, the DRDO said.

The PHH can detect, classify and engage targets over a wide band of frequencies. Another source said that

once the SU-30 MKI approached the target, the launch processor in the launcher, the on-board computer and the passive seeker in the missile worked in unison to display the required mission data to the pilot. "After completion of alignment of navigation system of the missile, the dynamic launch zone was displayed to the pilot," the source said.

The PHH detected the target, and measured the direction of arrival of radiation and once the PHH seeker got a lock-on to the target (in lock-on before launch mode), the target was designated and the launch operation was performed by the pilot. Auto-launch was invoked and the missile was ejected using the catapult launcher, the source said.

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## Instapick

**#DreamingOfTravel:** South African travel blogger Sharon Waugh is confined to her flat, but that has not stopped her from dreaming of her next trip. She has spent the last few weeks recreating tourist attractions (a Taj Mahal out of toilet paper rolls and a wine bottle standing in for the Eiffel Tower) as well as cliche poses like the 'Follow Me' and heart hands. [@thesharonicles](#) on Instagram.



## Talking point

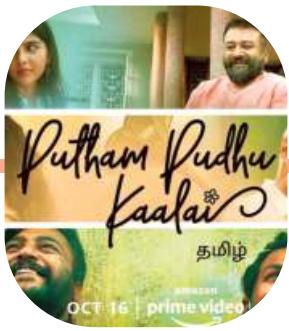
**World Mental Health Day:** This year, mental health has been in the limelight due to the ongoing pandemic and high-profile cases of death by suicide, including actor Sushant Singh Rajput and ex-CBI chief Ashwani Kumar. With this in mind, the World Health Organization's aim is to get governments and employers to invest in mental health. Join politician Milind Deora on our Instagram Live today (@the\_hindu) at 5.30 pm, where he talks about his experience with depression.

## Pick of the week

Concerts, stand-up and other online events you just can't miss.



**Music and art for Mumbai**  
Ministry of Mumbai's Magic has curated a digital festival – **Biodiversity By The Bay** – featuring a lineup of musicians, artists and stand-up comics. The collective aims at raising awareness around Mumbai's pressing climate issues. Artists **Shilo Shiv Suleman** and **Pia Alize** have created art around Aarey forest, while **Shweta Malhotra** is producing work celebrating the state's Lesser Flamingos. Comics include **Kunal Rao**, **Daniel Fernandes** and **Anu Menon**. The free event is on till October 25. Details: [ministryofmumbaismagic.com](#)



**Tamil stories on air**  
Following the first regional language version of **Comicstaan** and a new web series, **Time Enna Boss**, **Amazon Prime Video** now brings an Original Movie: **Putham Pudhu Kaalai**. The anthology is set and filmed during the lockdown, and the five Tamil short films have been directed by Sudha Kongara, Gautham Menon, Suhasini Mani Ratnam, Rajiv Menon and Karthik Subbaraj. The first Indian anthology by the streaming service will be available across 200 countries and territories from October 16.



**A whole new Loubi World**  
French shoe designer **Christian Louboutin** has created a virtual universe on South Korean gaming platform, **Zepeto**. The app allows users to create avatars and, for a limited period, try on the Spring-Summer 2021 men's and women's collections showcased digitally at the recently-concluded **Paris Fashion Week**. Your avatars can visit a digital version of the new Paris boutique on Rue St Honoré, take a selfie with the designer, and explore a technon version of the city, called **Loubi World**.



**Digital FanFest**  
Like most other large-scale events, **YouTube's** annual **FanFest** also goes virtual this Sunday. While there are over 150 creators from the Asia-Pacific region, catch Indian stars like comic duo **Jordindian**, music director **Anirudh Ravichander**, former Miss India **Niharika Singh**, vlogger **Madan Gowri** and others. This will be a far cry, though, from the packed Mumbai venues of years past, where adoring fans gathered to meet their favourite creators. On October 11 from 2.30 pm IST on the FanFest YouTube channel.



**Slow food calling**  
The international celebration of slow food, **Terra Madre Salón Del Gusto**, which began earlier this week, will continue its journey for six months. In its digital avatar, the lineup features new digital content and numerous physical events across oceans and time zones. These will culminate in April 2021 with the **Slow Food International Congress** in Turin. Visit an apiary, learn about agro-mafias, take a cooking class on tagliatelle, and find out how growing flowers can save the world. Event details on [terramadresalonedelgusto.com](#)



**Clay court champs**  
This year's **French Open** is all about making history. **Iga Świątek** and **Nadia Podoroska** played the first semifinal (since 1983) with two unseeded players. **Novak Djokovic** is dealing with an injury as he attempts to become the first man in the Open Era to win each Grand Slam at least twice. Defending champion **Rafael Nadal** aims at equalling Roger Federer's record of 20 Grand Slam singles. The women's finals today and men's finals tomorrow will decide who comes out tops.



**Menswear in colour**  
"Across the board, Indian menswear is under-represented. Internationally, people would immediately know what a sari is, but that's not the case with a *bandhgala* or a *bandi*," says **Arnav Malhotra**. The 25-year-old business graduate (whose parents, Tim and Atul Malhotra, run the multi-designer boutique *Evoluzione*) has launched **No Grey Area**, a line of menswear that aims at modernising Indian silhouettes and making them utilitarian. Read the full story online at [weekend.thehindu.com](#).

## E-STORE EDIT

# Hand-knotted carpets and DIY spinning kits

It is all decor this weekend as flagship stores in Delhi and Jaipur take their handcrafted creations and high-profile collabs online

obeetee.com



SUSANNA MYRTLE LAZARUS

The pandemic has been a great leveller, with brands, big and small, heading online for visibility. The 100-year-old Delhi-based brand, Obeetee, is no different, as hand-knotted, hand-tufted carpets reach the masses via a new e-commerce store. Shop by design – traditional, contemporary, abstract or geometric – and by collection on the site that features an animated home page and large, expressive fonts. That being said, customers would greatly benefit from a quick view option or, at

the very least, the choice to view each product in a different tab. While you can add to the wishlist, you need to create an account to do so.

Collaborative collections with Indian designers Tarun Tahiliani, Abraham & Thakore and Raghavendra Rathore – that "create an indigenous design language for carpets otherwise dominated by Persian and Chinese motifs" – is one of the brand's USPs, says a spokesperson. The overall range starts from ₹6,300 (for 5x3 ft polyester dhurries) going all the way up to ₹16.42 lakh for a 18x12 ft wool and cotton hand-knotted piece that took three artisans 422 days to make. Silk carpets go from ₹52,000 to ₹10.8 lakh. There is a monthly edit: October's is inspired by the red oxide floors of traditional homes and the Pantone shade Island Hazelnut.

Perhaps the most impressive option is customisation. Compared to others who offer similar services – such as Hands Carpets, Jaipur Rugs and The Weaver – it gives more choice to the customer. Pick the pattern, specify dimensions and see how it looks in different pre-set templates (living, dining or bedroom). When it comes to colourways, choose from an extended palette, Obeetee's signature colours or, if you want it ASAP, from a Quickship set that has over two dozen options.

■ **Up next:** Zanzibar, a jute hand-knotted collection inspired by the elaborately carved doors of the African nation, and a sustainable line of flat weaves using natural dyes.

**shopjaipur.com**

**: SURYA PRAPHULLA KUMAR**  
Nila House may have gone online a year ago ([nilajaipur.com](#)), with a white and indigo colour scheme that echoed the physical space in Jaipur, but, as Alexis Barrell, creative director at the not-for-profit organisation, says, it took the pandemic to "pivot towards a more focussed digital communication platform". Their new website, launched over a week ago, centres on e-commerce and engagement.

Shop for Nila's range of home-wares – Kerala tea towels to *kantha* cushions – and fashion. On



the site now is Nila Studio's collab with UK-based designer Anna Valentine. Think sculptural culottes, coats and tees in indigo. The lack of quick view and wishlist options, though, is inconvenient. And be warned, you might encounter a few 404 error messages too (which the team promises to iron out soon).

What we love, however, are the DIY kits. Want to learn hand-spinning? Buy a spindle, 10 gms of *kala* cotton and a booklet for ₹620, and sign up for a virtual workshop with artisans from Govindgarh in Madhya Pradesh. Want to be more adventurous?

Set up an indigo vat in your kitchen – choose a kit with indigo powder, lime powder, pH paper and other ingredients for ₹1,190. "We are working on creating more educational kits, for everything from *leheriya* and *bandini* to *dabu*," says Barrell. "We are also making natural water-colour bases that people can purchase along with handmade sketchbooks."

■ **Up next:** Look out for comprehensive, step-by-step video workshops that will "introduce people to crafts like miniature painting, with a master miniaturist who works with natural pigments". Nila will also soon retail frame looms and yarns.

**saritahanda.com**

SML



With their shop-in-shop and independent stores in Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai being closed during the lockdown, this eight-year-old home linen brand launched their online store last month. This comes as a relief to patrons who earlier had to trawl through various websites to find the exact Sarita Handa product they wanted.

The brand's signature floral and nature-inspired designs on decorative cushions, bed-spreads and fabrics now also include lifestyle products such as handbags, pouches and robe sets. The quick-view option helps when you're checking out multiple options; perhaps a grid view with two or three pro-

ducts per row would be useful to navigate faster on the mobile site. The current collection, called The Mix – for its use of *ikat*, *suzani* and Palampore fabrics along with rug patterns and pick-stitch embroidery – is being promoted prominently. Framed botanical wall art is also available, and the sale section has everything at half price.

The lifestyle products are online-only. Unisex robe sets come with matching quilted slippers in cotton jacquards and matelassé; the totes are embroidered and can be machine-washed; and the pouches are upcycled from the brand's fabric waste.

■ **Up next:** More decor categories and gifting options to be added in the coming months.

## YARN IT!

# Meet the real power players

Career choices where you can call the shots with minimal effort

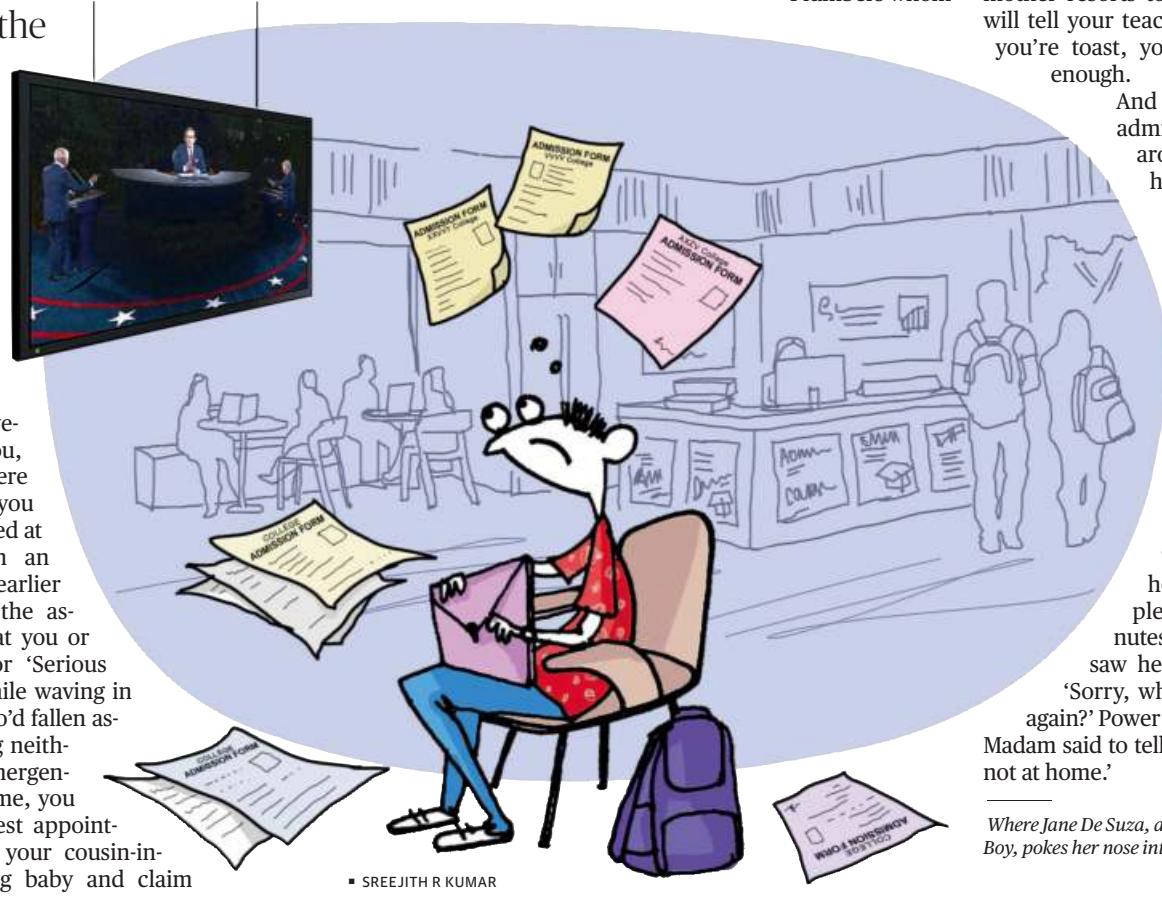
JANE DE SUZA

'What a show off!' I smirked, as I watched the US presidential debate, 'Just because he's in power!' Of the current president or the ex-VP? Nah, of the man who wagged his finger at both. The moderator, Chris Wallace, treated the potential leaders of the country like tantrum-throwing kindergartners, doling out their two minutes, snipping them off mid-sentence, rapping their knuckles for interrupting.

People in power! You've met enough who've made you squirm. Often literally. If you've shared a bathroom with someone who reads a 600-page novel in there, or at times you suspect is writing one, you'll know what I mean. You've twisted your legs together, held your breath and bladder, whined and wheedled, but it falls on deaf ears of he who squats on the throne with it.

High on the list of mega manipulators is the doctor's assistant. Not

the one who holds a needle to your arm (he's scary enough), but the one who sits outside, yawning, yakking on the phone, and sending everyone, but you, in. 'But I got here before them,' you will have pleaded at least thrice in an hour. 'Sorry, earlier appointment,' the assistant smiles at you or 'Babies first' or 'Serious emergency' while waving in an old man who'd fallen asleep, exhibiting neither baby nor emergency. The next time, you book the earliest appointment, haul in your cousin-in-law's protesting baby and claim



■ SREEJITH R KUMAR

breathless agony. 'Sorry, doctor had to leave,' says this person in power, 'personal engagement.'

What of the guy who checks your papers? For the driving licence, application, visa, loan, claim. You know he's always going to reject you for something you've forgotten. And, of course, you can't send it by mail; you need to bring it in person and spend another four hours in the queue to reach the counter just as the 'Out for Lunch' sign goes up. Plumbers whom

you'd pay an arm and a leg to because your toilet keeps regurgitating. Tailors who have no time to finish the sari blouse before the wedding. Auto drivers who refuse to go anywhere on the rainiest day of the week. Power players, all.

This power game starts early.

When you're a toddler, you're tossed into it. The lower the class,

the higher the power its teacher wields.

'If you don't, I will tell your mother,' she frowns while your mother resorts to 'If you don't, I

will tell your teacher.' Either way, you're toast, you realise young enough.

And so, since college admissions are around the corner, here's a list of power-careers for your child who deserves the best: Man Friday. Gate-man. Paper-pushers. Eye-brow-plucker. And that unassailable power puff who answers the door to say, 'Madam's not at home'. 'Please, please, just five minutes,' you beg, 'I just saw her, let me only...' 'Sorry, what is your name again?' Power puff shrugs. 'Yes, Madam said to tell you she's *pukka* not at home.'

Where Jane De Suza, author of *Flyaway Boy*, pokes her nose into our perfect lives.

Books are like toolboxes for a child's mind, writes Twinkle Khanna, as she launches *When I Grow Up I Want To Be*, featuring lawyer Afroz Shah, social worker Sudha Murthy and others

# Why I gave my child a hacksaw

TWINKLE KHANNA

They gathered around me. A swarm of largely toothless creatures. All dressed like a rainbow had exploded over their clothes. Children. Annoying, noisy children, including one that belonged to me, had found my hideout.

If parenting could be confined to early mornings and evenings, like a hoodie that I could change out of when I needed to be a professional, it would be easier. Especially now, when we are all working from home. Instead, what we have is a version of the Japanese Hikae, a permanent shirt, tattooed onto the skin.

For a moment, I wondered if I could evade these intruders, throw my lime juice into their eyes, temporarily blinding them as I escaped with my laptop. They would find me though, even if I hid in the bathroom. Resigned to my fate, I decided to use them as experimental subjects, a focus group of tiny minds.

'When you grow up, what do you want to be?' I asked.

Along with 'Tall' and 'My papa', one said, 'A hero'.

I persisted, 'All right, but what is your idea of a hero?'

'Someone who doesn't use plastic,' said the girl with an orange Nerf gun in her hand.

'Inventor of stinky fart lasers.'

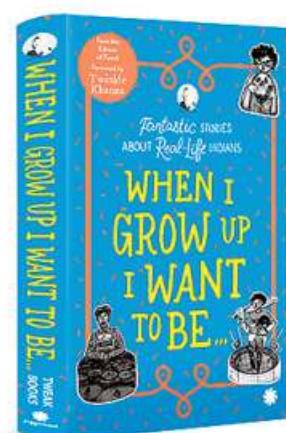
Another thankfully said, 'Gandhi ji' and my little one

chirped in with 'Chhote Master!'

Chhote Master is a new entrant. One that has popped up in her lexicon in the last few days after she read about him in a recent book we published about real-life Indian heroes.

She claims, that like him, she too wants to teach other children.

Being a parent differs from parenting. Nouns are passive. It is enough to merely exist. Parenting, a verb, denotes an action, and this one comes without instruction manuals.



an alt-pop band with a recent single titled 'L.O.V.E.'

#### Weird is good

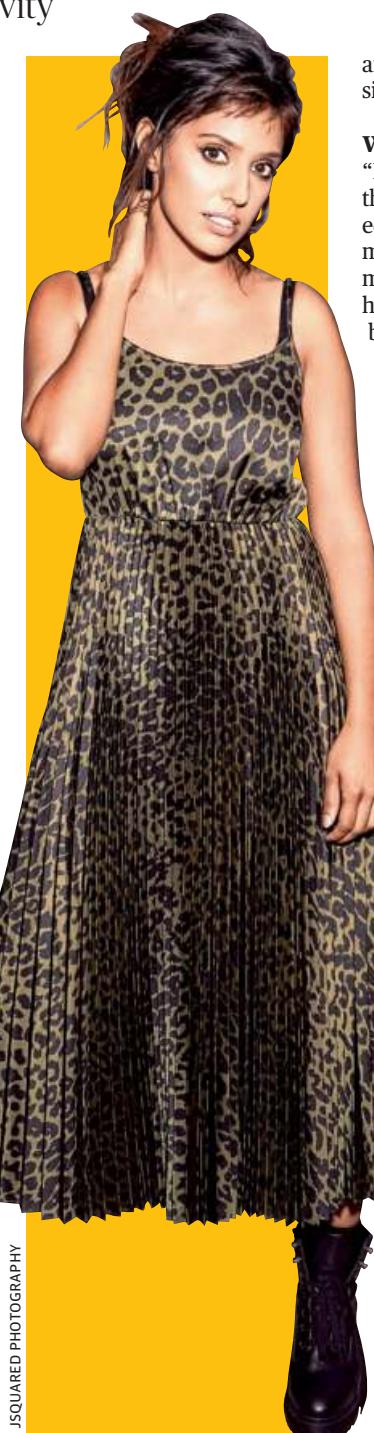
"I think growing up I thought there seemed to be quite an inequality between men and women, especially in my community," says Arya, choosing her words carefully. "I have two brothers and I wanted to keep pushing the boundaries of my expression and freedom. Which often meant that my parents thought I was a bit weird." They were supportive, though, about her interest in Astrophysics, playing drums as a teen, acting, everything.

In retrospect, she notes, she was very strong-minded and would have gone straight to acting, if that was what she wanted. "I think it all started from watching Bollywood films: Shah Rukh Khan, who is still my idol, and Kajol, from *Darr* and *Baazigar* to *DDLJ*... all those films I grew up loving and thought, maybe I should be that because I don't see these people on TV that I'm watching in the UK." Fans (and there are many; her Instagram followers this year have reached 4,58,000) tracking Arya will find her in several sci-fi shorts and TV appearances from 2013 onwards. There's *Humans* and the BBC soap, *Doctors*, *Sherlock*, *Doctor Who*, *Feel Good* and 2019's festive rom-com, *Last Christmas*. *Lady Parts*, a 2018 sitcom about an all-female Muslim punk band, checks her favourite boxes: comedy and diversity.

There are many more like it on this actor's list, for good reason.

#### Looking racism in the eye

When I ask her if she ever had to struggle with gender and cultural stereotypes, her response is that in a world of systemic racism, she has been affected both directly and indirectly. "From a young age, I would see the women in the kitchen serving the men who would drink and party. I was bullied at my predominantly white school, called all sorts of names. Only last year someone spat on me on the bus, telling me to 'go back home'... I could go on and on but to be honest, I use this to empower myself to create change," she says, adding, "It drives me to push boundaries for women and people of colour, to gain further equality by taking up space and having a voice. I try not to complain, rather lead by example. And always, always leading from love and compassion." It is easy to see why Ritu Arya has us in her corner. And when *Red Notice*, Dwayne Johnson's action-comedy starring Ryan Reynolds and Gal Gadot, releases next year, we hope she will give us more reason to cheer.



SQUAREL PHOTOGRAPHY



(Clockwise from left)  
Illustrations from the book, Twinkle Khanna, and the book's cover

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

says. 'White is a light colour so it gets dirty fast like my T-shirt, brown is darker, so it doesn't,' is her simple explanation.

Each time my little one opens her books and reads about an Afroz Shah cleaning up the beach right in front of her home, her beloved Chhote Master, Frida or Malala, her universe expands. She sees ordinary people, not Superman, Harry Potter and Wonder Woman, but people like her, doing extraordinary things, and knows that she can do them too.

That evening, we lay in bed, her colourful tribe disbanded and my cavernous maw of work sealed shut for the night. She was holding on to my left hand, almost asleep, when she murmured, 'I am thinking of the D thing again.'

D is a code word for death. Unlike clowns or heights, this is a legitimate fear. I have tried combating it with both logic and humour, mixing up my reassurances between, 'How many of your friends, the ones you know since kindergarten, are dead now?' to 'Then you can turn into a zombie and eat everyone up.' It seems to have worked because now she is not scared of her own death, but of mine.

'You will die before me because you are old,' she whispered in the dark.

'Yes, that is true.'

'So, after you die, will you become a soul, who can see and hear?'

'Maybe,' I said.

'Good, because then you can watch me as I become big.'

I imagine being a disembodied fragment, floating around corridors, keeping an eye on her as she grows.

I hope like the people in the books she reads, this little girl, who is starting to believe she can achieve anything, uses her borrowed tools to craft and transform a multitude of possibilities into probabilities. Then even if I can't, the world will watch her for me.

*Published by Juggernaut for Khanna's Tweak India, When I Grow Up I Want To Be... is available on amazon.in for ₹299.*

# 'It started with BOLLYWOOD'

British-Indian actor Ritu Arya talks about how SRK and Kajol influenced her, and what it means to be the poster girl for diversity and inclusivity

ROSELLA STEPHEN

She is no stranger to the ardent TV viewer (we'll get to that later). But there has been an incredible rise in 'Ritu Arya origin' Google searches since she emerged as *The Umbrella Academy* Season 2 standout back in August. "It's been crazy. I'm just overwhelmed with how many women have reached out and said how inspired and proud and empowered they feel to see a South Asian woman play a role like that," begins Arya.

A wild card on the Netflix show about a dysfunctional family of adopted children who possess superpowers, her Lila Pitts sure shook things up: right from her introductory scene in a psychiatric ward, where she is seen sticking cigarettes up her nose, to overpowering every one of the superhero siblings in the final episode and vanishing with her time-travelling briefcase.

In the interviews that followed, the British-Indian actor has said a lot about Lila, her feisty, rather "unhinged" character, and not enough about life before and after Lila. So Arya takes some time off the sets in Atlanta, where her big-budget action-comedy, *Red Notice*, is being filmed, to get on a call. And flesh out what we already know: she grew up in London, speaks Hindi and Punjabi, graduated in Astrophysics, went to drama school, and is part of

#### Ritu's playlist for 2020

In the video for L.O.V.E., which the three KIN band members filmed individually during lockdown, Arya holds up a sign saying KINFEST. Perhaps it references the many music festivals we are missing this year? Arya, also a songwriter, says the single is not about romantic love, but love for life. This track and the KINSPIRE Me mixtapes on Spotify have drawn many Netflix regulars to her music. Here she shares her playlist that defines 2020:

#### Blood Orange - Dark And Handsome:

This was the last live gig I went to before lockdown

#### Charli XCX - I finally understand:

From my favourite album during lockdown

#### Four Tet - Baby:

This song is from the album I ran to every day during those quarantine days

#### Roddy Ricch - Ballin:

A big tune and my favourite song this year

#### Jaden - Cabin Fever:

It has a dreamy glow and summer vibes

#### Yaeji - Waking Up Down:

I'm currently learning a drum cover for this song

#### KIN - L.O.V.E.: My band!

There are many more like it on this actor's list, for good reason.

#### Looking racism in the eye

When I ask her if she ever had to struggle with gender and cultural stereotypes, her response is that in a world of systemic racism, she has been affected both directly and indirectly. "From a young age, I would see the women in the kitchen serving the men who would drink and party. I was bullied at my predominantly white school, called all sorts of names. Only last year someone spat on me on the bus, telling me to 'go back home'... I could go on and on but to be honest, I use this to empower myself to create change," she says, adding, "It drives me to push boundaries for women and people of colour, to gain further equality by taking up space and having a voice. I try not to complain, rather lead by example. And always, always leading from love and compassion." It is easy to see why Ritu Arya has us in her corner. And when *Red Notice*, Dwayne Johnson's action-comedy starring Ryan Reynolds and Gal Gadot, releases next year, we hope she will give us more reason to cheer.

#### FOOD SPOT

## Naadan food in Delhi

These entrepreneurial Kerala lads have brought us the joy of coconut, chillies, and more than a whiff of home



RAHUL VERMA

A photograph of a food-laden table – gleefully forwarded by the partaker of the meal – kept me busy for a few hours last week. The food, I was told, had come from a new Kerala delivery service called The Naadan Kitchen, based in Ghaziabad. I asked for the number (7042255534, 81530384084, 0120-4348258), called them up – and was happy with the first information report: They had various kinds of Kerala dishes, including all kinds of meat; and they were willing to deliver to my neighbourhood.

I was happier still with the food – which I had over two glorious days. We asked for some Malabar parottas, pothu fry, duck curry and a vegetable *thali*, which consisted of red rice, *aviyal*, *thoran*, *sambar*, *moru* curry, pickle and *payasam*. I paid for the number of ₹1,300 for all this.

The next day, Naadan's founder, a young man called Elvin Joseph, insisted that I try out a small portion of his fried pork and chicken *biryani*.

But let me start at the beginning. The Naadan Kitchen ([the-naadan-kitchen.com](http://the-naadan-kitchen.com)) emerged out of a conversation that two friends were having one day, a couple of months ago. One of them was a chef, who had come to Delhi before the lockdown to visit his family, and then stayed back, as his restaurant in Bengaluru shut shop. The other was a marketing executive. They talked about food, and then suddenly



At home Vegetable thali, duck curry • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

thought: Hey, why not start delivering food?

So they created a logo – a picturesque image of a Kerala boat and a coconut tree – and then drew up the menu. They started the service on August 15. Elvin looks after marketing while Bejo Chemparathy takes care of the kitchen. The food has the authentic flavours of Kerala cuisine, so much so that a young man we know said he was reminded of his childhood in Kerala when he had the food.

The duck *mappas* (₹500 for a quarter) was divine. It had been cooked with small onions, ginger, garlic, green chillies, black pepper, coriander powder, and turmeric, and the gravy thickened with fresh coconut milk. The meat was tender and juicy, and I loved the spicy gravy.

The pork dish that arrived the next day was again sumptuous. The meat, somewhat fatty, had the flavours of a host of condiments including black pepper, coriander powder, and *garlic* masala. It had been cooked in coconut oil with onion, garlic, ginger, curry leaves and topped with little pieces of coconut.

I got a message from the kitchen one day that they had prepared quail, but it gave me great joy. The pothu - buffalo meat (₹500 for half a kilo) – had been fried with peppercorns, curry leaves, and few spices and garnished with fried coconut. I enjoyed it immensely for the meat had soaked in all the flavours of the spices, but wasn't red chilli hot. The *parotta* (₹15 for one) was soft, warm and flaky.

I enjoyed the *thali* – especially the *aviyal*, a combination of

juicy vegetables in southern spices, and the fragrant *sambhar*, which I had with the red rice. Best of all was the *payasam*, the *ada pradhaman*, which was creamy and had been cooked with rice flakes.

We shared this with friends who had come for lunch and quietly kept the duck for dinner.

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The Naadan Kitchen is the upside of the pandemic. It showcases the best of Kerala: its can-do spirit and its food.

The writer is a seasoned food critic

# China slams Quad as a 'closed clique'

Foreign Ministry says such 'exclusive' groups 'will not help build mutual trust and cooperation'

ANANTH KRISHNAN

China on Friday said it was opposed to "organising closed and exclusive cliques", underlining its wary response to this week's ministerial meeting of the Quad grouping, or India, Australia, Japan and the U.S.

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

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

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



**Firm alliance:** A photo of the October 6 meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Quad nations in Tokyo. • AFP

cion," Mr. Pompeo said. "We've seen it in the South China Sea, in the East China Sea, the Mekong, the Himalayas, the Taiwan Straits. These are just a few examples."

Speaking at a press briefing in Beijing on Friday, the first following the week-long national holiday in China, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said in response to a question on the Quad meet, "This is now the 21st century and we are

living in an era of globalisation. The interests of all the countries are so intertwined that organising closed and exclusive cliques will not help to build mutual trust and cooperation, especially when we are faced with urgent tasks of fighting the pandemic and reviving the world economy."

## Common interest

"We hope countries will bear in mind the common interest of all countries and focus on

beating the virus with collective efforts, while creating a peaceful environment and cooperation opportunities for the regional and global economic recovery," she added.

China's state media has been particularly critical of Mr. Pompeo, and highlighted the fact that he was the only one among the four Ministers to directly mention China. "Pompeo said it was critical now for the U.S.'s regional allies in the Indo-Pacific region to counter the Communist Party of China's exploitation, coercion and corruption in the South and East China seas, the Mekong, the Himalayas, and the Taiwan Straits. Meanwhile, other Quad members have been cautious," said a commentary in the Party-run *Global Times* by Shen Yi, professor at the School of International Relations and Public Affairs at Fudan University in Shanghai.

"Such a result could be argued as predictable, as each

of the Quad members is calculating their own separate interests," Mr. Shen said.

"The U.S., which has signed military alliance treaties with Japan and Australia, now wants to rope India in to boost not only the alliance and to gang up on China. However, such a goal is not easy to realise. India is unlikely to take the U.S. side. It has been buttering its bread on both sides of major power games ever since the Cold War."

Mr. Shen said, "The U.S. is hoping to formalise the Quad into a NATO-like alliance", but the other members were less enthusiastic. "If the U.S. wants to count India in its 'Asian NATO', it would need to persuade India to give up its Russia-made weapons and substantially invest to change the standards of Indian firearms to the standards of the U.S." he said. "The U.S. has been barking aloud before and during the Quad meeting. But will it bite with expected 'unity' from the Quad? The answer is no."

# Expect China-style development for Sri Lanka: Gotabaya

Chinese delegation is in Colombo; both sides agree to revive FTA negotiations

MEERA SRINIVASAN  
COLOMBO

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Friday said he was targeting a China-style development model for Sri Lanka, even as he sought greater investment and a larger market from the Asian giant.

Following his meeting with a high-level delegation from Beijing in Colombo, a statement from the President's office said plans were afoot to recommence discussions on the Sri Lanka-China Free Trade Agreement, and



Gotabaya Rajapaksa

to swiftly complete the China-backed Hambantota Industrial Zone and the Port City in Colombo, a flagship \$1.4 billion project in China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Recalling his past visits to China – "13 times" – President Rajapaksa told the delegation: "I have seen massive development, especially in rural areas. My target is to bring about similar development, especially in rural areas in Sri Lanka, and to raise the living conditions of the people in this country,

Chinese Communist Party. Officials in Sri Lanka's Foreign Relations Ministry described the visit of the "high-powered" delegation as a "goodwill gesture", following President Xi Jinping's invitation to President Rajapaksa to China, following the latter's election win last year. President Rajapaksa could not undertake the visit in the wake of the pandemic.

In addition to pledging China's continued support to Sri Lanka in international forums, including at the UN Human Rights Council, Mr. Yang said: "China's assistance will not be just lip service but concrete action to

achieve the development goals," the statement said.

## Debt trap'

Further, President Rajapaksa told the delegation that he wished to disprove the "debt-trap" analysis of Sri Lanka's existing debt of over \$5 billion to China, though officials earlier indicated that Colombo might appeal to Beijing for a loan moratorium, just like it did to New Delhi.

However, President Rajapaksa sought China's help to reduce the trade deficit between the two countries, the statement said.

Significantly, the two countries agreed to resume negotiations on the FTA.

The statement made no reference to any new loans – China sanctioned a \$500 million-loan in March to help Sri Lanka cope with the pandemic – or renegotiation of Sri Lanka's existing debt of over \$5 billion to China, though officials earlier indicated that Colombo might appeal to Beijing for a loan moratorium, just like it did to New Delhi.

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# Armenia-Azerbaijan talks begin in Moscow

Aliyev calls it a historic opportunity

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
MOSCOW

Armenia and Azerbaijan held their first high-level talks on Friday after nearly two weeks of fierce clashes over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region, with hopes rising that a ceasefire could be brokered in Moscow.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, who has repeatedly vowed to use his military to retake the breakaway province, said the talks represented a historic oppor-

tunity for Armenia.

"We are giving Armenia a chance to settle the conflict peacefully," he said. "This is their last chance."

Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said his country was "ready for the resumption of the peace process" led by international brokers.

France, which along with Russia and the U.S. is mediating to end the conflict, said there was a chance of a breakthrough at the talks but it was far from certain.

## ELSEWHERE



Johnson moves to White House-style briefings

LONDON  
Boris Johnson has appointed veteran political journalist Allegra Stratton to host daily White House-style television briefings, as per reports, in a shake-up of the British PM's media operation. • AFP

# + TikTok blocked in Pakistan too

REUTERS  
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's telecom regulator blocked TikTok on Friday for failing to filter out "immoral and indecent" content, another blow to the social media app that has come under increasing scrutiny as its popularity has surged across the globe.

The ban comes in view of "complaints from different segments of the society against immoral and inde-

cent content on the video sharing application," said the Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA).

The PTA said it would review its ban, subject to a satisfactory mechanism by TikTok to moderate unlawful content.

TikTok said it was "committed to following the law in markets where the app is offered."

"We have been in regular communication with the

PTA and continue to work with them. We are hopeful to reach a conclusion that helps us continue to serve the country's vibrant and creative online community," it said.

TikTok, owned by China-based ByteDance, has become hugely popular in a short period of time, by encouraging young users to post brief videos.

In June, it was blocked in India.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

Donald Trump said he hopes to resume campaigning on Saturday after receiving a green light from his doctor, even as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi unveiled plans to probe the President's capacity to govern after contracting COVID-19.

With just 26 days until the November 3 election, Washington's top Democrat took the extraordinary step of

proposing a commission to investigate Mr. Trump's fitness for the job – and whether he needs removal under the Constitution's 25th Amendment.

Ms. Pelosi introduced legislation that would create what she called a commission on presidential capacity to discharge the powers and duties of the office.

The Bill would establish a 16-member bipartisan panel of medical experts and form-

er executive branch officials.

But with Republicans controlling the Senate, it is highly unlikely that the Bill will become law.

The move came after Mr. Trump spent the day ranting against critics and threw the debate schedule with Democrat Joe Biden into turmoil.

With tensions building over the President's diagnosis and questions about his judgment, Mr. Trump said in a Fox News interview late

Thursday that he wants to hold a campaign rally as early as Saturday. "I think I'm going to try doing a rally on Saturday night if we have enough time to put it together," he said during an interview with Sean Hannity, adding that it would be "probably in Florida."

Earlier in the day, Mr. Trump's doctor Sean Conley gave him the green light to resume public activities this weekend.

# What's happening in Kyrgyzstan?

Protesters have captured key government buildings, forcing President Jeenbekov to flee his office

STANLY JOHNY

Street protests erupted in Kyrgyzstan earlier this week following Sunday's parliamentary election. The opposition alleged that the vote was rigged as protesters captured several government buildings in the capital Bishkek, forcing the President, Sooronbay Jeenbekov, to flee the White House, the presidential palace.

## Disputed election

Kyrgyzstan, often referred to as "Central Asia's only democracy", had seen violent anti-government protests in the past. In 2005 and 2010, sitting presidents were forced out of office in the 'Tulip' and the 'Melon' revolutions. The current protests began after early results of the October 4 parliamentary election were announced. Political parties in Kyrgyzstan should win at least 7% of the popular vote to enter Parliament.

The results showed that only four parties managed to cross the threshold and of which, three were pro-government parties. The newly formed Birimdik (Unity) party emerged the biggest winner with 24.5% of the vote, while the Mekemli (My Homeland) Kyrgyzstan party got 23.88% and the Kyrgyzstan party 8.76%. The only



**In chaos:** Protesters rallying against the results of the parliamentary elections in Bishkek. • AP

Atambayev was kept and freed him. They formed a Coordination Council to lead the "revolution". The country's Election Commission annulled the results, but the protesters continued.

## Who is in charge?

The protesters have captured key government buildings, including the Parliament house and the presidential office. President Jeenbekov's whereabouts are unknown. In a video message from an undeclared location, he has accused the opposition of plotting a coup against his government. Prime Minister Kubatbek Boronov resigned on October 5 amid the upheaval. The Mekechil party has nominated its leader Sadyr Japarov, who was also released from prison where Mr.

son by the protesters, to the post of Prime Minister. President Jeenbekov assumed office in November 2017. Constitutionally, he has three more years left in office. He has offered to resign as part of a settlement with the rival parties, but has also declared state of emergency and ordered troops deployment to establish order.

## Strategic importance

This landlocked Central Asian country that shares a long border with China has been key to the strategic plans of both Russia and China. Moscow sees the region as its backyard and plays hard politics to retain its influence. For China, the country, located at the centre of Eurasia, is a vital link in its Belt and Road Initiative. China has built road and rail networks with Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. During the early

stages of the Afghan war, the U.S. had used Kyrgyzstan for refuelling and other logistical purposes. The U.S. base was shut down in 2014 by Parliament.

## Russia's role

Kyrgyzstan is a member of the Russia-led Collective Security Treaty Organisation and hosts a Russian air base. While Russia has cultivated strong ties with all political factions in Kyrgyzstan, radical political changes could throw up opportunities for its rivals. While it is to be seen whether President Jeenbekov would be able to mobilise his authority, what's evident is that the crisis poses an immediate foreign policy challenge to Russia's Vladimir Putin.

Belarus, another country in Russia's backyard with a pro-Moscow President, is already witnessing political turmoil after August's Presidential election. In the South Caucasus, the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, both former Soviet Republics, over Nagorno-Karabakh, risks dragging Russia into a conflict it doesn't want. All three combined, Moscow's attempts to build stronger political and economic integration with the former Soviet region are suddenly facing critical challenges.



**Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited**

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)

No.8, "Samparka Soudha", Dr. Rajkumar Road,

Rajajinagar 1st Block, Bengaluru-560 010. Telefax : 080-22024000

Date: 09.10.2020

## SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(on e-procurement basis)

I)	Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited [KRDCL] invites bids from reputed Consultants for providing "Consulting Services for preparation of Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) for development of Bangalore Surrounding Roads - Phase II" comprising of the roads indicated in the table below. Selection will be based on Quality & Cost Based Selection Procedure (QCBS).
II)	Interested applicants may access bidding documents from e-Procurement portal <a href="http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in">www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in</a> and upload completed proposals.
III)	The last date for submission of Technical & Financial bid is <b>27.10.2020 upto 17.30 Hours</b> .
IV)	Pre-proposal meeting will be on <b>16.10.2020 at 11.00 Hours</b> .
V)	Opening of Technical Bid is on <b>29.10.2020 at 11.00 Hours</b> .
VI)	The Technical bids, EMD and financial bids shall be submitted in e-format as per the instructions in the RFP document.

Please note henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through Newspapers and further changes will be updated only on e-portal/KRDCL website.

Sd/-

DIPR/DDUIYC/1349/2020-21

**HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APATHAMITRA ON 14410**

**Wear Mask**

**Follow Physical Distancing**

**Maintain Hand Hygiene**

## MARKET WATCH

	09-10-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	40509	0.81
US Dollar	73.16	0.10
Gold	51558	0.79
Brent oil	43.25	0.41

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	357.20	-2.55
Asian Paints	2050.60	-38.05
Axis Bank	468.05	16.15
Bajaj Auto	3059.80	-14.75
Bajaj Finserv	5915.20	-43.25
Bajaj Finance	3317.90	-8.55
Bharti Airtel	425.20	0.75
BPCL	345.00	4.95
Britannia Ind	3745.10	-49.60
Cipla	803.15	-8.30
Coal India	114.90	1.60
Divis Lab	3190.00	-41.45
Dr Reddys Lab	5153.00	-41.40
Eicher Motors	2217.95	9.15
GAIL (India)	85.70	1.55
Grafix Ind	745.10	-25.25
HCL Tech	855.75	6.20
HDFC	1957.65	8.40
HDFC Bank	1233.55	41.75
HDFC Life	573.80	-9.35
Hero MotoCorp	3327.40	48.25
Hindalco	170.00	-4.25
Hind Unilever	2139.65	-21.15
ICICI Bank	401.50	14.00
IndusInd Bank	623.05	5.35
Infosys	1106.80	13.10
Indian Oil Corp	76.50	1.00
ITC	167.85	0.70
JSW Steel	292.00	-0.95
Kotak Bank	1319.85	-0.25
L&T	908.45	27.40
M&M	633.20	-0.95
Maurit Suzuki	7062.40	-17.45
Nestle India Ltd.	16034.10	-270.50
NTPC	82.90	0.30
ONGC	70.30	1.85
PowerGrid Corp	158.00	-0.30
Reliance Ind	2233.45	-5.80
SBI Life	805.90	-15.15
State Bank	198.30	6.80
Shree Cement	2119.50	462.95
Sun Pharma	512.90	-11.20
Tata Motors	138.45	-2.50
Tata Steel	369.50	-4.15
TCS	2812.95	-12.75
Tech Mahindra	854.15	-6.15
Titan	1255.20	1.05
UltraTech Cement	4298.35	-47.65
UPL	497.30	-12.10
Wipro	374.00	14.55

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	72.93	73.25
Euro	86.05	86.43
British Pound	94.36	94.78
Japanese Yen (100)	68.88	69.18
Chinese Yuan	10.88	10.93
Swiss Franc	79.90	80.25
Singapore Dollar	53.80	54.05
Canadian Dollar	55.38	55.65
Malaysian Ringgit	17.63	17.71
Australian Dollar	52.40	52.67

Source: Indian Bank

**Banks should lend more to push demand for 2-wheelers**

## YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

**NEW DELHI**  
Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India on Friday sought increased lending support for two-wheeler buyers from the banks to help push demand.

Yadvinder Singh Guleria, director, Sales & Marketing, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI), told reporters it was too late for a discussion over a proposed cut in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) for two-wheelers and the focus should be on getting consumers' confidence at the OEM level.

"The confidence of our network is very high... we do hope that the upcoming festival should be a better one... based on the trends/momentum till now," Mr. Guleria said.

Replying to a query on the steps needed to boost demand for two-wheelers, he added that banking was one of the most important enablers for the industry.

Along with measures by the RBI and the Centre, there were expectations of support from the banking system in terms of loans to two-wheeler buyers. However, this had not been seen till August.

"So, we hope that with more money with banks and very low interest rates, considering the reverse repo rate, lending should be increased so that more and more customers come [in] and purchase at a lower rate of interest," he said.

**'Too late for GST cuts'**  
"Let's not talk about GST, it is already too late... we know the Centre is already struggling, so let's not talk about that and focus on what is in our hands," Mr. Guleria said, adding that if there was a proposal and no immediate action, it would only confuse the customer. In August, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said two-wheelers were neither luxury nor 'sin' products, and that the GST Council would take up the issue for discussion.

**CMYK**  
Life sciences/ healthcare is the only vertical that has grown both year-on-year and quarter-on-quarter. The telecom/media segment has seen the biggest hit... In life sciences and healthcare, we have done a terrific job in the

# Das tries tough love with bond market

Market participants need to take a broader time perspective, bid with sensitivity to signals from RBI

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**NEW DELHI**  
With large borrowings to be facilitated for the Centre and the States in the second half of 2020-21, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday sought market participants' cooperation and termed 'the orderly evolution' of the yield curve a public good for which they shared responsibility with the central bank.

Mr. Das reiterated an assurance that the additional borrowings required to meet the exigencies of the pandemic, would be completed in a 'non-disruptive' manner without compromising on price and financial stability'. Conceding that the expanded debt supply had imposed pressures on the market, he said the RBI was ready to assuage such pressures and dispel any liquidity concerns in financial markets.

## GST e-invoicing from April for all B2B deals

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI**  
The GST e-invoicing system will be extended to businesses with more than ₹100 crore turnover from January 1, 2021, for B2B business transactions, a top government official said on Friday.

Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey said the e-invoicing system can eventually dispense with the present system of filing GST returns for smaller (MSMEs).

Mr. Pandey said by January 1, 2021, it will be available to taxpayers having turnover of more than ₹100 crore a year and for all taxpayers for B2B transactions from April 1, 2021.



**Two to tango:** It takes at least two views to make a market, but they need not be combative, says Mr. Das. ■ KAMAL NARANG

"Market participants, on their part, need to take a broader time perspective and display bidding behaviour that reflects a sensitivity to the signals from the RBI in the conduct of monetary policy and debt management. We look forward to

cooperative solutions for the borrowing programme for the second half of the year," Mr. Das said, in a direct message to bond markets.

"Over the last few weeks, there has been some disconnect between the rationale underlying the RBI's debt

management and monetary operations on the one hand, and expectations in the market, on the other," he said, likely alluding to some recent auctions of government debt that failed to elicit enthusiasm from investors.

"It is said that it takes at least two views to make a market, but these views can be competitive without being combative," Mr. Das remarked. The RBI, he said, had decided to double the size of its liquidity-enhancing open market operations (OMOs) to ₹20,000 crore based on market feedback, adding that he expected participants to 'respond positively' to the move.

Three immediate measures were announced to ease liquidity — allowing banks to hold more SLR holdings till maturity for securities purchased in the se-

cond half of 2020-21, targeted long-term repo operations for up to ₹1 lakh crore with tenors of up to three years, and open market operations in State Development Loans as a 'special case'. Mr. Das said these steps ought to allay market concerns about illiquidity and absorptive capacity for the total government borrowing in the current year.

Aditi Nayar, principal economist at ICRA Ratings, said it remained to be seen if the RBI's commitment to facilitate government borrowing, and its explicit signals aimed at softening yields, would prove adequate "to ensure that the bond market shrugs off concerns regarding the fiscal health of the Central and State governments, as well as the large supply of State bonds that is expected in Q4 of 2020-21."

## Gold bond issue price fixed at ₹5,051

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**MUMBAI**  
The decision of the Reserve Bank of India to rationalise risk weightage on housing loans would play a significant role in boosting demand for the housing sector, said developers and lenders.

Such loans shall attract a risk weight of 35% where the loan-to-value (LTV) ratio is less than or equal to 80%, and a risk weight of 50% where LTV is more than 80% but less than or equal to 90%, the RBI said in its policy statement.

Mr. Pandey said by Janu-

ary 1, 2021, it will be available to taxpayers having turnover of more than ₹100 crore a year and for all taxpayers for B2B transactions from April 1, 2021.

The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2020-21 Series VII will be opened for subscription from October 12 to October 16.

The RBI further said that the government, in consultation with the central bank, had decided to offer a discount of ₹50 per gram less than the nominal value of HFCs and unlock value for us.

The announcement on risk weights shall give much-needed impetus for the housing sector.

Hardayal Prasad, MD & CEO, PNB Housing Finance, said,

"The extension of the co-lending model will help expand leverage capacities of HFCs and unlock value for us.

The announcement on risk weights shall give much-needed impetus for the housing sector.

# Khara lauds RBI's discretionary tack

SBI chief refers to 'policy innovations'

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**MUMBAI**  
The RBI's decision to retain an accommodative stance even as it kept policy rates unchanged on Friday was broadly welcomed by lenders and economists.

"The policy statement by RBI is a perfect exposition of doing 'whatever it takes' to revive growth," said Dinesh Kumar Khara, Chairman of the country's largest lender, State Bank of India.

"With growth projections at -9.5% and inflation set to be higher at least for now, and the possibility of renewed infections in many countries, the monetary policy committee has rightly chosen to keep the policy stance accommodative and relying more on discretion based policy responses rather than being strictly rule-based."

"Accordingly, the decision to go down the Open Market Operations (OMO) route for State Development Loans borrowings, increasing the limit for risk weights for the retail portfolio up to ₹7.5 crore and linking housing loan risk weights to loan-to-value ratio are policy innovations that will...nudge the term structure of rates lower. The policy has also targeted specific sectors that have high forward and backward linkages notably the retail and real estate sector," Mr. Khara added.

A. K. Das, MD & CEO, Bank of India said, "The measures are a potent force to support bond market, catalyse rate transmission and improve liquidity so as to be conducive to the revival prospects." Retail and MSME segments would also benefit as a result of measures including the enhancement of regulatory retail cap," Mr. Das added.

The RBI's policy was as



Dinesh Kumar Khara

aggressively accommodative as possible, opined Abheek Barua, chief economist, HDFC Bank.

## ‘Simply not compatible’

"The decision to remain accommodative for an extended period and to look through 'transient humps' in inflation reveals an appreciation for the basic principles of economics – that a GDP contraction of 9.5% is simply not compatible with demand side inflation pressures," he said.

"If inflation has persisted over the RBI's target limit, it has been driven by persistent supply side problems. Persistence itself cannot transform a supply-driven problem to a demand-side concern amenable to monetary policy driven containment. Given the stance, there is a significant probability of a rate cut in February, if not in December itself, as inflation, as we expect, moderates," he said.

"The ₹1 lakh crore on-tap TLTR window should enhance funding availability for companies as economic activity picks up in the second half," said Krishnan Sitaraman, Senior Director, Crisil Ratings. "The last TLTR scheme had enabled BBB and A rated entities to access funding through bonds, which was otherwise challenging for them."

## Number of campus offers this year will mirror last year's: TCS

Clients want more automation based on early successes'

## K. BHARAT KUMAR

**Customers are seeking more automation given the success of efforts over the past few years, even as the pandemic-led pause spurred them to cut wasteful expenditure, said N. Ganapathy Subramaniam, COO and ED, Tata Consultancy Services. In an interview, he said the pandemic had not impacted TCS's campus hiring plans. Excerpts:**

How have client priorities changed in these past months?

■ In wave one of the pandemic, client priorities were: their IT infrastructure and application landscape should never go down; to improve their employee experience so that there is no dilution of effort when working from anywhere remote and so that they are able to service their customers just as well; and, to improve their customers' experience.

In wave two, they realised the automation they had earlier deployed – be it artificial intelligence or robotic process automation – has helped. Now, they want to extend automation to other areas. A key factor driving this is the need to lessen their staff's work burden.

# Delhi Capitals ends Rajasthan Royals' Sharjah love affair to go top

Despite being restricted to 184, Shreyas' men showcase their bowling strength to prevent Smith's team from making it three in three on the six-friendly ground

## IPL 2020

### SPORTS BUREAU

**O**n a night when the Delhi Capitals fielders caught just about everything that came their way, with considerable style on a few occasions, Rajasthan Royals failed to put an end to its miserable run. Not even a return to its happy hunting ground – the Sharjah Cricket Stadium – helped, as RR lost by 46 runs on Friday.

The target of 185 proved too much for RR, as it slid to its fourth defeat in a row; only Kings XI Punjab is placed below it, with the tournament nearing the halfway mark. DC meanwhile replaced Mumbai Indians at the top of the IPL table after posting its fifth win in six games.

The night had begun promisingly for RR, with Steve Smith winning the toss and his bowlers not allowing the rival batsmen to settle down.

On a small ground, which has already witnessed the biggest chase in IPL history (by RR, in fact), things weren't looking good for Shreyas Iyer's men. But Marcus Stoinis (39, 30b, 4x6) and Shimron Hetmyer (45, 24b, 1x4, 5x6) ensured their bowlers would have something to



A study in contrast: While Capitals' Shimron Hetmyer is on the go, Royals' Yashasvi Jaiswal is gone, castled by Marcus Stoinis. ■ BCCI/IPL

defend. Once again, Jofra Archer was the pick of RR's bowlers, taking three for 24 off four overs.

When Shreyas brought R. Ashwin into the attack in the third over of RR's innings, the prospects of an interesting battle within a battle emerged. The India off-spinner won that battle against Jos Buttler, this time in a more conventional manner than last season's run-out at the bowler's end.

The Englishman's plan to hit the bowler over mid-wicket didn't quite come off, Shikhar Dhawan taking a terrific diving catch at square-leg.

#### Diving catch

Then, another excellent piece of catching saw the back of Smith. The RR captain's flick off Anrich Nortje, DC's lesser-celebrated South African seamer, was picked up by Hetmyer diving forward.

There was more to come before long from the West Indian though, as he waited patiently for Sanju Samson's miscued hit, towards long-on off Stoinis, to land safely in his hands. The wait for the Kerala dasher to return to form continues, however.

Opener Yashasvi Jaiswal (34, 36b, 1x4, 2x6) and Rahul Tewatia (38, 29b, 3x4, 2x6) down the order tried hard, but it was not enough against a top side in top form.

#### Points table

Team	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Delhi Capitals	6	5	1	10	1.267
Mumbai Indians	6	4	2	8	1.488
Sunrisers Hyderabad	6	3	3	6	0.232
Kolkata Knight Riders	5	3	2	6	0.002
Royal Challengers	5	3	2	6	-1.355
Chennai Super Kings	6	2	4	4	-0.371
Rajasthan Royals	6	2	4	4	-1.073
Kings XI Punjab	6	1	5	2	-0.431

After the RR-DC match on Oct. 9

## SCOREBOARD

### DELHI CAPITALS

Prithvi Shaw c & b Archer 19 (10b, 2x4, 1x6), Shikhar Dhawan c Jaiswal b Archer 5 (4b, 1x4), Shreyas Iyer run out 22 (18b, 4x4), Rishabh Pant run out 5 (9b), Marcus Stoinis c Smith b Tewatia 39 (30b, 4x6), Shimron Hetmyer c Tewatia b Tyagi 45 (24b, 1x4, 5x6), Harshal Patel c Tewatia b Archer 16 (15b, 1x4), Axar Patel c Buttler b Ty 17 (8b, 2x4, 1x6), Kagiso Rabada (not out) 2 (3b), R. Ashwin (not out) 0 (1b), Extras (b-4, lb-3, w-5, nb-2); 14; Total (for eight wkt in 20 overs): 184.

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-12 (Dhawan, 1.3 overs), 2-42 (Shaw, 4.2), 3-50 (Shreyas Iyer, 5.5), 4-79 (Pant, 9.2), 5-109 (Stoinis, 13.3), 6-149 (Hetmyer, 16.6), 7-181 (Axar, 18.6), 8-183 (Harshal, 19.4).

### CAPITALS BOWLING

Rabada 3.4-0-35-3, Nortje 4-0-25-1, Ashwin 4-0-22-2, Harshal 4-0-29-1, Axar 2-0-8-1, Stoinis 2-0-17-2.

Toss: Rajasthan Royals.

Man-of-the-Match: Ashwin. Delhi Capitals won by 46 runs.

## Innings scan

DC	RR
45	Dots
11	Fours
11	Sixes
51/3	PP
9.20	RR

## Next assignment

RR: Oct. 11 vs. SRH

Dubai, 3.30 p.m. IST

DC: Oct. 11 vs. MI

Abu Dhabi, 7.30 p.m. IST

## CSK and RCB look to get campaign back on track

Bottom-placed KXIP takes on KKR

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI

CSK will take on RCB in an intriguing mid-table clash here on Saturday, with both teams battling inconsistency.

The middle-order continues to be a concern for CSK with skipper M.S. Dhoni not at his best.

CSK has the option of recalling Ruturaj Gaikwad or picking N. Jagadeesan, who has been warming the bench since the 2018 season.

For RCB, Devdutt Padikkal has looked in good touch. If the big-hitting Aaron Finch can provide a quick start at the top, it would serve the team better.

Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal has been RCB's leading bowler while off-spinner Washington Sundar has

been frugal in PowerPlay. At Abu Dhabi, KXIP will have to play out of its skin to get its stuttering campaign back on track when it faces KKR.

With five losses and a solitary win, KXIP is at the bottom of the table with two points, whereas Knight Riders are fourth with three wins.

Shubman Gill has already created an impression as an opener and now KKR has found another option at the top in Rahul Tripathi.

Sunil Narine also seems to be rediscovering his touch with both bat and ball. Eoin Morgan is a huge presence in the middle-order which also has Nitish Rana. And, then there is Andre Russell, who has not yet hit his wonted form but remains a threat.

## Fire and Ice

Saturday's showdown will be a match-up between Swiatek's power-packed game and Kenin's tactical nous

### HEAD-TO-HEAD: FIRST MEETING\*

\* The two met in the third round of the junior French Open in 2016. Swiatek, a qualifier then, defeated the 10th-seeded Kenin 6-4, 7-5

■ This will be the first Slam final between two players 21-and-under since the 2008 Australian Open (Sharapova, 20 vs. Ivanovic, 20) and the first in Paris since 2003 (Henin, 21 vs. Clijsters, 20)

■ Maiden Grand Slam final for Swiatek in only her second main draw appearance in Paris

■ Has the chance to become the first-ever Major singles champion from Poland

■ At 19, bidding to be the fourth youngest women's singles champion at Roland Garros after Monica Seles (16), Arantxa Sanchez (17) and Steffi Graf (17)

■ Can become the first woman since Henin in 2007 to win the French Open women's title without losing a set

■ Second Major final for Kenin after the 2020 Australian Open where she emerged the champion

■ The 21-year-old American is 16-1 in Grand Slams this year, with the only loss coming at the US Open

■ Can become the first woman since Kerber in 2016 to win two Majors in a calendar year

■ Bidding to be the sixth woman this millennium to win her second Slam within two Slams of her first after Venus, Capriati, Henin, Mauresmo and Osaka

**KENIN**

I've been efficient and focused; not even nervous in second sets. [But] I'm going to play a much more experienced player and will need to be on a different level

I've already done it in Australia. I've had tough matches these past two weeks and I'm so excited to be in the final

KENIN, looking ahead to the summit clash

### TODAY'S MATCHES



ABU DHABI, 3.30 P.M. IST

#### HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 25

KKR 17 | KXIP 3

In 2019

Played 2 | KKR 2 | KXIP 0



DUBAI, 7.30 P.M. IST

#### HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 24

CSK 15 | RCB 8 | NR 1

In 2019

Played 1 | CSK 1 | RCB 1

PLAY BEGINS AT 6.30 P.M. IST | LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 2

STAR SPORTS 1 & SELECT 1 (SD & HD)

## Rafael Nadal sweeps into his 13th final

Schwartzman has his chances but unforced errors prove to be his undoing

### FRENCH OPEN

#### AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE PARIS

Twelve-time champion Rafael Nadal reached his 13th French Open final with a 6-3, 6-3, 7-6(0) win over Argentina's Diego Schwartzman on Friday.

For 34-year-old Nadal, it was a 99th win at Roland Garros since his 2005 debut and put him just one win away from equalling Roger Federer's all-time record of 20 Grand Slam titles. He is also into his 28th Major final and has not dropped a set this year in Paris.

Nadal fought off two break points in a marathon 14-minute opening game. The World No. 2 then broke for 2-0 but Schwartzman retrieved it immediately. It was a brief respite as the 28-year-old was broken again in the fourth game.

The Argentine saved a couple of set points but dumped the third one in to the net and the opener was Nadal's after 65 minutes on court. Nadal was comfortably the stronger player, breaking in the third and ninth games for a two sets lead. With the match and his spirit seemingly drifting away, Schwartzman dropped serve again to go 3-1 down in the third.

But he rallied as Nadal slipped into passivity and by the 11th game he was back on serve although he remonstrated with himself for squandering three break points that would have left



Done in three: Nadal surmounted Schwartzman's challenge in straight sets. ■ GETTY IMAGES

### Remarkable Rafa

■ Nadal has lost only three sets in his 13 French Open semifinals (two vs. Djokovic in 2013 and one vs. Federer in 2005)

■ Only the fifth tie-break Nadal has played in a French Open semifinal, first since 2013

■ Nadal has won two-thirds of all games he has played at Roland Garros (1919 to 962)

■ Only twice before had Nadal played an opponent outside the top-8 in his 25 combined semifinal and final matches in Paris (previous: 2005 final vs. Puerta (37) and 2010 semifinal vs. Melzer (27))

### THE RESULT

Men

Final: 2-Rafael Nadal (Esp) bt 12-Diego Schwartzman (Arg) 6-3, 6-3, 7-6(0).

### SUDOKU

9	7		2	8				
			3					

## TV PICKS

**Eifel Grand Prix:** Practice, SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 3.20 p.m.  
**Nations League:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 6.30 p.m., 9.30 p.m., 12.15 a.m. (Sunday)  
**NBA Finals:** Sony Six (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m. (Sunday)  
**MotoGP:** Eurosport (SD & HD), 4 p.m.  
**PGA Tour:** Eurosport (SD & HD), 4 a.m. (Sunday)

## IN BRIEF



DeChambeau blasts his way to the top in Vegas

LAS VEGAS

Bryson DeChambeau put on another power display on his way to a nine-under 62 and a one-shot lead in the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open. Patrick Cantlay, a winner and twice runner-up in his last three appearances here, shared second on 63 with Harold Varner III, Scott Harrington, Nate Lashley and Austin Cook. AP

Tan, Lincicome share lead in Pennsylvania

NEW YORK

Malaysia's Kelly Tan shot a three-under 67 to match American Brittany Lincicome for the lead after Thursday's opening round of the Women's PGA Championship in Pennsylvania. A third-place pack on 68 included New Zealand's Lydia Ko, Sweden's Linnea Strom, Spain's Carlota Ciganda, Mexico's Gaby Lopez and Americans Danielle Kang and Cydney Clanton. AFP



Ibrahimovic tests positive for COVID-19 again

ROME

Zlatan Ibrahimovic has again tested positive for coronavirus, AC Milan announced on Thursday. The veteran Swede, who went into quarantine two weeks ago when he first tested positive, must test negative twice before he can return to the Milan squad, whose next game is the derby against Inter on October 17. AFP



Chelsea 'keeper Mendy injured on Senegal duty

LONDON

Chelsea goalkeeper Edouard Mendy has suffered a thigh injury while on international duty with Senegal. Mendy picked up the injury during a training session and has returned to London for assessment by Chelsea's medical team. Blues boss Frank Lampard will hope Mendy recovers in time to face Southampton at Stamford Bridge in his team's next Premier League game on October 17. AFP

East Bengal ropes in Fowler



Robbie Fowler. ■ FILE PHOTO

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA

KOLKATA

Shree Cement East Bengal Foundation, the new conglomerate managing the legacy club, announced the appointment of Liverpool FC legend and former England striker Robbie Fowler as the head coach for its maiden venture Hero Indian Super League.

The 45-year-old last managed A-League side Brisbane Roar FC and helped it to the play-offs and fourth spot in the league.

**East Bengal support staff:** Head coach: Robbie Fowler, Assistant coach: Anthony Grant, Indian assistant coach: Renedy Singh.

CMYK

# Lakers on the threshold of glory

Heat require a miracle to stage a turnaround from being 3-1 down

## NBA FINALS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
ORLANDO

Los Angeles Lakers can complete the franchise's return to the pinnacle of basketball here as it looks to seal a record-equaling 17th NBA Finals crown with a victory over Miami Heat.

Lakers, which returned to the Finals this season after missing the post-season for six consecutive years, took a commanding 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven series on Tuesday, leaving Miami needing to stage a miracle to keep its hopes alive.

**Odds against Miami**  
Only one team – LeBron James-led Cleveland Cavaliers in 2016 – has ever come back from a 3-1 Finals deficit to win the title. The odds, and momentum, are stacked firmly against Miami.

Heat coach Erik Spoelstra struck a defiant tone on Thursday, insisting that the series remained competitive



**Big ask:** Miami Heat's Jimmy Butler will have to bring his A-game into play in order to keep LA Lakers at bay. ■ AFP

despite the improbable task facing his men.

Injuries to Goran Dragic and Bam Adebayo in game one robbed Miami of two key figures for games two and three. While Adebayo returned for Tuesday's game-four loss, Dragic remains sidelined by a foot injury and is rated as "doubtful" to feature on Friday.

Miami will look to the inspirational Jimmy Butler to lead the fightback. Butler was superb in the Heat's sole victory of the series in game three, scoring 40 points in a virtuoso performance.

"Ain't nobody thinking about going home over here," Butler said Thursday. "It's not win or go home – it's win or win. That's how we

## Poor weather scuttles practice sessions

## EIFEL GP

REUTERS  
NURBURGRING

Bad weather denied Mick Schumacher his Formula One practice debut and wiped out track action at the Eifel Grand Prix on Friday, with the medical helicopter grounded by fog and cars unable to run.

**Pit lane exit closed**  
Organisers had set the clock running for the 90-minute opening session at a cold and damp Nurburgring but kept the pit lane exit closed.

After half-hourly updates, they announced

there would be no running. The afternoon session at the German circuit was similarly timed out.

Schumacher, the Formula Two championship leader and son of seven-times World champion and former Ferrari great Michael, had been due to replace Italian Antonio Giovinazzi at Alfa Romeo for the morning only.

The debut had attracted global interest, with Schumacher stepping onto the Formula One stage at the circuit closest to his father's childhood home in Kerpen and one where his father won five times.

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As a result, the team retested everyone at the Nurburgring circuit, an exercise that resulted in another positive test and one that was inconclusive.

## Six more Mercedes staff test positive

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
NURBURGRING (GERMANY)

The Mercedes Formula One team on Friday confirmed that it has isolated six more staff, including a second person who returned a confirmed positive COVID-19 test.

The team had announced on Thursday that one person from its travelling race team had tested positive ahead of this weekend's Eifel Grand Prix.

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global interest, with Schumacher stepping onto the Formula One stage at the circuit closest to his father's childhood home in Kerpen and one where his father won five times.

As a result, the team retested everyone at the Nurburgring circuit, an exercise that resulted in another positive test and one that was inconclusive.

## Verstappen stays optimistic despite Honda's departure

You have to understand their reasons, and we just keep pushing'



Verstappen. ■ GETTY IMAGES

We have a great relationship and it is really enjoyable to work with these guys.

"So, for the rest of the year, we're just going to keep going and it will be the same next year with the new engine. I'm looking forward to that – to bringing it all to a good end and pushing until the last race."

He said he sensed the decision was coming. "I could

feel it," he said. "But I knew a little bit before the announcement. It's a shame, but understandable from their side."

Verstappen's upbeat reaction came after his father Jos had made clear that he was less than impressed at how events had unfolded at Red Bull this year.

Verstappen signed a new three-year contract earlier this year and has proved himself to be the fastest threat to the two Mercedes men who have dominated this season.

If Red Bull struggles to find a competitive engine supplier to replace Honda, he may attract strong interest from other teams – especially if, as many paddock observers believe, his contract includes a clause requiring the team supply a competitive car and engine.

## BCCI apex council meeting on Oct. 17

## CRICKET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

India's home series against England will be up for discussion alongside the scheduling of the upcoming tour of Australia and the domestic season when the BCCI's apex council holds an online meeting on October 17.

Board president Sourav Ganguly had said that the BCCI will do all it can to ensure that the home series against England remains in the country and domestic tournaments kick off at some point despite the fluid COVID-19 situation.

However, in the event India is able to host the England team, Mumbai could be the best option to create a bubble with three international venues – Wankhede Stadium, Cricket Club of India and D.Y. Patil Stadium.

India's COVID-19 case load is nearing 70 lakh and the death toll has surged beyond 1 lakh.

## PGTI events from Nov. 4

SPORTS REPORTER  
BENGALURU

The Tata Steel Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) is set to resume events with the Tata Steel PGTI Players Championship at Panchkula & Chandigarh Golf Clubs on November 4, the PGTI announced on Friday.

Five events are scheduled to be held in 2020.

**Events (course and prize money included):** Nov. 4-7 & 9-12: Tata Steel PGTI Players Championship, Panchkula & Chandigarh Golf Clubs, ₹30 lakh each.

**Dec. 3-6:** Jeev Milkha Singh Invitational, Chandigarh Golf Club, ₹1.5 crore; **Dec. 9-12:** Indian Oil Servo Masters Golf, Digboi Golf Links, Digboi, ₹60 lakh.

**Dec. 17-20:** Tata Steel Tour Championship, Golmuri Golf Club, Jamshedpur, ₹1.5 crore.

## 'I don't live my life thinking about legacy'

James says what he does off the floor means much to him

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
ORLANDO

LeBron James says he is not thinking about his basketball legacy as he closes in on a fourth NBA Finals victory with the Los Angeles Lakers here on Friday.

James is within touching distance of yet another championship as the Lakers head into game five in Orlando with a 3-1 lead in their best-of-seven series against the Miami Heat.

Davis, who has formed a dominant axis alongside James since joining Lakers in 2019, is chasing a first NBA championship.

**Tribute to Kobe**  
Lakers will attempt to close the deal wearing their "Black Mamba" uniforms, a tribute to franchise icon Kobe Bryant, who died in a helicopter crash in January. So far, Lakers are undefeated when they have worn the striking all-black strip.

While James and Davis provide the starpower, Lakers' revival has also owed plenty to consistent contributions from a talented supporting cast featuring the likes of Kentavious Caldwell-Pope, Danny Green, Rajon Rondo and Kyle Kuzma.

"I don't really think about it too much," James told reporters on Thursday.

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