



I have done at least 30-40 mock practice tests

before attempting the Prelims. Mock tests are the easiest way to understand the kind of Qs asked.

- Pratibha Verma, AIR 3rd CSE 2019

### ALL INDIA GS PRELIMS TEST SERIES

Scientifically designed to improve your Topic reading skills

- Topicwise Fundamental Tests
- Exclusive Current Affairs Tests
- Subjectwise Applied Tests
- Comprehensive Full-Length Advanced Tests

Course Fee - 8000/-

### UPSC Previous Year Questions (PYQs) Topic - wise

- 40 Years Qs Papers of UPSC Prelims Topic - wise with solution and explanation
- PYQs helps you to know which topic is relatively more important than other
- Many question in GS appear from PYQs
- 20 years Qs Papers of UPSC Mains Topic - wise
- PYQs develop your reading skills
- PYQs help you to analyse the trends of questions
- PYQs help you in time management & books management

Course Fee - 5000/-

### 10 RED BOOK COURSE for GS Prelims

- Complete GS notes covering NCERTs (Old & New) and 55 Major Books
- Topic wise 1.5 Yr Current Affairs from 14 sources PIB, The Hindu, TOI, IE, HT, ET
- Gist of 1 year issues of Yojana, Economic & Political Weekly, and latest reports of World Bank (WDR) and HDR
- Synopsis of all the 13 Blue Books in just 45 to 50 pages for Exam-time revision

Based on 40 Yrs UPSC Pre Yr Qs!

Course Fee - 10000/-

### 13 BLUE BOOKS COURSE for GS Mains

- Enough content to handle any Qs in Mains
- Topic wise 1.5 Yr Current Affairs from 14 sources PIB, The Hindu, TOI, IE, HT, ET
- Gist of 1 year issues of Yojana, Economic & Political Weekly, and latest reports of World Bank (WDR) and HDR
- Synopsis of all the 13 Blue Books in just 45 to 50 pages for Exam-time revision

Based on 20 Yrs UPSC Prev Yr Qs!

Course Fee - 12000/-

crack IAS.com  
Arrow Education

crackIAS.com  
921-7070707  
crackiasquery@gmail.com

\*www.thebetterindia.com

### IN BRIEF



Football genius Diego Maradona passes away

LONDON  
World footballing great Diego Armando Maradona died on Wednesday after suffering a heart attack at his home in Buenos Aires, those close to him confirmed. He passed away less than a month after his 60th birthday.

**SPORT** ▶ PAGE 15

Ahmed Patel, veteran Cong. strategist, no more  
NEW DELHI  
Rajya Sabha MP and senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel, 71, died on Wednesday after a prolonged battle with complications arising out of COVID-19. Popularly known as Ahmed Bhai or AP in political circles, Mr. Patel was the quintessential backroom strategist during the 10-year rule of the Congress-led UPA.  
**NEWS** ▶ PAGE 10

RT-PCR tests of 3 weeks reveal 28% positivity

NEW DELHI  
Around 28 out of every 100 people tested through the RT-PCR method were found to be COVID-19-positive, according to Delhi government data (from November 1-24). The positivity rate of 4.11 lakh RT-PCR tests done in this period is around 28.6%.

**CITY** ▶ PAGE 3

**CHROME IAS**  
NEWSPAPER  
WEEKLY FOCUS GROUP  
FOR PRELIMS - 2021  
STARTS - 29<sup>th</sup> NOV.  
MCQ Based Program  
If you want to be a Civil Servant,  
First prepare like a Civil Servant!  
Fee-1000/- Month  
999-03-6664 784-004-8445

## Farmers break barriers in bid to enter Capital

'Dilli Chalo' call given against farm laws

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI/GURUGRAM/NOIDA  
Hundreds of farmers led by Bharatiya Kisan Union (Charkhi) leaders set out for Delhi from Ambala with tractors and trolleys breaking through two barriers on National Highway 44 on Wednesday, in response to a call for "Dilli Chalo" from several farmers' groups for November 26 and 27 in protest against the three controversial farm laws.

The Haryana police placed barricades on all roads across the State and sealed its border with Punjab to prevent the farmers from

## Heavy rain as Cyclone Nivar approaches coast

Thousands evacuated to safer places in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

Gradual release of water begins from Chembarambakkam reservoir

Heavy to very heavy rainfall expected to continue today also in several areas



**Running for cover:** Residents of Pattinapakkam, mostly fishermen, scampering for safety as winds picked up pace and blew huge quantities of sand to the road, a good distance from the waterfront, in Chennai on Wednesday. ■ R. RAGU

5 cm, and Meenambakkam recorded 8 cm till 8 p.m. on Wednesday.

Other weather stations, such as Chidambaram, Cuddalore, Aduthurai in Thanjavur district and Puducherry, recorded around 8 cm-10 cm rainfall till 8 p.m.

According to the IMD, the cyclone may move north-westwards and cross the Tamil Nadu and Puducherry coasts between Karaikal and Mamallapuram by Wednesday midnight or the early hours of Thursday with wind speeds of 120-130 kmph and sometimes gusting up to 145 kmph.

Going by the automatic weather station observations, it may make landfall north of Puducherry close to Kalpakkam and Marakkannam. It may make landfall si-

milar to Cyclone Nilam in 2012. Meteorologists noted that severe weather events would begin four to five hours ahead of the cyclone making landfall. It has picked up pace and was moving at a speed of 14 km per hour.

#### Several areas flooded

Meanwhile, as rain continued on Wednesday, several areas were flooded, with water entering homes and housing colonies. The Tamil Nadu and Puducherry governments relocated thousands of people from low-lying areas to higher ground and ensured that relief and food were provided to all. Both governments declared a holiday for Thursday, with Tamil Nadu declaring a holiday for 16 districts that are expected to be affected.

Water was released from the Chembarambakkam reservoir – 1,000 cusecs at noon – and then gradually increased in proportion to the rainfall and inflows. The gradual release from Chembarambakkam was planned to ensure that the crisis that led to deaths and destruction of property during December 2015 was not repeated.

S. Balachandran, Deputy Director-General of Meteorology, Chennai, said the intense rain spell helped Chennai overcome its deficit. As on Wednesday, it received 14% excess rain for the season. However, the State's average seasonal rainfall still remains short of 25% to reach its normal of 34 cm as on Wednesday. "This cyclone may not be sufficient to wipe out the deficit of the en-

tire State but it may help bring down number of rain-deficit districts," he said.

The cyclone may maintain its strength for six hours even after its landfall, and gradually weaken. Rainfall may continue on Thursday too. Districts such as Ranipet, Vellore and Tiruvannamalai may experience isolated extremely heavy rainfall on Thursday as the system passes through interior places.

While gale wind with speed reaching 65-75 kmph may prevail in interior districts, winds with speed reaching up to 65 kmph may blow in districts, such as Tiruchi, Salem and Namakkal, on Thursday, he added. The Met Department has advised people to remain indoors on Thursday.

MHA issues fresh COVID guidelines

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Wednesday issued fresh guidelines for "surveillance, containment and caution" in view of the surge in COVID-19 cases due to the festival season and onset of winter. The MHA has stressed that States should ensure 80% contacts of all persons found COVID-19 positive should be traced in 72 hours and their "tracking, identification, quarantine and follow up" for the next 14 days should be done strictly.

The order issued on Wednesday is called 'Guidelines for surveillance, containment and caution', which will be effective from December 1 to 31.

The MHA said that States and Union Territories, based on their assessment of the situation, may "impose local restrictions" such as "night curfew".

"However, State/UT Governments shall not impose any local lockdown (State/ District/ sub-division/City level), outside the containment zones, without prior consultation with the Central Government," MHA order said.

"In cities, where the weekly case positivity rate is in more than 10%, States and UTs concerned shall consider implementing staggered office timings and other suitable measures, with a view to reduce the number of employees attending office at the same time, thereby ensuring social distancing," the order said.

**CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8**

### 6,000 people shifted from coastal A.P.

Incessant rain lashed south coastal Andhra Pradesh under the influence of Nivar, which intensified into a very severe cyclonic storm on Wednesday. While 2,000 people have been evacuated in Nellore, 4,000 people have been moved to safer places in Prakasam district, official sources said. The sea remained rough to very rough. Farmers were a worried lot as the downpour submerged paddy seedlings raised in the coastal mandals. ▶ PAGE 8

### Flights to and from Chennai suspended

The Chennai airport has suspended domestic, international and cargo operations from 7 p.m. on Wednesday till 7 a.m. on Thursday in the wake of cyclonic storm Nivar.

Airports Authority of India (AAI) officials said the decision was taken considering the safety of the passengers. Though precautionary measures were taken, they had deemed it essential to close the airport after an elaborate meeting.

## SHUBHRA RANJAN

Always Ahead

### POLITICAL SCIENCE & IR TABLET COURSE

- Course delivered under the personal guidance of Shubhra Ranjan
- Lectures of PSIR will be uploaded daily on student's accounts which they have to access through tablet provided by the institute.
- Comprehensive notes will be provided through dictation during the lecture and additional material will be provided in soft copy format so learning does not become monotonous.
- Each lecture will be followed by a live Q&A session where Shubhra Ma'am will resolve student's doubts comprehensively.
- The course will be completed in a time-bound and disciplined manner.
- An extensive support system to overcome the challenges posed by distance so that there is a continuous connect between the students and us.

BATCH STARTING : 04<sup>th</sup> JAN 2021; COURSE FEE : ₹ 59,700

PSIR BATCH I CLASS TIMING : 11:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.; Q&A: 01:45 P.M. - 02:30 P.M.

PSIR BATCH II CLASS TIMING : 02:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.; Q&A: 04:45 P.M. - 05:30 P.M.

### OPTIONAL COURSES AVAILABLE

OPTIONAL COURSE	FEE
Anthropology with Test Series by U. Himabindu	₹ 69,700
Geography Optional by Rushikesh Dudhat	₹ 45,000

BATCH STARTING FROM : 04<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2021

REGISTER NOW

OUR CENTER

DELI JAMMU LUCKNOW

delhi@shubhraranjan.com ; +91 9910812719 ; 011 - 45612719  
jammu@shubhraranjan.com; +91 8082048324  
lucknow@shubhraranjan.com; +91 9807105725

BYJU'S | IAS

IS TEACHING YOUR PASSION?

JOIN BYJU'S AND WORK WITH THE BEST IN EDUCATION

**Openings**  
Faculty, Content Developer and Translator

**Subjects**  
Economics, Science and Technology, Environment, Polity, History, Geography and Current Affairs

**Medium**  
Hindi And English

#### Desired Qualification

Must have appeared for CSE interview at least once or Mains at least twice

#### Professional Skills

Aptitude for teaching and learning new things, analytical and creative thinking

#### What we offer

A chance to be part of a learning revolution

Tech-enabled teaching experience

Exponential career growth and opportunities

Dynamic and innovative work environment



Apply online on <https://byjus.com/ias-faculty-recruitment-2020>

Judge's relatives were named in FIR

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI  
The Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed an interim direction of the Andhra Pradesh High Court to gag the media from reporting on an FIR registered on the alleged "illegal purchase" of land in Amaravati.

A three-judge Bench, led by Justice Ashok Bhushan, gave four weeks to former State Additional Advocate General and first respondent Dammalapatni Srinivas to file his response. Mr. Srinivas is named in the FIR. Others named include the

relatives of a sitting Supreme Court judge. The FIR shows offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, criminal breach of trust and cheating under the Indian Penal Code. The allegations include abuse of official positions in the State, sharing of privileged information and causing loss to the public exchequer.

The High Court passed the gag order within hours of the registration of the FIR on September 15.

**CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8**

SC stays HC gag order in Amaravati land scam

Judge's relatives were named in FIR

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI  
The Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed an interim direction of the Andhra Pradesh High Court to gag the media from reporting on an FIR registered on the alleged "illegal purchase" of land in Amaravati.

A three-judge Bench, led by Justice Ashok Bhushan, gave four weeks to former State Additional Advocate General and first respondent Dammalapatni Srinivas to file his response. Mr. Srinivas is named in the FIR. Others named include the

relatives of a sitting Supreme Court judge. The FIR shows offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, criminal breach of trust and cheating under the Indian Penal Code. The allegations include abuse of official positions in the State, sharing of privileged information and causing loss to the public exchequer.

The High Court passed the gag order within hours of the registration of the FIR on September 15.

**CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8**

## IN BRIEF

JNU to hold Vivekananda memorial lecture annually

NEW DELHI Jawaharlal Nehru University on Wednesday said it will hold a Swami Vivekananda Memorial Lecture every year on January 12 to mark the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. The decision was taken at the Executive Council meeting of the university on Wednesday. The council has also decided to hold a week-long programme titled 'Swami Vivekananda Youth Festival' annually where various sports, cultural events, technical festivals, and exhibitions will be organised. The festival will also include academic events like lecture series, seminars, conferences, and debates.

## Overcast sky raises minimum temperature

Delhi may witness light rain today; mercury likely to dip tomorrow

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

It was an overcast day in the Capital on Wednesday with the maximum temperature settling at 24.4 degrees Celsius, two degrees below normal for the season.

The minimum temperature, however, rose to settle at 10.4 degrees Celsius, one notch colder than normal – after staying in single digits for a week.

The India Meteorological



Traffic on National Highway-24 as smog engulfs Delhi on Wednesday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

Department has forecast light rain/drizzle on Thursday, but clear sky thereafter.

The minimum temperature is likely to fall again by Friday to settle at around 7 degrees Celsius.

The presence of clouds brought down the minimum temperature in the city on Wednesday, which provided some relief from the cold wave that had been going on for three days, with the tem-

perature staying five degrees below normal.

The minimum temperature this month has been above normal only on one day when the city received light rain after Deepavali on November 15.

Met department data shows October and November have been colder this year due to the absence of cloud cover and rain. Delhi has received only 0.6 mm of rainfall since October 1, which is a 98% deficit for the season. The normal for the season is 30.5 mm.

The overcast sky and high level of pollution also brought down visibility as smog engulfed the city.

## Calm winds push Delhi's AQI to 'severe' category

Air quality likely to improve today after winds pick up speed

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The air quality of Delhi and Noida deteriorated to the 'severe' category, while Gurugram almost touched the 'very poor' category, as per Central Pollution Control Board data on Wednesday.

The air quality deteriorated mainly due to calm surface winds, which do not aid in dispersion of pollutants.

"Winds are forecast to pick up and improve ventilation by Thursday and Delhi's Air Quality Index is likely to stay in the lower end of 'very poor' category on November 27-28," said monitoring agency SAFAR. The 24-hour average AQI of Delhi was 413 on Wednesday, up from 379 on Tuesday. The values for Gurugram and Noida were 299 and 414, respectively.

The contribution of stubble burning in neighbouring States to PM2.5 level in Delhi was estimated to be 2% on Wednesday. The number of fire counts in neighbouring States was 63, as per SAFAR.

Earlier in the day, the BJP alleged that the Aam Aadmi Party government was making a false claim that it distributed Pusa bio-decomposer to farmers to curb stubble burning, inviting a strong reprimand from the ruling party.

"What can be a bigger lie than this? The bio-decomposer solution was sprayed on 2,000 acres of land across Delhi," said Environment Minister Gopal Rai.

He added that BJP leaders were not helping reduce air pollution "and are only interested in telling lies to the people". "No BJP leader is seen participating in any campaign to reduce air pol-



A man rows across the Yamuna as heavy smog engulfs Delhi on Wednesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

### We will look into tree transplanting issue: Rai

NEW DELHI Responding to a story by *The Hindu* on how trees being transplanted for construction of a new Parliament are in violation of the approval given by the

Delhi government, a spokesperson said: "The Delhi government has sought further details on this issue and will take suitable action, if any violations are found." When contacted, Mr. Rai also promised to "look into the issue".

lution, they are just playing blame game and doing politics," Mr. Rai said, adding that BJP leader Vijay Goel protested against the 'Red Light On Gaadi Off' campaign.

## Mechanism of issuing challans faulty

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

the cases against Mr. Hussain are residents of the same locality and if released on bail at this stage, the possibility of him threatening or intimidating them cannot be ruled out. Mr. Hussain has been in judicial custody since March 16. He had argued that there is no evidence to prove that he had participated in the riots or caused damage to property.

"Even if there were no direct acts of violence attributable to the applicant [Hussain], he cannot shy away from his liability under the provisions of the sections invoked against him, particularly on account of the fact that his house/building became the hub/centre point for the rioters and rabble-rousers to unleash the worst communal riots since participation in Delhi," the trial court had said.

HC seeks police reply on Tahir Hussain's bail plea

Court asks officer to file status report

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought response of the city police on bail plea of former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain, who was arrested for his alleged role in the north-east Delhi riots.

Justice Suresh Kumar Kait asked the investigating officer of the case to file a status report on Mr. Hussain's plea while posting the case for further hearing on December 11.

On October 22, a trial court here had denied bail to Mr. Hussain in three different FIRs related to the riots, noting that he used his muscle power and political clout to act as a kingpin in planning, instigating and fanning the flames of communal conflagration.

The trial court had said that the public witnesses in

Challans were being issued without reliable technology in place and there was need for "standardisation of the technology used for monitoring traffic violations", the plea said.

It said that there have been instances where hefty fines have been issued due to faulty equipment and then the penalties had to be revoked. The government "has not put the information regarding the technology used to monitor traffic violations," the plea said.

## Adult woman can reside wherever and with whosoever she wishes: HC

Court tells police to counsel parents not to threaten couple

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has remarked that a woman, who had eloped with a man, is "free to reside wherever she wishes and with whosoever she wishes, being a major".

The Bench noted that as per the status report filed by the police, "she was born in 2000, and even on the date she went missing, she was a major".

"The police authorities shall also counsel the petitioner [sister and parents of the woman] not to take the law into their hands or

Bench she went with the man of her own free will and she has married him.

### Police escort

The Bench directed that the woman can reside with the man. "We direct the police authorities to escort her to the residence of [the man]," the court ordered.

"The police authorities shall also counsel the petitioner [sister and parents of the woman] not to take the law into their hands or

threaten either [her or the man]," the court cautioned.

The court's decision came while hearing a habeas corpus petition filed by the woman's sister claiming she had gone missing or was illegally detained. The plea said the woman went missing on September 12 and the family suspected the man.

The woman was later traced and produced before the court through video-conferencing.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, CUTTACK.					
Identification No. ADB(RRNMU)-online-RWC-08/2020-21, dt.20.11.2020					
1. Name of the Work	Procurement of Supply, Delivery and Installation of Equipment for RRNMU at Cuttack in the State of Odisha.				
2. Total no of lots	8 lots				
3. Class of Bidder	'D' Class and above for each lot				
4. Period of Completion	03 calendar months				
5. Other Details					
Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	No of lots	Availability of tender online for bidding		
			From	To	
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack.	ADB-online-RWC-08/2020-21, dt.20.11.2020	8 lots	27.11.2020 11.00 hrs	15.12.2020 up to 15.00 hrs	
Other details can be seen in the bidding documents which is available in website <a href="http://www.pmgstenders.gov.in">www.pmgstenders.gov.in</a>					
Any other changes / Corrigendum may be seen only in website : <a href="http://www.pmgstenders.gov.in">www.pmgstenders.gov.in</a>					
Sd/- Er.S.K.Samantay Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack.					
O-609 : OIPR-25097/11/0007/2021					

Timings

DELHI

THURSDAY, NOV. 26
RISE 06:53 SET 17:25
RISE 15:15 SET 03:06
FRIDAY, NOV. 27
RISE 06:54 SET 17:25
RISE 15:45 SET 03:58
SATURDAY, NOV. 28
RISE 06:54 SET 17:25
RISE 16:16 SET 04:50

Delhi Weather

max min

Delhi City 24 10

Safdarjung 24 10

Palam 23 13

Delhi Palam Today  
24°C A cool morning with mist/smog with cloudy sky. Chances of short spell rain during early hours.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow  
25°C Drop in morning temperature. A pleasant day with partly cloudy sky. Haziness would prevail.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019  
All rights reserved.

IN BRIEF

Child Safety Week draws wide support

NEW DELHI

Organisations and influencers from India and abroad raised awareness about child sexual abuse through 12 webinars during Child Safety Week 2020, held from November 14-20. Initiated by Arpan in 2019, Child Safety Week is a people-led movement to raise awareness and encourage collective action towards addressing child sexual abuse. A campaign called #ItCanWeCan was also launched, which drew support from prominent actors and film-makers as well as philanthropists.

DMRC restricts services due to farmers' stir

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Wednesday announced that services on Thursday will be restricted till 2 p.m. due to expected farmer rally.

The move came following requests from the Delhi Police, and to avoid overcrowding, said the DMRC.

No services will be available between Dilshad Garden and Major Mohit Sharma Nagar on the Red Line; and Sultanpur to Guru Dronacharya on the Yellow Line.

On the Blue Line, services will not be available between Anand Vihar to Vaishali and New Ashok Nagar to Noida City Centre; on the Green Line, services will not be available between Tikri Kalan and Brigadier Hoshier Singh.

On the Violet Line, services will be unavailable between the Badarpur Border to Mewala Mahajipur section, the DMRC said. Services will also not be available between Jasola Vihar Shaheen Bagh and Botanical Garden on the Magenta Line.

Rapid Metro, Airport Express Line, Pink Line and Grey Line will see regular service. DMRC officials said that normal services are expected to resume after 2 p.m. across all corridors.

# RT-PCR tests in Delhi over past 3 weeks reveal 28% positivity

RT-PCR has more specificity and sensitivity compared to RAT, says expert

NIKHIL M BABU

NEW DELHI

Around 28 out of every 100 people tested through the RT-PCR method were found to be COVID-19 positive, according to Delhi government data (between November 1-24) shared with *The Hindu*.

The positivity (percentage of people testing positive for every 100 tests done) of 4.11 lakh RT-PCR tests done in this period is around 28.6%.

But the average overall positivity of Delhi for this period was 12.6%, as it also included results of Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT).

Compared to the past, more RT-PCR tests were done in the city in November following multiple orders from the High Court.

The higher positivity of RT-PCR means that it is one of the reasons for the increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in November.

The city witnessed the highest spike in cases this month, since the outbreak of



A swab sample being collected for COVID-19 testing in Delhi on Wednesday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

the pandemic.

From November 1-24, 8.2 lakh tests were done using RAT, and the overall positivity being lesser than RT-PCR, shows that positivity of RAT was comparatively very low.

**Two main tests**  
RT-PCR and RAT are the two main types of tests done to detect COVID-19.

RT-PCR test gives more accurate results compared to RAT. But the former's result usually comes the next day,

while RAT takes only 30 minutes to give a result.

In September, the High Court had asked the Delhi government to increase the number of RT-PCR tests and pointed out that the accuracy of RAT was low. Since then, the government has increased RT-PCR testing, but it is still less than the number of RAT done on a daily basis.

The HC raised the issue in an order on November 11 also. "The number of tests by the Delhi government from

19.10.2020 till date, reveals that testing through RAT is still being relied upon heavily vis-a-vis RT-PCR testing. Taking a random example of the testing by the Delhi government during this period show that testing through RAT has always been double of RT-PCR, which is not understood when the situation is as critical as it is now and several asymptomatic persons are turning out to be COVID-19 positive."

"RT-PCR has more specificity and sensitivity compared to RAT. But people being tested using RT-PCR are the ones who have more probability to have the virus and this is also one reason why the positivity is more for RT-PCR," said Jugal Kishore, head of community medicine department at Safdarjung Hospital.

He added that the government should strengthen testing facilities so that RT-PCR testing can be done even in smaller diagnostic centres.

## Strictly monitor patients in home isolation: Baijal

Order comes amid rise in cases, deaths

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) to review the COVID-19 situation in the Capital amid the recent spike in both cases as well as deaths.

According to Raj Niwas, the meeting also saw Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal; Deputy CM Manish Sisodia; Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog; Dr. Randeep Guleria, Director AIIMS;



Anil Baijal

and said.

On Wednesday, according to Raj Niwas, the L-G directed strict monitoring of COVID-19 patients under home isolation and ensure timely hospitalisation in case of emergency. He also issued directions to ensure the strict enforcement of necessary measures, especially wearing of face masks.

According to Raj Niwas, Mr. Baijal also directed the authorities concerned to take "exemplary and deterrent action" for violation of COVID-19 norms.

## Inadequate facilities in govt. hospitals'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The people of Delhi are battling COVID-19, pollution and severe cold, but the city government is failing to provide adequate health facilities at government hospitals, the BJP alleged here on Wednesday.

Led by Delhi BJP general secretary Kuljeet Singh Chahal and vice-president Ashok Goel Devara, Delhi Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha cadre demonstrated outside Lok Nayak hospital demanding Health Minister Satyendar Jain's resignation for "inhuman treatment" being meted out to citizens at government hospitals.

"The government has completely failed to save lives of patients. Even in renowned hospitals, like Lok Nayak, COVID-19 patients are being treated naked and with their hands and feet tied. What kind of treatment is this?" Mr. Chahal said.

He said that BJPs Gautam Gambhir and other BJP leaders have been making false claims that they had reduced the height of the Ghazipur landfill.

"I want to ask Mr. Gambhir if it is a new way to decrease the height of the Ghazipur landfill. The BJP leaders have planned this. In the last 15 years, the BJP-ruled civic bodies have gifted three huge garbage mountains to Delhi," said AAP leader Durgesh Pathak.

He said that BJP MP Gautam Gambhir and other BJP leaders have been making false claims that they had reduced the height of the Ghazipur landfill.

"The party also attacked the BJP for alleged corruption in the municipal corporations.

"BJP-ruled South civic body could not build the Poor-nima Sethi Super Specialty Hospital even after 10 years

## Fire at Ghazipur landfill, AAP demands fair investigation

'The fire was not spontaneous, BJP leaders planned this'

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party on Wednesday demanded a "fair investigation" into the fire that broke out at Ghazipur landfill on Tuesday, and sought "strict action" against the people responsible for it.

"Due to the fire, people are choking. BJP leaders are playing with the lives of Delhiites by burning the garbage mountain. The garbage fire was not spontaneous... the BJP leaders have planned this. In the last 15 years, the BJP-ruled civic bodies have gifted three huge garbage mountains to Delhi," said AAP leader Durgesh Pathak.

He said that BJPs Gautam Gambhir and other BJP leaders have been making false claims that they had reduced the height of the Ghazipur landfill.

"I want to ask Mr. Gambhir

if it is a new way to decrease the height of the Ghazipur landfill. The BJP is trying to fool the people of Delhi by putting the landfill on fire," added that the 100-bed hospital was supposed to become fully functional by 2012. "The BJP-ruled civic body did not impose a penalty against the contractor despite the delay in construction. However, the contractor was paid over ₹35 crore instead of the fixed ₹30.96 crore," he said.

but paid ₹4.72 crore more than the fixed cost to contractors," AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj said, adding that the 100-bed hospital was supposed to become fully functional by 2012. "The BJP-ruled civic body did not impose a penalty against the contractor despite the delay in construction. However, the contractor was paid over ₹35 crore instead of the fixed ₹30.96 crore," he said.

The HC order had directed all undertrials to surrender in a phased manner between November 2-13.

The interim stay order passed by the SC on October 29 is extended by a week. The matter will come up for hearing again on December 1.

A plea had stated that the High Court order was passed by grossly misunderstanding the data presented to it and wrongly concluding that only three COVID-19 cases existed among 16,000 inmates.

## Over 300 policemen have donated plasma to COVID-19 patients'

Delhi Police says some of them donated plasma multiple times

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Delhi Police on Wednesday said that over 300 police personnel have donated plasma for COVID-19 treatment.

Some of them have donated plasma more than once, the department said.

Head Constable Krishan Kumar, 42, who is currently posted at Kapashera police station in South-West district, donated plasma not just once, but five times.

Mr. Kumar had tested positive for COVID-19 on May 1 and got admitted in a hospital within five days of getting tested, after his health deteriorated. He was discharged from the hospital on May 19. He went on to donate plasma for the first time on May 28, within 10 days of recovery.

"My colleague's wife was suffering from COVID-19. She was in a serious condition and required a plasma donor. I had just recovered then. I was weak and I was a little afraid too, but then when I was battling the virus, my seniors and colleagues stood by my side. It inspired me and I went ahead with the donation," he said.

"It is my duty to serve people. So whenever there was a requirement or urgency, I went ahead with it," Mr. Kumar added.

Delhi Police PRO Eish Singh said that right from the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, police personnel were not only required to maintain law and order during the lockdown but were also on their toes as frontline warriors in curbing the pandemic.

high risk. Out of 6,937 infected personnel, 6,089 have recovered and 822 are yet to recover, he said, adding that 26 succumbed to the virus.

"A large number of Delhi Police officers and subordinates, after recovering from COVID-19, have gone beyond the call of duty to save lives of other COVID-19 patients. They donated plasma to their colleagues, family, friends and even unknown people in Delhi and adjoining States of Uttar Pradesh.

and Haryana," said the senior police officer.

According to police data, till Monday, more than 300 police personnel have donated plasma to several COVID-19 patients, who were mostly senior citizens.

Donations

Of the total plasma donated, 82 were for their colleagues, 107 for family members and friends, while 134 were donated to unknown people, said the police.

## Woman held for duping people on pretext of providing them govt. jobs

The accused showed a fake ID card to the complainant

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 48-year-old woman arrested on Wednesday for allegedly duping people on the pretext of providing them government jobs in Delhi, the police said on Wednesday.

The accused has been identified as Veshakha Gulati, a resident of Sarita Vihar.

On Tuesday, a case was registered where a complainant, Vijay, a resident of Mohalla Madanpur Khadar, alleged that he met Gulati who claimed to work under the SDM Sarita Vihar, the police said.

She said that due to the

COVID-19 outbreak, the government did not conduct fresh open recruitment and that the Delhi government has authorised her to recruit in government job, a senior police officer said.

**Money transfer**  
Gulati showed him her ID card and appointment letter issued by the SDM, the police said. When Vijay fell in her trap, she asked for necessary documents and demanded ₹13,000 from each person through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in her and her father's account, the officer said.

The woman used to provide fake recruitment letters to the victims. Eleven fake ID cards were seized. Gulati has been arrested, the DCP said.

They were also directed

## 2 brothers arrested in father, son murder case

Efforts on to nab two other accused

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Two days after a 50-year-old man and his son were killed by a group over personal enmity in north-east Delhi's Nand Nagri, the police on Wednesday said to have arrested two brothers in connection with the incident.

Khalid (31) and Tarik Ali (30), residents of Sunder Nagar in north-east Delhi have been arrested while efforts are being made to nab their brother Naasir and his accomplice, who are still at large, the police said.

DCP (North-East) Ved Prakash Surya said that during probe, it emerged that Qureshi had an old business dispute with Naasir and his family as both the parties ran a scrap shop.

The accused said they killed them due to personal enmity.

## Delhi door-to-door survey detects over 1,100 cases

Survey of over 57 lakh people concluded on Wednesday

NIKHIL M BABU

NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Wednesday completed a door-to-door survey of over 57 lakh people.

Till Tuesday night, 13,516 people were found symptomatic during the survey and 11,790 of them were tested for COVID-19, as per official data seen by *The Hindu*.

The government also tested 6,

## Parties flay Haryana govt. move to 'disrupt' farmers' movement

Sealing of borders a violation of right to protest, they say

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

As Haryana government imposed restrictions on movement of farmers, protesting against Centre's agriculture laws, to enter the State from Punjab – political parties, farmers' outfits and a Sikh radical group on Wednesday hit out at the BJP-led governments at the Centre and in Haryana for denying farmers their democratic right of peaceful protest.

Bhagwant Mann, MP and Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Punjab chief, said sealing of State borders by Haryana government was a blatant violation of the right to protest guaranteed by the Constitution. Sukhdev Singh Dhind-

sa, Rajya Sabha MP and president of Shiromani Akali Dal (Democratic) accused the Haryana government of creating obstruction in the farmers' stir and denying the democratic rights of farmers to protest.

**'Undemocratic move'**

"Sealing of the borders by Haryana police was unfortunate and had made it clear that the BJP-led government in Haryana was trying to stop the peaceful agitation of the farmers at the behest of the Centre government," he said. Mr. Dhindsa also termed the detaining of farmer union leaders by the Haryana police as undemocratic.

"Farmers have gathered

on the border areas as we are not being allowed to enter Haryana, which is unfortunate and condemnable. We are opposing Centre's farm laws.. If the Haryana government does not allow us to go we will sit on protest for at least a week on the border areas itself," said Jagmohan Singh, general secretary, Bhartaiya Kisan Union (Dakau).

Sikh radical group Dal Khalsa chief Harpal Singh Cheema joined the farmers march to Delhi, stating people of Punjab were prepared for a long fight in case the Union government doesn't concede to farmers' rightful demand and repeal all three farm laws.

Giving details of the new restrictions after a high-level

## Punjab to reimpose night curfew amid fears of second virus wave

From Dec. 1, restaurants, marriage venues can remain open only till 9.30 p.m.

VIKAS VASUDEVA  
CHANDIGARH

Amid the grim COVID-19 situation in Delhi-National Capital Region and apprehensions of a second wave in Punjab, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Wednesday ordered a series of fresh restrictions in the State, including re-imposition of night curfew in all towns and cities with effect from December 1.

The curbs, which will be reviewed on December 15, will allow all hotels, restaurants and marriage venues to remain open till 9.30 p.m. Night curfew will remain in force from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m., announced the Chief Minis-



CM Amarinder Singh ordered the new curbs. ■ FILE PHOTO

State COVID-19 review meeting, an official statement said fine for not following guidelines shall be hiked from the present ₹500 to ₹1,000.

Mr. Singh has asked Chief Secretary Vini Mahajan to work with departments concerned to encourage more private hospitals to earmark

beds for COVID-19 care, it said.

The Chief Minister has also directed the Health and Medical Education departments to make emergency appointments of specialists, super-specialists, nurses and paramedics to further augment the manpower which was re-

cently strengthened with the recruitment of 249 specialist doctors and 407 medical officers.

### Super spreaders

On the testing front, Mr. Singh stressed the need to fully utilise the 25,500 daily RT-PCR testing capacity, and directed targeted and regular testing of potential super spreaders, including government officials.

Referring to the reports of early vaccine coming in, the Chief Minister said while he was happy to note that the database for healthcare workers was ready, the departments

should also look at the other categories of frontline workers who could be prioritised for the vaccine.

## Hathras case: CBI furnishes status report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LUCKNOW

The CBI furnished a status report of the Hathras rape case before the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court on Wednesday and said the probe will be over by December 10.

The probe is taking time as forensic reports are awaited, CBI counsel Anurag Singh told the Bench.

The Bench of Justices Pankaj Mital and Rajan Roy heard the matter at length and expressed concern over the State government's stand not to shift the Hathras-like situation.

The Bench also granted more time to the State government and amicus curie J.N. Mathur to deliberate on modalities regarding the guidelines to be framed for the cremation of the dead in the Hathras-like situation.

## Amarinder, Sidhu hold 'truce' meeting over lunch

Important political matters discussed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh and former Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu, who had been at loggerhead for nearly past one-and-a-half years, since the Lok Sabha polls in 2019, on Wednesday held a meeting over lunch – a move which is being seen as an attempt to bridge differences between the two leaders.

Captain Amarinder had invited Mr. Sidhu for a meeting over lunch during which discussions were held surrounding issues of political matter among others. Speculation is rife that Mr. Sidhu can be re-induced in the State Cabinet soon, however, there's no confirmation re-

garding this.

"It was a warm & cordial luncheon meeting that saw CM @capt.amarinder and Navjot Singh Sidhu discuss a host of important political matters of Punjab and national interest. The two leaders spent a pleasant over an hour sharing thoughts on vital issues," said Raveen Thukral, Chief Minister's media adviser in a tweet after the meeting.

Congress party sources said the newly-appointed party affairs in-charge Harish Rawat had been working to resolve the differences between the leaders. In October, Mr. Rawat had met Mr. Sidhu and ensured that he participated in Rahul Gandhi's tractor rally held in Moga.

"When we reached the spot the locals present said when they heard the cries of an infant, they reached the spot and found her packed inside two gunny bags. We took the infant to Pyarelal Hospi-

## Newborn found inside gunny bag

She is stable and responding to treatment, say doctors

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GHAZIABAD

A newborn girl was found stuffed inside two gunny bags in Meerut on Monday. Rescued by locals, doctors said the infant was stable and responding to treatment.

An FIR has been registered against unidentified persons under sections 307 and 317 of IPC by Meerut Police. Sateesh Kumar, Station officer, Partapur police station, said he sent a PCR van after a call was received on 112 than an infant has been found in the garbage pile near Kailash Dairy in Shatabdi Nagar.

"When we reached the spot the locals present said when they heard the cries of an infant, they reached the spot and found her packed inside two gunny bags. We took the infant to Pyarelal Hospi-

tal," he said. The FIR says it seems the relatives of the child left her on the pile of garbage.

### 'Child was lucky'

Senior paediatrician Dr. Amar Singh said the infant was only a few hours old and when she reached the hospital she was suffering from hypothermia and severe respiratory stress.

"We put her in the warmer machine and provided supplemental oxygen. I would say the child was lucky. Helped reached her just at the right time. Now her vitals are stable. Oxygen support has been removed and we are trying to feed her. She seems to be on the path of recovery but still, she needs to be under clinical observation for some more time."

Mr. Kumar said they are getting calls for adoption after the video of the child went viral but due process would be followed.

Lokesh Chaudhary, a resident of Delhi, who informed the police said, he was going to meet a relative when he saw a crowd of people near Kailash Dairy. "People had taken the newlyborn out of cement bags but they were reluctant in taking her to the hospital or calling the police. They seemed more interested in making videos. I offered to take her to the hospital but when nobody agreed, I dialled 112," he said.

Rachit Kumar, who lent his jacket to the infant and helped her reach the hospital, said, "The way some people took her out of the bags was highly insensitive. She could have died."

## Prominent Shia scholar Kalbe Sadiq passes away

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

Prominent Shia preacher and scholar Maulana Kalbe Sadiq died late on Tuesday after prolonged illness. At 83, he was perhaps the tallest and most reputable Shia cleric in Uttar Pradesh and its capital Lucknow.

Sadiq breathed his last at 10 p.m., said his son Kalbe Sibtain Noori. Sadiq was admitted to the ICU of a private hospital on November 17.

"He was very unwell. His condition was deteriorating over the past three days," said his son.

In a health bulletin issued hours before his death, Era's Lucknow Medical College said Sadiq was suffering from colorectal cancer with metastasis with severe pneumonia, UTI and septic shock with acute kidney shutdown and paralytic ileus.

An educationist and Islamic scholar in his own right, Sadiq was also the vice-president of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board.

His nephew and Shia cleric Maulana Kalbe Jawad said

Sadiq's death was a big loss not only for the family but also for Shias, Muslims in general and the nation. "It is an unbearable loss," Maulana Jawad said in a statement issued from Jammu and Kashmir.

**Support to protest**  
Despite his ill health, in perhaps one of his last public appearances, Sadiq offered his support to the protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act earlier this year. In January, he visited the Hussainabad Clocktower protest site in old Lucknow and expressed solidarity with the women who had assembled there.

## Rahul Gandhi pays last respects to Tarun Gogoi

Ex-CM to be cremated on Thursday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday paid tributes to former Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi, who passed away on Monday evening due to post COVID-19 complications.

Mr. Gandhi and other central leaders of the Congress reached Guwahati at 9.40 a.m. and drove straight to Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra - Assam's cultural showcase - where Gogoi's mortal remains have been kept since Tuesday evening.

Mr. Gandhi also visited the former Chief Minister's official residence in Dispur to meet the bereaved members of his family, including his MP son Gaurav Gogoi.

State Congress president Ripun Bora, party MP Pradyut Bordoloi and Congress Legislative Party chief Debabrata Saikia accompanied Mr. Gandhi.

Gogoi will be cremated in Guwahati on Thursday.

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has declared a three-day State mourning from November 24.

## Lacking confidence in your English skills?

Join the live webinar on STEP Coach Unlimited to learn English from the best.

- Meet our STEP Coaches and understand their passion towards helping you improve
- Experience the unique coaching module of the programme which has become a game changer for many
- Direct interaction with the STEP team to clear any doubts on STEP Coach Unlimited

**60% OFF**  
for Attendees

**STEP COACH**  
UNLIMITED

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> November

Time: 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Register here: [BIT.LY/STCOACH1](https://bit.ly/stcoach1)

## SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL



General public is here by informed that one Girl Name: Manshi D/o Raj Kumar Sharma R/o Near Aranya International School, Pooth Khurd, Delhi. Age: About 16 Years, Height: 3'8", Built: Thin, Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Wearing: White top and Yellow pant and chappal, has been missing/kidnapping for her house on 15.10.2020 from 7:00pm the area of P.S. Bawana, Delhi.

In this regard a FIR No. 644/20, U/s 363 IPC Dated 17.10.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Bawana, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this girl but no clue has come to light so far.

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

E-Mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
Fax: 011-24368639  
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO  
P.S. Bawana, Delhi  
Ph. 011-27751949, 27756090  
DP/559/ON/2020



Scan the QR code



Register here: [BIT.LY/STCOACH1](https://bit.ly/stcoach1)



Maulana Kalbe Sadiq

Sadiq's death was a big loss not only for the family but also for Shias, Muslims in general and the nation.

"It is an unbearable loss," Maulana Jawad said in a statement issued from Jammu and Kashmir.

**Support to protest**  
Despite his ill health, in perhaps one of his last public appearances, Sadiq offered his support to the protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act earlier this year.

In January, he visited the Hussainabad Clocktower protest site in old Lucknow and expressed solidarity with the women who had assembled there.

## Rahul Gandhi pays last respects to Tarun Gogoi

Ex-CM to be cremated on Thursday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday paid tributes to former Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi, who passed away on Monday evening due to post COVID-19 complications.

Mr. Gandhi and other central leaders of the Congress reached Guwahati at 9.40 a.m. and drove straight to Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra - Assam's cultural showcase - where Gogoi's mortal remains have been kept since Tuesday evening.

Mr. Gandhi also visited the former Chief Minister's official residence in Dispur to meet the bereaved members of his family, including his MP son Gaurav Gogoi.

State Congress president Ripun Bora, party MP Pradyut Bordoloi and Congress Legislative Party chief Debabrata Saikia accompanied Mr. Gandhi.

Gogoi will be cremated in Guwahati on Thursday.

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has declared a three-day State mourning from November 24.



# COVID-19 cases continue to surge in Maharashtra

State records 6,159 fresh cases, 4,844 more recoveries

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PUNE

Maharashtra continued to witness a significant uptick in COVID-19 cases, with the State reporting 6,159 fresh cases on Wednesday to take the case tally to 17,95,959. As many as 65 deaths pushed the death toll to 46,748.

With just 4,844 recoveries, the number of active cases has increased to 84,464. The total recoveries stands at 16,63,723, with the recovery rate decreasing incrementally to 92.64%. The rise in cases has to be viewed in the context of the high number of samples (90,000) tested in the last 24 hours.

"Of a total of 1,04,56,962 laboratory samples tested thus far, 17,95,959 (case positivity rate of 17.17%) have returned positive," said State Surveillance Officer Dr. Pradeep Awate, adding that the State's case fatality rate has declined to 2.60%.

## 1,144 cases in Mumbai

Pune district reported over 1,000 new cases to take its total case tally to 3,48,814, while six deaths saw its toll reach 7,304. As per district administration figures, the active cases have risen to 10,310, while its recovery



Influx: Passengers stand in queue as health workers conduct tests at Bandra Terminus on Wednesday. ■ EMMANUEL YOGINI

rate has dipped to 94.51%. Mumbai reported 1,144 new cases to take its tally to 2,78,597, of which 13,734 are active. With 17 fatalities, the city's toll has risen to 10,725.

Nagpur district reported over 300 new cases, taking its tally to 1,11,980, of which just 3,475 are active. Eight deaths took the toll to 2,929.

Satara reported 11 deaths to take its toll to 1,620. As many as 157 fresh cases saw its tally rise to 51,608, of which 2,487 are active. Neighbouring Sangli reported just 60 cases and a single death as its case load reached 48,390, of which just 903 are active. Its death toll has climbed to 1,714.

Kolhapur recorded just 14 cases and no deaths as its tally reached 48,416. Its active cases have dipped to 240. The total death toll remains constant at 1,668.

In north Maharashtra, Nashik reported more than 350 cases and a single death as its total case tally reached 103,297, of which 2,095 are active. Its toll stands at 1,682.

Neighbouring Jalgaon reported just 47 cases and no deaths as its total case tally reached 54,738, of which 1,095 are active, while its death toll stands at 1,382.

A total of 5,29,344 people in the State are in home quarantine and 6,980 are in institutional quarantine.

## Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	27	111	.75	183	147	...
Bengaluru	15	.36	.43	102	.104	...
Chennai	.6	.5	.21	.51	...	GREEN
Delhi	15	121	101	481	453	...
Hyderabad	.5	.96	.12	.143	.133	...
Kolkata	20	.18	.11	.279	.168	...
Lucknow	.4	115	.29	.413	.366	...
Mumbai	15	123	.39	.261	.207	...
Pune	32	100	111	.209	.125	...
Visakhapatnam	.9	.13	.40	.108	.113	...

## Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m. Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 444 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution, in contrast Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 14.

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

SO<sub>2</sub>: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO<sub>x</sub>: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

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

his presence even more deeply," he said.

Mr. Gehlot said no one would be able to fill the void left by him and his contribution to the Congress would always be remembered.

"Apart from political association, he was a close friend and his untimely demise is a

personal loss to me," he tweeted.

The ruling Congress held condolence meetings at the State headquarters as well as the offices of all District Congress Committees on Wednesday.

Pradesh Congress president Govind Singh Dotsara

said the party flag would fly at half-mast for the next three days.

Mr. Dotsara, who attended a condolence meeting at the party's Sikar office, said Patel was a "pillar of strength" for the Congress and the void in Indian politics could not be filled by anyone.

# Patel's death a great loss to nation, Congress: Gehlot

MOHAMMED IQBAL  
JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Wednesday described the death of veteran Congress leader Ahmed Patel as a great loss to the entire political community and the nation. "In today's situation, the Congress party will miss

## Condolences pour in for Ahmed Patel

STAFF REPORTER  
MUMBAI

Politicians across party lines in Maharashtra paid tribute to Rajya Sabha member and senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel, 71, who died on Wednesday after a prolonged battle with complications of COVID-19. Patel had played a key role in the formation of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government by ensuring that the Congress joined hands with the Shiv Sena to keep the Bharatiya Janata Party out of power.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said not only the Congress but also the MVA has lost its guide. "The Congress party has lost its Chanakya, who would stand by the party to face every challenge. He was actively involved in social work besides his political engagements. His guidance and experience helped us a lot while forming the three-party alliance, which formed the government in Maharashtra last year," Mr. Thackeray said. His son and Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray said in his interaction with Patel over the past year, he found that he was accommodative, open to ideas and had different perspectives.

The Maharashtra unit of the Congress paid homage to the senior leader at the party headquarters, Gandhi Bhavan. "He dedicated his entire life to the Congress party. He was firm in his positions. His priority was the party interest and he never cut communication lines with anyone. He played a key role in forming the MVA government and guiding us all," said State Congress president Balasaheb Thorat.

Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar, who spent many years with Patel in national politics, said he was saddened by the news. "His contribution to Congress will always be remembered," he said. It was the Congress delegation led by Patel which had visited Maharashtra last November to hold talks with Mr. Pawar, who played the leading role in stitching together an alliance with the Sena and the Congress, which seemed impossible on paper.

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena leader Raj Thackeray said Patel's greatness lay in the fact that he never used his sharp mind to settle personal grudges. "The veteran Congress leader passed away this morning. He was exceptionally astute and a sharp leader. These qualities helped him in upping his political grasp to the level of a game of chess and he made sure that his moves were matchless and he emerged victoriously. But his greatness lies in the fact that he never used his sharp mind to settle personal grudges. In fact, he remained above all this and only focused on the betterment of his party. This made him stand out, across party lines, as an amicable leader, and he valued his relationships with all," the MNS chief said.

# Pawar targets Centre's failure to send team to assess crop damage

'Modi govt. must rise above party politics and ideology'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PUNE



Hitting out at the Central government, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar on Wednesday said it has not yet sent a team to assess the massive damage caused by the retreating monsoon last month on croplands in the State.

Speaking in Karad in Satta district, Mr. Pawar criticised the Centre's apathy towards the plight of farmers. He said despite repeated requests from Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and other top officials of the State, no Central team has visited the State over a month since the retreating monsoon wreaked havoc on crops.

"The Centre must rise above party politics and ideology while providing much-needed help to States during natural calamities. Despite the Chief Minister, the Relief and Rehabilitation Minister, and the Chief Secretary repeatedly writing to the Centre to dispatch a team to assess crop and soil loss, nothing has been forthcoming from their end," said Mr. Pawar.

"GST dues still pending" "When such natural disasters occurred during the UPA's time, a Central team used to be sent promptly to that State to inspect the loss-

es and a package would then have been immediately announced," said Mr. Pawar, whose uncle, NCP chief Sharad Pawar was the Union Agriculture Minister in the previous UPA regime. He also said Maharashtra was yet to get Goods and Services Tax dues of ₹29,000 crore from the Centre.

Responding to the State BJP's repeated statements that the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi government of the Shiv Sena, the NCP and the Congress could fall any time, Mr. Pawar said, "The BJP has to keep dangling such carrots [of the MVA's imminent overthrow] so that its own MLAs and party workers do not fall prey to restlessness."

AJIT PAWAR  
Deputy Chief Minister

first chief minister.

"MVA govt. won't fall" He added, "The Opposition has to keep saying such things in order to keep its party rank-and-file united and in order... But so long as Uddhav Thackeray, Sharad Pawar and Sonia Gandhi stand firmly behind this front, nothing will happen to this government."

Mr. Pawar said such statements only underscored the BJP's disappointment and frustration over their inability to form the government despite securing 105 seats in the last Assembly election.

**Bharat Coking Coal Limited**  
'A Mini Ratna Company'  
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

## Notice

All the tenders\* issued by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of BCCL [www.bccclweb.in](http://www.bccclweb.in), Coal India Limited (CIL) e-procurement portal <https://coalingtenders.nic.in> and Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in>. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in>. \*This is applicable to all Open (Domestic / Global) Tenders issued through e-procurement portal of CIL.

## HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT E-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)1

The Executive Engineer HP PWD Shillai District Shimur HP on behalf of Governor of HP invites the online bids on item rate in electronic tendering system in 2 cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HP PWD Department.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time Limit	Cost of Tender Form	Eligible class of contractor
1.	Construction of link road from Rajpur to Digali Km 0/0 to 1/300 in Distt. Shimur HP (SH-Construction of 2.0* 2.0 mtrRCC Box cell type culvert at RD 0/890).	545391.00	10910.00	Three Months	350/-	C&D Class
2.	Construction of link road from Rajpur to Digali Km 0/0 to 1/300 in Distt. Shimur HP (SH-Construction of 2.0* 2.0 mtrRCC Box cell type culvert at RD 0/580).	623044.00	12500.00	Three Months	350/-	C&D Class
3.	Construction of link road from Rajpur to Digali Km 0/0 to 1/300 in Distt. Shimur HP (SH- Construction of 2.0* 2.0 mtrRCC Box cell type culvert at RD 0/830).	545424.00	10910.00	Three Months	350/-	C&D Class
4.	Construction of link road from Rajpur to Digali Km 0/0 to 1/300 in Distt. Shimur HP (SH- Construction of 900mm dia RCC HPC a/w wing walls at RD 0/355).	163906.00	3300.00	One Month	350/-	C&D Class
5.	Construction of link road from Rajpur to Digali Km 0/0 to 1/300 in Distt. Shimur HP (SH- Providing and laying Soiling Sub Base G4 in Km 0/0 to 1/300).	463601.00	9300.00	Two Months	350/-	C&D Class
6.	Construction of link road to Harjan Basti Dari Km 0/0 to 2/0 in Distt. Shimur HP (SH-Formation cutting 5/7 Mtrs. Wide road in Km 0/705 to 2/0) Under SCSP.	3403156.00	58550.00	Three Months	1500/-	C&D Class
7.	Construction of link road from Kandhela to Dari irog Km 0/0 to 3/800. (SH- Construction of 3.0* 3.0 mtr RCC Box cell type culvert at RD 2/850).	948706.00	19000.00	Three Months	350/-	C&D Class
8.	Construction of link road from Siyasi to Morar Km 0/0 to 3/500 (SH- Formation cutting 5/7 Mtrs. Wide road, C.D. works essential Parapetts and Katcha road side drain in Km 0/0 to 3/500) Under NABARD RIDF-XXVI	534186.00	10700.00	Two Months	350/-	C&D Class
9.	Construction of link road from Siyasi to Morar Km 0/0 to 3/500 (SH- Formation cutting 5/7 Mtrs. Wide road, C.D. works essential Parapetts and Katcha road side drain in Km 0/0 to 3/500) Under NABARD RIDF-XXVI	1,95,45,000/-	227950/-	Eighteen Months	5000/-	A Class

### 2. Key Dates-

02-12-2020 at 10:30 HRs

2-12-2020 at 3:00HRs, Up To 15-12-2020 at 5:00 HRs

02-12-2020 at 3:00HRs, Up To 15-12-2020 at 5:00 HRs

16-12-2020 up to 12:30 HRs

### 3. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:-

The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in



## Moment of reckoning

Organisational elections are an opportunity for the Congress to reassess its leadership

The Congress has set the ball rolling for organisational elections in a period of great uncertainty in the party. The Central Election Authority of the party hopes to have a session of the All India Congress Committee by February 2021 that will elect the Congress Working Committee and possibly a new president. The post of the president has been vacant after Rahul Gandhi resigned in the aftermath of the Lok Sabha election debacle in 2019. Sonia Gandhi filled in as interim president but the leadership vacuum has aggravated the morbidities of the party since then. In an extremely difficult political environment, the party has been drifting, aimless and rudderless. Its performance in the recent Bihar election was abysmal, made stark by the fact that Mr. Gandhi chose to go on a vacation in the midst of the campaign. Earlier it lost power in Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh and almost lost it in Rajasthan. The edifice that held the party together from 2004 to 2014 when it was in power at the Centre has crumbled. Even the personnel that reinforced it are moving out. With Pranab Mukherjee and Ahmed Patel out of the picture, and Manmohan Singh, A.K. Antony, and Ms. Gandhi herself old or weak, the party is staring at the unsettling end of an era.

Many leaders of the party have begun to air their concerns publicly. They have not yet challenged the leadership of the Gandhi dynasty, but it is now entirely possible that they will. Dynastic leadership is never desirable, but Mr. Gandhi has added to the party's woes by being an uneasy heir. By refusing to hold office and cede control at the same time, Mr. Gandhi has cornered the Congress into a gridlock. Organisational elections could be an occasion to breathe some life into the party. It will also be an opportunity for the party to re-examine the role of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty. The dynasty's ability to function as a glue that binds conflicting personalities and thoughts has weakened along with its capacity to mobilise voters across the country. Mr. Gandhi's lament that his hands are tied by the old guard of the party is no longer valid as an excuse for inaction. Even after an overhauling of the organisation, the Congress will have a long way to travel to get into fighting shape. At any rate, Mr. Gandhi should not hold the party hostage to his indecision. The organisational election is a moment of reckoning for the Congress and the dynasty at its helm. How the party manages its course from now on will have larger implications for national politics. It cannot allow itself to be defined merely by its opposition to the Bharatiya Janata Party, and must formulate and articulate an alternative, inclusive, egalitarian vision of India.

## Cricket test

India will miss a couple of stars in the course of the Australia tour

In a coronavirus-blighted year, Indian cricket gets into revival mode through the tour of Australia that formally commences with the first One Day International in Sydney on Friday. The recent Indian Premier League in the United Arab Emirates, was a high-profile starter that helped national icons and overseas legends shed their rust but international cricket is the real deal. India last played on March 2 at Christchurch's Hagley Oval. On that day, the second Test against New Zealand concluded with the host winning by seven wickets to secure the series at 2-0. Since then it has been a long wait for sport to resume and while the virus lingers and the vaccine-race gifts hope, cricket is gingerly finding its feet. England hosted the West Indies and Pakistan and had limited-overs clashes against Australia, but in terms of stature, full-fledged contests featuring India and Australia have a stronger allure. Over the next eight weeks, the set of three ODIs, three Twenty20s and four Tests should frame a stirring template for the willow-game. During India's last tour of Australia in the 2018-19 season, Virat Kohli's men won the Test and ODI series besides drawing level in the Twenty20s. Since then much water has flowed down the Yarra and Australia is a stronger unit. Steve Smith and David Warner have returned following their ball-tampering controversy and Marnus Labuschagne is a star in the making.

It is now India's turn to deal with mighty absentees. Rohit Sharma, nursing a sore hamstring, will be missed in the limited-overs' jousts, a realm he rules with panache. To further queer the pitch, the Mumbaikar looks doubtful for the subsequent Tests though he is in the squad. It could probably be a double-blow as India will miss Kohli in the last three Tests as the skipper will be taking paternity leave. Equally it presents an opportunity for the other talented batsmen in the Indian ranks to burnish their credentials. If in the distant past, cricketing reputations were earned in the West Indies, now Australia is the final yardstick. Sachin Tendulkar scored 100 international tons but his greatness was first revealed through a pulsating century at Perth in 1992 when he was just 18. In Rohit's absence, K.L. Rahul will be the vice-captain in ODIs and Twenty20s and it is a chance for him to reiterate his potential while Ajinkya Rahane will helm India in the Tests once Kohli flies back. The visitors still have strong batting resources and also a menacing pace attack headlined by Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami. The stage is set, bio-bubbles will remain and though fans will return, stadiums will not be filled to capacity. As cricket embraces a semblance of normalcy, India taking on Australia is the perfect booster-shot. No matter which team comes up on top, fans are sure to be grateful for the cricketing action.

# Jobs, exports and the trade pacts link

India needs to shed its exaggerated fears of trade agreements to create new jobs — the country's biggest challenge



P. CHIDAMBARAM & PRAVEEN CHAKRAVARTY

**I**ndia's economy contracted by 23.9% in the first quarter of 2020-21. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Indian economy will further contract by 10% in the July-September quarter. This is technically defined as a recession by economists. India is in an economic recession for the first time in its independent history.

'India is in a recession' means very little to the average Indian. The headline numbers too matter little to most people. The average Indian 'feels' the economic despair when her older child has lost his job or when her younger one cannot find a job despite her impressive educational qualifications. She 'sees' the pall of gloom when many workshops in her town are closed or when trucks remain idle or when trains do not run or when restaurants do not have customers.

### Jobs are the first casualty

Thousands of people lost their jobs due to the slowing economy in 2018-19 and 2019-20. Unemployment had reached a 45-year high. Then, in March 2020, COVID-19 struck India and a total national lockdown was announced. By one estimate, more than 2 crore people lost their jobs during the lockdown. They included all kinds of jobs — regular salaried, non-contractual, casual, daily wage, and self-employment. When jobs were lost, incomes were lost too. Millions of people found that they did not have a roof over their heads or money to feed their families.

In any country, the ultimate economic test is, are there sufficient jobs, incomes and livelihoods for all in the workforce? The

single biggest challenge confronting India today is jobs. When people are poor, hungry and desperate, any job will be a blessing. The job that requires hard, manual work and pays the lowest daily wage is the work provided under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme. During the seven-month lockdown period, there were 11 crore people who asked for work under MGNREGA. That is 20 times more than the total number of persons employed by all the companies listed on the stock exchange. The only meaningful conversation about the economy that we ought to have is how to recover the jobs that were lost and create new well-paying jobs.

Let us suppose that the government makes available ₹10 lakh as a loan to four companies for capital investment. The first company, a steel manufacturing company, will create one new job with this amount. The second, an automobile manufacturer, will create three new jobs. The third, a producer of leather goods, will create 70 new jobs. And the fourth, an apparel and garment maker, will create 240 new jobs including 80 for women (Economic Survey 2016-17).

### Where the jobs are

Large numbers of good quality jobs can be created only in sectors that are labour intensive, and where India has a comparative advantage, such as apparel, leather goods, value-added agriculture and so on. These job-creating sectors depend not only on the domestic market but, significantly, on export markets.

More than one-half of the leather goods and one-third of the apparel produced in India are exported to other countries. India, therefore, needs to find more export markets, nurture them, and sustain them amid intense global competition. Merchandise exports also create supporting jobs in warehousing, transport, stevedoring, container



stations, shipping, ship chandling, ports and export financing. It is therefore very important to encourage and incentivise exports to be able to create many new jobs in the country.

A recent research study by Arvind Subramanian and Prof. Shoumitro Chatterjee shows how exports were the most significant factor that drove the Indian economy in the 'boom years' of 2003-2012 (<https://bit.ly/39fNXC>). Contrary to popular perception, Subramanian and Chatterjee have shown that during the period since 1995, India did exceptionally well not only in exports of services such as information technology but also in the exports of manufactured goods and other merchandise. India was the third fastest growing exporter of manufactured goods in this period with 12% annual growth, after Vietnam and China. There is irrefutable evidence that India's new trade policy, unveiled first in 1991-92, and taken forward by every subsequent government until 2014, has paid rich economic dividends in generating jobs, incomes and consumption.

### Exports and agreements

Unfortunately, despite the "Make in India" hype, export volumes have languished in the last six years. Merchandise goods exports were \$314 billion in 2013-14 and remained stagnant for the next five years touching \$313 billion in 2018-19. The reason for this (other than the disruption of export supply chains due to demonetisation and Goods and Services Tax) is the complete reversal in the direction

of India's foreign trade policy with higher tariffs, non-tariff barriers, quantitative limits, the return of licensing, border country restrictions and the appreciating value of the rupee.

For nearly two decades, the countries of the world invested in a rule-based trading order. The age of trade agreements — both bilateral and multilateral — was born. There were more winners than losers because of trade agreements. Some historic trade agreements were the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR). Half-hearted and hesitant agreements like the South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) failed. Whether we like it or not, the harsh truth is that exports are linked to trade agreements. The member-countries of a trade agreement promote trade among themselves with easy rules but restrict trade with non-members with hard rules. Many countries rushed to conclude bilateral agreements (free trade agreements or FTA) because they realised the benefits to members. Non-members suffered.

### Break down the wall

It is true that FTA provisions were also misused by some countries to question the foreign investment policies and tax policies of other countries, usually recipients of foreign direct investment (FDI) like India. Purely trade and commercial disputes were dragged to international arbitral tribunals on the pretext of violating FTA provisions. India decided to keep FTAs in abeyance until we could agree with our partner countries, on a model FTA that built in safeguards against abuse. Unfortunately, under the current government, that has turned into an anti-FTA policy and has further metamorphosed into an anti-free trade policy. To put it bluntly, we are just a few steps away from full protectionism that kept India a closed and struggling economy for three decades.

Decades ago, Manmohan Singh, in his doctoral thesis at Oxford University, pleaded for India to shed its export pessimism. Today, we need to shed exaggerated fears of trade agreements. India cannot 'protect' its domestic industry with high trade barriers while aspiring for bilateral trade treaties to promote exports. This 'have the cake and eat it too' approach is naive and detrimental. Most manufacturing today has a long supply chain that cuts across many countries. To be able to export goods, India must import raw materials or equipment or technology from other countries in the supply chain. Hence, we must re-learn to engage with other countries and negotiate favourable trade agreements through the bilateral and multilateral routes. Otherwise, countries bound by trade agreements among themselves will shut the doors on India's exports. Besides, it is common sense that no country will allow import of Indian goods and services unless that country is able to export its goods and services to India on reasonable and fair terms. The art of survival in a fiercely competitive world is engagement and negotiation.

India's economy is in a shambles. Exports are one of the main engines to revive economic growth and create many new jobs. Subramanian and Chatterjee estimate that India has the immediate opportunity to export goods worth \$60 billion in labour intensive sectors which can then create lakhs of new jobs. To revive exports, India needs greater and frictionless access to global markets. Protectionism and autarky will take us back several decades. Wisdom lies in learning from the past, being smart and resilient in the present and securing our prosperity in the future.

P. Chidambaram is a former Finance Minister of India and a current Member of Parliament. Praveen Chakravarty is a political economist and a senior office bearer of the Indian National Congress

# Refining trade union strategies to strike a chord

With labour law reforms set to change industrial relations, trade union responses must include social dialogue too



K.R. SHYAM SUNDAR

**T**en central trade unions (CTUs) have called for a nation-wide strike on November 26, 2020 to condemn what they consider to be the anti-people, and anti-labour economic policies of the government. This follows strikes in the coal and defence sectors protesting privatisation and the corporatisation policies of the government. It is essential to understand as to why the central trade unions have decided to go on strike today.

### Codes and flaws

With the introduction of economic reforms concretely since 1991, employers and the global financial institutions have been lobbying for labour market and structural reforms. The reform processes gained momentum since 2015 and the National Democratic Alliance government has enacted four Labour Codes in the last two years. The details of the labour law reforms have been described and critically analysed in the columns of this daily. The Codes are based on the fundamental unproven premise that labour laws and inspection system are obstacles in attracting investment, and, hence the government must promote a cheaper and flexible labour market.

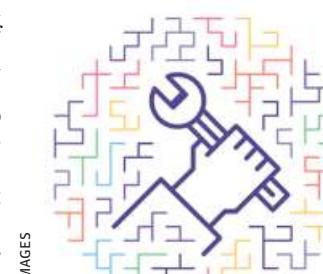
The Codes do extend some labour rights such as universal mini-

mum wage, statutory recognition of trade unions, formalisation of employment contracts, and social security to gig and platform economy workers. However, they also afford substantial flexibility to the employers in terms of easy hire and fire, freedom to hire contract labour and unregulated fixed-term-employment, etc. The Codes have also considerably redefined the concept and practice of labour inspection system by diluting it. The Codes and state retrenchment in the industrial sector and fiscal conservatism — especially in the context of higher levels of unemployment — along with stubborn inflation have created tremendous insecurity among workers. Migrant and informal workers underwent woeful experiences during the COVID-19 period, and trade unions as well as commentators perceive that the state has not provided adequate relief to workers.

### Crisis and reforms

The central government and several State governments had chosen the COVID-19 crisis-ridden period as an "opportunity time" to enact labour law reforms having far-reaching adverse consequences for labour rights and structural reforms. It is galling to note that the COVID-19 period has witnessed perhaps a maximum amount of legal and extra-legal measures issued by the state.

In such a context, trade unions have six options to confront or soften these measures — viz. social dialogue, political lobbying, political confrontation through Opposition parties, legal action by approaching the judiciary, seek the International Labour Organiza-



tion's intervention, and direct industrial action.

The central government, as per trade unions, did not conduct an effective and sustaining social dialogue, though it held a few symbolic parleys with them. At the State level, social dialogue institutions are largely absent or weak. The last Indian Labour Conference, a tripartite social dialogue body, was held in 2015 (<https://bit.ly/39f01eT>). The government has dismissed social dialogue as being ineffective and even frustrating.

The Central trade unions, including the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh-affiliated trade union, the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, have made numerous representations to the government on their demands and suggestions not only relating to labour market reforms but also on tackling of COVID-19 crises. Who else is better suited to advise the government than the workers' organisations on these issues? Trade unions contend that many of their suggestions have not been incorporated in the Codes and the COVID-19 relief measures.

The whole political exercise of the passage of the Farm Bills and the three Labour Codes during the

COVID-19 period smacks of "undemocracy" as Parliament did not witness "healthy discussions". The boycott by the Opposition parties ended up serving the cause of reforms, and they unwittingly or otherwise became partners in the reform exercises. At any rate, the Opposition parties are waging their own battles of their relevance and incurably divided and pathetically irrelevant as a significant political force.

### Seeking assistance

The judiciary seems to be the only source of hope in these times of "institutional corrosion", aided and abetted by right-wing politics. Though the Supreme Court of India did not respond quickly to provide relief to migrant workers, it has struck down the Gujarat government's amendment of the Factories Act. Unions must shed their judicophilic and approach it provided they have strong legal grounds to challenge reforms introduced by Central or State governments.

Trade unions, out of their patriotic mindset, do not use extensively the complaints mechanism created by the International Labour Organization for fear of washing dirty linen in the global spaces; but they did seek ILO intervention recently. But the ILO's intervention in May 2020 only provided a temporary respite to trade unions as the government did what it has been doing.

So, trade unions are left with the only option — of demonstrating "industrial action" followed by sustained protest actions. It is in this context, that the central trade unions (except the BMS and its al-

lies) have these demands (<https://bit.ly/3pYZQ6Q>): direct cash transfer of ₹7,500 per month for all non-income tax-paying families; 10 kg free ration per person per month to all the needy; expansion of MGNREGA to provide 200 days of work in a year in rural areas at enhanced wages; extension of employment guarantee to urban areas; withdrawal of all anti-farmer laws and anti-worker labour codes; a halt to privatisation; protection of government employment; restoration of old pension schemes, etc.

The demands reflect disappointment and even hurt and anger experienced by the working class not only during the time of COVID-19 but also for events of the last three decades.

The Codes are set to rule the industrial relations system for long unless the government changes. This strike, as an individual event alone, is a signal to the larger society of the concerns of workers. Hence, it is legitimate but such action alone will not change the Codes. Trade unions must explore other avenues such as seeking the ILO's intervention, judicial action and social dialogue. There is no alternative to social dialogue in a pluralistic democracy which all the parties in the industrial relations system must make effective use of and make suitable amendments to the Codes to aid both ease of doing business and promote labour rights. This strike is a reminder of this potential, positive reconstruction of laws.

K.R. Shyam Sundar is Professor, HRM Area, XLRI, Xavier School of Management, Jamshedpur



## 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.

### Contempt and the court

The sanctioning of contempt against stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra by the Attorney General has a far-reaching effect on the Bar, of which he is a leader, and also the people. To sanction contempt readily will only embolden an already strong executive. It is true the AG is appointed by the President of India on the advice of the Council of Ministers but it should not be forgotten that he is a constitutional appointee.

He should be a constitutional umpire. The demands on the AG are far more than on a leading lawyer and include statesmanship and acknowledging the effect of free thought in a changing society governed by the rule of law. That apart, what Mr. Kamra said needs to be examined. He said, "... allot my time to some other litigant who wants his case to be heard". There cannot be a more poignant statement than this when

courts are starved of time and litigants are waiting for their cases to be heard. And second, he has said that Mahatma Gandhi's portrait should be replaced with Harish Salve's. Any person who has frequented the Supreme Court would not have missed Mr. Salve walking like a Roman emperor. Such humour is rare. Third, on the flag issue, he was only wanting to convey his feelings on the question of the independence of the

judiciary. Satire/cartoons should be dispassionately examined. The sanctioning of the contempt by the AG has taken away the sense of humour.

N.G.R. PRASAD,

K.K. RAM SIDDHARTH,

Chennai

**Weather watch**  
In Tamil Nadu/Chennai, heavy rains are always expected in the month of November extending till December. And water-logged roads and drivers

### To read more letters online, scan the QR code

Had every MLA in the city taken care of their constituencies on all parameters of bottleneck, would have never existed.

S. RAMAKRISHNASAYEE,  
Chennai

**CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:**  
The opening sentence of a front-page story on Sputnik vaccine (Nov. 25, 2020) erroneously said: "Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine is 91% effective ...". It should have been *efficacy*.

</div

# Where the lotus meets two leaves

As the BJP aims at becoming a big player in Tamil Nadu, it should not forget the AIADMK's strengths



T. RAMAKRISHNAN

Union Home Minister Amit Shah's high-profile visit to Chennai last week brought to an end the developing discourse on whether the ruling All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) would remain an ally of his party, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), for the Tamil Nadu Assembly election slated for April-May next year.

The AIADMK's coordinator-Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam and co-coordinator-Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami, the men who matter in the party, used Mr. Shah's presence to declare that their party would go to the poll along with the BJP and others. In contrast to former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa's approach of dumping partners once elections were over, the two leaders retained their allies even after a disastrous performance during the 2019 Lok Sabha election and faced the polls to the local bodies together later.

## Signs of discord

Yet, on a host of issues at least in the last six months, there were visible signs of discord between the AIADMK and the BJP. The differences between the two parties were obvious on the subject of the three-language formula, the abolition of the free electricity scheme for farmers, the denial of permission for the procession of Vinayaka idols, and regarding restrictions on the BJP State president L. Murugan's ongoing 'Veetrivel Yatra' covering six abodes of Lord Muruga. The AIADMK never forgets to assert its "principled opposition" to the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for undergraduate medical courses, despite the test being held in the State since 2017. Given the fact that Muslims and Christians, as per the 2011 Census, constitute 11.98% of the State's population, the question was also raised whether the AIADMK, whose vote share went down to about 18% last year from about 40% in 2016, should ignore the minorities' votes for the sake of its alliance with the BJP.

## AIADMK's performance in Assembly elections over the years



Year	Seats contested	Seats won	Votes polled	Vote share (%)
1977	200	130	51,94,876	30.36
1980	177	129	73,03,010	38.75
1984	155	132	80,30,809	37.03
<b>1989*</b>				
<b>JL</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>52,81,454</b>	<b>20.19</b>
<b>JR</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22,02,497</b>	<b>9.13</b>
1991	168	164	1,09,40,966	44.39
1996	168	4	58,31,383	21.47
2001	141	132	88,15,387	31.44
2006	188	61	1,07,68,559	32.64
2011	165	150	1,41,50,289	38.40
2016	234	137	1,78,05,696	40.88

\* In 1989, two factions of the AIADMK led by Jayalalithaa (JL) and Janaki Ramachandran (JR) contested separately.

The Palaniswami regime's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and decision of giving 7.5% horizontal quota for admission to medical courses for students of government schools have led to many senior leaders in the party entertaining the notion that the party would do well at the hustings without most of its allies including the BJP.

At the same time, there are reasons for the two parties to continue their alliance. The absence of a charismatic leader of the stature of M.G. Ramachandran (MGR) or Jayalalithaa has left the party with very few options. The AIADMK is seen by its adversaries as giving back its due to the national party for enabling it to complete its term. What should not also be overlooked is its support to the BJP-led government at the Centre on crucial occasions such as the no-confidence motion in July 2018, the dilution of Article 370 in August 2019, and the adoption of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill four months later. That the national party would be in power at the Centre for three and a half more years would have been factored in by the AIADMK leadership at

the Palaniswami regime's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and decision of giving 7.5% horizontal quota for admission to medical courses for students of government schools have led to many senior leaders in the party entertaining the notion that the party would do well at the hustings without most of its allies including the BJP.

At the same time, there are reasons for the two parties to continue their alliance. The absence of a charismatic leader of the stature of M.G. Ramachandran (MGR) or Jayalalithaa has left the party with very few options. The AIADMK is seen by its adversaries as giving back its due to the national party for enabling it to complete its term. What should not also be overlooked is its support to the BJP-led government at the Centre on crucial occasions such as the no-confidence motion in July 2018, the dilution of Article 370 in August 2019, and the adoption of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill four months later. That the national party would be in power at the Centre for three and a half more years would have been factored in by the AIADMK leadership at

the Palaniswami regime's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and decision of giving 7.5% horizontal quota for admission to medical courses for students of government schools have led to many senior leaders in the party entertaining the notion that the party would do well at the hustings without most of its allies including the BJP.

Even as the BJP aims at becoming a big player in Tamil Nadu, it should not forget that apart from the symbol of 'two leaves' and charisma of MGR and Jayalalithaa, the AIADMK has grown over the years on the strength of welfareism, identity politics, social justice and avoidance of the politics of demonising any community.

ramakrishnan.t@thehindu.co.in

the time of its announcement of the alliance.

Ever since the 1977 Assembly election marked the AIADMK's emergence as one of the two principal political players of the State, the other being the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), these two parties generally contested the polls in the company of allies, major or minor. This was despite the two bagging collectively, on an average, 60% of the total votes polled in all these years. Jayalalithaa's experiment in 2016 of fielding her party's nominees in all the 234 Assembly seats should be considered an aberration. In Assembly elections over the last 20 years, the DMK aligned itself with the BJP once (2001) and with the Congress thrice (2006, 2011 and 2016). This time too, the situation is not going to be any different.

## The BJP in Tamil Nadu

Notwithstanding little support from empirical data for any claim on the BJP's growing base, there is a perception in the political and academic circles that the party is, of late, creating a "tangible impact" in the State, which has, so far, refused to provide substantial political space to religion-centric parties. This has coincided with the innings of Dr. Murugan as the BJP's State president. That he hails from the Arunthathi community, which is considered more backward than many other constituents of the Scheduled Castes in the State, is also contributing positively to the party's image.

Perhaps taking cue from MGR's formula, the BJP is aggressively positioning itself as an anti-DMK force, as reflected in Mr. Shah's severe criticism of the DMK. This can complement the base of the AIADMK, known to be pro-religion including Hindu ritualism. Otherwise, it would not get the benefit of support from those who would prefer an anti-DMK political formation to others.

Even as the BJP aims at becoming a big player in Tamil Nadu, it should not forget that apart from the symbol of 'two leaves' and charisma of MGR and Jayalalithaa, the AIADMK has grown over the years on the strength of welfareism, identity politics, social justice and avoidance of the politics of demonising any community.

# We don't need no EdTech control

Children are being made to learn about complex aspects of computer science without any knowledge of real-world needs



SUSHANT SINHA

With schools being closed for nearly eight months due to the pandemic, parents are worried about their children's education. Some parents have seen this period as an opportunity to enrol their children in classes or courses where they can gather new skills or deepen their learning in mathematics, science and computer science. My eight-year-old daughter has asked me a lot of questions on life, death, God, bacteria, viruses, vaccines and immune systems over these months. I have spent some time looking up information in the fields of philosophy and biology to answer her questions.

New EdTech (portmanteau of education and technology) companies, which feast on the fear of parents that their children will be left out of the 'race', have also seen this period as an opportunity to do aggressive marketing. They claim that children will earn millions of U.S. dollars in the future if they learn with the help of these companies. But do people know what children should study at a young age? What kind of computer science education is appropriate for them?

## Too much, too soon

It is true that computers are part of our daily lives. Children are curious to know how a few semiconductor chips are able to deliver such powerful experiences, just as they are curious about other facts of life such as how the human body works, how airplanes fly, or how governments are formed. While children broadly know how some things work, they don't know how exactly these things work. They take age-appropriate courses to learn the finer details. That is part of learning. However, what we see with computer science is that children are being fast forwarded into learning about aspects of programming languages, data structures and algorithms. Some are even being taught to develop mobile applications, games, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning.

An algorithm is a sequence of instructions to be followed in order to solve a complex task. Algorithms are being taught to children in a more interactive, sometimes humorous, way by websites like Scratch.Mit.Edu and Code.org. There is some research to suggest that children who solve problems by break-

ing it down into steps become better problem solvers. However, teaching them programming syntax or programming constructs or data structures for efficiently managing data is definitely not appropriate for their age. And asking them to develop mobile apps is again going overboard because most apps require knowledge of real-world needs that children don't have.

Computer science doesn't exist in a vacuum. Some areas like theoretical computer science, operating systems and networking are focused on improving computer systems, but a lot of the work also involves identifying new areas of application for which children need more knowledge of the world around them and how different disciplines work and interact.

It involves search and logical deductions to optimise an objective function so that computers can pretend to be intelligent. Machine learning is used when the normal rule-based systems are difficult to manage manually and we need an automated way to create these rules. Both AI and machine learning require an application domain and are not just hammers that can produce intelligence automatically. Machine learning even requires manual tagging of classes by humans and intelligence in figuring out a set of features in the domain. While it is easy to get caught up with the latest jargon, their utility and mastery also involves knowledge of new domains, knowledge of what needs automation and how that can be automated. Just because computer systems are becoming powerful doesn't mean that children can easily jump on the bandwagon without much knowledge of the rest of the world.

## Back to the basics

Instead, more children could learn the basics of computing and what it means to develop an algorithm to solve a task. For instance, they can learn algorithms to prepare an omelette. For the sake of satisfying their curiosity, they could learn how different parts of a computer system operate. More importantly, children need to know how to surf the Internet in a safe and secure environment. Children have plenty to learn in science and social studies, for which the ability to read and write is far more essential, rather than being trained as app developers and innovators. This will enable them to be more knowledgeable. Perhaps there is no better way to do this than by reading literature.

Sushant Sinha holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Michigan and is the founder of legal search engine Indian Kanoon

# Transition troubles

The quality and tenor of governance under Biden will make or break the future of the American Dream

NARAYAN LAKSHMAN

much will that dent the incoming administration's ambitions for its first 100 days?

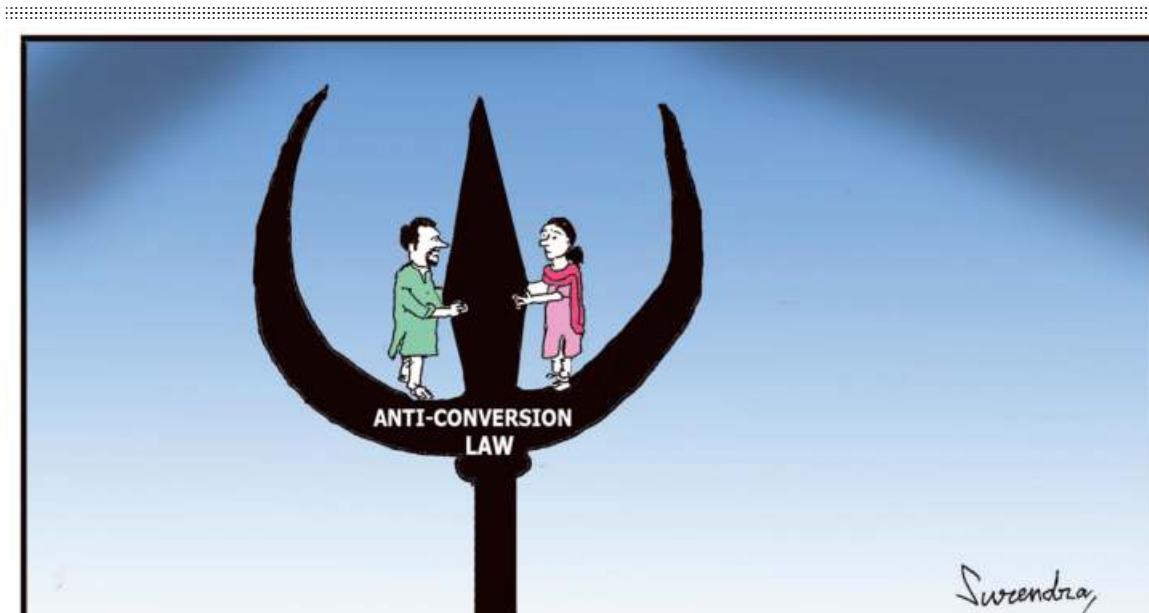
Third, Mr. Biden needs to tread that thin line between returning the U.S. to its pre-eminent position as a leading global power, whose influence in domestic and world politics is driven by a liberal, inclusive ethos, and being a leader who does not repudiate the Trump paradigm and its focus on putting 'America First' entirely. Too many U.S. middle class and working-class voters have spoken eloquently over the past two elections on this subject to ignore. Too many of them have expressed dissatisfaction with the classic progressive paradigm of the Obama years to return to business as usual.

## Bridging the chasm

It is this critical question surrounding the quality and tenor of governance under the Biden White House that will make or break the future of the American Dream. The key to the mammoth task of building a nuanced agenda that bridges the chasm between the two Americas that exists presently is the choice of leaders that Mr. Biden picks to serve in his Cabinet. Thus far the names announced include Antony Blinken, senior foreign policy specialist known to Mr. Biden for around 20 years, as prospective Secretary of State; attorney Alejandro Mayorkas for Homeland Security chief; senior diplomat Linda Thomas-Greenfield for U.S. Ambassador to the UN; Obama-era White House official Jake Sullivan for National Security Adviser; Avril Haines, former Deputy Director of the CIA, for Director of National Intelligence; former Secretary of State John Kerry for Special Envoy on Climate Change; and possibly – but not announced yet – Michele Flournoy for Secretary of Defence.

Given that this selection for the Biden Cabinet appears, prima facie, to be drawn from channels within the Democratic Party firmament and Washington nexus, it is vital that Mr. Biden strives even harder to break with past policies to build an America that speaks to the 73 million citizens who voted for his opponent.

narayan@thehindu.co.in



## DATA POINT

### Giving it the best shot

More than 161 COVID-19 vaccine candidates are at various stages of development. As many as 55 of them progressed to human trials in November, compared to 30 in August. Preliminary analysis shows that the efficacy of some of them is about 90%. India has confirmed dose purchases amounting to at least one vaccine shot per person as of November. By The Hindu Data Team

#### TESTING PROCESS

The typical development cycle of vaccines

Phase	Description
Preclinical	Testing on animals for immune response
Phase 1	Testing safety and dosage
Phase 2	Expanded safety trials
Phase 3	Large-scale efficacy tests
Limited approval	Approved for early or limited use
Approval	Final approval after review

#### LEADING CANDIDATES

A select list of candidates that look promising

1. New York-based Pfizer and Germany-based BioNTech on November 9 said their vaccine candidate was over 90% effective, according to preliminary data. This was the first instance of a vaccine maker releasing such data

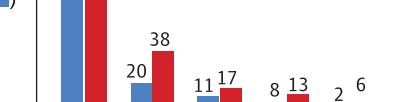
2. The U.S.-based company Moderna on November 16 said its vaccine candidate was 94.5% effective. The vaccine is based on messenger RNA (mRNA) and induces the creation of spike proteins, which get released into the body and provoke a response from the immune system

3. AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford announced on Monday that their vaccine candidate, known as AZD1222, had an efficacy of up to 90% according to interim data. Covishield, developed by the Serum Institute of India using the 'master seed' of AZD1222, is undergoing late-stage human trials in India

#### CANDIDATE SUMMARY

The chart depicts the number of vaccine candidates across different phases of trials as of August 17 (blue) and November 25 (red). About 25 more candidates entered human trials in November compared to August

One vaccine candidate can simultaneously be in multiple phases



4. On November 11, scientists in the Gamaleya Research Institute in Russia estimated that their candidate, Sputnik V, demonstrated 92% efficacy. President Vladimir Putin announced that a Russian health regulator had approved the vaccine even before Phase 3 trials

5. Covaxin, being developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the ICMR and the National Institute of Virology, is currently in its Phase 3 trial. After successful completion of the interim analysis of the first two phases, Phase 3 began with 26,000 participants in over 25 centres across the country

6. The Chinese company CanSino Biologics developed a vaccine in partnership with the country's Academy of Military Medical Sciences. After promising Phase 1 and Phase 2 trials, the Chinese military approved the vaccine on June 25 for a year as a "specialty needed drug."

Source: The New York Times, Duke Global Health Innovation Centre

#### RIGHT DOSE

Though no vaccine has been approved for full use, countries have secured advance market commitments of vaccine candidates. India has confirmed 1,600 million doses as of November 20, which amounts to about one shot per person. Canada has bought about 10 doses for every citizen

Region/Country	Doses (million)	Doses / person



<tbl\_r cells="3" ix="3" max

FROM PAGE ONE

## MHA issues fresh COVID-19 guidelines

More than 92 lakh COVID-19 cases and 1.3 lakh deaths have been reported in the country so far.

The MHA said the main focus of the guidelines was to consolidate the substantial gains that have been achieved against the spread of COVID-19, which is visible in the steady decline in number of active cases in the country. "Further, keeping in view the recent spike in new cases in few States/UTs, ongoing festival season and onset of winter, it is emphasised that to fully overcome the pandemic, there is need to maintain caution and to strictly follow the prescribed containment strategy, focussed on surveillance, containment and strict observance of the guidelines," it said. The list of containment zones will be notified online by District Collectors.

"Only essential activities shall be allowed in the containment zones. There shall be strict perimeter control to ensure that there is no movement of people in or out of these zones, except for medical emergencies and for supply of essential goods and services," the order said.

International air travel of passengers continues to remain barred except as permitted by MHA.

Cinema halls and theatres, with up to 50% capacity. Swimming pools, only for training of sports persons. Exhibition halls, only for business to business (B2B) purposes. Social/ religious/ sports/ entertainment/ educational/ cultural/ religious gatherings, with upto a maximum of 50% of the hall capacity, with a ceiling of 200 persons in closed spaces; and keeping of the size of the ground/ space in view, in open spaces," the order said. However, based on their assessment of the situation, State governments may reduce the ceiling to 100 persons or less, in closed spaces.

There shall be no restriction on inter-State and intra-State movement of persons and goods.

## SC stays gag order in Amaravati land scam

It stayed the investigation and barred the State from taking any coercive action against the persons named in the FIR. The order was based on a writ petition filed by Mr. Srinivas. The Jaganmohan Reddy government had appealed to the Supreme Court.

The Bench issued notice and posted the appeal for hearing in the last week of January 2021. The apex court did not, however, serve notice on Mr. Reddy, who is arraigned as the fifth respondent in the State appeal, noting the High Court had not done so earlier. Meanwhile, the High Court was asked not to pass any final orders in the case.

Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, for the Andhra government, dismissed notions that the FIR was a product of "regime revenge". He said such arguments made by senior advocates Harish Salve and Mukul Rohtagi, for Mr. Srinivas, was merely "rhetorical".

"Do they mean that a subsequent government can

never investigate its predecessor's activities? If a criminal case has been registered, the answer is simple, the case has to be investigated... The FIR is detailed. Do advocates generals get immunity no matter what crime they commit?" he said.

In fact, Mr. Dhavan said, the State had made a request on March 23 to the Centre to initiate a CBI investigation into the case. The September 15 stay order looked as if the High Court was dealing with a plea for "anticipatory bail".

"How can they stay an investigation which was in its nascent stage? Malafide against the State has to be proved through material evidence... Here he [Srinivas] had merely said the police and the State were acting like the Gestapo to get the stay order from the High Court," Mr. Dhavan submitted.

He objected to the gag on the media. "An FIR is a public document," he stated. He called the September 15 order "draconian".

## Farmers break barriers in bid to enter Capital

Tejinder Singh Virk, president of the Terai Kisan Sangathan, said they would join the protest with at least 2,000 farmers from Uttarakhand.

BKU (Charuni) spokesperson Rakesh Bains said the police used water canons to stop them, but they broke through the barriers to reach Pipili in Kurukshetra late in the evening.

Haryana DGP Manoj Yadava told *The Hindu* that the police tried to physically prevent the farmers from marching ahead, but they broke through barriers defying the police advice. "We don't want to get into scuffle with them because the use of force will become inevitable," said Mr. Yadava. He said barriers were put across the State but no fresh arrests were made on Wednesday. "The entire State is affected," he said.

As lakhs of farmers head towards Delhi, leaders of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha, alliance of farmers groups leading the protest, insist that their demand is repeal of the three farm laws and the dropping of the Electricity Bill, 2020. "We want these Bills to be repealed in toto, we will not accept any minor tweaking. The farmers are coming prepared to



Security arrangements being made on the Singhu-Narela border in New Delhi on Wednesday ahead of the farmers' protest. ■ PTI

stay regardless of any resistance," said Swaraj India national president Yogendra Yadav, during an online press conference.

A protest rally has been planned at 11 a.m. at the Janata Mantar whether or not farmers from other States are allowed to enter, said All-India Kisan Sabha general secretary Hannan Mollah. Rallies are also being planned at five points on the Delhi border.

The Morcha accused the BJP of using State governments to crush the movement. Apart from the barriers at the border, hundreds of farmer leaders have been detained or placed under house arrest in Haryana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, according to Rashtriya Kisan Mahasangh leader Ashutosh Kohar.

## 6,000 people moved from A.P. coastal hamlets

Farmers worried as paddy seedlings get submerged; tanks kept under watch

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
ONGOLE/NELLORE

Incessant rain lashed south coastal Andhra Pradesh under the influence of severe cyclonic storm Nivar over southwest Bay of Bengal, which intensified into a very severe cyclonic storm on Wednesday.

The SPSR Nellore district administration began evacuation of people living in the hamlets in, among other mandals, Tada, Sullurpetta, Gudur and Naidupeta, as rain occurred at most places and heavy to very heavy and extremely heavy rain in some places.

While 2,000 people have been evacuated in Nellore, 4,000 people have been moved to safer places in Prakasam district so far, official sources said. A control room was opened at the Collectorate. The sea remained rough to very rough.

Low-lying areas in, among other areas, Naidupeta and Venkatagiri towns were submerged following continuous downpour. Cautionary



**Safe shores:** Fishermen taking a break in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

signal-III was hoisted at Krishnapatnam.

Farmers were a worried lot as the downpour submerged paddy seedlings raised in the coastal mandals. Reviewing the situation with officials in Nellore, Irrigation Minister P. Anil Kumar Yadav asked the officials concerned to be fully on alert to

avert breaches to tanks as also major reservoirs including Somasila and Kandaleru which had reached maximum storage capacity.

Personnel of the National Disaster Response Force and the State Disaster Response Force rushed to the coastal mandals to oversee relief and rescue operations.

Prakasam Collector Pola Bhaskar visited Ulavapadu, which is likely to bear the brunt of the cyclone in the district after landfall.

**Port warnings**  
Local cautionary signal-III was hoisted at Machilipatnam, Nizampatnam and Vadaraju ports.

vanagiri and Khammam districts are in the orange alert zone, and estimated to receive very heavy rainfall.

Jogulamba Gadwal, Wanaparthi, Nagarkurnool, Mahabubnagar and Narayanpet, are in red alert zone and may receive extremely heavy rainfall (up to and more than 20.45 cm), according to the India Meteorological Department, Hyderabad.

The neighbouring Nalgonda, Suryapet, Yadadri-Bhadravathi

and 21 SDRF teams are on the standby in Tirupati to take up relief measures.

Seventeen mandals have been identified as most vulnerable. Officials have declared holiday for schools on Wednesday and Thursday. People can dial 100 or reach Chittoor police on WhatsApp at 9440900005 for support.

## Court pulls up Customs dept. for affidavit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOCCHI

The Customs Department drew fire from the Economic Offences Court, Ernakulam, for the "absence of fundamental elements in the affidavit," including how M. Sivasankar, former Principal Secretary to the Kerala Chief Minister, abetted smuggling activities in the diplomatic channel gold smuggling case.

It was while considering the custodial application of Mr. Sivasankar that the court pulled up the agency for omissions in the affidavit and remand reports.

The investigating officer had justifiable reason to arraign Mr. Sivasankar as accused, the judge said and allowed the custody of Mr. Sivasankar for five days.

## Drugs seized from boat bound for Sri Lanka

L. SRIKRISHNA  
S. VIJAY KUMAR  
THOOTHUKUDI/CHENNAI

The Coast Guard intercepted a boat carrying a huge quantity of heroin and some foreign nationals off the Thoothukudi coast early on Wednesday. Preliminary enquiry revealed that the suspects were armed and were transporting the consignment to Sri Lanka.

Defence vessels had stepped up surveillance along the eastern seaboard since Tuesday to assist fishermen in distress ahead of cyclone Nivar. It is not clear if the boat was intercepted by chance or after a specific input.

According to a source, the crew had about 100 kg of heroin in 99 packets, 20 cartons of synthetic drugs, five 9 mm pistols and a satellite phone, all worth about ₹500 crore in the international market. The boat belonged to a Sri Lankan national and had originated from Karachi, Pakistan, at least a week ago.

Agents operating in Pakistan have been a source of drug supply to south-east Asian countries via Sri Lanka. We will investigate to see if there is terror-funding angle," a top police officer told *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

## SC reserves order on in-service quota

Acute need for super-specialty doctors makes reservation necessary, says T.N.

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday reserved its order on the interim question whether Tamil Nadu and Kerala should provide 50% in-service reservation for admissions to super-specialty medical courses in government colleges for the current academic year.

A Bench led by Justice L. Nageswara Rao was hearing a batch of pleas filed by doctors, including postgraduate holders qualified in NEET 2020, challenging reservation of seats for in-service candidates in super-specialty courses.

The Tamil Nadu government argued that there was an acute need for super-specialty qualified doctors both in the medical academia and



Doctors have moved the Supreme Court against the decision by Kerala & T.N.

in practice. The States argued that preparation for admission to these courses had started almost immediately following the Constitution Bench judgment on August 31. The judgment had empowered States to devise a separate channel of entry for in-service doctors. "State has the legislative competence

and authority to provide for a separate source of entry for in-service candidates seeking admission to post-graduate degree/diploma courses in exercise of powers under Entry 25, List III," the apex court had concluded in the August 31 verdict.

Senior advocate P. Wilson, for caveators, submitted that the issue of in-service reservation to government doctors was already settled. "The matter is being re-agitated again and again."

Both Madras and Kerala High Courts had not intervened with the States' move to provide in-service reservation. However, the doctors, who have challenged the quota, refer to a 1999 Constitution Bench verdict in their favour. This judgment, they said, had held

that "merit, and merit alone, is the basis for admission at the super-specialty level".

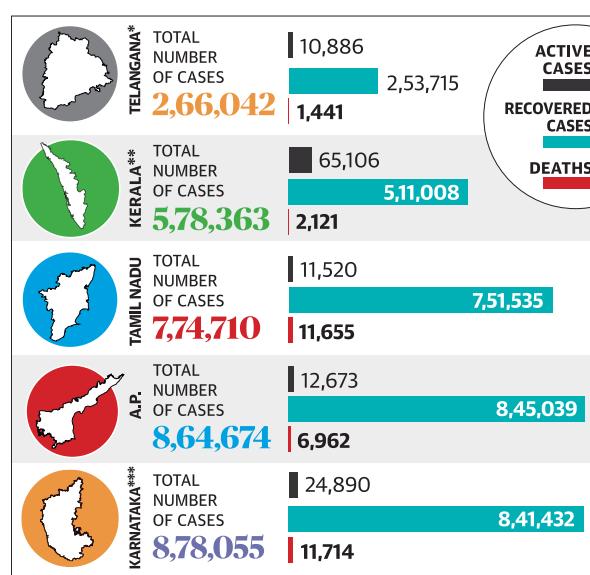
One of the pleas challenged a November 7 order of the Tamil Nadu government allowing the Secretary, Selection Committee, to conduct counselling and fill 50% of the super-specialty seats in the government medical colleges with in-service candidates in the State.

The appeal argued that the State order was contrary to the Postgraduate Medical Education (Amendment) Regulations of 2019, which mandated that the Directorate General of Health Services should be in charge of the admission process.

"There is no concept of any reservation for admission to super-specialty medical courses," they contended.

## Telangana, A.P. report less than 1,000 cases

Kerala's positivity rate for 6,491 cases is 9.83%; Karnataka records 1.33% with incidence of 1,630



Andhra Pradesh reported 831 new infections and six deaths on Wednesday. Also, 60,762 samples were tested, registering 1.37% positivity rate.

The test positivity rate which dipped over the past week stood at 9.83% on Wednesday. The Health Department added 26 deaths on Wednesday.

Kozhikode district reported the highest number of new cases at 833, Ermakulam 774, Malappuram 664, Thrissur 652, Alappuzha 546, Kollam 539, Palakkad 463, Thiruvananthapuram 461, Kottayam 450, Pathanamthitta 287, Kannur 242, Wayanad 239, Idukki 238, and Kasaragod 103 cases.

Karnataka on Wednesday reported 1,630 new cases. As many as 1,333 people were

discharged on Wednesday. While the positivity rate for the day stood at 1.33%, the Case Fatality Rate (CFR) touched 1.16%.

Bengaluru Urban reported 916 cases, taking its tally to 3,66,233. With 11 deaths coming from Bengaluru, the toll in the district rose to 4,101.

Tamil Nadu recorded 1,534 fresh cases on Wednesday. The health officials said 16 deaths occurred in the last 24 hours. So far 11,655 persons lost their lives to the disease. In Chennai district, 467 more persons tested positive

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

## Jallikattu is India's entry for Oscar awards

Malayalam movie, which has been directed by Lijo Jose Pellissery, was shortlisted from 26 films

P.K. AJITH KUMAR  
S. PRAVEEN  
KOZHIKODE/  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Malayalam film *Jallikattu*, directed by Lijo Jose Pellissery, has been selected as India's official entry for the Best International Feature Film category for the 93rd Academy Awards. *Jallikattu* is the third Malayalam film after *Guru* (1997) and *Adaminte Makan Abu* (2011) to be chosen as the country's official entry for the Oscars.

"It is a great honour," Mr. Pellissery told *The Hindu*.

*Jallikattu* will certainly face stiff competition at the Oscars, but do not be surprised if it becomes the



**A winner:** *Jallikattu* is based on S. Hareesh's story *Maoist*.

first Indian film to get that honour after *Lagaan* in 2001. Before that, *Mother India* (1957) and *Salaam Bombay!* (1988) had made the grade.

Based on writer S. Hareesh's acclaimed story

Before long, the entire village, located in the wild high ranges, is out to trap the elusive buffalo. With every mile that it covers, the buffalo unravels the animosities, the violence, and the selfish interests simmering beneath in the village, which betrays the calm on its surface.

Salim Ahmed, the director of *Adaminte Makan Abu*, believes *Jallikattu* could impress the members of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, who shortlist the films for the Oscars. "I think *Jallikattu* is the best film India has entered for the Oscars for a long time. Having seen most of the

Oscar winners and the nominated films in this category, I feel *Jallikattu* has tremendous potential," he said. He said *Jallikattu* was rooted in Indian culture. "You can't say that about many of the films that have been nominated in the past from India," he said.

The selection has been made by a 14-member committee of the Film Federation of India from a shortlist of 26 films.

*Jallikattu* was premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival, garnering praise from critics. It was later screened at the Busan International Film Festival and a host of other major venues.

## No precipitate step on women officers: SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday urged the Centre not to take any "precipitate" action against women officers found ineligible for permanent commission.

A Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud asked the Centre to file details and reasons for not finding some of the 615 women Army officers fit for permanent commission (PC).

The court heard an urgent application debunking the defence establishment's announcement that 422 of the 615 women officers screened were found "fit" for a permanent commission.

The application filed by several women officers led by Lt. Col. Ashu Yadav claimed that the announcement was more optics than substance.

## NIA arrests PDP youth leader

A DDC election candidate, he is alleged to have links with the Hizbul Mujahideen

VIJAYA SINGH  
PEERZADA ASHIQ  
NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR



Waheed Parra

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday arrested Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) youth leader Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra for allegedly supporting Hizbul Mujahideen, a banned terror outfit. The arrest comes days after he filed his nomination to contest the upcoming District Development Council (DDC) election from his home constituency in Pulwama district of south Kashmir.

The NIA said Mr. Parra's arrest was made in the case registered against suspended police officer Davinder Singh, who was arrested with a Hizbul terrorist Syed Naveed Mushtaq, alias Naved Babu, on January 11.

Mr. Parra was among hundreds of political workers in J&K who were detained or arrested in the run-up to Au-

gust 5, 2019, when the Rajya Sabha passed two Bills to revoke the special status of J&K under Article 370.

He was in detention since August 4, 2019 and was released in February this year, following which he was kept under house arrest. It was only a couple of months ago that curbs were lifted and he was allowed to move freely.

When asked that Mr. Parra was under detention at the time of the arrest of Mr. Singh, an NIA official said that his association with Hizbul dates back to 2018.

"NIA arrested Waheed-U-

Rehman Parra, the youth wing leader of Peoples Democratic Party, in connection with Naved Babu/Davinder Singh case for supporting Hizbul Mujahideen in conspiracy with the other accused persons," the NIA said.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said Mr. Parra had no connection whatsoever with the case and was being falsely charged. "All just to blackmail and intimidate PDP and other mainstream political parties in J&K. I can personally vouch for Waheed's integrity, honesty and character. It's up to the judiciary now to dispense justice and ensure he is released at the earliest," Ms. Mufti said.

Connecting his arrest with the District Development Council polls, a PDP spokesman said, "Waheed was supposed to contest the polls from his home constituency in Pulwama. He was arrested

immediately after filing the nomination for the polls, a clear attempt by a central agency meddling into the electoral process and influencing it in favor of the cronies of New Delhi."

He said the arrest signals the level of depravity the BJP and RSS could go to in targeting and damaging its political opponents. "These actions of New Delhi will not deter the PDP. Our actions and our voices will become louder," he added.

Mr. Parra had been a critic of the revocation of Article 370 after he was released.

He was earlier called to Delhi by the NIA for questioning in the month of October, when he was asked about his links with advocate Irfan Shafi Mir, who was arrested with Davinder Singh on January 11. He was again called by the NIA to Delhi this week and was arrested after questioning.

## Delhi rattled by our decision to contest polls: Mehbooba

Roshni scam is a new ploy to divert attention, she says

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR



Mehbooba Mufti

Manoj Sinha and State Election Commissioner K.K. Sharma were making false claims that every candidate is allowed to go for campaigning," the former chief minister said.

Ms. Mufti said the BJP would "use grenades and guns to bag seats".

### 'Should defeat BJP'

"People should defeat the BJP this time. The Centre was of the belief that parties in Jammu and Kashmir won't participate in the polls so that they can ensure the victory of their candidates through back-door channels," she said.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration, in a new list issued on Tuesday, named Dr. Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah as "land encroachers".

## Details of land encroachment put up on J&K website

Property of PDP leader Talib Choudhary also mentioned



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) administration has on its website put up details of 0.3 acre of government land in Jammu that has been allegedly encroached by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to build its office.

The list also includes the details of property owned by PDP leader Talib Choudhary, who is alleged to have encroached on 0.25 acre of government land in Channi Rama village of Bahu tehsil in Jammu district.

The details of the property have been included in a list that says "encroached State land (physically en-

croached but not shown in revenue record)- Other than Roshni".

The list published earlier, following a J&K High Court order, had mentioned the Jammu residence of former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, as having encroached on forest land owned by the government.

The J&K High Court, in an order on October 9, had directed that details of "State land in unauthorised occupation" shall be disclosed on the government's website, along with the names of the beneficiaries under the Roshni Act that was scrapped by the High Court.

The beneficiaries under the Roshni Act included former State ministers, retired civil servants and politicians.

## U.P. law a ploy to pit Dalits and Muslims against each other'

OMAR RASHID  
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government's ordinance against unlawful conversions is a ploy to pit Dalits and Muslims against each other and it would create fear among the communities, Dalit rights activists in the State said on Wednesday.

S.R. Darapuri, retired IPS officer and a Dalit rights activist, said the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Ordinance, 2020 was indirectly targeted at Muslims, Dalits and Christians.

While noting that conversion of Dalits to Christianity and Islam was not as common as before, he said the ordinance was meant to deter them from converting to the Buddhist faith.

### Buddhist conversion

"They are killing many birds with one stone... Dalits will face the biggest hitch. The

biggest adverse impact will

be on the Buddhist conversion of Dalits," said Mr. Darapuri.

Udit Raj, former MP and Congress spokesperson, who has conducted mass conversions in the past, said the ordinance was a ploy to pit Dalits against Muslims.

Ram Kripal Pasi, national general secretary of the Akhil Bharatiya Pasi Samaj outfit, said the ordinance was a strategy of the BJP-RSS to "keep Dalits under the Hindoo fold".

Any subsequent notification/amendment in the matter shall be notified in www.iocl.com only.

Note: The Corporation shall have no obligation to give regular employment to Apprentices. The Apprentices shall have no right to claim regular employment from the Corporation on the basis of this Apprenticeship at any point of time. This Apprenticeship shall not create any liability on IOCL for providing any job to the Apprentice.

Advertisement No.IOCL/MKTG/SR/APPR.2020-21 (Phase-I)

Marketing Division Southern Region

### Notification for Engagement of 493 Apprentices under the Apprentices Act 1961

IndianOil, Marketing Division, Southern Region, as a measure of Skill Development Initiative for the Nation invites applications for Engagement of 493 Trade Apprentices (ITI / Accountant / Data Entry Operator-Fresher/ Skill Certificate Holders) for the year 2020-21 (Phase-I) at its Locations in the States of Tamil Nadu & Puducherry, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh & Telangana.

Full text of the Advertisement including eligibility criteria of age, qualification and details of stipend, relaxations, concessions, reservations, etc. will be hosted in our Corporate website [www.iocl.com](http://www.iocl.com) or at (<http://www.iocl.com/PeopleCareers/job.aspx>) from 27th November 2020 @ 10.00 hrs.

How to apply: Interested candidates meeting the prescribed eligibility criteria may apply through the above mentioned website from 27th November 2020 @ 10.00 hrs onwards. Closing date for online submission of Application is 12th December 2020 @ 17:00 hrs.

Any subsequent notification/amendment in the matter shall be notified in www.iocl.com only.

Note: The Corporation shall have no obligation to give regular employment to Apprentices. The Apprentices shall have no right to claim regular employment from the Corporation on the basis of this Apprenticeship at any point of time. This Apprenticeship shall not create any liability on IOCL for providing any job to the Apprentice.

Advertisement No.IOCL/MKTG/SR/APPR.2020-21 (Phase-I)

NATIONAL AGRI-FOOD BIOTECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE (NABI)

Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India Knowledge City, Sector-81, Mohali-140306, Punjab, INDIA Website: [www.nabi.res.in](http://www.nabi.res.in), Tel: 0172-521300

### e-Notice Inviting Tenders

e-Tenders in Two parts (Technical Bid and Price Bid) are invited on the behalf of Executive Director, NABI for the award of works of (i) SITC of Electrical works, (ii) SITC of HVAC system, BMS and Fire Safety system, (iii) Civil Works for Supercomputing facility/Data Centre at Lab Bldg., NABI.

The complete details of these tenders will be available on the NABI Website: [www.nabi.res.in](http://www.nabi.res.in) & CPPP Website: <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Any changes/amendments if made in the tender, will be available on NABI website and CPPP website. Bidders may kindly refer the above websites before submitting the bids.

Manager-Admin

### GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT

E-mail : [ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com](mailto:ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com)

### Bid Identification No. CE-W.B.P.(O)-16 / 2020-21

1. Sl. No. Name of Work Estimated Cost (Rs.) Period of completion Class of Contractor

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Period of completion	Class of Contractor
1	Improvement to Belpara to Dhumabhatia Road (ODR) from 5,000 Km to 12,025 Km in the District of Balangir under NABARD Assistance RIDF-XXX.	7,02,43,337.00	07 (seven) Calendar Months	Super / Special Class

2	Improvement to Charpal-Tulundi road from 0.0 to 6.50 km in the District of Sambalpur under NABARD Assistance RIDF - XXX	6,60,55,630.00	07 (seven) Calendar Months	Super / Special Class
---	---	----------------	----------------------------	-----------------------

2. Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal from 10.00 AM of 27.11.2020 to 5.00 PM of 17.12.2020 for online bidding.

3. Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal upto 5.00 PM of 17.12.2020 and to be opened on 18.12.2020 at 11.30 AM.

4. Name and address of the officer inviting Bid : Chief Engineer, World Bank Project, Odisha, Nirman Soudha, Unit-V, Bhubaneswar - 751001.

5. Further details can be seen on the e-procurement portal "<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>". Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website

Chief Engineer, World Bank Project, Odisha

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR

OPR-34003/11/0020/2021

3. Reclamations of Dents on cylinders 6000015583 40 Au 01-01-2021 At 10:45 AM (IST)

Sealed tenders are invited from eligible and qualified tenderers for the following items :

क्र.सं. मात्र/सेवाएँ का संक्षिप्त विवरण निविदा संख्या तारीख और वंदन करने का समय/ Closing date and time for receipt of tenders

क्र.सं. Sl. No.	भाग/सेवाएँ का संक्षिप्त विवरण	निविदा सं. Tender no.	मात्रा Quantity	Closing date and time for receipt of tenders
-----------------	-------------------------------	-----------------------	-----------------	--

1.	Granite Stone Works on Stairs	6000015498	1 Job	29-12-2020
----	-------------------------------	------------	-------	------------

2.	Supply and Installation of Sliding Sensor Door Automation System	6000015558	1 No.	At 10:45 AM (IST)
----	--	------------	-------	-------------------

3.	Reclamation of Dents on cylinders	6000015583	40 Au	01-01-2021 At 10:45 AM (IST)
----	-----------------------------------	------------	-------	------------------------------

आगे विवरण हेतु कृपया हमारा वेबसाइट पर ही प्रकाशित किया जाएगा।

For further details, please visit our website at <http://spphyderabad.spmcil.com> & amendment / corrigendum if any, will be published on website only.

हस्ता/Sd/-

DGM (TO) & CPSO (कृते मुख्य मान्यवर्धक) (For Chief General Manager)

### ANNA UNIVERSITY CHENNAI - 600 025

TENDER NOTICE - Tender Ref No.003/COE/C10/CONFIDENTIAL/2020

Online Tenders in Two-Bid System are invited for the following services for the Controller of Examinations, Anna University, Chennai - 025.

Sl. No. Tender Ref No. Name of the service Qty. Approx. cost Rs.

1	003/COE/C10/ CONFIDENTIAL/2020	Conducting Proctored Online Examination for the Under- Graduate and Post - Graduate Candidates of the University Departments and Affiliated Colleges and Distance Education Programmes of the University	1	9,25,00,000/-
---	--------------------------------	--	---	---------------

The tender documents can be downloaded by registering in the website <https://tenders.gov.in> from 03.00 pm on 26.11.2020. The filled-in tender documents can be submitted by uploading in the website up to 03.00 pm on 14.12.2020 and will be opened at 03.00 pm on 15.12.2020. Other detailed tender conditions, future corrigenda etc., please visit the website (<https://tenders.gov.in>).

DIPR4389/Tender/2020

REGISTRAR

### DIRECTORATE OF PRINTING:STATIONERY AND PUBLICATION:ODISHA: MADHUPATNA : CUTTACK-753010.

## NSCN (IM) slams Centre on peace talks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

The Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, or NSCN (IM) has slammed the Centre for being "ambivalent" about resolving the 23-year-old Naga political issue.

The fresh attack by the extremist group was timed with the visit of General Manoj Mukund Naravane, the Chief of Army Staff, to Nagaland on issues related to peace, tranquillity and security in the State.

In a statement issued late Tuesday evening, the NSCN (IM) criticised the directive of the Ministry of Home Affairs to the paramilitary Assam Rifles to intensify operations against the Naga groups. This, along with the Centre's ambivalent attitude, has become the "boiling point of the conflict" after more than 23 years of political talks since the signing of a ceasefire agreement in 1997, the outfit said.

The General returned to New Delhi on Wednesday.

### IN BRIEF



Vijay Kumar Sinha is Bihar Assembly Speaker

The ruling National Democratic Alliance candidate Vijay Kumar Sinha was elected Speaker of the Bihar Assembly through voice vote on Wednesday. Mr. Sinha got 126 votes while 114 members opposed him in the 243-strong Assembly. The Mahagathbandhan fielded six-time RJD MLA from Siwan Awadh Bihar Chaudhury as its nominee.

#### Portal launched for ID cards for transpersons

NEW DELHI  
The Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry on Wednesday launched a national portal for transgender persons to apply for certificates and identity cards. Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thaawar Chand Gehlot said the portal had been developed within two months of the Ministry notifying the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2020, on September 29.

#### U.P. extends ESMA for another six months

LUCKNOW  
The Uttar Pradesh government on Wednesday extended the Essential Services Maintenance Act in the State, banning strikes in all departments and corporations under it for a period of another six months. ESMA gives police right to arrest without a warrant anybody violating the Act's provisions. It has been invoked after taking permission from Governor Anandiben Patel. PTI

#### M.P. proposes jail term for forced conversions

BHOPAL  
The BJP government in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday said it is proposing a jail term of 10 years for anyone found guilty of using marriage to force someone to change religion. The announcement by the State Home Minister came a day after the U.P. government approved a draft ordinance to curb forcible or 'dishonest' religious conversions. PTI

#### Prefix calls from landline to mobile with 0 soon

NEW DELHI  
Starting January 15, all consumers trying to dial a mobile number using landline phones will need to prefix the mobile number with the numeral 0, the Department of Telecom said on Wednesday. Approximately 2539 million numbering series is expected to be generated due to the process, freeing up sufficient numbering resources for future use. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India had made the recommendation.

# China slams India's ban on apps

India should correct its discriminatory approach, says Chinese Foreign Ministry

ANANTH KRISHNAN

Tencent, Baidu, Sina and ByteDance, which once saw India as their biggest potential overseas market, are now no longer accessible in India.

Tuesday's move listed 43 mobile apps, including Alibaba-linked apps such as AliExpress and Alipay Cashier, citing threats to national security, integrity and sovereignty of India.

"India should immediately correct its discriminatory approach and avoid causing further damage to bilateral cooperation", said Zhao Lijian, spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

#### 'An excuse'

A separate statement from the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi on Wednesday said China "firmly oppose[s] the Indian side's repeated use of 'national security' as an excuse to prohibit some mobile apps with Chinese background."

With Tuesday's ban, more than 200 Chinese apps, many owned by some of China's biggest Internet firms, including Alibaba,

nese companies. China firmly rejects them. The Chinese government always asks Chinese companies to observe international rules and local laws and regulations when doing business overseas. The Indian government has the responsibility to follow market principles and protect the lawful rights and interests of international investors including Chinese companies. China-India economic and trade cooperation, by nature, is mutually beneficial".

#### Deadlocked talks

Tuesday's move came amid deadlocked talks to push disengagement along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), with both sides yet to agree on a plan to disengage and return to status quo prior to China's multiple transgressions starting in May.

While the Chinese State-run media hasn't reported widely on the LAC transgressions, the app ban has been covered widely in the Chinese press, with calls for

repercussions targeting Indian companies.

India has sought to signal clearly to China that trade and investment relations cannot continue as normal while the border situation remains tense.

Delhi is of the view that Beijing has this summer violated multiple border agreements that both sides have broadly abided by for close to three decades.

The Chinese government, in contrast, has in public statements repeatedly called on India to delink the border from other aspects of the relationship - a stand that officials in India say is untenable unless China returns to the status quo on the borders.

"China and India are the opportunities of development to each other rather than threats," the Chinese Embassy statement said.

"Both sides should bring bilateral economic and trade relations back to the right path for mutual benefit and win-win results on the basis of dialogue and negotiation."

# Bombay HC to rule on Malegaon victim's plea

Bench was hearing interim application

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI



Lt. Col. Prasad Purohit

charging his official duties as an Army officer. Therefore, Ms. Gokhale said, the intervention application should not be allowed.

Mr. Desai read judgments which said that the victim had a right to intervene in all matters related to a case. The court then asked the counsel for the National Investigation Agency Sandesh Patil to explain the stage at which the trial was.

The Bench then said that it would pronounce the order on whether or not the intervention would be allowed on November 27, and that the main issue of the plea filed by Mr. Purohit would be heard on December 3.

# Medical colleges may open by Dec. 1

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry on Wednesday directed the States and the Union Territories to initiate necessary steps for the reopening of medical colleges on or before December 1, while following COVID-19 reopening guidelines issued by the competent authorities in the respective Central/State/UT governments.

The Health Ministry has obtained concurrence for this from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

# Syringe firms ready to meet demand

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The All India Syringe and Needle Manufacturers Association (AISNMA) has now written to the Central Government offering an additional capacity of over 350 million syringes per month in order to meet the entire demand for mass COVID-19 vaccination through domestic production.

Meanwhile, India has reported 481 COVID-19 case fatalities in the past 24 hours, according to data released by the Health Ministry on Wednesday.

# Odisha twin separated by surgery dies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BHUBANESWAR

Kalia, one of the five-year-old twins, who were craniopagus conjoined and then separated in one of most complex operations ever carried out in India, passed away at SCB Medical College Hospital, Cuttack on Wednesday. He died of septicaemia.

His twin brother, Jaga, is doing fine. The rare conjoined twins were separated at AIIMS, New Delhi, by a big medical team on August 28, 2017.

"Kalia's condition had deteriorated five days ago. His condition turned extremely critical due to septicaemia on Wednesday. Despite the best efforts by a team of doctors, we could not save him," said Bhurbananda Moharana, emergency officer of SCB Medical College Hospital.

# PM to lay foundation for new Parliament building

Event likely to be held next month

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to lay the foundation stone for a new Parliament building in the first half of December, sources said.

The new building will be constructed close to the existing one under the Central Vista redevelopment project and it is expected to be completed in 21 months from the start of construction work. The redevelopment project of Central Vista - the nation's power corridor - envisages a new triangular Parliament building, a common central secretariat and revamping of the 3-km-long Rajpath, from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate.

Although the proposed date of laying the foundation stone of the new Parliament building is around December 10, the final date would depend on the availability of the Prime Minister, the sources said.

According to the plan, the new Parliament building, which will have separate offices for all MPs, will be equipped with the latest digital interfaces as a step to



Narendra Modi

wards creating "paperless offices". The new building will also have a grand Constitution Hall to showcase India's democratic heritage, a lounge for members of Parliament, a library, multiple committee rooms, dining areas and ample parking space.

In September, Tata Projects Limited had won the bid to construct a new Parliament building at a cost of ₹861.90 crore. The existing building is a British-era building, designed by Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker who were responsible for planning and construction of New Delhi.

The foundation stone of the existing Parliament House was laid on February 12, 1921 and the construction took six years and cost ₹83 lakh at that time.

# Server snag hits nutrition portal

The system to monitor services has been down for nearly three months

JAGRITI CHANDRA  
NEW DELHI

A massive nutrition portal developed by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), which is used by the Centre as well as most States, and touted as the world's biggest nutrition system, to record and monitor delivery of services to children and mothers across nearly seven lakh anganwadis has been down for nearly three months, several State governments have confirmed.

The snag comes as a setback at a time there is a call for the need to intensify efforts to identify mothers and children in need of nutritional interventions due to rising levels of hunger and poverty. The software was developed under the Poshan Abhiyan approved by the Cabinet in 2017 with a three-year budget of ₹9,000 crore, half of which was for ICT-based real-time monitoring system. While 50% of the amount is funded by the government budgetary support, the remaining 50% is a loan from the World Bank.

"The ICDS-CAS server is down and we have written to the Central government to rectify it. It has been down



Tech trouble: A monitoring centre showing the ICDS-CAS server down on Wednesday. ■ V.V. KRISHNAN

for almost two months and we have requested for it to be rectified. But we continue to deliver dry rations to the beneficiaries," Kavitha Ramu, ICDS chief for Tamil Nadu told *The Hindu*.

#### Daily tasks

POSAN Abhiyan's Integrated Child Development Services Common Application Software (ICDS-CAS) is an innovative web and mobile-phone based application to improve service delivery and programme management. The application facilitates anganwadi workers (AWWs) in their daily tasks, helps supervisors to assess and provide feedback to the workers and helps other programme officials to

track service delivery and take informed decisions. The ICDS-CAS has three components - a mobile-based application for AWWs, a mobile-based application for supervisors and a web-based dashboard for other programme officials.

It is reliably learnt that the server issue surfaced after the government insisted that the BMGF and its collaborator, U.S.-based Dimagi, host India's public data with an Indian service provider leading to issues in managing capacity to anchor such vast data.

India has total 14 lakh anganwadis and nearly 10 crore ICDS beneficiaries. A query sent to the BMGF remained unanswered till the time of going to print.

# Ahmed Patel, Cong. strategist, passes away

He was the back-room manager during the 10-year rule of the Congress-led UPA at the Centre

SANDEEP PHUKAN  
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha member and senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel, 71, died on Wednesday after a prolonged battle with complications arising out of a COVID-19 infection.

He had contracted the virus more than a month-and-a-half ago, on October 1, and was treated at a private hospital at Faridabad before being shifted to Medanta Medicity in Gurugram.

Popularly known as Ahmed Bhai or AP in political circles, Mr. Patel, who served as the powerful political secretary to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, was the quintessential backroom strategist during the 10-year rule of the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA). He was never a part of the Manmohan Singh Cabinet yet enjoyed more power than any Cabinet Minister.

Known for his loyalty to the Gandhis, Mr. Patel served as a key link not just between the Congress and its allies but also Dr. Singh's government.

His ability to reach out to corporate as well as political leaders prompted the former party chief Rahul Gandhi, who was not known to share



a great relationship with Mr. Patel, to bring him back as the party's treasurer in August 2018. With the coffers much depleted ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha election, Mr. Patel was expected to get donations from all quarters including industry leaders. If Pranab Mukherjee was the troubleshooter for the UPA, Mr. Patel was, inevitably, the crisis manager.

#### Buzzing with activity

Late-night meetings at his 23 Mother Teresa Crescent residence or Mukherjee's 13 Taliatora bungalow were a regular feature whenever the

UPA faced a crisis. Be it the alleged 2G spectrum auction scam involving DMK leaders or the walkout by the Left parties over the India-U.S. nuclear deal in July 2008, Mr. Patel was the man that the Congress and Ms. Gandhi relied upon to "save" the UPA government. Though his name was thrown up during the cash-for-vote scandal (when the BJP alleged that cash was offered to MPs ahead of the Left-sponsored no-confidence vote against the UPA), a parliamentary panel that probed the scandal did not find anything against him.

The Enforcement Director

(ED) had questioned the 71-year-old leader multiple times, as recently as July this year in a money laundering as well as a bank fraud case involving the Gujarat-based Sterling Group. Mr. Patel, however, called it as political witchhunt and vendetta. While his stature grew nationally, the Congress in Gujarat shrank over the years and many blamed his "to-wearing presence" as the reason no local leader could grow in the State.

Handpicked as a Parliamentary Secretary by former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1985, Mr. Patel had represented the Bharuch

constituency thrice (1977, 1980 and 1984) as a Lok Sabha member. After his defeat in the 1989 Lok Sabha election, he entered the Rajya Sabha in 1993. His last election in August 2017 displayed his fighting side as he seemed to be up against the entire BJP, who, after nominating Amit Shah and Smriti Irani for the first two vacant Rajya Sabha seats from Gujarat, was determined to deny the third seat to the Congress nominee. He, however, scraped through the election with no votes to spare.

Mr. Patel won many a difficult battle but lost the one against COVID-19.

# President and PM mourn Cong. leader

Lost an irreplaceable comrade: Sonia

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Tributes were paid by President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress president Sonia Gandhi to senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel, who died on Wednesday morning.

Mr. Kovind tweeted, "Distracted to know that veteran Congress leader Ahmed Patel is no more. An astute Parliamentarian, Shri Patel combined the skills of a strategist and the charm of a mass leader. His amiability won him friends across party lines. My condolences to his family and friends."

Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi, who often didn't share a cordial relationship with Mr. Patel, called him an asset. "It is a sad day. Shri Ahmed Patel was a pillar of the Congress party. He lived and breathed Congress and stood with the party through its most difficult times," he tweeted.

Ms. Gandhi said that in his death she had lost an "irreplaceable comrade, faithful colleague and a friend." Mr. Patel dedicated his entire life to the Congress, she

noted. In a condolence message, she said, "His faithfulness and dedication, his commitment to his duty, his always being there to help, his generosity were rare qualities that distinguished him from others. I have lost an irreplaceable comrade, a faithful colleague and a friend".

**Manmohan's tribute**

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who often depended on Mr. Patel to communicate with the party and Ms. Gandhi, said his knowledge of the Congress was unmatched. "In his death, the Congress party and this country, has lost a very good leader who always thought for the betterment of the poor and downtrodden people of the society", he wrote in a letter to Mr. Patel's wife, Meenoo Ahmed.

Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi, who often didn't share a cordial relationship with Mr. Patel, called him an asset. "It is a sad day. Shri Ahmed Patel was a pillar of the Congress party. He lived and breathed Congress and stood with the party through its most difficult times," he tweeted.

A ND-NDE

Cashing in on the avenues offered by streaming platforms, independent hip-hop music is taking off in South India

PRAVEEN SUDEVAN

*Boom boom shaka laka boom boom shak! Street Cat's gonna knock you back!*

This bicycle ad jingle from the '90s is, in a way, responsible for the arrival of rap in South India. Suresh Peters, the composer, felt it would be novel to use rap, a genre unfamiliar in India then. The experiment worked.

Inspired by the jingle's success, Suresh suggested using a rap song for his friend's upcoming Tamil film album. The friend, a young film composer, found the idea exciting. They, however, decided to make the song more local. Instead of fast-paced English, they went for Madras slang. Words like *ghilli, goli, manja* and more made it to the song. The song was a mix of folk and rap. It was refreshingly new yet so familiar. It became a pop-culture phenomenon.

Twenty-six years later, Suresh is grateful but also mildly miffed about making 'Petta Rap' with his composer friend, AR Rahman. "I have made music of various genres after that. But I am still mistakenly labelled as a rapper because of that one song," he laughs. Such was the impact of 'that one song'. Arivarasu Kalaiarasan (popularly known as Arivu), who is among the leading rappers in Tamil Nadu, says, "That was the first time a lot of us even heard the word 'rap'."

Even a decade ago, rap in South India was rare. It was mostly confined to the fringes except for occasional appearances in films. Rahman, Suresh, Apache Indian, Blaaze among others familiarised the genre. But independent artists were sparse and largely invisible.

Then sometime around the beginning of the previous decade, a slow-yet-steady emergence of such artistes, powered by YouTube and social media, began. Now, rap has become a part of mainstream music.



## Emerging from the UNDERGROUND

### A rythm of cultures

Rap in South India has come untethered from its (bicycle) commercial beginnings and, through various artists, taken numerous forms. Though we are talking about the genre's evolution in one part of the country, it is difficult and probably unfair to create labels such as 'South Indian rap', for it does not exist. The artists come from diverse backgrounds, they tell different stories and have distinct styles.

Eboshi and Contra of the band Cartel Madras

call their style the 'Goonda Rap'. The sisters come from a mix of cultures – they are half-Malayalis, born in Chennai and raised in Canada. They are also among the few brown queer rappers.

"We want our music to come at you with a rush of all the things that have gone into who we are. So when you hear Cartel Madras, you might hear a hint of Ilaiyaraaja's synth mixed in with 808s [a type of electronic percussion sample]. You might see the rhetoric of [late political activist] Arrikad Varghese mixed in with a nod to rapper MF Doom. You might feel like you're in Chinatown in Toronto, or so-

mewhere in Chennai in the late '90s," they say, via email from Canada, about their music.

Meanwhile, in Kerala, there is Vedan (which means hunter in Malayalam), for whom rap is a tool to talk about social issues. He grew up in a colony close to the Thrissur railway station, where people struggled for necessities. "I didn't want to be a rap artist. I just needed a medium to express these issues and I found rap," he says.

### Voices of change

Vedan is not alone. There are many young rappers whose works brazenly question the status quo. Arivu, who is a big inspiration for Vedan, is one of them. Arivu's Tamil rap song "Sand-

Seivom" (Let's Fight), for instance, criticised the Government's Citizenship (Amendment) Act and National Register of Citizens. A follower of Ambedkar and Periyar, most of Arivu's independent works deal with socio-political issues such as caste oppression, religious discrimination, gender inequality.

"Rap was a music of the oppressed. People in the African-American community used it to express their pain and protest. I, too, use the form to talk about socially relevant issues," says Arivu. "So, even when I write songs for a commercial film, I try to go beyond the usual hero-worship elements and write about the connection the hero has with society."

Telugu rapper Streetviolater's works evoke a sense of helpless anger. His latest song, 'Maranam' (which means death in Telugu), is a condemnation of corrupt governments, media, education system among others. Like Vedan, Streetviolater also never wanted to be a rapper. "I was part of a rock band. But then, I realised that I had a lot of things to say as an individual. So, I started rapping," he says.

People in the music industry say that the following for hip hop music has increased exponentially over the last decade. "Hip hop has been one of the biggest breakout genres in the country, especially after the release of 'Gully Boy'. Hip-hop is coming of age and will grow into being a

New age rappers (Clockwise from left) Eboshi and Contra of Cartel Madras, Arivu, Alt OK and Streetviolater

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



I didn't want to be a rap artist. I just needed a medium to express these issues and I found rap

VEDAN  
Rapper from Kerala



thriving genre in the country," says Spotify's Padmanabhan NS, the Artists & Label Partnerships Head, India.

"While Punjabi and Hindi hip hop still dominate the desi hip hop landscape, there is definitely a burgeoning scene in the South," says a spokesperson from JioSaavn. Streaming platforms such as Spotify and JioSaavn have been hotbeds for upcoming hip hop artists. With these avenues, it is now easier than before to start an independent music career; sustaining it is, however, a challenge.

Kannada rapper Alok Babu R (popularly known as All OK), for instance, started his independent music career before the days of digital streaming. "Forget hip hop, there wasn't an independent music scene in Kannada then. But we hung on, slowly got noticed. From zero views on YouTube [when we started], we got over a million for each song," he says.

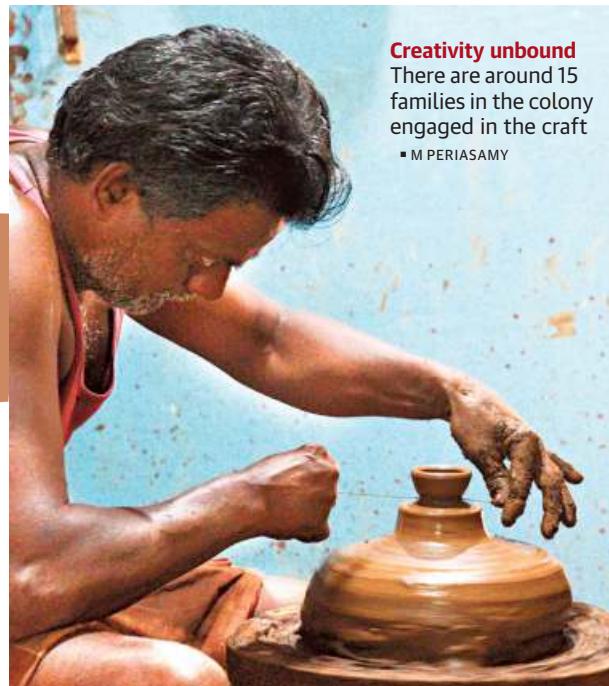
Blaaze has a word of advice for young rappers. "It's a cycle. You need to hit the mainstream for the world to take notice, then have an already established fan base or audience for your independent work to get recognised," he says.

Blaaze's independent tracks 'In My Fathers Words' and 'Ban The Crooked Police' fetched him opportunities to work with Rahman in films. The popularity in films in turn earned him more appreciation for his independent works. "It's more about creating," he says. "Whether it's in films or independently, the process is what you must love and that's why longevity succeeds."



## Season of hope

The pandemic silenced the potters' wheels at a colony of the craftspeople in Coimbatore; but their fortunes are turning thanks to Karthigai Deepam



**Creativity unbound**  
There are around 15 families in the colony engaged in the craft  
• M PERIASAMY

when we had the time to sit together and talk," says Shekar. "We played carrom outside our houses, spoke about the good old times, got a chance to rest our hands. The lockdown also had its benefits."

Now though, the men and women of the colony are back on their feet. Lamps, still damp, are laid to dry on wooden planks; clay in various stages: some dry and some wet blobs, sit at their designated spots in the sun; finished lamps, brown and sturdy, stand in straight lines awaiting the agent who will transport them to sellers.

"Uncle, they're setting up the kiln," hollers a boy at Shekar. The 40-year-old wipes his hands in a clay-stained cloth and says, "I'm coming."

He switches off the radio playing on his mobile phone that kept him company as he worked and prepares to leave. "The past few months taught us many lessons. For one, we learned to respect the clay we work with. We have started treating it like food; not a morsel is to be wasted," he says.

Even now, clay is not easy to come by – an issue the inhabitants of the colony have raised with the District Collector. "In the past, we would ride all the way to the water bodies on bullock carts to collect the clay ourselves; now though, there are several rules in place, making sourcing quite a task," explains Shekar.

But life goes on; the potters have learned to work with limited resources. "There is always demand," says Shekar, adding, "People use our products right from birth up to death." He is talking about clay utensils, water pots, lamps, stoves, and customised pots people of some beliefs use during funeral rituals.

Saraswathy, meanwhile, has worked her way through most of the clay. She will now stomp on it until it turns smooth, from where the men will take over. In two day's time, the clay will turn into lamps, and will travel to households in Coimbatore and nearby cities, to be lit with oil on the eve of Deepam.

"My family did end up in debts because of corona," she says, wiping her face with her sari. "But we are now on our way out of them; there's hope."



AKILA KANNADASAN

K Eswari narrows her eyes as the afternoon sun beats down on her. She is grateful for every ray of sunlight – the rain last week did not make life any easier for her fellow potters – but it does make her head spin.

She spends all morning cleaning clay that trucks ferry from the water beds of nearby Kanavai and Thadagam to Udayar Veedhi, a colony of potters in Coimbatore's Kavundam-palayam. She picks stones and dirt off the clay, and lays it out to dry. It is crucial work – it forms the base for the lamps and pots her husband and other families will shape.

The colony consists of 50 fa-



milies of traditional clay potters, has houses built around three kilns located in a depression. Only 15 families continue the craft, while the rest have taken to other means of living.

The two months leading to the Tamil month of Karthigai are among their busiest time of the year. Luckily for them, after the lockdowns, people are now venturing out with caution. The colony is therefore limping back to normalcy. Orders from their agents have started coming in full swing, much like the previous years.

"The past couple of months have been good for us," says D Saraswathy, kneading clay that she

soaked overnight in water. "Orders have started coming and we've been busy." She will not forget the initial days of the pandemic, however. Neither will A Shekar. "It was a difficult time," he says, shaping small pots on a wet grinder that has been fashioned into an electric potter's wheel.

With no way to transport clay, they had no work. But they did enjoy some perks. "In all these years of living in this colony, that was



**A fundamental dialogue** (From left to right) Speakers Ambrish Arora, Vicky Richardson and Riyaz Tayyibi; (below) Rajshree Pathy • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

### GOWRI S

The year is 2020. As is the case with every field, architecture and design thinking are also undergoing a perceivable shift, thanks to the pandemic. But Delhi-based design platform India Design Forum (IDF) intends to go beyond that, to discuss what defines architecture going forward, with its series titled IDF Debates: Building Blocks, spread over the next four weeks.

Though architecture is the prime focus of this particular series, India Design Forum which was conceptualised in 2012, is a global platform that addresses design thinking in general. "And, when I say design thinking, it incorporates architecture, industrial design, culture, innovation, technology and art. I believe these things crossover," says Rajshree Pathy, founder, IDF. She adds that it is important to look beyond the visual aspect. And this is something that India has not ventured into yet, she says.

Architecture has been an active point of discussion in all India Design Forum conferences. However, this year, the conference has taken the form of virtual debates.

"Especially during these times with people being isolated, the relevance of the spaces we live in and how we socialise and have inclusive societies itself, are questions," says Rajshree who has curated the talks along with architect and writer Mrinalini Ghadiok.

With fewer projects and more time in

## The anatomy of a space

India Design Forum's series of virtual debates looks at rethinking architectural practices and the relevance of the spaces we live in

hand, architects are reevaluating their own practices, expectations and coping mechanisms. From challenges in dealing with the attitude of clients to larger questions of what mechanisms a society should implement during a pandemic, everything is on the table for discussion.

"Spaces really define how we live, think and feel. They define how happy we are. And today, these living spaces need to be revisited," says Rajshree. She adds that the architects on the panel were involved with practices across the board.

"Some are doing large, public projects; some are doing institutional projects like education and healthcare, others are doing sustainable projects... we curated this by keeping in mind different points of view."

The series features topics that range from what is 'good' architecture and the business of it to responsive building, and the difference between professional training and education.

Speakers include Brinda Somaya, Soumitro Ghosh, Sanjay Puri, Vicky Richardson, Asim Waqif, and Niels Schoenfelder among others. "One of the other aspects we address is the lack of critique of architecture in India. To build a mature community in any fraternity, there is a need for open critiquing," says Rajshree.

*Conversations are open to all and will be streamed on YouTube on November 28, December 5, 12 and 19, at 6 pm. Register at [Indiadesignforum.com/event-registration](http://Indiadesignforum.com/event-registration)*

A ND-ND

CM YK

SWETA AKUNDI AND MEGHNA MAJUMDAR

Over the past month, Chennai's musicians – many of whom have garnered a national following – walked into closed malls and hotel spaces to perform without an audience. "I am used to Luxe Cinemas being always crowded; it was so strange, yet grand, to see it completely empty," recalls Sharad Rao, the Chennai-born guitarist of Pune-based eight-piece band Easy Wanderlings.

Sharad and Easy Wanderlings' vocalist Pratika Gopinath, Jbabe (the solo act of The F16s' frontman Josh Fernandes), Maalavika Manoj aka Mali, and many others performed entire sets in isolated, silent spaces, to be streamed "live" on Instagram a couple of weeks later. The series, titled Centre Stage, is an attempt by Chennai's new music platform, Circle of Love, to turn usual Instagram Live sessions into something more slick and polished.

**Enter, polished studios**

Though the pandemic outbreak forced musicians to take to jamming online, it soon became evident that monetising was essential. And that meant streaming live from their bedrooms wouldn't cut it any more.

Easy Wanderlings' Pratika and Sharad were back in Chennai, working on a four-track EP with the rest of the band's members spread across Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra. Live sets were far from their minds when Circle of Love co-founders Sameer Sethi and DJ Manny asked them to do one. "We weren't really sure that we wanted to do it, but it was the first bit of work that we had got in a while, so we couldn't say no," says Sharad.

Sameer, who has led teams handling Sunburn and the AR Rahman concert in 2019, says, "I knew the lockdown would make it difficult for everyone to cope, so I was looking at possible alternatives. We wanted to take the casual Lives and do it properly: with multiple cameras angles and edits, and paid artistes." Circle of Love has already recorded three Live sets each at Luxe and Park Hyatt; recording studios too have woken up to this new channel of revenue.

Before 2020, live gigs would be in a controlled environment, points out Aditya Srinivasan, co-founder, Offbeat Music Ventures. "How somebody consumes the music you put out is entirely left to them. This means we have to account for a whole new set of variables," says Aditya.

Started in February this year, Offbeat's studio is a 5,500 square feet space in Chennai's RA Puram, with 40-seater and 80-seater plug and play rooms. The studio enables artistes from different locations to stream together, and has so far hosted live concerts by bands such as Funktuation with Benny Dayal, Non Vio-

At the fag end of a difficult year, musicians are turning to polished digital concerts from studios and platforms that offer realtime feedback from the audience



lonist Project and singers like Karthik and TM Krishna.

"Each of our shows sells an average of 500 to 600 tickets, a good combination of local and international. In case of free corporate shows, we get an attendance of 4,000 to 5,000 overall, with an average of 700 people watching at one point of time," says co-founder Vijay Nathan, adding that they have green screens to display visuals as well. "Most people are now watching these shows on TVs rather than on their phones. So good visuals matter as much as the sound."

Not all prefer the bright lights of a studio, however. In Mylapore, Chennai, arts consultant Shreya Nagarajan Singh turned the ground floor of an eight-year-old home into a multipurpose arts space, Swapna. The informal vibe of the airy green balcony here has proved a hit among those doing morning recordings.



**Up the game** (Clockwise from left) Shravan Sridhar at Offbeat; Vishal Dadlani of Pentagram; Pratika and Jbabe for Circle of Love  
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

paul to livestream indie acts every weekend, the last one featuring Siemnor. People from Dubai, cities in the US, as well as Coimbatore and Tiruchirappalli tuned in.

Josh aka Jbabe also echoes the importance of audience interaction. The last time he went live, he remembers asking viewers to join and sing for him, because "I was getting saturated singing by myself. As artistes, it is our job to perform for the people. It is kind of mundane otherwise."

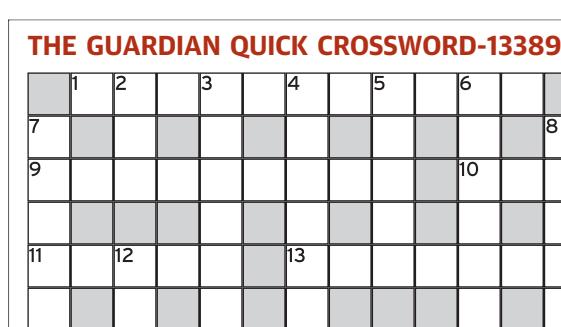
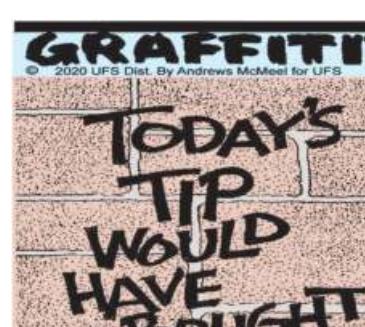
**Listening to audiences**

To bring this vital element of listener feedback, artistes have taken to platforms like Gurugram-based Skillbox. What started as a professional networking space for the performing arts in 2018, Skillbox has become a widely-used ticketing and native digital streaming platform. "On Skillbox, artistes can either hold their own gigs, or be hired by clients and corporates (through legally binding contracts that assure payment)," says Anmol Kukreja, CEO. The service has a parallel chatbox for audience to respond in. They are working on enabling users to switch on their video and audio too, for comprehensive feedback.

For a concert to be worth its money, the quality of the recording has to be high not just at the performers' end, but also at the listeners'. And not all applications can stream high fidelity audio and video without compressing it. A 1080p HD video may not even load if the listener's Internet connection is bad. "So we have adaptive bit-rates (that change according to the strength of your signal)," explains Anmol.

Skillbox has hosted 700 live shows so far, starting with a sold-out concert by Parekh and Singh, and moving on to the likes of Nikhil D'Souza, Pentagram, Ankur Tewari and Lifaat. Next month, Indian Ocean's Rahul Ram will be playing. Ram says, "The tech guys (in the music space) are almost as much out of work as us [artistes] – possibly more so because they can't just go online and sing a song – they have come up with innovative solutions."

With restrictions being eased and live concerts resuming with limited audiences, a hybrid model is the one to look out for: one that integrates a physical and a digital live gig. Says Ram, "It is like watching cricket at home on your TV. You get to watch every hit and spin, so you are actually watching better cricket. Yes you are missing out on the sheer energy of 30,000 people cheering, so both become equally valid but different experiences."

**POOCHE CAFE****PEANUTS****HAGAR THE HORRIBLE****CALVIN AND HOBBES****TIGER**

To play The Guardian Quick Crossword, The Hindu Cryptic crossword, Sudoku & other puzzles online, scan the QR code.

latest fashion and pop music (5-6)

12 One of a set of 20 children have for starters (4,5)

16 Cop (7)

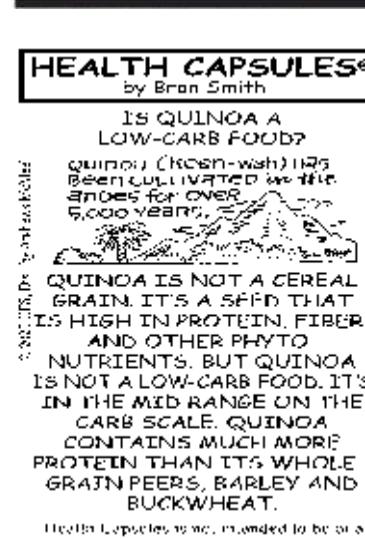
17 Poor unfortunate soul (6)

19 Lowest amount (5)

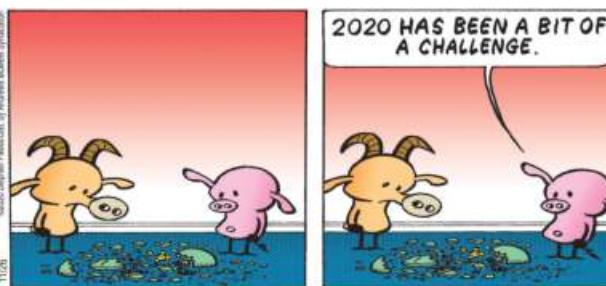
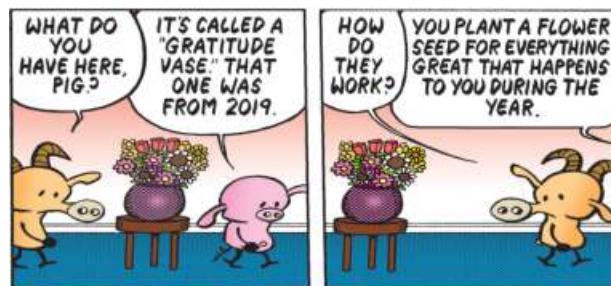
21 Elsewhere – unfashionable (3)

The solution will appear on December 3, 2020

Solution No. I3389

**WUMO**

© GUARDIAN NEWS AND MEDIA LTD., 2016

**PEARLS BEFORE SWINE**

- Across
- 1 Boring tool (5,3,3)
- 9 Explain (9)
- 10 Hack (3)
- 11 Third letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- 13 It's raised before the start of a play (7)
- 14 As a substitute (2,4)
- 15 Insect-catching network (6)
- 18 Nominal (7)
- 20 Gut-buster breakfast (3-2)
- 21 Expression of surprise (by a dove?) (3)
- 22 Globe vegetable? (9)
- 24 Old Maggie fan (11)
- Down
- 2 Groove (3)
- 3 Bouquet (7)
- 4 Continent (6)
- 5 Put off (5)
- 6 Seriously ill (2,1,3,3)
- 7 Study of grammar, syntax and phonetics (11)
- 8 Young follower of

S	T	R	A	T	U	S	J	D	M
T	A	E	I	N	U	T	E	O	S
B	S	O	L	V	E	S	D	S	S
I	T	E	S	A	T	U	M	A	A
R	E	A	R	M	T	T	C	I	I
A	A	P	A	P	H	E	T	I	I
R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
B	L	A	C	K	B	E	L	T	L
R	P	E	N	I	N	S	E	T	S
I	N	T	R	I	A	C	P	R	R
E	M	I	B	A	K	L	A	V	A
F	L	A	N	N	E	W	W	W	W
S	N	G	E	X	T	I	N	I	I

# America is back and ready to lead the world, says Joe Biden

President-elect introduces his team, says they will restore country's leadership

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

WILMINGTON

President-elect Joe Biden on Tuesday introduced a slate of veteran diplomats and policy-makers who will make up his national security and foreign policy team, saying: "America is back, ready to lead the world."

Mr. Biden, 78, presented his picks for Secretary of State, National Security Advisor, Homeland Security Secretary, intelligence chief, UN Ambassador and climate change envoy.

"These public servants will restore America's global leadership and moral leadership," Mr. Biden said as the six men and women stood behind him wearing face-masks.

Mr. Biden said that after he is inaugurated on January 20 and Donald Trump leaves the White House, the U.S. will "once again sit at the head of the table, ready to confront our adversaries and not reject our allies".

"It is a team that reflects the fact that America is back, ready to lead the world, not retreat from it," he said in a jab at President Trump's go-it-alone 'America First' policies.

## Setbacks to Trump

Mr. Biden's remarks came after Mr. Trump suffered further setbacks in his efforts to overturn the results of the election with unsubstantiated claims of fraud.

Pennsylvania and Nevada certified the November 3 election results on Tuesday, a day after the State of Michigan did so, a move which triggered the General Services Administration (GSA) to launch the transition process.

As more members of his



Top picks: U.S. President-elect Joe Biden speaking during a Cabinet announcement event in Wilmington, Delaware, on Tuesday. • AFP

## Xi hopes for 'win-win' ties with Biden

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping congratulated U.S.

President-elect Joe Biden on Wednesday and expressed hope for "win-win cooperation" amid conflicts over trade, technology and security.

China became one of the

last major governments to congratulate Mr. Biden.

In a congratulatory message, Mr. Xi told Mr. Biden that "healthy and stable" relations were "the common expectation of the international community", according to a statement carried by the official Xinhua News Agency.

address the election, saying: "I say America First – shouldn't go away from that."

## 'Coalition builder'

The GSA determination gives Mr. Biden access to classified information and will allow his aides to coordinate with officials on addressing the worsening coronavirus pandemic.

"We're already working out meeting with the COVID team in the White House..."

He appeared to indirectly

"We hope the two sides will uphold the spirit of non-conflict and non-confrontation, mutual respect and win-win cooperation, will focus on cooperation, control differences and promote healthy and stable development of Chinese-U.S. relations."

The outreach has been sincere," Mr. Biden told NBC in his first TV interview since winning the presidency.

The slate that Mr. Biden unveiled included veterans of the Barack Obama administration and signalled a return to traditional U.S. diplomacy and multilateralism.

Antony Blinken, Mr. Biden's choice for Secretary of State, said the U.S. cannot solve global problems on its own. "We need to be working with other countries."

But the President on Tuesday tweeted a picture of himself in the Oval Office with the caption "I concede NOTHING!!!!"

The 74-year-old Mr. Trump later attended a traditional Thanksgiving turkey-pardoning event at the White House.

He appeared to indirectly

address the election, saying: "I say America First – shouldn't go away from that."

Chief Executive Carrie Lam's annual policy address to the Legislative Council – postponed for more than a month after she was ordered to travel to mainland China for meetings with central government officials – outlines the administration's plans for the city.

Hong Kong is ruled under a 'One Country, Two Systems' model that allows it to retain a degree of autonomy and some freedoms that are denied to citizens on the authoritarian mainland.



Almost no Opposition presence as Lam addresses legislature

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

HONG KONG

Hong Kong's leader vowed on Wednesday to restore order to the city's legislature and save its political system from "chaos", in a key policy speech at a muted gathering of almost exclusively pro-Beijing lawmakers.

Chief Executive Carrie Lam's annual policy address to the Legislative Council – postponed for more than a month after she was ordered to travel to mainland China for meetings with central government officials – outlines the administration's plans for the city.

Hong Kong is ruled under a 'One Country, Two Systems' model that allows it to retain a degree of autonomy and some freedoms that are denied to citizens on the authoritarian mainland.

## ELSEWHERE



Civil rights pioneer

Bruce Boynton dies at 83

SELMA

Bruce Carver Boynton, a civil rights pioneer from Alabama who inspired the landmark 'Freedom Rides' of 1961, died on Monday. He was 83. Mr. Boynton was arrested 60 years ago for entering the white part of a racially segregated bus station in Virginia and launching a chain reaction that ultimately helped to bring about the abolition of Jim Crow laws in the South. Mr. Boynton contested his conviction, and his appeal resulted in a U.S. Supreme Court decision that prohibited bus station segregation and helped inspire the "Freedom Rides."

## Thai protesters call on king to give up fortune

Thousands of activists rally in Bangkok

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

BANGKOK

Thousands of Thai democracy activists rallied in Bangkok on Wednesday to demand the king give up control of his multibillion-dollar fortune, turning their protest movement directly on the once-unouchable monarchy's vast wealth.

At least 7,000 demonstrators – many brandishing the yellow toy ducks that have become a symbol of the movement – took to the streets to protest at the secrecy surrounding King Maha Vajiralongkorn's financial arrangements.

The demonstration came after the police summoned 12 protest leaders for questioning over royal defamatory

allegations – the first time of Thailand's draconian lese-majeste law in nearly three years.

Thailand has for months been rocked by youth-led protests demanding a new constitution, reform of the unouchable monarchy, and for Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha to resign.

Many protesters on Wednesday sported yellow ducks – on T-shirts, hats and helmets – after demonstrators used larger inflatable versions last week to defend themselves against police water cannon and tear gas.

The kingdom has a long history of political protest but the current movement has made taboo-smashing criticisms of the royal family.

## Pakistan's lonely jumbo Kaavan packs trunk for Cambodia

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

ISLAMABAD

With music, treats and balloons, friends of Pakistan's only Asian elephant threw a farewell party for the creature ahead of its relocation to Cambodia following years of campaigning by animal rights activists.

The plight of Kaavan, an overweight, 35-year-old bull elephant, has drawn international condemnation and highlighted the woeful state of Islamabad's zoo, where conditions are so bad that a judge in May ordered all the animals to be moved.

Kaavan is set to be flown to a wildlife sanctuary in Cambodia on Sunday, said Saleem Shaikh, a spokesman for Pakistan's Ministry of Climate Change.

## Trump plans to pardon his former NSA

MAGGIE HABERMAN  
MICHAEL CROWLEY

President Donald Trump has told aides that he plans to pardon his former National Security Advisor (NSA) Michael Flynn and that it is one of a string of pardons he plans to issue before leaving office, a person familiar with the discussions said on Tuesday.

Flynn, a retired Army Lieutenant-General, twice pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his conversations with a Russian diplomat during the presidential transition in late 2016 and early 2017. He was the only former White House official to plead guilty in the inquiry led by Robert Mueller, the special counsel investigating Russia's election interference.

In May, the Justice Department sought to withdraw its charges against Flynn. That move has since been tied up in federal court, challenged by the judge who presided over Flynn's case, Emmet G. Sullivan.

Flynn, 61, served just 24 days as the NSA before the President fired him in February 2017 for lying about his contacts with the Russian Ambassador to the U.S. at the time, Sergey Kislyak.

Flynn changed his legal team last year and began seeking to withdraw his guilty plea, claiming he never lied to investigators and was the target in January 2017 of what his lawyers in court papers called an "ambush-interview" by FBI agents seeking to entrap him. He has since become a hero figure on the pro-Trump right, portrayed as a decorated patriot victimised by the politically motivated Russia "hoax" investigation of Mr. Trump. • NY TIMES

## Trump challenge showed cracks in election system

President and his allies defied long-standing conventions

ALEXANDER BURNS

As President Donald Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 election have steadily disintegrated, the country appears to have escaped a doomsday scenario in the campaign's epilogue: since November 3, there have been no tanks in the streets or widespread civil unrest, no brazen intervention by the judiciary or a partisan State legislature. Joe Biden's obvious victory has withstood Mr. Trump's peddling of conspiracy theories and his campaign of groundless lawsuits.

In the end – and the post-election stand-off instigated by Mr. Trump and his party – is truly nearing its end – the President's attack on the election wheezed to an anti-climax.

It was marked not by dangerous new political convulsions but by a letter from an obscure Trump-appointed bureaucrat, Emily Murphy of the General Services Administration, authorising the process of formally handing over the government to Mr. Biden.

For now, the country appears to have avoided a ruinous breakdown of its electoral system.

Next time, Americans might not be so lucky.

Mr. Trump's mission to subvert the election has exposed deep cracks in the edifice of American democracy and opened the way for future disruption. With the most amateurish of efforts, Mr. Trump managed to freeze the passage of power for most of a month.

He never came close to achieving his goal: key State officials resisted his entreaties to disenfranchise huge numbers of voters, and judges all but laughed his legal



Donald Trump

team out of court.

Ben Ginsberg, the most prominent Republican election lawyer of his generation, said he doubted any future candidates would attempt to replicate Mr. Trump's precise approach, because it has been so unsuccessful. Few candidates and election lawyers, Mr. Ginsberg suggested, would regard Rudy Giuliani and Sidney Powell – the public faces of Mr. Trump's litigation – as the authors of an ingenious new playbook.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

"If in a few months, we look back and see that this Trump strategy was just an utter failure, then it's not likely to be copied," Mr. Ginsberg said. "But the system was stress-tested as never before."

## Vague provisions

That test, he said, revealed enough vague provisions and holes in American election law to make a crisis all too plausible. He pointed in particular to the lack of uniform standards for the timely certification of elections by State authorities, and the uncertainty about whether State legislatures had the power to appoint their own

electors in defiance of the popular vote. The 2020 election, he said, "should be a call for some consideration of those issues".

Yet even without precipitating a full-blown constitutional crisis, Mr. Trump has already shattered the long-standing norm that a defeated candidate should concede quickly and gracefully. He and his allies also rejected the long-standing convention that the news media should declare a winner.

The next Republican candidate to lose a close election may find some voters expecting him or her to mimic Mr. Trump's conduct, and if a Democrat were to adopt the same tactics, the GOP would have no standing to complain.

Still more important, legal and political experts said, is the way Mr. Trump identified perilous pressure points within the system. Those vulnerabilities, they said, could be manipulated to destabilise effect by someone else, in a closer election.

Indeed, Mr. Trump managed to intrude on normal election procedures in several States. He summoned Michigan Republican leaders to the Oval Office as his allies floated the idea of appointing pro-Trump electors from the State, which Mr. Biden carried by more than 150,000 votes. And he inspired an onslaught from the right against Georgia's Republican Secretary of State, Brad Raffensperger, who declined to affirm Mr. Trump's false claims of ballot tampering. Though Mr. Raffensperger oversaw a fair election, both of Georgia's Republican Senators, channelling the President, called for his resignation. • NY TIMES

## Hong Kong leader vows to restore political order

Almost no Opposition presence as Lam addresses legislature



SUHASINI HAIDAR

NEW DELHI

Bhutan announced on Wednesday that it had established diplomatic relations with Germany, increasing the restricted number of capitals that Thimphu has formal ties with to 53 states and the EU. The move, which was announced at an "Exchange of Verbal Notes ceremony" in Delhi by Bhutan's Ambassador to India Major General Vetsop Namgyel and Germany's Ambassador Walter Lindner, was described by the German Foreign Office as a "special day" and a "rare" event.

Local media captured officials nodding and apparently snoozing during the lengthy speech, while some were seen checking stock prices and playing Sudoku on their phones. Ms. Lam said her government would introduce bills to "enhance the oath-taking" by civil servants and to "enhance the electoral system", though details were unclear.

## Bhutan establishes formal ties with Germany

This is the kingdom's first diplomatic foray in seven years; India says Germany is an important partner



Bhutan's Ambassador to India Major General Vetsop Namgyel, right, and Germany's Ambassador Walter Lindner. • TWITTER

office credited Bhutan's current Prime Minister with the decision. "The government of Prime Minister Dr. Lotay Tshering, in office since November 2018, has continued to cautiously open up the country – leading to the decision to establish diplomatic relations with Germany," the release said, adding that Germany did not plan to set up an embassy in Thimphu at present, and would conduct

its relations through its embassy in Delhi from "across the border". Bhutan and Germany also maintain honorary consulates in each other's capitals.

Official sources in New Delhi said the government had "noted" the development. "We are aware that the two countries already established consular relations in July 2000. Germany is an important development partner

of Bhutan. This is a further step on that path," they said.

Since 1949, when Bhutan first signed a friendship agreement with India, which kept the two countries closely engaged on all foreign policy issues, Bhutan has been historically cautious about establishing ties with other countries.

## First election

Until 2007, when Bhutan conducted its first election, it had formal relations with just 22 countries, mostly donor countries such as Japan, Australia and several Nordic countries. It also made a firm decision not to open ties with any of the permanent five members of the UN Security Council, despite many requests from them and in particular from the U.S. and China.

After the election of Prime Minister Jigme Thinley in 2008, however, the Bhutanese MFA said in its statement,

nese government rapidly increased its diplomatic forays, signing agreements with 31 countries in five years, possibly with a view to winning the election for a non-permanent seat at the UNSC in 2013-14, which it eventually lost. The ties with Germany mark the first new diplomatic agreement made by Bhutan since March 2013, when it had established ties with Oman.

"Even in the absence of diplomatic relations, Germany had been supporting Bhutan's socio-economic development since the 1970s. More significantly, Bhutan continues to receive support from the European Union of which Germany is the largest contributor to the Union's budget. People-to-people contacts between Bhutan and Germany have also increased over the years," the Bhutanese MFA said in its statement.

"In the absence of diplomatic relations, Germany had been supporting Bhutan's socio-economic development since the 1970s. More significantly, Bhutan continues to receive support from the European Union of which Germany is the largest contributor to the Union's budget. People-to-people contacts between Bhutan and Germany have also increased over the years," the Bhutanese MFA said in its statement.

Chemical castration, hanging mooted

dinance, 2020, would be finalised in a week to be promulgated, Information Minister Shibli Faraz said.

Hailing the "big decision", Mr. Faraz said the ordinances change the basic definition of rape and suggest severe punishment for gang-rape.

For the first time in the history of Pakistan, the definition of rape has been changed by incorporating "transgender" and "gang-rape" in it, the report said.

## MARKET WATCH

	25-11-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	43,828	-1.56
US Dollar	73.91	0.14
Gold	48,273	-0.61
Brent oil	48.26	-0.14

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	398.95	+6.70
Asian Paints	2154.30	-53.60
Axis Bank	599.85	-19.80
Bajaj Auto	3051.25	-44.45
Bajaj Finserv	8717.75	-141.95
Bajaj Finance	4689.75	-120.90
Bharti Airtel	464.10	-10.15
BPCL	382.05	-7.70
Britannia Ind	3555.80	-6.45
Cipla	731.65	-16.80
Coal India	123.95	0.70
Divis Lab	3469.45	-67.60
D Dr Reddy's Lab	4806.30	-109.20
Eicher Motors	2595.10	-98.20
GAIL (India)	102.30	+2.00
Grasim Ind	843.10	-10.15
HCL Tech.	824.70	-15.80
HDFC	2191.35	-26.35
HDFC Bank	1402.80	-35.40
HDFC Life	665.10	0.95
Hero MotoCorp	3008.75	-65.40
Hindalco	223.45	-2.55
Hind Unilever	2135.85	-21.50
ICICI Bank	472.70	-5.50
IndusInd Bank	855.05	1.35
Infosys	1115.65	-24.40
Indian Oil Corp	85.75	-0.40
ITC	193.85	-1.70
JSW Steel	338.25	-2.60
Kotak Bank	1862.45	-62.45
L&T	1116.00	-19.50
M&M	719.95	-9.40
Maruti Suzuki	7055.70	-102.70
Nestle India Ltd.	17520.20	-157.40
NTPC	93.95	-0.20
ONGC	80.80	4.70
PowerGrid Corp	195.30	0.80
Reliance Ind	1947.80	-16.25
SB Life	849.05	10.10
State Bank	243.00	-0.85
Shree Cement	23698.80	-544.75
Sun Pharma	506.20	-13.95
Tata Motors	171.45	-0.60
Tata Steel	541.25	-7.05
TCS	2701.30	-20.75
Tech Mahindra	862.25	-15.40
Titan	1306.95	-20.20
UltraTech Cement	4819.85	-53.35
UPL	418.60	-8.85
Wipro	350.00	-5.50

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.71	74.03
Euro	87.60	87.99
British Pound	98.20	98.63
Japanese Yen (100)	70.55	70.85
Chinese Yuan	11.21	11.26
Swiss Franc	80.80	81.15
Singapore Dollar	54.86	55.10
Canadian Dollar	56.60	56.85
Malaysian Ringgit	18.02	18.12
Australian Dollar	54.09	54.33

Source: Indian Bank

## IN BRIEF



## Coffee Day Global Q2 loss narrows to ₹59.4 cr.

NEW DELHI  
Coffee Day Global Ltd., an arm of Coffee Day Enterprises, reported narrowing of consolidated net loss to ₹59.38 crore in the second quarter ended September 30. The company had posted a consolidated net loss of ₹98.42 crore in the same period last fiscal, it said. Consolidated revenue from operations stood at ₹78.69 crore (₹364.24 crore). PTI

## M&amp;M's Thar gets 4-star safety rating from NCAP

MUMBAI  
Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. said that its sport utility vehicle Thar had been awarded a four-star safety rating by Global NCAP. "The all-new Thar has set a new benchmark in safety with the highest-ever rating for a body-on-frame SUV tested by Global NCAP so far. The Thar has scored the highest for child safety in cars tested by Global NCAP so far," the company said in a statement.

## Govt. okays ₹2,480-cr. FDI in ATC Telecom Infra

NEW DELHI  
The Centre on Wednesday approved the purchase by ATC Asia Pacific of about 12% stake in ATC Telecom Infrastructure for ₹2,480 crore. With the approval from the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, the cumulative foreign direct investment (FDI) of ATC Asia Pacific into ATC Telecom Infrastructure is now ₹5,417.20 crore. The firm has FDI approval up to 86.36%. PTI

## IDC sees IT, business services reaching \$13 bn

NEW DELHI  
India's IT and business services market is expected to grow 5.4% annually to reach \$13 billion by December, research firm IDC said in a report. The segment grew 5.3% year-on-year (y-o-y) in January-June (H1) 2020 compared to an 8.9% growth a year earlier. The IT services market contributed 77.4% in H1 2020, growing 5.9%, compared with 9.3% growth a year earlier. PTI

## Govt. allots ₹2,000-cr. for infra funding

Cabinet approves up to ₹6,000-crore of equity infusion into NIIF's platform by 2021-22

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Cabinet on Wednesday approved the infusion of ₹6,000 crore as equity into a new debt platform to raise up to ₹1.1 lakh crore for financing infrastructure projects by 2025.

Of the ₹6,000-crore equity to be injected by 2021-22, the Cabinet has approved ₹2,000 crore for disbursal this year subject to the funds being required.

## Stimulus measure

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced the plan to provide equity capital to the debt platform sponsored by the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), as part of the last round of stimulus measures announced on November 12.

## IBBI moots tweaks to exit liquidation

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

To provide an orderly framework for withdrawal from the voluntary liquidation process, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has proposed amendments to existing regulations.

A Corporate Person undergoing voluntary liquidation process should be allowed to seek approval from the Adjudicating Authority for withdrawal from the process, subject to conditions, according to a discussion paper. IBBI has sought public comments on the paper. Currently, IBC provisions and voluntary liquidation rules are silent on the withdrawal process after initiation.

"In 2019, the sector had de-growth, in 2020, COVID hit us. Now, December 2022 is a logical timeline for us for the IPO," JSW Cement MD Parth Jindal said at a virtual briefing to announce the ex-



**Terra firma:** The NIIF platform is expected to contribute almost ₹1-lakh crore to infrastructure. ■ C. VENKATACHALAPATHY

"In view of the unprecedented financial situation and availability of limited fiscal space due to the prevailing COVID-19, the proposed

amount may be disbursed only if there is readiness and demand for debt raising," the government said in an official statement detailing the

Cabinet's decision.

Stressing that the decision would strengthen India's bond markets, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said that another ₹7,000 crore would be raised as equity for the debt platform, with the bond markets set to be tapped for ₹1 lakh crore.

## Global capital

The Cabinet had asked the NIIF to take all necessary steps to use equity investments from domestic and global pension funds and sovereign wealth funds expeditiously. Ms Sitharaman had said earlier this week that several sovereign wealth funds had evinced interest in availing the tax concessions offered for them to invest in the country.

"The NIIF's infrastructure

debt financing platform is expected to contribute almost ₹1 lakh crore in debt to the infrastructure sector over the next five years," the government said.

"This will act as a catalyst in attracting more investments into the infrastructure sector as envisaged in the National Infrastructure Pipeline," it said, adding that this would help free up space for banks to lend to new greenfield projects.

"It is expected that a well-capitalised, well-funded and well-governed NIIF debt platform can play a major role in infrastructure financing and development of bond market in India by acting as a AAA/AA-rated intermediary between the bond markets and infrastructure projects and companies," the government observed.

## JSW Cement postpones listing to December '22

MD cites slowdown, COVID-19

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KOLKATA

JSW Cement has again pushed back its plans for an initial public offering (IPO) by two years to around December 2022 due to slowdown and COVID-19 disruptions, a top company official said on Wednesday.

The company has already drawn an ambitious plan to expand its cement capacity to 25 million tonne by 2023 from 14 million tonne at a capex of ₹3,600 crore.

"In 2019, the sector had de-growth, in 2020, COVID hit us. Now, December 2022 is a logical timeline for us for the IPO," JSW Cement MD Parth Jindal said at a virtual briefing to announce the ex-



Parth Jindal

pansion of Shiva Cement, in Odisha.

Shiva Cement Ltd, 59% owned by JSW Cement Ltd., will invest more than ₹1,500 crore in a 1.36 million-tonne clinker unit in Sundergarh district of the State.

(With inputs from Lalitendu Mishra)

## WB, Kerala agree to GST shortfall plan

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

West Bengal and Kerala have accepted the Centre's proposal to meet the shortfall in revenue to compensate States for implementing the Goods and Services Tax (GST) through a special borrowing window.

"Kerala and West Bengal will get ₹10,197 crore through the special borrowing window to meet the GST implementation shortfall and permission to raise an additional ₹11,309 crore through borrowings," the Finance Ministry said.

The development comes a day after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee raised the issue at a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

India now has a negligible share in these items in the global market compared

## SIMA urges freeing viscose fibre from anti-dumping duty

Mills group says most of 50 PLI plan products use viscose



Ashwin Chandran

textile industry requires almost 6.34 lakh tonne of viscose fibre in FY20 and the fibre available for consumption from local capacities is 4.78 lakh tonne, he said.

M. Senthil Kumar, former SIMA chairman, said since viscose fibre attracts anti-dumping duty (\$0.103 to \$0.512 a kg), textile industry imports viscose yarn which has only basic customs duty. Imports of viscose yarn are on the rise.

Cotton, polyester, viscose and linen are the major fibres consumed in India. If the ADD on fibre is removed for viscose and linen local powerloom industry would get the yarn at a lower price.

## Curbs hit China supplies for iPhone

## REUTERS

NEW DELHI

India's tight control of quality clearances for electronic goods from China slowed the import of Apple's new iPhone model last month and held up other products made by companies like Xiaomi, acing its foray into the biotechnology segment.

Laurus said it had signed definitive agreements for the stake with venture capitalists (VCs). Eight Roads Ventures and VenturEast, from whom Richcore had raised early and growth-stage funding.

The Bengaluru-based Richcore has large-scale fermentation capabilities and manufactures animal origin-free recombinant products. These products help vaccine, insulin, stem-cell based regenerative medicine and other biopharma firms eliminate dependency



Satyanarayana Chava

on animal and human blood-derived products and in turn, produce safer medicines, Laurus said.

The acquisition will "give us entry into high-barrier biotechnology segment," said Laurus CEO Satyanarayana Chava. "Laurus will bring scale to Richcore's operations and can become a major player in biotech."

## Laurus to buy Richcore in biotechnology foray

Inks pact with VCs for ₹247-cr. stake

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

Drugmaker Laurus Labs on Wednesday said it had agreed to acquire a 72.55% stake in Richcore Lifesciences for ₹246.67 crore, marking its foray into the biotechnology segment.

# Diego Maradona, one of football's immortals, leaves Earth

Worshipped as a god by millions of fans, his was the ultimate rags to riches story, with the legend's popularity stretching all over the globe

REUTERS

World footballing great Diego Armando Maradona, who died on Wednesday less than a month after his 60th birthday, was worshipped like a god for his genius with the ball, but his demons almost destroyed him.

Maradona had died after suffering a heart attack at his home in the suburbs of Buenos Aires, those close to him confirmed.

Rising to stardom from a grimy Buenos Aires slum to lead Argentina to World Cup victory, Maradona was a rags-to-riches story in his football-mad homeland and gained the iconic status of fellow Argentines Che Guevara and Evita Peron.

One of the most gifted football players in history, Maradona's pinnacle of glory came when he captained Argentina to win the World Cup in 1986 before plunging to misery when he was kicked out the 1994 World Cup for doping.

## Fall from grace

Years of drug use, overeating and alcoholism truncated a stellar career and altered his appearance from the lithe athlete who could slalom effortlessly through teams to a bloated addict who nearly died of cocaine-induced heart failure in 2000.

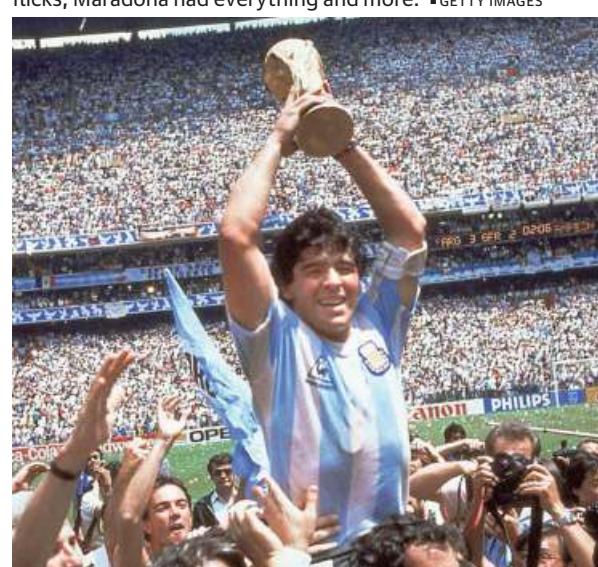
A magician with the ball – deceptively quick and a visionary passer – Maradona is considered by some as the greatest footballer ever, edging out that other great, Brazil's Pele. In Argentina, he was worshipped as 'El Díos' – The God – partly a play on words on his number 10 shirt, 'El Diez.'

Through the years he reflected publicly on his greatness and on his weaknesses, publishing books of photos and quotes about himself and hosting a TV show.

"Soccer is the most beautiful and healthy sport in the world. Soccer shouldn't have to pay for my mistakes. It's not the ball's fault," he said.



**Sublime artist:** Dribbles, slaloming runs past defenders, or flicks, Maradona had everything and more. ■ GETTY IMAGES



**The pinnacle:** Maradona's moment of glory as he holds aloft the World Cup after winning the final in 1986. ■ AP

## Argentine's genius was innate in his veins

1986 WC defined him, but his career was a glorious fusion of extreme contrasts

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR

A goal scored in football is the highest form of sporting high. The crowd is on its feet, the striker is in his slice of heaven, team-mates are delirious and soul-numbing grief is the shroud that chokes the rivals.

Football - the calisthenics between fast legs and a ball, the art that fuses the dodge and the sprint while a sphere beats the goalkeeper - lost its heart-beat when news broke that Diego Maradona passed away at 60, back home in Argentina.

Yes, there is Pele with his description of football as the beautiful game. And in that pantheon of excellence with the Brazilian legend saying the right things, Maradona, the Argentinian wizard, the Boca Juniors maestro, the hero for Napoli, walks in with a saunter, curly hair, stocky build, magic in his feet and never the politically correct word emanating from his lips.

This was genius with shades of the devil, and strangely in 1986, Maradona was one with the gods. This was the fusion of extreme contrasts.

Great athletes impose their will on the game and Maradona was right up there.

He believed that Argentina will win the World Cup at Mexico in 1986 and he backed that intuition with a footballing skill that was suffused with a magic realism that would have made Gabriel Garcia Marquez proud. Such was Maradona's dominance – dribble, feint, sell a dummy, score a goal and then grin like a child at a candy store. If you were a sporting fan of the 1980s, this was bliss multiplied by infinity.

But he wasn't entirely clean; a 'header' against England in that old aphorism swept the air – all is fair in love and war. Years later Maradona admitted that the goal was struck with his hand but in 1986, he philosophically spoke about the 'Hand of God', and a controversy was swept under the carpet of cosmic greatness, which also contained the 'goal of the century', scored in the same match, after a bewitching run that started in his own half.

Maradona won that World Cup for Argentina, it was his high and equally became the cross that Lionel Messi had to bear while trying to get the Latin American nation excel at the World Cup over the last decade.

Messi the FC Barcelona legend is not exactly Messi the Argentinian whiz kid. And the exploits of Maradona was



**Universal hero:** Maradona was a big draw wherever he went, as this scene from his visit to Kannur in 2012 shows. ■ FILE PHOTO

glad in that World Cup which he owned, emerged from his hands. It was an adrenaline-laced blur, the leap, the head swivelling, a hand jutting out and a goal was scored.

Back then television wasn't all encompassing. The goal was awarded to Argentina and in the larger scheme of things, the Falkland Islands skirmish between his nation and England was ruling the airwaves.

too much of a legacy to carry forward.

Maradona, however, could not extend that 1986 spirit of zest into the subsequent World Cups.

He did helm his men into the 1990 final but in the 1994 championship in the USA, ignominy wrapped him forever as he failed a drugs test.

The genius had wilted,

caught up in his own superhero image. Drugs, excessive alcohol and delusion undid the great man. He turned obese, had health issues but there was still some magic in his feet.

Some years back, he was in Kerala, busy promoting a jewellery brand. Having downed a few rums in his room, he was high-spirited. Along with Indian legend I.M. Vijayan at Kannur, the maestro juggled a football with his legs, took it on his chest, headed it a few times and stayed in control.

Time was frozen, sporting paradise had descended on Malabar, and Maradona showed that genius was innate in his veins.

But on a Wednesday night in a year lost to the coronavirus, football's maverick-great breathed his last. The sport is poorer while searing memories remain.

**PELE** What sad news. I lost a great friend and the world lost a great legend. There is still much to be said, but for now, may God give strength to family members. One day, I hope we can play ball together in the sky. ■ PELE

**LIONEL MESSI** A very sad day for all Argentines and for football. He leaves us but does not go away, because Diego is eternal. I keep all the beautiful moments lived with him. ■ LIONEL MESSI

**CRISTIANO RONALDO** Today I say goodbye to a friend and the world says goodbye to an eternal genius. One of the best ever. An unparalleled magician. ■ CRISTIANO RONALDO

**IKER CASILLAS** Sad day for football. Maradona has passed away. Rest in peace, genius of this sport. ■ IKER CASILLAS

**KYLIAN MBAPPE** You will stay in the history of football forever. Thanks you for all the pleasure you gave to the whole world. ■ KYLIAN MBAPPE

**IM VIJAYAN** RIP God of football. ■ IM VIJAYAN

**SACHIN TENDULKAR** Football and the world of sports has lost one of its greatest players today. You shall be missed. ■ SACHIN TENDULKAR

**SOURAV GANGULY** My hero no more... my mad genius, rest in peace. I watched football for you. ■ SOURAV GANGULY

## Career in numbers

### INTERNATIONAL

Caps	91
Goals	34
Goals per game	0.37

### WORLD CUP

Tournaments	4
Appearances	21
Goals	8
Goals per game	0.38

### WON THE WORLD CUP IN 1986 AND FINISHED RUNNER-UP IN 1990

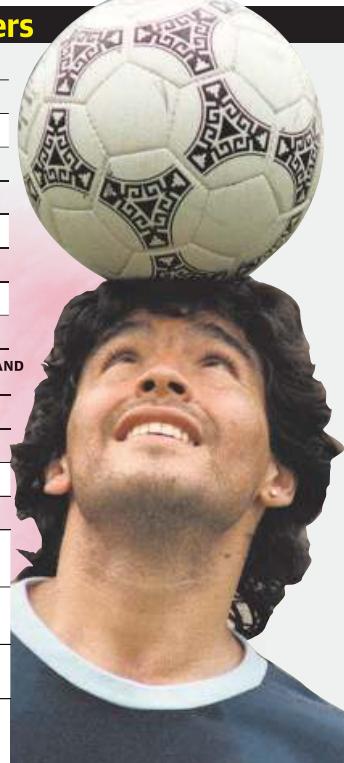
### TITLES

World Cup	1
UEFA Cup	1

### AWARDS

World Cup Golden Ball	1
FIFA Player of the Century	1*
Ballon d'Or (honorary)	1
South American Footballer of the Year	2

\*PELE AND MARADONA SHARED THE PRIZE IN 2000



## Barclay is ICC chairman

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
DUBAI

Greg Barclay has been named the new independent chair of the International Cricket Council, beating Imran Khan to succeed Shashank Manohar, the sport's governing body announced on Tuesday.

The former New Zealand Cricket boss needed a two-thirds majority of the 16-person ICC board and received the all-important 11th vote from Cricket South Africa. Khan had been the interim chairman since Manohar stepped down in July.

## Enjoy batting at five and keeping: Rahul

### INDIA IN AUS

AYAN ACHARYA

that's a role that I quite enjoyed," Rahul said during an online media interaction on Wednesday.

Rishabh Pant's omission from the limited-over squads means Rahul, named vice-captain in Rohit's absence, is currently the first-choice white-ball wicketkeeper, a responsibility he first undertook in January when Australia visited India.

In his maiden outing as the designated 'keeper batting at No. 5, in the second ODI at Rajkot, Rahul slammed 80 off just 52 deliveries. He also hit 88 off 64 in Hamilton and 112 off 113 in Mount Maunganui on the tour of New Zealand, playing the same role. Asked

if he was entrusted with the gloves, keeping in mind the two back-to-back World T20s, Rahul said, "Nothing has been conveyed to me [by the selectors]. We, as a team, aren't thinking that far. World Cups are very important and that is the long vision for every team."

"But for me, it's about taking one game at a time, and if I keep putting up consistent performances with the bat and the gloves, it gives us the option of playing an extra bowler or a batter."

Rahul credited IPL 2020, where he led Kings XI Punjab, for helping him juggle multiple roles.

"I learnt from the IPL to

stay in the moment... when I am batting, I think like a batter, assess the conditions and see how as a batter, I can win the game.

"When I am 'keeping, it is important I switch on as a 'keeper and not keep thinking as a leader. That's going to be the key going ahead for me."

"I share a decent understanding with Yuvi [Chahal], Jaddu [Ravindra Jadeja] and Kuldeep Yadav and will probably give them feedback about what I feel is a better length or pace to bowl."

"Hopefully, I can get better at reading the game and give good feedback to the bowlers and the captain."



**Making them count:** Rahul has turned in some impressive performances while walking in to bat at No. 5. ■ FILE PHOTO: VIVEK BENDRE

## SUDOKU

			4	3			2	
8		3	2					
7		6					3	
3			2	7	9			
	1					4		
		8	9	5			2	
2				6			4	
				2	3		9	
6			4	9				

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

### Solution to puzzle 13102

S	T	I	N	G	N	E	T	T	L	E
U	A	U	L	E	S	E	V			
S	A	L	A	D	L	O	U			
E	L	G	A	U	T	L	R			
D	I	S	E	N	S	E	P	A	G	E
S	O	T	T	E	R	R	S			
P	R	O	W	L	A	S	A	D	O	N
R	Y	T	O	R	S	C	D			
L	A	T	R	E	T	P				

## TV PICKS

**ISL:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Star Sports 3, 7.30 p.m.  
**Europa League:** Sony Ten 1, 2 & 3 (SD & HD), 11.25 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Friday); Sony Six (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Friday)

## IN BRIEF



## Murray for compulsory vaccination

LONDON Andy Murray said on Tuesday that tennis players should be required to have a coronavirus vaccination before they are allowed to take part in tournaments. "I think that probably should be the case. I would hope that all the players would be willing to do that for the good of the sport, providing everything has proved to be safe, clinical trials and everything have been done and there are not any significant side-effects," Murray said. PTI

## Star India acquires CSA media rights till 2024

NEW DELHI Star India has acquired Cricket South Africa's media rights till the end of the 2023-24 season, including 20 bilateral matches between India and the Proteas across Asia, Middle East and North Africa. The tie-up will commence with England's tour to South Africa starting on Friday. PTI

## Rowing camp organised

KOLKATA The Calcutta Rowing Club organised the first-ever residential camp for girls here. The camp, held with the help of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, included 33 girls. Prior to this, the club organised a residential camp for 44 boys.

## CWI team to visit Bangladesh next week

DHAKA A two-member Cricket West Indies (CWI) team is set to visit Bangladesh next week to take stock of the bio-security plans and health protocols put in place by BCB ahead of the Caribbean side's tour in January. PTI



Schalke sacks Ibisevic, suspends Harit, Bentaleb

BERLIN Bundesliga bottom club Schalke 04 on Tuesday abruptly cancelled the contract of veteran striker Vedad Ibisevic, while midfielders Amine Harit and Nabil Bentaleb have been suspended "until further notice". Ibisevic has been shown the door in the wake of a training ground argument, while aspects of Harit's behaviour were "not okay". Bentaleb too has no future at the club. AP

## Two lifters stripped of Olympic medals

LAUSANNE Two Romanian weightlifters were stripped of their 2012 London Olympics medals on Wednesday after positive tests for steroids. The International Olympic Committee said silver medallist Roxana Cocos and bronze medallist Razvan Martin tested positive for multiple steroids in re-analysis of their samples. PTI



## Becker quits German Tennis Federation role

HAMBURG Tennis great Boris Becker said on Wednesday that he was stepping down from his role in overseeing youth development and the Davis Cup team at the German Tennis Federation. The six-time Major winner said he no longer had enough time to do the job he started in 2017. However, he added that he could return to the federation in the future "to take on an even larger task ... if the opportunity arises." AP

## Barcelona coasts into the knockouts

Juventus labours past Ferencvaros while last-gap goals see Chelsea and Sevilla through

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE PARIS

Chelsea and Sevilla registered last-gasp wins to book a berth in the Champions League last 16 on Tuesday, while Martin Braithwaite netted a brace in Barcelona's 4-0 victory at Dynamo Kiev as the Catalans too secured a place in the knockout rounds.

Juventus joined Barcelona in qualifying from Group G but the Italian champion needed a stoppage-time header from substitute Alvaro Morata to beat Ferencvaros 2-1 in Turin and seal its progress. Albanian international Myrto Uzuni had put the Hungarians ahead before Ronaldo drilled home the equaliser before half-time.

There was no Lionel Messi for Barcelona, with the Argentine rested for the trip to Ukraine, but Ronald Koeman's side got the job done to make it four wins from four in Group G.

All the goals came in the second half, with Sergino Dest opening the scoring before Danish striker Braithwaite added another and also converted a penalty to make it 3-0.

Antoine Griezmann, on as



Towering header: Chelsea's Olivier Giroud rises above the Rennes defence to score the winner. ■REUTERS

a substitute, wrapped up the win on a night when young centre-back Oscar Mingueza, Brazilian midfielder Matheus Fernandes and teenage American winger Konrad de la Fuente were bled to a pulp.

Chelsea advanced from Group E after edging Rennes 2-1 in France. Olivier Giroud came off the bench to head home an injury-time winner after Serhou Guirassy had cancelled out Callum Hud-

son-Odoi's breakaway opening goal.

## Sizeable crowd

Last season's Europa League winner Sevilla will not get to defend its trophy as it reached the last 16 of Europe's elite competition with a 2-1 win over Krasnodar in Russia in a game played before a sizeable crowd.

Ivan Rakitic's strike had put the LaLiga side in front only for Brazilian Wander-

son to equalise. However, Munir El Haddadi won it for Sevilla five minutes into added time.

Sevilla and Chelsea were both on 10 points and Frank Lampard's side goes to Spain next week, the winner securing top spot.

Borussia Dortmund needs just one more point to qualify from Group F following a 3-0 win over Club Brugge as the prolific Haaland netted twice either side of a Jadon

Sancho free-kick.

■ Haaland has 16 Champions League goals in just 12 appearances – Messi had two and Ronaldo none after the same number of appearances

■ The Portugal international, however, with his strike against Ferencvaros has now scored in 15 consecutive seasons

■ Ronaldo also now has 70 home game goals in the tournament – level with Messi

The results: Group E: Krasnodar 1 (Wanderson 56) lost to Sevilla 2 (Rakitic 4, El Haddadi 90+); Rennes 1 (Guirassy 85) lost to Chelsea 2 (Hudson-Odoi 22, Giroud 90+).

Group F: Borussia Dortmund 3 (Haaland 18 & 60, Wanderson 56+) bt Club Brugge 0; Lazio 3 (Immobile 3 & 55-pen, Parolo 22) bt Zenit St. Petersburg 1 (Dzyuba 25).

Group G: Dynamo Kiev 0 lost to Barcelona 4 (Dest 52, Braithwaite 57 & 70-pen, Griezmann 90+); Juventus 2 (Ronaldo 35, Morata 90+2) bt Ferencvaros 1 (Uzuni 19).

Group H: Manchester United 4 (Fernandes 7 & 19, Rashford 35-pen, James 90+2) bt Istanbul Basaksehir 1 (Turuc 75); PSG 1 (Neymar 11-pen) bt RB Leipzig 0.

## The MilkMahaan of India!



Celebrating Dr. Kurien's 99th birth anniversary

daCunha/AB715

## Kadhe loses to top seed

## INDIANS ABROAD

## SPORTS BUREAU CAIRO

Arjun Kadhe was beaten 6-2, 6-4 by the top-seeded Fabrizio Ornago of Italy in the first round of the \$15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament here on Wednesday.

The results:

\$15,000 ITF men, Cairo, Egypt: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Hana Mortagy & Sandra Samir (Egy) bt Diana Maria Mihail (Rou) & Saumya Vig 6-1, 6-4.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Ignacio Monzon & Fermin Tenti (Arg) bt Tarun Anirudh Chila-

kalapudi & P.C. Vignesh 6-1, 6-1; Yaroslav Shyla (Blr) & Arjun Kadhe bt Adam El Mihdawy (USA) & Luis Patino (Mex) 4-6, 6-1, [10-7].

Yuri Dzhavakhan (Ukr) & Mariano Navoke (Arg) bt Sidharth Rawat & Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam 6-3, 7-6(3).

Anirudh Chandrasekar & Manish Suresh Kumar bt Daniel Harris & Sean Harris (GBR) 6-1, 6-1.

\$15,000 ITF women, Cairo, Egypt: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Hana Mortagy & Sandra Samir (Egy) bt Diana Maria Mihail (Rou) & Saumya Vig 6-1, 6-4.

Lamis Alhussein Abdel Aziz (Egy) & Anastasia Zolotareva (Rus) bt Jennifer Luikhama & Snehal Mane 6-2, 6-4.

## Gujrathi misses out on last-eight

Stuns Svidler and Anton; Carlsen tops league

## SKILLING OPEN

## RAKESH RAO NEW DELHI

Showing steady improvement with every passing day, Vidit Gujrathi stunned Peter Svidler and David Anton on the final day but fell short of a quarterfinal berth in the \$100,000 Skilling Open online chess tournament on Tuesday.

After scoring 3.5 from the first 10 rounds, Gujrathi scored 3 points from the last five, in spite of losing to league-topper Magnus Carlsen.

He finished with 6.5 points to finish tied-12th along with Anton.

## Top eight

The top eight performers – Carlsen, Hikaru Nakamura, Wesley So, Ian Nepomniachtchi, Levon Aronian, Teimour Radjabov, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and Anish Giri – made it to the two-day quarterfinals.

The other eight players,

Giri drew with Duda; Quang bt Anton; Vachier-drew with Ding.

13th round: Carlsen bt Gujrathi; Anton lost to Nakamura; Nepomniachtchi drew with So; Aronian bt Giri.

Radjabov drew with Quang; Firouzja bt Karjakin; Svidler bt Vachier; Duda bt Ding.

12th round: Gujrathi drew with Nepomniachtchi; Quang drew with Carlsen; Nakamura drew with Radjabov; So drew with Svidler; Giri lost to Firouzja; Karjakin lost to Anton; Ding drew with Aronian; Vachier bt Duda.

11th round: Svidler lost to Gujrathi; Carlsen drew with Nakamura; Nepomniachtchi drew with Quang.

So drew with Vachier; Aronian bt Duda; Anton drew with Giri; Radjabov bt Karjakin; Fi-rouzja bt Ding.

Standings (after 15 rounds): 1-2. Carlsen, Nakamura; 3-5. So, Nepomniachtchi, Aronian, 6-10. Radjabov, Lagrave, Giri, Firouzja, Quang, 11. Ding, 12-13. Gujrathi, Anton, 14. Svidler, 15. Karjakin, 16. Duda.

14th round: Gujrathi drew with Radjabov; So drew with Carlsen; Nakamura bt Firouzja; Svidler lost to Nepomniachtchi; So-Radjabov; Vachier-Nakamura bt Karjakin lost to Aronian.

## Le Fondre gives Mumbai City full points

Scores off a penalty in injury-time against 10-man FC Goa

## ISL 2020-21

## SPORTS BUREAU



Striking home: Adam le Fondre broke FC Goa hearts. ■ISL/SPORTZPICS

created the better chances. Skipper Edu Bedia's powerful long-range effort forced a terrific save from MCFC goalkeeper Amrinder Singh.

MCFC, meanwhile, struggled to find rhythm. With the midfield subdued, le Fondre was barely called into action. The team's best chance came in the 74th minute, but Mandar Rao Dessai shot over

the crossbar from point-blank range after receiving the ball from le Fondre.

It seemed like MCFC would go a second game without scoring, until some poor play from Rodrigues, seconds before the final whistle, gave the side an escape route. The match, which saw MCFC head coach Sergio Lobera and many of

his players take on their former club, was an ill-tempered affair. Six yellow cards were also shown.

The result: MCFC 1 (Adam le Fondre 90+5) bt FC Goa 0.

## THURSDAY'S MATCH

Kerala Blasters vs NorthEast United FC

7.30 P.M.

STAR SPORTS 2 (SD & HD) AND 3

## De Grandhomme, Ajaz out of Windies series

Mitchell and Santner drafted in

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA WELLINGTON



de Grandhomme. ■FILE PHOTO

## Archery body gets back recognition

## Y.B. SARANGI KOLKATA

The Archery Association of India (AAI) on Wednesday got back Government recognition after almost eight years.

The Union Sports Ministry informed its decision to the AAI, which was suspended in December 2012 due to "failure to conduct its elections in accordance with the National Sports Development Code of India, 2011."

The AAI elections conducted on January 18 this year – in which Arjun Mundra (president), Pramod Chandarkar (secretary) and R.S. Tomar (treasurer) were elected – got the Sports Ministry's approval after World Archery and the Indian Olympic Association had given their assent.

The Ministry said elections of P.B. War Nongbri (vice-president), K.B. Gurung and Kumjum Riba (both joint secretaries) "have not been in accordance to the provisions of Sports Code" and advised AAI to "ask these officials to demit office."

It also advised AAI to incorporate "such provisions of the Sports Code which do not have any referral in its constitution."

They both proved last summer in the tests against England what they can do in our conditions with Mitch scoring a century and claiming three wickets at Bay Oval, while Daryl produced a polished half-century on debut at Seddon Park.

"Mitch and Daryl will be available for the final T20 game before linking up with the Test squad on Tuesday where we will monitor them closely to ensure they're fit and fresh ahead of the first test," head coach Gary Stead said.

"They both proved last

summer in the tests against England what they can do in our conditions with Mitch scoring a century and claiming three wickets at Bay Oval, while Daryl produced a polished half-century on debut at Seddon Park.

"They both proved last

summer in the tests against England what they can do in our conditions with Mitch scoring a century and claiming three wickets at Bay Oval, while Daryl produced a polished half-century on debut at Seddon Park.

"They both proved last

summer in the tests against England what they can do in our conditions with Mitch scoring a century and claiming three wickets at Bay Oval, while Daryl produced a polished half-century on debut at Seddon Park.

"They both proved last

summer in the tests against England what they can do in our conditions with Mitch scoring a century and claiming three wickets at Bay Oval, while Daryl produced a polished half-century on debut at Seddon Park.

"They both proved last

summer in the tests against England what they can do in our conditions with Mitch scoring a century and claiming three wickets at Bay Oval, while Daryl produced a polished half-century on debut at Seddon Park.

"They both proved last

summer in the tests against England what they can do in our conditions with Mitch scoring a century and claiming three wickets at Bay Oval, while Daryl produced a polished half-century on debut at Seddon Park.

"They both proved last

summer in the tests against