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**STEP**  
FOR COMPETITIVE  
EXAMS



Delhi HC asks EC to respond to plea seeking to de-register YSRCP  
page 8



CBSE Class 12 exam results declared, girls outshine boys  
page 11



Retail inflation quickens to 6.09% in June; food inflation at 7.87%  
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Copy of The Hindu from the 1960s found on Mont Blanc glacier in France  
page 12

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## NEARBY



Teltumbde files bail plea; Rao seeks early hearing

MUMBAI  
Professor Anand Teltumbde, an accused in the Elgar Parishad case, filed an application before the special National Investigation Agency court on Monday, the 91st day of his arrest, seeking to be released on default bail. Poet Varavara Rao (81), another accused in the case, moved the Bombay High Court on Monday seeking that his interim bail application be heard on Tuesday. Later in the day, prison authorities confirmed that Mr. Rao was shifted from Taloja jail to JJ Hospital in the morning for some tests.

WEST ▶ PAGE 5

## 28-year-old who abused stand-up comedian held

MUMBAI  
The Mumbai Police on Monday arrested a 28-year-old man for abusing and giving rape threats on social media to stand-up comedian Agrima Joshua. He is active on social media, and goes with the pseudonym Umesh Dada alias Imtiyaz Shaikh. Meanwhile, Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh on Monday said the State government is seeking legal opinion on the stand-up comedy act by Ms. Joshua as well.

WEST ▶ PAGE 5

# Amid overtures to Sachin Pilot, Rajasthan CLP backs Gehlot

Congress calls another legislature party meet today; MLAs shifted to luxury hotel



Sense of relief: Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot with Congress leaders and MLAs in Jaipur on Monday. ■ ROHIT JAIN PARAS

solve the issue.

On a day of fast-paced developments, the MLAs, accompanied by Mr. Gehlot, were shifted to a luxury hotel on the Jaipur-Delhi Highway, 20 km from the city, soon after the meeting ended.

### Stern warning

The resolution, passed unanimously, condemned all "undemocratic and wrongful" acts for weakening the Congress and expressed confidence in the leadership of party president Sonia Gandhi and senior leader Rahul Gandhi, besides extending support to the Ashok Gehlot-led government.

"This CLP meeting de-

mands that if any Congress office-bearer or member of the CLP indulges in anti-party activities, directly or indirectly, or is involved in a conspiracy, then strong disciplinary action should be taken against him," the resolution stated, without naming Mr. Pilot or any other leader.

The resolution also accused the Opposition BJP of hatching a conspiracy to "murder democracy" by trying to destabilise the Congress government and bribe the MLAs. This was an insult to the eight crore people of Rajasthan, it said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8  
CONGRESS FAULT LINES ▶ PAGE 9

## BJP wary after Maharashtra experience

NISTULA HEBBAR  
NEW DELHI

The crisis in the Congress-led government in Rajasthan may have been compared to the situation that brought down the party's government in Madhya Pradesh, with infighting between leaders and the high command's failure to arrest it but for the BJP, the Rajasthan crisis is one where lessons learnt after the Maharashtra elections came in handy.

According to senior party sources, the debacle of government formation in Maharashtra, with current Finance Minister Ajit Pawar unable to back up his claim on numbers and the party's humiliating retreat, has made the BJP tread with caution in dealing with Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot.

"Whereas any party would want a government in Rajasthan, we were not very sure of the numbers," a senior party leader said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

# SC gives ex-royals right to manage deity's property

But a panel will administer Padmanabhaswamy temple

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday held that the erstwhile Travancore royal family is the "human ministrant" or the *shebaits* (manager) of the properties belonging to Sree Padmanabha, chief deity of the famed and fabulously rich Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple in Kerala.

A Bench of Justices U.U. Lalit and Indu Malhotra, in a 218-page judgment, brought quietus to a dispute of over a decade on whether the temple and its considerable assets should devolve to the Kerala government following the death of Travancore ruler Sree Chithira Thirunal Balarama Varma in July 1991.

Arguments were raised both to and fro – senior advocates Krishnan Venugopal for the royals and some devotees represented by a team of advocates of P.B. Sudresh, Vipin Nair and Karthik Jayashankar – on whether the 26th Constitutional Amendment, which put an end to privy purses enjoyed by erstwhile rulers, would nudge the temple and properties into the hands of the State. In fact, the Kerala High Court, in 2011, directed the State to take over the temple and exhibit its treasures for public viewing in a museum.



Tears of joy: Avittom Thirunal Adithya Varma of Travancore royal family hugs his mother Aswathi Thirunal Gouri Lakshmi Bayi in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

for its transparent administration in the future.

It directed the setting up of an administrative committee, with the Thiruvananthapuram district judge as its chairperson. The other members would be a nominee of the trustee (royal family), the chief thanthri of the temple, a nominee of the State and a member nominated by the Union Ministry of Culture. The panel would take care of the daily administration of the temple.

Accepting the royals' submission that the temple is a "public temple", the court issued a slew of directions

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

# + Will invest \$10 billion in India, says Google chief

Focus will be on digital economy: Pichai

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Technology giant Google will invest \$10 billion (₹75,000 crore) in India over the next five to seven years with a focus on digitising the economy and building India-first products and services, its CEO Sundar Pichai said on Monday.

Speaking at the company's annual event, Mr. Pichai, also the CEO of Alphabet (Google's parent firm) said, "We'll do this through a mix of equity investments, partnerships and operational, infrastructure and ecosystem investments. This is a reflection of our confidence in the future of India and its digital economy."

Investments will focus on four areas key to digitisation – enabling affordable access and information for every Indian in their own language, building products and services that are deeply relevant to India's unique needs, empowering businesses on their digital transformation journey, and leveraging technology and AI for social good in areas such as health, education and agriculture.

Mr. Pichai also spoke with Prime Minister Narendra Modi via videoconference early on Monday. Mr. Modi tweeted that the interaction was "extremely fruitful".

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

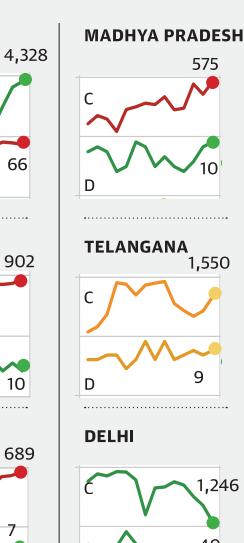
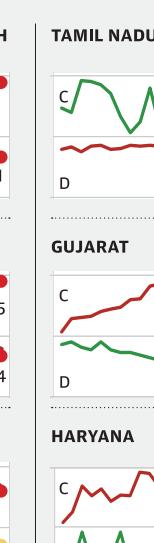
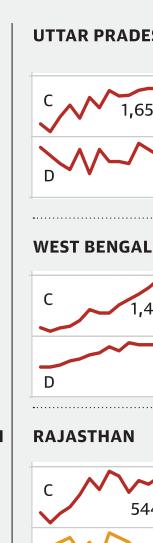
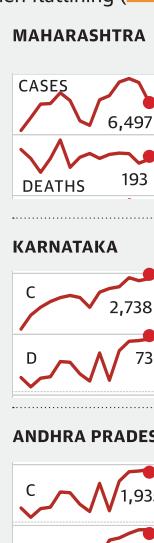
## Viral tracker

Despite a significant reduction in the number of tests conducted compared to the previous day, the number of new cases did not drop proportionately on Monday. With 26,967 new COVID-19 cases and 536 deaths recorded, the cumulative tally rose to 9,06,375 cases and 23,721 deaths. The graphs depict new cases and deaths in the last 14 days in select States. If average cases/deaths in the last seven days are higher than the previous seven days, then the cases/deaths are rising (red); if they are lower then dropping (green); if they are similar then flattening (orange).



Heat check: A health worker screening a resident in Kurar village at Malad in Mumbai. ■ AADESH CHOURHARI

NEW CASES AND DEATHS IN INDIA	
CASES 26,967	DEATHS 536
7 DAY-CHANGE +16.7%	7 DAY-CHANGE +11.9%



FIGURES ON THE GRAPHS DEPICT NEW CASES AND DEATHS RECORDED IN THE STATES ON MONDAY

# Iran drops India from Chabahar rail project, cites funding delay

IRCON had signed MoU with Iranian Railways in 2016

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

Four years after India and Iran signed an agreement to construct a rail line from Chabahar port to Zahedan, along the border with Afghanistan, the Iranian government has decided to proceed with the construction on its own, citing delays from the Indian side in funding and starting the project.

Last week, Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami inaugurated the track-laying process for the 628 km Chabahar-Zahedan line, which will be extended to Zarjan across the border in Afghanistan. Officials told *The Hindu* that the entire project would be completed by March 2022, and that Iranian Railways will proceed without India's assistance.



No more waiting: Iran has begun laying tracks for the 628 km line which will be extended to Afghanistan.

using approximately \$400 million from the Iranian National Development Fund.

The development comes as China finalises a massive 25-year, \$400 billion strategic partnership deal with Iran, which could cloud India's plans.

### Trilateral agreement

The railway project, which was being discussed between the Iranian Railways and the state-owned Indian Railways Construction Ltd (IRCON), was meant to be part of India's commitment

to the trilateral agreement between India, Iran and Afghanistan to build an alternate trade route to Afghanistan and Central Asia.

In May 2016, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Tehran to sign the Chabahar agreement with Iranian President Rouhani and Afghanistan President Ghani, IRCON had signed an MoU with the Iranian Rail Ministry.

(With inputs from Yuthika Bhargava)

CONTINUE ON ▶ PAGE 11

## With 6,497 new cases, State tally crosses 2.6 lakh

193 fatalities take death toll to 10,482

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE  
PUNE

Maharashtra reported 6,497 more COVID-19 cases and 193 deaths on Monday, taking total cases to nearly 2.61 lakh and the death toll to 10,482.

State Health Department officials said just 1,05,637 of the cases are active, with 4,182 patients being discharged on Monday taking total recoveries to 1,44,507. State Surveillance Officer Dr. Pradeep Awate said the State's recovery rate stood at 55.38% and the case fatality rate has marginally reduced to 4.02%.

### Mumbai nears 95,000

Mumbai reported 1,158 new cases, taking its tally to 94,146. However, only 22,900 of these are active cases. The city also reported 47 more deaths, taking its death toll to 5,335. Areas in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) continued to

rise faster than the State capital, with 2,649 cases on Monday, taking cases in the region to 82,721.

Within the MMR, Kalyan-Dombivali Municipal Corporation reported the highest cases, 494, followed by Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) with 353 cases. The total cases in the two corporations are now virtually the same, with TMC's tally at 15,110 and Kalyan-Dombivali fast catching up, with 15,105 cases.

### Surge in Jalgaon, Nashik

Jalgaon and Nashik reported big surges of more than 200 cases each; Jalgaon saw a rise of 220 fresh cases, taking its tally to 6,030 of whom 2,169 were active. With 236 new cases, Nashik's tally has reached 7,316 of whom 2,807 are active.

Likewise, the rise in cases continued in Aurangabad, which reported 215 new cases, taking its tally to 8,432.

## Cannot conduct exams in present scenario: State government

CM Uddhav Thackeray chaired meet to study feasibility

ALOK DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government made its stance on final year university examinations clear on Monday, stating that it would not be able to conduct them due to the COVID-19 situation in the State.

The announcement came after a meeting of the Maharashtra Disaster Management Authority, chaired by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, where the feasibility of conducting the final year examinations by September, as per the guidelines laid down by the University Grants Commission (UGC), was discussed.

### 'Not against exams'

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, State's Higher and Technical Education minister Uday Samant said the government is not against examinations. "However, it

is of the view that considering the COVID-19 situation, examinations cannot be conducted in the present scenario," he said. Mr. Samant said the government will be discussing the matter with nine other States, which have already decided not to hold examinations.

"At present, several colleges, hostels and schools are being used as quarantine facilities for patients of the novel coronavirus. Many students have returned back to their native villages. Their books, computers, and notebooks have been left at the university," he said, reminding that students who appeared for examinations in Bengaluru ended up being infected with the virus.

He said 13 vice-chancellors of non-agriculture universities have sent in written submissions to the State government, explaining the difficulties in conducting ex-

aminations now. "Students and parents are also against conducting exams. UGC is said to be providing guidelines to conduct examinations but is it ready to take responsibility of the health of lakhs of students who will appear for exam?" he asked.

**Second chance**  
Mr. Samant clarified that students will be given grades/mark based on their performance in the previous years. "Those who feel that they can improve their performance will be given an opportunity to appear for the examinations after the situation has improved," he said, adding that those who want to appear for exam should give it in writing to concerned universities.

"The universities will discuss the matter with respective district collectors and announce the date of examination," he said.

Hardware omittances aside, the Dell XPS 13 9300 has some winning qualities in terms of design and performance



## Soul and SUBSTANCE

■ DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

Before the lockdown, most people apart from tech connoisseurs wanted just the basics from their PC, but in the past months of work-from-home life, the relationship between user and product has evolved and the demands from a PC are more intricate. Meeting many of these demands is the Dell XPS 13 9300, which was unveiled at the Consumer Electronics Expo 2020 in Las Vegas. It took its time to make a home in India, when it was finally launched on July 8, its timing was spot on.

Packaging-wise, Dell maintains its stance on using minimal material, all of which are recyclable or reusable, such as bamboo moulded pulp. In the box is the ultrabook itself, the 45 Watt AC adaptor and charging cord, and the basic supporting documenta-

tion. My review unit was the appealing Platinum Silver variant. This 13-inch ultrabook is not only light at just over 1.2 kilograms, the aluminium body is also polished to be grip-friendly with a tempting sheen. The hinge is comfortably rigid and the device opens and closes, with ease and finality respectively.

The focus remains the display. Open the ultrabook and the first thing I noticed was there was no Dell logo under the screen – something Dell users are quite used to seeing. This is to make the most of the redefined InfinityEdge display, which also facilitates the top camera placement. This larger 16:10 display ensures that whatever you are using the XPS 13 9300 for, is the focus; one can barely see the camera.



**Display:**  
13-inch display, four-sided InfinityEdge,  
91.5% screen to body ratio ;  
**Screen strength:**  
Corning Gorilla Glass 6

The EyeSafe Technology tamps down the amount of harmful blue light, while still letting the 4K UHD+ VESA-certified DisplayHDR 400 panel sing in over 16 million colours. The XPS 13 9300 is not just for work as streaming and gaming displays come across well on this device. The display comprises a comfortable 500 nits and 100% RGB colour gamut, as well as a 0.65% anti-reflective coating to minimise glare if you work in varying lighting conditions. This means multimedia work comes across smoothly here, whether you are using Photoshop editing videos, or engaging in graphic design.

The keyboard design of the XPS 13 9300 is 'ergonomics rethought'. The keys have a satisfying curvature, so when typing, there are no awkward angles to each press, but



### Dimensions & weight:

**Height:**  
14.8 mm,  
**Width:**  
296 mm,  
**Depth:**  
199 mm ;  
**Starting weight:**  
1.2 kg

Intel Core processors offer between 3.40 - 3.90 GHz, depending on your customisation of the ultrabook. Paired with a hefty Wi-Fi 6 router, the XPS 13 9300's Killer AX1650 makes for uninterrupted online workflow or streaming. With all this, the device did not heat up as much thanks to the GORE Thermal Insulation.

Prioritising a set of functions constantly means a few other features in a device get the short end of the stick. The webcam quality, unfortunately, leaves much to be desired at just 0.92 megapixels for a still image and 1280 x 720 pixels at 30 frames per second for video recording. After all, with video-chat conferences becoming more of a quotidian requirement – even before the lockdown – Dell could have upped the quality here, making for a missed opportunity. However, those who have the extra buck can invest in a standard external webcam and hook it to the system.

This may not be easy with just the two Thunderbolt 3 USB-C ports, microSD card slot, and a microphone and headphone jack. Set up an adaptor system if you are planning on bringing this home. Though it defends its corner in the high-end segment, I still feel the XPS 13 9300 could offer more in terms of hardware, as do its competitors that offer ultrabooks starting at ₹70,000.

As more people do their best to shift away from Chinese brands, US-based Dell's products, though assembled in China still maintain its loyal user base across individual users and corporate entities. If you plan on getting this ultrabook, the in-device support module helps you find your nearest authorised service centres and get speedy help from up-to-date engineers, either virtually or in-person, depending on your issue.

The XPS 13 9300 starts at ₹1,44,807 and is available at major retailers.

rather an easy flow to your input. The finish on the keys have a plushness to them. And sound-wise, the typing is a relatively quiet experience, so if you are gaming or rushing to meet a deadline, your focus is on the task at hand sans the clickety-clack of keys. The palm rest is also a considerate feature; made of carbon fibre, these little 'stitched ridges' offer some grip for your palm while you type or browse on the sizeable trackpad.

### Performance, upped

As expected the XPS 13 9300, despite its diminutive size, is able to handle heavy-duty activity on a robust four-cell 52 Whr (Watt hour) 'smart' lithium-ion battery that lasts 12 hours on switching between streaming and gaming, and 16 hours on browsing and basic work. Of course, this may vary for other users depending on standby modes and restart routines.

This addition to the XPS 13 family should make the Windows 10 community proud. The latest 10th Gen Intel

**Webcam:**  
2.25 mm, four-element lens

**In living colour** Samples of animation from Tweencraft; founders Dinesh Sen and Soni Sahu ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



## Laughs and life from the 2D

This India-made animation app is easy to use and has struck a chord with netizens during the lockdown

■ PRABALIKA M BORAH

The lockdown made almost everyone turn to their smartphones for entertainment. That, in turn, made a lot of content creators try out Indian-made Tweencraft, which has gone viral for its use of basic animation and voice modulation enabling users to create short dialogue-driven comic animation – most of which are memes.

Using Tweencraft, one can create animation story with basic learning about the edit features. Moreover it becomes a platform to create personal stories to share on social media. Stories can be created from scratch or simply picked from any story shared created earlier and re-edited to create a new one. The app allows editing rigs (bones) of the characters for performance of specific actions.

Mostly popular as forwards on WhatsApp and reposts on Instagram, Tweencraft's most-discussed animation series are the ones that involve a mother's sarcastic comments on exam results, lockdown preparation and bragging of boyfriends. Regional clips do well.

Bengaluru-based duo of KalpKriti Inc, Soni Sahu and Dinesh Sen has been working on this app over the last four years. Soni says, "Our story is as crazy as the Tweencraft app. We quit our jobs at Intel four-and-a-half years ago. Since then we are working full-time to build this app." Working without any funding, the two say they have been "following a Buddhist lifestyle."

"We are getting some business now," explains Dinesh. "The last four months have been pretty good for us, giving us the much-needed morale boost. We grew from 300 daily active users to 15,000 without a marketing budget."

With so many apps available, the duo was not sure about the response for the product. "We are satisfied with the outcome. People are loving it," says Soni. "Creating the app on a limited budget was also a challenge. We were

not in a position to hire experts. We did most of the coding and hired interns and freelancers to help us," explains Dinesh, adding that the app started to gain traction around February 2020.

### Reaching the masses

"During February 2020 we used to get around 200 new downloads every day. The magic of numbers actually started happening in May during the lockdown, when RJ Praveen (RedFM) tried our app. In a day our views jumped to 3,87,386 with 17,000 likes," recalls Soni.

The app, which used to get about 2,000 downloads a day in April saw over 6,000 downloads daily in May. The team says the app is currently free, but they plan to have some in-app ads for revenue. Tweencraft also have had businesses contact them to create

Tweencraft user Mridusmita Chakraborty, a copywriter with a FM radio channel, says she chanced upon the comic animations while randomly scrolling through YouTube.



Mridusmita, a Mass Communications student in Guwahati, Assam, specialising in Animation, instantly liked the comics. She says "I scrolled through the various vi-



suals and couldn't find anything in Assamese. As a copy writer, I have a lot of thoughts and scripts which I can't really use for radio. I downloaded [Tweencraft] and tried a few."

Mridusmita adds, "I wrote about a conversation between a girl and her boyfriend. It got me a good number of likes and shares. The comments mostly said they relate to the mindless conversations and the girl's thought blurs. The sarcastic mother giving the girl a roasting about her exam results or the show she is watching is also popular. In Assam, Matric re-

Tweencraft is available to Android users via the Play Store.

## A waiting game

The UbiForward event by Ubisoft added some must-play games to your entertainment calendar



■ DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

Gaming during the lockdown has offered players some semblance of control, even if it is just the virtual sort. Holding a controller in your hands and making impactful choices without physically moving can be satisfying. Ubisoft's Sunday virtual event UbiForward or 'UbiForward' gave hungry gamers something to sink their teeth into for the year or so ahead.

Here are some highlights from UbiForward:

**Watch Dogs Legion:** Set in futuristic London, Watch Dogs Legion, the sequel to Watch Dogs 2, follows everyday people banding together in a surveillance state run by private security company Albion. Release is slated for October 29 this year.

**Assassin's Creed Valhalla:** When the trailer for Valhalla released earlier this year, gamers were excited about the Vikings-based storyline and environments oriented around Norse mythology. This video game will be available from November 17.

**Far Cry 6:** This gaming release is making waves online purely for the fact that the villain Antón Castillo will be played by Giancarlo Esposito (*Breaking Bad*, *Better Call Saul*). It takes place in the seemingly-idyllic island of Yara amid a revolution – but we will have to wait till February 2021 to actually play it.

**Hyper Scape:** Ubisoft's new free-to-play battle-royale experience is set in the fictional city of Neo Arcadia, and through a form of VR, anyone can become someone. Eager gamers can get the open beta of the experience.

These games will be released for Microsoft Windows, PlayStation 4, Xbox One, and Stadia, with PlayStation 5 and Xbox Series X versions to arrive later in the year



The app, which used to get about 2,000 downloads a day in April saw over 6,000 downloads daily in May. The team says the app is currently free, but they plan to have some in-app ads for revenue. Tweencraft also have had businesses contact them to create

Tweencraft user Mridusmita Chakraborty, a copywriter with a FM radio channel, says she chanced upon the comic animations while randomly scrolling through YouTube.



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Tweencraft is available to Android users via the Play Store.

**Timings**

MUMBAI

TUESDAY, JUL. 14

RISE 06:09 SET 19:20

RISE 01:02 SET 13:47

WEDNESDAY, JUL. 15

RISE 06:10 SET 19:20

RISE 01:38 SET 14:36

THURSDAY, JUL. 16

RISE 06:10 SET 19:19

RISE 02:16 SET 15:29

**Mumbai Weather** max min  
Mumbai Airport 31 24  
Pune 31 22  
Mumbai City 31 24

**Mumbai Today**  
29°C Heavy rain will occur over the city. A warm morning. The sky will remain cloudy over the city.

**Mumbai Tomorrow**  
29°C Heavy rain are possible over the city. A warm morning. A mostly cloudy sky is expected over the city.

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**IN BRIEF**

**32 held for gambling inside eatery**

NEW DELHI

The police on Monday arrested 32 persons for allegedly gambling inside a restaurant in Pitampura. They said they recovered a total of ₹5,08,720 and some playing cards from their possession and further investigation is under way.

## 10,000 people trained to check BP, oxygen level

New Delhi district ramps up virus fight

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The New Delhi district has trained 10,000 citizens to check blood pressure, respiratory rate and oxygen levels using a pulse oximeter to prepare them to fight COVID-19, according to officials.

"The idea is to make them capable of treating themselves or their family members if they contract the virus. Also, they will be deployed at COVID Care Centres which are set up in banquet halls and other places if required," District Magistrate (New Delhi) Tanvi Garg told *The Hindu*.

The volunteers, termed as *Swasthya Doot*, were trained by doctors from Delhi Medical Council (DMC) at 10 centres across the district.

Vikas Kumar, 22, who lives in Inderpuri JJ Colony, was one of the 10,000 who got the training. "We were taught to check oxygen level, BP and temperature. It will be useful because many people who did not know the basics are now aware,"

Mr. Kumar, a final year BA student said.

"From the beginning, many have been volunteering with us for food distribution and supply of essentials and we reached out to them to be volunteers for this," said Nitin Shakya, Nodal Officer of *Swasthya Doot*.

The training was held in 10 centres and 20 batches were taught in a day. "Volunteers have been made aware of the district healthcare facilities and were provided contact numbers of officials in case of an emergency. They have also been taught to ask required questions and collect details from the public," Ms. Garg said.

The district administration is also trying to distribute oximeters to the public through CSR initiative, the District Magistrate said.

"I attended the training last week and learned how to check BP and oxygen level. Now I'm confident and if at some point I have to help the community, I would be able to do so," said Megha, 35, a freelance writer from Vasant Kunj.

## Active COVID-19 cases fall by 29.6% in Delhi

Arvind Kejriwal to inaugurate second plasma bank today

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Delhi reported the lowest number of new COVID-19 cases in more than a month with 1,246 fresh infections being reported in the past 24 hours.

The total number of cases now stands at 1,13,740, according to a Delhi government health bulletin on Monday.

### 40 more deaths

Also, 40 more deaths have been reported, taking the toll to 3,411.

Of the total cases, 91,312 people have recovered and there are 19,017 active cases. Though the total cases in Delhi have been increasing, the active cases have been decreasing since July 1. The number of active cases was 27,007 on July 1 and has decreased by 29.6% to reach 19,017 on Monday.

There are now a total of 658 containment zones



People wait for rapid antigen testing in large numbers in Adarsh Nagar on Monday afternoon. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

across the Capital.

Though the number of new cases are low compared to Sunday, when 21,236 tests were done in 24 hours, only 12,171 tests were done in 24 hours as per Monday's bulletin.

The last time the daily new cases were less than Monday's figure was on June 8, when 1,007 cases were reported.

Meanwhile, a plasma



A health official collecting swab sample for testing, in Karol Bagh on Monday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

## Nearly 3 lakh rapid antigen tests done

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A total of 2,99,699 rapid antigen tests have been conducted in Delhi since June 18, stated data released by the Delhi government on Monday.

While the total positivity rate in Delhi is currently around 9%, the positivity rate is 6.5% for antigen testing, the data shows. A rapid antigen test is done using the nasal swab of a person and gives a result within 30 minutes.

It also stated that south-west district with 30 containment zones has the least number of such tests done

while east district has done the least tests. The south-west district has conducted 43,044 tests followed by the north district with 33,350 tests and south district with 32,190 tests as on Sunday.

Also, the positivity rate of rapid antigen testing is less than RT PCR testing. In almost the same period, the positivity rate for RT PCR tests is 30.5%. Of the 658 containment zones in the city, 101 are in the south-west district followed by 97 in the west district. The north-east district with 30 containment zones has the least number of such zones.

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## Three of a family carrying blood plasma for newborn baby injured in car accident

Girl who was born on July 4 and undergoing treatment at Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital dies; driver of the offending vehicle arrested

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Three members of a family, carrying blood plasma urgently needed for a newborn baby, were injured after their vehicle was allegedly hit by a speeding high-end car on Bhagwan Das Road in Delhi's Tilak Marg, the police said on Monday.

The car driver – 27-year-

old Shah Ved Sheikh from old Delhi's Turkman Gate – has been arrested. Soon after the accident, he had fled the spot, leaving the vehicle behind. The victims – Shakti Singh (36), his wife Pushpa Rani (31) and his sister (26), – were immediately rushed to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. They are said to be out of danger.

The blood plasma was

meant for Mr. Shakti's brother's baby girl, who had developed some complications after she was born on July 4 and was undergoing treatment at Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital. The police said the accident took place on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday and the baby too died at 5 a.m. on Saturday.

The family was returning

to the hospital after collecting blood plasma from the Indian Red Cross Society when the accident took place. The impact of the accident was such that the victim's vehicle toppled and the blood plasma was destroyed, a senior officer said.

**'Not under alcohol'**  
Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Eish

Singhal said a case has been registered against the driver under Sections 279 (rash driving) and 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the IPC at Tilak Marg police station. The police said the driver was not under the influence of alcohol but was driving rashly.

Vishal Singh said the doc-

tor had told them to arrange for the blood plasma for his daughter as it was not available at their hospital. "It was late on Friday night when the doctor said it was urgent and since it was raining, my family members advised me against going on a bike to a blood bank," said Mr. Singh. "So I stayed back in the hospital while my elder brother along with his

wife and our sister rushed to the Indian Red Cross Society," he added. Mr. Singh said his younger sister, who has received five-six stitches on her head, is yet to be discharged.

Mr. Shakti, who was driving the vehicle, sustained at least nine stitches and has been discharged while his wife is still undergoing treatment.

## Three minors kill man for objecting to bike stunts

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Three minors have been apprehended for allegedly stabbing a man to death in west Delhi's Khyala because he objected to biking stunts done by the accused, the police said on Monday.

DCP (West) Deepak Purohit said the 25-year-old victim – Manish from Raghbir Nagar – was killed on July 8. In the CCTV footage, the accused can be seen thrashing Manish mercilessly as many watch the incident.

The police said they received the information from DDU Hospital that a person has been declared brought dead.

On reaching the spot, they found the victim dead with multiple stab wounds. With the help of the footage, the accused were identified.

During interrogation, it was revealed that prime accused used to perform bike stunts on the street where the victim lived. When the victim objected to it, the accused did it again following which they got into a fight when Manish allegedly slapped the accused.

The minor then arranged two knives and committed the crime with two of his friends, the police added. Manish's family said the victim fought for all the children residing in their street but when he was being beaten up, no one came forward to help him. His brother Arjun said the accused used to rash drive on the street where children used to play.

The family also suspects involvement of Manish's friend to whom he had lent money and was asking to return. His family said on the day of the incident, the friend had come to meet him but did not help him at the time of the incident.

## Delhi court rejects Tahir Hussain's bail plea in north-east riots case

Suspended AAP member is accused in murder case of IB staffer

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Suspended Aam Aadmi Party councillor Tahir Hussain allegedly used rioters as "human weapons", who on his instigation could have killed anybody, said a Delhi court on Monday while dismissing his bail plea.

Mr. Hussain is an accused in the murder case of Ankit Sharma, an employee of the Intelligence Bureau, during the communal violence in north-east Delhi in February.

Additional Sessions Judge Vinod Yadav said a "powerful person" like Mr. Hussain can "threaten witnesses if enlarged on bail".

"I find that there is enough material on record



easily be threatened by a powerful person like the applicant [Mr. Hussain]," the Judge said.

The Judge, however, clarified that anything stated in the order was based upon "prima facie analysis of material available on record at this stage, which is yet to be tested on the touchstone of trial".

In the chargesheet, the police has alleged there was a deep-rooted conspiracy behind Ankit's murder as he was specifically targeted by a mob led by Mr. Hussain.

**Chargesheet reveals**  
The chargesheet said the autopsy had revealed that there were 51 injuries on Ankit's body.

## Tablighi Jamaat event: court grants bail to 85 foreigners

Many others walk free after paying fine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday granted bail to 85 Kyrgyzstan nationals who had been charged with attending a Tablighi Jamaat event in the city in violation of visa norms, Epidemic Diseases Act, and COVID-19 guidelines.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Gurumohina Kaur granted the relief to the foreigners on furnishing personal bond of ₹10,000 each. Till date, 532 foreigners from 34 countries who were charged in the case have been granted bail by the court.

Foreign nationals from five countries, however, have claimed trial before the court. Metropolitan Magistrate Himanshu allowed foreign nationals from Algeria, Belgium, the U.K., Egypt and Philippines to walk free on payment of a fine of ₹10,000 each. Metropolitan Magistrate Aashish Gupta allowed Sudanese nationals to walk free on payment of ₹5,000 each.

## Bail granted to riot accused

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday granted bail to an accused in a case of communal violence in north-east Delhi in February, saying his arrest, several days after the incident, on the basis of having been named by beat constable was prima facie a "weak kind of evidence".

The court noted that the beat constable, if he was present at the time of riots at the spot and had identified the accused as one of the rioters, then the least he should have done was to report about him at the police station, which he did not do.

Additional Sessions Judge Vinod Yadav granted bail to Shamim on furnishing a bail bond of ₹20,000 with one surety of like amount, in a case related to vandalising of a public school in Dayalpur by the rioters.

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## OBITUARY &amp; REMEMBRANCE

## DEATH

## SAD DEMISE

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With great sadness, we announce the loss of our beloved father,

**Sri A.N. Radhakrishnan**, Founder and Managing

Director of **Mybra Lingerie Pvt Ltd, Bangalore.**

*He's survived by his sorrowing*

**Wife Lalu Radhakrishnan and Children Sayilen Radhakrishnan and Milan Radhakrishnan.**

## DEATH



**Shri A. Srikant**  
(52 Years), former CEO of  
Kokuyo Camlin Ltd Mumbai  
passed away at Chennai on  
13/07/2020. Contact Numbers :  
9884459187 / 9820483549

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**Babri Masjid case:  
I am innocent, says  
Kalyan Singh**

OMAR RASHID  
LUCKNOW

"I am innocent," said Kalyan Singh, the former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, on Monday after he appeared before a special CBI court here in connection with the Babri Masjid demolition case in which he is an accused.

Talking to media after recording his statement, Mr. Singh said as the Chief Minister he and his government had taken solid measures, including a three-tier security system, for the protection of the Babri Masjid. Mr. Singh was heading the State government when the Mughal-era mosque was demolished by a mob of 'karsevaks' in Ayodhya on December 6, 1992.

He alleged that the Congress government at the Centre then implicated him on baseless allegations.

"There was a Congress government at the Centre then, so due to political vendetta, a case on baseless and false allegations was filed against me on the directions of the Central Government," the BJP leader said.

The former Chief Minister was assisted by two persons as he walked out of the court after over three-hour-long questioning.

Mr. Singh deposed before special judge S.K. Yadav under Section 313 of the CrPC. The court had called him in order to enable him to plead his innocence, if he so wanted.

(With PTI inputs)

**Punjab imposes complete  
ban on public gatherings**

Amid rising cases, restrictions on social events, weddings too

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

Amid rising cases of COVID-19, the Punjab government has put a complete ban on all public gatherings, while restricting social gatherings to five and marriages and other social functions to 30 instead of the current 50.

An official statement said the decision has been taken as are part of the revised guidelines issued by the government on Monday.



Security personnel standing guard at a sealed area in Patiala on Monday. ■PTI

and shall face suspension of licence in case of violation of norms. Further, the management of marriage palaces, hotels and other commercial spaces will have to certify that adequate arrangements for ventilation of indoor spaces have been made," it added.

**Increased surveillance**

The State government has also partnered with IIT-Chennai experts to intensify surveillance, using technology in order to identify super-spreader gatherings in

the past that have resulted in spread, to guide future action. Wearing of masks has been made compulsory in work places, offices, closed places, as per the new guidelines.

Public dealing in offices may be curtailed to cater to need based and urgent issues, according to the guidelines, which provide that the online public grievance redressal system recently approved by the Cabinet should be extensively popularised and used, added the statement.

**Assam flood situation  
grim, death toll at 50**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

Six people drowned in Assam on Monday as the flood situation continued to deteriorate, affecting more than 21,63 lakh people across 27 of the State's 33 districts.

Officials of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said six people died in as many districts as the surging waters inundated 2,763 villages and localities across the State.

One of the main reasons behind the grim situation was the breaching of embankments of river Brahmaputra and its tributaries in at least 40 places.

"Four people drowned or were washed away early

morning while two more died during the day. The total number of people killed by two waves of floods since May 22 stands at 50, excluding 26 more who have died in rain-induced landslides," an ASDMA spokesperson said.

By Monday evening, 60,696 people had taken shelter across 173 relief camps in 16 districts. Rescue personnel had to evacuate more than 19,500 of them.

Almost 90% of Kaziranga National Park has been flooded with the water level rising constantly, officials said.

The park, also a tiger reserve, has a core area of 430 sq km.

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**SEARCH FOR SUSPECT PERSONS**

General public is hereby informed that two unknown persons is suspected regarding stolen cupboard jewellery and case on the pretext of making a lock key from Chippiwara, Jama Masjid, Delhi on 12.03.2020. According to the complainants both are sardar. During the course of investigation, the footage of CCTV Cameras installed nearby corridor has been obtained and analyzed. During which two unknown suspected persons are being seen on foot near the premises of complainant, the descriptions of the under:-

**1st Person :** Age - About 30-32 yrs., Height - 5'7", Complexion - Wheatish, Face - Long, Built - Strong, Wearing - Black pant and blue checkdar shirt.

**2nd Person :** Age - About 30-32 yrs., Height - 5'7", Complexion - Wheatish, Face - Long, Built - Strong, Wearing - Grey pant and grey colour checkdar shirt.

In this regard a case vide E-FIR No. 0122/2020 Dt. 16.03.2020, U/s 380/34 IPC has been registered at PS Jama Masjid, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about these suspected persons may kindly inform to the following.

**S.H.O.,  
P.S Jama Masjid, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-23537374, 23613252**

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that one male was found in unconscious condition at Plot No. V-185, Gamri Road, Near Dispensary, Arvind Nagar, Ghonda, Delhi on 02.07.2020. He was admitted in Jag Pravesh Hospital, Delhi, where doctor declare him brought dead. In this regard a DD No. 68-a/u/s 174 CrPC, Dated 02.07.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Zafraab, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under:

**Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown,

**Age:** about 38-40 years, **Height:** 5'7" Feet, **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Normal, **Wearing:** Grey and White Print Shirt and Black Colour Half Pant.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform at website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or Fax No.: 011-24368639, Tel. No. 011-24368638, 24368641, Ext. 2101.

**S.H.O.,  
P.S. Zafraab, Delhi  
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**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that one female namely **Unknown W/D/o Unknown** R/o Unknown. Age about 20-25 years, Height 5'4", Complexion wheatish, Face Oval, Built thin, wearing Orange & Blue colour kurta with spots/flower printed and Black colour salwar has been found dead near Hirank Picket Pushtha Road, Delhi on 28.06.2020.

The dead body has been preserved at Babu Jagjivan Ram Hospital Mortuary, Jahangirpuri, Delhi.

In this regard a DD No. 16-A dated 28.06.2020 has been

lodged at PS Alipur, Outer-North Distt, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased girl/lady may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.

**SHO  
PS Alipur, Delhi  
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## WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE &amp; AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/MD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Tuesday:** Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at a few isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, central Maharashtra, Marathwada, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	35.4	37.5	25.8	Kozhikode	5.8...	30.2...	24.4
Ahmedabad	17.2	34.4	26.3	Kurnool	...	33.4...	25.4
Aizawl	19	23.8	18.3	Lucknow	...	36.5...	27.5
Allahabad	35.8	28.6	22.5	Madurai	...	33.6...	25.7
Bengaluru	29.3	21.5	17.7	Mangaluru	3.4...	29.5...	23.5
Bhopal	33.4	32.9	23.2	Mumbai	69.6...	30.8...	23.8
Bhubaneswar	4.7	30.7	25.4	Mysuru	...	29.9...	21.0
Chandigarh	34.8	24.6	18.6	New Delhi	...	38.2...	26.2
Chennai	74.7	34.0	22.6	Patna	4.2...	31.4...	25.4
Coimbatore	29.8	23.2	17.7	Pond Blair	0.3...	27.0...	25.5
Dehradoon	32.5	24.9	17.7	Puducherry	5.3...	33.0...	26.4
Gangtok	43.6	22.9	17.7	Pune	3.4...	31.1...	22.6
Goa	45	27.0	23.4	Raipur	29...	34.5...	25.0
Guwahati	5.4	32.1	25.0	Ranchi	7.8...	32.1...	22.8
Hubballi	27.0	22.0	18.6	Shillong	26.8...	24.4...	18.6
Hyderabad	31.8	24.6	18.6	Shimla	...	27.9...	19.4
Imphal	1.1	31.5	22.6	Srinagar	...	31.3...	15.4
Jaipur	4.4	34.8	24.6	Thiruvananthapuram	...	31.4...	24.7
Kochi	4.4	30.2	24.8	Tiruchi	...	35.0...	26.5
Kohima	1.2	24.2	18.5	Vijayawada	6...	34.6...	25.0
Kolkata	28	32.9	28.1	Visakhapatnam	6.5...	32.9...	26.3

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

## Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES SO<sub>2</sub> NO<sub>x</sub> CO PM2.5 PM10 CODE

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	24	31	36	54	73	■■■■■
Bengaluru	15	14	36	44	50	■■■■■
Chennai	2	45	67	70	—	■■■■■
Delhi	13	33	27	140	—	■■■■■
Hyderabad	7	40	22	23	47	■■■■■
Kolkata	10	15	40	30	39	■■■■■
Lucknow	1	10	55	67	—	■■■■■
Mumbai	59	21	6	19	20	■■■■■
Pune	24	9	56	23	24	■■■■■
Visakhapatnam	10	56	33	38	65	■■■■■

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 &amp; 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

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Manohar Gohankar, PM10 recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 259 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 9

Taloja jail authorities shift Rao to JJ Hospital for tests on Monday morning

SONAM SAIGAL  
MUMBAI

Professor Anand Teltumbde, an accused in the Elgaar Parishad case, filed an application before the special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court on Monday, the 91st day of his arrest, seeking to be released on default bail. Mr. Teltumbde has filed for bail for the first time.

Poet and activist Varavara Rao (81), another accused in the Elgaar Parishad case, moved the Bombay High Court on Monday seeking that his interim bail application, which was listed on July 17, be heard on Tuesday.

Later in the day, prison authorities confirmed that Mr. Rao was shifted from Taloja jail to JJ Hospital on Monday morning for some tests and doctors will be deciding on whether he needs to be admitted for any treatment.

Mr. Rao's family said they



Varavara Rao

were not informed about him being shifted to hospital. His daughter said jail authorities told her Mr. Rao was fine in jail when she called in the morning.

Mr. Teltumbde has sought his release on the grounds that the prosecuting agency has not filed its charge sheet even after the stipulated 90-day period as per Section 43 D (modified application of certain provisions of the Code) of the Unlawful Activities

Prevention Act.

The application was filed by Mr. Teltumbde through advocate Sathyaranayanan under Section 167 (2) (ninety days, where the investigation relates to an offence punishable with death, imprisonment for life or imprisonment for a term of not less than 10 years) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Mr. Teltumbde has also challenged the order passed by the special NIA court on

July 12 extending the agency's time to file a charge sheet by another 90 days. Mr. Teltumbde was arrested on April 14 this year and taken into NIA custody. He is now lodged at Taloja jail.

Advocate R. Satyanarayan, who is representing Mr. Rao, said the activist had sought temporary bail on the grounds of his deteriorating health and the risk of contracting COVID-19. Mr. Rao, who is lodged at Taloja jail, had filed a petition in the High Court challenging the June 26 order passed by the special NIA court rejecting his bail plea.

Mr. Rao also filed a writ petition seeking a direction to the authorities of Taloja jail to produce his medical records and submit a detailed report on the treatment given to him after he was hurriedly discharged from the State-run JJ Hospital on June 2.

The minister said irrespective of the content from Ms. Joshua's stand-up comedy act, the government will not tolerate any abuse hurled at women, or threats to her. "Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj respected

## 28-year-old who abused stand-up comedian held

State seeking legal opinion on content of act, says minister

SONAM SAIGAL  
ALOK DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI

The Mumbai Police on Monday arrested a 28-year-old man for abusing and giving rape threats on social media to stand-up comedian Agnima Joshua. He is active on social media, and goes with the pseudonym Umesh Dada alias Imtiyaz Shaikh.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh on Monday said the State government is seeking legal opinion on the stand-up comedy act by Ms. Joshua as well. "We have sought legal opinion on the content of her stand-up comedy act. We will also check if it was indeed objectionable," he said.

The minister said irrespective of the content from Ms. Joshua's stand-up comedy act, the government will not tolerate any abuse hurled at women, or threats to her. "Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj respected

## Man accused of killing daughter granted bail

Father was allegedly opposed to her marriage as it was against his wishes

SONAM SAIGAL  
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court recently granted bail to a man who allegedly killed his daughter for marrying against his wishes.

Rajkumar Chaurasiya did not approve of his daughter's marriage, and when her husband wanted to visit his home town, he did not like it as it would damage his reputation.

On July 13, 2019, Mr. Chaurasiya allegedly called his daughter, killed her with a sickle, and threw her body on the footpath in Ghatkopar, a suburb in eastern Mumbai.

The court said, "Undoubtedly, the case is based on circumstantial evidence and there is no cogent evidence against Mr. Chaurasiya. He also said Mr. Chaurasiya's statement mentioned that a knife was used in the crime, but what was recovered was a sickle."

The court said the accused cannot be detained further and a case for grant of bail is made out. Mr. Chaurasiya was released on a PR bond of ₹25,000.

Bench said on perusal of the police report with regard to the mobile tower location, it does not appear that the accused was in Ghatkopar. "The prosecution is also relying upon the CDR to show there were calls between the accused and the victim on the day of the incident.

The court said, "Undoubtedly, the case is based on circumstantial evidence and although the body was found on the footpath in Ghatkopar, there is no eyewitness.

The alleged statement mentioned that the accused was willing to show the knife used in the crime, but a sickle was recovered."

The court said the accused cannot be detained further and a case for grant of bail is made out. Mr. Chaurasiya was released on a PR bond of ₹25,000.

## Chartered flight brings back 480 students from Russia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

As many as 480 Indian medical students, who were stranded in Russia due to the coronavirus-induced restrictions, arrived in Mumbai by a private chartered flight on Monday.

Some of the students thanked Maharashtra minister Aadiya Thackeray for the help in facilitating their return.

Shiv Sena's South Mum-

bai MP Arvind Sawant told PTI that he advised students, who contacted him, to tweet to Mr. Thackeray for help since he is a cabinet minister and holds charge of the protocol department.

The students, who returned by the Royal Flight from Russia, consisted of 470 from Maharashtra, four from the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, four from Madhya Pradesh, and two from Goa.

## + 'No plans for lockdown in Kolhapur'

It would adversely affect economic activity in district: Guardian Minister Satej Patil



I urge the Indian Council of Medical Research to amend its regulations to allow testing of asymptomatic patients as there is no shortage of testing kits

SATEJ PATIL  
Guardian Minister of Kolhapur

are active. A total of 850 patients have been discharged so far, said Pune Divisional Commissioner Dr. Deepak Mhaiskar. Kolhapur's death toll now stands at 25.

Cases continued to soar in Pune district which reported another surge of 1,678 COVID-19 cases till Monday evening. Its case tally has surged to 40,180, of which 14,591 cases were active.

Meanwhile, Kolhapur saw a sharp spike of 78 cases on Monday, taking its total case tally to 1,252, of which 377

are in a critical condition.

Meanwhile, the death toll in Solapur district has climbed to 339 with 11 more fatalities being reported on Monday. The total death toll in Pune division – which includes Pune, Satara, Sangli, Kolhapur and Solapur districts – has now reached 1,529, as per the Pune divisional office figures.

Dr. Mhaiskar said Pune division's total case tally has reached 47,137, of which more than 17,000 are active cases, while more than 29,000 people have been discharged till date. Solapur reported a big surge of 169 cases, pushing its total case tally to 4,099, of which 1,484 are active ones.

Satara, which has reported 65 deaths so far, reported 56 new cases as its total case tally shot to 1,752, of which 650 are active cases. Sangli reported 15 new cases, taking its tally to 639, of which 302 are active ones.

## A fresh start



Gearing up: A fisherman repairs his net for the new season to begin in August after the annual two-month ban. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

## 10-day lockdown in Raigad from tomorrow

All shops to remain closed; control rooms to



## A crisis in pause

Pilot overplayed his hand, but the Congress leadership should have stepped in early

The brewing rebellion in the Rajasthan Congress lost its fizz midway but the rivalry between Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his deputy Sachin Pilot will continue to haunt the party's government in the State. Mr. Pilot appears to have overplayed his hand, in the process exposing himself to potential retribution by the veteran who is known to be as ruthless to adversaries as he is loyal to followers. The Deputy Chief Minister had claimed the support of 30 of the 107 Congress MLAs in the State, but the show of strength on Monday turned in a different picture. More than 100 MLAs appear to have attended a meeting of the Congress Legislature Party, which is above the halfway mark in the 200-strong Assembly. As the head of the Congress State unit, Mr. Pilot played a crucial role in the victory of the party in 2018 and his disappointment at losing the top post to Mr. Gehlot soon became a festering wound into which the latter only rubbed salt. The Gehlot camp has accused Mr. Pilot of hobnobbing with the BJP to topple the government. By going public with his resentment and marshalling legislators in his camp to BJP-ruled Haryana, Mr. Pilot gave a fillip to speculation that the BJP was involved as it was in toppling the Congress government in Madhya Pradesh in March. Any such move would have been a dishonouring of the mandate that Mr. Pilot himself laboured for in Rajasthan in 2018.

Uninterested or incapable, the Congress central leadership was asleep as storm clouds were gathering over its government in Rajasthan. Factional fights have been endemic in the Congress, but ambitious and impatient leaders are usually kept in check by the alertness of the central leadership. Rahul Gandhi often takes the plea that he is not the party president and Sonia Gandhi, who is the president, defers to her son, creating a loop of power vacuum and lack of accountability in the party. There is despondency at all levels in the Congress, still reeling from two consecutive Lok Sabha election routs. Many leaders have left the party for greener pastures. The friction between Mr. Pilot and Mr. Gehlot is also emblematic of a larger issue of a halting generational transition in the Congress. To say that Mr. Pilot, who became a Member of Parliament at the age of 26, Union Minister in his mid-thirties and Deputy Chief Minister at 41, is not recognised in the Congress is laughable. At the same time, there is a strong case for infusion of younger blood on a massive scale in the party. Far from relentlessly searching for new ideas and people, the Congress leadership is throwing away the limited assets it has by sheer callousness. The averted disaster in Rajasthan will return in a new avatar if nothing is done. It will take a lot of blood and toil for the Congress to take the battle to the BJP's camp; but before anything, the party must put its house in order.

## Gains from rains

A steady, well-spread monsoon spells good news for farmers and the economy

So far, India appears to be having a good run with the monsoon. As of the most recent data available from the India Meteorological Department (IMD), rainfall during the season has been 14% more than what is usual for this period. The month of June only accounts for about 17% of the monsoon rainfall spanning June-September. It is the month during which the monsoon sets in and that process can sometimes be delayed for as much as a week. June is also when the monsoon begins its journey from two extremities of the country. One branch starts its journey northwards from Kerala and the other wing – called the Bay of Bengal branch – enters India from the southeast. Both branches eventually converge in the north and usually, this merging and strengthening of the monsoon currents over the mainland takes at least until July 15. The IMD never forecasts the possible rainfall likely during June because of the vagaries involved in onset and the pace of the journey. This year, two significant things happened. The monsoon set in at a textbook date of June 1. This was even after concerns that Cyclone Amphan that had ravaged West Bengal would delay the monsoon's entry into India from the Andaman Sea. The second factor was the record pace at which the monsoon covered the country. Along with the monsoon onset this year, the IMD announced a revision to the onset and withdrawal dates across several cities. According to this, the monsoon covered India's northern and western borders no later than July 8 as opposed to the previous historical date of July 15. This year, however, the monsoon broke even this speed limit and covered the country by June 25 – at a pace that was unprecedented since 2013.

The net result of all this: more rainy days in June and a fairly even distribution across the country. The IMD's records show that only on four days in that month did daily rainfall drop below its historical normal. Except for northwest India, which is staring at a 3% deficit, the rainfall in east, south and central India has posted surpluses of 13%-20%. While good rains in June signal farmers to prepare the soil and sow *kharif* crop, the most important months are July and August. These two months account for two-thirds of the monsoon rain. This is also the time the monsoon goes into so-called 'break' conditions. Prolonged breaks, or an absence of rainfall, can even lead to drought. In spite of significant improvements in data gathering and technological advancement, meteorological agencies cannot yet reliably forecast the advent of a break or how long it can last. What is critical is that 'normal rains' also obscure the possibility of heavy rains or severe droughts in districts or over larger areas. Therefore, short and medium range forecasts need to be strengthened and effectively communicated to the people.

# Enabling people to govern themselves

With the pandemic showing up flaws in governance institutions, this is a better way for humanity to face new challenges



ARUN MAIRA

Governance systems at all levels, i.e. global, national, and local, have experienced stress as a fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic. Architectural flaws have been revealed in their design. Breakdowns in many subsystems had to be managed at the same time – in health care, logistics, business, finance, and administration. The complexity of handling so many subsystems at the same time have overwhelmed governance. Solutions for one subsystem backfire on other subsystems. For example, lockdowns to make it easier to manage the health crisis have made it harder to manage economic distress simultaneously. In fact, the diversion of resources to focus on the threat to life posed by COVID-19 has increased vulnerabilities to death from other diseases, and even from malnutrition in many parts of India.

### A mismatch is evident

Human civilisation advances with the evolution of better institutions to manage public affairs. Institutions of parliamentary democracy, for example, and the limited liability business corporation, did not exist 400 years ago. Institutions of global governance, such as the United Nations and the World Trade Organization, did not exist even 100 years ago. These institutions were invented to enable human societies to produce better outcomes for their citizens. They have been put through a severe stress test now by the global health and economic crises. The test has revealed a fundamental flaw in their

design. There is a mismatch in the design of governance institutions at the global level (and also in India) with the challenges they are required to manage. Designed like machines for efficiency, they are trying to fit themselves into an organic system of the natural environment coupled with human society. It seems that government institutions are square pegs forcing themselves into round holes.

### Interconnected issues

The global challenges listed in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, which humanity must urgently address now, are systemic challenges. All these systemic problems are interconnected with each other. Environmental, economic, and social issues cannot be separated from each other and solved by experts in silos or by agencies focused only on their own problems. A good solution to one can create more problems for others, as government responses to the novel coronavirus pandemic have revealed.

Even if experts in different disciplines could combine their perspectives and their silo-ed solutions at the global level, they will not be able to solve the systemic problems of the SDGs. Because, their solutions must fit the specific conditions of each country, and of each locality within countries too, to fit the shape of the environment and the condition of society there. Solutions for environmental sustainability along with sustainable livelihoods cannot be the same in Kerala and Ladakh, or in Wisconsin and Tokyo. Solutions must be local. Moreover, for the local people to support the implementation of solutions, they must believe the solution is the right one for them, and not a solution thrust upon them by outside experts. Therefore, they must be active contributors of knowledge for, and active



participants in, the creation of the solutions. Moreover, the knowledge of different experts – about the environment, the society, and the economy – must come together to fit realities on the ground.

### A case for local systems

Governance of the people must be not only for the people. It must be by the people too. Gandhiji and his economic advisers, J.C. Kumarappa and others, developed their solutions of local enterprises through observations and experiments on the ground (and not in theoretical seminars in capital cities). E.F. Schumacher, founding editor of the journal, *Resurgence*, and author of *Small is Beautiful*, had pointed out by the 1970s, the flaws in the economics theories that were driving public policy in capitalist as well as communist countries. He had proposed a new economics, founded on local enterprise, very consistent with Gandhiji's ideas. Elinor Ostrom, the first woman to win the Nobel Prize in Economics, in 2009, had developed the principles for self-governing communities from research on the ground in many countries, including India.

When there are scientific explanations for why local systems solutions are the best, if not the only way to solve complex systemic problems, and when the Indian Constitution requires this too, then why does not the government devolve power to citizens in

villages and towns in India for them to govern their own affairs?

An Indian anthropologist gave me an insight. She said she had observed that several Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers she knew, who seemed to have more compassion for communities than their colleagues had, were involved at some time in their careers with the evolution of community-based public health and the self-help group movements in Andhra Pradesh. She contrasted their views about how change is brought about with the views of IAS officers who have implemented the Swachh Bharat programme recently. The latter, also very fine officers, saw their role as 'deliverers of good government'. Whereas the former, through their experience, had begun to see that the role of government is perhaps to 'enable governance'.

### The district Collector

The key IAS functionary in India's governance is the District 'Collector' – the role his forebears in the Indian Civil Services set up by the British, were expected to perform. Which was to collect revenues and to maintain law and order. When, after Independence, the Indian state took up a large welfare role, he also became the District 'Deliverer' of government largesse. It strengthened the image of a paternalist government taking care of its wards. The District Deliverer's task became complicated when the numbers of government schemes multiplied – some designed by the central government, and others by State government. The schemes were managed by their own ministries and departments in the capitals, with local functionaries of those departments as the points of contact with citizens. At a meeting of IAS officers in Shimla with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), sometime in 2013, to un-

derstand why government schemes were not producing enough benefits for people on the ground, an officer presented a list of over 300 schemes that were operational in her district. The citizens did not know how many schemes there were and what they were entitled to. And even she found it hard to disentangle the schemes.

The pandemic has not passed yet, but evidence is emerging that some States in India, such as Kerala, have weathered the storm better than others. And some countries, such as Vietnam and Taiwan, better than others too. A hypothesis is that those States and countries in which local governance was stronger have done much better than others. This is worthy of research by social and political scientists looking for insights now into design principles for good governance systems that can solve problems that the dominant theory of government is not able to solve.

The dominant theory in practice of good government is 'government of the people, by the government, for the people'. Which slips easily into 'government of the people, by the government, for the political party in power'. This has been the prevalent theory in most States of India for too long. Even when government is for the people, as a deliverer of services, money into their bank accounts, (and money for building toilets), it is not good enough. The government has to support and enable people to govern themselves, to realise the vision of 'government of the people, for the people, by the people'. Which is also the only way humanity will be able to meet the ecological and humanitarian challenges looming over it in the 21st century.

Arun Maira was a member of the Planning Commission

# To whomsoever it may concern in the INC

The Congress Party needs to reinvent itself and work in a sustained manner if it is to stay politically relevant



P.S. JAYARAMU

India is facing turbulent times calling for statesman-like leadership to handle the complex task of rebuilding the nation affected by the twin challenges of economic troubles and the health pandemic. The premise here is that the Indian National Congress (INC) has a golden opportunity to reinvent itself as the Bharatiya Janata Party-led coalition government seems clueless about how revive the economy as well as gain the trust of the poor and the working class after the handling of the lockdown in an inhumane way. The INC should use the time between now and the next Lok Sabha elections, in 2024, to be in the reckoning.

The interim President of the INC, Sonia Gandhi, its past President, Rahul Gandhi, and leaders such as P. Chidambaram, to name only a few, have no doubt, raised the right questions and tried to cause embarrassment to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. But sadly that by itself is not enough. The party should come up with alternative policy perspectives to deal with the complex challenges facing the country.

It is appropriate to recall that a few thinking members of the party, such as Shashi Tharoor, Jairam Ramesh and Sanjay Jha, have expressed opinion on the need for not only serious introspection at the top level but also institutional reforms within the party. The following are some of the suggestions if the project of a revival of the Congress party is to bear fruit.

### Tap talent

The party should constitute a Committee comprising talented partymen and outsiders drawn from public life who carry credibility and entrust them with the task of holding organisational elections at the national and State levels in an impartial and transparent manner in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. There must be an emphasis on bringing in young blood to man party positions to keep the party future ready. Let it not be forgotten that Mrs. Indira Gandhi had Young Turks to usher in her socialist programmes after 1969; Rajiv Gandhi too had his own young team to work towards his vision of a technology-driven India. The United Progressive Alliance regimes too brought in some young people but failed to exploit their potential to the full as Sonia Gandhi who virtually held the reins of power was reluctant to give a free hand to the younger elements in the government.

It is also necessary to de-emphasise the role of the high com-



mand, which is antithetical to a vibrant democratic functioning of the party. While there seems to be a strong case for the Gandhi family to be kept out, it may not happen, sadly, because of the sycophancy of the old guard with whom Sonia Gandhi is comfortable and who plead for her continuance as the party chief. The bane of the Congress leadership has been its reluctance to develop a second line of leadership that is independent of the Gandhi dynasty.

### Regain the social base

The party needs to reinvent itself ideologically and while doing so, the narrative should be built around a broad left-of-centre position, in support of the poor and socially economically oppressed sections while also taking into account the aspirations of educated urban voters for whom ideology does not really matter. The party should address itself to the needs of farmers, small and medium-term industrialists, rather

than siding with big business.

It needs to make serious efforts to regain its social base among Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes, which has eroded in recent times as borne out by the outcome of the 2019 Lok Sabha and subsequent Assembly elections. Minority appeasement also will not work the way it used to in the past.

Most crucially, the Congress has to rebuild the morale of its party workers, which stands eroded after successive defeats either electorally or losing power after being in government in rather quick succession in States.

The leadership at the central and State levels will also have to accord priority to enrol new members to the party to make it cadre-based. Figures are not available about recruitment of new members to the party-fold in recent years.

Side by side, serious efforts ought to be made to root out the bane of factionalism in the party. And that can happen if the leadership is persuasive and inclusive in its intent. The high command which has concentrated decision-making powers should make way for decentralised functioning of the party.

At the State level, it has to align itself with regional parties if it has to successfully capture power. More pertinently, the party State-level leadership needs to be nurtured and allowed to function in-

dependently keeping in mind the ground realities.

### Project views

It is high time the party set up a shadow cabinet at the central level, drew up and publicised its alternative policy prescriptions and presented them in Parliament rather than getting fixated in obstructing official business. Unparliamentary behaviour by members of the Opposition and ruling party members is detested by the public.

Additionally, the party leadership would do well to involve experts in drawing up medium- and long-term solutions to problems which are increasingly becoming complex in the interdependent and technology-driven ecosystem.

In these days of the powerful role played by the media, especially the electronic media which are owned by business houses, the party may have to take the help of some such group to project its image and points of view.

The conclusion is inescapable: The Indian National Congress needs to work tirelessly and strain itself in a sustained manner on all fronts if it has to play an effective role in our democratic polity and to stake its claim for power in future.

P.S. Jayaramu is a former professor of political science, Bangalore University and a former Senior Fellow, Indian Council of Social Science Research



## 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.

### Beijing's border moves

It is evident that the absence of a clearly demarcated Line of Actual Control came in handy for the Chinese PLA to make gradual ingressions into territories to which India also lays claim ('Exclusive', Page 1, "Xi's mobilisation order, months of planning preceded border moves", July 13). The stamp of approval for the mobilisation order by none other than the Chinese President himself only emboldened the PLA to adopt aggressive, and subsequently violent moves. Considering the nature of terrain in the Ladakh region, it will be a humongous task to undertake the process of delineation. However, nothing is impossible and

both countries need to set aside their mutual rancour, adopt a strategic stance, hold detailed negotiations and evolve a robust mechanism for implementation.

V. JOHAN DHANAKUMAR, Chennai

■ The Chinese leadership seems to treat border incursions as war games to test its own military preparedness and the LAC as a laboratory to experiment with geopolitical posturing. India needs to re-examine its policy of tactful equivocation about China's occupation of Indian territory. While calculated restraint may allow China to pull back without loss of face, India may create a moral hazard of incentivising Chinese border violations as cost-free

adventurism. Compelled to prioritise verification over trust in its dealings with China, it makes sense for India to depend on its own satellites in the sky to keep a hawk-like eye on China's border manoeuvres.

V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN, Thiruvananthapuram

**Rajasthan tussle** It is puzzling how and why the Indian National Congress's radar misses inner-party squabbles over and over again (Page 1, "Pilot's rebellion with 30 MLAs puts Gehlot govt. on the edge", July 13). Unless the GOP restructures itself in a fundamental way, it is not going to offer any challenge to the Bharatiya Janata Party either at the Centre or in States across India. While it is no longer shocking to find lawmakers being bundled in

parties using a generous cocktail of money, muscle power and defections to gain and retain power, the BJP appears to have mastered the art and science of defection engineering and technology to perfection. It is unclear why the same BJP is not showing the same deftness in handling the economy, the border crisis with China, and, of course, the pandemic.

A. VENKATASUBRAMANIAN, Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

■ At a time when the country is battling COVID-19 and has locked horns with a belligerent neighbour, the timing of politicians to rock the boat exposes their indifference to solving the burning issues on hand. It is painful to read about and see lawmakers being bundled in

buses and transported to resorts when they are supposed to be nursing their constituencies. The gullible electorate is being taken for a ride.

V. SUBRAMANIAN, Chennai

■ What is happening? The Congress used to be a pan-India party, representing all sections of society, be it peasants or landlords, workers or capitalists, radicals, socialists or moderates; a party of Gandhiji, Patel, Nehru, Bose, Tilak, Kripalani, Rajaji. The party needs to be ruthless about getting rid of corruption, defectors and refocus on appealing to the minorities, the marginalised, and liberals to protect the soul of the Indian Constitution, which

cherishes plurality, unity, and the rule of law. The only way forward if the Congress must breath is this: the dynasty must go.

SHARDUL SINGH, Shigar, Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh

**Trump wears a mask** It is heartening that U.S. President Donald Trump has at last seen reason ('World' page, "Trump dons a mask in public, finally", July 13). Any leader should know that he or she should be exemplary in his or her life. With the change of attitude in Mr. Trump, and with budding faith in preventive measures, one hopes that the U.S. will soon be able to overcome the disease.

# The politics of nepotism

The discourse is a salvo in a battle between two elites: the Nehruvian 'ancien regime' and the new faction



G. SAMPATH

In recent weeks, nepotism has become centre stage in mainstream public discourse. Triggered by speculations over the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, the debate was initially confined to the film industry. But it has since spread to other domains. What began as a hashtag about a tragic death has acquired a life of its own. How do we understand this sudden upsurge, given that nepotism is not a new phenomenon?

In India, whichever field one may consider, there is no denying the prevalence of influential families that wield nepotistic influence. But does this mean we make peace with nepotism? Certainly not. But a lot depends on how the debate is framed, and the nature of the contingent politics around the nepotism discourse.

#### The current debate

What is now derisively described as 'nepotism' is how things were traditionally done. In pre-modern societies, the realms of domesticity and work were merged, with the family playing a central role in determining an individual's entry not only into an occupation, but also the public sphere. In insufficiently modernised societies such as India, this tendency remains strong. Second, traditional social norms still dictate that family comes first, caste/clan second, and everything else, including merit, last.

In India, where upper caste dominance across domains is well documented, nepotism extends beyond the family and operates along the axis of caste as well. Deep historical inequalities and a dwindling welfare state have made India one of the most unequal societies in the world, with the richest 1% holding more than four times the wealth of the bottom 70%. It stands to reason, therefore, that anyone concerned about nepotism would want to attack the cause of which nepotism is the symptom: the reproduction of inequality. After all, the more unequal a society, the greater the scope and incentive for nepotism. In a hypothetical society of perfect socio-economic equali-



ty, each individual's nepotistic reserves would cancel out that of everyone else's. So, tackling nepotism calls for political mobilisation against socio-economic inequality. The most effective means of reducing such inequality are social justice measures such as affirmative action, universal access to public health and education, and redistributive policies such as an inheritance tax.

But the theme of inequality is conspicuously absent in the nepotism discourse. Its preferred binary is not 'privileged' versus 'non-privileged' but 'outsider' versus 'insider', with all the outrage reserved for the insiders. The idea is not to call for a level playing field but to stoke the so-called outsider's desire to displace the 'insider' as the new 'insider', without dismantling the insider-outsider structure as such.

The key to understanding the nepotism discourse lies in the parallels it shares with the Anna Hazare-led anti-corruption movement. First, beneath the hood of moral righteousness, the nepotism discourse is also powered by right-wing majoritarian elements. As was the case with the anti-corruption movement, this aspect remains understated, if not hidden, thereby enabling the discourse to get traction across the political spectrum, including from liberals.

Second, the nepotism discourse is right-wing populist in precisely the same way that the anti-corruption movement was, with both having the same objective: to consolidate the base of Hindutva politics by channelling public resentment against traditional elites. In politics, where the old elite, symbolically and literally, is the Nehru-Gandhi family and its allies, the strategy worked brilliantly - giving the illusion of authentic change while one faction of upper caste elites displaced another to be-

come the ruling elite.

The contours of this factional war are clear in the Bollywood context. Since 2013, several notables at the periphery of the Bollywood power structure have chosen to ally with majoritarian politics. But six years down the line, their strategic alliance with the new power elite in Delhi is yet to yield a meaningful change in their status vis-à-vis their own industry's power centres, which continue to be the same old families. As these families continue to monopolise lucrative opportunities for those disinclined to challenge their supremacy, life could get tough for anyone who has fallen out of favour.

Understandably, there is genuine cause for resentment here. Also, since many of these ambitious 'outsiders' to Bollywood themselves come from bubbles of privilege in terms of their class and caste origins, they are not easily silenced, unlike, say, an Adivasi or Dalit summarily displaced from her home in the rural hinterland. In a society where a feudal sense of entitlement simmers beneath a veneer of economic modernity, aspirational upper castes with bottled-up resentments are legion in every domain. They represent a political resource waiting to be mobilised. The 2011 Anna Hazare movement showed how it's done.

#### From the same old toolkit

Corruption did not peak in 2011, when the movement began. But a media-supported public campaign made it seem like it had, helping foment resentment against the UPA regime, which became synonymous with a venal elite that owed everything to the nepotistic influence of the Nehru-Gandhis. Corruption did not disappear after 2014. But the anti-corruption mobilisation had done its job - as a Trojan horse that enabled

the forces of Hindu majoritarianism to capture power at the Centre.

The increasing sophistication of right-wing propaganda and its layered execution through social media campaigns has meant that it rarely registers early enough on liberal radars. Nepotism is the latest instrument from the right-wing populist toolkit. As an ideological weapon, it is a missile with multiple warheads. At one level, it does what populism always does: fuel rage against an elite in the name of "the people". At another level, Hindutva forces are using it to achieve three objectives: consolidate their upper caste base by appearing to empathise with their frustrations; translate status anxieties into resentments against sections of the elite that are yet to make a break with the Nehruvian consensus and embrace Hindutva; and, finally, communicate to recalcitrant sections of the liberal-Nehruvian elite the same message that goes out to some MLAs whenever a non-BJP government needs toppling: switch sides or face the consequences.

Fomenting new social antagonisms along the axis of 'the people'/outsider versus the elite/insider is a proven political strategy of right-wing authoritarian populists. The nepotism rhetoric is a similar operation where the resentments and frustrations of the less privileged, aspirational, upper and middle castes are sought to be weaponised against older, relatively more privileged upper caste factions, now 'othered' as the Nehruvian elite.

The nepotism discourse, then, is another salvo in a battle between two elites: the Nehruvian 'ancien régime' with its pluralistic instincts, and the brash new aspirational faction that wants its share of the spoils of power. This is a share it feels entitled to on the basis of its political commitment to Hindutva. But given the heavy competition and the small size of the pie, a great many feel deprived and resentful as they see the old liberal elites continuing in their privileged perches, as they always have. It remains to be seen whether deepening this social antagonism through polarising rhetoric offers enough fuel for a propaganda campaign capable of insulating the ruling party from the political costs of governance failures and economic headwinds.

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# Yet another challenge to the Dalit movement

The language of mobilisation needs to change



BADRI NARAYAN

The pandemic is forcing us to understand the changing nature of society. In north India, specifically, it has also reshaped the discourse on marginalisation. Dalit issues are part of this discourse but are submerged in the broader discussions on economic vulnerabilities highlighted by COVID-19.

This pandemic has brought about two important shifts in the political discourse on the marginalised. As the lockdown caused untold suffering to poor, migrant labourers, it brought them from the margins to the centre of deliberations. Second, discussions on the space for the marginalised in the public health system and their safety are in focus. However, the concerns of Dalits remain hidden under the broader categories of poor, vulnerable, marginal, etc.

#### Changing vocabulary

In contemporary debates, there is a reappearance of class-based vocabulary. Caste-based issues have either become invisible or are only visible as part of the wider discourse. Leaders such as Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati and Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad have not been able to engage effectively with these new shifts. They have not been able to carve out a location in these new debates for their own politics. They have to reorient their exclusively caste-based language and reshape their political discourse to be in tune with the times. There are a large number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes among the migrant labourers. But Dalit leaders in north India have not been able to represent their concerns. Their dilemma is how to address their constituents using class terminology such as 'labourer' and 'poor' even as a majority of the migrant poor are Dalits and OBCs. This dilemma has made Dalit leaders non-assertive. It is possible that these shifts in political debates may continue in the post-pandemic phase at least for a few years as vulnerabilities of the marginalised will increase.

The Dalit movement in north India is habituated in using caste-based binaries in its mobilisation language but has failed to respond to the changing political diction. In fact, leaders have not changed their political diction for 30 years, since the time of the Kanshi Ram-led Bahujan movement. The movement is facing a crisis of agendas and

social programmes. The constant repetition of unfulfilled claims and commitments and slogans and promises create disillusionment among a section of their support base.

Another issue is that the Dalit movement in north India is grappling with a leadership crisis. This crisis has appeared due to a break in the umbilical cord tying the movement with the party. In States such as U.P., Bihar, Punjab and Rajasthan, Dalit assertions are mostly centred around the electoral politics of Dalit-Bahujan political groups and parties. Even alternative social movements led by Jignesh Mevani and Mr. Azad seem to be caught in the logic of electoral politics.

#### Leadership crisis

During the Bahujan movement in the 1990s, the idea was that the movement and the party could facilitate each other. But the BSP, which emerged from the Bahujan social movement, developed gradually as a party structured like a pyramid. Under Ms. Mayawati, it has stopped its reciprocal relationship with the Dalit movement. In the BSP, the emergence of political leaders of various Dalit-Bahujan castes at different levels became frozen. This caused erosion in the broader social base and ultimately weakened the Dalit movement. So, while on the one hand, the Bahujan movement allowed numerically important Dalit-Bahujan communities to have political aspirations, on the other, the freeze on the emergence of leaders at various levels smashed political ambitions, destroyed the initiatives of the cadre and hampered the natural growth of the party and movement. The Dalit movement is constantly facing new challenges but its leaders are not able to change their strategies and grammar of politics to respond to them.

Under the influences of the Ambedkarite ideology and the Dalit-Bahujan movements, an assertive and politically aware Dalit consciousness was being formed among a section of Dalit groups. In the meantime, interventions by Hindutva leaders among Dalits mobilised a section of the most marginalised Dalits under the Hindutva flag. Now the pandemic has posed a new challenge for the Dalit movement. Caste-based identities formed the ideological resource base, but now concerns have gone beyond caste and religion, thus posing a different challenge. The challenge may be temporary but it may lead to a paradigm shift for Dalit politics.

The Dalit movement has to evolve new social strategies for its expansion in order to keep up with the changing times.

Badri Narayan is Director of the G.B. Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad

# The club of virus deniers

Leaders who kept the economy open are having to tackle both a severe health and an economic crisis

#### SREERAM CHAULIA

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who has managed the pandemic in the most disastrous manner, has tested positive for COVID-19. In Brazil, COVID-19 has affected more than 18,60,600 people and claimed more than 72,000 lives.

Mr. Bolsonaro's ostrich-like behaviour towards the unprecedented public health crisis has defied logic. His dismissal of the virus as "a little flu", bragging that people like him who have had an athletic past "have nothing to worry about", refusal to wear a mask in public until ordered by the judiciary, promotion of unproven medicinal cures for the virus, unwillingness to impose lockdown restrictions, active encouragement of mass rallies, and firing of the Health Minister (whose replacement resigned a month into the job) are all astonishingly cavalier actions. They show that the Brazilian President inhabits a parallel world.

#### A hall of infamy

However, he is not alone. There is a hall of infamy of like-minded world leaders who have deliberately denied or downplayed the dangers posed by the virus. Their callousness is leading to a large number of cases and deaths in their respective countries. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson wasted valuable months when the virus was spreading like wildfire and shied away from preventive social distancing measures. He cheerfully insisted on shaking hands in public, then got infected himself, and oversaw a health disaster that the U.K. has not suffered for generations. U.S. President Donald Trump famously said the virus will just disappear; his country has the highest number of cases and deaths in the world. Vice President Rosario Murillo invited Nicaraguans to participate in a 'Love in times of COVID-19' walk. Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko said that drinking vodka and working in fields with a tractor will "heal everyone". Tanzanian President John Magufuli argued for people to flock to churches as "COVID-19 cannot survive in the body of Jesus". Turkmenistan's Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov

dow urged that the use of the word 'coronavirus' be censored. These are all heads of government who have more or less replicated the Bolsonaro and Johnson models and plunged their societies into deep tragedy.

Although the above listing of leaders has a mix of far-right and far-left populists, their common threat is the politics of extremism. They share comparable traits of mistrusting expert knowledge, stoking suspicion about formal institutions, stirring up their social base of hardcore, die-hard loyalists, cultivating a cult of personality around themselves, and maintaining a self-image as the sole guardians of the interests of the ordinary masses.

#### Primacy of the economy

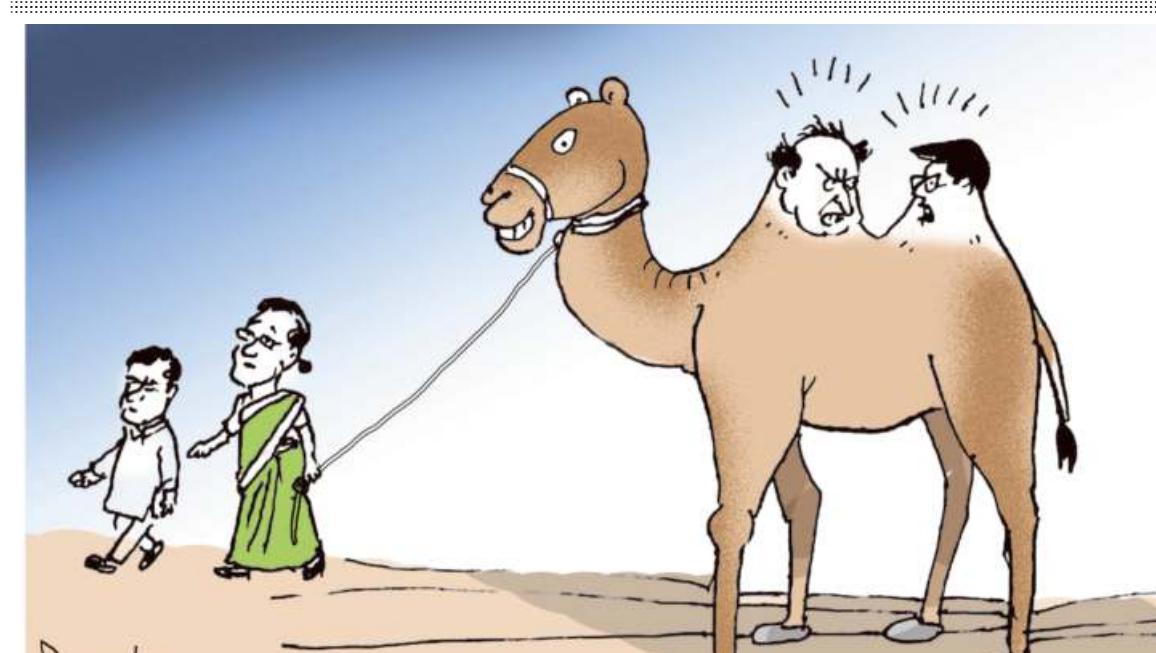
An oft-observed tendency among the virus-denying leaders is the belief in the primacy of the economy as the be-all and end-all of life which should never get disrupted by "psychosis" about human health or environmental protection. These politicians are short-sighted enough to buy into the false dichotomy between livelihoods and lives, and prioritise the right of the working classes and businesses to work over the right of every citizen to receive healthcare and survive.

In an abstract sense, the economy or markets shape society and politics, according to these leaders. But as the virus tears into their countries, it is painfully proving the fallacy of their overly materialistic and inhuman world view.

The U.S., Brazil and the U.K., to name a few, have been saddled with the proverbial worst of both worlds - mass casualties from the virus and economic depressions not seen in a century. The club of deniers chased narrow, short-term goals of keeping the economy open and ended up with the double whammy of high cases and deaths and no GDP growth to flaunt.

Given how obstinate politicians like Mr. Bolsonaro are, they may never learn from their critical mistakes unless booted out of power. History will judge them harshly.

Sreeram Chaulia is Dean of the Jindal School of International Affairs



#### DATA POINT

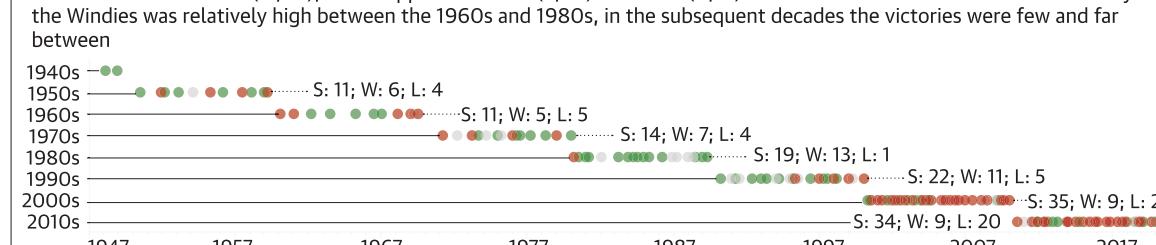
## Calypso back in rhythm?

For the first time since 2000, West Indies went up 1-0 in a Test series in England, beating the hosts by four wickets on Sunday. The win was significant, given the Windies' poor run in Tests since the turn of the millennium, after a particularly dominant 1980s. Their fall was drastic: after holding the best away record in the period between 1960 and 1980, the team had the worst away record in the last two decades. By The Hindu Data Team

**TEST RECORDS** The first part of the table lists the win/loss% in Tests for West Indies across decades in home and away conditions. Windies dominated the 80s, with the best home and away Test win % among all nations. The second part of the table lists the best and worst teams\* according to Test win % in each decade. Since 2000, the Windies had the worst win % in away tests among all nations. The third part lists the ten West Indian captains who led the team in the most matches. The most impactful among the lot are Clive Lloyd and Viv Richards, who spearheaded the team's dominance in the 1980s

Decade	Home	Away	Home % win	Away % win	Captain	Span	Win %	Loss %
1930s	38	25	9	64	Aus, 65	NZ, 0	Aus, 47	NZ, 0
1940s	50	0	20	0	Aus, 70	SA, 0	Aus, 88	SA, 0
1950s	30	30	43	39	Aus, 60	NZ, 7	Aus, 44	Ind, 0
1960s	35	15	38	34	Eng, 43	NZ, 10	WI, 38	NZ, 0
1970s	24	21	34	28	Aus, 50	NZ, 14	WI, 34	Pak, 0
1980s	60	3	48	13	WI, 60	SL, 0	WI, 48	SL, 0
1990s	46	20	28	50	Aus, 61	SL, 0	Pak, 43	Ind, 3
2000s	24	37	11	70	Aus, 76	WI, 24	Aus, 61	WI, 11
2010s	36	45	17	59	Ind, 74	SL, 30	Pak, 40	WI, 17

**SERIES HISTORY** The chart depicts every Test series played by the West Indies (S) across decades. Each circle depicts either a West Indies win (W, ●), or the opposition's win (L, ○) or a draw (D, ◇). While the share of series wins recorded by the Windies was relatively high between the 1960s and 1980s, in the subsequent decades the victories were few and far between



\*Teams that played at least five test matches in a decade were considered. The total number of matches played was very low in the 1930s and 1940s and so the percentages may be a bit skewed. Source: ESPNcricinfo

#### The Hindu

#### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 14, 1970

#### U.K. Arms for South Africa

The British Prime Minister, Mr. Edward Heath, has sent a letter to the Indian Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi, on the subject of resuming supply of

## FROM PAGE ONE

## Amid overtures to Pilot, CLP backs Gehlot

But despite the strongly-worded resolution, the central leadership of the Congress was keen on a compromise and tried to persuade Mr Pilot to head back to Jaipur.

Former Union finance minister P. Chidambaram, senior leaders Ahmed Patel and K.C. Venugopal are also believed to have reached out to Mr. Pilot but there was no official confirmation.

Before the CLP meeting began, Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala, camping in Jaipur after being deputed to handle the political crisis, appealed to Mr. Pilot and the MLAs supporting him to raise the issues arising out of "difference of opinion" via party forums.

"The doors of Congress are always open... Talk to us," Mr. Surjewala said at a press conference, adding that the Congress leadership had spoken to Mr. Pilot about several times during the last 48 to 72 hours.

## BJP wary after Maharashtra experience

"Added to this was the fact that unlike Jyotiraditya Scindia in Madhya Pradesh, Sachin Pilot had not openly expressed rebellion against the Congress. Which is why we too have adopted a wait-and-watch situation with regard to Rajasthan," the leader from the State said.

He added that the numbers situation was "being closely watched" by the BJP, but said much needs to be said before any scenario that could see Sachin Pilot join the BJP, comes to fruition. As the Congress sent out contradictory signals through the day – a resolution by its legislative party that those trying to break the party were not welcome to All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary Randeep Surjewala sending out a "all is for-

ven" message to Mr. Pilot – the man at the centre of the storm remained silent.

Party leaders did confirm that some communication had been on between Mr. Pilot and the BJP, especially after the exit of Mr. Scindia from the Congress, but that "nothing had been committed" to him.

The Income Tax Dept. raids this morning against business interests said to be friendly with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot are being dismissed as just "muscle flexing" in response to the FIRs lodged on alleged efforts at buying MLAs in Rajasthan and the extensive use of the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) of the State.

In public, the BJP is maintaining that the events in Rajasthan have nothing to do with it.

## Ex-royals get right to manage deity's property

The court defined 'shebait' as the "custodian of the idol, its earthly spokesman, its authorised representative entitled to deal with all its temporal affairs and to manage its property". The court traced how the shebaitship descended from King Marthanda Varma, who rebuilt the temple and installed a new idol after a fire destroyed the temple in 1686. It referred to how the King surrendered his kingdom in January 1750 and assumed the role of 'Padmanabha-sa' after realising "the futility of battles as a means to an end and the conscious feeling that the Travancore he created was built on a foundation of sacrifice of the liver and limbs of countless numbers who fell due to him and for him..."

**Second committee**  
It also ordered a second committee to be constituted to advise the administrative committee on policy matters. This would be chaired by a retired High Court

judge nominated by the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court. Both committees should start functioning within the next two months and an executive officer should be appointed without delay.

The primary duties of the committees would be to preserve the treasures and properties. They would take a call on whether to open Kallara B, considered to be the richest among the temple vaults, for inventorisation.

The committees would ensure that rituals and religious practices are conducted as per custom and on the advice of the chief thantri.

The court ordered an audit to be conducted for the past 25 years. Audit results have to be filed annually with the State Accountant General.

The court ordered status reports to be filed by the second week of December 2020. A further report should be filed after audit on March 31, 2021.

## Google to invest \$10 bn in India, says Pichai

"During our interaction, @sundarpichai and I spoke about the new work culture that is emerging in the times of COVID-19. We discussed the challenges the global pandemic has brought to areas such as sports. We also talked about the importance of data security and cybersecurity," the Prime Minister said.

Mr. Pichai said, "There's no question we are facing a

difficult moment today, in India and around the world. The dual challenges to our health and economies have forced us to rethink how we work and live. But times of challenge can lead to incredible moments of innovation. Our goal is to ensure India not only benefits from the next wave of innovation, but leads it. Working together we can ensure that our best days are still ahead."

## Karnataka, A.P. worry as deaths, new cases rise

Bengaluru contributes most to Karnataka's 2,738 cases; 1,935 infections in A.P.; over 50% of new Kerala cases have local link

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

With 73 deaths in Karnataka on Monday, the fourth day with over 70 deaths, the State toll stood at 757. New cases stood at 2,738 and the overall tally touched 41,581.

Along with Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh watched with concern as it recorded 37 new virus deaths and 1,935 new infections.

Kerala was trying to stem the intense transmission of COVID-19 along the coastal

## COVID-19

belt, which was making its way inland, through special action plans for the coastal zone, while intensifying surveillance and testing.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said here on Monday that local transmission had resulted in 51 clusters, including two large communi-

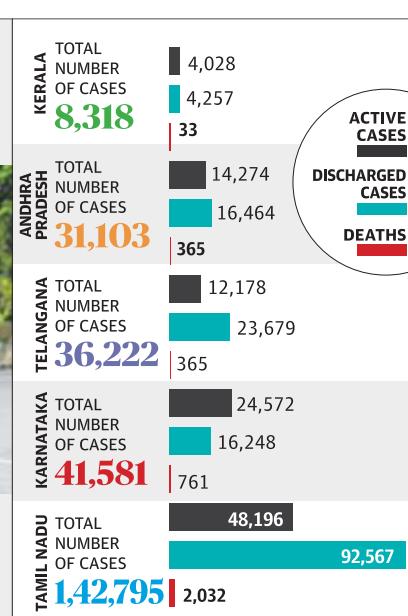
## Troubled times

COVID-19 has affected the livelihood of many people, especially small-time traders. The graph shows the spread of the pandemic in the southern States



Out of luck: A woman selling lottery tickets in Palakkad on Monday. Post-lockdown, her average daily sale has dwindled from 100 to 25 tickets.

■ K. MUSTAFAH



ty clusters. As more cases sprang up in the community, patients might report late to hospital and risk of infection among the elderly and those with co-morbidities could

push up mortality.

Mr. Vijayan said the containment model so far had been effective and had won international accolades. He acknowledged that the in-

crease in case burden and the potential of many vulnerable people requiring ICU and ventilator support could overwhelm the health system.

On Monday, the cumulative case burden in the State was 8,322, with the reporting of 449 fresh cases. Total recoveries were 4,259.

Local transmission again exceeded imported cases. Of the 449 new cases, only 204 were imported while the rest were from the community. In 18 cases, the source of infection was unknown. The local transmission included a huge cluster of 77 cases from the ITBP camp at Alappuzha, five health-care workers, 10 Defence Security Corps jawans, four personnel of Fire and Rescue Services, one BSF jawan, and three Kerala Solvent Extraction Ltd staff.

There were 4,028 active cases. With two more deaths reported from Kollam and Kannur, the toll was 33.

The number of samples tested in a day was 12,230.

The overall death toll in Andhra Pradesh mounted to 365 and tally touched 31,103.

(With inputs from Vijaya-wada and Bengaluru bureaus)

## IN BRIEF



## Sri Lankan vessel with 6 crew seized off Kakinada

KAKINADA  
The Coast Guard seized a Sri Lankan fishing vessel and detained six crew members off the Kakinada coast in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday night. A total of 600 kg of tuna was also seized.

An official note said the vessel, *Priyadarshini*, had violated maritime zone regulations and UN norms. The crew will be brought to Kakinada port for trial.

## 14-year-old found dead in Andhra Pradesh

CHITTOOR  
A 14-year-old boy, studying in Class IX, allegedly committed suicide at his house at Palamaner here in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday night after his mother reportedly chided him for continuously playing games on his mobile phone, ignoring online classes. The police have registered a case. Those in distress can dial 100 for guidance and counselling.

## Arrest warrant issued against former bishop

KOTTAYAM  
A court here on Monday cancelled the bail granted to Franco Mulakkal, former bishop of the Catholic diocese of Jalandhar who is accused of raping a nun, and issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against him. Sessions judge G. Gopakumar said the accused had failed to appear before the court since last November despite its directive.

## Nizamabad Govt. GH Superintendent quits

HYDERABAD  
Dr. Nageswara Rao, Superintendent of the Government General Hospital, Nizamabad, submitted his resignation on Monday. This comes close on the heels of the death of four patients on a single day owing to alleged lack of oxygen. In another case, a probe was ordered after the body of a COVID-19 patient was shifted by kin in an auto.

## NIA suspects terror funding in Kerala gold smuggling case

Agency seeks custody of Swapna Suresh and Sandeep Nair

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOCHI

The proceeds from gold smuggling might have been used for terror funding, according to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

The agency submitted before the NIA special court, Kochi, that it had reasons to believe that gold was smuggled not for jewellery groups as commonly perceived. Some terror groups were dealing with gold as it had become difficult for them to handle cash, it submitted.

The NIA came up with these explanations on specific questions from the court on how the case would at-

tract the provisions of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) slapped on the accused. The court also sought to know the basis on which the accused had been charged under the UAPA.

The agency invoked Section 16 and 17 of the UAPA, which prescribes punishment for raising funds for terrorist activities, against the accused Swapna Suresh and Sandeep Nair. It sought the custody of the two for probing "the terrorist angle" and suspected terrorism funding in the case.

The agency submitted that the accused had forged documents pertaining to the

UAE consulate to send gold through diplomatic baggage. The accused had smuggled in gold on three occasions using the forged documents, it submitted.

The NIA also produced the case diary before the court. The court sent the two accused to the custody of the agency till 11 a.m. on July 21.

Nair complained to the court that no inquiries were being carried out on the role of one Rashid, who had arranged visa and other documents to facilitate gold smuggling from the UAE.

He submitted that he was being unnecessarily victimised by the investigation agencies.

## Nod for Karnataka-T.N. economic corridor

Project is expected to cost ₹756.68 cr.

T.K. ROHIT  
CHENNAI

The Expert Appraisal Committee of the Environment Ministry has recommended the grant of Environmental Clearance for the development of an economic corridor – the Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) – between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

The greenfield highway is part of Bharatmala Pariyojanam and will be implemented by the National Highways Authority of India. The project will start in Dabaspet in Karnataka and end near Devarapalli village on the Tamil Nadu-Karnataka border, and encompasses two States – 134.94 km in Karnataka and 45.02 km in Tamil Nadu.

wealth belongs to the Lord and not the royal family. We are thankful to all those who stood by us," said Pooyam Tirunal Gouri Parvathy Bayi.

Over the much-awaited ruling, "No one can claim credit for this. It is a victory of the Lord and a blessing from him to his devotees. The temple

terming such instances as "very serious", the Bench posed a series of questions to the government, including the delay in outcome of COVID-19 lab test results, while making it clear that it would not hesitate to issue directions to ensure that a proper system is in place.

The Bench directed the government to ensure that one phone number with multiple lines is set up to assist the public in providing accurate information on hospitals and availability of beds, and wide publicity on the telephone number through newspapers and other media.

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday issued notices to the Election Commission of India and the Yuva Jana Samika Rythu Congress upon hearing a writ petition filed by Anna YSR Congress Party president S. Mahabub Basha for de-recognition of the ruling party in Andhra Pradesh under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order of 1968.

Anna YSR Congress, which claims to be a registered political party formed in September 2015 in Andhra Pradesh, in its petition, said it was aggrieved by the "illegal and unlawful appropriation and unauthorised

usage" of the 'YSR Congress Party' abbreviation in YSR Congress Party's letterheads, campaign material and other collaterals of party administration.

Anna YSR Congress claimed that the EC had in September 2010 issued clear instructions to the YSR Congress Party barring it from adopting the abbreviation "YSR Congress Party" as its party name.

The petition said the YSR Congress Party was "obliged under law" and as directed by the Election Commission to use its full name and not its abbreviated form.

Justice Jayant Nath posted the case for further hearing on September 3.

## HC quizzes govt. on COVID-19 treatment

Official tried in vain to get information on hospitals in Bengaluru for 3 hours

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

A family member of an employee of the High Court of Karnataka died on Sunday night after being unable to get timely admission despite a three-hour long desperate effort made by the court's Registrar (Administration) to get information on hospitals having beds with ventilator facility.

Chief Justice Abhay Shrinivas Oka, who was sitting in a Division Bench comprising Justice Alok Aradhe, disclosed this information to the Additional Advocate General on Monday during the hearing of PIL petitions related to complaints that COVID-19 positive and other

patients were finding it difficult to get admission in hospitals for treatment in the city.

Incidentally, it was during the hearing of these peti-

tions that the High Court on July 7 had termed as "sorry state of affairs" the instances of death of two COVID-19 positive patients in Bengaluru after several hospitals declined admission to them.

**'Desperate efforts'**  
The Registrar (Administration) had made desperate efforts to get information on hospitals having bed with ventilator facility for three hours but ultimately the family member of the staff died, the

Chief Justice said.

Meanwhile, it was pointed out to the Bench by an advocate that a pregnant woman had to wait for eight hours to get admission in a hospital in

the city.

Terming such instances as

the Health Department said. With the discharge of 1,052 patients, the number of recoveries was 16,464 and there were 14,274 active patients. Six deaths occurred in Anantapur and four each in East Godavari, Kurnool and West Godavari districts. Three deaths each occurred in Chittoor, Guntur, Krishna and Prakasam districts. Kadapa and Nellore reported two new deaths each while Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram reported at one death each. Bengaluru Urban reported 1,315 cases and 47 deaths on Monday. Total cases here touched 19,702. Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar, said rapid antigen testing had begun in Bengaluru, and data would be made available on Tuesday.

(With inputs from Vijaya-wada and Bengaluru bureaus)

## Google to invest \$10 bn in India, says Pichai

"During our interaction, @sundarpichai and I spoke about the new work culture that is emerging in the times of COVID-19. We discussed the challenges the global pandemic has brought to areas such as sports. We also talked about the importance of data security and cybersecurity," the Prime Minister said.

Mr. Pichai said, "There's no question we are facing a

M B M-BME

## I-T searches in three States over 'tax evasion'

It includes premises of 2 Cong. leaders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Income-Tax Department on Monday conducted searches at multiple locations in Delhi, Mumbai, Jaipur and Kota, of which some were allegedly linked to two Congress leaders from Rajasthan.

Amid the political turmoil, the premises of Rajiv Arora, vice-president of the State Congress and founder of a jewellery house, and another party leader Dharmendra Rathore were allegedly searched in Rajasthan.

In Delhi, searches were carried out at four locations, including those linked to the managing director of a big industrial house.

Eight other locations in Mumbai, related to the industrial house and another company, were also searched.

### 2015 complaint

An Income-Tax team visited a hotel in Jaipur, where Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials had also gone in the morning in connection with a probe into receipt of about ₹96.7 crore from Mauritius. The ED is investigating a



IT officials outside the office of Congress leader Rajiv Arora in Jaipur. ■ PTI

complaint lodged with the agency in 2015, alleging that one Mauritius-based entity was used to route undeclared funds through purchase of shares of a hotels and resorts firm in July 2011, at a price much higher than its then value of ₹100 per unit. The same firm is said to be linked to the Jaipur hotel.

The I-T department released a statement, saying that the search operations, carried out in 20 premises in Jaipur, six in Kota, eight in Delhi and nine in Mumbai, were linked to three groups.

### IN BRIEF



#### Release political prisoners, says CPI(M)

NEW DELHI  
The Left parties have demanded that all political prisoners be released and given adequate medical attention. The CPI(M) Polit Bureau said that some of them had reportedly contracted COVID-19 due to overcrowded prisons. Activist Akhil Gogoi (in photo) had tested positive, while the health of poet Varavara Rao was alarming. CPI general secretary D. Raja said many faced a threat to their lives.

#### ED attaches assets worth ₹204 cr. of Gujarat firm

NEW DELHI  
The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth ₹204.27 crore of the Ardor group of companies in connection with a bank loan fraud amounting to ₹488 crore. The assets include three office premises, 23 residential plots and four shops in Ahmedabad, besides a piece of land in Surat. The ED's money laundering probe is based on seven cases registered by the CBI.

#### U.P. Speaker rejects pleas to disqualify 2 Cong. MLAs

LUCKNOW  
In a major relief to rebel Congress MLAs Aditi Singh and Rakesh Singh, Uttar Pradesh Assembly Speaker Hriday Narayan Dikshit on Monday rejected their party's pleas to disqualify them. The Speaker dismissed the petitions saying they lacked substance, a Vidhan Sabha spokesperson said. Congress Legislature Party leader Aradhana Misra said a legal opinion was being taken.

## Two JeM militants killed in Anantnag

A woman was injured in the exchange of fire during the search operation

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR

Two Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) militants were killed and a woman was injured during an anti-militancy operation by the security forces at Anantnag in south Kashmir on Monday.

"During the encounter, two terrorists affiliated with JeM were killed in the Srigufwara area of Anantnag. The bodies were also retrieved. One of the killed terrorists has been identified as Nasir, alias Shabbaz, alias Baz Bai, a Pakistan resident. He was an 'A' category terrorist," a police spokesman said.

The identification of the other terrorist is being ascertained, the police added.



Back from action: Army vehicles returning from the encounter site in Anantnag on Monday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

"In the indiscriminate firing by terrorists, one woman received gunshot injuries. She was shifted to hospital for treatment where her condition is stated to be stable," the police said.

The gunfight started on Monday morning when a joint cordon-and-search operation was launched by the police, the Army's 3 Rashtriya Rifles and the CRPF. "Arms, ammunition and other incriminating materials were recovered from the site of encounter," the police said.

The bodies of the killed terrorists will be buried at Baramulla in north Kashmir keeping in view the current COVID-19 situation.

"In case any family claims the killed terrorist to be their kith or kin, they can come forward for their identification and participation in last rites at Baramulla," the police said.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG), North Kashmir, Muhammad Sulaiman Choudhary on Monday said 35-40 foreign militants were operating in northern districts of Kashmir.

## Congress fault lines run across States

The party 'high command', weakened by successive electoral losses, has failed to act decisively

SANDEEP PHUKAN  
NEW DELHI

The open revolt in the Congress by Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot, barely four months after Madhya Pradesh leader Jyotiraditya Scindia quit the party and joined the BJP, has once again brought into focus the Congress's leadership battles across multiple States.

From Punjab to Haryana and Himachal Pradesh to Chhattisgarh, there is simmering discontent among leaders who are ready to challenge the State-level leadership, threatening to split the party. But the "high command" weakened by successive Lok Sabha election losses has failed to act decisively.

**Daily strife**  
In Punjab, while Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh is facing almost a daily challenge from former State unit chief Partap Singh Bajwa, who often takes to social media to register his protests, cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu has almost gone into political hibernation.

Now, reports suggest Mr. Bajwa and Mr. Sidhu are coming together to take on



Wheels within wheels: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Congress MLAs leaving for a luxury hotel in Jaipur on Monday. ■ ROHIT JAIN PARAS

the Chief Minister. And ironically, much like Mr. Scindia and Mr. Pilot, both leaders are considered to be close to former party chief Rahul Gandhi and his sister, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

"When we came to power after 10 years of Akali-BJP rule, the Congress was like a clenched fist. Now, only the thumb rules, while the other four fingers are lying idle," Mr. Bajwa told *The Hindu* but refused to elaborate any further.

In Haryana, the fight-to-the-finish turf war between

### NEWS ANALYSIS

former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and the State unit's former chief, Ashok Tanwar, resulted in Mr. Tanwar's exit just ahead of the Assembly polls last October.

Though the party brought in Kumari Selja in an effort to balance different factions, Mr. Hooda continues to tower over all other groups within the party.

It was clearly evident this March when the Congress

leadership had to accept Mr. Hooda's son, Deepender, as the party's nominee in the Rajya Sabha election from Haryana over Mr. Gandhi's preference, Randeep Surjewala.

Himachal Pradesh is witnessing a triangular contest among former Chief Minister Vir Bhadra Singh, Kaul Singh and current State Congress chief Kuldeep Singh Rathore.

In Chhattisgarh too, there is constant talk of intense rivalry between Chief Minister Vir Bhadra Singh Baghel and Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo.

Opinion on what is prompting leaders to leave the Congress is divided: while former party spokesperson Sanjay Jha talked about talent being ignored, others blame a weak leadership. While many refrained from making their views public, Mr. Jha tweeted on what aided the party.

"I fully back Sachin Pilot. Look at the facts: Rajasthan 2013 Assembly elections; CM: Mr. Gehlot. Result: BJP: 163, Congress: 21 (lowest ever) Rajasthan 2018 Assembly Elections: Result: BJP: 73, Congress: 100. One man slogged 5 years for it; Sachin. But who becomes the CM," Mr. Jha tweeted.

### Finding a pattern

"If you look at the people who have left or are ready to revolt, most of them have been very close to Mr. Gandhi. And it's not as if Mr. Pilot and Mr. Scindia were not rewarded when the United Progressive Alliance was in power. They were not only given important portfolios but also projected as faces of the future. Yet, they left [or revolted]. It means they were not sure of the party's leadership," an MP said.

Scindia allies bag plum portfolios

STAFF REPORTER  
Bhopal

Ten days after Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan expanded his Council of Ministers, portfolios were distributed on Sunday night with key departments such as Public Health and Family Welfare and Panchayat and Rural Development being secured by supporters of Rajya Sabha member Jyotiraditya Scindia.

The letter containing the portfolio distribution addressed to Governor Anandiben Patel by Mr. Chouhan, made public on Monday, shows he has retained the General Administration, Public Relations, Narmada Valley Development and Aviation Departments.

The Public Health and Family Welfare Department has been handed over to Prabhamuram Choudhary, a supporter of Mr. Scindia. Among his other supporters, Tulsiram Silawat secured the Water Resources and Fisheries Departments, and Govind Singh Rajput the Revenue and Transport departments.

## 'Zero tolerance against Pak. ceasefire violations'

Army chief reviews security situation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Army Chief Gen. Manoj Naravane on Monday reiterated "zero tolerance" against ceasefire violations by Pakistan and infiltration attempts by terrorists, the Army said.

He was addressing troops during a visit to Jammu. The visit comes amid the tensions on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China and the continuing violations on the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan.

"The Army chief said all agencies of the services and the government are working together relentlessly and will continue to do the same

to defeat the nefarious design of proxy war being fuelled by our adversaries," the Army said in a statement.

Gen. Naravane visited the forward areas of the Yol-based 9 Corps to review the security situation and operational readiness of the troops deployed in the Jammu-Patankot region, it said.

Gen. Naravane was briefed by Lt. Gen. Upendra Dwivedi, General Officer Commanding 9 Corps, on the operational preparedness, upgradation of security infrastructure and the internal security matters.

Dubey's aides to be taken to Kanpur

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Arvind, alias Guddan Ramvilas Trivedi, and his driver Sushilkumar, alias Sonu Suresh Tiwari, both alleged associates of the slain gangster Vikas Dubey, were granted a transit remand by a Thane court on Monday and will be taken by road to Uttar Pradesh.

Inspector in-charge Gyan Singh, representing the Kanpur police, produced both the accused before the Judicial Magistrate First Class, Thane.

Mr. Singh said travelling to the special court in Kanpur Dehat may take more than 48 hours and that they would reach Kanpur around 11 a.m. on July 16.

## SC to hear pleas on Dubey encounter

3 pleas filed over extra-judicial killings

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde, will on Tuesday hear petitions questioning the killings of history-sheeter Vikas Dubey and his associates by the Uttar Pradesh Police in response to the ambush and murder of eight police officers at Bikru village on July 3.

The hearing was scheduled even as a statement was issued by the India Executive Board of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), chaired by Wajahat Habibullah, former Chief Information Commissioner, urging the Allahabad High Court to monitor the probe into the encounter killings of Dubey and his associates in line with the Supreme Court guidelines laid down in the *PUCL vs Maharashtra* judgment of 2014.

The CHRI Executive Committee, which includes former SC judge, Justice Madan B. Lokur, and former Delhi High Court chief justice A.P. Shah, highlighted how the U.P. Police had in December last year tweeted that 103 people were killed and 1,859 injured in 5,178 "police engagements" in the last two years. There is still no clarity whether the State had the killings investigated at all despite an order from National Human Rights Commission and a call for review of the cases by five United Nations Special Rapporteurs.

"The decision to move to the HC has been taken as a last resort to provide relief to party members who have been under house arrest or were kept under house detention after being shifted from detention centers," NC leader Imran Nabi Dar said.



Vikas Dubey

hay, was filed hours before Dubey was shot dead on July 10. The police version is that he tried to escape custody after a vehicle in the convoy bringing him to Kanpur, met with an accident.

The petition had presently said there was "every possibility of U.P. police resorting to kill Vikas Dubey in fake encounter during his transit". A letter from Mr. Upadhyay to the Supreme Court on Saturday sought an urgent hearing, saying what was apprehended about Dubey's fate had actually happened.

**Trigger-happy cops?**  
The second petition listed is one filed by Anoop Prakash Awasthi, which begins dramatically by asking "Shall we close our honourable courts, prosecution agencies and dismantle the system of administration of criminal justice as the trigger-happy cops in Uttar Pradesh do not need them and believe only upon their fire power when taking any adversary or outlaw in their custody?"

A separate plea has also been filed by the NGO, People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL)..

Minister clarifies on NPP moves

A CORRESPONDENT  
IMPHAL

Manipur's Health Minister L. Jayentakumar, who is from the National People's Party (NPP), on Monday clarified that the NPP Ministers' move to rejoin the coalition Ministry led by Chief Minister N. Biren last month was not under pressure from the Bharatiya Janata Party's central leadership.

"It was not under the pressure from the Centre that we rejoined the Ministry. It is a matter of moral principle of the NPP which remains unchanged. We also did not seek additional portfolios," he said.

## Two JeM militants killed in Anantnag

A woman was injured in the exchange of fire during the search operation

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR

Two Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) militants were killed and a woman was injured during an anti-militancy operation by the security forces at Anantnag in south Kashmir on Monday.

"During the encounter, two terrorists affiliated with JeM were killed in the Srigufwara area of Anantnag. The bodies were also retrieved. One of the killed terrorists has been identified as Nasir, alias Shabbaz, alias Baz Bai, a Pakistan resident. He was an 'A' category terrorist," a police spokesman said.

The identification of the other terrorist is being ascertained, the police added.



Back from action: Army vehicles returning from the encounter site in Anantnag on Monday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

"In the indiscriminate firing by terrorists, one woman received gunshot injuries. She was shifted to hospital for treatment where her condition is stated to be stable," the police said.

The bodies of the killed terrorists will be buried at Baramulla in north Kashmir keeping in view the current COVID-19 situation.

"In case any family claims the killed terrorist to be their kith or kin, they can come forward for their identification and participation in last rites at Baramulla," the police said.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG), North Kashmir, Muhammad Sulaiman Choudhary on Monday said 35-40 foreign militants were operating in northern districts of Kashmir.

## Abdullahs move HC over house arrests

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR

National Conference (NC) president Dr. Farooq Abdullah and vice-president Omar Abdullah on Monday filed a *habeas corpus* petition before the High Court, challenging "the unconstitutional and illegal house detention of 16 NC senior leaders and functionaries".

"The decision to move to the HC has been taken as a last resort to provide relief to party members who have been under house arrest or were kept under house detention after being shifted from detention centers", NC leader Imran Nabi Dar said.

The first petition by a Maharashtra-based lawyer, advocate Ghanshyam Upadhyay, was filed hours before Dubey was shot dead on July 10. The police version is that he tried to escape custody after a vehicle in the convoy bringing him to Kanpur, met with an accident.

A separate plea has also been filed by the NGO, People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL)..

# 19 States have higher recovery rate: Centre

It says aggressive testing, timely diagnosis helped

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry has advised people not to panic if they are diagnosed with COVID-19, stating that "most people get better".

"Practise self-isolation and take medications that are advised," the Ministry said on Monday, even as India's COVID-19 recovery rate now stands at 63.01% with 5,53,471 people having recovered in the country so far.

"19 States in India have a higher recovery rate than the national average of 63.02% and 30 States have a lower fatality rate than the national average of 2.64%," the Ministry said.

The Ministry attributed the numbers to aggressive testing coupled with timely diagnosis, effective management of containment zones

Road to recovery			
State/UT	Rate	Gujarat	69.7%
Ladakh (U.T.)	85.5%	Tripura	69.2%
Delhi	80.0%	Bihar	69.1%
Uttarakhand	78.8%	Punjab	68.9%
Chhattisgarh	77.7%	Odisha	66.7%
Himachal	76.6%	Mizoram	64.9%
Haryana	75.3%	Assam	64.9%
Chandigarh	74.6%	Telangana	64.8%
Rajasthan	74.2%	T.N.	64.7%
M.P.	73.0%	U.P.	64.0%

and surveillance. "The norms and standards for care of home isolation along with the use of oximeters has helped keep a check on asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic patients without burdening the hospital infrastructure," said the Ministry.

It added that this graded policy had led to the recovery of 18,850 people in the last 24 hours, taking the total cumulative number of recovered cases among COVID-19 patients to 5,53,470.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), during the last 24 hours, 2,19,103 samples were tested. The cumulative number of samples tested as of now is 1,18,06,256.

**CSIR - CENTRE FOR CELLULAR AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY**  
(क्रैंसारिक वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान परिषद)  
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)

उपल. रोड, हैदरबाद-500007, तेलंगाना / Uppal Road, Hyderabad - 500007, Telangana.

**Ref No.: CCMB/Gen/LTS/2020 Date : 14-07-2020**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Director, CSIR-CCMB invites online bids in Two-Bid format for the work of "Annual Contract for Supply of Manpower for Laboratory and Technical Services at CCMB and its Annexes Buildings at Hyderabad."

- Bid submission end date and time : 03-08-2020 up to 2.00 PM
- Date & Time of bid opening : 04-08-2020 at 3.00 PM

Bids shall be submitted using online web portal <https://etenders.gov.in>. For detailed information, please visit our website : [www.ccmb.res.in](http://www.ccmb.res.in)

**Sd/- Administrative Officer**

**KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION**  
CENTRAL OFFICES, STORES AND PURCHASE DEPT.,  
K.H. ROAD, SHANTHINAGAR, BENGALURU-560 027.  
Tele No: 080-22221321 EXT: 224, FAX : 080-22223424

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. 01 Dated: 13.07.2020**

Tenders (Pre-qualification or commercial offers) through e-procurement portal (<http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>) are invited for following:

Tender No.	Nomenclature	Tender Value in Lakhs Rs. (Approx)	Last date for submission of tender @ 17.00 Hrs.
G-01/20-21	Procurement of Automotive Grease	500.00	17.08.2020
G-02/20-21	Procurement of Sodium Hypochlorite	48.00	05.08.2020
G-03/20-21	Procurement of Hand Sanitizer	48.00	05.08.2020
A-01/20-21	Procurement of FIP Spares	2000.00	17.08.2020
A-02/20-21	Procurement of Gaskets	430.00	17.08.2020
A-03/20-21	Procurement of Wiper Motors, Arms & Blades	300.00	17.08.2020
A-04/20-21	Procurement of Fan Belts	125.00	17.08.2020

further any addendum / corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specification, scope, other tender terms and conditions etc., will be uploaded / published through e-portal only.

**NOTE :** Interested suppliers need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information log into <http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>. In case of further assistance, contact e-procurement cell (Phone No. 080 23010900, 080 23010901). Interested suppliers may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. Mail to [eprourementhelpdesk@gmail.com](mailto:eprourementhelpdesk@gmail.com) for further information if required. In case of Tender clarification contact KSRTC central Offices Mobile - 7760990224/225.

**Sd/- CONTROLLER OF STORES & PURCHASES (Tender Inviting Authority)**

DIPR/DDU/571/2020-21

**KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.**  
(Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Kerala)

THYCAUD P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695014, Tele:0471-2945646, 2945600 Fax: 2945647 website: [www.kmsclkerala.gov.in](http://www.kmsclkerala.gov.in), e-mail: [md@kmsclkerala.gov.in](mailto:md@kmsclkerala.gov.in)  
CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

**No. KMSCL/EP/8756/2020 Dated : 13.07.2020**

**QUOTATION NOTICE**

In view of the Covid - 19 pandemic Govt. of Kerala has decided to procure antibody based Rapid Test Kits on an emergency basis. Online quotations are invited for the supply of the following.

Sl. No.	Quotation No.	Description	Last date of Online submission
1.	Q66/2020	Antibody (IgM, IgG) based Rapid Diagnostic Test Kit for COVID - 19.	17.07.2020 11.00 a.m.

Quotation documents and all other information related to the bidding process can be downloaded from the website [www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in](http://www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in).

**Sd/- Managing Director(Tender Inviting Authority)**

**KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.**  
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)

Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,  
(Telephone No. 0471-2945643, 2945600, Fax No. 0471-2945647)  
E-mail: [projects@kmsclkerala.gov.in](mailto:projects@kmsclkerala.gov.in), website: [www.kmsclkerala.gov.in](http://www.kmsclkerala.gov.in)  
CIN . U24233KL2007SGC021616

**No. KMSCL/EP/1038/2016 Date : 13.07.2020**

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Online items rate e-tender are invited on behalf of KMSCL by HLL Lifecare limited.

Sl. No.	Tender reference	Description	Estimated Cost Rs.	EMD Rs.	Tender Cost (Rs.) (Inclusive of GST)
1.	HLL/HCD/P&S/20-21/02	Civil & Electrical works related to Setting Up of Coronary Care Unit (CCU) and Gas Manifold room at DH Kannur, Kerala	47,03,945	50,000	2,800
2.	HLL/HCD/P&S/20-21/03	Civil & Electrical works related to Setting up of Coronary Care Unit(CCUL) and Gas Manifold room at GH Kanhangad, Kasargode, Kerala	37,25,954	50,000	2,800

Tender documents and all other information related to tender and bidding process can be downloaded from the website <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in/nicgep/app> Last Date 22.07.2020, 3.00 pm.

More details:-  
The Deputy Vice President (Marketing) &  
Deputy General Manager (Projects)  
HLL Lifecare Limited,  
HLL Bhavan, 6th Floor, Golden Jubilee Block,  
Pojappura, Thiruvananthapuram-695012, Ph: 0471 2775651,  
Email Id : [hcdmo@lifecarehll.com](mailto:hcdmo@lifecarehll.com).

(Sd/- Managing Director (Tender Inviting Authority))

# BJP MLA found dead in Bengal

Body found hanging about 1 km from his home in Hemtabad

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

The body of Hemtabad BJP MLA Debendra Nath Roy was found hanging in front of a tea shop in Uttar Dinajpur district on Monday, triggering allegations of murder by his family members and the BJP leadership.

Mr. Roy won the 2016 Assembly polls on a CPI(M) ticket and joined the BJP in 2019.

The body was found in the courtyard of the shop, about 1 km from his home in Hemtabad.

Family members said some people on motorbikes had called him out at 1 a.m. after which he did not re-

turn. "A suicide note has been recovered. *Prima facie* it appears to be a case of suicide. We are looking into the case from all angles," Sumit Kumar, Uttar Dinajpur Superintendent of Police, said.

The MLA's wife asked why the hand of the MLA was tied if it was a case of suicide.

## Protests erupt

BJP State president Dilip Ghosh demanded a CBI probe, adding that party workers were killed and hanged in Purulia district before the rural polls.

The BJP leadership took out a protest rally in Kolkata. Mr. Ghosh called for a 12-

hour bandh in north Bengal on Tuesday in protest against the death.

"This is a deaf and mute government. We have to make noise for it to hear... If someone has to come and see what lawlessness and *goondaraj* is, they can see it in Bengal," the BJP leader said.

The BJP leadership also met Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar in Raj Bhavan.

Mr. Dhankhar also called for an "impartial probe to unravel the truth and blunt political violence".

The Trinamool Congress leadership said the death was a matter of investigation.

# Conductor booked for 'forcing' girl off bus in U.P.

She died of cardiac arrest after a while

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GHAZIABAD

Nearly a month after a 19-year-old girl from Delhi died after she was allegedly forced off a U.P. Roadways bus on the Yamuna Expressway by the conductor as he suspected her to be infected by COVID-19, an FIR has been registered against the conductor by the Mathura police.

The incident happened on June 15 when the girl was travelling with her mother from Delhi to Shikohabad in Firozabad district. The conductor allegedly forced the girl and her mother off the

bus near Maant in Mathura.

The girl died within 30 minutes and the post-mortem report suggested that she died of cardiac arrest.

In her complaint, Sarvesh Devi, mother of the deceased Anishka, said they boarded the bus from Noida. She said the girl fainted because of heat and exhaustion but some passengers and the conductor felt that she had COVID-19. The conductor got into an argument with her, wrapped the girl in a blanket, and forced them to get down at a toll plaza, where the girl died after some time.

## Andhra Pradesh Urban Water Supply & Septage Management Improvement Project (APUWS&SMIP), Vijayawada.

(5th Floor, Dhoon Complex, NH 16 Service Rd, Srinivasa Nagar Bank Colony, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh-520 008. E-mail: [apuwssmip@gmail.com](mailto:apuwssmip@gmail.com))

APUWS&SMIP invites Expression of Interest (EoI) from CA Firms for services of internal Auditor for the Project funded by AIIB. Last date for submission of application is Dt.04.08.2020. For details please visit <http://cdma.ap.gov.in>. DIPR 173PPCL, DL:13.07.2020 Sd/- Project Director-APUWS&SMIP

## GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT TAMIL NADU ROAD SECTOR PROJECT II

### e-Procurement Notice

Addendum No.4 Dated, 09.07.2020

to the Bid Notice No. TNRSP II/PPP01/2019-20/202, Dated.20.04.2020

- Deadline for online submission of bids is extended: up to 11:00 hours (IST) on 31.07.2020.
- Date of online bid opening: at 11:30 hours (IST) on 31.07.2020.
- Kindly refer the addendum uploaded in [www.tnrspp.gov.in](http://www.tnrspp.gov.in) for other details.

Sd— Superintending Engineer (H),  
(For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu)  
Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project II, Chennai-28, TNMB Building, 1st Floor,  
171, South Kesavaperumal Puram, Off Greenways Road, R.A.Puram, Chennai- 600 028.  
Tamil Nadu, India, Telephone No: +91 44 24951072, Fax :+91 44 24952414,  
Email: [tnrsp1@gmail.com](mailto:tnrsp1@gmail.com) Website: [www.tnrspp.gov.in](http://www.tnrspp.gov.in)

## ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA, PIN : 751012, Tel No.(0674) 2562020

e-Mail: [theoccltd@odishaconstruction.com](mailto:theoccltd@odishaconstruction.com)

### "e"-Procurement Notice No. 09 /OCCL/2020-21 (on-line)

Online tender is invited for the work as detailed below:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Bid Identification No.	Period of Completion	Date & time of Availability of bid document in the portal	Last date & Time for receipt of bids in the portal	Time and Date of Opening of Technical Bid	Seeking Clarification
01	Documentation and processing of Forest Diversion Proposal for additional Forest Land of 248.026 Ha for Phase-I & Phase-II in respect of Subarnarekha Irrigation Project.	OCCL-SCP/01/2020-21	18 (Eighteen) Calendar months including rainy seasons.	From 16.07.2020, 10.00 AM to 30.07.2020, 5.30 PM.	30.07.2020 up to 05.30 PM.	31.07.2020 at 12.00 Noon.	10 AM of 16.07.2020 to 3 PM of 23.07.2020

Name & address of the Officer inviting Bid : Managing Director, Odisha Construction Corporation Limited, Unit-VIII, Gopabandhunagar, BBSR-12

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>

CAD-257

Managing Director, OCCL

OIPR-34120/11/004/2021

## BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of The Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division, 2nd Cross, Jaladarshini Layout, MSR Nagar, Mathikere, Bangalore-560054

No.EE/MLM/E-PROC/04/2020-21 DATE : 13.07.2020

### TENDER NOTIFICATION

# High CBSE marks will push up cut-offs

38,686 students scored above 95% and 1.6 lakh above 90% in Class 12 exam conducted by the Board

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

College admission rankings that are based on Class 12 results are likely to have much higher cut-offs this year, with a huge spike in the number of students scoring high marks in this year's Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) examination.

Students who scored 95% or above were part of an elite group of just 17,693 in 2019, less than 1.5% of all candidates. In 2020, a year when the examinations were disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, that figure more than doubled with 38,686 students scoring above 95%, according to CBSE data.

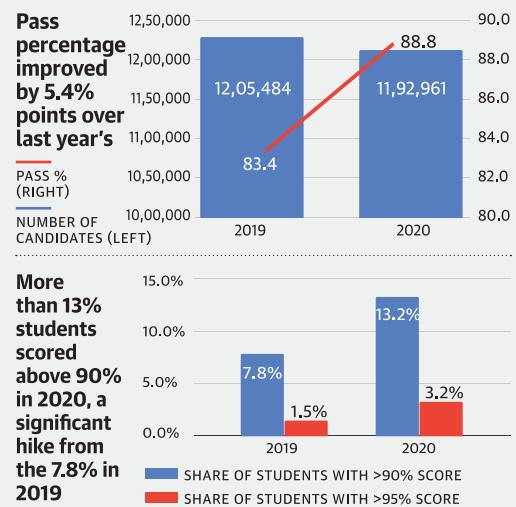
The number of students who scored above 90% also increased from nearly 94,000 in 2019 to almost 1.6 lakh in 2020. For universities and colleges which use Class 12 marks for their admission procedures, this means that a larger number of high-scoring applicants are likely to push cut-offs to higher levels than usual.

## Making their mark

The pass percentage and number of students who scored above 90% marks in the CBSE Class 12 results shot up significantly from the 2019 figures



**Over to college:** Students after the declaration of the CBSE Class 12 results at a school in New Delhi on Monday. ■ R. V. MOORTHY



The overall pass percentage was also higher than the previous year, with 88.8% of students passing the exam in comparison to 83.4% in 2019.

## Cancelled papers

For subjects that were cancelled due to the pandemic, marks were calculated on the basis of students' performance in the completed papers, using an assessment scheme approved by the Supreme Court.

Only a third of the 12 lakh candidates were able to complete all papers. No merit list of toppers was announced this year. The results of 400 students could not be computed using the assessment scheme, the CBSE said in a statement.

Students who wish to improve their scores in papers

that were cancelled will be allowed to write an optional examination, which will be held as soon as conditions are conducive.

## No 'Fail'

The CBSE decided to avoid using the term "Fail" in any of the results, and has replaced it with the term "Essential Repeat". Compartment exam schedules will be

announced later, in consultation with the Centre.

As has been the trend in recent years, girls performed better than boys with a 92% pass percentage this year. More than 86% of boys passed the exam.

Students from the southern region performed best in the exams, with Thiruvananthapuram, Bengaluru and Chennai all recording a pass percentage of more than 95%.

More than 94% of Delhi students passed the examination, despite the fact that some students in northeast Delhi wrote only a paper or two, due to violence in the area causing additional cancellations in February.

All the three CBSE websites created to access the Class 12 results crashed on Monday afternoon, frustrating students. CBSE's official Twitter handle blamed the National Informatics Centre for the website failures.

A CBSE spokesperson said students could also check results on the Umang app.

# Exams postponed to Nov., ICAI tells Supreme Court

It cites worsening pandemic fallout and safety concerns

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) informed the Supreme Court on Monday its decision to cancel exams scheduled in July and August, taking into consideration public interest and the health of the students in view of the spike in COVID-19 cases.

Appearing before a Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, senior advocate Ramji Srinivasan, for the ICAI, said the situation was "too dynamic" as regards the health crisis to safely hold the exams.

## Students alerted

The ICAI said the exams, for now, had been postponed to November 2020. Mr. Srinivasan said the candidates had been intimated about the change of plans to avoid causing them any anxiety. In the previous hearing, the



**Upset schedules:** Of the 3.46 lakh candidates, 52,000 have opted out of the July-August exams. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

ICAI had indicated "operational problems" in conducting the exams due to the spread of infection.

However, on July 2, the ICAI was having second thoughts about the exam with the pandemic situation worsening. When told of this, the court allowed it time to review the situation and come back on July 13.

A total of 3.46 lakh students were supposed to take the exams between July 29 and August 16. Of this, 2.89 lakh had opted in while 52,000 had opted out.

running the risk of being marked as having failed in the papers they missed due to the pandemic.

Appearing before a Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, senior advocate Ramji Srinivasan, for the ICAI, said the situation was "too dynamic" as regards the health crisis to safely hold the exams.

**'Opt-out' scheme**

The hearing was based on a

writ petition filed by the India Wide Parents Association, represented by advocate Alakh Alok Srivastava,

which primarily challenged the ICAI's 'opt-out' scheme.

On June 29, the court asked the ICAI to come ready with a fresh draft notification allowing students to opt out of the exams without

## Afghan goods to arrive by Wagah border

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Pakistan will allow Afghanistan to send goods to India via the Wagah border from July 15. The decision, part of Islamabad's commitment under the Pakistan-Afghanistan Transit Trade Agreement, is expected to boost Afghanistan's exports to India.

"At the special request of the Government of Afghanistan and with a view to facilitating its transit trade, Pakistan has decided to resume Afghan exports through Wagah border crossing from July 15 after implementing COVID-19 related protocols," a press release from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan said. Both Pakistan and India had suspended trade through the Wagah border in March to deal with the pandemic challenge.

Pakistan Prime Minister's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Mohammad Sadiq said, "We are moving ahead with promoting economic activity on both sides of the border."

However, the External Affairs Ministry is yet to respond to Pakistan's decision. Islamabad is silent about allowing Indian exports to Afghanistan.

A Confederation of International Chambers of Commerce and Industry statement from Amritsar said orders had been placed for pomegranates and other Afghan fruits.

## Iran, China set to clinch 25-year deal

Beijing will get larger role in Chabahar

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

Iran and China are close to finalising a 25-year Strategic Partnership which will include Chinese involvement in Chabahar's duty-free zone, an oil refinery nearby, and possibly a larger role in Chabahar port as well.

According to leaked versions of the 18-page "Comprehensive Plan for Cooperation between Iran and China", being finalised by officials in Tehran and Beijing, the cooperation will extend from investments in infrastructure, manufacturing and upgrading energy and transport facilities, to refurbishing ports, refineries and other installations, and will commit Iranian oil and gas supplies to China during that period.

**Railway project**  
The proposed tie-up comes even as Iran decided last week to go ahead on its own with the construction of a railway line from Chabahar port to Zahedan, in Afghanistan for which an MoU had been signed with the PSU Indian Railways Construction Ltd (IRCON) four years ago.

The MoU, signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Tehran in 2016, was to construct the Chabahar-Zahedan railway as "part of transit and transportation corridor in trilateral agreement between India, Iran and Afghanistan".

(With inputs from Yuthika Bhargava)  
However, despite several

Each of those possibilities should be watched closely by New Delhi, said former Ambassador to Iran, K.C. Singh. "[The Iran-China deal] impinges on India's "strategic ties" with Iran and the use of Chabahar port," he cautioned.

The notice issued on July 7 said the "breaches" committed should be removed

However, Iran proposed a tie-up between the Chinese-Pakistani port at Gwadar and Chabahar last year, and has offered interests to China in the Bandar-e-Jask port 350km away from Chabahar, as well as in the Chabahar duty-free zone.

The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry's Land and Development Office (L&DO) has issued notice to the news agency Press Trust of India over dues for its office on Parliament Street, giving it time till August 7 to pay ₹84.48 crore or face penalty and further action under the lease agreement.

The notice issued on July 7 said the "breaches" committed should be removed

## Aircraft carriers to get Indian jets by 2032

They will replace MiG-29Ks; Navy is looking to revise the tender for 57 carrier-based jets downwards

DINAKAR PERI  
NEW DELHI

The Navy is expected to start receiving new twin-engine aircraft carrier-based fighter aircraft being developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) by 2032 and it will be a replacement for the Russian MiG-29Ks in service.

The U.S. had provided a sanctions waiver for the Chabahar port and the rail line to Zahedan, but it has been difficult to find equipment suppliers and partners due to worries they could be targeted by the U.S., said officials.

The Ministry of External Affairs and IRCON declined to comment. However, asked if the MoU with IRCON had been cancelled, an official said India could still join at a "later date."

Iranian officials denied a report that also suggested Chabahar port, where India took charge of operations at one terminal last December, would be leased to China.

However, Iran proposed a tie-up between the Chinese-Pakistani port at Gwadar and Chabahar last year, and has offered interests to China in the Bandar-e-Jask port 350km away from Chabahar, as well as in the Chabahar duty-free zone.

Each of those possibilities should be watched closely by New Delhi, said former Ambassador to Iran, K.C. Singh. "[The Iran-China deal] impinges on India's "strategic ties" with Iran and the use of Chabahar port," he cautioned.

The notice issued on July 7 said the "breaches" committed should be removed



To the sunset: A file photo of a MiG-29K taking off from aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

nous Aircraft Carrier (IAC)-Vikrant operational by 2022. With a second carrier to come in, the Navy is already evaluating a global tender for 57 carrier-based twin-engine fighter aircraft.

With the new jet under development and also factoring in budgetary constraints,

the Navy is looking to revise the tender for 57 carrier-based jets downwards. The revised numbers have not been finalised yet, the source stated.

Last January, the naval Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) successfully completed arrested landing and take-off

on board Vikramaditya and has since undertaken several trials.

**Deck-based fighter**  
Based on the experience of the carrier landing, the DRDO has offered to develop a twin-engine deck-based fighter for the Navy. With the successful deck-landing, they decided to drop the naval LCA Mk2 and move on to the twin-engine jet, the source said.

The new jet being developed by DRDO should be ready by 2026, Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh stated last December. The design specifications have since been finalised.

The Navy currently has 45 Russian MiG-29K aircraft and its officials had stated that

there will not be enough aircraft to operate from both carriers.

The Navy is currently evaluating the responses to the Request For Information (RFI) from Boeing with its F-18 Super Hornet and Dassault Aviation with its Rafale jets. Both companies had stated that their jets can operate off the ski-jump of Vikramaditya and in future the Vikrant.

In fact, an Indian Navy team was to visit the US Naval Air Station in Maryland to witness a demonstration by Boeing on the compatibility of its F-18 Super Hornet of taking off and landing from the decks of Indian aircraft carriers. However, the visit got delayed due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

## Govt. issues notice to PTI over ₹84 crore dues for Delhi office

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry's Land and Development Office (L&DO) has issued notice to the news agency Press Trust of India over dues for its office on Parliament Street, giving it time till August 7 to pay ₹84.48 crore or face penalty and further action since 1984. The official said no dues had been paid since then.

Asked about the timing of the notice, the official said the process had started before the lockdown that was imposed in March and that an inspection was conducted in February.

In a letter to PTI on June 27, Prasar Bharati said its coverage was "detrimental to national interest".

by Tuesday.

According to a Ministry official, the pending dues include ground rent and regularisation charges for unauthorised construction since 1984. The official said no dues had been paid since then.

The notice comes just weeks after state broadcaster Prasar Bharati threatened to cancel its subscription to the news agency, the largest in the country.

In a letter to PTI on June 27, Prasar Bharati said its coverage was "detrimental to national interest".

A spokesperson for PTI said: "We have just received a demand notice. We are seeking clarification from authorities, and have no further comments for now."

The notice comes just weeks after state broadcaster Prasar Bharati threatened to cancel its subscription to the news agency, the largest in the country.

In a letter to PTI on June 27, Prasar Bharati said its coverage was "detrimental to national interest".

## SC declines to stop Amarnath Yatra

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday declined a plea to restrict the annual Amarnath Yatra on the grounds of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said the court did not want to interfere in the issue, which has to be solely dealt with by the local administration.

"We cannot enter the arena of the executive and district administration... We need to pay due respect to the

separation of powers," Justice Chandrachud observed.

The court was hearing a plea filed by Shri Amarnath Barfani Langars Organisation for a direction to the Centre, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board to cancel/restrict access of the general public/devotees for the Yatra this year amid the pandemic.

The petition said arrangements could be made for live darshan through Internet and TV.

## Faith

## Rama made others happy

Rama is described as Subhekshanah in the Vishnu Sahasranama. It means that Rama had beautiful eyes. This name signifies that if a person did not see Rama, or was not seen by him, he would not only be condemned by everyone, but he would condemn himself. The next name in the Sahasranama is Rama, which means He who makes others happy. He delighted everyone with His charm and good looks, and with His good qualities, said M.A. Venkatakrishnan, in a discourse.

We find that even rishis admired His handsomeness. When Rama entered the Dandakaranya forest, sages gave up their mouna vrata and spoke admiringly of His beauty. Surpanakha, when punished by Lakshmana, ran to her brother Khara, to narrate what had happened. But even then, she could not help paying tribute to Rama's looks. She spoke of His lotus-like eyes, and said He looked like a gandharva.

## Taliban attack in Afghanistan kills 10 people

REUTERS

KABUL

Taliban militants clashed with security forces following a car bomb blast at a government compound in northern Afghanistan on Monday, killing 10 people and wounding dozens more, officials said.

The attack took place at a government facility in Samangan province's capital Aybak close to an office of the National Security Directorate, the main intelligence agency. "It's a complex attack that started with a car bomb," said Mohammad Sediq Azizi, a spokesman for the provincial government. The attack ended after four gunmen died following clashes with Afghan security forces, he added.

In a statement, the Taliban claimed responsibility.

Local officials also accused the Taliban of attacking security force checkpoints around the country overnight, killing seven personnel in the northeastern province of Badakhshan, 14 in Kunduz, and four in Parwan. The Taliban said in statements it had carried out attacks, killing nine in Kunduz and eight in Badakhshan.

# China hits U.S. lawmakers, envoy with sanctions over Xinjiang

It asks Washington to 'stop any words and actions that interfere in its internal affairs'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

BEIJING

China on Monday slapped retaliatory sanctions on three senior Republican lawmakers and a U.S. envoy in a deepening row over Beijing's treatment of Uighurs in the western Xinjiang region.

Some of the most outspoken critics of China – Senators Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz along with Congressman Chris Smith – were targeted by the action, as well as the U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for international religious freedom, Sam Brownback.

The unspecified "corresponding sanctions" were announced days after the U.S. imposed visa bans and asset freezes on several Chinese officials, including the Communist Party chief in Xinjiang, Chen Quanguo, over rights abuses in the region.

### 'Wrong actions'

The move was "in response to the U.S.'s wrong actions", Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a regular briefing.

"We urge the U.S. to immediately withdraw its



**Hitting back:** Senator Ted Cruz and Ambassador-at-Large Sam Brownback will be affected by the sanctions. • AFP

wrong decision, and stop any words and actions that interfere in China's internal affairs and harm China's interests," she said. "China will make a further response depending on the development of the situation."

Sanctions will also be applied on the U.S. Congressional-Executive Commission on China, an agency that monitors human rights in the Asian country.

The two countries have traded barbs and sanctions on a slew of issues since Pre-

sident Donald Trump took office, from trade to more recent spats over the coronavirus pandemic, a security law in Hong Kong, and Chinese policies in the far west regions of Tibet and Xinjiang.

### 'Horrible' abuses

Witnesses and human rights groups say that China has rounded up more than one million Uighurs and other Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang in a vast brainwashing campaign aimed at forcibly homogenising minorities into

the country's Han majority.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said last week the United States was acting against "horrible and systematic abuses" in the western region including forced labour, mass detention and involuntary population control. China rejects the accusations, but it has acknowledged sending Uighurs to "vocational education centres" to learn Mandarin and job skills in a bid to steer them away from terrorism and separatism following a spate of deadly violence in the fractious region.

"I have to point out that Xinjiang affairs are purely China's internal affairs. The U.S. has no right or basis to interfere," Ms. Hua said on Monday.

China is "unwavering in its determination to fight against forces of violence and terrorism, forces of separatism, and that of religious extremism," the Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said.

"Its determination to oppose any external forces' interference in Xinjiang affairs and China's internal affairs is unwavering as well."

# Lanka election body 'monitoring' virus spike

We hope and pray the polls can be conducted as per schedule: EC chairman

MEERA SRINIVASAN

COLOMBO

The Election Commission of Sri Lanka is "closely monitoring" the situation following a recent spike in coronavirus cases, and "hopes and prays" that the general election – that were postponed earlier – could be conducted on August 5 as scheduled, its Chairman said.

Postal voting for the island nation's parliamentary election began on Monday – with some 700,000 officials eligible to vote – amid heightened security, after health authorities reported a spike in COVID-19 cases on Friday.

Nearly 500 persons at a drug rehabilitation centre in the North Central Province have since tested positive, prompting health officials to

trace their contacts and test them.

The government, keen on "preventing a second wave", is yet to comment on the source of these infections – after Sri Lanka contained the spread of the virus – while senior doctors flagged a risk of community transmission.

Sri Lanka's parliamentary election – conducted at an estimated cost over LKR 5 billion – will enable voters to directly elect 196 MPs to the 225-member legislature, and 29 others through the National List, through a proportional representation system of voting.

### 'Obey the guidelines'

"We are closely monitoring the situation," Commission Chairman Mahinda Deshapriya told *The Hindu* on



Officials waiting for their turn to cast postal ballots in Colombo. • AFP

Monday. Asked if there was provision to postpone the polls after postal voting has begun, should the need arise, he said: "Provision is there, but we hope and pray not to use it. We have already postponed the elections by

more than 100 days [from original date of April 25]. The important thing is that politicians and general public must obey health guidelines."

### Spike in cases

As of Monday evening, Sri Lanka reported 2,642 cases, 1,981 recoveries and 11 deaths.

With the recent increase in coronavirus cases, schools that had only recently reopened have shut again, while the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP or People's Party) suspended its rallies for three days. Former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, contesting polls from the opposition United National Party (UNP), has called for a postponement of polls, local media reported.

A devout Catholic, Mr. Duda is allied with the ruling nationalist Law and Justice (PiS) party, and his victory reinforces the government's mandate to pursue reforms

# Nelson Mandela's daughter Zindzi dead

REUTERS

JOHANNESBURG

Zindzi Mandela, daughter of former South African President and liberation hero Nelson Mandela, died on Monday, the Mandela family said.

Zindzi Mandela, the youngest daughter of anti-apartheid activist Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and Nelson Mandela, rose to international prominence when she read out Nelson Mandela's rejection of then-President P.W. Botha's offer of a conditional release from prison in 1985. The Mandela Legacy



Zindzi Mandela, daughter of Nelson Mandela. • AP

Foundation, speaking on behalf of the family, said memorial and funeral arrangements for Ms. Zindzi would be announced in the course of the week. It did not say why she had died.

Ms. Zindzi, 59, who served as South Africa's Ambassador to Denmark, died in the early hours on Monday in a Johannesburg hospital, President Cyril Ramaphosa's office said in a statement.

She was posted to Denmark in 2015 and was designated to become head of

shakeable resolve of our fight for freedom".

During her political career, she served as deputy president of the Soweto Youth Congress and was an underground operative for the African National Congress (ANC) party's armed wing, uMkhonto we Sizwe.

Pule Mabe, spokesman of the governing ANC party, said: "This is untimely. She still had a role to play in the transformation of our own society and a bigger role to play even in the African National Congress."

### Trump could act against TikTok, says Navarro

SAN FRANCISCO

Top White House official Peter Navarro said he expected President Donald Trump to act firmly against the TikTok and WeChat.

In an interview with Fox News on Sunday, Mr. Navarro argued that "...the data that goes into those mobile apps... goes right to servers in China, right to the Chinese military, the Chinese Communist Party." AFP

### Hong Kong activists charged over June rally

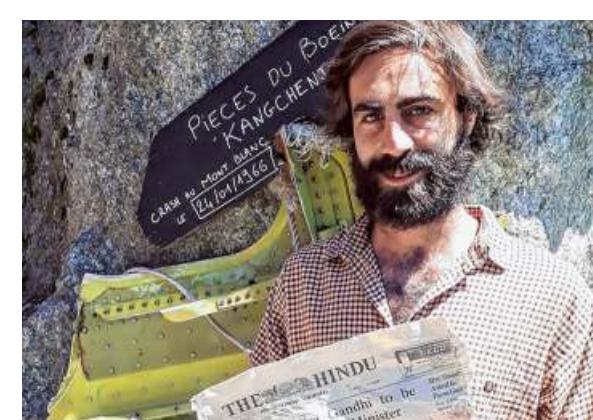
HONG KONG

Thirteen prominent Hong Kong democracy activists appeared in court on Monday charged with holding an unauthorised gathering to mark the Tiananmen Square crackdown. Last month tens of thousands of Hong Kongers defied a ban on rallies to mark the June 4 anniversary of Beijing's deadly 1989 crackdown against students pushing for democracy. AFP

# Alpine melt yields old India headlines

Copies of *The Hindu* and others were probably aboard a plane that crashed

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE



**Unique vantage point:** Timothee Mottin holding a 1966 copy of *The Hindu*, earlier in July. • AFP

who runs a cafe-restaurant, La Cabane du Cerro, perched at an altitude of 1,350 m near the Chamonix skiing hub. "They are drying

now but they are in very good condition," Mottin, 33, said. "You can read them."

The modest cafe is around 45 minutes by foot from the

Bossons glacier where the plane mysteriously crashed.

Mr. Mottin said he was lucky to discover the papers when he did because the ice in which they were encased for nearly six decades "had probably just melted".

Once the papers have dried out, they will join a growing collection of found items from the crash that Mr. Mottin has put on display at the Cabane du Cerro.

He said he preferred to share his finds with visitors rather than "hide them in an attic waiting to sell them" – something he said had become a "business" for less scrupulous climbers.

The most stunning find occurred in 2013, that of a box of precious stones – emeralds, sapphires and rubies worth between \$1,45,000-\$2,75,000 – thought to have come from the 1966 crash.

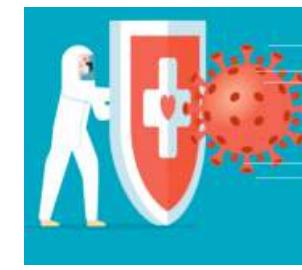
# Virus immunity may disappear within months of recovery: study

In many patients, antibodies do not last more than 90 days

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

PARIS

Patients who recover from COVID-19 infections may lose their immunity to reinfection within months, according to research released on Monday that experts said could have a "significant" influence on how governments manage the pandemic.



dy that starts to define the longer-term dynamics of the antibody response to SARS-CoV-2," said Lawrence Young, professor of Molecular Oncology at the University of Warwick, using the full name of the virus strain.

"It further emphasises the need for us to better understand what a protective immune response looks like if we are to develop an effective vaccine," said Mr. Young, who was not involved in the research.

James Gill, an honorary Clinical Lecturer at Warwick Medical School, said the research reiterated the need for everyone to continue taking measures to mitigate the virus spreading, particularly at the start of Europe's holiday season. "In the same way that these patients were surprised to have antibodies to COVID-19, we should NOT be surprised if any protective benefit is mild, or at least transient," he said.

Experts said the findings may change how governments plan for the next phase of the pandemic, including how they fund and organise vaccine research and development.

"This is an important stu-

# Poland's conservative President wins another term

Andrzej Duda's victory is likely to deepen Warsaw's rift with the European Union

REUTERS

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## MARKET WATCH

	13-07-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	36,694	0.27
US Dollar	75.19	0.00
Gold	49,960	0.00
Brent oil	42.94	0.33

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	332.20	-2.75
Asian Paints	1705.65	2.15
Axis Bank	440.05	0.45
Bajaj Auto	2900.00	5.30
Bajaj Finserv	6461.45	-22.35
Bajaj Finance	3234.60	-79.55
Bharti Airtel	586.80	12.10
BPCL	379.95	3.60
Britannia Ind	3796.80	70.15
Cipla	638.35	-0.55
Coal India	130.50	-0.70
Dr Reddys Lab	3899.55	-5.90
Eicher Motors	19655.00	207.15
GAIL (India)	101.10	-1.30
Grasim Ind	611.75	0.30
HCL Tech	602.60	20.35
HDFC	1845.55	-40.45
HDFC Bank	1080.25	-24.85
Hero MotoCorp	2689.70	8.45
Hindalco	169.25	5.55
Hind Unilever	2265.25	41.45
ICICI Bank	353.60	-6.75
IndusInd Bank	539.65	0.40
Bharti Infratel	211.70	2.65
Infosys	797.05	15.20
Indian Oil Corp	87.40	1.25
ITC	197.55	3.20
JW Steel	198.40	5.10
Kotak Bank	1335.55	-13.80
L&T	928.15	-4.00
M&M	555.85	1.00
Maruti Suzuki	5988.85	33.20
Nestle India Ltd.	16956.85	123.75
NTPC	89.90	-0.50
ONGC	78.90	0.35
PowerGrid Corp	169.10	-3.50
Reliance Ind	1935.00	56.95
State Bank	192.70	-2.90
Shree Cement	22311.20	15.80
Sun Pharma	499.70	5.80
Tata Motors	108.00	0.40
Tata Steel	342.10	3.40
TCS	2220.00	-2.35
Tech Mahindra	600.05	31.05
Titan	966.35	4.50
UltraTech Cement	3787.90	-10.60
UPL	439.20	2.70
Vedanta	112.40	2.05
Wipro	227.60	5.50
Zee Entertainment	173.75	3.65

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.99	75.31
Euro	84.78	85.15
British Pound	94.44	94.84
Japanese Yen (100)	70.05	70.38
Chinese Yuan	10.71	10.76
Swiss Franc	79.59	79.94
Singapore Dollar	53.91	54.15
Canadian Dollar	55.24	55.47
Malaysian Ringgit	17.58	17.67
Australian Dollar	52.20	52.42

Source: Indian Bank

## IN BRIEF



## L&amp;T inducts new members to board

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has announced the induction of Subramanian Sarma, non-executive director on the Board, as an executive director and elevation of S V Desai and T Madhava Das to the Board. Mr. Sarma, currently CEO and MD of L&T Hydrocarbon Engineering, a wholly-owned subsidiary of L&T will be designated whole-time director & senior executive vice president (Energy).

## Adani Ports' bond issue gets negative rating

Moody's Investors Service has assigned a Baa3 rating with negative outlook, to the U.S.-Dollar-denominated senior, unsecured bonds proposed to be issued by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ). The issuer rating and the rating of APSEZ's existing senior unsecured bonds remain unchanged at Baa3. "The outlook on the ratings is negative," Moody's said in a statement. APSEZ will use a majority of the proceeds to refinance its existing debt and/or that of its arms.

## TechM flies back over 210 staff, kin from U.S.

Information technology firm Tech Mahindra has facilitated the return of more than 210 employees and their dependents stranded in the U.S. as a result of the COVID-19-induced lockdown. "A special chartered flight from Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport took off on July 13 to bring Tech Mahindra employees back to their homes and will land in Hyderabad, India on July 14," the company said. Many employees of Tech Mahindra took to social media and appreciated the company for the gesture.

# Profitability, asset quality in Indian, ASEAN banks to worsen'

Govt. support will not fully mitigate negative impact of pandemic: Moody's

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The challenging economic and credit conditions stemming from COVID-19 will weigh on ASEAN and Indian banks' asset quality and profitability, Moody's Investors Service said in a new report.

"In ASEAN and India, bank downgrades in 2020 have been driven by Indian banks, following the downgrade of the sovereign in June," said Eugene Tarzimianov, Moody's vice-president and senior credit officer.

"That said, the majority of the banks in the region are well-positioned at their ratings, despite a higher share of negative outlooks on bank ratings," he said.

## RIL's market cap zips past ₹12 lakh-crore mark

Stake sale in arm boosts share price

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Reliance Industries Ltd.'s market valuation vaulted past the ₹12 lakh crore mark on Monday, driven by a sharp rise in its share price.

The stock rose 3.64% to a record high of ₹1,947 intraday on the BSE, before settling 2.97% higher at ₹1,934.30.

At the National Stock Exchange, it rose by 3.7% to a lifetime high of ₹1,947.70 intraday.

Following the rise in its share price, the firm's market valuation rose to ₹12,26,231 crore on the BSE at close of day.

Reliance Industries was among the top gainers in the Sensex pack, after the com-



Signals to watch: Relaxing curbs and resuming economic activity will aid recovery, Moody's said. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Moody's said the asset quality and profitability will deteriorate from good levels in 2019 across most banking systems, with Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines having the best asset quality with non-performing loans

below 2%. While government support measures will offset some of the pressure on banks, they will not fully eliminate the negative impact, the report said.

Despite the challenging outlook, the majority of

banks are adequately capitalised, and their funding and liquidity will remain sound and stable in 2020-21.

**Credit positive**  
For instance, regulators in India, Thailand and Vietnam have restricted bank dividends, a credit positive for banks, while the largest banks will continue to benefit from deposit inflows as they are seen as safe-heavens in times of stress. "Moody's expects the GDP of most ASEAN economies and India will contract in 2020 and gradually recover in 2021."

"The relaxation of lockdowns and resumption of economic activity will be the key factors supporting the recovery," the report said.

## Export in some categories of non-woven fabrics allowed

'Centre must restrict only fabrics meant for medical use'

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

COIMBATORE

The Centre on Monday permitted export of non-woven fabrics, other than 25-70 GSM fabrics.

With the spread of COVID-19, export of non-woven fabrics had been prohibited for almost four months as certain categories of the fabrics were used to make PPEs and masks.

According to a notification by Directorate General of Foreign Trade dated July 13, non-woven fabrics other than 25-70 GSM and which are not in the melt-blown category, can be exported.

Industry sources said that while the majority of non-woven fabrics remain prohibited for exports now too,

this is a beginning. The need is to specifically identify non-woven fabrics used for medical purposes and restrict exports of those.

This will free up for exports non-woven fabrics that are not used for medical purposes but are between 25-70 GSM.

The restriction should be based on functionality of the fabric and not its weight, the sources said.

With the opening up of exports will gain. Some industries are investing in machinery to manufacture melt-blown fabrics and its production will also increase in the coming months, sources added.

Industry sources said that while the majority of non-woven fabrics remain prohibited for exports now too,

were prohibited for exports in March. Except for certain categories, other non-woven fabrics can now be exported without restrictions," said an official.

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## TV PICKS

**Premier League:** Star Sports 1 & SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

**Serie A:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 1.10 a.m. (Wednesday)

## IN BRIEF



Morikawa beats Thomas in dramatic playoff

LOS ANGELES American Collin Morikawa tapped in a putt on the third playoff hole to outduel Justin Thomas and capture the US PGA Workday Charity Open on Sunday. Morikawa rallied from three strokes down with three holes remaining to force the playoff. The 23-year-old Morikawa finished the week at 19-under par 269 to win for the second time on the US PGA Tour. AFP

## New Zealand to start squad training this week

WELLINGTON New Zealand's top cricketers will return to squad training at the country's High Performance Centre in Lincoln this week after a prolonged break caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In a statement issued on Monday, New Zealand Cricket announced that six national camps would be conducted in the next few months. PTI



Warren ends six-year title drought

VIENNA Marc Warren captured his first European Tour title in six years on Sunday with a one-shot victory in the Austrian Open despite playing without his caddie who failed to clear a coronavirus test in time. The Scotsman birdied two of the last four holes to card a 70 for a 13-under 275. Marcel Schneider shot a 69 to finish one behind. AFP

## Dutch football legend Suurbier passes away

THE HAGUE The Netherlands and Ajax defender Wim Suurbier, a key member of the 1970s Dutch squad who played in two World Cup finals, passed away at the age of 75, his former club said on Sunday. Suurbier, who won three European Championships with the legendary Ajax side of the same decade, had been in hospital since suffering a cerebral haemorrhage in April. AFP

## Sports School-BFC football scholarships

## ASHWIN ACHAL

BENGALURU The Sports School, in association with Bengaluru FC (BFC), will offer football scholarships to youngsters in the under-13, 15 and 18 age categories. The scholarship will cover both sports and academics.

The last date to apply for the scholarship is July 31. Trials will be held in August or September, based on government directives on the COVID-19 pandemic.

The football scholarship programme will be handed to applicants who get selected in two rounds of trials – with the Sports School and BFC.

This scholarship programme and BFC Soccer Schools are part of the club's grassroots-level initiatives. BFC CEO Manhar Tamhane said at a web conference on Monday. Selected footballers will get the chance to represent the club in the Hero Junior League, he added.

U.V. Sankar, Director, The Sports School, said that the scholarship programme will ensure the right balance between sports and academics.

## Holder hails Gabriel and Blackwood

West Indies prospers through two players who almost didn't make it to the England tour

## WI IN ENGLAND

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
SOUTHAMPTON

West Indies captain Jason Holder praised the "massive, massive heart" of Shannon Gabriel following the tourists' four-wicket win in the first Test against England here on Sunday.

Fast bowler Gabriel was named Man-of-the-Match after returning match-figures of nine for 137 as international cricket returned from lockdown.

**Proving his fitness**  
The 32-year-old Trinidad quick was originally named as a travelling reserve after he recovered from ankle surgery. But he proved his fitness in two intra-squad warm-up matches and then showed his class as West Indies went 1-0 up in the three-match series.



Timely return: Shannon Gabriel, centre, originally a reserve player, produced a match-winning effort much to his captain Jason Holder's delight. AP

Gabriel now boasts a fine career record of 142 wickets from 46 Tests at an average of under 30, with Holder telling reporters after stumps:

"What Shannon has done in this game is nothing surprising. He has a massive, massive heart and he's been through a lot."

"He wants success so badly. His body hasn't held up the way he would like, but to see him back out there fit and well, and bowling fast

for the West Indies is always a pleasing sight. He deserves every bit of success he's had in this game," said Holder, who himself took a Test-best six for 42 as England was bundled out for 204 in the first innings.

Despite Gabriel's heroics, West Indies needed to bat well while pursuing the target of 200.

It crossed the line, thanks largely to Jermaine Blackwood's 95.

## Lucky break

Blackwood might not have played if Darren Bravo and Shimron Hetmyer had not opted out of the tour.

"He had an outstanding First Class competition – his case to get back in the team was pretty strong. He's not a slouch at this level either, he has done well for us and I hope he can kick on," said Holder about Blackwood.

## Captain Stokes defends decision to drop Broad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
SOUTHAMPTON

Stand-in captain Ben Stokes won't regret the decision to drop Stuart Broad from the side despite losing the first Test against the West Indies.

"In terms of the selection, if I was to regret that, it doesn't send a very good message to the guys who played. We went with the decision that [extra] pace would do better for us in the long run on this game."

"You make decisions and you've got to stand by them. I'm not the type of person to look back and regret them."

"We all know where we made the errors. You have to be good enough to put first-innings runs on the board, no matter what the conditions."

"We put another 60, 70 or 80 runs on what they had to chase and it's a completely different game," said Stokes, who led in place of



Joe Root, who was on paternity leave.

England coach Chris Silverwood refused to give any guarantees that Broad will be recalled for the second Test, saying the spot was still up for grabs.

## No guarantee

"Nothing is a given in this team, as we have seen, and people will be playing for their spots. Everything will be considered," Silverwood said. The second Test starts on July 16.

## Real plays pragmatic football: Kanoute

Liverpool the team to beat: Garcia

KAMESH SRINIVASAN  
NEW DELHI

With Real Madrid leading the LaLiga table, one point ahead of Barcelona after 35 of 38 matches and a game in hand, Frederic Kanoute felt that the demanding fans were driving the team to high standards as much as coach Zinedine Zidane.

"The team plays a very good style. The man in charge is giving the results. They have a fantastic system and play pragmatic football. There is not much room to complain," said Kanoute, ambassador of LaLiga, who addressed the media along with Luis Garcia.

Kanoute was equally confident that Lionel Messi, who leads the scoring chart with 22 goals, will continue to deliver for Barcelona and keep it in contention for the trophy. "What Messi is doing week in and week out is amazing. He is a step ahead of everyone. We are going to enjoy watching Messi for a few more years," said Kanoute.

When the question swung

**C** What Messi is doing week in and week out is amazing. He is a step ahead of everyone  
KANOUTE

to Liverpool winning the Premier League title, Garcia gave a lot of credit to coach Jurgen Klopp who had "built an amazing squad".

"It is going to be the team to beat for some years as it continues to grow," said Garcia, a former member of the Liverpool team.

About competing in front of empty stands, Kanoute said professional players could motivate themselves even in training sessions and that playing without fans at the stadium had not stopped them from performing to their best, even in tough conditions.

The ability of the players to adapt to the "new normal" in terms of sticking to the playing conditions emerging out of the COVID-19 pandemic also came for praise from the two ambassadors.

## Man City's European ban quashed

REUTERS  
MANCHESTER

Manchester City's two-year ban from European football has been overturned by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), the Lausanne-based court said on Monday. The decision means Pep Guardiola's team will compete in next season's Champions League.

CAS ruled that City did not breach the Financial Fair Play (FFP) rules by disguising equity funding as sponsorship. The court also reduced a fine for failing to cooperate with UEFA to €10 million from €30 million.

"Most of the alleged breaches reported by the (UEFA) Adjudicatory Chamber of the CFCB were either not established or time-barred," CAS said in a statement.

Missing out on the Champions League would have cost City as much as £100 million in prize-money and broadcast revenue.

## Spurs claim local bragging rights

Sevilla on the cusp of CL qualification; Milan eyes Europe



The clincher: Toby Alderweireld, third from right, heads home Tottenham's winner past the Arsenal defence. AP

## EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

Toby Alderweireld's late goal gave Tottenham a 2-1 win over Arsenal as Jose Mourinho's men climbed above their north London rivals, while Bournemouth kept its survival hopes alive with a chaotic 4-1 victory against Leicester on Sunday.

Mourinho had endured a barrage of criticism as Tottenham slipped out of the race to qualify for the Champions League with just one win in three games.

But thanks to Alderweireld's winner with nine minutes left, Tottenham took

the local bragging rights and got back in contention for a place in next season's Europa League.

In LaLiga, Sevilla all but secured Champions League qualification by beating relegation-battler Real Mallorca 2-0 on Sunday.

Lucas Ocampos scored a first-half penalty before Youssef En-Nesyri added a second late on to move Sevilla nine points clear of fifth-placed Villarreal.

In Serie A, AC Milan kept its hopes of European football alive on Sunday with a 2-2 draw at Napoli.

**The results:** Premier League: Bournemouth 4 (Stanislas 66-pen, Solanke 67, 87, Evans 83-

0) bt Leicester 1 (Vardy 23); Tottenham 2 (Son 19, Alderweireld 81) bt Arsenal 1 (Lacazette 16).

**LaLiga:** Levante 1 (Bardhi 71) lost to Athletic Bilbao 2 (Raul Garcia 4, 45+); Leganes 1 (Perez 18-pen) bt Valencia 0; Sevilla 2 (Ocampos 41-pen, En-Nesyri 84) bt Real Mallorca 0.

**Serie A:** Genoa 2 (Pandev 24, Schone 54) bt SPAL 0; Cagliari 0 drew with Lecce 0; Fiorentina 1 (Cutrone 90+6) drew with Verona 1 (Faraone 18); Parma 2 (Kurtic 90+3, Inglesi 90+5) drew with Bologna 2 (Danilo 3, Soriano 16); Udinese 1 (Lasagna 37) lost to Sampdoria 3 (Quagliarella 45+, Bonazzoli 84, Gabbiadini 90+4); Napoli 2 (Di Lorenzo 34, Mertens 60) drew with AC Milan 2 (Hernandez 20, Kessie 73-pen).

## Leagues can start without foreigners'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The All India Football Federation plans to go ahead with the 2020-21 season even if the clubs' foreign recruits are unable to make it due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

AIFF general secretary Kushal Das, during a webinar on Monday, said: "Leagues must go on even if it's without foreigners. But there are other people including the league committee chairman, Mr Subrata Dutta [who need to be on the same page]."

The whole of ISL could be held in Goa, Das stated, while Kolkata may end up hosting all the I-League matches as the ISL cannot be held there with the Salt Lake Stadium undergoing renovation for the women's U-17 World Cup.

The World Cup, to be held in February-March 2021 could go behind closed doors, but only in the worst-case scenario, Das said. "That will be a pity, but human lives are most important."

## Lewis Hamilton for continuing anti-racism stance

Champion driver says Ferrari and other teams should do more for the cause

## FORMULA ONE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
SPIELBERG

Lewis Hamilton has called on Formula One and his fellow drivers to stay focused on the sport's anti-racism stance, and present a less chaotic image before next Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix.

The six-time World champion said, after winning Sunday's Styrian GP, that a number of drivers wanted to stop the pre-race anti-racism gestures, and that he felt some were not doing enough to show solidarity with the movement.

"I just had to encourage them that racism is here, going to be here and probably be here longer than our time here – and people of colour, who are subject to racism, don't have time to take a moment to protest and that be it."

"We've really got to think, as a sport, what we can do because those are nice signs, but passion is needed."

Despite Hamilton's efforts, at least four drivers re-

mained standing while others took a knee and several appeared to be absent when they appeared together at the front of the grid before Sunday's race.

"F1 has come forward and said they are supporting End Racism and it is amazing to see Mercedes is also doing that, but no other team has done a single thing," said Hamilton. "The Red Bull mechanics have taken a knee, but if you look at Ferrari, they have thousands of people working for them, but I have heard no word of Ferrari saying that they hold themselves accountable and what they are going to do in the future."

The findings showed clearly that even small concentration of curcumin could potentially enhance the sensitivity of leukaemic cells to TRAIL, the researchers said.

viewed journal. The paper was co-authored by Sridevi Surapathy and Madhumathi Jayaprakasam.

TNF-related apoptosis-inducing ligand (TRAIL) is an agent with the ability to programme cell death (apoptosis) and has triggered many pre-clinical studies the world over. While the anti-tumour activity of TRAIL in preclinical studies had been strong, in clinical trials, the results were so far unsatisfactory as cancer cells, when exposed long-term, seem to acquire resistance against TRAIL. The next round of research has been to find chemicals that can reverse resistance and increase

sensitivity of cancer cells to TRAIL.

The IIT-M research team chose curcumin as it is known to inhibit carcinogenesis and induce apoptosis in various cancer cells.

The researchers isolated leukaemia cells from cancer patients and found that non-toxic concentrations of curcumin can significantly increase the efficiency of TRAIL-induced cell death.

However, they added that the reactions were carried out with isolated cells outside the human body in a test tube. It is yet unclear if the same results can be obtained in vivo, that is inside the body.

Their caution stems from the fact that absorption of curcumin in the blood from the gut and its bio-availability for therapeutic purpose is generally poor.

A few researchers have shown that compounds such as quercetin found in onions and green tea and piperazine, found in black and green pepper, enhance absorption of curcumin by the body," added Rama Verma.

A turmeric compound curcumin has shown enhanced ability to counter disease

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## IIT-M research inches closer to cancer cure

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