



Indian Navy matches skills with three foreign fleets off Vizag coast

Page 10



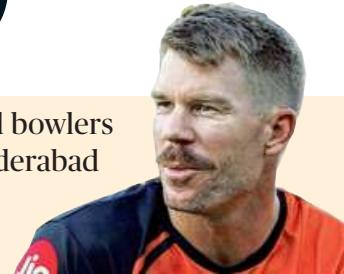
In overnight operation, Sri Lanka rescues 120 stranded pilot whales

Page 11



India's merchandise exports shrink again on global demand woes

Page 12



Warner, Saha and bowlers put Sunrisers Hyderabad in the playoffs

Page 13

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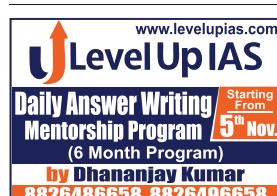


Mercury dips to 10°C, IMD may declare a cold wave

NEW DELHI

Nights in the national capital continued to get cooler with the minimum temperature settling at 10 degrees Celsius, the lowest for the season so far. The temperature was five degrees below normal and the IMD said that it may consider declaring a cold wave if the temperature continues to stay the same for another day.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2



DAILY ANSWER WRITING

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Starting From 5th Nov.

by Dhananjay Kumar

8826486658, 8826496658

OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 2

Awaiting their turn



Keeping watch: A security person keeps vigil as voters stand in a queue during the second phase of the Bihar Assembly polls, amid the coronavirus pandemic, in Muzaffarpur district on Tuesday. ▶ PTI

54% turnout in Bihar Phase 2

By-elections to 28 Assembly seats in M.P. see 69.93% polling

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission said on Tuesday that the tentative turnout in phase two of the Bihar Assembly election and by-elections to 28 seats in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly was 54.64% and 69.93% respectively.

In Madhya Pradesh, there had been 1,137 MCC violations for which FIRs were filed in 447 cases, DEC Suddeep Jain said.

There had been 420 Model Code of Conduct (MCC) violations in phase two, he said.

Seizure of cash and other illegal items had more than doubled from ₹23.81 crore in the 2015 Bihar Assembly polls to ₹65.22 crore as on Tuesday morning, he said.

In Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Nagaland, Odisha, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh by-elections was estimated to be 77.25%, 58.66%, 68%, 62.51%, 57.04%, 88.14%, 69.02%, 82.60% and 53.71% respectively, according to the EC.

MORE REPORTS ON ▶ PAGE 9

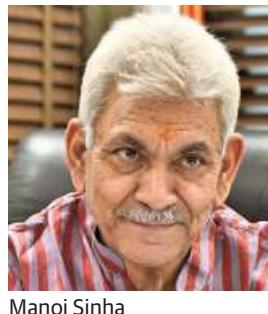
'Amended J&K land laws have built-in safeguards'

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

Jammu and Kashmir Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha sought to allay apprehensions over the new amendments to laws regarding the acquisition of land by outsiders in the Union Territory, stating that protections of the kind enshrined in land laws of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand were incorporated into the new laws.

Industrial development

Speaking exclusively to *The Hindu*, Mr. Sinha, who has completed nearly three months at the helm in J&K, said the amendments covered only non-agricultural land and were for giving a



Manoj Sinha

fillip to industrial development in the Union Territory.

"I am telling you with great responsibility that all the safeguards in the laws in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are there in these amendments," he said.

INTERVIEW ▶ PAGE 10

Thulasendrapuram fervently prays for Kamala's victory

American Presidential election fever grips village in Tiruvarur district of Tamil Nadu

R. RAJARAM
TIRUCHI

The nondescript village of Thulasendrapuram in Tiruvarur district came alive on Tuesday when a section of residents fervently prayed for the emphatic victory of Kamala Harris, the U.S. Democratic Vice Presidential candidate, on the day one of the most contested elections in recent times were held in America.

With the world awaiting the outcome of the intense tussle, Thulasendrapuram, Ms. Harris' ancestral village, was soaked in religious fervour, with villagers organis-



Rooting for her: A billboard featuring Kamala Harris near an eatery in Thulasendrapuram village on Tuesday. ▶ AP

ing a special puja at the Sri Dharma Sastha temple.

The otherwise sleepy village was dotted with flex

boards and banners with huge photographs of Ms. Harris, wishing her a resounding victory. Some resi-

dents of the neighbouring Painganadu village also participated in the special puja, timed to coincide with the election in the United States.

Ms. Harris' maternal grandfather, Gopalan, hailed from Thulasendrapuram village, locals said.

"The puja lasted for over four hours, with *abishekham* of milk, honey, turmeric powder, coconut water, lime and holy ash performed separately for Sri Dharma Sastha," said J. Sudhakar, a resident of Painganadu and the president of the Green City Rotary Club, Mannargudi. *Annadhanam* (free food)

AMERICA VOTES ▶ PAGE 11

Convicted IS supporter kills 4 in Vienna rampage

Police kill 20-year-old shooter, launch hunt for his aides

REUTERS
VIENNA

Austrian police were hunting for suspects on Tuesday after at least one gunman killed four people in a rampage in the heart of Vienna overnight. Fourteen people were injured – some seriously – in the attack.

"These States need to continue the test-track-trace-and-treat strategy. They have also been asked to preserve and protect the gains of the past and guard against future surge during festivals by following COVID appropriate behaviour," he said.

He said the new confirmed cases in the last 24 hours had fallen under 40,000. "The daily new cases now stand at 38,310, which has happened after 15 weeks [105 days]. The new added cases were 37,724 on July 22."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8



Ramping up security: Policemen walking past wreaths placed at one of the shooting locations in Vienna, on Tuesday. ▶ AFP

flict between Christians and Muslims or between Austrians and migrants. No, this is a fight between the many people who believe in peace and the few (who oppose it). It is a fight between civilisation and barbarism."

The attacker was identified by Interior Minister Karl Nehammer as Kujtim Fejzulai. A dual citizen of Austria and North Macedonia, Fejzulai was sentenced to 22 months in jail in April 2019 for attempting to travel to Syria to join the IS but was released in December.

ANOTHER REPORT ▶ PAGE 11

'Governor can rule on Rajiv convicts' plea'

Probe into larger conspiracy does not concern convicts, says Supreme Court

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said the Multi-Disciplinary Monitoring Agency (MDMA) investigation into the "larger conspiracy" behind Rajiv Gandhi's assassination in 1991 need not deter the Tamil Nadu Governor from deciding the plea for pardon of convicts like A.G. Perarivalan, who have been serving their sentence in jail for over two decades.

"Larger conspiracy probe is only to prove if any other people are involved. It is not for them [people already convicted]," Justice L. Nageswara Rao, leading a three-judge Bench, observed orally.



Awaiting decision: A.G. Perarivalan and S. Nalini, right, were convicted for the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. ▶ FILE PHOTO

Turning to Additional Solicitor General K.M. Nataraj, appearing for the Centre, he asked, "This larger conspiracy investigation is pending for the past 20 years... Still you are waiting for details from U.K., Thailand?"

The court was responding to submissions made by Mr. Nataraj that the scope of the MDMA probe extended to many countries, and it is still going on.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, for Per-

rivalan, said the status report filed about the MDMA probe was a "copy-paste" of earlier such reports.

In January last, the court said the body was yet to conclude its investigation on the origin and make of the bomb that killed the former Prime Minister.

The court made it clear during the hearing that it was reluctant to exercise its jurisdiction when the Governor was already seized of Perarivalan's plea for pardon under Article 161 of the Constitution. "Why don't you ask the Governor to pass orders without our intervention?" Justice Rao asked.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

City's daily cases cross 6K for first time

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Capital on Tuesday witnessed the highest single-day jump in COVID-19 cases so far with 6,725 people testing positive in the last 24

hours. A total of 59,540 COVID-19 tests were conducted, taking the positivity rate to 11.29%.

According to the health bulletin released by the Delhi government, 48 deaths

and 3,610 recoveries were recorded in the same period. There are now 36,375 active cases and 3,453 containment zones in the city.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 3

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Celebrate a cracker-free Deepavali: Rai

Contribution of stubble burning to pollution in Delhi drops to 10%; AQI to worsen in coming days

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Tuesday launched an anti-firerunner campaign in Delhi and appealed to the residents to burst green crackers on Deepavali.

The campaign was launched on a day when the 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) of Delhi was recorded at 302 – slipping back to “very poor” category from “poor” category.

Air quality monitoring agencies added that contribution of stubble burning to pollution in Delhi dropped to 10% on Tuesday due to improved wind speeds. It was 40% on Sunday – the highest so far this season.

Only green crackers

After inaugurating the campaign, Mr. Rai said that according to a Supreme Court directive, normal crackers have been banned in Delhi and only pollution-free green crackers have been allowed this year. “I want to appeal to the people of Delhi that this year, when we are witnessing COVID-19 and pollution at the same time,



People exercising on a smoggy day at the Signature Bridge in Delhi on Tuesday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

please avoid bursting crackers,” the Minister said.

The Delhi government said that under the campaign, all sub-divisional magistrates and police officers, along with 11 teams of the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) have been directed to ensure there is no bursting of polluting crack-

ers across the city.

The teams are ensuring effective implementation on ground, checking that the crackers sold must have a ‘green cracker’ logo on them and are manufactured by authorised companies.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Earth Sciences’ air quality monitoring agency, SAFAR, said the share of stubble burning in Delhi’s PM 2.5 pollution “decreased significantly” due to a change in the wind direction.

Stubble fire

“Stubble fire counts over Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and neighbouring areas are sig-

Air Quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	302	Gurugram	270
Ghaziabad	340	Faridabad	318
Noida	321	Greater Noida	356
■ Good	■ Satisfactory	■ Moderate	
0-50	51-100	101-200	
■ Poor	■ Very Poor	■ Severe	
201-300	301-400	>400	

Air Quality Index at 4 p.m. yesterday (Average of past 24 hours) | Source: CPCB

nificant and stood at 3,068 on Monday,” the bulletin read. It added that Tuesday was an example of high fire count and low impact in Delhi’s air, due to unfavourable transport level winds.

SAFAR has forecast that the air quality is likely to deteriorate on Wednesday and Thursday. “A significant improvement from peak AQI value three days ago to current AQI is mainly attributed to increased surface wind speed combined with not so favourable boundary layer winds for fire-related intrusion. However, boundary layer winds are likely to shift to Northwesterly, but with slower wind speed, some increased intrusion and marginal deterioration are expected in the next three days,” the forecast read.

Mercury dips to 10°C, IMD may declare a cold wave

November expected to be colder than usual this year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
Nights in the Capital continued to get cooler with the minimum temperature settling at 10 degrees Celsius, which was the lowest for the season so far.

The temperature was five degrees below normal and the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that it may consider declaring a cold wave if the temperature continues to stay the same for another day.

For the plains, a cold wave is declared when the minimum temperature is 10 degrees Celsius or below and is 4.5 degrees Celsius less than normal for two consecutive days.

No cloud cover, snowfall

The fall in the minimum temperature has been attributed to the absence of cloud cover and snowfall in the upper Himalayas that has blown cold winds towards the region.

November is expected to be colder than usual after



India Gate shrouded in morning fog on Tuesday. ■ AFP

the mean minimum temperature in October this year was 17.2 degrees Celsius, the lowest since 1962, when it was 16.9 degrees Celsius.

The normal mean minimum temperature for October in the Capital is around 19.1 degrees Celsius.

Over 5,900 admitted under DU 4th list so far

Delhi University has already filled up 62,541 out of roughly 70,000 available seats



STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A total of 2,328 applications were received by Delhi University on Tuesday, the second day of admissions under the fourth cut-off list to merit-based undergraduate courses, said officials.

A total of 5,928 admissions have taken place so far under the fourth list with aspirants completing the admission procedure.

As many as 2,652 applications were also approved by various colleges.

The university has so far admitted 62,541 students against around 70,000 seats available for merit-based undergraduate courses.

Admissions under the fifth list are scheduled to begin on November 9, while admissions under the special cut-off list is expected to begin from November 18.

Classes are scheduled to begin from November 18.

Festive spirit



Women getting mehndi applied on their hands on the eve of Karva Chauth at Connaught Place on Tuesday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

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विज्ञापन नं.: / Advt. No.: IITM/R/1/2020 दिनांक / Date: 04.11.2020
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3	Manager (Electronics-Basic Design)		1 (UR)
4	Manager (Naval Architecture-Hull Structure Design)		1 (UR)
5	Manager (Mechanical-Machinery Design)		2 (UR)
6	Deputy Manager (Design-Information Technology)	E2	1 (UR)
7	Assistant Manager (Design- Information Technology)	E1	1 (UR)
Strategic & Advanced Solutions			
8	Manager (Electrical-Strategic & Advanced Solutions)	E3	1 (UR)
9	Manager (Electronics-Strategic & Advanced Solutions)		1 (UR)
Business Development - New Ship Building			
10	Assistant General Manager (Business Development-New Ship Building)	E5	1 (UR)
11	Manager (Business Development - New Ship Building)	E3	2 (UR)
Ship Building			
12	Manager (Electrical - Ship Building Outfit)	E3	2 (UR)
Materials			
13	Assistant General Manager (Materials)	E5	1 (UR)
14	Manager (Materials)	E3	2 (UR)
Planning & Project Management			
15	Manager (Planning & Project Management)	E3	1 (UR)
Ship Repair			
16	Assistant General Manager (Marine)	E5	1 (OBC)*
17	Manager (Marine)	E3	2 (1 UR, 1 SC)
18	Manager (Naval Weapons Engineering)		2 (UR)
19	Manager (Business Development - Ship Repair)		2 (UR)
Legal			
20	Manager (Legal)	E3	1 (UR)
21	Assistant Manager (Legal)	E1	1 (UR)
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*Backlog vacancy

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CISF man succumbs to burn injuries

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 43-year-old Central Industrial Security Force Head Constable died a day after he suffered burn injuries allegedly from a heater while warming his dinner, the police said on Tuesday.

A senior police officer said that the deceased has been identified as Head Constable Alok Kumar, who hails from a village in the Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh, they said.

The police said the incident took place on Monday night when Mr. Kumar was on duty at morcha no. 2 at Indira Gandhi Smriti.

“We received a PCR call around 10 p.m. at Tughlak Road police station that a CISF jawan on duty at Indira Gandhi Smriti was burned and the PCR van is shifting him to Safdarjung Hospital. He was critical,” a senior police officer said.

Doctors said that he sustained 60% burn injuries and was unfit to give a statement. The police said that on Tuesday morning, they were informed that he had succumbed to injuries.

The police said that inspection of the spot was conducted and it was confirmed that he caught fire from a heater kept in the morcha while warming his dinner. Senior CISF officers have also visited the spot and the hospital and an inquiry is under way.

4 women pretending to be beggars arrested for robbery in Hauz Khas

They intimidated victim, threatened to kill her: police

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Police said that a call was received at 12.35 p.m. on October 30 regarding a robbery.

When police reached the spot at Aurobindo Marg, a woman stated that she was sitting alone in her car and waiting for her turn to visit a pathology lab when four women came there and started begging. The complainant first gave them ₹5, which they did not accept and asked for more.

The woman said that she

then tried to give ₹50 but the women didn't move away.

“They started intimidating the complainant and asked her to give the biggest note. They also threatened to kill her. The scared woman gave them ₹500 and escaped,” Mr. Thakur said.

Later, she called the police after which officials reached the spot and arrested the four women from the market. The robbed money was also recovered, he said.

Will inspect jail physically if grievances of Delhi rioters persist, says judge

Irked court orders DG (Prisons) to take stock of situation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Expressing displeasure with prison authorities, after several accused in a case related to the north-east Delhi riots said they were not being given even basic things like warm clothing, a Delhi court on Tuesday warned that the judge would go and inspect the situation physically if things do not improve.

Inquiry under way

Doctors said that he sustained 60% burn injuries and was unfit to give a statement. The police said that on Tuesday morning, they were informed that he had succumbed to injuries.

The police said that inspection of the spot was conducted and it was confirmed that he caught fire from a heater kept in the morcha while warming his dinner. Senior CISF officers have also visited the spot and the hospital and an inquiry is under way.

Constant complaints

Since the court is constantly receiving complaints from the accused persons in judicial custody and also

Timings

DELHI

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 04
RISE 06:36 SET 17:34
RISE 20:13 SET 09:41
THURSDAY, NOV. 05
RISE 06:36 SET 17:34
RISE 21:03 SET 10:35
FRIDAY, NOV. 06
RISE 06:37 SET 17:33
RISE 21:57 SET 11:29

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 32 10
Safdarjung 32 10
Palam 30 13

Delhi Palam Today
30°C A cool morning with smog. Day likely to remain comfortable with light winds.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
31°C Smog would continue in morning. Mainly clear sky and variable light winds likely.

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IN BRIEF

Officials directed to mark attendance on WhatsApp

NEW DELHI
In a letter to all district offices, the Department of Women and Child Development of the Delhi government has directed its officials to share their live location through WhatsApp to mark their attendance. Cabinet Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam, who heads the department, has warned of action against officials failing to comply with the order.

Encourage students to learn coding: Sisodia

NEW DELHI
Education Minister Manish Sisodia on Tuesday asked teachers of Delhi government schools to create a long-term and sustainable plan to encourage coding among students. "It is my dream to see our students create their own companies like Google," Mr. Sisodia said. The Minister was reviewing a coding programme being organised at government schools.

Can give Delhi more ventilators: Centre

Health Ministry in a position to help

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry has said that it will provide additional ventilators for treating COVID-19 patients if required in Delhi.

The move comes after several private hospitals in the Capital indicated a near 100% ICU ventilator bed-occupancy and government hospitals displayed availability of only a few beds.

Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said: "Though no requirement has been indicated so far, we are in a position to give support if required."

He added that the government is doing a daily review of bed availability in Central government hospitals in Delhi and currently 80 beds in RML Hospital, 140 in Safdarjung and 1,200 in AIIMS are available. "Private hospitals have been asked to dis-

Private hospitals have been asked to display the number of COVID-19 beds and their availability

RAJESH BHUSHAN
Health Secretary

play the number of COVID-19 beds and their availability," he added.

Speaking about the rising number of cases in some parts of the country and the need to maintain caution, NITI Aayog (health) member V.K. Paul said: "While we appeal to everyone to wear a mask, we also appeal the older population to stay indoors as much as possible. NCR is an urban conglomerate and hence spike in Delhi, Faridabad, and Gurugram should be seen together in relation with pollution, individual behaviour, surveillance and containment key."

Daily case tally crosses 6K mark for first time

Delhi records highest single-day jump in COVID-19 infections

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Capital on Tuesday witnessed its highest single-day jump in COVID-19 cases as 6,725 persons were found positive in a 24-hour period, during which 59,540 tests were conducted – taking the positivity rate to 11.29%.

48 deaths in 24 hours

According to the health bulletin released by the Delhi government, 48 deaths and 3,610 recoveries were also recorded in the same period. There are now 36,375 active cases and 3,453 containment zones in the city.

Total cases now stand at 4,03,096 with 6,652 deaths and 3,60,069 recoveries.

The cumulative positivity rate stands at 8.36% and the case fatality rate at 1.65%.

The bulletin stated that out of the 16,823 beds availa-



A man undergoes a rapid antigen test in west Delhi's Raja Garden on Tuesday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

ble, 9,025 are vacant. At dedicated COVID-19 care centres, 6,349 out of 7,887 beds are vacant and at dedicated COVID-19 health centres, 169 out of 527 beds

are vacant. The number of home isolation cases now stands at 21,521.

Delhi had last week recorded over 5,000 daily cases for five consecutive days.

'No posters outside homes of patients'

Their details will be kept private: govt.

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The city government informed the Delhi High Court on Tuesday that it has instructed officials not to paste posters outside homes of COVID-19 patients.

It also said many such posters have been ordered to be removed.

The government also said its officials have also not been allowed to share details of COVID-19 patients with their neighbours, resident welfare associations or in WhatsApp groups.



to RWAs and on WhatsApp groups was "leading to stigmatization and drawing of unnecessary attention".

The petition said positive patients "ought to be given privacy to cope with and recover from the illness in peace and away from prying eyes. Rather they are being made the centre of public attention..."

The petition further claimed that this has resulted in persons "shying away and deliberately choosing not to test themselves" to shield themselves from the "public embarrassment and stigmatization".

Phase 4 line: DMRC installs first U-girder

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Tuesday installed the first U-girder on the Janakpuri West-R.K. Ashram Marg corridor, which is part of the upcoming Phase 4 network.

The U-girder is a critical component of the elevated viaducts constructed for metro corridors, said senior Delhi Metro officials.



Passengers waiting to board a flight at IGIA. ■ FILE PHOTO

On-demand COVID-19 testing facility at IGIA

Fliers have to arrive six hours early

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) on Tuesday announced that it would offer on-demand COVID-19 testing facility for domestic and international passengers before their departure from the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA).

To cost ₹2,400

DIAL, in a statement, said that the facility will be beneficial for those passengers who are taking an international or domestic flight but don't have an RT-PCR test result. "Such passengers can come to the airport around six hours before departure and get the COVID-19 test done at the airport by paying ₹2,400 and get the result in four to six hours," it added.

DIAL, in association with Genestrings Diagnostic Centre Pvt. Ltd, has set up a COVID-19 sample collection booth in front of Gate no. 8

at international departure of Terminal 3. It added that sample collection booths can collect approximately 120-130 samples per hour.

Earlier, in September, DIAL had launched an on-site COVID-19 testing facility for arriving international passenger. "As India is preparing to open the skies with the rising air bubbles, the facility will be a key element in facilitating a safe journey for all the passengers," DIAL said.

Major milestone

DMRC spokesperson Anuj Dayal said: "The U-girder was erected near Kali Mata Temple between the upcoming Pushpanjali and Deepali Chowk metro stations along the Outer Ring Road. This is a major milestone for the DMRC as despite several constraints due to ongoing pandemic, this important component of the construction work could be started."

The 28.92-km corridor will be an extension of the Magenta Line and will comprise 22 stations.

Faridabad police tracing + those who 'spread hate'

Chargesheet in Nikita case tomorrow

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
FARIDABAD

The Faridabad police are in the process of identifying those who spread hate and provocative messages to instigate violence during the Panchayat on the Nikita murder case two days ago.

The scrutiny of the mobiles of 32 people arrested in connection with the violence during the Panchayat on Sunday revealed that the accused were part of a WhatsApp groups spreading hate and provocative messages, said the police.

The police are preparing the list of these people and will soon take action against them. Besides, the police are also keeping an eye on

All aboard



Passengers queue up to undergo mandatory rapid antigen tests before boarding or after deboarding buses at ISBT Anand Vihar in Delhi on Tuesday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

New eateries no longer need govt. approval

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In an effort to promote ease of doing business, the Delhi government on Tuesday issued an order discontinuing a scheme under which approvals were required from the Tourism Department to open standalone restaurants in the city.

The decision was taken after Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal convened a meeting with a delegation from the National Restaurant Association of India on October 7. He told several Ministers and top officials of various departments to remove hassles to promote ease of doing business for the restaurant industry.

The government said the new notification would provide major relief to the restaurant industry in Delhi, especially after a major economic downfall due to the lockdown.

Look into injunction against construction of drains'

NGT order to govt. body comes after plea highlights lack of proper sewage lines

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Integrated Drain Management Cell (IDMC) to consider a plea seeking an injunction against construction of drains in place of sewer lines at Chhattarpur Enclave.

The plea had contended that open drains and a lack of proper sewage lines adversely affect public health. A Bench headed by NGT

chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel noted that the IDMC has been set up under the Delhi Chief Secretary to oversee maintenance of drains and related issues.

Calls for action
We are of the view that the issue raised in the application needs to be considered by the IDMC in the first instance. We order accordingly a copy of this order along with application be forwarded

ed to member secretary, IDMC, that is CEO, DJBB for appropriate consideration and action in accordance with law," the Bench said.

The tribunal was hearing a plea filed by petitioner Mahesh Chandra Saxena seeking an injunction against construction of drains in place of sewer lines at Chhattarpur Enclave.

Stating that in 1,700 illegal colonies in the city, drains, septic tanks and soak pits

were constructed, the plea said, "This is a source of pollution of groundwater. Rainwater harvesting systems were to be constructed for which directions have been issued by the tribunal but it is not being done. The result is that rainwater is mixing in the wastewater."

It contended, "The Delhi government has started construction of drains instead of providing pipelines for collection of sewage."

Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel took note of a report furnished by the Ghaziabad District Magistrate that around 72% of the water bodies had been encroached upon.

NGT pulls up SPCB
Following this, the Bench observed: "We find that action taken by State Pollution

Control Board is neither adequate nor in the right direction. It appears that the officers concerned are not conversant with the law of the land, which is resulting in serious damage to the environment. Water bodies are the lifeline of the environment for groundwater recharge, storage of water for different purposes, for microclimate, aesthetics and so on."

Stating that there was an "alarming level of encroachment" in Ghaziabad, the Bench said, "This needs attention of the authorities at the State-level and special plan and drive is necessary for identification and conservation of such water bodies for enforcement of rule of law and protection of environment."

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Punjab Chief Minister to lead MLAs' dharna in Delhi today

To highlight crisis situation in State amid suspension of goods trains by railways

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Tuesday said that as President Ram Nath Kovind had not given time for a meeting, he would lead a 'relay dharna' of MLAs in New Delhi on November 4 to highlight the State's power crisis and critical essential supplies situation amid continued suspension of goods trains by the railways.



CM Amarinder Singh

The Opposition parties, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), termed the Congress's announcement of the relay protest a gimmick to mislead farmers.

Capt. Amarinder said as the crisis triggered by the suspension of goods trains had aggravated, resulting in a complete shutdown of all power plants as well as curtailment of agricultural and vegetables supplies, he had decided to hold a symbolic 'relay dharna at Rajghat' in Delhi to bring the State's grim

situation to the Centre's notice.

Since Section 144 was in place in Delhi, Congress MLAs would go from Punjab Bhawan to Rajghat in batches of four only and he would lead the first batch.

He appealed to MLAs of other political parties too to join the 'dharnas' in the interest of the State which, he said, was facing a dire situation at present with the last of the private power plants also shutting down on November 3.

The situation on the ground was grim as the State

had run out of coal, urea, DAP and other essential supplies due to the decision of the railways not to ply goods trains even after the farmers eased their blockade to allow such movement. "With its bid for power purchase not cleared for today, the State was facing extreme power shortage, all agricultural and vegetable supplies had been curtailed, and high loss feeders power supply had been cut," the Chief Minister said, adding that the people of Punjab were staring at a dark festival season.

The continued and inexplicable suspension of goods trains was also having serious consequences for Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh, he stated.

Senior SAD leader Daljit Singh Cheema accused the State government and the BJP-led Central government of playing a fixed match to defame farmers' organisations and described the Congress's proposed 'dharna' as a

gimmick.

He said the Chief Minister should meet the Ministers concerned and the Prime Minister if needed and ensure all inbound trains to Punjab were restarted. "If he does not do that and indulges in politics by holding a sham 'dharna' in Delhi it will be proved beyond doubt that Capt. Amarinder is not interested in resolving the current crisis."

Only gimmicks'

AAP Punjab president Bhagwant Mann termed the Congress's 'dharna' a well thought-out ploy to derail the peasant struggle. "... why Capt. Amarinder Singh is seeking an audience with the President of the country over the contentious laws, while all know that the decision to withdraw the black laws is in the hands of the Prime Minister. He is simply trying to fool the people by resorting to such cheap gimmicks," said Mr. Mann.

The Assam government has sought a probe by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) into the death of a 48-year-old, who was allegedly abducted by miscreants and killed in Mizoram amid an economic blockade by groups in Assam leading to shortage of essentials in Mizoram.

The two States have been embroiled in a border dispute since October 17, with Assam accusing Mizoram of encroaching large swathes of land in Cachar and Karimganj districts.

Tension along the 164.6 km boundary between the two States escalated on Monday following the death of Intiaz Ali Laskar, a resident of Lailapur in Assam's Cachar district, in a community health centre at Vairengte in Mizoram's Kolasib district.

A statement from Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal's office on November 2 said Laskar was abducted by miscreants. The Mizo

ram government claimed he was a drug trader who was injured grievously while being chased by a local vigilante group.

"We visited the affected areas to assess the situation. We handed over to the bereaved family a condolence message from the Chief Minister besides an ex-gratia of ₹5 lakh. The issue is being taken up at the highest level," Assam Chief Secretary Jishnu Barua told *The Hindu* on Tuesday evening after visiting the disputed area with Director General of Police Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta.

Assam Home Department officials said a decision had been taken to hand over the investigation of Mr Ali's death to the NIA.

Mizoram Excise officials allegedly found 420 mg of heroin with the man, registered a case against him and sent him to a community health centre where he died of his injuries.

Mr. Ali's relatives trashed the allegations of the Mizoram officials, saying he was a firewood collector.

Assam has asked Mizoram to investigate Mr Ali's death by following the relevant National Human Rights Commission guidelines applicable in case of custodial deaths.

FIR by Assam police

Assam Deputy DIG (Southern Range) Dilip Kumar Dey said a FIR in connection with the death was filed at the Dhalai police station in Cachar district.

Meanwhile, the Mizoram government has asked Assam officials to protect the stranded Mizos who could be victims of violence as a reaction to the death. "In order to prevent any retaliatory actions by interested parties within Assam especially along the inter-State border, I would like to request you to ensure the safety and security of Mizo communities living within Assam..." a message from David H. Lalhanglana, Mizoram Home Department's Deputy Secretary, to Assam's Home Commissioner-Secretary read.

Cong. wins in 3 municipal corporations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The ruling Congress on Tuesday won in three of the six municipal corporations in Rajasthan's Jaipur, Jodhpur and Kota cities, which went to polls last week for the formation of boards. The Opposition BJP obtained a clear majority in two civic bodies, while the board's formation in one corporation will depend on the support of Independents.

The Congress candidates registered victory in Jaipur Heritage, Jodhpur North and Kota North Municipal Corporations, while the BJP won in Jaipur Greater and Jodhpur South Municipal Corporations. An identical number of Congress and BJP candidates won in Kota South.

The State government had bifurcated municipal corporations in the three cities in October last year, paving the way for two Mayors in each of them. A total of 2,238 candidates were in the fray for 560 wards in the urban bodies.

Assam govt. seeks NIA probe into man's death in Mizoram

Fearing reprisal, Mizoram seeks safety of its people in Assam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Assam government has sought a probe by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) into the death of a 48-year-old, who was allegedly abducted by miscreants and killed in Mizoram amid an economic blockade by groups in Assam leading to shortage of essentials in Mizoram.

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Mr. Ali's relatives trashed the allegations of the Mizoram officials, saying he was a firewood collector.

Ban on crackers this Deepavali in Odisha

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government has imposed a ban on the sale and bursting of fire crackers during Deepavali from November 10 to 30 in order to prevent the resurgence of COVID-19 infections.

Odisha's Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) has come up with a notification, which says that due to the proactive steps taken by the government, and coopera-

tion of the people, the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic had been controlled to a significant extent.

"Elderly persons, children, persons with comorbidities develop respiratory problems during the winter. Further, air pollution aggravates respiratory problems. Bursting of crackers releases harmful chemicals, which have a severe impact on the health of vulnerable groups," the SRC observed.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that one female **Name: Priyanka, W/o: Tribhuwan Nath Choubey, R/o: VPO Mada, PS Rampur Naikin, Distt. Sidhi (MP)**, has been missing since 01.11.2020 at 6:30 am. from circulating Area, Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 20A dated 02.11.2020 has been registered at P.S. Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi. The description of the missing female is as under:

Age: 24 years, Height: 5' 5", Face: Long, Complexion: Fair, Built: Thin, Wearing: Black colour saree, black colour shawl and sandal in her feet.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the female but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this female kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

P.S. Anand Vihar

Railway Station, Delhi

Fax No. 011-24368639

DP/04/RLY/2020

Ph: 011- 22145602, 8750871314

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that one lady **Name: Sabina Begam, W/o: Mohd. Imran, R/o: H.No. 608, Gali No. 9, I-2 Block, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi, Age: 24 Years, Height: 5', Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: Chocolate Colour Suit and Maroon Colour Plazzo and Chappal in Feet** has been missing since 16.09.2020 from the area of P.S. Sangam Vihar, New Delhi. In this regard DD No. 45A, Dated 17.09.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Sangam Vihar, New Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing lady but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing lady please inform the undersigned.

Phone: 011-23014046 (Direct), 011-23015229 & 23015218 ext. 210

Web-site : <http://cbi.nic.in>

E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in

SHO

Fax: 011-23011334

DTP/293/SD/2020

PH: 011-26044546

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Those Special Memories of you will always bring a smile if only could have back for just a little while. Then we could sit and talk again just like we used to do. The fact that you are no longer here will always cause us pain but you're forever in our hearts until we meet again.

Fondly Remembered by: Daughters and Sons-in-law Chellorani, David, Pushpa, Amalraj, Princess, Abraham, Grand Children & Great Grand Children

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DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

WESTERN RAILWAY

REPAIRING/RECONDITIONING OF EMERGENCY LIGHT

TENDER NOTICE NO: EL/WA/PL/2019-20/8, Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (W), Western Railway Carriage Repair Workshop, N. M. Joshi Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400 013, invites e-bids through e-Tendering method from experienced contractor for the following works: Name of work with location: Repairing/Reconditioning of Emergency Light as per scope of work and schedule of rates. Qty: 1152 nos. LOCATION: As mentioned above. Approx. Cost: ₹26,34,762.24. EMD: ₹52,700/- Last Date and time for submission of tender : 25.11.2020 up to 12.00 hours. & Opening of tender : 25.11.2020 up to 12.30 hours. Website particulars: www.railways.gov.in. The tenders to ensure that any corrigendum is uploaded subsequently on website and care be taken by them prior to submission online.

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SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

Anil Kumar

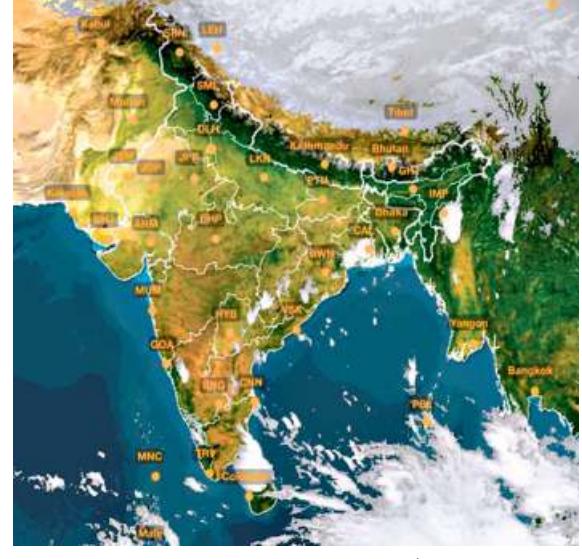
General Public is hereby informed that a male namely Anil Kumar, S/o Sh. Ram Singh, R/o H. No. 303, Gali No. 10, Chattarpur Pahadi, 60 Foota Road, New Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 22.10.2020. In this regard a DD No. 23A dated 22.10.2020 has been registered at PS, Mehrauli, New Delhi.

The description of missing/kidnapped male is as under:

Name: Anil Kumar, Father's Name : Sh. Ram Singh, Age : 50 years, Height : 5 Feet 10 inch, Complexion : Wheatish, Face : Round, Built : Strong, Wearing : Yellow T-shirt and

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Kerala. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Rayalseema, coastal & south interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Mahe

CITY **RAIN** **MAX** **MIN** **CITY** **RAIN** **MAX** **MIN**

Agartala 34.2 25.0 Kozhikode 30.0 26.0

Ahmedabad 34.3 18.6 Kurnool 34.6 23.2

Aizawl 26.1 16.4 Lucknow 30.2 13.0

Allahabad 31.8 14.4 Madurai 34.2 25.0

Bangalore 29.9 19.8 Mangaluru 3.5 32.1 24.0

Bhopal 30.3 12.8 Mumbai 34.2 23.2

Bhubaneswar 33.2 23.4 Mysuru 9 31.0 21.8

Chandigarh 29.0 14.4 New Delhi 31.6 10.0

Chennai 33.0 25.2 Patna 30.6 16.6

Coimbatore 27.1 22.6 Port Blair 30.4 25.8

Dehradun 28.4 11.9 Puducherry 33.2 24.3

Gangtok 20.6 14.1 Pune 31.2 18.5

Goa 34.0 23.2 Raipur 32.2 19.6

Guwahati 33.0 23.0 Ranchi 30.0 16.4

Hubballi 29.0 20.0 Shillong 0.1 24.5 13.9

Hyderabad 31.6 19.2 Shimla 19.9 10.0

Imphal 0.3 28.1 17.7 Sinragar 19.1 2.5

Jaipur 31.0 13.7 Thiruvananthapuram 34.0 24.8

Kochi 29.6 25.2 Tiruchi 35.0 25.0

Kohima 2.3 24.4 Vijayawada 33.6 25.4

Kolkata 32.6 24.6 Visakhapatnam 33.8 27.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES **SO₂** **NO_x** **CO** **PM_{2.5}** **PM₁₀** **CODE**

Ahmedabad 37.68 7.1 152 – ■■■■■

Bangalore 12.45 53 130 117 ■■■■■

Chennai 16.21 28 175 75 ■■■■■

Delhi 24 158 368 401 ■■■■■

Hyderabad 33.52 31 203 75 ■■■■■

Kolkata 0.8 18 36 211 140 ■■■■■

Lucknow 11.83 60 388 330 ■■■■■

Mumbai 4.68 47 232 167 ■■■■■

Pune 27.35 52 91 75 ■■■■■

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Moradabadi, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 395 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

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

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

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

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

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

Maharashtra sees nearly 7,000 more recoveries

Mumbai reports 746 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Maharashtra reported 6,973 recoveries on Tuesday as opposed to 4,909 new COVID-19 cases. The cumulative recoveries have now risen to 15,31,277 with the State's recovery rate standing at 90.46%. The total case tally has reached 16,92,693 while the number of active cases has come down to 1,16,543.

With 120 deaths, the fatality toll has climbed to 44,248. "Of a total 91,20,515 laboratory samples tested thus far, 16,92,693 (18.56%) have returned positive with 55,000 samples across the

State being tested in the last 24 hours," State Surveillance Officer Dr. Pradeep Awate said, adding that the case fatality rate was 2.61%.

Spike in Pune

Despite increasing recoveries, Pune district saw a spike of 585 cases to take its tally to 3,35,679 while 19 deaths saw its toll climb to 6,784. As per the Pune district administration, the recovery rate is 94.02% with its active cases now being at 11,566.

Mumbai reported 746 cases to take its total tally to 2,59,897 of whom 17,570 are

active. As many as 15 fatalities saw the city's toll rise to 10,323. Nagpur district in Vidarbha reported 299 new cases taking the district's total tally to 1,02,869 of whom 4,536 are active. Four deaths were reported pushing the district's toll to 2,798.

In western Maharashtra, Satara reported six deaths taking its toll to 1,432. As many as 138 fresh cases saw the total tally rise to 48,142 of whom 4,038 are active.

Kolhapur recorded 39 cases as its total tally reached 47,371 of whom just 692 are currently active. No fatalities were reported on Tuesday.

While sources in the State government said the letter is not unexpected,

Had no intention of hurting sentiments, says Khudai Khidmatgar on namaz issue

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

Delhi-based social outfit Khudai Khidmatgar has said that their national convener Faisal Khan, who was arrested by the police from Okhla in Delhi on Monday after he allegedly offered *namaz* inside a temple in Mathura, had been given permission for prayers by those present there on October 29.

The organisation, however, apologised to individuals and organisations if the act had hurt their sentiments but clarified that it was not their intention.

Mathura police arrested Mr. Khan and booked three of his associates – Chand Mohammad, Alok Ratan and Nilesh Gupta – for allegedly offering *namaz* at the Nand Baba temple in Barsana. Photographs were shared widely on social media. In the FIR, temple's caretaker priest Kanha Goswami accused Mr. Khan and Mr. Chand of stealthily offering *namaz*. The four were booked for allegedly promoting enmity between religious groups, defiling a place of worship and public mischief.

Khudai Khidmatgar spokesperson Pawan Yadav said Mr. Khan and his associates were in Braj area to participate in the Chaurasi Kosi Yatra of Govardhan. "On the last day of his pilgrimage, Faisal Khan visited the holy temple of Nand Baba. He paid his obeisance there," he said.

"That was the time of his afternoon prayers, so he asked for suitable place. The people there allowed him to offer prayers in the compound saying that you are already in the home of God, why do you need to go anywhere else," said Mr. Yadav.

A Mathura court on Tuesday sent Mr. Khan to 14-day judicial custody.

Internet services also remained suspended in several districts.

Gujar leader Kirori Singh Bainsla said the agitation would continue until the demands were met.

(With inputs from Anuj Kumar)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Gujjars, who have been demanding reservation as a most backward class, continued to occupy the railway tracks in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district on the third day of their agitation on Tuesday.

Ten trains on the Delhi-Mumbai route were diverted and one was rescheduled.

The members also blocked the Bayana-Hindaun road in Bharatpur district, where the plying of Rajasthan Roadways buses was stopped.

Internet services also remained suspended in several districts.

Gujar leader Kirori Singh Bainsla said the agitation would continue until the demands were met.

(With inputs from Anuj Kumar)

Government of Jharkhand
Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute
Department of Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minorities, and Backward Classes
Welfare Department, Morabadi, Ranchi - 834008
Tel: 0651-2551824 e-mail- tri.directorate@gmail.com/

Lt. No-808 Corrigendum P.R. No. 234810 (Expression of Interest)

There are some minutes changes has been done in the objectives and methodology of this Research Project. The last date of submission of the tender has been rescheduled as given below:-

SI. No.	Name of the Project	Date of Submission As per Tender	Rescheduled date of submission	Date of opening per tender	Rescheduled date of opening
I.	TOPIC: A historical study of tribal chiefdoms of Jharkhand: Kherwar of Ranugar, Mundia of Bunder, Bhumi of Jungle Mahal, Nagwansi of Ranchi , Santhal of Hazaribagh & Others. Ref:- Our Advertisement No. 787 Dated 22.10.2020	06/11/2020	13/11/2020	11/11/2020	25/11/2020

Note:

1. Remaining all other mentioned terms and conditions in EOI will remain unchanged for details can be obtained from the office of the TRI on any working day during office hour to meet concerned Nodal person and the same can also be downloaded from the website www.trijharkhand.com (http://59.145.222.53/twri/tenders.php) or through E-mail tri.directorate@gmail.com by specifying the topic & details of Institution /Organization Interested.

Sd/- Director

PR 235263 Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minority and Backward Class Welfare Department (20-21)_D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, गुमला।

शुद्धि पत्र

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, गुमला अन्तर्गत ई-प्रोक्रोमेन्ट निविदा सूचना संख्या-10 / 20-21 दिनांक 20.10.20 (Banari Rural Water Supply Scheme) जो PR NO 234639 Drinking water and Sanitation (20-21)_D द्वारा प्रकाशित है, जिसे अपराह्नीय कार्यालय से सिनेप्र प्रबन्ध संस्थान किया जाता है -

कार्यपालक अभियंता का लिखि एवं समय

प्राक्कलित राति लगभग (लाख में) 1634.74 लाख

अग्रधन की राति (लाख में) 16.35 लाख

वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय 30.10.2020 समय 2:00 बजे अपराह्न से

प्री-डी-सी लिंगन की तिथि एवं समय 06.11.2020 समय 3:00 बजे अपराह्न से

बीड प्राति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय 17.11.2020 समय 5:00 बजे अपराह्न से

अग्रधन की राति एवं परिमाण 27.11.2020 समय 2:00 बजे अपराह्न तक

विवरण की तिथि एवं समय 19.11.2020 समय 4:30 बजे अपराह्न से

नोट-(i) शेष सभी शहरी यथावत रहेंगे।

(ii) यह शुद्धि-पत्र परिमाण विपत्र का भाग होगा।

पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, गुमला।

प्रो. नं. 235267 (Drinking Water and Sanitation) 20-21 (D)

Political slugfest over Metro car shed site

Central government organisation stakes ownership claim

STAFF REPORTER

MUMBAI</p



Uncivil proposal

Court verdicts in unrelated cases shouldn't be a ruse to curb personal freedom to marry

The astounding proposal by Uttar Pradesh and Haryana to enact a law to curb what they call 'love jihad' reeks of a vicious mix of patriarchy and communalism. Propounded by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the detestable idea amounts to legitimising a term that constitutes a blatant slur against inter-faith marriages and relationships in which one of the parties is a Muslim man. The ostensible reason for bringing in such a law seems to be that the "honour" of Hindu women is under threat from zealous Muslim youth seeking to win over girls from other communities for religious conversion in the name of love and marriage. The flaws in the concept are quite obvious: there is no legal sanction to self-serving and political terms such as 'love jihad' and there can be no legislation based on an extra-legal concept. In any case, legislative intervention in marriages involving consenting adults will be clearly unconstitutional. The domain of matrimony is occupied by separate laws governing weddings that take place under religious traditions, as well as the Special Marriage Act, which enables a secular marriage, including between couples from different faiths.

Mr. Adityanath, who has also threatened those allegedly operating in secret by concealing their identities, and his Haryana counterpart, Manohar Lal, seem to be making the same mistakes: using the term 'love jihad' in a communal sense and speaking about marriages as if they were not a matter of personal choice. They would do well to remember that earlier this year, the Union Home Ministry made it clear that the term is not defined in law, while replying to a parliamentary question. Investigation into marriages that purportedly raised such a suspicion also failed to find any substance in the allegations. The immediate context for these leaders to go out on a limb about curbing inter-faith marriages is a recent Allahabad High Court judgment that frowned upon religious conversion solely for the purpose of marriage; and the horrible murder of a 20-year-old woman in Faridabad by a stalker who happened to be a Muslim. By no stretch of imagination can the murder be used to denounce consensual inter-faith relationships. Regarding the court verdict, the High Court had declined to intervene on a writ petition seeking police protection for a recently married couple, noting that the bride had converted from Islam to Hinduism solely for the purpose of marriage. It had found such an expedient conversion unacceptable, citing a similar 2014 verdict in which the court had questioned the bonafides of conversions without change of heart or any conviction in the tenets of the new religion. Although the court strayed from the issue at hand, its objective was to underscore that conversion should not become a device. It is indeed salutary as a principle that inter-faith couples retain their religious beliefs separately and opt for marriage under the Special Marriage Act. However, this principle cannot be used to derogate from personal choice or become a ruse to interfere in the individual freedom to forge matrimonial alliances.

Bihar blues

Emotive issues can work only in tandem with articulation of livelihood concerns

More than 54% of voters in 94 seats across 17 districts in Bihar voted in the second of the three-phase Assembly election on Tuesday. The first phase on October 28 had witnessed more than 55% voting in 71 seats. In the third phase on November 7, the remaining 78 seats across 15 districts will vote. In 2015, of these 94 seats, RJD had won 33, the JD(U) had 30, the BJP 20, and the Congress, seven. The Lok Janshakti Party had won in two constituencies, and one seat each had gone to the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) and an independent candidate. The JD(U) that came to power in 2015 in alliance with the RJD and the Congress made a somersault later and is contesting this year in alliance with the BJP. Incumbent Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's advantage at the beginning appears to have considerably dissipated as the second phase concludes. RJD's 30-year-old leader Tejashwi Yadav's unrelenting campaigning has struck a chord with the voters, particularly the youth. Mr. Yadav managed to put the government on the mat on questions of employment, healthcare, and outmigration from the State. His promise of 10 lakh jobs is resonating well among the swelling unemployed population of the State and the RJD's alliance with the Congress and the Left is working well on the ground.

The BJP-JD(U) alliance banked on development issues and a formidable social coalition of upper castes, Extremely Backward Classes and Maha Dalits. Its claim of 'double engine' progress – driven by governments in the State and at the Centre – is weaker this time, due to the mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic by both. Mr. Yadav's efforts to underplay identity-oriented mobilisation strategies and advance a new vocabulary for politics is laudatory but fraught with risks. The response from the BJP and the JD(U) has already taken shape, ahead of the third phase, which will largely be in the northeastern part of the State. On the back foot on governance questions, both Mr. Kumar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi are focusing more on emotive issues that can polarise the voters. Both try to foment fear among voters by warning them of a return of RJD mis-governance that ended 15 years ago; Mr. Modi has cited the Ram temple in Ayodhya and Kashmir policy as the BJP's differentiators. If this tone dominates the field until the third phase, there will be considerable cost to social harmony and democratic norms.

A fragile French republic

Laïcité, a project of social cohesion and a key component of citizenship, cannot by itself fix social and political problems



EMILE CHABAL

The recent series of terrorist attacks have come at the worst possible time for France. For months, the country has been struggling with a surge in COVID-19 cases. The recent lockdown, with its onerous paperwork requirements and sharp restrictions on everyday life, has been greeted with a weary shrug by most French people. This time, they know what to expect.

It is much the same with the spectre of terrorism, which has been around for far longer than COVID-19. The French have become grimly accustomed to watching news reports about attacks committed against French citizens in the name of Islam.

Even the media carousel has become familiar. There is footage of the crime scene, cordoned off, with the flashing lights of police cars and ambulances. This is followed by a brief period of uncertainty about the cause or the perpetrators, usually accompanied by the sombre faces of politicians. Finally, as information starts to trickle out, the emotions flood in, the chat shows light up, and the public pronouncements begin.

The symbol of Samuel Paty

Yet, despite the predictable storyline, all but the most cynical observers were taken aback by the assassination of the schoolteacher Samuel Paty. Ambushed and beheaded on October 16, 2020 in a leafy, genteel distant suburb of Paris, Paty stood accused by his assailant of having violated the long-

standing Muslim tradition that prohibits representations of the Prophet Muhammad.

The attacker was an 18-year-old Chechen refugee who lived 80 kilometres from the scene of the attack. He had heard on social media that Paty had shown in class some of the cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad, which were published by the French satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* in 2011 and 2012.

More than five years after the first, devastating attack on *Charlie Hebdo*'s office in January 2015 – and with the perpetrators currently standing trial – Paty's assassination was designed to shock the French public and produce a reaction across the Muslim world by reigniting a culture war that had begun to fade in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis.

But the symbolism went further than spectacular violence. Paty was a history and geography teacher in a French state school. His job, like mine, was to teach young people about the importance of the past. He was leading a class on free speech. By all accounts, he was careful and sensitive in the way he presented his material, including the cartoons in *Charlie Hebdo*. He was doing what every good teacher does: pushing his students to think differently about the world around them.

Paty, then, was anything but exceptional. Every person who has attended a French school in the past century or more has had a history and geography teacher like him. He was – quite literally – a symbol of the everyday life of France.

Schools and secularism

The powerful reaction to Paty's assassination was not simply a reflection of the fact that everyone could identify with him. It also had



to do with his profession. Since the start of the Third Republic in 1870, teachers have been at the forefront of the French state's mission to unify its diverse population.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, state school teachers were responsible for converting young people in rural France away from the heavy hand of Catholic dogma, and they spearheaded efforts to "educate" and "civilise" indigenous peoples in the French colonies. In recent decades, teachers have been charged with trying to "integrate" France's myriad ethnic minority communities. They are seen – and often see themselves – as engines of social unity in a notoriously divided country.

Of the many things that teachers are expected to do, one of the most important is to embody the principles of *laïcité*. Often translated as 'secularism', *laïcité* is better understood as a project of social cohesion and a key component of French citizenship. It encompasses not simply the formal separation of Church and State, but also the evacuation of religious values from the public space and their replacement with secular values such as liberty, equality, and fraternity.

Traditionally, teachers have seen *laïcité* as a progressive idea. But its meaning in contemporary France no longer always matches the lofty principles that underpin it. Indeed, for many people today,

laïcité is mainly about Islam.

This reflects France's recent history. The decolonisation of the French colonies in Africa in the 1950s and 1960s brought the problem of Islam into sharp focus, as the French tried and failed to manage Muslims in unprecedented numbers. Subsequently, France was the site of violence that spilled over from the Algerian Civil War in the 1990s. Around the same time, it also experienced a series of public controversies over the wearing of the hijab in state schools and other public places, often spurred on by a far-right party committed to the stigmatisation of immigrants and Muslims.

These factors hardened attitudes towards both Islam and *laïcité*. While it once was a bulwark against Catholic obscurantism, *laïcité* also came to be used as a rhetorical tool against French Muslims. France thereafter became a prime target in the new wave of global Islamist violence that took off in the early 2010s.

Compromise or conflict
So how should France respond to the ongoing threat of terrorist attacks in the name of Islam?

One way would be to compromise. This would involve acknowledging that *laïcité* alone cannot fix the country's social and political problems. It would also require the French state to recognise that France has – almost without realising it – become part of the Muslim world. It cannot stand apart from conflicts over religious practice that have affected countries with much larger Muslim populations, from Morocco to Indonesia.

Another way would be to double down on French "values". This is the path that President Emmanuel Macron has chosen. He and his cabinet have spent a lot of time in recent weeks emphasising the

importance of *laïcité* and denouncing all those who are seen to threaten it. In the light of the most recent attack on a church in Nice – committed by a young Tunisian man who seems to have travelled to France for this express purpose – such a defensive posture makes sense.

But Mr. Macron's strategy is a risky one. For a start, it is almost guaranteed to elicit a hostile response from leaders of Muslim-majority countries, many of whom are keen to find an international issue that can distract from their own domestic problems.

More than that, however, the continuous invocation of *laïcité* is eroding its meaning. Since the late 19th century, *laïcité* has been used to integrate different social and religious minorities into the national community, but it has taken on a more exclusionary and anti-Muslim quality in recent years. Paradoxically, this has made it hard for the very people whose job it is to teach these values – people like the late Samuel Paty. In his case, a genuine commitment to freedom of expression – an essential part of *laïcité* – was manipulated by his attacker to make it appear as if he was intent on pursuing an anti-Muslim agenda.

So, while it might seem like a good strategy to use the idea of *laïcité* as a shield against an amorphous Muslim threat, the danger is that this will strip it of its most positive elements and render it useless as an instrument of social integration. That, more than any terror attack, would be a tragedy for all French people – Muslim or not.

Emile Chabal is a Reader in History at the University of Edinburgh. His latest book, *France*, is a short introduction to postwar French history

Hitting fossil fuel companies where it hurts

Across the world, the divestment movement is growing at an encouraging pace



SUJATHA BYRAVAN

One way to undermine activities connected with elite networks of the fossil fuel industry complex is to take aim at their finances. Initial attempts to do this by some environmentalists were ridiculed as being too feeble. But we should recall that the ultimate collapse of apartheid in South Africa was due to hardship caused to the regime by the divestment movement. A committed campaign by various organisations has, over the last decade or more, systematically attacked equity, or investments, and loans, or credit, available to the fossil fuel industry. The campaign's persistence is finally being noticed for its successes. How much fossil fuel wealth is at stake? Saudi Aramco's revenue in 2019 was \$111.1 billion, Royal Dutch Shell's revenue was \$23.9 billion, and Exxon Mobil's was \$20.8 billion – and these are just three companies.

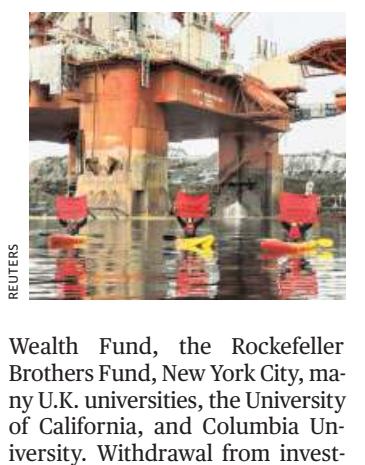
Arguments for divestment do not apply to India at this time. The reason is that India's contribution to the stock of greenhouse gases is minimal. Even in terms of annual flows, the country's contribution is less than two tonnes of CO₂/capita. But policymakers should take note that the costs of production and storage of renewables are falling precipitously and we therefore

need to be poised to make a just transition away from coal in the near future. This process will be complex and necessarily involve many sectors and activities including land restoration, local jobs, and timely transfer of storage technologies for renewable energy, apart from dealing with entrenched vested and political interests. Recent reports from Prayas and the Centre for Science and Environment provide pathways for coal power plants to retire in a meaningful time frame.

Pulling the rug

A large network of activists including Rainforest Action Network, 350.org, Go Fossil Free, People and Planet, youth protesters, university students and faculty, and committed people have been undertaking systematic organised drives for divestment from fossil fuel companies. Divestment is the process by which money put into stocks and bonds of certain companies is withdrawn. In this case, divestment has been directed against companies that extract, refine, sell and make profits from fossil fuels. The purpose is to restrict fossil fuel companies' ability to function with no regard for their impact on climate change.

The divestment operations targeted large investment funds. These are primarily faith-based, philanthropic, educational, pension, insurance, and metropolitan funds. Noteworthy among those that have divested are the World Council of Churches, large pension funds from France and Australia, the Norwegian Sovereign



Wealth Fund, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, New York City, many U.K. universities, the University of California, and Columbia University. Withdrawal from investing has been 'partial' (from certain kinds of fossil fuels such as tar sands) or 'full' (from all fossil fuels). As of 2019, it is estimated that more than \$11 trillion in assets has been committed to divestment from fossil fuels.

Targeting banks that provide loans to fossil fuel groups, organisations that are part of this movement have been hitting the bull's eye quite often. What drew media attention recently was that Goldman Sachs announced that it would, among other things, no longer finance new oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and also not provide capital for some of the worst kinds of coal mines, such as mountain-top mining.

According to the 2020 report Banking on Climate Change by the Rainforest Action Network, after the Paris Agreement of 2015, where countries agreed to try to limit average global warming to well below 2°C, global banks continued to finance the fossil fuel industry

with \$2.7 trillion. The report finds that big U.S. banks dominate this arena with JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo and Citi being the world's top fossil fuel financiers. In other parts of the world, the Royal Bank of Canada, Barclays in the U.K., the Bank of China and MUFG in Japan dominate the scene. The main fossil fuel sub-sectors are oil from tar sands; Arctic oil and gas, for which financing has been increasing; fracked oil and gas; liquefied natural gas; mining of coal, for which financing is dominated by Chinese banks, again led by Chinese banks.

Banks support companies that are expanding fossil fuels, including new kinds of fuel and in new places. A total of \$975 billion was the bank financing for 100 key oil, gas, and coal companies between 2016 and 2019. The report uses a point system to assess bank policies on ending financing of fossil fuels and finds that Crédit Agricole performs best even though it makes only about 40% of the possible points. This demonstrates how misaligned the banking sector is with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Having an effect

That these efforts are having an effect is seen from statements made in various finance and investment-related documents. According to a recent report of the climate-related Market Risk Subcommittee (a body under the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, an independent agency of the U.S. government), climate change poses a major risk to the stability of the

U.S. financial system. Regulators need to assess, understand and act on them. Divestment appears to be putting the squeeze on the industry. On October 6, Daniel Pinto, the co-President of JPMorgan Chase and CEO of its Corporate and Investment Bank, announced that the company would "help clients navigate the challenges and capitalise on long-term economic and environmental benefits of a low-carbon world". The bank proposes establishing a Center for Carbon Transition and setting "intermediate emission targets for 2030" for its financing portfolio.

Companies going bankrupt state that the divestment movement is making it difficult to raise capital. Shell, for instance, considers the movement a "material risk". When banks and investors begin to shift away from fossil fuel companies because they become risky business, then the campaign must be having an effect. The UC Regents' Investment Committee Chair said that the University of California was divesting not for ethical reasons but because it considers fossil companies to be risky. The divestment movement against banks is gathering steam. Three members of the Rockefeller family have set up BankFWD, which aims to persuade major banks to phase out financing for fossil fuels. All of these changes are positive steps. Whether these will effectively pull the planet from the brink is unclear.

Sujatha Byravan is a scientist who studies technology, science and development policy

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Antibody kits

While I agree with most of the points made in the recent articles by Dr. M.S. Seshadri and Dr. Jacob John ("Serosurveys underestimate building of herd immunity", November 3, and "Imperatives after India's September peak", September 29), I disagree with aspects of the discussion relating to COVID-19 antibodies. As I work in the field, I can tell you that we have seen disappointing clinical utility of antibody tests. Kits provided by the Indian Council of Medical Research to test for COVID-19 antibodies by diagnostic laboratories have

poor inter-kit test results agreeability, with one kit showing very high titres and the other showing very low titres on samples taken from the same person on the same day. Given the fact that even kits approved by the U.S. and the U.K. regulatory authorities (Roche and Abbott) are questioned about accuracy and their correlation with COVID-19 neutralising antibodies, it would be great to have an article explaining the limitations of antibody kits before elaborating on their advantages. This becomes urgent since the public is looking for a lab test which will give them some

assurance about their vulnerability to COVID-19.

M. EMMANUEL BHASKAR,
Chennai

Not within its remit
During earlier elections, the Election Commission used to warn political parties not to cross the 'Lakshman Rekha'. Ironically, it is the EC now that has crossed the 'Lakshman Rekha' ("SC stays EC order revoking 'star campaigner' status of Nath", Nov. 3). The incident shows the EC in poor light. While the body has been partisan on occasion, this case is different as it is beyond the EC's remit to take such a decision. It suggests that the EC is

taking decisions at the behest of the ruling party.

D. SETHURAMAN,
Chennai

Fiercely contested poll
Donald Trump seems desperate and is using every tactic possible to hold on to the post of President ("Trump, Biden search for last-minute support", Nov. 3"). The announcement of the result may be delayed as counting of postal votes could be crucial and could land the outcome in a legal tangle. It seems from the early voter turnout that Joe Biden has the upper hand. Whatever the result, the campaign has been chaotic and filled with rhetoric and

bluster, much like an Indian election.

H.R. BAPU SATYANARAYANA,
Mysuru

The last one year has been seriously challenging to Mr. Trump with the COVID-19 outbreak and the protests following the death of George Floyd. These may hurt his chances of being re-elected. The Democrats have been able to keep the focus on the faults of the Trump administration. But will that be enough for them? The President still has strong support among his core voters who can turn out in large numbers.

MAHADHEVAN P.,
Kollam

A lifetime of anti-apartheid struggle

Enuga Reddy was a stalwart deeply committed to the idea of social justice and freedom



GOPALKRISHNA GANDHI

"What have we not done for our country? Some of us died; Some of us gave speeches" - Orhavan Veli, Turkish poet and activist: Enuga Sreenivasulu Reddy, who died at 96, on November 1, quoted those lines in an article in *Mainstream's* annual number in 1991. In so doing, the former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations (1983-1985) and long-serving Director of its Anti-Apartheid Centre, was of course laughing at himself. He could laugh at himself.

But no one who knew him could miss the importance of his speeches and writings, his lobbying and campaigning on the subject of South Africa's struggle, that of other southern African nations, and the Palestinian cause as well. Many a leader – Indian, South African, European – have delivered speeches written by Enuga Reddy, to great effect and applause.

Unparalleled humility

E.S., as I knew and called him over the last four decades and more, took the world body's responsibilities and its stirring Charter seriously. But never his own contributions to their mandates. In fact, he under-stated his work to the point of obscuring it. "You must write your memoirs, E.S." I would urge him, as did many of his friends in India, South Africa and elsewhere. "There are better ways of spending time," he would always say, "even for a person who has retired." Not that he had time to spare in his retirement. His wife of over seven decades, Niloufer, knew that well. His apartment overflowed with reams and reams of documents and books. He would donate trolley-full of them to universities and archives. But they would keep piling up.

And if asked, which those "better ways of spending time" were, he would say "Researching and documenting the work of un-acknowledged freedom fighters in India and of those who gave their best years to the liberation struggle in South Africa, many dying in the course of their



Enuga Sreenivasulu Reddy receiving the Gandhi International Peace Award in Durban. • CC-ASA-0-INTERNATIONAL-KIRUNAIDOO, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

work." I told him, "There are others who can do that ... but no one other than you can tell the story of how a student in Madras way back in the 1940s got interested in the South African struggle, and how, as a scholar freshly arrived in the U.S., met, at a New York reception, Dr. A.B. Xuma, President-General of the African National Congress, who had come to lobby the United Nations Organisation (UNO), thus beginning a life-long association with anti-apartheid work at the UNO and beyond."

"This self-effacing method of yours," I ventured, "may be a good addition to the chronicles of humility, they are not good for our curiosity about the India-South Africa connect". "Oh...humility! That is a virtue reserved for giants," E.S. said, reminding me of the famous instance of Golda Meir ticking off a minister in her cabinet: "Don't be so humble-humble, You are not that great." So, if you could not remonstrate with E.S. about his humility, you were not allowed to flag it either. If, therefore, the news of his death, or, in fact, his name does not send bells ringing today, there is one person utterly unaffected – E.S. himself.

He excelled in working beyond human scales of stamina, perseverance and meticulousness. The books he authored on South Africa and on personalities who interested him are numerous. The books he helped others to author, giving them almost complete, ready-to-print drafts, are even more numerous. To him also goes the credit of strengthening the genre of co-authored books, in which the co-author was that but in name, with E.S. having done most of the work – I being one among those lucky 'co's. E.S. helped scholars like no one I knew. No one I know helped E.S. He was entirely self-made.

His help to researchers, biographers, writers of papers for journals has not been paralleled by anyone I know. Venu Madhav Govindu, biographer with Deepak Malghan, of J.C. Kumarappa, has this to say: "Fifteen years ago, when he learnt that I was working on a biography of J.C. Kumarappa, he promptly went off to the New York Public Library and painstakingly downloaded every article on J.C. and Bharat Kumarappa from the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* archives. He did this at the age of eighty, for someone he barely knew."

Intimately connected

India, South Africa and the UN were the tripod of his political mind. Joining the United Nations Secretariat as a Political Affairs Officer in the Section for Africa and the Middle East as a 25-year-old in 1949, he made it his business to come to know the American Committee on Africa and other organisations supporting freedom for Africa.

And by the time he was appointed Principal Secretary of the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid in 1963, he had come to know and be valued by Oliver Tambo. "Not Mandela," E.S. told me more than once, "but Tambo is the South African Gandhi. For Tambo the liberation of South Africa was a call that came from his inner voice. Mandela is a Nehru-like figure, guided by the force of his intellectual conviction and the strength of reason to do all that he did." Small wonder that Adelaide Tambo, the great

leader's wife, looked upon E.S. as her 'brother'.

This I can say with complete conviction – No Indian I know was acquainted as intimately with Africans from all walks of life as E.S. was. And this broad-sweep statement of mine includes Indians settled in Africa. How and why is that? E.S. had no agenda, either of his own or for India's diplomacy. He was a product of the Indian freedom struggle's ethos, and that made him relate instinctively to that of Africa. He was twinned to the idea of human freedom, social justice, and the ending of man's exploitation of man.

This made him "family" to many famous people, like Olof Palme, for instance, and Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, and also to many who may not have that level of fame, but had what E.S. would call "the weight of contribution" – like the Naidoos of South Africa, descendants of Gandhi's South Africa colleague, Thambi Naidoo. At E.S.'s instance, Thambi Naidoo's daughter-in-law, Ama Naidoo, and her daughter, Shanthie, were invited to India by then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and introduced to India's political leadership. Ama Naidoo speaking to a small gathering on the South African struggle and being heard with rapt attention by two Indian women revolutionaries – Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay and Aruna Asaf Ali – was a long-distance achievement of E.S. Enuga Reddy was India's un-official High Commissioner in South Africa, and more respected for being un-accredited. But beyond that, he was Asia's envoy to Africa, and equally, Africa's Asian delegate to the United Nations. He was the *de facto* rapporteur in the universe of the non-aligned.

Ninety-six is a long enough span to have lived, and yet I cannot but mourn with countless others the passing of a man whose death impoverishes modern political historiography. It breaks the only link of its kind between India, Africa, the U.S., and the world's political 'south', at a time when virulent nationalisms need countering. How one wishes he could have had the pleasure of seeing voters in the United States of America give the democratic world great news.

Gopalkrishna Gandhi is a former administrator, diplomat and governor

Averting volatile poll outcomes

Trump's rhetoric against mail-in voting can lead to a state of tumult should he lose the elections

NARAYAN LAKSHMAN

With the arrival of voting day in the 2020 U.S. presidential election, one thing is clear: the final results are not going to be known any time soon. On the one hand, mail-in voting, absentee voting, and other forms of early voting have attracted voters in numbers that are unparalleled in recent times, and analysts predict that close to 100 million votes would have already been cast by November 3. Simultaneously, incumbent President Donald Trump has, through the blistering heat of the election campaign since the summer, been pouring vitriol on mail-in voting as a fraud-plagued practice that will lead to a rigged outcome, favouring Democrats.

The reality is that the rate of voting fraud in the U.S. is between 0.00004% and 0.0009%, according to a 2007 study by the Brennan Center for Justice, among others. In light of the controversy whipped up by Mr. Trump, which has seen social media tech platforms, including Twitter and Facebook, slap 'Fact Check' labels on some of his incendiary posts on this subject, the head of the non-partisan Federal Election Commission (FEC), Ellen Weintraub, said, "There is simply no basis for the conspiracy theory that voting by mail causes fraud."

The fear in this case is not so much the ignorance about mail-in voting, but rather, in the eventuality that if Mr. Trump loses by a narrow margin, he and his followers may seize upon the rare instance when mail-in voting has led to calls for a vote recount – as it happened in a 2018 North Carolina primary, when a consultant for Republican candidate Mark Harris tampered with voting papers – and escalate to the courts' allegations of outright election rigging.

Mr. Trump has already suggested that the only victory that his Democratic rival and former Vice-President Joe Biden could enjoy would be a rigged one. Speaking to media in the final hours of campaigning in North Carolina, he said, "As soon as the election is over, we are going in with our lawyers."

In such a situation, it is not incon-

ceivable that the closed-door dispute resolution mechanism including the Congress, the Electoral College and the FEC would sanction the House of Representatives deciding the outcome as a "contingent election", based on one-State-one-vote, which is likely to improve the odds of the Republican Party.

Limited solutions

For those concerned about a peaceful transition of power – something Mr. Trump has repeatedly refused to commit to, should he lose – it is worrying that there is considerable room for legal manoeuvres afforded to a disgruntled candidate in a U.S. presidential election. There is a real prospect of civil unrest in these circumstances, given the rise of urban militias, many waving slogans in support of Mr. Trump, but also a few led by African American outfits – all of them potentially clashing violently on the streets in the event of a disputed election. No more proof need be offered that this is not an alarmist concern, than the case of thirteen militia men arrested by the FBI recently for plotting to kidnap Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer and violently overthrow the State government.

Only one act by the outgoing Commander in Chief – if indeed he loses the election – could quell what will otherwise become a season of discontent for American democracy: a concession speech. Yet, there is no constitutional provision as such for a public concession, which, in an ideal world, would include a statement of defeat, a call to unite, a celebration of democracy and a vow to fight on.

Given this glaring omission in the constitutional guarantees of the U.S., there is only one route to overcoming the risk of chaos in the days ahead, and that is for those on either side of the partisan divide seeking a peaceful transition, to march peacefully in massive numbers for their cause, to eschew violence, but instead take up constitutional due process to express their voice, by also reaching out to their elected representatives.

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DATA POINT

The South tops in governance

Kerala was the best-governed State while Uttar Pradesh was the poorest in 2019 among large States, according to the recently released Public Affairs Index 2020. The index measures the quality of governance at the State/U.T. level on three dimensions of development – Equity, Growth and Sustainability, using 50 indicators. Among the small States, Goa was ranked the highest, while Manipur had the lowest. By The Hindu Data Team

EQUITY INDEX | This index is computed using 23 social, economic and gender related indicators such as malnutrition, women in legislature, slum population and crimes against SCs/STs. The number before a State depicts its rank

Large States	1. A.P. 2. Kerala 3. Chhattisgarh 4. W.B. 5. T.N. 6. Maharashtra	7. Punjab 8. Gujarat 9. Rajasthan 10. Assam 11. Telangana 12. Karnataka	13. Jharkhand 14. Bihar 15. Odisha 16. Madhya Pradesh 17. Haryana 18. Uttar Pradesh
Small States	1. Meghalaya 2. Himachal Pradesh 3. Manipur	4. Nagaland 5. Goa 6. Sikkim 7. Tripura	8. Uttarakhand 9. Arunachal Pradesh 10. Mizoram 11. Delhi

GROWTH INDEX | This index is computed using 20 indicators such as expense on agriculture, student-teacher ratio, drinking water, sanitation, electricity availability, fiscal deficit and unemployment rate

Large States	1. Kerala 2. Karnataka 3. Tamil Nadu 4. Telangana 5. A.P. 6. Punjab	7. Haryana 8. Gujarat 9. Maha. 10. CG 11. W.B. 12. M.P.	13. Rajasthan 14. Jharkhand 15. Assam 16. Odisha 17. Bihar 18. U.P.
Small States	1. Goa 2. Himachal Pradesh 3. Sikkim	4. Delhi 5. Arunachal Pradesh 6. Tripura 7. Uttarakhand	8. Mizoram 9. Meghalaya 10. Nagaland 11. Manipur

SUSTAINABILITY INDEX | This index is computed using seven indicators such as use of renewable energy, land degradation, waste management and air quality

Large States	1. Kerala 2. T.N. 3. Telangana 4. Chhattisgarh 5. Karnataka 6. M.P.	7. Andhra Pradesh 8. Maharashtra 9. Gujarat 10. Punjab 11. Rajasthan 12. Assam	13. U.P. 14. Bihar 15. Haryana 16. Odisha 17. Jharkhand 18. West Bengal
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Academia and the free will

India's dismal score on the Academic Freedom Index reflects the issues plaguing the country's education system



JOS CHATHUKULAM

India announced its National Education Policy (NEP) on July 29 this year. The policy aims at overhauling the educational system in the country and making "India a global knowledge superpower", with a new system that is aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal-4 (SDG 4). It also emphasises universal access to schools for all children, raising the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER), and ending the spiralling dropout rate in India.

The academic community is still debating and weighing the pros and cons of the NEP. However, one of the key disappointments is that the real problem plaguing the educational system in the country and the higher education system, the erosion of academic freedom, is being discussed by nobody.

India has scored considerably low in the international Academic Freedom Index (AFI) with a score of 0.352, which is closely followed by Saudi Arabia (0.278) and Libya (0.238). In the last five years, the AFI of India has dipped by 0.1 points. Surprisingly, countries like Malaysia (0.582), Pakistan (0.554), Brazil (0.466), Somalia (0.436) and Ukraine (0.422) have scored better than India. Uruguay and Portugal top the AFI, with scores of 0.971 each, followed closely by Latvia (0.964) and Germany (0.960).

The many claims in NEP 2020

The AFI and the accompanying report quantify the freedom of scholars to discuss politically and culturally controversial topics, without fearing for their life, studies or profession – an aspect where India is failing terribly. In such a scenario, it is important to look into what the NEP 2020 has to offer. The NEP 2020 claims that it is based on principles of creativity and critical thinking and envisions an education system that is free from political or external interference. For instance, the policy states that faculty will be given the "freedom to design their own curricular and pedagogical approaches within the approved framework, including textbook and reading material selections, assignments and assessments". It also suggests constituting a National Research Foundation (NRF), a merit-based and peer-reviewed research funding, which "will be governed, independently of the government, by a rotat-

ing Board of Governors consisting of the very best researchers and innovators across fields". However, the question is whether these promises and offers will be put into practice or remain just a rhetoric.

The AFI has cited the 'Free to Think: Report of the Scholars at Risk Academic Freedom Monitoring Project', to suggest that the political tensions in India may have something to do with declining 'academic freedom'. The police brutality against students at Jamia Millia Islamia University and Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi, and their being labelled as anti-nationals, has raised concerns about the state of academic freedom.

Rent-seeking culture

The AFI used eight components to evaluate the scores: freedom to research and teach, freedom of academic exchange and dissemination, institutional autonomy, campus integrity, freedom of academic and cultural expression, constitutional protection of academic freedom, international legal commitment to academic freedom under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and existence of universities. India has not fared well in components like institutional autonomy, campus integrity, freedom of academic and cultural expression and constitutional protection of academic freedom. Most universities in the country are subjected to unsolicited interference from governments in both academic and non-academic issues. It is common knowledge by now that a majority of appointments, especially to top-ranking posts like that of vice-chancellors, pro vice-chancellors and registrars, have been highly politicised. Such political appointments not only choke academic and creative freedom, but also lead to corrupt practices, including those in licensing and accreditation, thus promoting unhealthy favouritism and nepotism in staff appointments and student admissions. This reflects a 'rent-seeking culture' within the academic community.

At present, many educational institutions and regulatory bodies, both at the Central and State levels, are headed by bureaucrats. However, the NEP 2020 aims to de-bureaucratise the education system by giving governance powers to academicians. It also talks about giving autonomy to higher education institutions by handing over their administration to a board comprising academicians. This may help de-bureaucratise the education system and reduce political interference to an extent.

Jos Chatukulam is the director of Centre for Rural Management (CRM), Kottayam



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FROM PAGE ONE

Vaccine distribution: States cannot make isolated plans

NITI Aayog member V.K. Paul, also speaking at the conference, said India needs to be cautious now. "We are still vulnerable and the situation is still not fully under our control. We need to build on the gains India has been able to achieve so far. The public effort has to remain sustained. We have to test, isolate and work at breaking the transmission of the virus. Anyone who has symptoms should get tested. This will keep your family and society safe."

"Every missed case means multiple infections and we are duty-bound as citizens to get ourselves treated. Any symptoms of cold, fever, throat irritation should be taken as COVID, unless proven otherwise during this season," he said.

According to the data released by the Ministry, 58,323 patients have recovered and been discharged in the last 24 hours.

"80% of the new recovered cases are observed to be concentrated in 10 States/UTs with Maharashtra leading with more than 10,000 single-day recoveries followed by Karnataka with more than 8,000 recoveries," it said.

Also 74% of the new confirmed cases are from 10 States and UTs. Kerala, Delhi and Maharashtra have contributed the maximum to them with more than 4,000 cases. West Bengal follows with more than 3,000 new cases.

India has reported 490 case fatalities in the past 24 hours. "Of these, nearly 80% are concentrated in 10 States/UTs. Maharashtra has reported the maximum single day deaths (104). India's case fatality rate stands at 1.49%," said the Ministry.

The Ministry on Tuesday

Governor can rule on Rajiv convicts' plea: SC

Perarivalan applied to the Governor for pardon on December 30, 2015. Almost three years later, on September 6, 2018, the Supreme Court asked the Governor to decide the pardon plea as he "deemed fit". Three days later, on September 9, the Tamil Nadu Cabinet recommended to the Governor to remit Perarivalan's sentence and release him forthwith.

"However, it seems neither the recommendation was signed by the Tamil Nadu Governor nor the order of September 6 has been honoured by the Governor for the past two years," an application filed by Perarivalan, through advocate Prabu Ramasubramanian, said.

Cabinet decision
On January 20, the Supreme Court sought information from Tamil Nadu, represented by Additional Advocate General Balaji Srinivasan and Yogesh Kanna, on the steps taken by the Governor pursuant to the September 6 order and the Cabinet's recommendation. In February, the State government informed the court that the Cabinet recommendation had been sent to the Governor for his signature.

The court responded by asking the State to ensure that the Cabinet decision to

said the active COVID-19 cases have drastically declined below 5.5 lakhs and the positive cases are 5,41,405 comprising 6.55% of the total cases. The total recovered cases have crossed 76 lakhs (76,03,121). The gap between active cases and recovered cases has crossed 70 lakhs on Tuesday and stands at 70,61,716.

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release Perarivalan was enforced.

On Tuesday, Justice Rao's Bench agreed to hear the case in detail after the Deepavali vacation. It listed the case on November 23.

Perarivalan has contended that his role in the alleged crime taken to the maximum would be that of supplying two nine-volt batteries without the knowledge of what it was going to be used for. He said his confession under the lapsed TADA to a police officer was not a valid evidence.

'Grave prejudice'
Alleging that a "grave prejudice" has been caused on him, Perarivalan said he was a 19-year-old boy when his mother handed him over to the CBI and now he is 45 years old, lost all his prime youth in prison too in death row under solitary confinement for more than 16 years".

He said his "aged mother and father are waiting for their only son to join at least in the last years of their life".

Describing his case as "unique" and relating the harsh circumstances under which he pursued an education in prison, he said his health has taken a severe beating from the effects of "death row syndrome".

Police registered a case and arrested Samuel.

Suspected Maoist killed in police encounter

Exchange of fire took place in the Banasura mountains in Wayanad; deceased is suspected to be a native of Tamil Nadu

STAFF REPORTER
KALPETA

A suspected Maoist was killed in an exchange of fire with a police team during a search operation at Bhaskaran Para, near the Bappanam Mala forest under the South Wayanad Forest Division around 9.15 a.m. when a six-member Maoist group allegedly opened fire. The commandos returned fire in a bid to pin down the Maoists and force their surrender. However, the armed group staged a fighting retreat and disappeared into the forests, leaving behind one of their dead.

The police said the deceased could be Velmurugan, 32, son of Sendu and Annmalam, from Periyakulam in Theni district of Tamil Nadu. Velmurugan was a member of Kabanidam-2 of the Western Ghats Special Zone Committee of the proscribed Communist Party of India (Maoist), the police said.

The police had deployed a squad of eight commands to interdict the armed groups and deny them operational space in the area.

By one account, the commandos surprised the Maoists and called out to the group to surrender. However, the police encountered irregular fire from the dense undergrowth. The police recovered the body of the deceased, a .303 bolt action rifle, and several rounds of expended assault rifle ammunition from the spot. The exchange of fire lasted around 30 minutes. The commandos suffered no casualties.

Search operation
A search operation was under way to track down the others, the sources said. Balan, a tribesman in the

area, said he had heard the sound of thunder from the hilltop, which lasted around five minutes.

Though mediapersons tried to reach the site, the police blocked them around 3.5 km from it. The body was shifted to the mortuary at the Government Medical College Hospital, Kozhikode.

The State law enforcement has alerted counterparts in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The police were scouring tribal settlements and checking hospitals to find out whether they had admitted persons with gunshot injuries.

The incident comes near

ly 19 months after C.P. Jaleel, 25, a suspected Maoist, was shot dead in an encounter at a private resort at Lakkidi in the district.

Senior police officers, including K. Sethuraman, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Kannur range, and District Police Chief G. Poonghuzali, visited the site.

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president Mullappally Ramachandran condemned the "extrajudicial killing".

He accused Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan of giving free rein to the police to kill Maoists with impunity instead of arresting the insurgents and bringing them to book.



A .303 bolt action rifle recovered from the encounter spot. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Drugs case: HC rejects bail pleas of Kannada film actors

Ragini and Sanjanaa are in judicial custody

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday declined to grant bail and anticipatory bail to Kannada film actors Ragini Dwivedi and Archana alias Sanjanaa Manohar Galrani and four others allegedly involved in a drug racket case being probed by the Central Crime Branch of the Bengaluru city police.

Justice Sreenivas Harish Kumar passed the order while dismissing separate petitions filed by Ragini (accused number two in the first information report registered on September 4), Sanjanaa (accused number 14), and Prashanth Ranga (accused number 10) and Prashanth Raju G. (accused number eight), who have sought advance bail.

The special court for Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances cases had on September 28 rejected their plea for grant of bail. All the three accused are in judicial custody.

Meanwhile, the High Court declined to grant anticipatory bail to Shivaprakash (accused number one), Abhiswami (accused number 10) and Prashanth Raju G. (accused number eight), who have sought advance bail.

It was contended on behalf of the CCB before the special court that Ragini and Sanjanaa had direct contact with drug peddlers across the country and abroad and were part of a WhatsApp group for sharing messages.

The special court, while rejecting the bail pleas of Ragini and Sanjanaa, had observed that "the apprehension of prosecution that petitioners may abscond and tamper evidence could not be ruled out".

In a filing in the court of the special judge, Prevention of Money Laundering

Act, Bengaluru, on Monday, the ED alleged Bineesh had many front persons (benamids) to "create assets in their name to avoid detection". Bineesh owned "high-end cars" in the name of Al Jassam Abdul Jabbar. Abdul Latheef, a businessperson, co-owned Old Coffee House restaurant with Bineesh.

The ED said UAFX Solutions, Car Palace, Capito Lights, KK Rocks Quarry and their promoters were within

the ambit of its investigation. The agency required to question Latheef to "gather evidence regarding the illegal activities and proceeds of crime".

The ED wanted to "confront Bineesh and Latheef" with the "voluminous documents and digital evidence" agents had ferreted out.

Investigations so far had revealed that Bineesh had generated large sums of money from the State and infused the cash into the accounts and shell companies run by his "frontmen".

The arrest of Muhammad Anoop, a Kochi resident, on drug charges by the Narcotics Control Bureau in Bengaluru in April had led to the arrest of Bineesh by the ED.

The ED's task was to trace the proceeds from the crime, identify diversions, single out "end users", and confiscate properties involved in money laundering. +

Hyderabad man stabbed to death in U.S.

Business rivals were reportedly responsible for the fatal attack on Halloween

**ABHINAY DESHPANDE
HYDERABAD**
A 37-year-old Hyderabad man running a convenience store in Thomaston City in Georgia of the United States was reportedly killed by his business rivals there on Halloween night on Sunday.

He was stabbed multiple times by the attackers – a U.S. citizen and two Indian nationals – and was found dead in a pool of blood outside his house on Crawley Street.

The victim, Mohammed Arif Mohiuddin, a resident of Bahadurpura in the Old City, went to the United States 10 years ago for higher studies and settled there. He opened the store two months ago, after losing his job at a consultancy firm due to the CO-



Mohammed Arif Mohiuddin

VID-19 pandemic.

Thomaston police chief Mike Richardson, who is investigating the murder, said that Arif, who operated 'The Heights', a convenience store on East Moore's Crossing, was involved in a business dispute with his alleged attackers.

Footage of surveillance cameras near Arif's property had shown multiple assailants, including an employee at the store.

"They [the attackers] wanted to open a new store opposite to Arif's on East Moore's Crossing, and the local authorities asked them to take clearance from the former, for which he denied as his business could run into losses with the opening of another store on the opposite street," Arif's father-in-law Khaja Moizuddin, a retired physical director from Anwarul Uloom College, told *The Hindu*.

Arif got married to Moizuddin's daughter Mehnaz Fatima, 27, two-and-a-half years ago and the couple have a 10-month-old daughter. Arif's last visit to Hyderabad

bad was in 2019 and his mother stays with his sister in Australia.

"I request the government to arrange for me and my father to go to the U.S. on an emergency visa so that we can perform his final rites," Ms. Mehnaz said.

She said that on Sunday, around 9 a.m., Arif called her and they spoke for a few minutes. "He hung up stating he would call back in half-an-hour but I did not get any call from him. He was not answering to my repeated calls and I became worried," she said.

She called her husband's sister in Australia, who informed her about the stabbing. "There is no family member around him now. His body is in the hospital," Ms. Mehnaz said.

'Go Electric' campaign gets a big push

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA

In a major push to electric mobility sector, the government has decided to establish 400 charging stations across Andhra Pradesh in the first phase.

The government plans to attract investments to the sector by stepping up efforts to set up electric vehicle infrastructure, and the move to establish the charging stations is a step in that direction. During a webinar on the 'Go Electric' campaign organised with the support of the A.P. State Energy Conservation Mission, officials said charging infrastructure would be established every 25 km along the national highways.

IN BRIEF



J.C. Daniel Award for filmmaker Hariharan

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Filmmaker Hariharan has been chosen for the prestigious J.C. Daniel Award for 2019. The award, conferred by the Kerala government, carries a purse of ₹5 lakh, a plaque, and a citation.

Heavy voter turnout for Dubbaka by-election

DUBBAKA
The by-election for Dubbaka Assembly constituency in Telangana passed off peacefully without any untoward incident on Tuesday. Heavy voter turnout caught the major parties by surprise. By 5 p.m. about 82.61% of the voters had cast their votes.

Kerala's graph for new cases flattening, positivity dips

Positive rate for samples in A.P. 3.37%, Karnataka 2.91%; Telangana reports lowest mortality since June

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala's COVID-19 cases maintained a flatter trajectory on Tuesday with 6,862 new cases, from 61,138 samples. The test positivity rate dropped from 12.14% to 11.2%.

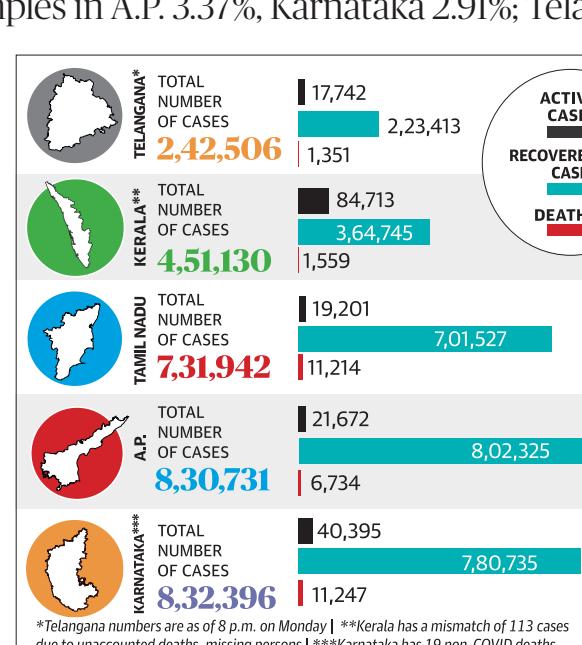
The test positivity rate in

COVID-19

the State was the highest in Alappuzha at 17.1%, 13% in Thiruvananthapuram, and 5.9%, the lowest, in Idukki.

The average weekly growth rate as well as the doubling time for cases changed during the past week. The doubling time of 17.2 days on October 2 rose to 41.1 on October 30.

On Tuesday, the Health department added 26 more deaths to the official CO-



Andhra Pradesh reported 2,849 new cases and 15 new deaths on Tuesday.

The overall positivity rate came down to 10.06% as the number of samples tested touched 82.60 lakh. In the past day, 84,534 samples were tested and their positivity rate was 3.37%. Anantapur and Guntur reported three new deaths each.

Telangana recorded 1,536 cases on Monday testing 45,021 people. Three more patients died, the lowest number since June 24.

The 45,021 tests conducted on Monday was the highest since October 13. The 1,536 new cases included 281 from Greater Hyderabad.

Karnataka on Tuesday reported 2,756 new cases and 26 new deaths.

The positivity rate stood at 2.91%, and Case Fatality Rate (CFR) 0.94%. Bengaluru Ur-

ban reported 1,479 cases and 13 of the 26 deaths.

Tamil Nadu's COVID-19 positivity rate was down to 3.5% from last month's 10%. Health Minister C. Vijayabaskar said on Tuesday when another 2,435 persons tested positive for

Bihar poll: phase 2 ends peacefully

Onions thrown at CM Nitish Kumar at public meeting for third phase

AMARNATH TEWARY

PATNA

The second phase of elections for 94 seats across 17 districts in Bihar ended peacefully on Tuesday though there were some reports of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) malfunctioning.

Top party leaders across the spectrum continued campaigning for third and final phase of polls on November 7.

The voters turnout till 6 p.m. was over 56%. In first phase poll for 71 seats, voters turnout was over 55% which was higher than the figures for the 2015 Assembly election.

Meanwhile, top leaders including Chief Minister Nitish Kumar of the JD(U), Prime Minister Narendra Modi of BJP, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav continued campaigning for the third phase of 78 seats.

At a public meeting in

Lukewarm interest

Bihar recorded only 54.53% voter turnout in the second phase as of 8.45 p.m. The State had registered a 55.68% turnout in the first phase on October 28



HIGH TURNOUT

Constituency	Turnout %
Chaparia	63.62
Maner	61.8
Kanti	61.43
Baruraj	61.2
Madhubani	61
District	Turnout %
Muzaffarpur	59.98
West Champaran	59.69
Begusarai	58.82
Sitamarhi	57.4
East Champaran	56.75

LOW TURNOUT

Constituency	Turnout %
Digha	34.5
Bankipur	35.9
Kumhrar	36.4
Bhagalpur	42.5
Biharsharif	46.11
District	Turnout %
Patna	48.24
Nalanda	51.06
Siwan	51.88
Darbhanga	54.15
Saran	54.15

Harlakhia in Madhubani district, onions were thrown at Mr. Kumar. "Khub pheko, khub pheko, khub pheko (keep throwing)," a furious Mr. Kumar responded as security personnel shielded him from the missiles.

The Chief Minister, however, told security personnel not to arrest the man who threw the onions. "Let him go... no need to pay attention to him," Mr. Kumar

said.

The 69-year-old JD(U) chief has faced protests at his public meetings, including slogans of "Lalu Yadav zindabad".

Public meetings

Mr. Modi and Mr. Gandhi also addressed public meetings in northeast Bihar.

The third phase will largely be held in northeastern part of the State including

Katihar, Purnia, Kishanganj and Saharsa, considered as an NDA stronghold. The RJD-led mahagathbandhan has been raising issues of unemployment and migration and promised 10 lakh government jobs.

The NDA has banked on development issues of 'double engine' governments in the State and the Centre.

Counting of votes will take place on November 10.

in the first phase, Mr. Tejashwi directly reached out to CPI(ML) candidate Sandeep Saurav and later addressed a public rally seeking votes for him.

These are snippets from the Bihar Assembly elections 2020 where the allies of the RJD-led mahagathbandhan (Grand Alliance) are working in perfect synergy in contrast to the NDA alliance, where the BJP and the JD(U)

Weeks ahead at a door-to-door meeting conducted by CPI(ML) candidate Mehbob Alam for the Balrampur Assembly seat in Katihar, sloganists hailing Lalu Prasad, Rabri Devi, Tejashwi Yadav, Rahul and Sonia Gandhi were raised.

In the Paliganj Assembly seat, which went to the polls

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dual campaigns parallel to each other. BJP State president Sanjay Jaiswal recently publicly rued the lack of coordination between the NDA allies. Even in the few joint rallies that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have held, the Prime Minister has skipped mentioning Mr. Kumar's work.

The party leaders claim that the cadres of all the five parties – the RJD, the Con-

gress, the CPI(ML), the CPI and the CPI(M) – have come together organically without directions from the top.

"There is perfect synergy, coordination and coherent strategy between the RJD-Congress and the Left parties. We haven't received any complaints in the 243 constituencies other than one or two for minor local issues," senior RJD leader Manoj K. Jha.

Barring the initial meetings in Patna among the allies, most of the coordination, he said, was being done at the constituency level.

All the campaign material carries pictures of leaders of the five parties.

CPI(ML) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya said the common manifesto, too, did not require much brainstorming since it was a compilation of the popular demands.

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INTERVIEW | MANOJ SINHA

'Parties free to engage in political activity in J&K, there is no proscription'

Home Minister Amit Shah has given an assurance in Parliament that Statehood will be restored and it will be, says Lieutenant-Governor of Jammu & Kashmir

NISTULA HEBBAR

Lieutenant-Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha speaks on his three months at the helm, the land amendments in J&K, the Gupkar declaration and the Shopian encounter.

It has been three months since you were appointed Lieutenant-Governor. What has been your major focus?

■ One of the first things I noticed was that the ordinary citizen had no platform to express grievances. A system via District Collectors as well as Divisional Commissioners and Inspector General rank of police to designate specific days in a week for public grievances was set up. These platforms have been institutionalised, and I review it every month. Secondly, social security schemes suffered in comparison to construction-related government spending. I focussed on upping that, and I can say that 16 out of 20 districts have shown more than 95% coverage in terms of social welfare schemes. Jobs and skilling are an important aspect too.

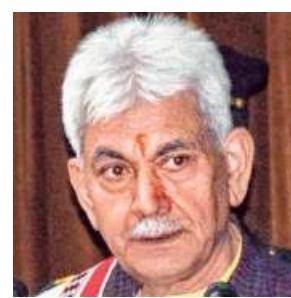
It is instructive to know that J&K and Bihar have similar numbers of government employees whereas Bihar's population is 11 times that of J&K. For the last 70 years, for

many reasons, private employment could not be boosted, and while we have started recruitment for 11,000 government posts and an additional 13,000 to come up, we have undertaken to develop as a skilling hub and to set up industry in the State. For example, Ashish Chauhan of the Bombay Stock Exchange said that three-month programmes for youngsters who want stock-broking or insurance agent skills will be set up by him. The Tata Group has also committed for two hubs – one in Baramulla (which is ready) and another in Jammu, which will be ready in November. The aim is to engage with 80% of the youth by 2025.

When you speak of public grievances, political parties and people's representatives are important conduits of grievances. Major leaders of political parties were arrested after the reading down of Article 370 and

there is hardly any political engagement currently. It was also expressed in some quarters that a new layer of leadership in the State would emerge from local bodies, such as panchayats and municipal corporations, but that doesn't seem to have happened either.

■ In 1992, when the 73rd Amendment was brought in, a three-tier Panchayat Raj system was envisaged for the entire country, but in J&K this was limited to two tiers. The necessary amendments have been made, however, and local body polls for the district development council will be notified any day now. I believe this will strengthen grassroots-level democracy and development, and the participation of local representatives will deepen the roots of democracy. I believe this is part of the political process and is the best kind of political process. I acknowledge that some leaders of political parties were not free earlier, but there was a system of assessment under Principal Secretary, Home, which would review the matter and, as of now, I don't think any major political leader is under detention.



■ The panchayat polls will be notified in a day or two ... We are trying to ensure security for all

Our country is a free country and people are free to engage in political activity, which these leaders are doing and the country is also watching, listening.

The events of August 5, 2019, saw major leaders of political parties under detention. It is being said that this has finished off the middle ground in politics in Kashmir.

■ My priority, as far as I see, is the development of J&K, engaging the youth, and creating an environment for prosperity. Political parties, on their part, are free to en-

gage in political activity, there is no proscription. It is up to them as to which direction they take. Much of it is unfortunate and we have to see how we can change that.

By unfortunate, do you mean statements on seeking Chinese help to restore Article 370?

■ I feel that those who have held Constitutional positions in the past should remember that they had once [been] sworn into office on the Indian Constitution. That *maryada* (decency) should be maintained. Secondly, many of this very set of people have gone before the Supreme Court on these and related matters, reposing full faith in the Indian judiciary and Constitutional system. Having done that, shouldn't they wait for the court's judgment? My second suggestion would be to remember that it is only in India that there is full freedom to say what you feel.

The recent amendments made to land-related laws in J&K have elicited strong opposition in both the Valley and Jammu, with apprehensions that there is

some sort of plan for a demographic change via land acquisition by outsiders.

■ If some people want to misguide people, they can say what they want. The truth is that 90% of land in J&K is agricultural and no one from outside can buy it. The amendments did away with some older laws, some [that were] mutually contradictory, that had become redundant. For example, in an earlier law, a ceiling of 182 kanals had been fixed for private holding, after that it was amended to 100 kanals, [and] in 1976, these two provisions existed together. Secondly, there was an unfortunate law that required government's permission to plant orchards and harvest the fruit; now we have freed that. These were old agrarian laws, and to make a shift to a modern economy, we made some changes. We have selected 6,000 acres of land for an industrial park and other industry will also be facilitated. We want private enterprise and industry for creating more jobs for the youth in J&K. We are expecting at least ₹25,000-30,000 crore worth of investment after

our new industrial policy is cleared by the Union Cabinet. The false propaganda being spread about these amendments need to be seen in the context of the J&K High Court order in the Roshni Act case where, out of 3,48,000 kanal land, 3,40,000 kanal land was given away for free in questionable circumstances. The honourable High Court said that the government was only a trustee of the land and had no rights to give such land away for free.

I am telling you with great responsibility that these amendments are on the lines of the laws in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand in terms of protection of land and rights of the local population.

Can panchayat polls be held with panchayat-level workers having been killed in the last few months?

■ The polls will be notified in a day or two and some forces want to disrupt these processes. We are trying to ensure security for all. The situation is pretty much under control. There are some who want to block deepening of democracy, it will not be allowed to happen.

The Shopian encounter [in which three labourers from Rajouri were killed] was a very regrettable development and happened just as you took over.

■ This was an incident of around July 22-23. I reached J&K around August 7 to take over as Lieutenant-Governor, and read about it in the newspapers. I immediately asked the Army people to look into it. The response from the Army was positive, and when we found that a mistake had been committed, there was an honest attempt at some restitution. I myself went and met the family members of the Shopian victims and gave them Prime Minister Modi's message, and condoled with them. I am firm that the innocent should not be targeted, even when we don't spare the guilty.

The Union government has said that there would be restoration of Statehood to J&K. When can we expect that to happen?

■ This was a solemn assurance by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the floor of the House in Parliament and it will be done.

IN BRIEF



In SC, govt. defends Central Vista plan

NEW DELHI
The Centre on Tuesday defended in the Supreme Court its multi-crore Central Vista redevelopment plan, saying the existing Parliament building, which is nearly 100 years old, is under tremendous pressure and that not a brick of the heritage structures will be touched while constructing a new Parliament, Central Secretariat and various ministries. A series of petitions have been filed against the Central Vista proposal.

Javed Akhtar complains against Kangana

MUMBAI
A criminal complaint has been filed by lyricist Javed Akhtar against actor Kangana Ranaut for making defamatory statements against him during an interview. The complaint has been filed before the Andheri metropolitan magistrate through advocate Niranjan Mundargi. When contacted by *The Hindu*, Mr. Mundargi, however, refused to divulge any details. Mr. Akhtar filed the complaint under Sections 499 (defamation) and 500 (punishment for defamation) of the Indian Penal Code.

Indian Navy matches skills with three foreign fleets off Vizag

U.S., Australian and Japanese vessels arrive for Malabar 2020 exercise

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Phase I of the Malabar 2020 naval exercise by India, Australia, Japan and the U.S. began off the coast of Visakhapatnam in the Bay of Bengal on Tuesday.

Australian Defence Minister Linda Reynolds said the imperative to cooperate closely with regional defence partners on shared challenges was stronger than ever. "Exercise Malabar is an important opportunity to work in concert with like-minded nations to support a secure, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region."

This is the first time Australia has joined Malabar since 2007.

Two parts

This is the 24th edition of the exercise that began in 1992 and this time, it is being held in two phases, in the Bay of Bengal and from November 17 to 20 in the Arabian Sea.

Indian Navy ships *Ranvijay*, *Shivalik*, *Shakti* and *Sukanya* and submarine *Sindhuraj* were exercising with U.S. naval ship *USS John S McCain*, Royal Australian Navy ship *HMAS Ballarat*, and Japanese Maritime Self-Defence ship *JS Onami*, the Navy said.

"India and Australia are natural partners in the Indo-Pacific, and Exercise Mal-

bar is a clear demonstration of the depth of trust and cooperation between our defence organisations," Ms. Reynolds added.

Mission Sagar-II

The Navy also began Mission Sagar-II, under which *INS Airavat* entered the Sudan port carrying 100 tonnes of food, the Navy said.

Under the mission, India provides assistance to friendly countries during the

COVID-19 pandemic.

Mission Sagar-II is a follow-up of Mission Sagar undertaken in May-June 2020, during which India delivered food and medicines to the Maldives, Mauritius, the Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros.

"As part of Mission Sagar-II, Indian Naval Ship *Airavat* will deliver food aid to Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea," the Navy said in a statement.

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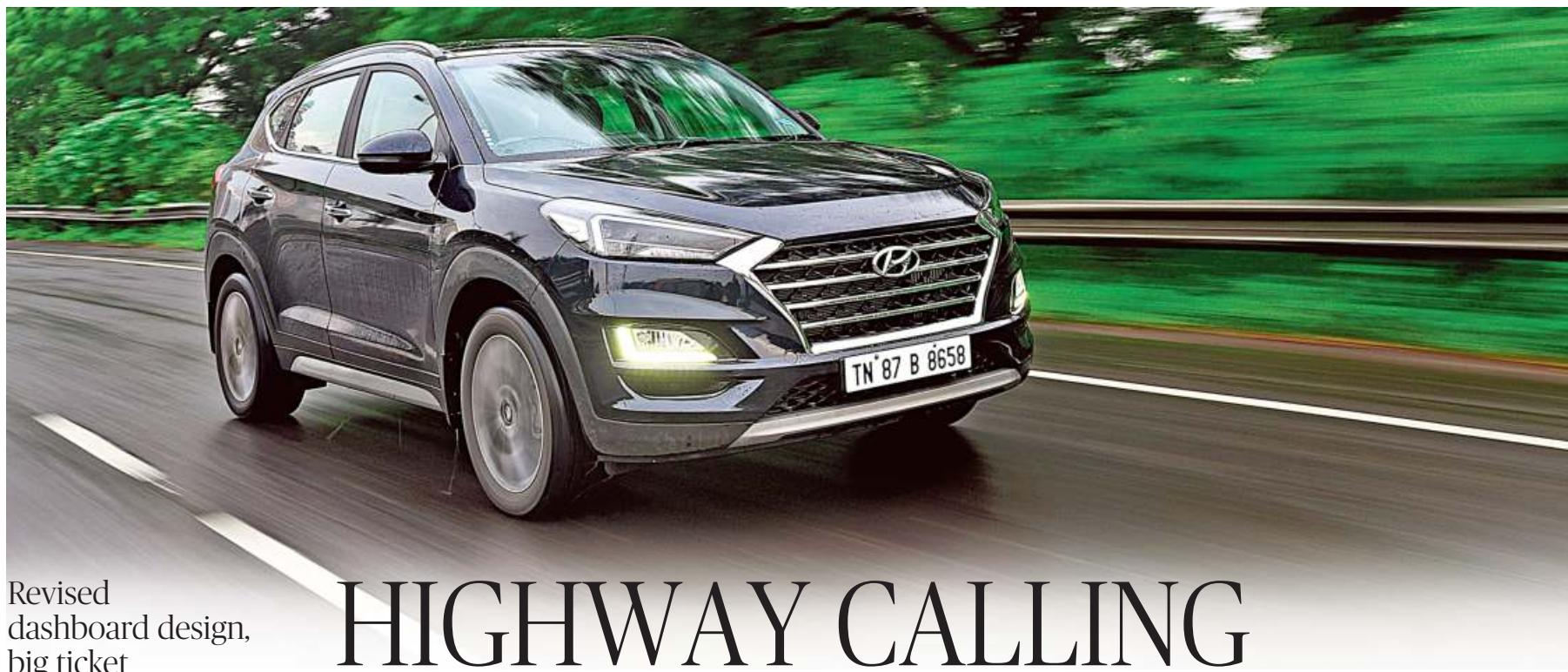
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Revised dashboard design, big ticket additions and a refined engine are all part of the new Tucson package

GAVIN D'SOUZA

Hyundai's flagship SUV in India, the Tucson, has received a mid-cycle update bringing with it BS6 engines and a new automatic gearbox with the diesel engine.

Hyundai has not made any drastic changes to the design, but they have freshened up the SUV's look. The 'cascading' grille is sharper and finished in chrome and gloss black, the headlamps are now full LED, and there is a new DRL signature around the fog lamps. You will also find new 18-inch alloy wheels, and at the rear there has been a slight reprofiling of the bumper besides the addition of part-LED tail-lamps.

There are changes to the dashboard design as well. It now features a curvier layout with a thick band of double-stitched faux leather running across the centre, and a new free-standing 8.0-inch touchscreen. And, though the faux leather on the dash adds some class, it has to be said that in this price range buyers would expect a little more.

Interior space continues to be one of the Tucson's USPs. The rear seat is wide enough to seat three comfortably, knee room is excellent and headroom is generous too. You can even recline the rear seat backrest a little for a bit more comfort.

However, you sit uncharacteristically low and the windowsills are quite tall. This, combined with the all-black cabin, could reduce the sensation of space slightly.

Moving to the equipment, the big-ticket additions are the powered passenger seat which is also



SPECIFICATIONS

LENGTH	4480mm
WIDTH	1850mm
HEIGHT	1660mm
WHEELBASE	2670mm
TYRE SIZE	225/55 R18
FUEL TANK CAPACITY	62 litres
DESCRIPTION	1995cc, 4-cyls, turbo-diesel
POWER	185hp at 4000rpm
TORQUE	400Nm at 1750-2750rpm
GEARBOX	8-speed automatic

height adjustable, a wireless mobile phone charger, BlueLink connected car tech and a panoramic sunroof. But one recent Hyundai staple that is missed is ventilated front seats.

Satisfying output

Other features include auto headlamps and wipers, keyless entry, dual-zone auto climate control, driving modes, a powered tailgate

with hands-free opening, and a new eight-speaker sound system from Infinity.

Moving to the engines, Hyundai has ditched the manual gearboxes altogether. The 2.0-litre petrol engine now comes with a 6-speed torque-converter automatic gearbox as standard while the 2.0-litre diesel, which we drove, gets a new 8-speed automatic unit. The engine is smooth and largely refined with a bit of a grumble that is audible high in the rev range.

The Tucson's healthy outputs of 185hp and 400Nm remain the same, and the engine is nice and responsive off the line; the shift to BS6 doesn't seem to have dampened things too much



at all. It is not particularly rev-happy, but you still get quite a satisfying shove as you power through the mid-range.

Seamless shifts

In terms of performance, the Tucson is quicker than before with our tests showing a 0.3 second im-

Bold and beautiful The new Tucson promises to be an ideal cruiser for highway drives

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ovement in the sprint to 100kph, and in-gear acceleration figures almost a second quicker. Compared to the old 6-speed auto, the new 8-speeder shuffles through the gears seamlessly and, save for the odd time it was a little slow to downshift at low speeds, it almost always has just the right gear for any situation.

As before, the Tucson diesel remains great for long highway drives. It is set up quite softly and this allows for great bump absorption at low speeds. It is, however, not an enthusiastic handler, and there is a fair amount of understeer and quite a bit of body roll when driven enthusiastically. The steering puts on a good amount of weight as you go faster.

Priced from ₹22.3 lakh to a not-inconsiderable ₹27.03 lakh (ex-showroom, Delhi), the Tucson sits in proper premium SUV territory. This is a big and comfortable, 5-seat family SUV with most of Hyundai's key strengths – refinement, quality, equipment and reasonable maintenance costs – getting you a lot of Hyundai for your money.

AUTO SNIPS



New Hyundai i20 launch on November 5

Hyundai will launch the new i20 in India on November 5. Bookings for the car are currently open. Customers can book the new i20 for ₹21,000 at their nearest Hyundai dealership or on the company's online retail platform. Compared to the outgoing car, the new i20 gets a sharper and sportier overall styling with a wider 'cascading grille' design, new headlight and DRL design along with new tail lights and angular Z-shaped LED inserts. Under the hood, the i20 will come with two petrol and one diesel engine option.



Hero, Harley-Davidson enter into agreement for India

Hero MotoCorp and Harley-Davidson have announced that they have entered into an agreement for the Indian market. Under the agreement, Hero will sell and service Harley-Davidson motorcycles in India along with retailing H-D's line-up of accessories and apparel. The retailing will be via brand-exclusive, Harley-Davidson dealerships, as well as Hero's existing dealers in India. Also, as per a new licensing agreement, Hero will also develop and sell a range of premium motorcycles under the Harley-Davidson brand.



Updated Bajaj CT100 launched

Bajaj has launched an updated CT100 kick-start variant at ₹46,432. Priced around ₹2,000 more than the model it replaces, the updated CT100 gets eight new features. Among them are the new tank grips – an old-school feature that is making a comeback – new fork gaiters, a cross tube on the handlebar, a larger grab handle and clear-lens indicators. However, the new feature that will be the most appreciated is the fuel gauge. Bajaj has also discontinued the electric-start variant of the CT100.

Q AND A WITH HORMAZD



Hector or Seltos?

I am looking for a midsize SUV for city driving and am confused between the MG Hector Smart hybrid and the Kia Seltos GTX. I am 6ft tall and my previous car was a first-gen Skoda Octavia.

Abhishek Chaudhry, Chandigarh

• The Seltos is an overall better car with its good build quality, smooth powertrain and features. However, it is cramped and that is where the Hector scores. Given your requirement for space, I would go for the Hector as it is a far more comfortable car. Also, the ride quality of the Hector is better and it feels like an SUV that is a full size bigger than the Seltos. We would suggest you pick the Hector.

Yes to ceramic coating?

My father owns a 2019 Mercedes E-class LWB and I want to know if we can give it a ceramic coating. If yes, are there any specific brands we should look at?

Atharv Natu, Thane

• A ceramic coating on a car's surface can offer various benefits, including protecting the paint from fading due to constant exposure to the elements of Nature such as dust, tree sap and bird droppings. It also makes the surface smooth and water repellent for easier cleaning, and gives it a pristine, mirror-like finish. However, it must be noted that the shine and swirl-free look will only last if it is well taken care of, similar to application of a good wax regularly. But compared to wax, the ceramic compound will last longer. If you are looking to protect the paint from getting unwanted scratches in traffic, a paint-protection film (PPF) treatment of various body panels from renowned brands like 3M would be a better idea.

Hormazd Sorabjee is the editor of Autocar India. Mail your feedback and queries to roadshow@thehindu.co.in



FIROZE IRANI

With the BGauss, RR Global marks its entry into the growing two-wheeler EV market in India, but it does not take on the premium, made-in-India EV space. Its scooters are positioned in the more affordable, lower-performance segment.

The BGauss B8's compact dimensions are similar to TVS Scooty Pep Plus but smaller, and it does not have enough room to comfortably accommodate a pillion. That said, its puny size does not diminish the amount of attention it gets. The LED headlight looks straight out of a sci-fi movie and is quite powerful. The bodywork is angular which is quite refreshing in this segment. The seat's closing mechanism, though, does not work as it should; the panel that separates the battery and the underseat storage could have been better.

Lithium power

The B8 is available in three variants – a Lead Acid model, the Lithium-Ion powered version we rode and a Lithium-Ion Technology. All three models use the same

Size no bar The BGauss B8 has a lot going for it

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



SPECIFICATIONS

MOTOR	Hub-mounted BLDC
BATTERY CAPACITY	1.45kWh
BATTERY TYPE	Lithium-ion
WEIGHT (KG)	76.5kg
GROUND CLEARANCE (MM)	139mm
FRONT BRAKE TYPE	Disc
REAR BRAKE TYPE	Disc
FRONT SUSPENSION	Telescopic fork
REAR SUSPENSION	Twin shock absorbers
FRONT WHEEL (INCH)	10
REAR WHEEL (INCH)	10

Packing a petite punch

The BGauss B8 makes up for its size with a host of features that make it stand tall in the EV segment

instrument cluster which is well laid out and bright enough. The BGauss' 1.45kWh battery unit is removable. You can either plug your charger directly into the battery or into the charging socket that sits near the footboard. The battery itself weighs around 13kg, but the convenience of having this option is quite nice. The scooter rides on 10-inch Cheetah tyres, its suspension is handled by a telescopic fork and twin shock absorbers. The ride quality



is decent and the brakes are quite powerful.

Propulsion on the B8 comes from a Bosch BLDC hub-mounted motor. Power stands at a claimed 800W (continuous) and 1,900W (peak). While the company's website claims that the scooter has a 50kph top speed and a range of 70km, we got slightly lower figures in our tests.

The BGauss B8 has three riding modes – 1, 2 and 3. While these modes are said to increase the top speed as you go higher, our tests revealed that mode 1 reduced the acceleration slightly. Modes 2 and 3 returned similar numbers, reaching 30kph in around 6secs. The scooter also has a boost button that can be used for overtakes, and we got to 40kph in 11secs. The true top speed we achieved was 44.55kph though the speedometer indicated 49kph.

Early days

The range we achieved while riding at regular city speeds was 47.5km (Mode 2). With a charge time of three hours, this return puts it on a par with its rivals. The BGauss also does not lose out on performance when the battery charge drops. The scooter has a sharp initial response when you open the accelerator at low speeds, especially when you have just come off the brakes. It also has another common annoyance we have experienced in this segment: the accelerator will get disconnected if you slightly trail either of the brakes, putting you in a tricky situation while taking U-turns or tight turns.

As BGauss is a new company, it is too early to tell what the sales and aftersales experience will be like. With a price tag of ₹83,000, the BGauss B8's size will appeal to some, but will be a deal-breaker for others.



Peck at the local one

In the quest for local foods, the country chicken is now ruling the roost with all its free-range, easy-fed goodness

PRABALIK M BORAH

The world over, chefs, nutritionists and food activists are all rooting for #eatlocal. This includes grains, dairy and meat products. In India, a quiet but determined movement has begun in homes and restaurants – a return to country chicken.

These chickens are not the regular white-feathered ones seen in cages at meat shops. Country chickens have feathers in different colours, and mostly graze in the open. The meat is slightly tougher than white poultry meat, but when cooked, is juicy and soaks in spices beautifully. Which is why, though broiler chicken is consumed in huge numbers around the country including villages, it is a tradition to treat special guests in villages to a dish made with country chicken.

Chicken country captain

According to chef Joe Manavalan, founder of Licious, an online meat and seafood delivery service that has its presence in nine cities in India including Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Pune and Chennai, "Country chicken is the future. Consumers are more aware and prefer to have meats that are naturally-fed, reared or grown. Our orders these days are specific; customers ask for smaller birds (that means it is not overfed artificially)."

He adds that during lockdown, the brand saw a steady rise in requests for country chicken. "When we listed it on our menu, we ran out of stock within no time. If one gets the real taste of country chicken, it would be hard for them to go back to eating the broiler bird, especially in an Indian curry. At the moment our broiler to country chicken ratio is 80:20. Even

though country chicken costs almost thrice the price of broiler meat, the demand is fast rising and shows a steep rise during regional festivals."

Country chicken's slightly tougher meat, which means it takes longer to cook, made it less popular once broilers were introduced to the Indian consumer in the early 1980s. The broiler birds were also preferred

because they were economical both in terms of cost and quantity. "A country chicken yields less meat because if it is free-range, it only feeds on what it finds unlike the broiler birds whose only job is to eat within a small cage," adds Joe.

However, with this rising demand, farmers are back to rearing country chicken. Toddler tapper and farmer Yadiyah, from Mall village in Telangana says, "We raise country chicken for our own consumption. Of late, however, visitors from the city who

Taste of the soil *Nattu kozhi sukka; kurma; country chicken at the Veterinary College and Research Institute Poultry Farm in Namakkal* • TSINGARAVELOU, PGOTHAM, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

come for toddy have been requesting dishes made with it. Hence we are rearing them for food and some for commercial consumption."

Several boutique farmers are beginning to rear them for eggs and meat, and also to help the farm in a way. Hyderabad-based farmer and nutritionist Abhinav Gangumalla says, "Chicken help in mulching the soil, manure, and compost which in turn benefits us by improving the quality of food we plant in the soil."

Delicacy rediscovered

Chef Ram Prakash R, the founder and culinary director of Gourmet Tamizhan, gives a thumbs up for the *nattu kozhi* or country chicken. He talks about how this free-range chicken feeds on *siruthaniyam* (millet), *asola* (water fern), spinach, vegetable and *kariyan* (termites), which yields tasty meat.

He lists out the popular *nattu kozhi* recipes of Tamil Nadu, which include *pichu potta nattu kozhi sukka* (shredded dry chicken fry) and *nattu kozhi thanni kuzhambu* (a runny sour chicken curry made with country chicken). These dishes are traditionally based on the season: in summer, cold-pressed gingelly oil can be used in the preparation of *nattu kozhi* dishes to reduce body heat.

Abhinav confesses that the country chicken is his favourite subject of discussion. "They are selective in what they eat. Unlike herbivores, they don't simply go on a pecking spree. They select their greens, peck on insects and feed on grains. The logic 'we are what we eat' applies to these birds as well," he says.

He explains that it is also a more humane way to raise the birds, as opposed to broilers who live their lives in small, stacked cages. "This kind of rearing only makes the bird gain weight. In a way, it is forced to eat food that is made industrially. The small cage often leads to the bird getting hurt, as it cannot move."

He adds, "Country chicken is expensive when compared to broilers because they take time to grow and lay about 14 eggs a month, as against 30 eggs by the broilers."

Abhinav also suggests that while the broiler is a cheap source of protein, customers should ideally ask for birds that are smaller and weigh less, as that means they are young and have hence been raised on less artificial feed.

Seasonal favourite

Country chicken also has a special connection with the weather. In Assam, locals begin to daydream about peppery country chicken curry when the temperatures dip in December and January.

Says home chef and mixologist Arzoo Ahmed, "The pepper in the chicken adds to the body heat and invariably goes to clear a blocked nose and sore throat. This is probably the go-to chicken curry in every Assamese home," specifying that "the curry has to be slightly runny but thicker than a clear soup."

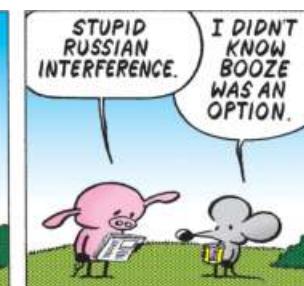
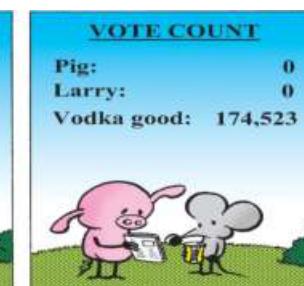
This chicken feeds on millet, water fern, spinach, vegetable and soil mites, which yields tasty meat



POOCH CAFE



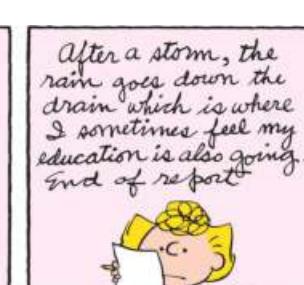
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



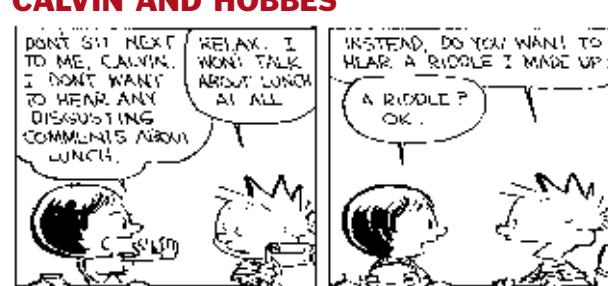
PEANUTS



TIGER



CALVIN AND HOBBES



This app puts safety first

Filmmaker Madhureeta Anand's Phree lets users rank buildings, streets, roads and entire neighbourhoods according to safety



Know the risks In Phree, users can give reasons behind their rating of a place's safety level; (below) Madhureeta • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Then, I thought about the tens and thousands of women who go through this every day."

The numbers in the National Crime Record Bureau's (NCRB) Crime in India 2019 report substantiates Madhureeta's concern. According to the report, crimes against women increased from 3,78,236 cases in 2018 to 4,05,861 cases in 2019.

When she looked for safety apps, she says, "All I could find were SOS apps, which were good but not enough. It's useful during emergencies, when the incident has either already happened, or is about to happen. I wanted an app that could prevent danger."

With the help of a friend from Silicon Valley, she built Phree last year. Its users can rate a specific building or entire areas from the map for safety. They can also describe the reason for their rating. Unsafe places are marked red, the safe ones in blue and the un-rated places in grey. The app also has an SOS feature.

Adds Madhureeta, "Many of our users are transgenders. Safety is a broad term; it can't be reduced to one group of people. For instance, a street was rated unsafe because there were bulls attacking passersby. All these things are taken into account."

The app, so far, has just over a thousand sand users. But Madhureeta is confident of more people using it. "We are in talks with authorities like the Police Department among others for a tie-up."

The app is on Google Play Store and App Store



Meet the heroes

Chennai Photo Biennale Foundation and Confederation of Indian Industry presents #My2020Hero, an initiative to celebrate our everyday heroes. The pandemic has enabled us to see the world in a new light. While we socially distanced ourselves during the initial days of lockdown, we came across several everyday heroes. They came to our rescue in little ways: our house help, sanitation worker, vegetable vendor, food delivery person, our pet. Through the initiative, people are encouraged to share a photo and story about their real-life hero they encountered this year. They can share it on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter or on my2020hero.in. The best entries will be selected by a jury and featured in an online exhibition on the website.

Americans vote as country braces for unrest

Trump says 'we're going to make history once again'; Biden calls for putting an end to the presidency that fanned flames

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

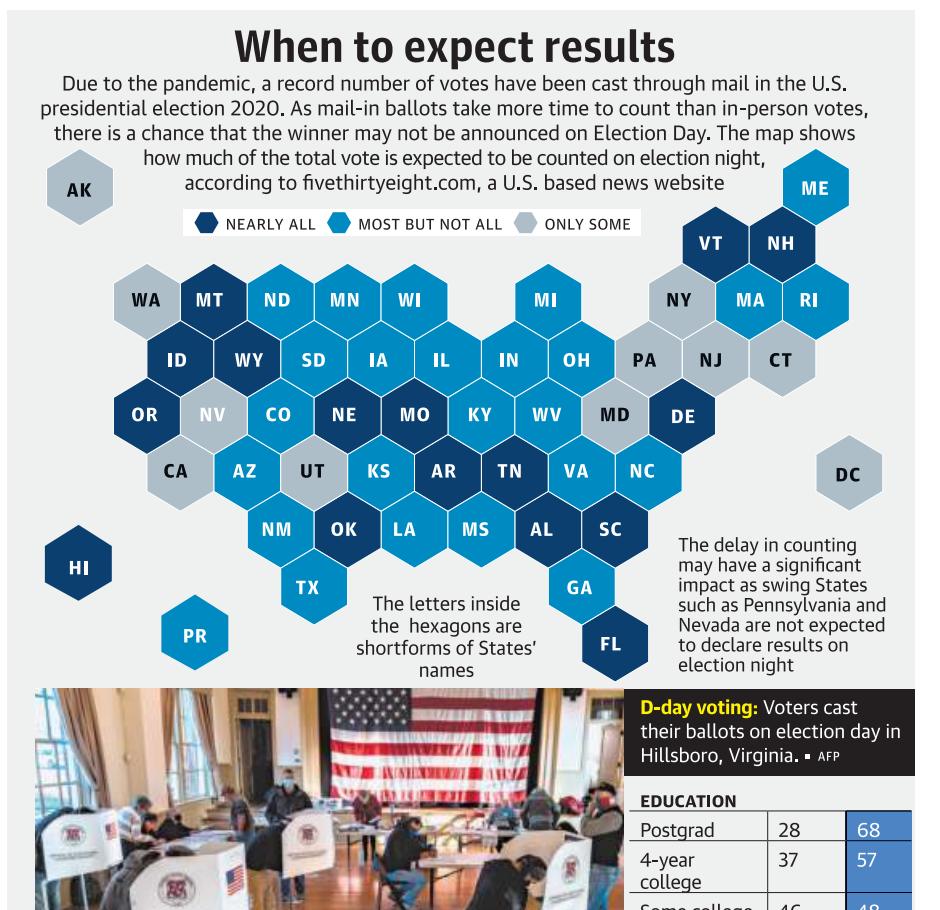
WASHINGTON

By the time Americans started lining up at the polls on Tuesday, an unprecedented number of their fellow citizens – just under 100 million – had already voted, either by mail or via in-person early voting. Both candidates and their star campaigners dashed across swing States urging Americans to vote and to vote for their vision of the future. Also unprecedented in the modern history of a country that likes to be called the “world’s oldest democracy” was the anticipation of possible violence and civil unrest in the event of a contested election.

U.S. President Donald Trump, who wrapped up his campaign on Monday night in Grand Rapids, Michigan, as he had done in 2016, continued to question the legitimacy of some mail-in ballots. Democratic candidate Joe Biden concluded his campaign on Monday where it began – in Pittsburgh.

Mr. Biden began Tuesday with a visit to St. Joseph of the Brandywine Roman Catholic Church in Wilmington, Delaware, with his wife Jill and their granddaughters, visiting the graves of his late son Beau and his first wife and their daughter. Mr. Biden, then flew to Scranton, Pennsylvania, his birth place, for a “get out the vote” event. Mr. Trump had an interview with Fox News on Tuesday morning followed by a trip to his campaign headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, to thank staffers. Mr. Trump is expected to receive the election results at the White House.

Virus continues to rage
The U.S. witnessed a record 99,000 COVID-19 cases in a single day (Friday) and the case load was in key swing



PREFERENCE MAPPING:		
Biden enjoys significant acceptance across gender, race, age, and education lines. However, Trump holds a slight advantage in certain sections of the population. Table breaks down the estimates of support for Biden and Trump by categories. The data is based on a Pew Research Center's survey of 11,929 adults, during the last week of September and the first week of October 2020	Trump	Biden
All voters	42%	52%
GENDER		
Men	45	49

EDUCATION		
Postgrad	28	68
4-year college	37	57
Some college	46	48
HS or less	49	45

RACE/ETHNICITY		
White	51	44
Black	8	89
Hispanic	29	63
Asian	22	75

RELIGIOUS TRADITION		
White Evangelical Protestant	78	17
White Protestant, not evangelical	53	43
Black Protestant	9	90
White non-Hispanic Catholic	52	44

AGE		
18-29	29	59
30-49	38	55
50-64	47	49
65+	49	49

REGION		
Urban	25	70
Suburban	41	53
Rural	59	35

States like Michigan and Pennsylvania.

At a drive-in rally in Pittsburgh on Monday, Mr. Biden addressed black voters, highlighting the fact that COVID-19 has hit blacks and other racial minorities disproportionately and talking about other ways in which the current administration has adversely impacted the African American community.

“Tomorrow, we can put an end to a presidency that

has fanned the flames of hate across this nation, pouring gasoline on every racial incident in the country,” he said. “It’s going to be very clear what this country is tomorrow,” singer Lady Gaga, who sang at one of Mr. Biden’s

events, said. “We’re going to make history once again.”

Virus continues to rage

The U.S. witnessed a record 99,000 COVID-19 cases in a single day (Friday) and the case load was in key swing

Qatar Emir sets first national election for next October

Nation's 2004 Constitution calls for vote to Shura Council

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

DOHA

Qatar’s ruler said on Tuesday that a long delayed vote for the country’s policy reviewing chamber will be held in October 2021, marking the Gulf emirate’s first national election.

The currently un-elected Shura Council advises the absolute ruler, Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, on draft laws but does not create its own legislation and can be overruled by a simple decree.

October’s vote would be Qatar’s first national election although Sheikh Tamim did not give details on who would be permitted to vote or who would be able to stand.

Qatars have previously been able to cast ballots on constitutional reforms and in elections to a nationwide



Sheikh Tamim

have been postponed repeatedly and the body’s members have instead been directly appointed by the emir.

Cautious reform
Qatar has undergone cautious reform on issues including democracy, worker rights and representation of women since Sheikh Tamim came to power in 2013.

“We are taking an important step in strengthening the Qatari consultative traditions and developing the legislative process with the participation of a wider range of citizens,” Sheikh Tamim said. “We have our solid system rooted in the structure of our society and... it is not a multi-party system, but rather an emirate system based on established traditions of fair and rational governance.”

municipal council.

“The Shura Council elections will be held in October of next year to strengthen the traditions of the Qatari shura, with wider participation by citizens,” the Emir said in a speech to open the 49th session of the council.

Elections to the council, required under the country’s 2004 Constitution,

are to be held in October 2021.

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MARKET WATCH

	03-11-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	40,261	-1.27
US Dollar	74.41	0.00
Gold	50,735	-1.07
Brent oil	39.95	-4.69

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	353.65	-3.25
Asian Paints	2154.65	-18.20
Axis Bank	534.15	11.50
Bajaj Auto	2914.85	71.15
Bajaj Finserv	5743.60	42.15
Bajaj Finance	3490.80	71.00
Bharti Airtel	454.60	-2.80
BPCL	350.85	4.45
Britannia Ind	3403.65	-16.65
Cipla	759.30	8.05
Coal India	116.50	0.80
Divis Lab	3089.90	41.25
Drd Reddys Lab	4877.35	18.70
Eicher Motors	2095.00	65.35
GAIL (India)	83.95	0.00
Grasim Ind	791.15	3.30
HCL Tech.	814.05	-8.35
HDPC	2130.95	90.15
HDPC Bank	1247.95	32.70
HDPC Life	599.05	11.55
Hero MotoCorp	2937.40	101.75
Hindalco	179.75	9.00
Hind Unilever	2055.70	-16.30
ICICI Bank	443.85	26.40
IndusInd Bank	646.60	18.25
Infosys	1062.55	-9.75
Indian Oil Corp	78.00	-0.20
ITC	170.10	3.35
JSW Steel	314.75	5.40
Kotak Bank	1593.60	12.90
L&T	947.75	18.45
M&M	595.80	-0.25
Maruti Suzuki	6913.35	45.00
Nestle India Ltd.	16892.50	-22.45
NTPC	85.95	-3.25
ONGC	66.30	0.60
PowerGrid Corp	179.95	6.90
Reliance Ind	1850.40	-27.05
SBI Life	788.90	22.85
State Bank	204.75	8.70
Shree Cement	21876.10	204.75
Sun Pharma	485.60	16.20
Tata Motors	134.10	1.25
Tata Steel	406.90	4.05
TCS	2633.60	29.00
Tech Mahindra	808.10	-6.55
Titan	1199.95	31.45
UltraTech Cement	4549.55	-1.25
UPL	417.05	-28.30
Wipro	335.65	-0.85

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.21	74.53
Euro	86.74	87.12
British Pound	96.28	96.70
Japanese Yen (100)	70.88	71.22
Chinese Yuan	11.10	11.15
Swiss Franc	81.00	81.39
Singapore Dollar	54.50	54.74
Canadian Dollar	56.40	56.65
Malaysian Ringgit	17.84	17.94
Australian Dollar	52.75	52.98

Source: Indian Bank

+ IN BRIEF

**Mercedes-Benz begins AMG production in India**

MUMBAI
Mercedes-Benz has commenced local production of the first-ever AMG vehicle in India – the AMG GLC 43 4MATIC Coupé – priced at ₹76.70 lakh (ex-showroom, India), as compared to ₹1 crore for the completely built unit imported into the country. So far, this model was imported and now with local assembling the benefit of import duty has been passed on to Indian customers, the firm said.

Adani Ports Q2 profit rises 32% to ₹1,394 cr.

MUMBAI
Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone Ltd.'s (APSEZ) consolidated second-quarter net profit rose 32% to ₹1,394 crore on an overall improvement in port operations. "With easing of lockdown and revival of economy, cargo throughput at APSEZ rebounded and registered a spectacular growth. The growth was across segments and coasts," the company said in a filing.

Chola Financial Holdings posts ₹3.42 crore loss

CHENNAI
Cholamandalam Financial Holdings Ltd., a Murugappa group firm, has posted a net loss of ₹3.42 crore for the second quarter ended September against a profit of ₹16.93 crore in the year-earlier period on account of interest cost. Total revenue stood at ₹2.53 crore (₹18.37 crore). Finance cost stood at ₹5.45 crore. Interest and dividend income plunged to ₹54 lakh (₹16.35 crore).

'Govt. has till Dec. to appeal Vodafone award'

NEW DELHI
The Centre has time till December last week to appeal against the verdict of an arbitration panel that scrapped the levy of ₹22,100 crore tax on the U.K.-based Vodafone Group Plc using a retrospective law. Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey said the Centre was examining all aspects to help decide whether to appeal against the award favouring Vodafone. PTI

Exports fall again on global trade woes

Oct. shipments dip 5.4%, imports slide 11.5%; 'data reflects weak demand overseas and in India'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
India's merchandise exports slid back into contraction mode in October as struggling global trade continued to face headwinds from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Outbound shipments declined 5.4% from a year earlier to \$24.82 billion, after a brief respite in September when exports had expanded 6% to snap a six-month-long contraction.

Imports shrink

Imports of goods also declined by 11.5% last month, as per preliminary trade data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry on Tuesday, taking the overall imports between April to October to \$182.29 billion, a 19.1% contraction from the year-earlier period.



Job concerns: Among employment-intensive export sectors, leather reported a contraction of 3.8%. ■ BIJOY GHOSH

Merchandise exports in the first seven months of the current financial year amounted to \$150.07 billion, a 19.1% contraction from the year-earlier period.

"The trade data shows the recovery is uneven and fragile as exports declined both sequentially and year-on-year, pointing to a sluggish global recovery," said Devenra Kumar Pant, chief economist at India Ratings and Research. "The continuous decline in non-oil, non-gold imports is pointing towards very weak domestic demand," he added.

Gems sector flounders

Exports of rice (112%), chemicals (73.9%) and drugs and pharmaceuticals (21.8%) recorded the highest growth in October, while transport equipment and petroleum products saw the sharpest declines of (-56.3%) and (-53.3%), respectively.

Among employment-intensive sectors, gems and jewellery and leather also reported contractions of (-21.3%) and (-3.8%), respectively, while export of carpets jumped almost 38% and handicrafts grew by more than 11.3%.

Calling for a deeper analysis of the reasons behind the decline in exports of major export commodities over recent months, the Federation of Indian Exporters' Organisations (FIEO) called for "urgent and immediate" action to resolve key issues that led to October's 'nominal' dip. FIEO listed a shortage of containers and an increase in sea freight charges as issues needing attention.

FIEO president Sharad Kumar Saraf also attributed part of the decline to farmers' agitations in some States.

Urging the government to release merchandise export incentives due to businesses, Mr. Saraf said exporters were seeing a rise in orders and a further fillip was expected once the U.S. election process concludes.

Economy is recovering fast, says Secretary Bajaj

'Expect further improvement in Nov.'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India's economy is recovering fast and should hopefully be back on track soon, a top finance ministry official said on Tuesday, citing a slew of economic indicators showing an upswing in October.

"We continue to see the uptick in the economy over the past few months with the opening up," Economic Affairs Secretary Tarun Bajaj said.

"We are seeing an improvement in all parameters and expect further improvements in November," he added.

"This shall continue and, hopefully, the economy should be back on the rails. And it is moving much faster than what had been anticipated."

pated by a lot of experts and economists," Mr. Bajaj remarked.

Apart from the PMI for manufacturing signalling a decade-high expansion in October and the 10% increase in GST collections, Mr. Bajaj said an improvement in economic activity was also reflected in a 12.1% increase in power consumption, a 14% rise in rail freight and an almost 120% jump in average daily toll collections. The value of e-way bills generated under the GST regime also rose 19% to ₹16.82 lakh crore in October.

"Today, some comments have come from industrialists who are saying they are actually facing challenges in the supply chain rather than on the demand side," Mr. Bajaj remarked.

Future files HC caveat against Amazon move

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The Kishore Biyani-led Future Group has filed a caveat before the Delhi High Court requesting it to be heard if any plea is filed by e-commerce major Amazon.com over Future's ₹24,713 crore deal with Reliance Industries.

Anticipating a move by Amazon, which had got an interim international arbitration award in its favour, the Future Group firm has moved the Delhi High Court. "You are requested to give at least 48 hours notice before moving any petition," the firm said while sending a copy of caveat to Amazon.com. Amazon.com declined comment on the development.

PM to meet 20 large global investors

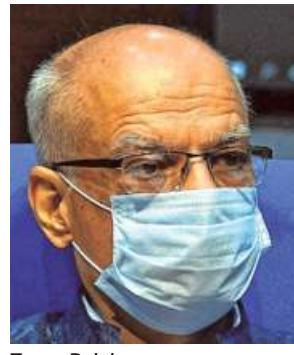
GIC, Mubadala among participants; India looking at strong partnerships: Modi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair a virtual meeting with 20 large global investors managing assets of more than \$6 trillion, on Thursday, to reiterate India's attractiveness as an investment destination.

The virtual conference with the investors, which include several sovereign wealth funds and pension funds, will be followed by one-on-one interactions for each of them with the PM over the next two weeks, Economic Affairs Secretary Tarun Bajaj said.

Some of the prominent funds that have confirmed attendance are CDPQ, CPP Investments, GIC, Japan Bank for International Co-



operation, Mubadala, New York Life, Qatar Investment Authority, Temasek and U.S. International Development Finance Corporation.

"Strong partnerships with international investors form a very important part of India's economic strategy," the Prime Minister said in a

statement ahead of the meeting. "Our commitment to create an investor-friendly ecosystem and enhance the ease of doing business is unflinching," he added.

First-timers in talks

"The idea is to have an interaction with the global investors, some of whom have been investing in India, and others who are participating for the first time and are interested to know more so they can take a decision about investments," Mr. Bajaj said. He said these investors would be represented by chief executive officers and chief investment officers who would be informed about various opportunities in India and the present economic situation. "If they

have any concerns, we will also try to answer them. We have been interacting with these funds for the last five or six months," he said.

"A structured interaction had been held during the Vibrant Gujarat programme in 2019 based on which the dividend distribution tax had been done away with and tax exemptions have been given to SWFs and PFs under certain conditions," he added.

Industrialists Ratan Tata, Mukesh Ambani, Nandan Nilekani, Dilip Shangvi, Deepak Parekh and Uday Kotak will also attend the meeting.

India's FDI flows between April and August had hit a record high despite the pandemic, rising 13% to more than \$35 billion, Mr. Bajaj said.

Shanghai bourse halts Ant Group's A-share IPO

Cites 'significant changes' faced by firm

REUTERS

HONG KONG

The Shanghai stock exchange has suspended Ant Group's A-share IPO on its STAR Market, which was initially set for Thursday, the Chinese exchange said on Tuesday.

Ant Group recently reported to China's securities regulator about the significant changes in the regulatory environment, the exchange said, and this major development might make Ant Group fall short of listing requirements on information disclosure, the Shanghai stock exchange said in a statement.

Ant was set to go public in Hong Kong and Shanghai on Thursday after raising about \$37 billion, including the greenshoe option of the domestic leg, in a record public sale of shares. The Hong Kong stock exchange declined to comment on the Shanghai exchange's suspension on the Hong Kong leg of the Ant IPO. Ant did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Micromax marks return to market with 2 devices

Higher-priced models in pipeline'

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

NEW DELHI
Micromax on Tuesday re-entered the smartphone market in the country with the unveiling of two new devices under the 'IN' brand as it looks to leverage the current anti-China sentiment in India, along with the push for 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat'.

"In both our new devices, we are giving even better pricing than Chinese players and both are performance-oriented products," said Rahul Sharma, the company

Imperious SRH crushes altered MI to secure final playoff spot

Warner and Saha complete 10-wicket win against an understrength attack after Sandeep, Holder and Nadeem restrict Rohit's men to 149; KKR knocked out

IPL 2020

SPORTS BUREAU

Sunrisers Hyderabad skipper David Warner (85 n.o., 58b, 10x4, 1x6) and fellow-opener Wriddhiman Saha (58 n.o., 45b, 7x4, 1x6) made it a no-contest in the final league match in Sharjah.

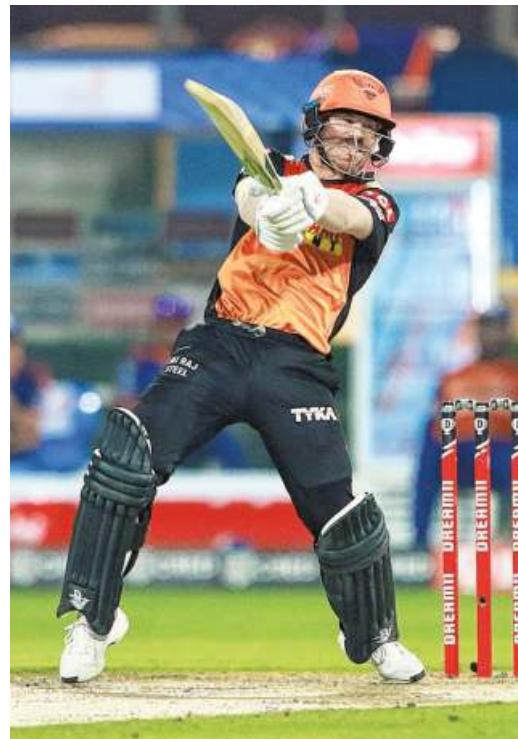
The duo was instrumental in the side overhauling Mumbai Indians' total of 149 with plenty to spare and help the 2016 champion seal a playoff berth on Tuesday.

Facing a depleted Mumbai attack, sans Trent Boult and Jasprit Bumrah, the aggressive openers accelerated from the word go and scattered the bowlers to all parts with some audacious strokeplay.

Earlier, the disciplined Sunrisers bowlers had restricted Mumbai Indians in a do-or-die game after electing to field.

The Orange Army – after victories over Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bangalore – kept the Mumbai batsmen quiet in the middle overs after Suryakumar Yadav (36, 29b, 5x4) had threatened to run away with the game.

Making a return to the XI after a hamstring injury had laid him low, skipper Rohit Sharma did not fire, falling for just four. He was consumed by a knuckleball from



Hyderabad's Heroes: David Warner, Shahbaz Nadeem and Wriddhiman Saha were the architects of Sunrisers' win against Mumbai Indians. ■ BCCI/IPL

Sandeep Sharma. Quinton de Kock (25, 13b, 2x4, 2x6) hammered Sandeep for a four, six and six before dragging a full toss outside off-stump on to his wicket.

Suryakumar and Ishan Kishan (33, 30b, 1x4, 2x6) added 42 for the third wicket, going after Rashid Khan. However, left-arm spinner Shahbaz Nadeem removed Suryakumar, thanks to a superb stumping from Saha. As the Mumbai batsman at-

tempted a drive off a delivery pitched outside off-stump, the keeper whipped off the ball in a flash.

In the same over, Nadeem dismissed Krunal Pandya for a duck, caught at short mid-wicket by Kane Williamson.

Ishan kept the scoreboard ticking along with Kieron Pollard before getting bowled by Sandeep. The West Indian went on to hammer a 25-ball 41 with four sixes and two fours.

Final standings

Team	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Mumbai Indians (Q)	14	9	5	18	1.107
Delhi Capitals (Q)	14	8	6	16	-0.109
Sunrisers Hyderabad (Q)	14	7	7	14	0.608
Royal Challengers (Q)	14	7	7	14	-0.172
Kolkata Knight Riders	14	7	7	14	-0.214
Kings XI Punjab	14	6	8	12	-0.162
Chennai Super Kings	14	6	8	12	-0.455
Rajasthan Royals	14	6	8	12	-0.569

After the SRH-MI match on Nov. 3

SCOREBOARD

MUMBAI INDIANS

Rohit Sharma c Warner b Sandeep 4 (7b), Quinton de Kock b Sandeep 25 (13b, 2x4, 2x6), Suryakumar Yadav st. Saha b Nadeem 36 (29b, 5x4), Ishan Kishan b Sandeep 33 (30b, 1x4, 2x6), Krunal Pandya c Williamson b Nadeem 0 (3b), Saurabh Tiwary c Saha b Rashid 1 (3b), Kieron Pollard b Holder 41 (25b, 2x4, 4x6), Nathan Coulter-Nile c Garg b Holder 1 (3b), James Pattinson (not out) 4 (5b), Dhawal Kulkarni (not out) 3 (2b); Extras (lb-1): 1; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 149.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-12 (Rohit, 2.3 overs), 2-39 (de Kock, 4.4), 3-81 (Suryakumar, 11.1), 4-81 (Krunal, 11.4), 5-82 (Saurabh, 12.1), 6-115 (Kishan, 16.3), 7-116 (Coulter-Nile, 17.2), 8-145 (Pollard, 19.3).

SUNRISERS BOWLING

Sandeep 4-0-34-3, Holder 4-0-25-2, Nadeem 4-0-19-2, Natarajan 4-0-38-0, Rashid 4-0-32-1.

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

David Warner (not out) 85 (58b,

10x4, 1x6), Wriddhiman Saha (not out) 58 (45b, 7x4, 1x6); Extras (w-8): 8; Total (for no loss in 17.1 overs): 151.

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING
Kulkarni 3-0-22-0, Coulter-Nile 4-0-27-0, Pattinson 3-0-29-0, Rahul Chahar 4-0-36-0, Krunal Pandya 3.1-0-37-0.

Toss: Sunrisers. **MoM:** Nadeem. Sunrisers won by 10 wickets with 2.5 overs to spare.

Innings scan

MI	SRH
47	Dots 30
10	Fours 17
8	Sixes 2
48/2	PP 56/0
745	RR 8.79

For the IPL scorecards and points table, scan the QR code



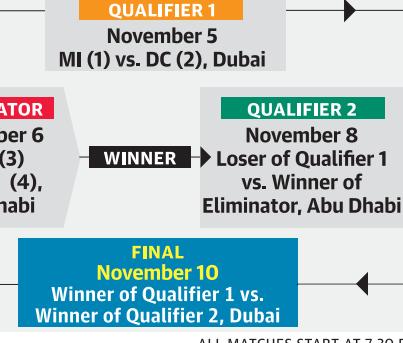
Top of the charts

ORANGE CAP
K.L. RAHUL (KXIP)
Matches: 14 Runs: 670
HS: 132* SR: 129.34

PURPLE CAP
KAGISO RABADA (DC)
Matches: 14 Wickets: 25
BB: 4/24 Econ: 8.14

After the MI-SRH match on Nov. 3

The Playoffs schedule



ALL MATCHES START AT 7.30 P.M. IST

The schedule

Nov. 4: Supernovas v Velocity, 7.30 p.m.
Nov. 5: Velocity v Trailblazers, 3.30 p.m.
Nov. 7: Trailblazers v Supernovas, 7.30 p.m.
Nov. 9: Final, 7.30 p.m.
Live on Star Sports 1, 2 & 3 All times IST

Excited that we are all getting some cricket

HARMAPREET

We have seen at the IPL that the wicket is slowing down at Sharjah

MITHALI

Joshi, Shikha Pandey, Devika Vaidya, Sushree Dibyadarshini, Manali Dakshini, Leigh Kasper (NZ), Danielle Wyatt (Eng), Sune Luus (SA), Jahanara Alam (Ban) and M. Angha.

Trailblazers: Smriti Mandhana (Capt.), Deepi Sharma, Punam Raut, Richa Ghosh, D. Hemalatha, Nuzhat Parween (wicket-keeper), Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Harleen Deol, Jhulan Goswami, Simran Dil Bahadur, Salma Khatun (Ban), Sophie Ecclestone (Eng), Natthakan Chantham (Thailand) and Muskan Malik.

Velocity: Mithali Raj (Capt.), Veena Krishnamurthy, Shafali Verma, Sushma Verma (wicket-keeper), Ekta Bisht, Mansi Joshi, Shikha Pandey, Devika Vaidya, Sushree Dibyadarshini, Manali Dakshini, Leigh Kasper (NZ), Danielle Wyatt (Eng), Sune Luus (SA), Jahanara Alam (Ban) and M. Angha.

Supernovas: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Jemima Rodrigues, Chamari Athapaththu (SL), Priya Punia, Anuja Patil, Radha Yadav, Tanya Bhateria (wicket-keeper), Shashikala Siriwardene (SL), Poonam Yadav, Danielle Wyatt (England), Chamari Athapaththu (Sri Lanka) and Natthakan Chantham (Thailand) means there will be no dearth of entertainment.

The teams play each other once and the top two will face off in the final.

The squads: Supernovas: Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana and Mithali Raj, who lead Supernovas, Trailblazers and Velocity respectively, could also light up proceedings, along with Jemimah Rodrigues.

Because of a clash of dates with Women's Big Bash in Jaipur, stars like Sophie Devine, Suzie Bates, Natalie Sciver, Stafanie Taylor, Amelia Kerr, Lea Tahuhu and Hayley Matthews are missing; they had all played in Jaipur. But the presence of quality batters like Deandra Dottin (West Indies), Danielle Wyatt (England), Chamari Athapaththu (Sri Lanka) and Natthakan Chantham (Thailand) means there will be no dearth of entertainment.

The teams play each other once and the top two will face off in the final.

FAITH

Efforts bear fruit

There is a subhashita (a wise saying) that the educated spend their time studying good literature and Sastras, while the uneducated while away their time in sleep or in gossip. Hanuman was well-versed in the Sastras and even Rama remarked on his deep learning when He first met him. Naturally, whatever the task entrusted to him, Hanuman remained focused on obtaining the desired result. And when such a determined person does his best, his effort is blessed by the Supreme One and we see this in Hanuman's search for Sita, said Kidambi Narayanan in a discourse.

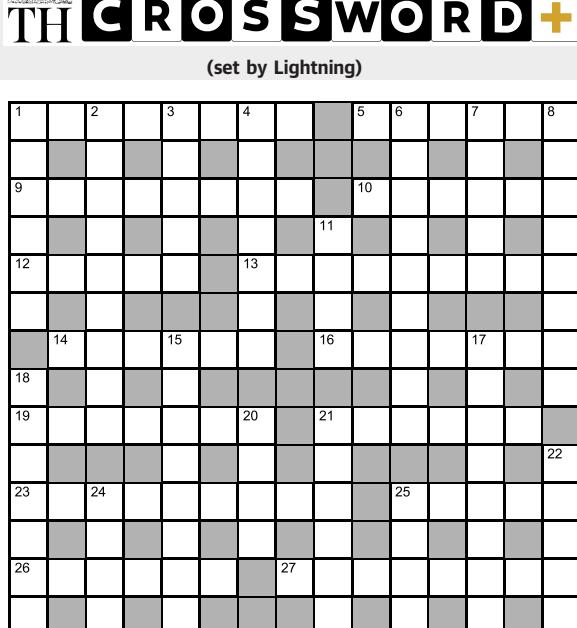
When the monkeys set about searching for Sita, each group went in a different direction. Hanuman was allocated the Southern direction. Despite a month of frantic searching, Hanuman and the other monkeys with him had no clue as to Her whereabouts. The monkeys decided to end their lives. But the arrival of Sampaati changed everything. Sampaati was an eagle who happened to hear the conversation of the monkeys in which the death of Jatayu figured. Sampaati was Jatayu's brother, and he was anxious to know more about how his brother had met with his death. Angada told Sampaati about Sita's abduction, Jatayu's valiant effort to stop Ravana, the subsequent killing of Jatayu, Rama's misery, and the futile search for Sita. Luckily for the monkeys, Sampaati had seen Ravana taking Sita to Lanka. He said that he saw a young woman being taken by Ravana. She had been screaming out to Rama and even Lakshmana for help, all the while throwing down Her ornaments.

It was nothing but divine intervention, which brought Sampaati to the very spot where the monkeys were discussing the events of the past, and it was this that eventually made it possible for Hanuman to locate where Sita was.

CROSSWORD + 13084

(set by Lightning)

Free your mind from lockdown mode.
Check out the interactive site!
<https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn>



ACROSS

- 1 Overpowering fear about backing medicine for widespread illness (8)
- 5 Mostly calm, appeal with resigned expression (2,2,2)
- 9 Act grand right away in fear of violent battle (8)
- 10 That set is on headgear (6)
- 12 Flat helmet holding tool (5)
- 13 Rebuilding pier included in dull plan (9)
- 14 Everyone participating in fancy dance (6)

DOWN

- 1 Bat with power and stupefy (6)
- 2 Mending one hospital garment is an ordeal (9)
- 3 Nearly leave the Parisian in forced absence (5)
- 4 Stay at home by practice (7)
- 6 Subdue and cut short open authority (9)
- 7 Penny quit cutting corners in boredom (5)
- 8 Formal study to consider institute at Southern Spain (8)
- 11 Almost stocked, saving energy with petrol, say (4)
- 15 It could provide power to record, and harm one tenor by mistake (9)
- 17 Joy over English victory, going to a high place (9)
- 18 A fellow's eloquent and wealthy (8)
- 20 Not commencing old story (4)
- 21 Refuse to deal with opener in the past (7)
- 22 Setter replaced a handy fix (6)
- 24 Drink around river right by land (5)
- 25 Animal held in prison pounced on leaders (5)

SUDOKU

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TV PICKS

Champions League: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 11.25 p.m., Sony Ten 1, 2, 3 & Six (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Thursday)
Paris Masters: Sony Six (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.
Women's T20 Championship: Star Sports 1, 2 & 3 (SD & HD), 7.15 p.m.
FIH Pro League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 8 p.m. & 10.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Make helmets mandatory: Tendulkar

NEW DELHI
Sachin Tendulkar on Tuesday urged the ICC to make it mandatory for batsmen to wear helmets. "The game has become faster but is it getting safer? Be it a spinner or pacer, wearing a helmet should be mandatory for batsmen at the professional level," Tendulkar tweeted. PTI

Archery camp resumes

**Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA**

The National archery camp at Army Sports Institute (ASI), Pune, has resumed after a two-day break following a support staff testing positive for COVID-19.

According to a SAI statement on Tuesday, the person concerned – a physio – was on 14-day quarantine after joining the camp on October 7.

The camp was suspended on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 before being restarted with all precautions.

Champions League
Wednesday's fixtures

- Zenit vs Lazio
- Istanbul vs Man United
- Chelsea vs Rennes
- Sevilla vs Krasnodar
- Club Brugge vs Dortmund
- Barcelona vs Dynamo Kiev
- Ferencvaros vs Juventus
- Leipzig vs PSG

Bopanna and Marach enter round two

SPORTS BUREAU
PARIS

Rohan Bopanna and Oliver Marach of Austria won 7-5, 7-6(6) against Nikola Cacic and Dusan Lajovic of Serbia in the doubles first round of the ATP Masters tennis tournament here.

Other results: €88,520 Challenger, Eckental, Germany: Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Duje Ajdukovic (Cro) 6-4, 6-2. \$15,000 ITF women, Sharjah El Sheikh: Paige Hourigan (Nzl) & Rutuja Bhosale bt Lamis Alhusseini, Abdel Aziz & Hala Fouad (Egy) 6-1, 4-0 (retired).



Tap-in: Jamie Vardy finishes off from close range to score Leicester City's third. ■ REUTERS

Leicester powers into second

Fulham earns first win; Villarreal moves to third in LaLiga

EURO LEAGUES

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON**

Leicester swept into second place in the Premier League with an impressive 4-1 victory at Leeds, while Fulham beat West Bromwich Albion 2-0 to finally clinch its first win of the season on Monday.

Brendan Rodgers' side is just one point behind leader Liverpool after winning five of its first seven games in a top-flight season for the first time in its history.

Harvey Barnes and Youri Tielemans put Leicester two up before half-time at Elland Road. Stuart Dallas got one back for Leeds but Jamie Vardy's eighth goal of the season and a late Tielemans penalty wrapped up Leicester's

fourth successive away league win.

Capable team

After the disappointment of missing out on a place in the Champions League last term, Leicester has shown it is capable of mounting another top four challenge.

Even a title push might not be impossible given it has already thrashed Manchester City 5-2.

"We were technically brilliant. We had the quality to play when we had the opportunity. I thought we were amazing right across the team," Rodgers said.

Leeds boss Marcelo Bielsa said: "In the first 30 minutes we defended poorly and after we didn't create enough danger. That is one of the main responsibilities of the manager."

At Craven Cottage, Fulham avoided its worst start to a season since 1951 thanks to first half goals from Bobby Decordova-Reid and Ola Aina.

Scott Parker's side deservedly ended a run of six games without a win – a dismal stretch including five defeats – since its promotion from the Championship last term.

First-half goals

Samu Chukwueze and Pau Torres scored first-half goals as Villarreal defeated last-placed Valladolid 2-0 to move to third place in the Spanish league.

Unai Emery's team dominated from the start, getting on the board with Chukwueze's shot from inside the area in the 21st minute and added Torres' goal from

close range in the 37th.

The hosts also had a goal disallowed by video review in the second half after a foul by forward Gerard Moreno before heading the ball into the net.

The win put Villarreal one point behind second-placed Real Madrid and two fewer than leader Real Sociedad. Madrid has a game in hand.

The results: Premier League: Fulham 2 (Decordova-Reid 26, Aina 30) bt West Brom 0; Leeds 1 (Dallas 48) lost to Leicester 4 (Barnes 3, Tielemans 21, 90+pen, Vardy 76).

LaLiga: Villarreal 2 (Chukwueze 21, Torres 37) bt Real Valladolid 0.

Serie A: Hellas Verona 3 (Barak 17, 63, Lazovic 77) bt Benevento 1 (Lapadula 56).

Bundesliga: Hoffenheim 1 (Dabbur 80) lost to Union Berlin 3 (Kruse 60, Pohjanpalo 85, Teuchert 90).

SDZ in final
Fine century by Tushar Parashar helped Sai Develop Zone (SDZ) beat Ravi Brothers by 70 runs to enter the final of Ghevra Cup.

The scores:

SDZ 227 in 32.2 overs (Tushar Parashar 124, Ansh Khurana 3/25) bt Ravi Brothers 157 in 28.4 overs (Skand Ahluwalia 53, Lavish Jhangid 3/24).

Easy for MM Sports

Impressive all-round performance by Pratap Basista and man-of-the-match Ansh Kashyap's 95-ball 117

saw MM Sports beat Mishra Sports Academy by five wickets in the third Vicky Bandre memorial under-16 cricket tournament.

The scores: Harry Academy 146 in 34.5 overs (Aditya Chauhan 49, Vinay Kumar 4/30) lost to Bosco Academy 152/2 in 16 overs (Raunak Chopra 81, Ramajeet Singh 2/26).

Aryan, Mayank excel

Aryan Dogra took four wickets and Mayank

Rutuja ready to sustain successful start

'It was very exciting to step into the competitive world again'

TENNIS

**KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI**

It has been a remarkably successful return to the professional tennis circuit for Rutuja Bhosale, as she won the singles title in the \$15,000 ITF women's event in Egypt. Handling the lockdown with patience, marrying cricketer Swapnil Gugale and training well have been the secrets of Rutuja's smart start.

"It was very exciting to step into the competitive world again. Everyone had been training during pandemic, and eager to get out, and I got the chance finally," said Rutuja, from Sharjah where she will be parked for a few weeks for more tournaments.

With limited options, as many tournaments have been cancelled around the world, Rutuja decided to compete in Egypt as she was familiar with the place.

"I have been here before,



Rutuja with husband Swapnil Gugale. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

so thought it should be a decent place to start," she said.

Key role

She had played a key role in India's progress in FedCup earlier this year. "I was ready to keep going as my shoulder was handling all the load better even in practice.

"Then the break after FedCup. But the part where I

have been injured so many times has taught me to be patient. So, I think it helped," she observed.

Being an optimist, Rutuja was able to see more positive points emerging out of the pandemic.

"I feel that being with family was also needed. It also gave me and my husband the time to think about our future. And we didn't have to take a break for it," said Rutuja who married cricketer Swapnil Gugale in August.

With cricket not resuming at the national level, Swapnil has been able to help Rutuja, settling into a new house, and being with her during training.

Marriage has been an extended family for Rutuja, because of the sporting link.

"He is a sportsperson and knows how the schedule can be! Overall he is such a cheery person, and keeps the mood happy," she said. For the next few weeks, she will try to sustain the success and climb the ranking ladder.

NEW DELHI ROUND-UP

SDZ in final

Fine century by Tushar Parashar helped Sai Develop Zone (SDZ) beat Ravi Brothers by 70 runs to enter the final of Ghevra Cup.

The scores:

SDZ 227 in 32.2 overs (Tushar Parashar 124, Ansh Khurana 3/25) bt Ravi Brothers 157 in 28.4 overs (Skand Ahluwalia 53, Lavish Jhangid 3/24).

Raunak, Vinay shine

Raunak Chopra top-scored with 81 and Vinay Kumar took 4/30 as Bosco Academy downed Harry Academy by eight wickets in the third Vicky Bandre memorial under-16 cricket tournament.

The scores:

Harry Academy 146 in 34.5 overs (Aditya Chauhan 49, Vinay Kumar 4/30) lost to Bosco Academy 152/2 in 16 overs (Raunak Chopra 81, Ramajeet Singh 2/26).

Sanath, Ankit sizzle

Sanath Sangwan top-scored with 84 and Ankit Bisht made 59 as Arush Sports beat Maulana Azad Club by six runs in the B.N. Sharma memorial tournament.

The scores:

Arush Sports 241 (Sanath Sangwan 84, Ankit Bisht 59) bt MAC 235 (Utsav Madan 57).

Shandilya scored an unbeaten 78 as Telefunken Club beat PlayMakers Academy by seven wickets in the fifth Naresh Memorial under-19 tournament.

The scores: PMA 151 in 29.4 overs (Ashwani Chhillar 45, Aryan Dogra 4/31, Nishant Tanwar 2/16) lost to Telefunken 155/3 in 14.5 overs (Mayank Shandilya 78 n.o., Jatin Kumar 43 n.o.).

Sanath, Ankit sizzle

Sanath Sangwan top-scored with 84 and Ankit Bisht made 59 as Arush Sports beat Maulana Azad Club by six runs in the B.N. Sharma memorial tournament.

The scores:

Arush Sports 241 (Sanath Sangwan 84, Ankit Bisht 59) bt MAC 235 (Utsav Madan 57).

Zimbabwe wins third ODI in Super Over

CRICKET

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
RAWALPINDI**

Paceman Blessing Muzarabani took career best figures of five for 49 as Zimbabwe beat Pakistan in a thrilling Super Over finish in the third and final One-Day International on Tuesday.

The actual match finished in a tie after Muhammad Musa hit the final delivery of the 50th over from Richard Ngarava for a boundary to level the scores at 278.

But man-of-the-match Muzarabani dismissed Ifthikhar Ahmed and Khushdil Shah for two runs on four balls in the Super Over which Zimbabwe scored off just three balls without any loss. Despite the defeat Pakistan won the series 2-1.

Skipper Babar Azam, who finished with 125 (125b, 13x4, 1x6) led Pakistan's chase and stood firm after it was set a daunting target.

Earlier, Zimbabwe's total of 278 for six was built around a fighting unbeaten 118 (135b, 13x4, 1x6) by Sean Williams who helped his team recover from paceman Muhammad Hasnain's five for 26.

The win broke Zimbabwe's sequence of ten consecutive defeats and gave it its fifth win over Pakistan in 62 ODIs.

The scores: Zimbabwe 278/6 in 50 overs (Sean Williams 118, Brendon Taylor 56, Sikandar Raza 45, Muhammad Hasnain 26/2) tied with Pakistan 278/7 in 50 overs (Babar Azam 125, Wahab Riaz 52, Blessing Muzarabani 5/49). Pakistan 2/2 lost to Zimbabwe 5/0 in Super Over.

Archer and Stokes rested for SA ODIs

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON**

England's Jofra Archer, Ben Stokes and Sam Curran have been rested from the ODI leg of the 50-over World champion's tour of South Africa.

The squads: T20Is: Eoin Morgan (Capt.), Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Jonny Bairstow, Sam Billings, Jos Buttler, Sam Curran, Tom Curran, Chris Jordan, Dawid Malan, Adil Rashid, Jason Roy, Ben Stokes, Reece Topley, and Mark Wood.

ODIs: Morgan (Capt.), Moeen, Bairstow, Billings, Buttler, Tom Curran, Lewis Gregory, Liam Livingstone, Rashid, Joe Root, Roy, Olly Stone, Topley, Chris Woakes, and Wood.

The itinerary: T20Is: Nov. 27 (Cape Town), Nov. 29 (Paarl), ODIs: (Cape Town). **ODIs:** Dec. 4 (Cape Town), Dec. 6 (Paarl), Dec. 9 (Cape Town).

High performance shooting centre comes up in Bhubaneswar

Joint project between Narang, Odisha government and Aditya Birla Group

**KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI**

World and Olympic medalist Gagan Narang has set up a high performance shooting centre at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, in collaboration with the Odisha government and the Aditya Birla Group.

The centre aims to offer fully funded training scholarship to 200 children in the age group of 11-14 years.

After a variety of meta-cognitive and physical tests conducted on 2000 children, 75 kids have already been selected for training.

"The focus for this group of children, and the ones joining us next year, is the 2028 Olympics," said Narang.

Good beginning: The founders of the Gagan Narang Sports Promotion Foundation, Pawan Singh and Gagan Narang, at the inauguration of the high performance centre.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"I hope that the launching of the 10-metre shooting range at the Kalinga Stadium will produce a large number of shooting champions for the country.

Partnership of industries

and leading sports persons is indeed a dynamic mechanism for flourishing sports," said the Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the inauguration on Tuesday.

"I am sure the centre will

provide a pathway to thousands of aspiring sports persons and become a platform where the best of local talent can rise