



Many able persons in Congress to lead the party, says Priyanka

page 10



Vaccine figures in Foreign Secretary-level talks in Bangladesh

page 11



Biden formally declared Democratic nominee for U.S. Presidential poll

page 14

Tuchel's PSG makes its maiden Champions League final

page 16



NEARBY



Delhi records 1,398 fresh COVID-19 cases

NEW DELHI

As many as 1,398 new COVID-19 cases were reported in Delhi in the past 24 hours, taking the total to 1,56,139, said a health bulletin released by the government. Also, nine more deaths were reported, pushing the toll to 4,235.

CITY ► PAGE 3

10,000 CAPF personnel told to leave J&K

NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has ordered the immediate withdrawal of 100 companies or around 10,000 Central Armed Police Force personnel from Jammu and Kashmir. This is the first time such a large number of Central forces are being pulled out of J&K since their deployment there days before August 5, 2019.

NEWS ► PAGE 11

3 SC courtrooms to be set for hearings

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has informed that three of its bigger courtrooms are being prepared for hosting physical hearing of cases on a trial basis. The courtrooms are being refurbished in compliance with physical distancing norms. They would be ready in a week.

NEWS ► PAGE 10

Treading carefully



People crossing an underpass in east Delhi after heavy rain lashed the Capital on Wednesday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA (REPORTS ON PAGE 2)

Harley-Davidson may exit India

Weak sales and a lack of visibility for future demand are reasons cited

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

Barely a decade after its entry, Harley-Davidson Inc. is looking to wind down its assembly operations in the country as a result of weak sales and a lack of visibility for future demand, industry executives said.

The iconic U.S. motorcycle maker has sent out feelers to a few automakers



Rough ride: A Harley-Davidson outlet in Vijayawada. ■ V. RAJU

through consultants for a possible outsourcing arrangement using its leased assembly facility at Bawal in Haryana, a person privy to

the preliminary talks said.

The decision is in keeping with its latest 'rewire' strategy to focus on about 50 markets, mainly in North Ameri-

ca, Europe and parts of Asia Pacific that represent the "majority of the company's volume and growth potential". In a statement accompanying its second-quarter results last month, Harley-Davidson said: "The company is evaluating plans to exit international markets, where volumes and profitability do not support continued investment in line with the future strategy."

Harley-Davidson India sold fewer than 2,500 units in the last financial year, industry officials said.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 8

Govt. to set up National Recruitment Agency

Cabinet gives nod for common eligibility test for govt. jobs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the creation of a National Recruitment Agency (NRA) for conducting a Common Eligibility Test (CET) for various government jobs.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said the Cabinet had taken the "historic" decision at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to benefit crores of young people who applied for jobs every year. About 2.5 crore to 3 crore candidates applied for the 1.25 lakh Group B and C jobs advertised by three agencies every year, with separate schedules and fees.

Secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) C. Chandramouli said that to begin with, three of the over 20 Central government recruitment agencies would be brought under the NRA.

Preliminary round

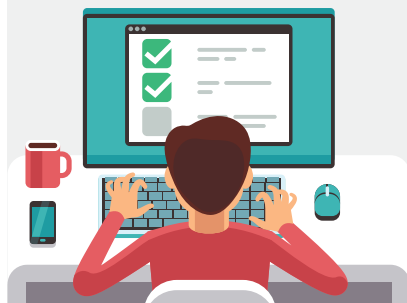
The preliminary test for the Railway Recruitment Board, the Staff Selection Commission and the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection would be conducted by the NRA, after which the candidates can use the scores to apply to the individual agencies

Single exam

The National Recruitment Agency (NRA) will conduct a Common Eligibility Test (CET) for recruitment to government jobs

- The NRA will initially conduct the CET for three sectors — Railway Recruitment Board, Staff Selection Commission and Institute of Banking Personnel Selection
- It will be held separately for three levels — graduate, 12th pass and 10th pass — for the non-technical posts of the three agencies
- Examination will be conducted online twice a year in 12 languages and will be based on a common curriculum

- Scores will be valid for a three-year period. Students can write the test multiple times and their best score will be taken into account
- According to the DoPT Secretary, there are 1.25 lakh vacancies every year in Group B and C for non-gazetted officers, and about 2.5 crore people apply every year for examinations to fill these vacancies



cies for the next round. Gradually, all Central government recruitment agencies would be brought under the NRA, Mr. Chandramouli said.

"A common eligibility test would enable these candidates to appear once and apply to any or all of these recruitment agencies for the higher level of examination. This would indeed be a boon to all candidates," a government statement said.

The exam would be held online in 12 languages to begin with, and centres would be set up in every district to increase access, it stated.

"The CET score of the candidate shall be valid for a period of three years from the date of declaration of the result. The best of the valid scores shall be deemed to be the current score of the candidate," it said.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 8

SC confirms CBI probe into Sushant's death

Validity of FIR by Bihar police upheld

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday approved the CBI investigation recommended by the Bihar government into the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

The court flexed its extraordinary constitutional powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to order that any future FIRs registered into the death, including by the Mumbai police, would be investigated by the Central agency.

"Sushant Singh Rajput was a talented actor in the Mumbai film world and died well before his full potential could be realised. His family, friends and admirers are keenly awaiting the outcome of the investigation so that all the speculations floating around can be put to rest," a single judge Bench of Justice Hrishikesh Roy observed.

The court upheld the va-



Sushant Singh Rajput

lidity of the FIR registered by the Bihar police on the complaint filed by Sushant's father. At the same time, Justice Roy said, the Mumbai police had jurisdiction in the case owing to the fact that certain incidents, including the death, happened there.

However, the court said the acrimony between the Bihar and Maharashtra police forces over the case was all too obvious.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 8

REACTIONS ► PAGE 9

Cabinet approves leasing of 3 airports

PPP model for 50 years proposed

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved leasing of three airports — Jaipur, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram — through public-private partnership (PPP) for a period of 50 years.

At a press conference after a Cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said: "The Airports Authority of India (AAI) is not giving these airports permanently to the private operator. After running them for 50 years, the private operator would be handing over the airports back to the AAI," said the Minister.

AAI to get ₹1,070 crore
The Minister said the AAI will receive ₹1,070 crore as an upfront amount from the private operator for leasing the airports at Jaipur, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram and this fund will be used to

develop airports in smaller cities.

These three airports were among a total of six where Adani Enterprises Limited emerged as the highest bidder last year during the privatisation process initiated by the AAI. While Lucknow, Ahmedabad and Mangaluru were approved for handing over to the private player, the remaining three airports weren't because of legal cases.

Adani Enterprises Ltd. had earlier this year sought an extension of six months for taking over Lucknow, Ahmedabad and Mangaluru airports citing uncertainty due to the pandemic.

The extra window was extended by the AAI and it remains to be seen whether the private entity will be able to take over within the mandatory six months period of being awarded an airport.

(Inputs from PTI)

Hotels, weekly markets to reopen in Delhi

DDMA gives approval to AAP govt. proposal; gyms to remain closed for now

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) on Wednesday gave approval for reopening of hotels and weekly markets in the city. The weekly markets will be opened on a trial basis to assess the situation on the ground.

The decision was taken in a meeting of the DDMA, chaired by Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal and attended by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal through videoconferencing.

Gymnasiums, however, will remain closed for the time being. According to the Delhi government, hotels contribute to 8% of the Capital's GDP while weekly markets provide employment to 5 lakh poor families.

'Persistent efforts'

Mr. Kejriwal credited the "persistent efforts" made by the Delhi government for the DDMA's decision. He said the COVID-19 situation in Delhi was much better now and



A busy road in Old Delhi on Wednesday. ■ SUSIL KUMAR VERMA

the economy of the city had to be brought back on track.

"For this, we had proposed opening all the hotels in Delhi, which was rejected by the Central government. We again requested the Central government and we are happy that now the proposal has been approved. Now all hotels in Delhi will be opened," the Chief Minister said.

"At the same time, the weekly markets will be opened on a trial basis. Everyone must exercise precautions and follow social distancing," he added.

According to Raj Niwas

sources, the DDMA also allowed delinking of banquet halls from hospitals. The Chief Secretary has been directed by Mr. Bajjal to prepare standard operating procedures and monitor the implementation of social distancing norms at weekly markets in the city.

The hospitality industry welcomed the DDMA decision to allow hotels to resume operations. Delhi Hotels and Restaurant Owners Association president Loveleen Anand and chairman Sandeep Khandelwal wrote: "The decision to open the

hotels is a new ray of life given to us by our Chief Minister... It is a step to provide livelihood and employment opportunities. The move will also make migrant workers happy."

In the last week of July, the Delhi government had decided to allow hotels and gyms to reopen in the city besides allowing weekly markets to start on a trial basis for seven days, with social distancing and all other COVID-19-related measures in place. However, on July 31, the L-G rejected the decision to allow hotels and weekly markets under Unlock 3 citing the fragile situation because of the pandemic.

On August 6, the government sent a fresh proposal to the L-G stating that the COVID situation in Delhi was improving. It also argued that economic activities needed to start again so that those who had been suffering due to the lockdown could resume their jobs and businesses, albeit with restrictions.

Prashant Bhushan urges Supreme Court to defer sentence hearing

Activist-lawyer plans to file a review plea against conviction

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Advocate Prashant Bhushan on Wednesday asked the Supreme Court to defer the sentence hearing in a *suo motu* criminal contempt case in which he was convicted on August 14.

The sentence hearing is scheduled before a three-judge Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra for August 20.

Mr. Bhushan, represented by advocate Kamini Jaiswal, said he intended to file a review petition against the August 14 judgment within the stipulated 30 days as provided under Order 47 of the Su-

preme Court Rules of 2013.

First appeal

He said his review petition, when filed, should be treated like a first appeal against conviction. He argued that a conviction by the Supreme Court in *suo motu* contempt proceedings had no avenue for appeal. Thus, a review filed against the conviction should be considered as the first appeal and heard accordingly. Otherwise, it would be gross injustice to not provide an occasion to examine the correctness of the findings in the August 14 order.

"In criminal contempt

proceedings, the Supreme Court functions like a trial court. It is also the last court. Section 19(1) (of the Contempt of Courts Act) gives a statutory right of appeal to a person found guilty of contempt by the High Court. The fact that there is no appeal against an order of the Supreme Court makes it doubly necessary that it takes the utmost precaution to ensure that justice is not only done but seen to be done," he argued.

Mr. Bhushan highlighted the need to appeal the conviction as "human judgment is not infallible".

Egyptian mummy survives flooding at Jaipur museum

Alert staff broke the glass case and carried it from the basement to a dry area on the upper floor

MOHAMMED IQBAL
JAIPUR

A 2,300-year-old Egyptian mummy was among the rare objects of historical interest which were saved from drowning at the Albert Hall Museum in Jaipur during the torrential rains that lashed the city last week. The mummy was taken out of its glass box in the museum's basement and shifted to another hall in the building.

The rainwater, which inundated several roads and residential colonies of the State capital on August 14, entered the museum's basement and submerged artefacts, paintings, maps, files and documents. Just before the water at four-foot level



Museum staff taking care of the 2,300-year-old mummy at the Albert Hall Museum in Jaipur. ■ ROHIT JAIN PARAS

could touch the mummy, the staff broke the glass and carried it to a dry area on the upper floor.

The mummy, named Tutu, a female member of a family of priests, dates back to Egypt's Ptolemaic period from early 300 B.C. to 30 B.C. It was excavated from a pyra-

mid in Akhmim area of the ancient city of Panopolis.

It is one of only six mummies in India and was gifted by the Museum of Cairo for an exhibition in Jaipur organised by the then ruler of the princely state, Sawai Madho Singh II, in 1887. Three experts from Egypt's Ministry

of Culture, who came here in 2011 to conserve the mummy, had concluded that it was in good condition.

Main attraction

The mummy has been one of the main attractions of the museum, which functions in the historic building constructed in the Indo-Saracenic style. The museum is named after King Edward VII during whose visit to the city as the heir apparent to the British throne its foundation stone was laid in 1876.

After the rains, hundreds of documents and antiques have been strewn on the floors of the museum for drying. The entry of tourists has been closed for seven days,

said Prakash Chandra Sharma, Director, Department of Archaeology and Museums.

Diya Kumari, a member of Jaipur's erstwhile royal family and a BJP MP from Rajsa-

mand, expressed shock at the damage caused to the artefacts in the museum. "Tor-

rential rains and rampant disregard by the government have damaged the treasures of the past... That adequate measures for their protection were not taken is a sad commentary on the departments concerned," she tweeted.

State Art and Culture Minister B.D. Kalla, who visited the museum on Tuesday, said the staff were vigilant and had rescued the mummy and other important objects.

Torrential rain batters Capital; more showers expected today

‘Monsoon rainfall deficiency of Delhi has reduced and reached almost normal’

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Incessant rain lashed the national capital on Wednesday submerging low-lying areas in waist-deep water and bringing traffic on key roads to a grinding halt.

The city received 32 mm of rainfall till evening, leading to waterlogging in Kirari, Burari, Rohini, Mayur Vihar Phase-2, Sarai Kale Khan to DND, Sashi Garden to Kotla, Seemapuri to Dilshad Garden underpass, MB Road at Maidan Garhi, MB Road at Anuvrat Marg, and Apsara Border among other areas.

Other parts of Delhi were completely inundated after just a few hours of rain. Pictures and videos of vehicles stuck on waterlogged roads and people wading through waist-deep water were quickly shared on social media.

Trees fell at seven different locations and at eight places parts of buildings collapsed due to rain, the north municipal corporation said.



Vehicles were damaged after a school wall collapsed due to heavy rain in south Delhi’s Saket on Wednesday. • PTI

Power cuts were reported in some parts of the city.

Several vehicles were also damaged after a boundary wall of a school in Saket collapsed due to the rain, civic body officials said.

On the road, vehicles moved bumper to bumper during the morning rush hour, as the downpour led to heavy waterlogging on key road stretches. Delhi Traffic Police remained busy clearing traffic at ITO, Purana Qila, Vinod Nagar, Surajmal

Marg, Sarai Kale Khan, Dhaura Kuan, Bhairon Road, near Indraprastha Park, Sultanpur and Munirka metro stations, Civil Line police station, Mathura Road, Rani Jhansi road and other places.

Till August 25

The India Meteorological Department has forecast cloudy skies and rain in the city till August 25. Light to moderate rainfall is expected on Thursday. “After Wednesday’s rainfall, the monsoon deficiency

of Delhi has reduced and reached almost normal. Before today, there was deficiency of around 20%. The actual figures will be out on Thursday,” said Kuldeep Srivastava, head of the regional forecasting centre, IMD.

“South Delhi and Gurugram received heavy rain on Wednesday. Ayanagar station [in south Delhi] recorded heavy rainfall, whereas, Safdarjung station [in central Delhi] recorded moderate rainfall,” he added.

From 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., Safdarjung station recorded 32 mm of rainfall. The station also recorded 8.2 mm of rainfall from 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday to the same time on Wednesday.

Similar chaotic scenes were witnessed on August 13, when the city witnessed the heaviest spell of rains this monsoon season, with the Ayanagar weather station recording 99.2 of rainfall in just a few hours.

(With PTI inputs)



An inundated underpass on Golf Course Road following a downpour in Gurugram on Wednesday. • MANOJ KUMAR

Gurugram ‘submerges’ after heavy rain

Municipal commissioner accepts responsibility, says ‘huge scope for improvement’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Flood-like situation was witnessed in several parts of the Millennium City on Wednesday after incessant rain in the morning. Within a few hours, the city recorded 120 mm of rainfall, the highest amount this monsoon.

Six underpasses, including three in DLF area, had to be shut. Water also entered several condominiums, trapping the residents inside.

One electrocuted

Retired executive engineer Ashok Bakshi, a resident of Sector 28, died of electrocution after water entered his house, causing short circuit.

Sector 28 RWA member Amit Mittal claimed that there was around 4-5 foot-deep water in the residential area and engines of around 100 cars were seized.

He said that basements in all houses and the construction sites were inundated.



A waterlogged MG Road after heavy rain lashed the city on Wednesday • MANOJ KUMAR

Dramatic pictures of flooded underpasses, submerged vehicles, people wading through waist-deep water, policemen pushing vehicles and resident rowing boats on the flooded roads were posted on social media.

Gurugram Municipal Commissioner Vinay Pratap told *The Hindu* that he took full responsibility for “whatever had happened” and accepted that there was “a huge scope for improve-

ment”, but claimed that a lot had been done since the 2016 gridlock and the situation today was nowhere close to it.

‘We responded well’

“Despite the heaviest rainfall of the season, there were no traffic jams. We responded well to the situation. Except a few places, waterlogging was cleared at majority of the points in a few hours time,” said Mr. Singh.

Three underpasses on Raghvendra Road, a signal-free stretch through DLF area from Shankar Chowk to AIT Chowk, were inundated and had to be shut for traffic; the longest among them near DLF Phase-I Rapid metro station was filled to the top.

DLF officials, not willing to be named, said the pump sets could not handle the massive volumes of water and the underpass was submerged.

Five fire tenders were pressed into service to pump out the water. The unidirectional underpasses on MG Road, near Medanta Hospital and under the Cyber City Rapid metro station were also flooded.

Around six-km-long stretch on NH-48 was hit due to flooding of service lanes on both sides of the road near Narsinghpur village. It took around six hours to restore normal traffic.

GOVT. OF BIHAR

BIHAR COMBINED ENTRANCE COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION BOARD

I.A.S. Association Building, Near Patna Airport, Patna-14.

POST GRADUATE MEDICAL ADMISSION COUNSELLING (PGMAC)-2020
for MD/ MS/ PGD in Government/ Private Medical Colleges of Bihar

Adv. No.- BCECEB(PGMAC)-2020/24 Dated : 19.08.2020

Important Notice for PGMAC-2020 [Medical]

In continuation to Adv. No. BCECEB(PGMAC)-2020/17 dated 06.08.2020 and 2020/23 dated 17.08.2020, this is to inform all qualified, eligible PGMAC-2020 (Medical) candidates that the seat allotment result of 2nd round counselling has been uploaded on Board's Website. The candidates has to report physically with all original documents and required fees in concerned institution as per revised programme given below ;

i. Publication of seat allotment result, downloading of Provisional Seat Allotment Order : 19.08.2020

ii. Publication of common seat allotment list (2nd round) : 20.08.2020

iii. Date of Physical Reporting / Submission of required Original Documents and required fees of concerned Institution for 1st round admitted & 2nd round allotted candidates : 19.08.2020 to 24.08.2020

Controller of Examination

IN BRIEF

Water supply to be affected in Okhla

NEW DELHI

Water supply in Okhla will be available at low pressure on Thursday evening and Friday morning due to maintenance work, the DJB said. Residents can request for tankers at 26388976, 29941159, 2621-2219, 29819035, 66587300.

Air Quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	57	Gurugram	42
Ghaziabad	60	Faridabad	70
Noida	57	Greater Noida	68

Good

Satisfactory

Moderate

Poor

Very Poor

Severe

0-5051-100101-200201-300301-400>400

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

सत्यमेव जयते
राजस्थान सरकार

#राजस्थान_सतर्क_है

"कोई भी भूखा नहीं सोए" के संकल्प को साकार करने की दिशा में एक बड़ा कदम

इन्दिरा रसोई योजना

8 रुपये में पौष्टिक एवं स्वादिष्ट भोजन

स्व.राजीव गांधी की जयंती से योजना प्रारंभ (20 अगस्त 2020)

योजना की विशेषताएं

- स्थानीय संस्थाओं द्वारा प्रदेश की 213 नगरीय निकायों में 358 रसोई के माध्यम से बैठाकर भोजन की व्यवस्था।
- शहर के प्रमुख स्थान जैसे रेलवे स्टेशन, बस स्टैंड, अस्पताल को प्राथमिकता।
- भोजन में मुख्य रूप से दाल, चपाती, सब्जी एवं अचार।

- राज्य सरकार द्वारा 12 रुपये प्रति थाली अनुदान।
- प्रतिदिन 1.34 लाख एवं प्रतिवर्ष 4 करोड़ 87 लाख लोगों को भोजन का लक्ष्य।
- ऑनलाइन मॉनिटरिंग एवं मोबाइल फोन पर एसएमएस से कूपन की सूचना।
- गुणवत्ता का विशेष ध्यान।

दोपहर का भोजन – सुबह 8.30 बजे से दोपहर 1 बजे तक
शाम का भोजन – शाम 5 बजे से रात 8 बजे तक

अशोक गहलोत मुख्यमंत्री, राजस्थान

स्वायत्त शासन विभाग, राजस्थान

स्व. श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 15.30 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Telangana and coastal Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...	33.0	25.8
Ahmedabad	...	32.9	25.8
Aizawl	...	25.8	18.8
Allahabad	...	33.8	27.0
Bengaluru	...	26.8	20.4
Bhopal	...	27.7	24.0
Bhubaneswar	...	27.6	25.4
Chandigarh	...	30.7	27.4
Chennai	...	34.8	28.2
Coimbatore	...	32.4	23.0
Dehradun	...	25.6	24.1
Gangtok	...	21.7	17.2
Goa	...	30.6	25.0
Guwahati	...	34.5	23.4
Hubballi	...	27.0	21.0
Hyderabad	...	25.0	21.5
Imphal	...	28.5	21.1
Jaipur	...	32.8	27.0
Kochi	...	30.8	25.2
Kohima	...	26.5	17.8
Kolkata	...	31.9	26.2

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Kozhikode	...	31.6	24.0
Kurnool	...	31.0	24.0
Lucknow	...	31.5	25.7
Madurai	...	40.2	26.3
Mangaluru	...	29.1	23.0
Mumbai	...	30.2	25.0
Mysuru	...	29.8	21.5
New Delhi	...	27.7	26.4
Patna	...	34.2	28.4
Port Blair	...	31.2	26.4
Puducherry	...	35.4	27.0
Pune	...	28.9	22.4
Raipur	...	27.6	25.2
Ranchi	...	31.5	22.5
Shillong	...	25.1	19.0
Shimla	...	25.1	21.6
Srinagar	...	30.5	18.6
Thiruvananthapuram	...	32.4	25.0
Tiruchi	...	36.9	26.6
Vijayawada	...	30.5	26.5
Visakhapatnam	...	30.2	26.8

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	16	43	28	...	50	54
Bengaluru	...	19	33	...	39	68
Chennai	...	15	66	...	64	...
Delhi	30	115	92	...	46	44
Hyderabad	29	24	16	...	39	41
Kolkata	...	9	21	...	34	55
Lucknow	...	8	40	...	81	126
Mumbai	59	11	4	...	19	28
Pune	13	...	5	...	50	12
Visakhapatnam	20	42	16	...	39	71

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

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

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

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

Timings

DELHI

THURSDAY, AUG. 20

RISE 05:54 SET 18:56

RISE 06:55 SET 20:09

FRIDAY, AUG. 21

RISE 05:54 SET 18:55

RISE 08:02 SET 20:48

SATURDAY, AUG. 22

RISE 05:55 SET 18:54

RISE 09:08 SET 21:25

Delhi Weather

max min

Delhi City 28 26

Safdarjang 28 26

Palam 28 27

Delhi Palam Today

32°C

Few spells of rain and thundershower are likely at many places with gentle breeze.cloudy sky and gusty winds may affect.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow

34°C

Light rain and thunderstorm with cloudy sky would affect the area.

THE HINDU

DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/ company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

IN BRIEF

Kejriwal gives ₹1 crore to firefighter's family

NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday provided financial assistance of ₹1 crore to the family of firefighter Amit Kumar Balyan, who lost his life in the line of duty in January. Balyan, who worked with Delhi Fire Service, died while saving lives after a building collapsed in Peeragarhi in north-west Delhi. The Chief Minister said Delhi salutes his sacrifice. "The Delhi government will do whatever it can to support his family," he said. Mr. Kejriwal had earlier said that the Delhi government would provide a job to a family member of the deceased.

City records 1,398 fresh virus cases

Out of 1,56,139 cases, 11,137 are active

As many as 1,398 new COVID-19 cases were reported in Delhi in the past 24 hours, taking the total number of cases to 1,56,139, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Wednesday.

Also, nine more deaths were reported, taking the total number of deaths to 4,235.

Of the total cases, 1,40,767 people have recovered and there are 11,137 active cases at present. The number of active cases has been increasing for the past three days and it has increased from 10,823 to 11,137.

The active cases, which were 27,007 on July 1, had fallen to 9,897 - below the 10,000 mark in months - on August 4, but since then it has remained above that mark.

However, the number of new cases has been less than 1,500 for the past 34 consecutive days, which is less compared to June. On June 23, daily new cases touched almost 4,000 - the highest so far - and since then it has been dropping.

Though Delhi has a capacity to do around 11,000 RT-PCR tests in a day, only 6,317 such tests were done in the past 24 hours.

Of the total 14,988 tests done in the past 24 hours, over 69.6% were rapid antigen tests, which have shown a low positivity compared to RT-PCR tests. The positivity rate has also dropped from 12.2% to 6.7% compared to July 1.

The number of containment zones in the Capital stood at 560.

As many as 14,988 tests were done in the past 24 hours in the Capital.

AAP claims BJP leaders, supporters have joined party

Sanjay Singh launches tirade against U.P. CM for filing complaints against him

Delhi president of AAP RWA Cell Ajay Kumar Jain, treasurer Vijay Kumar Thareja, and RWA district and assembly office-bearers of the unit joined the BJP here on Wednesday. Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta took the opportunity to attack AAP.

The Aam Aadmi Party on Wednesday said that multiple leaders of the BJP have joined the party along with their supporters. It said Sunil Singh, district president of Purvanchal Wing of the BJP, and Manoj Bhola, JD(U) president from Laxmi Nagar Legislative Assembly, and others had joined the party.

Meanwhile, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh attacked Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for allegedly filing nine different police complaints against him, as he wanted to show the reality to the BJP-led Uttar Pradesh government.

He also alleged that the Yogi government is trying to make him a history-sheeter.

"When three FIRs were filed against Adityanath earlier, he cried in Parliament. I will continue raising questions against the injustice done by the BJP-led government in Uttar Pradesh. Today, I will write a letter to the Vice President of India and the chairperson of Rajya Sabha M. Venkaiah Naidu about all these police complaints against me and also tell him about the injustice done by the BJP government under Adityanath," he said.

He asked whether, as a member of Rajya Sabha, he doesn't have the right to talk about the injustice against the people. "It is unfortunate that being a Rajya Sabha member when I raised questions against Yogi Adityanath, he tried to make me a history-sheeter," he said.

Auto top-up feature in new metro cards

In a bid to ensure social distancing when metro services resume, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) is set to launch smart cards that enable automatic recharge at the Automatic Fare Collection gates.

The cards, issued by app 'Autope', will offer auto top-up functionality whenever the value of the smart cards is below ₹100. "Automatic recharge of ₹200 will happen at the AFC entry gate itself. Autope will auto-debit the value from the customer's linked card or bank account," said officials.

DMRC spokesperson Anuj Dayal said, "This new measure will eliminate the need for queuing at metro stations to recharge cards. Currently, even in case of online recharges, the card needs to be presented to the Add Value Machines (AVMs) for the value to get validated. Autope eliminates the AVM layer as well." Officials said commuters can get the feature enabled in existing metro cards by registering on the Autope app.

Police ask FB, Twitter for details in Ankhi Das case

'She has given a detailed statement'

Delhi Police has written to Facebook and Twitter seeking details of accused mentioned by the public policy director of Facebook for India, Ankhi Das, in her complaint, a senior officer said on Wednesday.

On Monday, the police had registered an FIR based on a complaint filed by Ms. Das, stating that she has been receiving threats and offensive messages on social media.

The officer said that Ms. Das had given her statement in detail.

In her complaint and statement to the police, she had identified several social media accounts for issuing threats and posting offensive messages.

The police have written to Facebook and Twitter seeking details like activity, name of the users and other details of the accounts.

"After getting the details of social media accounts which the complainant has identified in her statement to police, those will be verified and, if required, they will be asked to join the probe," said the officer.

In her complaint, Ms. Das said the threats were in relation to an article dated August 14 this year that was published in *The Wall Street Journal* and further in a "mischaracterised and distorted" manner in India by various publications and widely circulated on the social media.

She has identified a few Twitter and Facebook accounts in her complaint.

Ankhi Das, public policy director of Facebook for India, has complained of getting threats and offensive messages on social media.

ified and, if required, they will be asked to join the probe," said the officer.

In her complaint, Ms. Das said the threats were in relation to an article dated August 14 this year that was published in *The Wall Street Journal* and further in a "mischaracterised and distorted" manner in India by various publications and widely circulated on the social media.

She has identified a few Twitter and Facebook accounts in her complaint.

TO ADVERTISE

PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

PH: 9820350726

selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU

India's National Newspaper

Remembering

Shri Rajiv Gandhi

(20th August, 1944 – 21st May, 1991)

former Prime Minister of India

on his

76th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

" He believed in the power of India. His vision of the 21st century shaped the destiny of our nation. His dreams enabled the realization of the rising aspirations of our people. Let us remember Rajiv Gandhi today with the promise of translating his conviction into the shared reality of the new India he saw for all of us."

- Capt. Amarinder Singh
Chief Minister, Punjab

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by S. Ramanujam at HT Media Ltd. Plot No. 8, Uday Vihar, Greater Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. 201306, on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Regd. DL(ND)-11/6110/2006-07-08 • RNI No. UPENG/2012/49940 • ISSN 0971-751X • Vol. 10 • No. 199

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA, SRINAGAR, KASHMIR

DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT (Imports Section)

E-mail: ammoimports@skims.ac.in, Fax No: 0194-2403404

EXTENSION

Subject: 2nd Extension to the eNIT No SIMS-324-NIT 08 (Imports) 2020 dated 23.06.2020 (Tender -ID 2020_SKIMS_98805_1) regarding supply / installation, & Commissioning of Fully Automated Coagulation Analyzer on reagent rental basis for the department of Cl.Heamatology SKIMS

The NIT is hereby extended as per following schedule:-

Last date of submission of online bids

17-09-2020 upto 4.00 PM

Date of Opening of technical bids

09-09-2020 at 12:30 PM

Further amendments if any, shall be uploaded separately.

No: SIMS-324-eNIT 08 (Imports) of 2020-2573-79-5174-77

Dated: 18.08.2020

Sd/-

No. SIMS-5177

Asstt. Materials Management Officer

Imports, SKIMS

Dated:- 19.08.2020

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

E-Procurement Notice

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer HPPWD Ghumarwin Distt Bilaspur H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, of from the eligible class of contractor registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in table.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Starting Date for downloading Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of Bid
1.	C/o link road to vill Behran Kohli (Sh- MIT in Km 0/0 to 1/750.)	907702/-	30-08-2020	18200/-	15-09-2020
2.	C/o makri to Chhanjoti road Km 0/0 to 2/250 (Sh- C/o 10.00 mtr Span RCC slab culvert at RD 1/150.)	1230564/-	30-08-2020	25000/-	15-09-2020
3.	C/o Science lab at Degree college Jhandutta (SH- C/o Building portion Septic tank i/c WS & SI etc.)	48192614/-	30-08-2020	500000/-	15-09-2020
4.	C/o Mukhya Mantri Lok Bhawan at Jhandutta in Tehsil Jhandutta (Sh- C/o Building portion septic tank WS&SI etc & Rain water Harvesting tank	18366206/-	30-08-2020	216200/-	15-09-2020
5.	C/o HSC Building at Bhapral (Sh- C/o building portion septic tank and WS &SI)	1620000/-	30-08-2020	33000/-	15-09-2020

The bidder are advised to note other detail of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer

Ghumarwin Divn, HP-PWD, Ghumarwin

On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

HP/2305/20-21

Office of Superintending Engineer

3rd Circle P.W.D. Pithoragarh

National Competitive Bidding (E-tendering)

Latter No. 3777/962C-03/2020

Date 18-8-2020

E-Tender Notice

The Superintending Engineer 3rd Circle, Public Works Department Pithoragarh invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from date 24-08-2020 & onward on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (in Lac)	Cost of Tender (in Rs.)	Valid-ity of Tender	Period of Completion	Contractor's category of registration
1	Improvement & Bituminous work of Bankote Batgari Saptiswar Motor road in Gangolihat Constituency in district Pithoragarh under State Sector	11.46	5000.00 + 18% GST	120	15 Months	Registered Category 'A' or above for road work in state Govt./Central Govt./Any Govt. undertaking

DIPR/UK/12724

TAMIL NADU ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

CHENNAI - 600 002.

(A Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender Notice: 06/2020-2021/ADE III dated: 14.08.2020

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu sealed item wise two cover tenders will be received by the Executive Director, TNRIDC, Chennai, for the work of "Construction of Grade separator at km 37/6 - 38/4 of Vandalur - Wallajabad road" at his office upto 23.09.2020, 3.00 PM (As per office clock).

Details of Name of work, approximate value of work, EMD, price of tender document, place and availability of tender document, receipt of tender, opening of tender and all other details are available in the website <http://tenders.tn.gov.in>. (or) <http://www.tnhighways.org>. If any changes / correction etc in the tender, it will be published on the above website only.

Executive Director,

TNRIDC

DIPR/3123/Tender/2020

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

SKIMS MEDICAL COLLEGE - HOSPITAL, BEMINA, SRINAGAR KASHMIR-190018

DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

0194-2493226, mmo@skimsmc.edu.in

SUB: SHORT TERM E-TENDERS FOR URGENT SUPPLY OF DRUGS FOR SKIMS MCH BEMINA SRINAGAR COVID-19 DESIGNATED HOSPITAL.

NIET NO. SKIMS MCH 07 OF 2020 DATED: 17/08/2020

Short Term E-Tenders are invited for and on behalf of Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Indian Territory through Principal, SKIMS Medical College Hospital Bemina, Srinagar from manufacturers/firms/companies /authorized dealers for Supply of Drugs for SKIMS MCH Bemina COVID Designated Hospital Srinagar on urgent basis. The tender document can be downloaded from the website of SKIMS Soura/ SKIMS MCH Bemina Srinagar www.skims.ac.in and www.skimsmc.edu.in respectively w.e.f. 03/08/2020 to 13/08/2020.

The tender details and schedule is as per following.

Item Description	Quantity required	Tender fee	EMD
Oral Drugs	As per B.O.Q	Rs. 500.00	2% of quoted value

Last date for entertaining any clarification/ representation

26/08/2020

Last date for submission of online bids

28/08/2020

Opening of Technical bids

31/08/2020

Complete bidding process will be online on e-tendering portal www.jktenders.gov.in & the tenders should be submitted strictly in accordance with the provisions of the detailed NIT.

No: SKIMS/MCH/MMD/tenders/108/20-3057-63

Dated: 17/08/2020

Sd/-

Materials Management Officer

(SKIMS MCH Bemina)

DIPK-NB-1882/20

OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, REW, RAMBAN

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT NO. 03 OF REW RAMBAN OF 2020-2021 DATED 17 - 08 - 2020

For and on behalf of the LT. Governor of UT of J&K, short term e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. for the following works:-

S. No.	Name of work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of Document (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Time Allowed for Completion	Time and Date of opening of Tender	Class of Contractor	Position of Funds
1	Construction of Panchayat Ghar at Tachi Wagan, P.Yt. Tachi Wagan, Block Banihal, District Ramban	REW, Division Ramban	33.95	1000	2% of adv. Cost (Rs. 67900)	6 Months	1530 Hrs) on or after 27-08-2020	A & B	Partially Available
2	Construction of Panchayat Ghar at Thatharkand, P.Yt. Thatharkand, Block Sangaldan, District Ramban	REW, Division Ramban	34.26	1000	2% of adv. Cost (Rs. 68520)	6 Months	1530 Hrs) on or after 27-08-2020	A&B	Partially Available
3	Construction of Panchayat Ghar at Chachwa-A, Block Sangaldan, District Ramban	REW, Division Ramban	35.96	1000	2% of adv. Cost (Rs. 71920)	6 Months	1530 Hrs) on or after 27-08-2020	A & B	Partially Available
4	Construction of Panchayat Ghar at Sanasar Upper P.Yt. Sanasar Upper Block Batote District Ramban	REW, Division Ramban	33.84	1000	2% of adv. Cost (Rs. 67680)	6 Months	1530 Hrs) on or after 27-08-2020	A & B	Partially Available
5	Construction of 02 ACR at Govt, UPS Kalah Panchayat Dheada Block Good District Ramban (6" time)	REW, Division Ramban	14.50	600	2% of adv. Cost (Rs. 29000)	2 Months	1530 Hrs) on or after 27-08-2020	A & B C & D	Partially Available
6	Construction of 01 ACR at Govt, UPS Chah Panchayat Dheada Block Good District Ramban (7" time)	REW, Division Ramban	7.38	600	2% of adv. Cost (Rs. 14760)	2 Months	1530 Hrs) on or after 27-08-2020	A & B C & D	Partially Available

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per below statement:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	17-08-2020
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 17 - 08 - 2020 to 27 - 08 - 2020, 1500 Hrs

Sd/-

(Er. Madan Lal Chadgal)

Executive Engineer

REW, Ramban

DIP/J-3477/20

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE



General public is here by informed that one female **Namely:** Nidhi Varma, W/o Dinesh Varma, R/o Wakil Tyagi's house, Shankar Gali, Pandav Road, Vishwas Nagar, Delhi **Age:** 23 years, **Height:** 4'7", **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Thin, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Orange Kurta & Salwar has been missing since 03.08.2018 from the area of P.S. Vivek Vihar, Delhi In this regard a DD No. 3A, dated 05.08.2018 has been registered at P.S. Vivek Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this female but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this female kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in

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

Fax: 011-24368639

Ph: 011-24368641

SHO

P.S. Vivek Vihar, Delhi

Ph. 011-22146040

DP/728/SHD/2018

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Komal D/o Sh. Mahesh R/o H.No. S-70/05 Vijay Camp Jal Vihar, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS: Lajpat Nagar South East District, Delhi since 15.07.2020. In this regard, a case vide **FIR No. 0270/2020 U/s 363 IPC Dated 15.07.2020 has been registered at P.S. Lajpat Nagar, Delhi.** The description of the missing/kidnapped girl is as under.

Age: 17 Years, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Height:** 5' 3", **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Blue colour T-shirt, Black & White colour lower and white colour shoes. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing girl then please inform P.S. Lajpat Nagar, Delhi at following Tel No. / e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

Fax No. 011-24368639

Sd/- S.H.O.

P.S. Lajpat Nagar, Delhi

Ph: 011-28832456

DP/119/SE/2020

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE:

www.thehinduads.com

011-43579738 • 43579797

A²

AKS ACADEMY

Mentoring...Beyond Lecturing

IAS 2020

FACULTY

Why is it INDIA's No. 1 ?

The Gazette Notification of the U.P.S.C. mentions the following regarding the Subjects, Nature of Questions and Expected Quality of Answers for the Civil Services Examination -
"The questions will be such as to test a candidate's general awareness of a variety of subjects, which will have relevance for a career in Civil Services". The questions are likely to test the candidate's basic understanding of all relevant issues, and ability to analyse, and take a view on conflicting socio-economic goals, objectives and demands. The candidates must give relevant, meaningful and succinct answers."
Thus, there are six specific prerequisites - 1.Ability to discern relevant subjects 2.Robust concepts 3.Analytical ability 4.Decision making ability 5.Understanding of social, political and economic aspects of any subject, and 6.Cogent communication.
The Civil Servants acquire and master these prerequisites during the natural course of their career. Importantly therefore, the faculty has a pool of esteemed Civil Servants and academicians. These Civil Servants are alumni of premier institutions, viz, JNU, DU, IIT & IIM, and also academicians in their own rights. This composite faculty of Civil Servants-cum-Academicians and hardcore Academicians provides cutting-edge competency over all other coaching institutes in the country.

www.aksgurukul.com

9462999933

info@aksgurukul.com

7425911222

Aks Academy

Google play

A²

AKS ACADEMY

Mentoring...Beyond Lecturing

IAS 2020

Teaching Philosophy & Methodology

Competence ≠ Knowledge
Competence = Knowledge + Skills + Attitude

Academy's teaching methodology is founded on the philosophy that competence to succeed demands a synergy of knowledge, skills and attitude. The Academy imparts skills of – 1. Logical Framework Analysis(LFA) 2. Multi-disciplinary Analysis(MDA) 3. Discerning the Relevancy of Subjects(DRS) 4. Judging the Requisite Level of Studying(RLS) a subject, and 5. Cogent Communication. The attitudes inculcated in the aspirants empower them to remain focussed, improvise incessantly by competing with self, and to endure the battle in a stressless manner.
The two pillars of teaching methodology are – **Electroplating and Dialectic.** Electroplating relates to the stages of teaching a topic, whereby it is not taught in one go, but in stages. Stage-I imparts elementary concepts. Stage-II focusses on the theory. Stage-III is application of concepts and theories to analyse the topic and related Current Affairs. Stage-IV is problem solving, followed by curative discussion in Stage-V. The **Dialectic** process emphasises logical argument / discussion to enhance one's knowledge. Hence, the students are encouraged to be curious and to ask questions.

www.aksgurukul.com

9462999933

info@aksgurukul.com

7425911222

Aks Academy

Google play

Oppn. flays Punjab govt. over one-day session

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

With the Punjab government deciding to convene a one-day monsoon session of the State Assembly on August 28, the Opposition has criticised the ruling Congress, accusing it of not wanting to discuss issues of public importance as the government has failed to deliver on all fronts.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, however, accused the Opposition of continuing to play dirty politics at a time when Punjab was going through a critical period due to COVID-19 crisis.

Capt. Amarinder Singh on Wednesday expressed shock at the reaction of SAD chief Sukhbir Badal and AAP leader Harpal Singh Cheema, terming it as a manifestation of the total lack of sensitivity and concern on the part of the two Opposition parties in the State.

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely :** Tannu D/o : Dhavender Kumar R/o : H. No. 119/108, Aali Village, Near Badi Chaupal, Shyamveer ka Makan, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi has been kidnapped since 08.06.2020 from the jurisdiction of P.S. Sarita Vihar, New Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 188/20 u/s 363 IPC dated 11.06.2020 has been registered at Police Station Sarita Vihar, New Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-
Age: 14 Years, **Height:** 5'4", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **Built :** Medium, **Wearing:** White colour T-shirt, Black colour jeans and black colour sandal in feet.
Any person having any information/Clue about this kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi at E-mail Id – cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

SHO

P.S. Sarita Vihar, New Delhi

South East Distt., Delhi

Ph. No. 011-26825553, 26825554

Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641

Fax No. 011-24368639

DP/129/SE/2020

EDUCATIONAL

A²

AKS ACADEMY

Mentoring...Beyond Lecturing

IAS 2020

Unique Online Courses

I. Self-reliance Program

Deliverables
1. Comprehensive Strategy & Plan of Study
2. Demystified Syllabus- Basic, but crucial understanding of all topics and their interrelations (GS I to IV).
3. Skills of-
(i) Logical Framework Analysis (LFA)
(ii) Multi-disciplinary Analysis (MDA)
(iii) Discerning the Relevancy of an Issue
(iv) Judging the Requisite Level of Studying (RLS) of an issue
(v) Cogent Communication
4. Quintessential Attitude
5. Optimum Reference Materials
• **Duration:** 6 weeks • **Total Classes:** 30
• **Fee:** Rs.10,000 (Refundable till 2 weeks of commencement of classes)

Especially for the alumni of
• **IIMs**
• **IITs**
• **AIIMSS**
• **NITs**
• **NLU**s
• **JNU**
• **DU**
• **Other Premier Institutes**
• **Aspirants having appeared earlier.**

Courses Begin 15th September 2020

II. Handholding Program

Deliverables
1 to 5, as given above.
6. Explanatory & curative classes
7. Periodic Tests
8. Individual mentoring
• **Duration:** 12 Months • **Classes:** 10/month
• **Fee:** Rs.40,000/- in 2 instalments (First instalment refundable till 1 month.)

www.aksgurukul.com

9462999933

info@aksgurukul.com

7425911222

Aks Academy

Google play

KANNUR UNIVERSITY (ACADEMIC BRANCH)

No.Acad B/AS083/6836/2020

Dated, 6.8.2020

APPOINTMENT NOTIFICATION

Online applications are invited from eligible candidates for the posts of Professor, Associate Professor & Assistant Professor, in various Teaching Departments of the University on regular basis. The last date of submission of online application is 7.9.2020. Corrigendum, if any, will be posted only in the University website. For details www.kannuruniversity.ac.in.

Sd/-

REGISTRAR(I/C)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Gurutek Estate Private Limited

318-319, DLF Star Tower, Sector-30, Gurugram.

Ph.: 0124-4272966, www.gurutek.in

PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas, Gurutek Estate Private Limited is in the process of undertaking of development of a Residential Colony in Sector-25 and 26, Rewari, over an area measuring 50.73125 acres in the revenue estate of Village Dawana, Dhamlaka & Shahbazpur in sector 25 & 26, Rewari, HR in accordance with the provision of license no.-30, of 2009, dated 30/12/2009 granted by Director General, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh.
And whereas, several individuals have made bookings/ entered into purchase agreement for allotment of plot/ property in the said colony (hereinafter referred as allottees).
And whereas, the layout plan earlier approved at the time of grant of license for the said colony is now proposed to be revised.
And whereas, the office of Director General, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh has required seeking of objection against the revision of layout plan as a pre-condition for allowing such revision in the layout plan.
Accordingly, vide this public notice objections are hereby invited from any of the allottees in the said colony on the proposed revision of the layout plan of the said colony. A copy of the earlier approved layout plan bearing DG, TCP-2667 Dated 04.08.2011 & the layout plan now proposed to be revised bearing DTCP-7442 dated 18.06.2020 is available for perusal on or website - www.gurutek.in. The said layout plan can also be perused at the office of undersigned at 318-319, third Floor, DLF Star Tower, Sector-30, Gurugram-122001 as well as in the office of District Town Planner (Planning), Rewari.
Any allottee having any objection on revised layout plan, may file his objection in the office of District Town Planner (Planning) Rewari, within 30 days of the publication of this notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the proposed revision in the layout plan.

Place: Gurugram

Date: 20.08.2020

Sd/-

For Gurutek Estate Private Limited

AASU, AJYCP join hands

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

The All Assam Students' Union and Asom Jatiyata-badi Yuba Chatra Parishad got together on Wednesday to form an advisory panel for taking the anti-Citizen-ship Amendment Act movement forward.

The road map for the two students' organisation includes exploring the formation of a regional political party ahead of the 2021 Assembly elections.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SMT. V. Ananthakumari (Baby) w/o late Shri G.V. Viswanathan passed away on 19-Aug-20. Cremation will be held on 20th Aug '20 Thursday, at Besant Nagar Crematorium at 11 AM. Deeply mourned by son GV Srinivasan (9710292220), daughter GV Gayathri (9035085545), Family & Friends.

In memory of your loved ones

To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:

011-43579797

From 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. & For Placing Advertisements Online log on to

www.thehinduads.com

DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

EDUCATIONAL

A²

AKS ACADEMY

Mentoring...Beyond Lecturing

IAS 2020

India's No.1 Faculty

Dr. Amitabh Rajan

IAS (79)

Public Policy & Governance

Ajit Kumar Singh

IAS (83)

M.A. Sociology, JNU Society & Polity

Gurjit Singh

IFS (80)

M.A. (IR, JNU)

Prof. (H) IR, IIT, Indore

Dr. Surendra M. Azad

MA & PhD (History)

JNU, Delhi

Indian History

Art & Culture

M.L. Kumawat

IPS (72)

Internal Security

Dhiraj Mathur

IAS (83)

B.Tech. (IIT, Delhi)

M.A. Economics (Columbia University)

Ashok V Shetty

IAS (83)

MBA (Bangalore)

•Ethics •Govt. Schemes

Narendra K.Sharma

MA (Geography)

Delhi University

• Geography • Ecology

www.aksgurukul.com

9462999933

info@aksgurukul.com

7425911222

Aks Academy

Google play

SITUATION VACANT GENERAL

ForumIAS

Invites Applications for

Job Codes

J91

PRODUCT MANAGER

J93

CONTENT REVIEWER

J95

CONTENT DEVELOPER

Minimum Eligibility Criteria:
2 Mains OR 1 Interview

Job Location: Gurgaon

Desirable Criteria:
• 2 Interviews or
• 2 years of work experience in the field of content

Instructions:
• Email CV along with DAF on career@forumias.academy
• Mention job codes with your application.

ForumIAS Offline Guidance Center
35 B, Jacranda Marg, DLF, Phase 2, Gurgaon - 122011
career@flaviant.com | 9319398345

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is given on behalf of my client Sh. Vishal Kumar S/o Sh. Brendra Sharma that he has entered into an agreement with (1) M/s K.R. Horticulture Pvt. Ltd. to purchase the agriculture land measuring 12 Biswas, comprised in Khasra No.75/12 min (0-12) (2) M/s Premium Security Services Pvt. Ltd. to purchase agriculture land measuring 1 Bigha and 14 Biswas, comprised in Khasra No.721/2 min (1-4) and 722 min (0-10) and (3) M/s K.S. Farms Pvt. Ltd. Apart to purchase agriculture land measuring 1 Bigha 16 Biswas, comprised in Khasra No.721 min (1-16), all situated in the Village of Gadipur, Tehsil Hauz Khas, New Delhi.
Therefore any person(s) having any claim in respect of the above referred properties or parts thereof by way of Sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, gift, maintenance, inheritance, possession, Lease, tenancy, sub tenancy, lien, license, hypothecation, transfer of title or beneficial interest under any right of prescription or pre-emptor under any agreement or other disposition or under any decree, order or award or otherwise claiming, however, are hereby requested to make the same known in writing together with supporting documents to the undersigned at their office at Lawyers Chamber 530, Saket Court Complex, New Delhi within a period of 7 days from the date of this publication, failing which the claim of such person (s) will deem to have been waived and/or abandoned.

VIRENDER TARUN (Advocate)
Ch. No. 530, Saket Court Complex, New Delhi

READ

SPORTSTAR

EVERY FORTNIGHT

A ND-NDE

REACHING OUT TO THE PEOPLE WHO NEED THE MOST

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BHARAT RATNA
Late SHRI RAJIV GANDHI
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS BIRTH ANNIVERSARY



Smt. Sonia Gandhi

Hon'ble Member of Parliament

&

Shri Rahul Gandhi

Hon'ble Member of Parliament

Gracing the Occasion

Through Video Conferencing

CM HOUSE, 20 AUGUST, 12:30 PM



RAJIV GANDHI KISAN NYAY YOJANA

- ✓ Second installment of 1500 cr through DBT into the accounts of farmers
- ✓ 19 lakh paddy, maize and sugarcane farmers of Chhattisgarh to be benefited
- ✓ Total of 5750 cr to be transferred
- ✓ First installment of 1500 cr transferred on 21st May, 2020



GODHAN NYAY YOJANA

- ✓ Payment of 4.5 cr in second installment
- ✓ Purchase of cow dung from 4341 Gauthans, state has 1,01,919 registered cattle rearers and 76,426 beneficiaries
- ✓ 3 lakh quintals dung purchased from 20th July to 15th August
- ✓ Chhattisgarh only state in the country monetizing dung
- ✓ Sale of Vermicompost at Rs 8/kg to the farmers
- ✓ Generating employment opportunities, boosting rural economy



INCENTIVE REMUNERATION FOR TENDUPATTA COLLECTORS

- ✓ Disbursement of 233 cr to 11,46,626 Tendupatta collectors
- ✓ Remuneration for Tendupatta collection increased from Rs 2500 to Rs 4000 per standard bag
- ✓ The number of minor forest produce purchased at support price increased from 7 to 31



Pro Active - Pro People

Shri Bhupesh Baghel
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh



Need for transparency

The government must not stall queries related to the operation of the PM CARES Fund

There is something about the nature of the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES) Fund that has led to demands for its scrutiny. While the Supreme Court has rejected a writ petition calling for a funds diversion from this fund to the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and also denied the petitioners' demand that the "public charitable trust" be audited by the CAG, questions remain about its need, operation and its persisting lack of transparency. A three-judge Bench asserted that no exception could be taken to the constitution of yet another public charitable trust at a time of a raging COVID-19 pandemic. But the need for a fresh trust when there is the PM's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) with a substantial corpus in place is not clear. Since the PM CARES Fund existed independent of budgetary support or government money, the Court's reasoning was that there was "no occasion" for a CAG audit. However, the concern is not about the legal basis or the absence of a CAG audit, or whether it is superfluous or indeed essential. As responses to RTI queries on the Fund reveal, the government is not forthcoming on questions on its transparency or accountability. Queries on the trust deed for the Fund, and its creation and operation have been summarily dismissed by arguing that the Fund was not a "public authority" even though the PM is its ex-officio chairman and three Cabinet ministers are its trustees. And, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs had also treated it as a fund set up by the Centre.

Since the trust was created, lakhs of public and private sector employees have donated a day's salary to it, with some of them claiming that this deduction was done without their explicit consent. Many public sector units and corporate entities too have made donations because of a proviso allowing uncapped corporate donations that would qualify as corporate social responsibility (CSR) expenditure. Earlier, a government panel had rightly suggested that the double benefit of tax exemption would be a "regressive incentive". Thus far, the exact amount of donations and a clear break-up of the expenditure from the fund have not been provided apart from an announcement in May that ₹3,100 crore had been sanctioned from it to be spent on ventilators, migrant worker welfare and vaccine development. States have led the response to COVID-19 and their resources have increasingly been stretched by the continuing rise in infections and deaths, which have crossed the 2.8 million and 54,000 mark, respectively. At the very least, RTI requests that seek to understand how funds are being received and how they are being disbursed so far should be seen as legitimate. Also, more needs to be done by the government to publicise donations to the more accountable NDRF which allows for a transfer of funds to States.

Data power

India cannot allow a nexus between influential tech giants and powerful politicians

An investigative report by *The Wall Street Journal* last week has raised troubling questions about whether Facebook, the world's largest social media network, goes easy on hate speech violations by BJP leaders so as to be on the right side of the ruling party. The *Journal* story specifically refers to the case of the BJP's Telangana MLA, T. Raja Singh, who, it says, has not been yet removed from Facebook despite his controversial posts about Muslims that were found to be in violation of its own rules and also deemed dangerous. Elsewhere, Facebook reportedly does remove people with such profile and problematic actions from the platform; radio host Alex Jones and Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan are examples. In this case, the supposed reason for not acting against Mr. Singh is more problematic than the lack of action itself. For, the *Journal's* report goes on to say that Ms. Ankhil Das, Facebook's Public Policy Director in India, was against taking these posts down as well as those of three others. She reportedly told her colleagues that "punishing violations by politicians from Mr. Modi's party would affect the company's business prospects in the country".

The report has predictably raised the political temperature, with the Congress demanding a joint parliamentary probe. Some of its leaders have even alleged that this amounts to interfering with Indian elections. Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, who heads the Parliamentary panel on IT, has summoned Facebook. The BJP, responding to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's tweet, that "BJP & RSS control Facebook & Whatsapp in India", has in turn accused the Congress of trying to manipulate data with Facebook's help. This ought not to end as the usual war of words between two political rivals. For, there is little doubt that this report raises uncomfortable questions about the possibility of an unholy nexus between those with the power to influence millions of people and those in power. That too in the only country with a billion-plus population that is open to business for such Internet companies. It is difficult to deny that the protagonist is a powerful social network, which till date carries the taint of being the source of the data which the political consulting firm, Cambridge Analytica, illegally harvested in its quest to sway elections. Sure, social media platforms in general, having grown rapidly with little content of their own, have struggled on the question of moderating comments and posts. This, however, is much beyond the question of capability. The nature of the relationship between Facebook and the Government, and the rules governing it, are now under a cloud. There is a need to dispel misgivings about Facebook lobbying in the corridors of power. Only a full-fledged inquiry can help reveal the truth.

China-Russia ties as a major determinant

A proper analysis of the partnership between Beijing and Moscow is critical to India's foreign policy calculus



VIJAY GOKHALE

In June 2019, Chinese President Xi Jinping described Russian President Vladimir Putin, as "my best friend and colleague". At no time since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 has such public bonhomie been seen between leaders of Russia and China. It has sparked intense discussion on whether they are moving in the direction of a formal alliance, and what that could mean for the rest of the world.

The key triangle

The triangular relationship between America, China and Russia has, for the most part, shaped global politics since 1950. For the American Cold Warriors, the road to victory lay through Peking; today, the Kremlin seems to believe that the road to revival of Russian power and prestige similarly runs through it. India is not a part of this triangle; yet they represent our three most consequential relationships. Hence, a proper appraisal of the Sino-Russian relationship will be critical to our foreign policy calculus.

Even before COVID-19, the dynamics of this strategic triangle were changing. As Ambassador J. Stapleton Roy, an American expert on both Russia and China, put it, for three decades the Americans had occupied the favoured position in terms of its relations with the other two. China seems to have assumed that position. Second, the disintegration of the Soviet Union essentially negated the Russian threat in Chinese eyes. Both these trends will likely continue despite the recent tensions in Sino-U.S. relations.

Columns of the partnership

The three pillars on which the Sino-Russian partnership currently rests are a peaceful boundary, expanding trade and a shared distrust of American intentions. Western sanctions have tended to push the Russians closer to China. Falling oil prices and fears of new sanctions on Russian gas supplies (Nord Stream 2) are demolishing the core of Russian exports to Europe, thus compelling them to depend to an even greater degree on the Chinese. Ironically, even though it is in neither Russia's nor the European Union's interest to hasten a bi-polar world, western actions to punish Russia have served to strengthen China's position in the strategic triangle.

It is no coincidence, as Russian experts Alexander Gabuev and Temur Umarov have shown, that after the western sanctions, China-Russia trade has more than doubled to \$108 billion, Russia's central bank has increased its Chinese currency reserves from less than one per cent to over 13%, and China has surpassed Germany as the principal supplier of industrial plant and technology. These economic positives appear to enhance what is seen in Washington and European capitals, as a growing strategic convergence. Coordinated action in multilateral forums, increasingly sophisticated joint military exercises, and including activities with third countries such as Iran, reinforce western beliefs about it morphing into an alliance.

Lost in this maze of concerns is one simple fact, namely that the growing power-gap is threatening to further reduce Russian influence in their 'near-abroad' and to confine Russia to the periphery of global power. Russia still re-



gards itself as a world power and hopes to be at the centre of a Eurasian arrangement that stretches from the Pacific to the Atlantic. It considers U.S.-led hegemony as the primary threat to this vision, and this leads them on to make common cause with China. That does not automatically translate into a formal alliance, nor does it make their concerns about China disappear.

China's rise, Russia's unease

The three pillars on which the relationship stands are not as sturdy as they may seem. Take, for example, the fact of their peaceful border. Mr. Xi's talk of "rejuvenation of the Chinese Nation" has raised fears about Chinese revanchism. In an essay published by former Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying in 2016, who is seen as an authoritative voice of influence in China, she frankly acknowledges that China's rise has produced discomfort among some Russians. Fu Ying notes that some Chinese continue to nurse historical grievances despite the formal resolution of the border issue, and still make critical references to the nearly 600,000 square miles of Chinese territory that Tsarist Russia allegedly annexed in the late 19th century. Add to this the Russian concerns over Chinese migration in the Russian Far East, and it would not be improper to surmise that policymakers in Moscow must be

concerned about the possibility of China becoming a threat Russia's territorial integrity.

Advantage China in trade

As for the economic pillar, while Russia presently enjoys a nominal trade surplus, going beyond gross trade to value-added trade, China has a clear advantage going forward. Most of its exports to Russia are now at a higher technology level while the share of labour-intensive goods has declined. At the other end of the spectrum, Russian exports have continued to focus on raw materials, especially oil and gas. Despite Chinese promises, the investment relationship remains subdued except where it has suited China's core energy interests, such as the \$400 billion deal over 30 years to supply gas to China along the 1,800 miles long pipeline known as the Power of Siberia.

Russia remains wary about allowing any dominating role for China in oil and gas. In fact, over the long term, their economic interests are divergent. Russia presumably thinks to control China through its energy dependency, a situation that the Chinese will not accept; and China feels that it can integrate Russia into its economy by re-directing Russian oil and gas eastwards but, while Russia needs financing, it is unlikely to give up its economic independence or sovereignty.

As for their shared dislike of Washington, each still hopes to repair ties and, therefore, neither trusts the other fully with respect to the third leg of the strategic triangle. If they share a current concern over American plans for "regime-change", it has led them to mind each other's backs, but that does not necessarily make for a long-term meeting of minds. The supply of the S-400 missile system to China is touted as an example of

the budding strategic alliance; but it is not also possible that this sale could well be one of the last chances for Russia to engage in a major sale of military equipment to China before the latter becomes self-sufficient in defence?

The new reality of Sino-Russian relations is thus one where substantial expansion of bilateral cooperation is accompanied by growing asymmetry and China's pre-eminence, including in Russian 'backyards' such as Central Asia and the Arctic regions. Moscow is in real danger of permanently becoming the 'junior partner'.

India and Russia ties

Sumit Ganguly, in his article in *Foreign Policy* last month, makes out a case for India to re-calculate its relationship with Russia. His contention is that the politically reliable, trustworthy defence supplier with shared misgivings about the Dragon, that was the Soviet Union of yore, has long been replaced by a politically agnostic, commercially motivated Russia that no longer shares our concerns about China. This might be valid if China is the principal factor in our relations with Russia, but that is not the case. It never was even in the 1960s and the 1970s. A strategic partnership with Russia based on the absence of fundamental conflicts of interest and a shared belief that some form of multipolarity is better than any sort of Sino-U.S. condominium, is important for India, and this relationship deserves more attention from both sides. In the words of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in Moscow on September 20, 1982, "the garden of friendship like all gardens must be consistently tended".

Vijay Gokhale is a former Foreign Secretary of India and a former Ambassador to Germany and to China

Contempt powers, in the people's name

Public confidence in the judiciary is strengthened not by the resort to contempt powers but by orders and judgments



FAIZAN MUSTAFA

Lawyer and social activist Prashant Bhusan's conviction with god speed for contempt of court has revived the debate on the relevance of contempt law in a modern liberal democracy. The Supreme Court of India has said that his tweets, two of them, have undermined the dignity and the authority of the most powerful court and have the effect of destabilising the very foundation of Indian democracy. This controversial judgment may be technically and legally correct but has it enhanced the stature of the Court? Is it right to punish critics of the judiciary in the name of the people? Should civil contempt be given more importance? And what reforms should be introduced in criminal contempt?

The basis is opinion

The primary justification of contempt power has been people's opinions. In the judgment, the word 'people' occurs 27 times. Consider this. On June 27, 2017, there were huge protests against mob lynching under the campaign, 'Not in my name' in response to film-maker Saba Diwan's social media call. Today, there are people who are opposed to invoking people's name to justify contempt law.

The judgment tells us repeatedly that the object of contempt proceedings is not to afford protection to judges personally from the imputations. Instead, it is to protect people at large and to uphold the rule of law as distrust in the popular mind does impair the confidence of people in courts as such confidence is of huge importance for the protection of the rights and liberties of people. In paragraph

48 of the judgment, the three-judge Bench explicitly observes that "when the court exercises this power, it does not do so to vindicate the dignity and honour of the individual judge who is personally attacked or scandalised but to uphold the majesty of the law and of the administration of justice." The Bench goes on to say that "the foundation of the judiciary is the trust and the confidence of the people".

Gaps in the system

Strangely, in paragraph 71, the Bench has proclaimed itself to be the 'central pillar' of democracy but has rightly said that the 'trust, faith and confidence of the citizens of the country in the judicial system is *sine qua non* for the existence of rule of law'. This confidence is indeed strengthened not by the resort to contempt powers but by the Court's orders and judgments. *Res ipsa loquitur* is the old maxim, i.e. the thing speaks for itself. People have observed with an element of frustration not only the Court's reluctance in promptly hearing *habeas corpus* petitions, the CAA and 370 petitions, but also the Court's initial observations on the plight of millions of poor migrant workers and stay of payment of wages order. In an election year, the Court did not consider it urgent enough to examine the validity of controversial electoral bonds but had time for an open court hearing in a review in 2019 of *Sabarimala*. Though no error in the judgment was pointed out, the review was still accepted. The innovative 'sealed cover' jurisprudence and the Court's over-indulgence in Assam's National Register of Citizens and then not saying a thing on its completion raised many an eyebrow. There were even four sitting judges of the top court who, on January 12, 2018, held an unprecedented press conference on a working day to 'discharge their debt to nation' as democracy, in their view, was under threat with the 'credibility of [the] court



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

at stake".

This is what worries many independent observers of our judiciary that the courts, of late, have been behaving more like the executive courts of erstwhile socialist countries. The only major assertion of judicial independence in the recent past (other than the quashing of President's Rule in Arunachal Pradesh) was the National Judicial Appointments Commission judgment (2015) where the Court struck down the constitutional amendment and the NJAC Act, 2014. This writer does believe that the independence of the judiciary is indeed the right of people and not of judges. But then the fact remains that the top court in fact demonstrated its real mettle in basically asserting the collegium's power to select judges. Then why has the Court not shown similar resolve in upholding people's liberties? The High Courts in the meanwhile, just like in the 1975 Emergency, are widely applauded for passing some good orders though some of these orders eventually got stayed by the Supreme Court.

Indian judges make excessive use of contempt powers. As in the Indian Judiciary Report (2016-17) published by the Supreme Court, High Courts had 96,310 civil contempt cases, i.e. wilful disobedience of court judgments and orders on June 30, 2017. Thus, civil contempt is far more serious generally committed by the government than so-called 'scandalising of court' by mere statement. Even the number of criminal contempt cases is also quite impressive with 586 cases. In A.K. Gopalan (1950), the majority took the positivistic

view of Article 21 and expressed their helplessness as preventive detention law satisfied the requirement of 'procedure established by law'. In *ADM Jabalpur* (1976), a majority, like in the Prashant Bhusan case, took the highly legalistic view and held that since Article 21 is under suspension due to Emergency, the writ of *habeas corpus* cannot be claimed. Subsequent decades proved that in both the cases, majority decisions did disservice to the Court's reputation and it were dissenting judges such as Justice Fazl Ali and Justice H.R. Khanna who had really enhanced people's faith in the judiciary. The Court itself overruled these two judgments in *Maneka Gandhi* (1978) and *K.S. Puttaswamy* (2018).

In all contempt judgments, the Court has been using its powers in the name of the people and Justice Arun Mishra's Bench merely relied on them. It cited the *Brahma Prakash Sharma* (1953) judgment, wherein the Supreme Court had justified contempt powers by observing that 'it is intended to be a protection to the public whose interests would be very much affected if by the act or conduct of any party, the authority of the court is lowered and the sense of confidence which people have in the administration of justice by it is weakened', and that contempt powers are to be invoked to restore this confidence. The top court had further elaborated that 'such conduct is punished as contempt for this reason that it tends to create distrust in the popular mind and impair the confidence of the people in the integrity of the judges'.

The Bench also quoted Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer judgment in *S. Mulgaokar* (1978) but preferred to overlook the learned judge's real message.

Justice Krishna Iyer had observed that the normative guideline for judges to observe in contempt jurisdiction is not to be hypersensitive even where distortions and criticisms overstep the limits, but to 'deflate vulgar denunciation by dignified bearing, condescending indifference and repudiation by judicial rectitude'.

The Justice Arun Mishra-led Bench itself admitted that critics are the instruments of reform, but not those actuated by malice; instead by those inspired by public weal. Is Mr. Bhusan's long career as a public interest litigation lawyer not the testimony of 'public weal' and an absence of 'malice'? Is it right to determine 'good faith' on the basis of mere extent of publication? In a country of 1,312.2 million people (estimated in 2019), Twitter users constitute an insignificant minority of an estimated number of over 34 million (2019), and Mr. Bhusan just has 1.6 million followers. In fact tweets are not taken seriously by the people. One hopes the Court will consider these in determining the sentence.

For a liberalism

Just like the Supreme Court's judgment on sedition in *Kedar Nath Singh* (1962), a mere scurrilous attack against the courts/judges should not be punished if it does not lead to an actual obstruction of the judicial process. In *Shiv Shankar* (1988) and *Rachapudi Subba Rao* (2004), the Supreme Court itself had held that criticism of the court that does not impair and hamper the administration of justice cannot be punished as contempt.

Ideally, the Bench should have given little more weightage to Justice Krishna Iyer's observation that 'the court is willing to ignore, by a majestic liberalism, trifling and venial offences – the dog may bark, the caravan will pass.'

Faizan Mustafa is Vice-Chancellor of NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad. The views expressed are personal

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.

PM CARES Fund

If a fund is instituted in the name of the Prime Minister and in aid of the public, and when corporates, government staff and public sector units have made donations, why is making details of contributions and funds spent on COVID-19 related expenses public becoming such an issue?

Why this adamant stand by the government? A democratic government which claims to occupy the high moral ground should only be too willing to put out the details. The more the government tries to hide things, the greater the suspicion.

SOUNDARRAN K., Chennai

Regressive step

The sons of the soil theory announced by the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister will set a dangerous precedent, if implemented. If every State adopts this criterion, then it will lead to social disharmony and national disintegration. Perhaps, this decision is aimed at the ensuing by-election in the

State. What is worse is that the Congress party too supports this.

P.K. VARADARAJAN, Chennai

Unsung hero

Suresh Raina is the unsung hero of Indian cricket, as a dashing batsman, a brilliant fielder and a part-timer bowler who was very handy

to break any well-settled batsman in any situation. Apart from his contributions to Team India, he will be noted for

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

In the story titled "States can't unilaterally cancel exams" (August 19, 2020), the reference in the last paragraph to Professor K.C. Kuhad expert committee should be corrected to Professor R.C. Kuhad expert committee.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

To read more letters online, scan the QR code



being the backbone of CSK. S. INDIRA, Perundurai, Erode, Tamil Nadu

Privatisation via graded autonomy

The National Education Policy will have an adverse impact in terms of accessibility and equity



The Indian Cabinet approved the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, despite vehement opposition to several of its provisions that were earlier circulated as a draft policy document. Among these provisions is the phasing out of the system of affiliated colleges and the grant of greater autonomy in academic, administrative and financial matters to premium colleges, and essentially, to the top ranked universities of the country.

This measure has drawn on the long-standing anxieties about the perils of politico-bureaucratic interference in the internal functioning of universities, and concerns about the substantial burden on universities which have to regulate admissions, set curricula and conduct examinations for a large number of undergraduate colleges. Likewise, concerns have long existed about over-centralisation, namely, the constraints imposed on the potential for premium affiliated colleges to innovate and evolve. Notably, drawing on such concerns, the earliest inclinations towards autonomy were reflected in the recommendations of different education committees from the 1960s onwards. In its report, the Mahajani Committee on Colleges (1964), for example, took the position that one way of improving the standard of higher education in India was by selecting a few colleges “on the basis of past work, influence, traditions, maturity and academic standards and give them what might be called for want of a better phrase an ‘autonomous’ status”.

Perils of autonomy
Even while solutions to apprehensions about over-centralisation were being discussed by stakeholders, these came to be used by successive governments to build a case for the model of graded autonomy. This model has adverse ramifications for accessibility, equity and quality for the higher education sector.

In recent decades, a form of policy discourse has clearly developed in



which the dominant opinion holds that the state cannot be expected to pay for the education of all. Correspondingly, there has been a serious lack of development of educational infrastructure to meet the rapidly increasing demand for higher education. In response to the widening gap between the demand and supply for education, successive governments have pushed through measures that have largely allowed for greater penetration of private capital in higher education, and its corollary, the persistent decline in per-capita government allocation of funds towards education. Consequently, private colleges and universities have grown in number, and there has been a rapid expansion of the open and distance learning (ODL) education.

In line with these developments, recommendations of recent education commissions have promoted the already existing unequal structure of funding for higher education, and perpetuated the prevailing hierarchy in higher education along the lines of “centres of excellence” or metropolitan Central government-funded universities, provincial Central government-funded universities, regional universities and colleges funded by State governments, etc. The National Knowledge Commission (2005) stated that “undergraduate colleges are constrained by their affiliated status... the problem is particularly acute for undergraduate colleges that are good, for both teachers and students are subjected to the ‘convoy problem’ insofar as they are forced to move at the speed of the slowest... In fact the design of courses and examinations needs to be flexible”.

Rather than bringing lower-grade affiliated colleges at par with premium colleges, recent commissions and high-powered committees have taken to projecting the relatively equitable funding from the Central/

State government, common syllabi and evaluation systems, standardised teacher recruitment rules, etc. as fetters. In turn, the dominant policy discourse vocally propagates “graded autonomy” for better performing Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs), in which academic excellence can be supported through grant of special funds whilst allowing greater power to such institutions to grant degrees, start new self-financed courses, decide on fee structure, hire and fix the pay of non-tenured teachers independent of the regulatory authority, etc. This paradigm has been gradually enforced with the UGC in 2018 granting public-funded universities the right to apply for autonomy based on whether they are ranked among top 500 of reputed world rankings or have National Assessment and Accreditation (NAAC) scores above 3.26.

Strengthening hierarchies
In its current form, NEP 2020 as introduced by the NDA government is a curious combination of enhanced centralising features and specific features of autonomy. The thrust towards deeper centralisation is indicative in the constitution of the government nominated umbrella institution, Higher Education Council of India (HECI); corporate-style Board of Governors with powers hitherto assigned to governing bodies of colleges and to other statutory bodies of HEIs; as well as the new apex body, the National Education Commission, that is responsible for “developing”, “implementing” and “evaluating” the “educational vision of the country”. Meanwhile, the power extended to premier educational establishments to design new courses, award degrees, among other features, represent the so-called prized features of autonomy.

The issue of autonomy is the key

to unravelling the inherent problem with NEP 2020 in matters of higher education. By engaging with the multi-fold ramifications of this provision, a lot can be gleaned on the heavy cost that the common masses will pay in terms of growing inaccessibility of higher education. Importantly, the model of graded autonomy is not based on universalisation of educational resources and equal access to quality higher education, but on furthering the prevailing hierarchy that exists between different colleges within a public-funded university, and between different universities across the country. While the best colleges gain the autonomy to bring in their own rules and regulations, and graduate to a privileged status whereby they enjoy the benefits of special funds from the newly proposed funding agencies, it is estimated that affiliated colleges with lower rankings and less than 3,000 students face the threat of mergers and even closure. Such collateral damage contradicts targets set for higher gross enrolment ratios. A shrinking of the number of public-funded colleges will only further push out marginalised sections and relegate them to low-grade private colleges and/or to informal education in the ODL and online modes.

The possibility of enhanced inaccessibility of quality higher education looms large when we also consider that the independent rules and regulations of autonomous colleges and universities shall curtail transparent admission procedures, which guarantee underprivileged students a share of seats in prestigious institutions. Similarly, graded autonomy can be expected to trigger a massive spurt in expensive self-financed courses as premium colleges, as well as struggling affiliated colleges, strive to chalk out their financial self-sufficiency. This will expectedly lead to significant expenditure by the individual learner, and, under the new proposed four-year undergraduate programme, the exclusion will simply manifest itself in the pushing out of disadvantaged sections. More than deliverance, autonomy represents the via media for greater privatisation and enhanced hierarchization in higher education.

Maya John is an Assistant Professor at Delhi University

Pushing bigotry to the margins

The country’s educational institutions have to become places where inter-religious understanding is nurtured



The *bhumi puja* on August 5, 2020, at Ayodhya was the culmination of a long-drawn court battle that led to the Supreme Court’s final verdict on November 9, 2019. We may agree, disagree, celebrate or critique the verdict, but I stress its procedural correctness because this signifies that we are a democratic country that adhered to a judicial process. That is the only way we can hope to find some way of leaving behind animosity.

However, this does not mean we forget the injustices of the past. The Supreme Court was well aware of this pitfall and hence had this to say in its judgment, “The destruction of the mosque and the obliteration of the Islamic structure was an egregious violation of the rule of law,” and that “Justice would not prevail if the Court were to overlook the entitlement of the Muslims who have been deprived of the structure of the mosque through means which should not have been employed in a secular nation committed to the rule of law.” These are very important statements that send a clear message to the citizens of this country.

Yet, over the past few weeks, there have been articles in certain sections of the press that remind us of the sacrifices of the *kar sevaks*, turning those who lost their lives on that fateful day of December 6, 1992 into martyrs. Any loss of life must be mourned. But that should not take away from the illegality and immorality of the actions committed by those involved in the destruction of the Babri Masjid.

Reconciling with the past
I would place the blame for these deaths on the powerful individuals and organisations that instilled hate and anger across India. There were those who actually took part in the *kar seva* but many more stayed back at home and cheered. In some ways, these non-physical participants were more culpable than the actual participants because they provided the community impetus for such an action. While we need to move forward and not let old wounds fester, it cannot be by papering over the past. It has to come from publicly acknowledging and taking responsibility as a society for the injustice.

Organisations that encouraged, planned and executed this violent socio-religious movement have to be seen for what they are.

Any attempts to use the construction of the Ram temple for their image makeover must be resisted by civil society. They use expressions such as ‘Sanatana Dharma’ and ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ to lure us into becoming part of a herd that promotes ‘othering’.

I am saying all this now, only because we are already hearing voices from their quarters that Mathura and Kashi are now ‘on the cards’. Even the Supreme Court judgment is being twisted into a vindication of the events that led to the demolition of the Babri Masjid. If we allow this to happen, we will be trapped in a very dark tunnel, leading to another cycle of deaths.

The Supreme Court warned us against such a possibility, by pointing to the Places of Worship Act, 1991: “Cognizant as we are of our history and of the need for the nation to confront it, Independence was a watershed moment to heal the wounds of the past. Historical wrongs cannot be remedied by the people taking the law in their own hands. In preserving the character of places of public worship, Parliament has mandated in no uncertain terms that history and its wrongs shall not be used as instruments to oppress the present and the future.”

Resisting polarisation
This message must reach every nook and corner of the country, enter our textbooks and become part of our cultures. We cannot allow anyone to push forward another religiously polarising agenda. For this not to happen, the judiciary too should uphold its *dharma*. Unless the people responsible for the demolition of the Babri Masjid are brought to justice, wounds will not heal. And this needs to happen soon.

But Ayodhya is only emblematic of the deep religious gorge that has divided our society from before Independence. We have to be cognisant of our own partaking in this culture of suspicion. We need to unlearn the fallacies, half-truths and parochial ideas that have been implanted in our mind. But for tangible transformation to take place, places of learning have to look inward.

Secularism in the sense of a respect for every faith inheres in every religion, and we would realise that if we had an open mind. Educational institutions have to become places where inter-religious understanding is nurtured as it must be in a place of sensitivity. When that happens, students will come upon the beauty in all faiths. If our schools and colleges help children hold on to those moments of splendour, we will create an entirely new generation that will push bigotry to the fringes where it belongs.

T.M. Krishna is a musician and author

Formalising a known reality

The UAE-Israel agreement is a ‘coming out’ party for Abu Dhabi, not a radical departure

MOHAMMED AYOOB

Several Western policymakers and analysts have touted the recently announced normalisation agreement between the UAE and Israel as a game changer in West Asia. U.S. President Donald Trump announced the agreement with great fanfare declaring, “This deal is a significant step towards building a more peaceful, secure and prosperous Middle East” and would lead to greater cooperation in the investment, tourism, security, technology, and energy sectors. UAE agreed to “full normalisation of relations” with Israel in exchange for the latter “suspending” annexation of parts of the occupied West Bank awarded to it by the Trump-Kushner Plan.

While assessing the importance of the deal, one needs to answer two questions. First, is there anything really new about the agreement or does it merely formalise the *de facto* situation as it pertains to Israel’s relations with the UAE and more broadly with the Gulf states? Second, who is the principal beneficiary of the normalisation of relations between Israel and the UAE?

A symbolic move
For those familiar with the development of Israel-UAE relations over the past few years, the agreement is more like a “coming out” party, than a radical departure from the current situation. It may have symbolic importance but does not add much to the substance of relations between the two countries whose collaboration, especially in the security and technology sectors, has been an open secret. Leading Israeli establishment figures have visited the UAE in the past couple of years.

The same applies to Israel’s relations with other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, especially Oman. In November 2019, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited Muscat and met publicly with the then-Sultan Qaboos bin Said. The next day, the Omani Foreign Minister called on GCC members to recognise Israel. The UAE’s action opens the door for the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between Israel and other GCC states with Oman and

Bahrain, who have openly welcomed the deal, likely to lead the way. Saudi Arabia may not follow suit immediately for fear that it may erode its credibility as the Keeper of the two holiest Muslim shrines, but it is clearly headed in that direction. In April 2019, the Saudi Crown Prince, endorsing the pro-Israel Trump peace proposal, declared, “The Palestinians need to accept [Trump’s] proposal or stop complaining.”

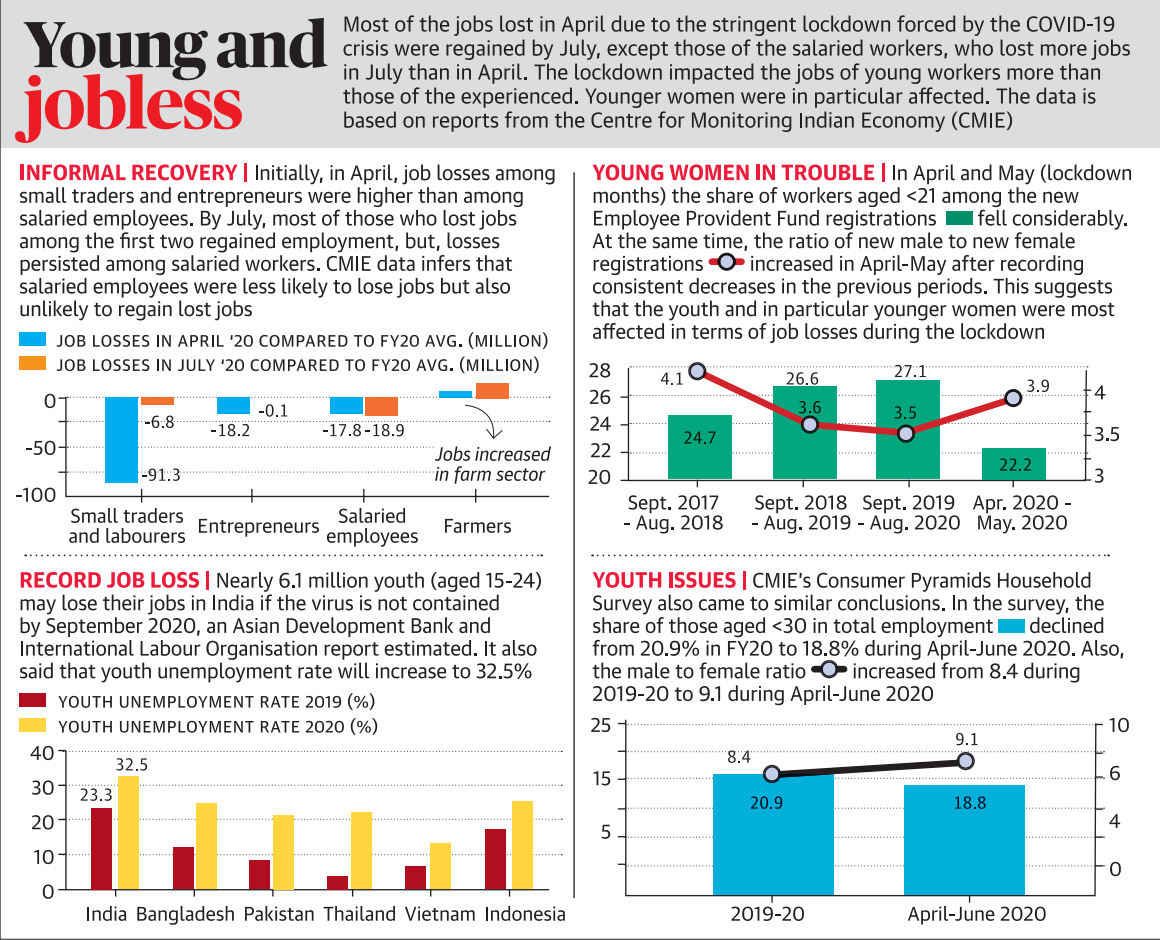
‘Suspension’ of annexation
Who then benefits from the agreement? While Mr. Netanyahu has agreed to “suspend” annexation of parts of the West Bank in exchange for normalisation of relations, he has made it clear that this is a temporary measure. In any case, the U.S. has insisted that the timing of the annexation must be subject to Washington’s concurrence, which it is withholding for the moment. Moreover, Joe Biden, the Democratic presidential candidate who is presently leading the polls, has made clear his opposition to annexation, thus acting as a further deterrent for Mr. Netanyahu’s plan. The temporary suspension of his annexation plan is a concession not to the Crown Prince of UAE but one that has been forced on Mr. Netanyahu temporarily by American policy. But, he has made it clear that he has merely postponed the plan, not abjured it completely. In the long run, Israel is likely to have its cake and eat it too. Incidentally, the Palestinians haven’t lost anything because the occupied West Bank has already been annexed in all but in name.

The agreement does not change the strategic map of West Asia. Abu Dhabi’s open embrace of Israel is driven by the fact that the UAE and most other members of the GCC look upon Israel as their “protector” against Iran now that that they are unsure if the U.S., in its current retrenchment mode, will come to their aid in case of a showdown with Tehran. But this is a well-known fact. The deal merely lays bare the UAE’s and the GCC’s primary motive for courting Israel.

Mohammed Ayoob is University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of International Relations, Michigan State University



DATA POINT



The **Hindu.**
FROM THE ARCHIVES
FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 20, 1970
City of Bundhs

Calcutta, described by the late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru as ‘a city of processions’ is now a city of bundhs. It is going to be even more so during the coming week. The various political units under the control of the Communist Party (Marxist) have declared their intention to start a series of strikes from 26th August. The party has also called for a gherao of Dalhousie Square (this is where Writers’ Building, which houses the Secretariat, is located) on August 31st; evidently, the C.P.M. is bent on paralysing the administrative machinery too, besides dislocating business life around the area where the largest business houses, including the Reserve Bank, are situated. The C.P.M. has come a cropper in Durgapur, because of the fact that the INTUC and the C.P.I.-led AITUC unions would not co-operate in the indefinite strike it called. The Union Deputy Minister for Industrial Development told the Rajya Sabha that as many as 165 factories had closed down in West Bengal till May this year because of factors among which labour indiscipline appeared to be the predominant one. But an unofficial estimate has put the number of closed factories at 300.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 20, 1920.
The Dyer Fund.

(From an editorial)
The people of India will learn with astonishment and bitterness that the Dyer Fund promulgated by the *Morning Post* of London has reached a total of about £13,000, the major portion having come in almost a single week. India will of course, not begrudge the generosity of friends to any one, even though he be one that made sport of her children’s lives; but the purpose, the manner and the significance of this gift are too plainly indicated to be viewed with calm indifference even by those that have chimed in fervently with the call for truce. We have perused the long lists of subscriptions published by the *Morning Post* and are surprised at the assurance blandly given by it that the collections, large and small, poured in “from all sorts and conditions of people in all parts of the country”. Many of the eager contributors are persons that have eaten India’s salt, but the majority appear to be of the pure British *demos*, and that is a fact for India to ponder over. A number of them, again, have followed up their money gifts by glowing panegyrics for Dyer and loud condemnation for the authorities that failed to appreciate his great patriotic spirit.

FROM PAGE ONE



Ministers Jitendra Singh and Prakash Javadekar at a media briefing in New Delhi on Wednesday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Govt. to set up National Recruitment Agency

“There shall be no restriction on the number of attempts to be taken by a candidate to appear in the CET subject to the upper age limit,” the government statement said.

Candidates from the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes would be given a relaxation in the age limit as per the government's policy, it noted.

The government sanctioned ₹1,517.57 crore for the NRA for a period of three years.

The CET would be held separately for three levels – graduate, 12th pass and 10th pass – for the non-technical posts of the three agencies.

“Based on the screening done at the CET score level, final selection for recruitment shall be made through separate specialised Tiers (II, III etc) of examinations, which shall be conducted by the respective recruitment agencies. The curriculum

for this test would be common as would be the standard,” the statement said.

In 12 languages

Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension Jitendra Singh said the exam would be conducted in 12 languages to begin with and the attempt would be to expand it further to all languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. He added that though the test score would be used for Central government recruitment for now, it could be used by State governments and even the private sector in the future.

“Candidates would have the facility of registering on a common portal and give a choice of centres. Based on availability, they would be allotted centres. The ultimate aim is to reach a stage wherein candidates can schedule their own tests at centres of their choice”, the statement said.

Harley-Davidson may exit India

If the company, which saw U.S. President Donald Trump passionately lobby India for lower tariffs on its two-wheelers, does indeed exit, it would mark the second departure of an American automaker, after General Motors wound up its domestic operations and sold its Gujarat plant in 2017.

The company declined to comment on its immediate plans for India and an external spokesman said it “does not comment on speculation”.

The motorcycle maker is expected to continue to run a skeletal operation to provide after sales support for the motorcycles already on

the road in the country, to support its dealers and likely sell fully built imported bikes, the person said.

Harley-Davidson India sold only about 100 bikes between April-June 2020, industry officials said, making India one of its worst-performing international markets. As recently as in July 2018, the company had shared its plans to tap a growing middle class by introducing “a 250-500cc motorcycle within 2 years in India”. To offload unsold inventory, the company recently offered heavy discounts in the range of ₹65,000 to ₹77,000 on two of its models.

SC confirms CBI probe into Sushant's death

The court noted that the furious trading of allegations between the two governments would “only render truth a casualty and justice a victim” in the case. Their slanging matches had brought the legitimacy of the investigation “under a cloud”. Further mud-slinging would misdirect investigation, lead to more finger-pointing, weave new conspiracy theories besides triggering speculative public discourse in the media.

“In the instant case, political interference against both States is alleged. This has the potential of discrediting the investigation. The legal process must, therefore, be focused upon revelation of the correct facts through credible and legally acceptable investigation. It must be determined whether the unnatural death was the result of some criminal acts,” the court reasoned.

‘Fair probe needed’

It said a “fair, competent and impartial investigation is the need of the hour”. It is the least that could be done for a man who has lost his only son, Justice Roy wrote in the 35-page judgment.

The judgment explained why the court had insisted on naming the premier investigating agency now itself.

Justice Roy said Maharashtra, having jurisdiction over the case, could either transfer its case to the CBI or

launch a full-fledged investigation. The latter would clash with the ongoing CBI probe on the basis of the Bihar FIR. To avoid this scenario, the court used its Article 142 powers to divert all or any future FIRs in the case to the CBI.

‘Premature’ argument

The judgment further dismissed as “premature” an argument by Maharashtra that the Bihar government's investigation was a “parallel” one. Justice Roy pointed out that the Mumbai police were yet to register an FIR. The court said the Bihar police did have jurisdiction for a couple of reasons. Firstly, Sushant's father tried to reach him on the phone from Patna. Secondly, allegations of misappropriation and criminal breach of trust in the case were linked to Patna. Finally, the consequence of Sushant's death was suffered in Patna. The court held that the Patna police were also under no obligation to transfer the case to Mumbai.

The judgment came on a plea by actor Rhea Chakraborty to transfer the case to Mumbai. To this, Justice Roy responded that Ms. Chakraborty herself had made it clear that she would not mind if the Supreme Court ordered a CBI probe by using its powers under Article 142 of the Constitution.

With 2,333 cases, Kerala's graph rises sharply

Karnataka adds 8,642 new cases and 126 deaths; nearly 10,000 more test positive in A.P.; cases up again in Hyderabad

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala's COVID-19 trajectory crossed a new milestone as cumulative cases rose to 50,231 on Wednesday. The State's daily case graph also was at a new high with 2,333 people testing positive.

The number of patients in hospitals swelled to 17,382. The COVID-19 death rate



too showed a steady increase, touching 182, with the Health Department confirming seven more deaths that occurred between August 12 and August 17. Three deaths were reported in Ernakulam, two in Thiruvananthapuram and one each in Kollam and Pathanamthitta.

Of the 2,333 new cases, 2,175 (93%) were locally acquired infections, including 17 health care workers. In 53 cases, the source of infection was yet to be pinpointed.

The sudden spike in hospitalisations turned the focus on health system capacity in some districts, especially in Thiruvananthapuram, where active cases stood at 4,621.

Andhra Pradesh again reported close to 10,000 new infections and 86 deaths on Wednesday. The Health Department's bulletin said the tally was 3,16,003 with 9,742 new cases and the death toll at 2,906.

The State had so far carried out 30,19,296 tests including 57,685 samples in the past day. The testing had covered 5.65% of the total population of 5.34 crore. Among major Indian States, Andhra Pradesh led in high population-level testing. Tests per million at 56,541 stood next to Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi. Maharashtra tested 2.61% of its population and Tamil Nadu 4.99%.

Cases in Telangana stood at 95,700 as 1,763 more tested positive on Tuesday. Eight

Stressful period

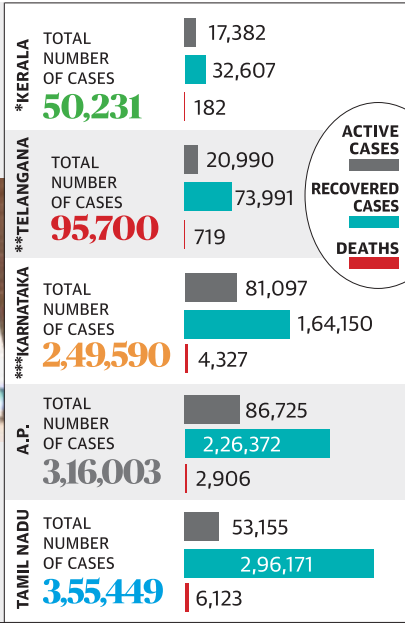
Despite the threat posed by COVID-19, the Karnataka government conducted entrance exam of medical and engineering course. The graph shows the spread of the pandemic in the southern States



The way forward: Students leaving after writing the Consortium of Medical and Engineering Colleges of Karnataka (COMDEK) exam in Bengaluru on Wednesday. ■ SUDHAKARA JAIN

*Kerala has a mismatch of 60 cases due to unaccounted deaths, missing persons | **Telangana numbers are as of 8 p.m. on Tuesday | ***Karnataka has 16 non-COVID deaths

more patients died, taking the toll to 719. Of new cases 484 were from Greater Hyderabad, 169 from Medchal-Malkajigiri, 166 from Rangareddy and 88 from Warangal Urban. On Tuesday, 24,542 samples were tested. Cases



With 5,795 more persons testing positive for COVID-19 on Wednesday, Tamil Nadu's overall tally of cases crossed 3.50 lakh.

Chennai continued to report 1,000-plus COVID-19 cases for the sixth consecutive day.

The State's overall COVID-19 count stood at 3,55,449 of which 53,155 persons were currently under treatment. A total of 2,96,171 persons were discharged so far as another 6,384 persons were discharged after treatment on Wednesday.

A total of 116 persons, including 84 in government hospitals, died across the State including 16 persons each in Chennai and Coimbatore, and 10 in Ranipet, taking the State's toll to 6,123.

A total of 39,13,523 samples were tested so far in the State.

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

Karnataka moves High Court to recover damages from rioters

Court's 2009 guidelines have been invoked

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

The Karnataka government on Wednesday moved the High Court seeking initiation of a *suo motu* case to appoint a Claims Commissioner to assess damages caused to properties, and injuries to persons during violence at D.J. Halli and K.G. Halli on August 11 night, and to investigate the liabilities and determine compensation in terms of the Supreme Court's guidelines.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Abhay Shrinivas Oka and Justice Ashok S. Kinagi said it would take up the petition for hearing on Thursday.

This is for the first time



Mass destruction: Vehicles burnt during the violence at D.J. Halli and K.G. Halli in Bengaluru on August 11. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

that the State government has moved the High Court invoking the Supreme Court's 2009 guidelines for dealing with instances of mass destruction of public and private property and to recover damages from persons responsible for causing the

er through the respective High Courts for assessing damage caused not only to public and private property but also the damages causing injury or death to a person or persons, and the cost of action by the authorities and the police for preventive and other actions.

In the petition, the government pointed that 33 government vehicles and 109 private vehicles were either completely burnt and destroyed or extensively damaged.

In addition to the damages caused to the buildings of the D.J. Halli and the K.G. Police Stations, and the residence of Pulakeshinagar MLA R. Akhanda Srinivasa Murthy, damages were also caused to eight other buildings during, the government said in the petition.



The Supreme Court had issued guidelines to appoint a Claims Commission-

Had trouble with a few local leaders, says MLA

STAFF REPORTER BENGALURU

Pulakeshinagar MLA R. Akhanda Srinivasa Murthy recorded his statement in relation to the D.J. Halli violence on August 11, in which his house was set afire, with the Central Crime Branch (CCB) on Wednesday.

He is learnt to have named a few local leaders from two political parties, as having trouble with him but stopped short of naming them as suspects behind the violence at his residence, sources said.

This comes a day after two Congress councillors from his Assembly constituency – Sampath Raj and



R. Akhanda Srinivasa Murthy

Abdul Raqeeb Zakir – were questioned in relation to the case. The two councillors are expected to be questioned again shortly.

Police sources said that the MLA was asked about the political situation in his constituency.

Police require only tower details of COVID patients, Kerala tells HC

PIL has challenged circular on collection of call records

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOCHI

The Kerala government on Wednesday informed a Division Bench of the Kerala High Court that to find out the location of COVID-19 patients, the police required only the tower details from where the calls are made and received, and not more than that.

The government submitted that the call records received to that extent were erased after 14 days of the quarantine period.

The submissions were made by Additional Advocate General K.K. Ravindra-

nath when a public interest litigation (PIL) petition by Leader of the Opposition Ramesh Chennithala challenging a circular by State police chief Loknath Behera on collection of call data records (CDR) of COVID patients came up before the Bench.

T. Asaf Ali, counsel for Mr. Chennithala, submitted that the police were collecting CDRs of COVID patients and those under quarantine. He contended that under the guise of preventing the spread of the pandemic, the police could collect all details of call records of anybody, infringing the

right of privacy guaranteed under Article 21. This was an illegal expansion of police powers, he added.

The Bench comprising Chief Justice S. Manikumar and Justice Shaji P. Chaly, while directing the government to file a statement in response to the petition, observed that the circular had been issued on a specific objective of COVID-19 unlock 3.0. Prima facie all clauses in the circular deal only with COVID-19, its spread, and prevention.

Mr. Chennithala sought to quash the State police chief's circular. The court posted the petition to August 21 for further hearing.

We have no role in A.P.'s decision on capital: Centre

Reiterates stand in High Court that it's the State's call

STAFF REPORTER VIJAYAWADA

The Union government on Wednesday reiterated that it has no role in Andhra Pradesh's decision on the capital city and it was not consulted by the State at the time of framing of the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority Repeal Act, 2020.

“The subject matter purely concerns the State government and the Central government has no role to play,” Lalita T. Hedaoo, Under-Secretary of the Union Home Ministry, stated in a



The Andhra Pradesh government had notified Amaravati as the capital city in April 2015. ■ FILE PHOTO

counter-affidavit submitted in response to a petition filed by Done Sambasiva Rao and others in the High Court against the A.P. CRDA Repeal Act.

Through the Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Act, 2020, the Andhra Pradesh

government provided for three seats of governance – legislative, judicial and executive capitals in Amaravati, Kurnool and Visakhapatnam respectively.

However, the Central government had nothing to do with the decision on the capital city, Ms. Hedaoo said.

Officials relieved as Godavari water level comes down

Authorities withdraw third warning; 168 habitations hit

T. APPALA NAIDU DOWLESWARAM

The flood in the river Godavari came down from a dangerous level by Wednesday evening, prompting the Godavari Flood Conservator to withdraw the “Third warning.” The discharge of flood water fell below 18 lakh cusecs at Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage at Dowleswaram in East Godavari district.

At Bhadrachalam, the water level in the river was 43 feet with a discharge of less than one lakh cusecs, which would arrive at the barrage by Thursday morning.

The irrigation authorities have decided not to let the



In deep waters: A village affected by rising waters of the Godavari in the Konaseema region. ■ T. APPALA NAIDU

flood water flow into the irrigation canals as it may lead to breaches of the canal bunds. Instead, the flood water is being released into the branches of river Godavari as it will go into the sea.



‘Centre won't intervene in complaints of phone tapping’

It will act as per court order: BJP MP

STAFF REPORTER VIJAYAWADA

BJP MP G.V.L. Narasimha Rao has said complaints of phone tapping will be inquired by the CBI, or other agencies only as per the directions of the courts, or when the States request the Central government to look into such illegal acts of eavesdropping.

The Centre would not order an investigation on its own, he said, referring to the letter written by former Chief Minister and TDP national president N. Chandrababu Naidu to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing the media in New Delhi, Mr. Rao said Mr. Naidu had neither made a specific allegation that his phones were being tapped

nor gave the names of others including judges, whose phones were under surveillance. There was no scope for the Central government to directly interfere in the matter.

The courts know how to deal with it and had the powers to bring the culprits to justice, he said.

The MP said the media was agog in 2015-16 that Mr. Naidu's phones were tapped, but he never lodged a complaint. If he was worried, Mr. Naidu could ask the State to investigate, and if the State makes a request, duly backed by *prima facie* evidence, to the Centre, it might order a probe. Otherwise, the courts could get the complaints checked, he added.

IN BRIEF



Avoid flowers from other States for Onam: Pinarayi

Thiruvananthapuram Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday urged the public against using flowers from other States during Onam. Bringing flowers from pandemic hotspots could accelerate the spread of COVID-19, he said.

Special court grants bail to Rehana Fathima

KOCHI

Rehana Fathima, a rights activist who had been booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, was granted bail by a special court for trying cases related to sexual violence against women and children on Wednesday.

Vindicated: Nitish on CBI probe

Bihar leaders, Sushant's family welcome SC order allowing transfer of probe

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

Soon after the Supreme Court allowed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to probe the Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput death case, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Wednesday told mediapersons, "The Supreme Court's order proves that there is no political interference in this matter. Our stand has been vindicated. We have full faith now that justice will be done to the family of Sushant Singh Rajput."

Leaders of all political parties in Bihar also welcomed the SC's decision.

The Chief Minister further said, "Since the beginning, everyone knows that whatever Bihar Police did was proper. Everyone knows how an IPS (Indian Police Service) officer of the State was treated there [in Mumbai]. The CBI will get all the help they need from Bihar Police in the case. *Nyay ki jeet hui hai* (the truth has won)." Mr. Kumar also said the decision of the Bihar government to hand over the



Public appeal: People taking part in a campaign demanding a CBI probe, in Ranchi on July 11. •PTI

case to the CBI had been "justified and legally proper, though some people wanted to give it a political colour".

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi also welcomed the decision.

"We have been demanding since the beginning that the CBI should probe the case for justice to be delivered to Sushant Singh Rajput's family. The Bihar government though had woken up to the case after 42 days, but we've been demanding it since the beginning. Now we hope for speedy probe and justice in the case," said Opposition leader in the State

The SC order proves there is no political interference in this matter

NITISH KUMAR
Bihar Chief Minister

Assembly and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav.

Rashtriya Lok Samata Party's Madhav Anand and others too echoed the same.

Family thanks CM

Later, Sushant Singh Rajput's family said in a statement: "We, Sushant's family, thank our friends, well-wishers, media and millions of fans worldwide for their love for Sushant and support for

us. We are particularly thankful to Shri Nitish Kumar, hon'ble chief minister, Bihar for setting the wheel of justice in motion."

Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput was found dead in his apartment in Mumbai on June 14, and his father K. K. Singh, later on July 25, had filed an FIR against actor Rhea Chakraborty and five others in Patna under various sections of the IPC, including abetment of suicide and cheating.

Ms. Chakraborty had urged the Supreme Court to allow the case to be transferred to Mumbai. However, the Bihar police and the State government opposed her plea and recommended a CBI probe into the case.

Meanwhile, in an answer to a question posed by journalists, Bihar Director General of Police (DGP), Gup-teshwar Pandey said, "Rhea Chakraborty does not have the *aukat* (stature) to comment on Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. What the Bihar Police did was correct and according to legal and Constitutional provisions."

Bollywood stars welcome verdict, say let CBI do its job

People urged to stop speculating on cause of actor's death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Bollywood personalities on Wednesday took to social media to laud the Supreme Court's (SC) decision to uphold the transfer of Patna Police's FIR in actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case to the CBI.

Actor Akshay Kumar wrote, "SC directs CBI to investigate Sushant Singh Rajput's death. May the truth always prevail. #Prayers."

Kriti Sanon, Sushant's close friend and his co-star in the film *Raabta*, said the last two months had been "extremely restless", and urged people to stop speculating about the cause of Sushant's death.

"So many versions, facts and opinions floating, except the whole truth. Supreme



Extending support: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal with the actor's father in Faridabad on August 8. •PTI

Court's order for CBI investigation of Sushant's case is a ray of hope that the truth will finally shine. Let's all have faith, stop speculating and let the CBI do their work now!" Ms. Sanon said on Instagram. Ankita Lokhande, the actor's former partner and co-star, tweeted that the SC order was the "first step" towards justice for Sushant. "Justice is the truth in action. Truth wins #1stStep

ToSSRJustice," she wrote.

Parineeti Chopra, who had also worked with the actor in a 2013 film, said, "This is a positive step. Please let's respect this moment, and let the CBI do their work now! Please let's stop speculating and coming to conclusions on our own."

Other artistes, including Rakul Preet Singh, Sharad Kelkar and Tisca Chopra, welcomed the SC order.

Autopsy doctors face threats, abuse

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Doctors who had signed the autopsy report of the late actor Sushant Singh Rajput are reportedly receiving a torrent of abuse and threats. Screenshots of the autopsy report, which had names and mobile numbers of the five doctors from Mumbai's Cooper Hospital, found their way to social media as conspiracy theories about Sushant's death did the rounds.

President of the Medical-Legal Association of Maharashtra, Dr. Shailesh Mohite, said they had been receiving abusive phone calls and messages for the last few days. Some media reports said the callers accused the doctors of taking a bribe to "suppress" the truth. "The hospital's landline numbers were also flooded with similar calls," said Dr. Mohite.

Maharashtra promises cooperation

BJP lauds SC decision, hits out at State govt. for 'forcing police to hide facts'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government on Wednesday welcomed the Supreme Court decision to transfer the probe into the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and promised cooperation from the State.

State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh said, "We welcome the Supreme Court judgment of transferring the probe to the CBI and will surely cooperate with the probe team."

Mr. Deshmukh said the top court in its judgment mentioned that the investigation carried out by the Mumbai police had no wrongdoing. "It is clear that



Anil Deshmukh

investigation from the police was not flawed," he said.

The Minister, however, added that the judgment also shows the need for experts in the Constitution and judiciary to initiate a discourse on the federal structure drawn in the Constitution.

The Mumbai police, in its affidavit in the Supreme Court, had highlighted the

federal structure and argued that since the incidents related to the death of the actor had taken place in Mumbai, it was the prerogative of the local police to conduct the probe, and not of the Bihar Police to register an FIR.

'Protecting people'

The BJP welcomed the Supreme Court's decision, but hit out at the ruling alliance in the State.

Ashish Shelar, BJP MLA and former president of the party's Mumbai unit, said the verdict proved that the Mumbai Police protected people and hid facts while it was investigating the case.

He said, "The State government forced the Mumbai police to hide facts. At

least now, it should cooperate with the CBI in its investigation. Otherwise, it will have to face the people's anger."

Mr. Shelar said, "Who did not let the Mumbai Police speak? While the police are bound by the law, who stopped the Mumbai Police in this case? The Maharashtra government take the responsibility for the hide and seek played by the Mumbai Police?"

BJP spokesperson Ram Kadam said the SC, in its order, did not give any importance to the submission made by the State government in the case. "The State government has failed in its responsibility. Now the truth will come out," he said.

Satyamev Jayate, says Parth Pawar

NCP leader had earlier diverged from the party line and demanded a CBI probe

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Days after creating a flutter over his letters contradicting the party line, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's son, Parth Pawar, raised eyebrows again with his reaction to the Supreme Court's decision handing over the investigation into the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput to the CBI on Wednesday.

Mr. Parth on Wednesday tweeted *'Satyamev Jayate'* (truth alone triumphs), after



Parth Pawar

the court announced its verdict. Mr. Parth, who contested the 2019 Lok Sabha election from the Maval constituency, had demand-

ed a CBI investigation in the case and had also written to State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar, when asked about his grand-nephew's demand, had said, "He is immature. There is no value to what he says. I have 100% trust on Maharashtra and Mumbai police. But if anyone wants to make a demand then nobody has any objection."

The senior politician's snub to the aspiring young leader had raised concerns that all is not well within the

Pawar family. A day later, there was a meeting between Mr. Parth and other members of the Pawar family, and since then none of them have made any comment on the issue.

The incident, however, had raised questions over the stability of the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government.

The snub to the young leader was also seen as a warning to Ajit Pawar, whose earlier bid to join hands with the Bharatiya Janata Party had misfired.



Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (A group company of IndianOil)

Regd. Office : 536, Anna Salai, Teynampet, Chennai 600 018
Telephone 044-24349542 / 24346807 E-Mail : investors@cpcl.co.in
Website: www.cpcl.co.in; CIN: L40101TN1965GOI005389

NOTICE OF FIFTY FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND INFORMATION ON E-VOTING

The Fifty fourth Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Company will be held through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio-Visual Means ("OAVM") on **Friday, 11.09.2020 at 03.00 p.m. IST**, in compliance with all the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Rules made thereunder and the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, read with General Circular No. 14/2020 dated April 08, 2020, General Circular No. 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020 and General Circular No. 20/2020 dated May 5, 2020, and other applicable circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA") and SEBI (collectively referred to as "**relevant circulars**"), to transact the business set out in the Notice calling the AGM. Members will be able to attend the AGM through VC / OAVM or view the same at <https://emeetings.kfintech.com>. Members participating through the VC / OAVM facility shall be reckoned for the purpose of quorum under Section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013.

In compliance with the relevant circulars, the Notice of the AGM and the standalone and consolidated financial statements for the financial year 2019-20, along with Board's Report, Auditors' Report and other documents required to be attached thereto, have been sent on **18.08.2020** to the Members of the Company whose email addresses are registered with the Company / Depository Participant(s). The aforesaid documents are also available on the Company's website at www.cpcl.co.in and on the website of the Stock Exchanges, i.e., BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com, respectively, and on the website of Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent, KFin Technologies Private Limited ("**KFinTech**"), at www.kfintech.com.

The documents referred to in the Notice of the AGM are available electronically for inspection without any fee by the members from the date of circulation of this Notice upto the date of AGM.

Members seeking to inspect such documents can send an email to investors@cpcl.co.in

Instruction for remote e-voting and e-voting during AGM:

The Company is providing to its members facility to exercise their right to vote on resolutions proposed to be passed at AGM by electronic means ("**remote e-voting**"). Members may cast their votes remotely, using the electronic voting system of KFinTech on the dates mentioned herein below ("**remote e-voting**").

Further, the facility for voting through electronic voting system will also be made available at the AGM ("**Insta Poll**") and members attending the AGM who have not cast their vote(s) by remote e-voting will be able to vote at the AGM through Insta Poll.

The Company has engaged the services of KFinTech as the agency to provide e-voting facility.

Information and instructions including details of user id and password relating to e-voting have been sent to the members through e-mail. The same login credentials should be used for attending the AGM through VC / OAVM.

The manner of remote e-voting and voting by **Insta Poll** by members holding shares in dematerialized mode, physical mode and for members who have not registered their email addresses is provided in the Notice of the AGM and is also available on the website of the Company: www.cpcl.co.in and on the website of the Stock Exchanges, i.e., BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com, respectively, and on the website of KFinTech, at www.kfintech.com.

The remote e-voting facility will be available during the following voting period:

Commencement of remote e-voting : **9:00 a.m. on Monday, 07.09.2020.**

End of remote e-voting: **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, 10.09.2020.**

The remote e-voting will not be allowed beyond the aforesaid date and time and the remote e-voting module shall be forthwith disabled by KFinTech upon expiry of the aforesaid period.

A person, whose name is recorded in the Register of Members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date, i.e., Friday, 04.09.2020 only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting or for participation at the AGM and voting through Insta Poll.

Manner of registering / updating email addresses is as below:

- Members holding shares in physical mode, who have not registered / updated their email addresses with the Company, are requested to register / update the same by clicking on <https://riskarisma.kfintech.com/emailregistration> or by writing to the Company with details of folio number and attaching a self- attested copy of PAN card at investors@cpcl.co.in or to KFinTech at mohsin.mohd@kfintech.com.

Members holding shares in dematerialised mode, who have not registered / updated their email addresses with their Depository Participants, are requested to register / update their email addresses with the Depository Participants with whom they maintain their demat accounts.

After due verification, the Company / KFinTech will forward their login credentials to their registered email address.

- Any person who becomes a member of the Company after despatch of the Notice of the AGM and holding shares as on the cut-off date may obtain the User ID and password in the manner as provided in the Notice of the AGM, which is available on Company's website and KFinTech's website.
- Such members may cast their votes using the e-voting instructions, in the manner specified by the Company in the Notice of AGM.

Manner of casting vote(s) through e-voting:

- Members will have an opportunity to cast their vote(s) on the business as set out in the Notice of the AGM through electronic voting system ("**e-voting**").
- The manner of voting remotely ("**remote e-voting**") by members holding shares in dematerialized mode, physical mode and for members who have not registered their email addresses has been provided in the Notice of the AGM. The details will also be available on the website of the Company at www.cpcl.co.in and on the website of KFinTech at <https://evoting.karvy.com>.
- The facility for voting through electronic voting system will also be made available at the AGM ("**Insta Poll**") and Members attending the AGM who have not cast their vote(s) by remote e-voting will be able to vote at the AGM through Insta Poll.
- The login credentials for casting votes through e-voting shall be made available to the members through email. Members who do not receive email or whose email addresses are not registered with the Company / KFinTech / Depository Participant(s), may generate login credentials by following instructions given in the Notes to Notice of AGM.**
- The same login credentials may also be used for attending the AGM through VC / OAVM.**

Cut off date for the purpose of ascertaining the shareholders who are eligible to participate in the AGM :

The Company has fixed **Friday, 04.09.2020** as the 'Cut off Date' for the purpose of ascertaining the shareholders who are eligible to participate in the AGM.

The members who have cast their vote(s) by remote e-voting may also attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote(s) again at the AGM.

In case of any query pertaining to e-voting, members may refer to the "Help" and "FAQs" sections / E-voting user manual available through a dropdown menu in the "Downloads" section of KFinTech's website for e-voting: <https://evoting.karvy.com>.

Members are requested to note the following contact details for addressing queries / grievances, if any:

Shri Mohd. Mohsinuddin

Sr.Manager

KFin Technologies Private Limited

Selenium Tower B, Plot 31-32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda

Hyderabad 500 032

Phone No.: +91 40 6716 1700, Toll-free No.: 1800-425-8998

E-mail: evoting.cpcl@kfintech.com

By order of the Board of Directors

Sd/-

P. Shankar

Company Secretary

IN BRIEF



Pranab Mukherjee's health condition declines
NEW DELHI
Former President Pranab Mukherjee's health condition has declined, the Army's Research and Referral (R&R) hospital said on Wednesday. "There has been a decline in the medical condition of Pranab Mukherjee as he has developed features of lung infection. He continues to be on ventilatory support and is currently being managed by a team of specialists," the hospital said in a statement.

President accepts Lavasa's resignation
NEW DELHI
President Ram Nath Kovind has accepted the resignation of Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa with effect from August 31, a Law Ministry notification issued on Tuesday said. Mr. Lavasa recently resigned after being appointed vice-president of the Asian Development Bank in July. He is expected to take charge next month, according to sources.

YouTube rejects M.P. request to remove videos
BHOPAL
Online video-sharing platform YouTube turned down the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department's request to remove content allegedly being used for illegal wildlife trade as it was not violative of its policy, the department said. The department had on June 30 sent a notice to the platform asking it to remove links or channels displaying live pangolins or elephant ivory that were being used to trade them, Ritesh Sirothia, Deputy Conservator of Forests, said.

Five ex-Congress MLAs join BJP in Manipur
NEW DELHI
Five former Congress MLAs of Manipur, who recently resigned from the Assembly and who had voted with the BJP during a recent trust vote, joined the BJP here on Wednesday in presence of Chief Minister Biren Singh, national general secretary Ram Madhav and national vice-president Bajajant "Jay" Panda. Henry Okram, son-in-law of former CM and Congress leader Ibobi Singh, Panonam Broken, Oinam Lukhloi Singh, Ngamthang Haokip, Ginsuanhau Zou were inducted in the party.

ED conducts raids in Tablighi Jamaat case
NEW DELHI
The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday conducted searches in multiple cities in connection with a money laundering case against senior Tablighi Jamaat functionaries. The searches were carried out in Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Surat and at some places in Kerala. The probe is based on an FIR registered by the Delhi police against Tablighi Jamaat chief Maulana Muhammad Saad Kandhalvi and six other office-bearers. The police have invoked provisions of the Epidemic Diseases Act, the Indian Penal Code and the Disaster Management Act, alleging that the functionaries violated government directions put in place due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Ex-judge Kurian calls for intra-court appeal

‘To avoid the remotest possibility of miscarriage of justice in contempt cases’

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Former Supreme Court judge, Justice Kurian Joseph, said the court should decide whether a person convicted in a *suo motu* contempt case should be granted an intra-court appeal as a safeguard “to avoid even the remotest possibility of miscarriage of justice”.

Justice Kurian said persons convicted in ordinary criminal matters got a second chance in the form of an appeal. “So, why is a person convicted by the Supreme Court in *suo motu* contempt proceedings not entitled to another opportunity by way of an appeal?”

Centre set up PM CARES, indicates memo

Ministry of Corporate Affairs depended on this reasoning to receive contributions from firms under CSR

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI
The Centre has repeatedly insisted that the PM CARES fund is not answerable to citizens under the RTI Act, as it is not a public authority. However, on the same day the fund was announced in March, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) had made the case for PM CARES being a fund set up by the Central government.

File notings accessed through RTI show that the MCA's late night memo on March 28, clarifying that Indian companies' contributions could be counted for their corporate social responsibility obligations, depended on the reasoning that the PM CARES fund was set up by the Central government. Otherwise, the thousands of crores immediately pledged by India's biggest corporates from both the public and private sectors could not have been counted against their CSR obligations.

Two months later, on May 26, the Companies Act was retrospectively amended, so that the validity of CSR donations was now no longer dependent on the fund being

set up by the Centre. It was three days later, on May 29, that the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) first stated that the PM CARES Fund is not a public authority under the RTI Act, in a delayed response to an RTI request filed by law student Sri Harsha Kandukuri. Institutions established by the government are defined as public authorities under the RTI Act.

The PM CARES fund was registered on March 27 as a public charitable trust, and announced through a press release issued by the PMO at 4.36 p.m. on Saturday, March 28. Donation pledges began to pour in instantly. At 9.52 p.m. that evening, Aparna Mudiam, a deputy director in the MCA's CSR cell, drafted a circular clarifying that corporate contributions to PM CARES would be considered eligible CSR activity, and passed it up the chain of command. After a series of emails, Corporate Affairs Secretary Srinivas Injeti approved the circular for issuance at 11.29 p.m., according to records accessed through an RTI request filed by activist Anjali Bhardwaj.

The circular cited Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013, which lists permissible CSR activity, including “contribution to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund or any other fund set up by the Central government or the State governments for socio-economic development and relief...”



The file noting on the circular makes the Ministry's reasoning clear. “Item no. (viii) of the Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013 *inter alia* provides for contribution to any fund set up by the Central government for socio-economic development and relief. Contribution to PM CARES fund is therefore an eligible CSR activity,” it says. On May 27, however, the MCA amended Schedule VII, directly inserting the PM CARES fund into the list, so that there was no more need to depend on the fund being set up by the Central government. The amendment was applied retrospectively, from March 28. “If MCA was relying on the fact that PM CARES was a fund set up by the Central government, then how is the PMO repeatedly denying information under the RTI Act claiming that the fund is not a public authority?” asked

Do donors include Chinese firms, asks Chidambaram
NEW DELHI
Former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram posed a series of questions on the functioning of the fund. “...There are other aspects of PM-CARES FUND on which the Supreme Court had no occasion to pronounce judgment. These are transparency, disclosure and management practices concerning the Fund.” “Who are the donors who gave ₹3,076 crore in the first five days? Do they include Chinese firms?” he asked on Twitter.

Ms. Bhardwaj. “What was the need for the retrospective amendment?” Ms. Bhardwaj also questioned the Ministry's rush to issue the circular late on March 28, Saturday night, with just two working days left until the end of the financial year. Data on the PM CARES website shows that ₹3,076 crore had been collected by March 31. RTIs filed by the *Indian Express* have also shown that a number of public sector companies donated to PM CARES using their unused CSR allocation for the 2019-20 financial year, which ended March 31. The *Hindu's* queries to the MCA regarding the circular, and whether any company or government department had requested the clarification, were not answered. Ms. Bhardwaj filed RTI requests regarding the PM CARES fund with other government departments. The Law Ministry did not respond to a query on whether its comments were sought on the fund, while the Cabinet Secretariat said “there was no agenda item in any Cabinet meeting specifically related to the creation of the PM Cares Fund.”

Congress, AIUDF pre-poll alliance likely in Assam

They appeal to ‘like-minded’ parties to take on the BJP jointly

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Congress and the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF), led by perfume baron Badruddin Ajmal, have indicated they may form an alliance ahead of the 2021 Assembly elections in Assam.

The two parties have also appealed to other “like-minded” entities to take on the BJP together.

Core committee meet
Former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi and Assam Pradesh Congress Committee president Ripun Bora had after the party's core committee meeting on Tuesday said a pre-poll alliance with “anti-BJP parties including the AIUDF” was on the cards.

The Congress is also not averse to having the Bodo Land People's Front (BPF), one of the BJP's two regional partners in alliance government, back on board. The BPF had ruled

Assam with the Congress before switching over to the BJP but there have been fissures in its ties with the latter of late.

‘Doors open’
“We have opened our doors for all the parties, including the AIUDF, who are opposed to the BJP,” Mr. Bora said, adding that the Congress would lead the proposed alliance.

Mr. Ajmal did not rule out the possibility of any such alliance but said it would have to be based on the principles of democracy where each constituent would have an equal say.

AIUDF general secretary Aminul Islam said there have been discussions with the Congress for a possible pre-poll alliance. “We appeal to all other like-minded parties to come forward against the BJP,” he said on Wednesday.

The Congress has 23 MLAs in the 126-member Assembly while the AIUDF has 14. The BJP leads the table with 60 legislators in the ruling alliance followed by the Asom Gana Parishad with 14 and BPF with 12.

Many able persons in Cong.: Priyanka

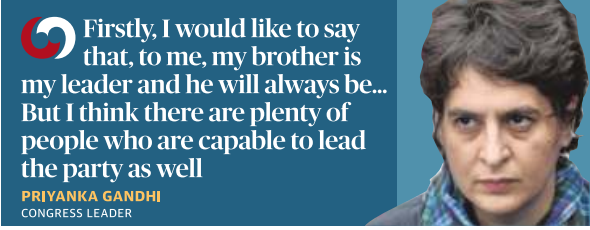
She endorsed the stand of her brother that a non-Gandhi should lead the party

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

Rahul Gandhi will always be her leader but there are plenty of good people to lead the party, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has said in an interview that is a part of a new book on next generation of political leaders.

Ms. Vadra said “nobody had fought Modi [Prime Minister] like my brother” but she was willing to endorse his earlier stand of a non-Gandhi leading the party and didn't see any difficulty to work in such an arrangement.

The book, *India Tomorrow: Conversations with the Next generation of Political Leaders*, written by U.S.-based academics Pradeep Chibber and Harsh Shah, has interviews of young leaders from across the political



spectrum: from Union Minister Smriti Irani to Aaditya Thackeray, Asaduddin Owaisi to Jyotiraditya Scindia, Jignesh Mevani to Sachin Pilot

The interviews have been done over a period.

Congress functionaries claimed that the interviews with Mr. Gandhi and Ms. Vadra were done last year, a couple of months after the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

Rahul's explanation

Asked about his decision to quit as Congress chief, Mr. Gandhi said he did so to in-

stil a culture of accountability in the party

Mr. Gandhi insisted that he didn't require the post to strengthen the Congress or take on the BJP.

Extensive interview

Ms. Vadra, in her most extensive interview, talked about her growing up years, entry into politics, the impact of allegations against her family on her children and her willingness to lead the party.

“Firstly, I would like to say that, to me, my brother is my leader and he will always be.

Over 80% of students depend on mobiles for learning: NCERT

States told to ensure continuous learning for every child

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

School education in the time of COVID-19 is heavily dependent on mobile phones, with 80-90% of older students in Central government schools saying they use mobiles rather than laptops to access digital schooling during the pandemic, according to an official sample survey.

Almost 30% said absent or intermittent electricity connections hindered their learning, and half the students said they did not even have access to their textbooks.

The survey was conducted by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), using a sample of 18,188 students

from Classes 8-12 from Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samitis and schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education.

More than 16,000 parents, teachers and principals also took part.

In KV's, 84% of students used mobiles, while 19% used laptops for learning, similar to the ratio in CBSE schools.

In the Navodaya Vidyalayas, which are meant for gifted students from rural areas, less than 10% of learners used laptops, while 88% were dependent on mobile phones. Less than 6% used TV or radio.

Of course, the situation is likely to be far grimmer at

state-funded schools and the poorer private schools where the majority of students study. Only four States have completed mapping of the devices available to students – smartphone, basic mobile, radio, TV, personal or community computer – according to the Students' Learning Enhancement Guidelines released by the Education Ministry on Wednesday.

The Centre directed States to develop detailed plans to reach every child and ensure continuous learning for the whole academic session, indicating that universal school reopening may not be on the cards in the immediate future.

‘Millions of workers want Rahul back’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday claimed that millions of workers wanted Rahul Gandhi to come back as party chief and blamed the BJP for “egging” the media on the leadership issue.

“We appreciate the sudden media interest (egged on by BJP) in a year old remark (Dated 1st July, 2019) of Smt. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. The context today is to take on the vicious attack on India's polity by Modi-Shah dispensation & fight it fearlessly on front foot,” Congress's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala tweeted, adding that millions of Congress workers have seen Mr. Gandhi leading the fight tirelessly despite “vile attacks by Modi Govt on a daily basis”.

3 SC courtrooms to be set for hearings

They will be refurbished in a week's time to comply with pandemic protocols

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has informed that three of its bigger courtrooms are being prepared for hosting physical hearing of cases on a trial basis.

The courtrooms are being refurbished in compliance with physical distancing norms and medical advice. They would be ready in a week.

The hearings would be held in a limited number of cases after 10 days. Prior written consent to participate would be taken from the parties. The information came in a letter from the Registry addressed to senior advocate Dushyant Dave, the Supreme Court Bar Association president.

Some of the courtrooms, as viewed through TV screens while watching virtual court hearings, have already been fitted with glass partitions, dividing the judges from the rest of the courtroom.

A seven-judge committee of the Supreme Court, led by Justice N.V. Ramana, had “in-principle” recommended the beginning of physical court hearings in two or three courtrooms on a trial basis. This was after a meeting held among the commit-

tee, Mr. Dave, senior advocate Manan Kumar Mishra, the chairman of the Bar Council of India and advocate Shivaji Jadhav, who is the president of the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association.

Mr. Mishra had informed *The Hindu* that the Bar leaders had conveyed the anguish of lawyers, many whom are in dire straits, financially and professionally.

India offers vaccine to Bangladesh on priority

At Foreign Secretary talks, Dhaka raises border killings

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Bangladesh will receive COVID-19 vaccine from India on a priority basis, a top diplomat of Dhaka said on Wednesday. Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh Masud Bin Momen raised some of the contentious issues, such as the recent spurt in border killings and condition of the detained Tablighi Jamaat members from the country, with the visiting Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla in Dhaka and the two sides agreed on an early meeting of the India-Bangladesh Consultative Committee.

"The vaccine will not be limited to India. We have been assured that India will provide the COVID-19 vaccine to us on a priority basis and the pharmaceutical companies of our country will be able to collaborate on this," Mr. Bin Momen told presspersons about the vaccine from India's Serum Institute.

The COVID-19 related discussion between the two sides comes weeks after the Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC) allowed China to carry out the Phase III human trial of the anti-COVID-19 vaccine produced by China's Sinovac Biotech Ltd. China had also sent a medical team to assess the pandemic preparation of Bangladesh during the first week of June.



Pharmaceutical firms will collaborate on the vaccine.

During the talks, Mr. Bin Momen raised the issue of increase in the killings of Bangladesh nationals along the border by India's BSF. "I drew his attention on this undesirable irritant and urged for stopping these killings altogether," said Mr. Bin Momen.

A highly placed source said Ms. Hasina raised the issue of Rohingya refugees in the Chittagong hills and urged India's support for "early and safe repatriation" of the 1.2 million Rohingya citizens of Myanmar. Bangladesh has asked India to use its non-permanent membership at the UN Security Council during 2021 to increase pressure on Myanmar for the repatriation of the Rohingya refugees.

Mr. Shringla also discussed the proposal for a travel bubble for flights with Bangladesh that will allow smooth movement for business, official and medical personnel. The source also

informed that the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary discussed security issues of mutual interest. Mr. Shringla's visit, however, will not include a meeting with Foreign Minister A.K. Abdul Momen who is away in his parliamentary constituency in Sylhet. Speaking to reporters in Sylhet, the Minister said there was no sign of fracture in India-Bangladesh ties.

Mr. Momen had said last week that like China, India too should provide tariff-free facility for exports from Bangladesh.

The visit by Mr. Shringla is being viewed as extraordinary because of the pandemic scenario and has been interpreted as India's attempt to prevent growing Chinese influence in Bangladesh.

Teesta project

The Sheikh Hasina government has recently reached an agreement with China over building of a \$1 billion irrigation project at the Teesta which will benefit the country's farmers in the Rangpur region during the lean seasons.

Construction of the project will effectively neutralise the Teesta water negotiations with India. Over the last few months, allegations were levelled against Ms. Hasina's government about slow pace for sanctioning projects that are supported by India.

INTERVIEW | RANIL SALGADO

'India is capable of getting back to 7% growth'

After pandemic, country must return to its fiscal consolidation strategy, says IMF's India Mission Chief

NARAYAN LAKSHMAN

While healthcare professionals and scientists scramble to cope with the human toll of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, policymakers worldwide and in India are racing to stabilise their economies and mitigate the damage that has already been inflicted upon livelihoods, especially of the poorer sections. Ranil Salgado, India Mission Chief at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), discussed the big questions on macroeconomic policy, growth dynamics and poverty alleviation that the country faces. Edited excerpts:

How would you characterise the fall in growth in India due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Globally, this is the impact of COVID-19, the lockdowns and the follow-on effects included a supply-side hit but also [an impact on] consumers and corporations that could not work. As a result, spending falls. India implemented a very strict lockdown, probably one of the strictest lockdowns. We had already revised down India's growth in April 2020, not as much as globally because we thought the pre-emptive lockdown would achieve better results than [what we] ended up [with]. Unfortunately, India has not been able to gain full control of the COVID-19 situation. So, when we looked at the num-

bers again in early June 2020, we revised down India just as many other countries were revised down.

The next time we do a forecast will be for the October 2020 World Economic Outlook. We will wait until we see the first quarter fiscal year GDP before making a forecast.

What macroeconomic strategy could India follow to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on its poorest?

In India, decisions regarding fiscal expenditure or stimulus are more difficult, given its initial condition of generally high level of government or public debt.

We think a large part of this stimulus should be focused on vulnerable households. Especially if the impact of the pandemic continues, we have been emphasising that the fiscal space that India has needs to be used to support vulnerable households. This includes in-kind transfers and food transfers that have worked quite well, the support for rural employment but also efforts to support urban employment.

Do you think this is the right time to push forward on the conversation about the Universal Basic Income?

That is a difficult question in India, again because of the fiscal space issue. There have been proposals, including by the previous Chief Economic Advisor, about a



There is a potential for catch-up through structural reforms and infrastructure investment

more limited form of that. There is scope for something like that - a limited form, I would not call it universal. But it has to be combined, given the fiscal issues, with more extensive subsidy reforms. You essentially end up taking some of that money that goes into subsidies and then better targeting it toward more vulnerable and poorer households. That is the way to reconcile providing that income support while maintaining a sustainable fiscal path.

Given the sharp drop in aggregate demand, do you think there is any potential for deficit monetisation by the RBI?

It is a very unusual circumstance and a few countries and emerging markets have been doing that recently, including Indonesia for example. But we still think for India that should be a last resort.

So far, partly because of

the shortfall in demand, there seems to be plenty of savings available for the government to tap into right now. So far, the government has not had to do this. Once the COVID-19 crisis has passed, India has to get back to its long-term fiscal consolidation strategy. That could also potentially ease concerns in markets and keep rates relatively low. That could help avoid any need for consideration of monetisation by the RBI.

What structural reforms are necessary to see India through in the longer term, given that the economy was already on a sticky wicket before the coronavirus struck?

A few years back there had been substantial steps taken, whether it be the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), forming a national GST, steps to improve businesses which are ongoing, as evident in the World Bank ease of doing business indicators, and issues relating to FDI. These are areas where progress has been made with reforms. Reforms are still needed in those areas and some in other areas, [including] a step-up in infrastructure spending, [and] further progress on labour market reforms and land reforms.

Looking at the banking and liquidity crisis that had hit earlier, what would be a fresh, post-COVID-19 perspective on reforms

needed there?

I refer back to the previous Chief Economic Advisor and his four 'R's. Three of the four R's were done fairly well, that is Recognising stressed assets, putting together the Resolution framework or the IBC, and the Recapitalisation by the government of public sector banks. The recapitalisation of public sector banks, while important, also means that the government will own more of these banks again. That has to eventually be unwound, somewhat.

The fourth step, where we see less progress, is the reform of governance issues - and I would also extend this to private sector banks. By this I mean how banks manage operationally and how banks manage risk. That is a key area where progress needs to be made afterwards.

If there is one silver lining for India on the economic front, how would you characterise it?

When you think of India about two years ago, the country was averaging 7% growth, over the previous decade. We think India can get back toward that, even we are not sure how quickly it will. Partly, that reflects demographics - India has a relatively young population.

Second, India has large potential for catch-up, [in terms of] productivity levels, through structural reforms and infrastructure investment.

FB employees internally question policy

Open letter seeks consistency in application of rules

REUTERS
NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

Facebook and its top lobbying executive in India, Ankhi Das, are facing questions internally from employees over how political content is regulated in its biggest market, according to sources with direct knowledge and internal posts seen by Reuters.

The world's largest social network is battling a public-

relations and political crisis in India after The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) reported that Ms. Das opposed applying the company's hate-speech rules to a politician from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party, who had in posts called Muslims traitors.

In the United States and around the world, Facebook employees are raising questions about whether adequate procedures and content regulation practices were being followed by the India team, sources familiar with discussions told Reuters.

An open letter written to Facebook's leadership by 11 employees on one internal platform, and seen by Reuters, demands company leaders acknowledge and denounce "anti-Muslim bigotry" and ensure more policy consistency. The letter also demanded that Facebook's "policy team in India (and elsewhere) includes diverse representation".

"It is hard not to feel frustrated and saddened by the incidents reported... We know we're not alone in this. Employees across the company are expressing similar

sentiment," said the letter. "The Muslim community at Facebook would like to hear from Facebook leadership on our asks."

Facebook and Ms. Das did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The WSJ article said Ms. Das had told staff that applying hate-speech rules to politicians close to Mr. Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party "would damage the company's business prospects in the country".

One of the sources said Facebook's India leadership will have to answer tough

questions on what really happened: "There will be scrutiny on what really went down."

A second source familiar with the reactions said Facebook employees were discussing whether there should be strict separation between government relations and content policy teams, and there is "an internal debate happening about the (content moderation) processes". After the article, Facebook India head Ajit Mohan defended Ms. Das in an internal community post, also seen by Reuters.

Navy prepared to meet any challenge: Rajnath

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Navy has effectively carried out Mission Based Deployments (MBD) to protect maritime interests by deploying ships and aircraft at major and sensitive locations, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said at a three-day Naval Commanders Con-

ference (NCC), which began on Wednesday.

"I have full confidence in the Navy's preparedness to meet any challenge through a proactive response in deploying its ships and aircraft," Mr. Singh said on Twitter after addressing the conference.

The Navy is currently on

high operational alert and is closely watching movements in the Indian Ocean region in the backdrop of ongoing stand-off along the border with China in Eastern Ladakh.

Since the commencement of MBD in June 2017, these deployments have facilitated enhanced Maritime Domain

Awareness (MDA), provided swift Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) to the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) littorals and security to the international maritime community, the Navy quoted Mr. Singh as having said.

The Navy said in a statement that the conference assumed greater significance

in the backdrop of recent events on the northern borders, coupled with the unprecedented challenges posed by COVID-19 and would provide the higher naval leadership a forum to discuss conduct of operations, sustenance and maintenance of assets and procurement issues.

Militant killed in Shopian operation

Tributes paid to two soldiers

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Security forces killed a militant in an ongoing counter-insurgency operation in south Kashmir's Shopian on Wednesday. The Army paid tributes to two soldiers who engaged Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) 'commanders' in a gunfight in Baramulla.

An official said the unidentified militant was killed during a joint operation of the J&K police, the Army's 44 Rashtriya Rifles and the CRPF in Molu Chitragram area of Shopian district.

"A militant was killed when the search team came under fire. The operation is on," the police said.

Lt. Gen. B.S. Raju, Chinara Corps Commander, and DGP Dilbag Singh were among the officials who paid tributes to the two soldiers, killed in the two-day long encounter on Tuesday.

An Army spokesman said Grenadiers Ravi Kumar

Singh and Prashant Singh were leading the search team in pursuit of terrorists, who had opened indiscriminate fire on a joint checkpoint of the CRPF and the J&K police at Kreeri on August 17. "The soldiers were the first to come into contact with the terrorists during the pursuit. In the ensuing firefight, three terrorists were eliminated. However, the two soldiers sustained gunshot wounds. Despite being grievously injured, they continued to fight," the spokesman said. Two top LeT 'commanders' were among the slain militants.

The Army also paid tributes to Havildar Rajendra Singh, 39, who was died in a severe snow blizzard on January 8 in the Rampur Sector along the Line of Control in north Kashmir. "The rescue teams were unable to reach the spot which had got buried under snow," the spokesman said.

10,000 CAPF personnel told to leave J&K

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

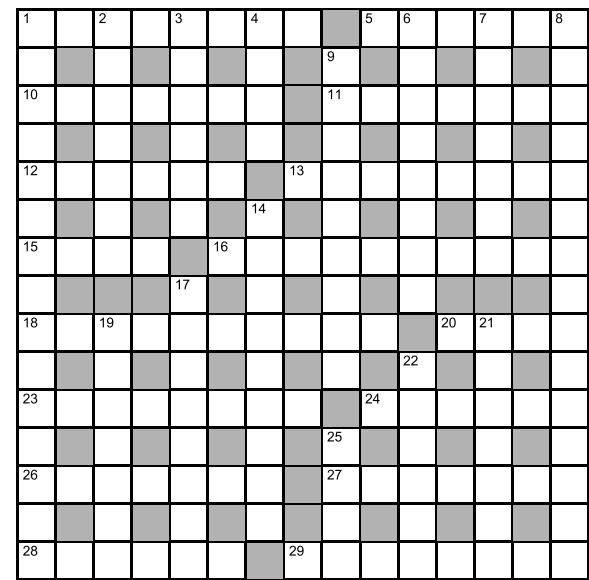
The Home Ministry has ordered the immediate withdrawal of 100 companies or around 10,000 Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel from Jammu and Kashmir.

This is the first time such a large number of Central forces are being pulled out of J&K since additional forces were rushed there days before August 5, 2019, when the former State was stripped of its special status under Article 370 of the Constitution.

A senior government official said that the Home Ministry reviewed the deployment of CAPFs and it was decided to withdraw 40 companies of Central Reserve Police Force, 20 companies each of Border Security Force, Sashastra Seema Bal and Central Industrial Security Force.

Around 7,000 personnel were withdrawn from J&K in December last year.

THE CROSSWORD+ 13019
Are you a cryptic lover or a quick solver? Find out Now!
@ https://qr.go.page.link/jjpTn



- 15 Peon started hiding for long stretches of time (4)
- 16 Speechless as language edit is horrific (6-4)
- 18 It fights the anti-social acts of arsonists (4,6)
- 20 About to leave crowd in haste (4)
- 23 Piteously morbid about head office's shape (8)
- 24 A company is involved in study of church official (6)
- 26 Slowly with a new and old Italian poet (7)
- 27 Admit I'm panic-stricken, carrying instruments (7)
- 28 Hound and almost injure donkey (6)
- 29 Obtain bite, and, having no time, get back to Canadian city (8)
- DOWN
- 1 Having no money, manage - do crafts, perhaps (8,3,4)
- 2 Tot flown to country seat (7)
- 3 Study short story of a canine, perhaps (6)
- 4 Misrepresented a German song (4)
- 6 See gross, crazy hideous females (8)
- 7 One girl goes into Maori display of paper-folding (7)
- 8 In favour of child, the short chic raja is progressive (7-8)
- 9 Pressing article about injustice women abandoned (9)
- 14 Pine for return of fiend to be permanent (4-5)
- 17 Entanglements from primarily egregious boys in the sides (8)
- 19 Request again and again for alternative red uprising (7)
- 21 Relative has no Oriental snake to release (7)
- 22 European gets two equal sections of stable interchanged (6)
- 25 Premiere extra time uncle invested in case (4)

SUDOKU

Sudoku grid with difficulty rating: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13018 and Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

FAITH

Greatness of prapatti

In Kali Yuga with its attendant evil effects, it is difficult to practise Bhakti yoga as a means to moksha. So azhwaras and acharyas have shown that people can opt for prapatti or saranagati that is a sure means to get released from samsara, pointed out Sri Asuri Madhavachariar in a discourse.

Nammazhwar propitiates Lord Venkateswara who is always resplendent with Goddess Sri and in the famous hymn 'Akalakillen Irayumenru Alarmelmangai Uraimarbha' and seeks asylum under His feet, offering his entire being unconditionally to Him. Inspired by Azhwar's example, many Vaishnava acharyas, such as Nathamuni, Alavandar and Ramanuja have sought prapatti as a means to be steeped in the Lord's infinite auspicious qualities with the goal of attaining moksha. Ramanuja, in the Saranagati Gadya, propitiates Lord Ranganatha and His consort and is granted moksha at the end of his life. Out of compassion for the entire humanity, Ramanuja asks for release from samsara for all jivatmas who seek surrender at His feet under the acharya's guidance.

Vedanta Desika has explained in great detail the efficacy of prapatti that is the essence of Ramanuja's Saranagati Gadya. Prapatti is the act of seeking the feet of Sriraman Narayana for protection against the evils of samsara. The desire to seek moksha arises in one through the grace of God and the guru and also owing to one's past samskaras.

The acharya explains to the jivatma about his true nature and how owing to the effects of karma, he is a 'baddha jiva' in this world. There is no need to continue in samsara since the indwelling atma in each one is inherently divine and immortal. The acharya entrusts the jivatma into the Lord's care.

Ornamental table roses are being multiplied into a plethora of hues in home gardens across Kerala and Tamil Nadu, then sold across the country

ATHIRA M

Prasannavathini, a homemaker from Neyveli in Tamil Nadu, is busy packing stem cuttings of portulacas and purslanes from her roof-top garden to despatch to Bengaluru, Chennai and Mainpuri (Uttar Pradesh). “There are over 80 cuttings of 30 varieties in each consignment,” says the 30-year-old, who grows 120 varieties of the ornamental plant.

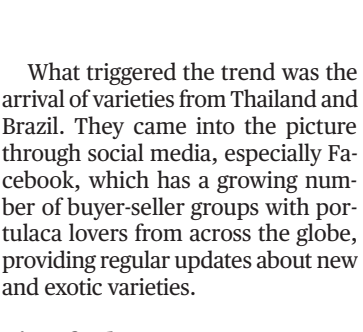
In Kerala, floriculturists Seema Shamsu, Vidyadharan P and Anju Karthika Gee Nath are taking it slow on account of the monsoon. “My [social media] page has over hundred orders, most of them from outside the State. But if I take the cuttings now, they might rot by the time the courier reaches the customer,” says Thiruvananthapuram-based Seema who has nearly 200 varieties of the plant.

Move over roses, adeniums and lilies: portulacas and purslanes are in. With more people planting these ornamental flowers for that signature riot of colours around their homes, on their balconies and terraces, there has been an exponential rise in the number of people selling them. Kerala is in the lead, closely followed by Tamil Nadu.

For the uninitiated, portulaca plants (*Portulaca grandiflora* or moss/table rose) or *pathumani poo* for Malayalis, has multi-petalled flowers and needle-shaped leaves, while purslane (*Portulaca umbraticola*/ *Portulaca oleracea*) generally has flowers with five petals and ovate-shaped leaves.

Easy to grow and maintain, the plants bloom with ample sunlight. “I never imagined that my *pathumani* plants would eventually earn me an income. Inspired by my success story, several women in my neighbourhood have become small-scale entrepreneurs,” says Manju Hari, a homemaker from Pathanamthitta, who started her business early this year.

Business is in FULL BLOOM



What triggered the trend was the arrival of varieties from Thailand and Brazil. They came into the picture through social media, especially Facebook, which has a growing number of buyer-seller groups with portulaca lovers from across the globe, providing regular updates about new and exotic varieties.

Riot of colours
“We were used to seeing portulaca blooms in white and purple. Purslanes were in shades of yellow, white, red and purple. But the imported varieties come in mind-boggling colour combinations,” says Anju, who started out with 15 colours and now has 200 shades in her garden at Kayamkulam. She adds, “Since cross-pollination happens on



its own, one can make hybrids easily. It is these cultivars and hybrids that produce flowers in a wide range of shades. Perhaps, no other flower has so many varieties.”
Native to Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay, these flowers are now widely grown in, and sold from,



ONE PETAL AT A TIME

Purslane has more of blooms in different colours and grows faster than portulaca. In addition to the commonly seen ones, portulaca comes in three more types: hybrid, tiara and jumbo. Purslane has single-colour, multi-colour, Cinderella and Tiger Stripe varieties.

Grow the plants in well-drained soil. Vermicompost, coco pith and red soil ensure better growth. Enough sunlight, for at least four hours is mandatory. Since they are succulents, water sparsely.

Prune the plant once every two months. There is no lifespan as such for a plant unless it gets destroyed by extreme weather conditions or pests. If the parent plant is repotted once in six months, it will continue to produce flowers for many years.

Use organic pesticides to protect the plants from mealybugs.

Facebook has umpteen groups that has Indian and international sellers and buyers. Among the popular ones are ONZE HORAS - PORTULACA

Troca de mudas e informações (6.3k members),
PORTULACA LOVERS (4.5k members),
PORTULACA PHILIPPINES (5.6k members),
Portulaca/Purslane Sales/Succulents exchange (2.4k members),
Nature's Colourfull Studio of Portulaca. (2.1k members) and
Portulaca & Purslane collections (1.6k members)

Showstoppers in the garden

Portulacas and purslanes in full bloom; Anju Karthika Gee Nath (above) and Prasannavathini

• SEEMA SHAMSU, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



These pandemic-inspired decks, designed by 55 Indian artists under the Cards for a Cause project, are a riot of colour

Help on the cards For every deck bought, 10 meals are donated through an NGO

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Every artist involved in the project had their own take on the pandemic and isolation, depicted in their trademark style.

Chennai's Varshini Ramakrishnan chooses to point out the sense of community in her work. The train featured on the 10 of Spades is a reference to how the Indian Railways turned the coaches of trains into isolation wards for the first time in history.

Others have been introspective – Saumya Shukla, in her abstract style, talks about the towns of ignorance and islands of bliss she has built in her head.

Some artists specifically requested for a card number: Delhi-based Shreya Tingal has used the Three of Spades to turn her father, mother and herself into Blossom, Buttercup and Bubbles respectively, “a powerhouse of three.” Radhika Sivsankar uses the Two of Hearts to depict digital love between two partners.

“I wanted to approach this from a kid's point of view and that reminded me of the movie, *Room*,” says Tabrez Alam, whose trademark is to place movie posters in the backdrop of Classical paintings. “I haven't lived at home with my family for this long since long, so it is interesting to observe how the dynamic and our equation has changed. You're not the same person you were six years ago!”

Nidhi, on her part, has been overwhelmed by the response the project has received in just 10 days of the launch. “We are close to donating 4,000 meals already. The numbers will be up on our website soon,” she says.

Visit @theartletpoetry or cardsforacause.in to place an order. A set of 55 cards costs ₹700.

King of all hearts

SWETA AKUNDI

What does your isolation look like? Lounging on the sofa, with hair blooming on your legs. Your home transformed into a witchy abode, filled with herbs and sunlight. Or the calm after a hurricane, with your laptop, books, pages, worn clothes and your own naked self, strewn across the bedroom.

Fifty five of India's up and coming artists have come together to design a set of 55 playing cards, all under the umbrella theme of the pandemic, under the project, Cards for a Cause, by Ahmedabad-based Nidhi Shah.



It all started with a game of animal flash cards with a toddler. Physical distancing back in May, Nidhi would spend a lot of her time playing with her three-year-old niece. Cards, she realised were a good way to make the forced down-time at home a bit more fun. What if they could also be used to evoke empathy and encourage people to donate for those affected by the novel Coronavirus, she wondered.

Over the next two months, the idea snowballed into Cards for a Cause. “We have teamed up with the NGO, Give India, through which the profits go to a campaign called India Fights Corona. For every



deck of cards that is bought, we donate 10 meals,” she explains. A copywriter by profession, she got Rhea Patel, founder of Cliq, the advertising startup where she works, to co-found this initiative. Approaching artists to volunteer for this project did not prove to be too difficult. “I run a page called The Artlet Poetry, in which I post artwork, with relatable poetry in the caption, giving both artists and poets credit. It started as a poetry-first page, where I was just sharing work that I liked using the pictures in my phone gallery,” she says. But eventually she built a network of artists that she admired. In two years, the page blew up, it now has almost 38K followers.



In the limelight
Ravindra Vijay
• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Lights, camera, stethoscope

Ravindra Vijay acted as a hobby in medical school. Then, he made it a career

SHILPA SEBASTIAN R

If you have seen the recently-released Telugu film *Uma Maheshwara Ugra Roopasya*, you would have noticed Ravindra Vijay. The actor plays Jognath in the film, directed by Venkatesh Maha. Though it was a small role, Jognath was the catalyst for the revenge drama.

Says Ravindra, “The credit goes to Maha, who worked so hard on the film. It had a very unique flavour.” Born and raised in Bengaluru, Ravindra is a polyglot and is fluent in Kannada, Tamil and Telugu besides English.

Though he has acted in over 10 films, he says acting was never on his mind when he grew up. He is, in fact, a doctor who graduated from Bangalore Medical College. “I had no exposure to arts at all. What started off as a hobby in the second year of medical school, became an obsession.”

Soon, Ravindra would find himself replacing his stethoscope with scripts. He credits the theatre group, Rafiki, for instilling this passion in him. “I started working with them on street plays in 2005.”

Since then, he was drawn more towards

theatre and has been part of many theatre groups in Bengaluru. By 2011, he was a full-time theatre actor.

When he shifted base to Chennai, working with the group Perch, he got an opportunity in the form of *Odu Raja Odu*, in which he played Nasser's brother.

He was also seen in movies like *Kadaram Kondan* and *Dharala Prabhu*. Work kept Ravindra busy, for, he was hopping from one film set to another. “Taking that decision was tough; the idea was to ease myself into theatre. My family was shocked and wondered how I could give up Medicine to be an actor.”

It has not been an easy journey. He has worked on oil rigs and ships to keep himself afloat. “I was meant to work just for a few months, but ended up working for a year. Maybe because there is nothing more addictive than a pay packet,” the actor says with a

laugh.

He, however, has not yet opened his account in Kannada, but “would love to explore this industry too”. He also says that he will be seen in Season Two of the web series *Family Man* and *Idhu Vedhalam Sollum Kadhai* in Tamil.



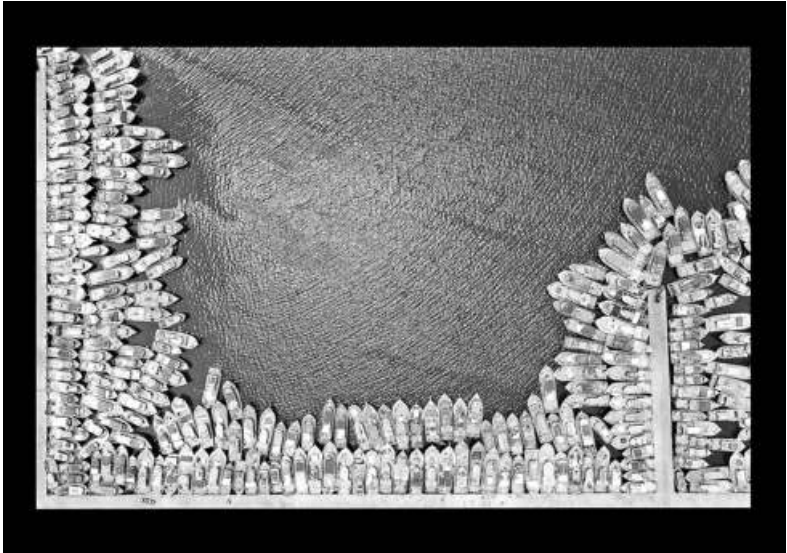
Photographer L Ramachandran curates a coffee table book that captures Chennai's locked-down charm, sans people

SRINIVASA RAMANUJAM

Helping a friend out has some perks and Chennai-based photographer L Ramachandran will vouch for that. The lensman, popular for being the first *Playboy* photographer from India, used the last few months of lockdown to help a friend, Jayakumar, learn photography. In the process, he created a 440-page collectors' special coffee table book, *Chennai to Madras*, which will be launched on August 21, capturing the sights of a city that largely stayed indoors due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"He wanted to learn photography, and I took him to the Chennai Central station one evening. When I saw the building and sunset through the camera, it looked beautiful. I have travelled across the world for my fashion shoots, but this frame, in my city, was so pretty," he recalls.

And, thus kick-started a project — one that saw him get Government permissions to travel in the city, and capture familiar and unfamiliar sights. The photos are black and white, and Ramachandran believes that a glance through the



The city that stayed indoors



Picture perfect (Clockwise from left) L Ramachandran, College of Engineering, Chennai Central, Kasimedu harbour and Mamallapuram

pages, even after a 100 years, will narrate the tale of how the city looked, during these troubled times.

"These pictures might be impossible to take now with people starting to crowd the

streets. During the peak lockdown months, however, all these places were silent, sans people. I just *had* to document this," he explains.

During this time, Ramachandran travelled the length and breadth of the city, taking multiple shots of landmarks. "I would have spent ₹70,000 on diesel alone," he smiles, taking us through the pictures of the book that contain shots of landmarks such as the Government Museum, Ripon Building and Amir Mahal besides covering lesser-known places such as the Dhobikhana and Milk Bottle Tower in Madhavaram.

Though the lensman has covered many magnificent buildings in this journey, his favourites include shots of a few old houses. "Usually, there's so much noise in the frame but when I was clicking them during lockdown, there was no disturbance; no vehicles parked haphazardly. Chennai looked the prettiest in these months."

The buck stops with the audience

Academy award-nominated Smriti Mundhra, creator of Netflix show *Indian Matchmaking*, on how her show gave impetus to uncomfortable discussions about arranged marriage within families

PRADEEP KUMAR

The Netflix show *Indian Matchmaking* featuring Sima Taparia, the high profile Mumbai matchmaker, has triggered heated debates on the concept of arranged marriage.

While Sima's interactions with participants and their families have generated a handful of meme pages, the often regressive nature of these conversations have been flagged by liberal-minded netizens on social media; some called out the show's producers for failing to suitably adjust the narrative to make a distinction between what was merely awkward family talk and clearly retrograde beliefs that fly under the garb of tradition.

Smriti Mundhra, a Los Angeles-based documentary filmmaker is the show's creator and executive producer. The Academy Award-nominated filmmaker, who was in conversation with office bearers of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FICCI FLO), Chennai Chapter recently, adds that her biodata too may have passed Sima's hands at some point of time, and that the idea for the show came about after having observed Sima's work from close quarters while filming feature documentary *A Suitable Girl*. Excerpts from the session:

Your thoughts on how arranged marriage culture was presented on the show...

● It was important for me to not sanitise the process of arranged marriages. It does bring up a lot of unwanted conversations like casteism, colourism etc. These are issues that need to be discussed in the open, and probably families were uncomfortable talking or didn't have the impetus to bring it up and discuss it openly until now.

There has been criticism on how Sima goes about finding an alliance.

● Sima's process is a reflection of what her clients want.

Participant Aparna Shewakramani has been



Stars aligned (Left) Smriti Mundhra; (above) with Sima Taparia while filming *Indian Matchmaking*



subjected to social media vitriol. She has gone on record to suggest that the show was edited to fit a narrative. Your thoughts?

● When you are live tweeting, you are going to type knee-jerk reactions. Aparna evolved over the course of the show but if she became a flashpoint for people, then it only reveals our own biases of what we expect women to be.

For instance, Pradhyuman (another participant) didn't get the same backlash that Aparna did. I'm not saying that either deserved it but they all took it in their stride because they have great support systems.

It is easy to sit on a couch and judge somebody instead of looking at your own biases.

So was the show not edited to fit a narrative as Aparna suggests?

● There was no intention to misrepresent her. I love Aparna. I think she is amazing. Some of the things she is referring to happened off camera. We can only include things that happen on camera. In the edit room we only work with the footage we have with us. For the most part, Aparna does stand behind everything that was said and done on the show.

POOCH CAFE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



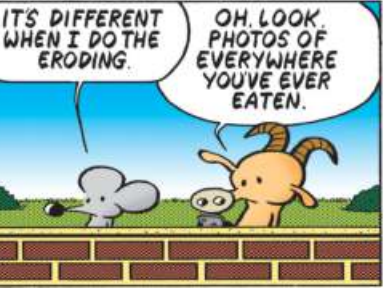
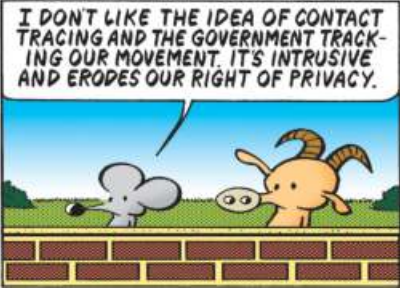
TIGER



WUMO



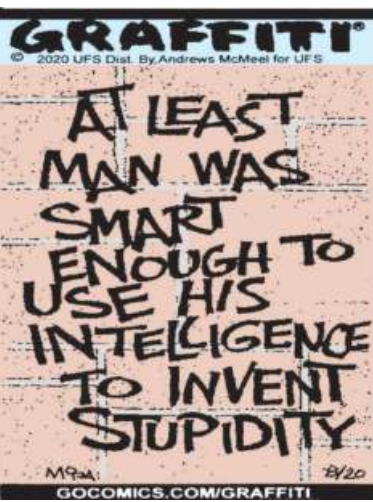
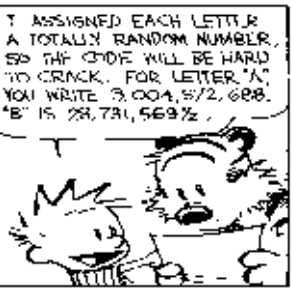
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



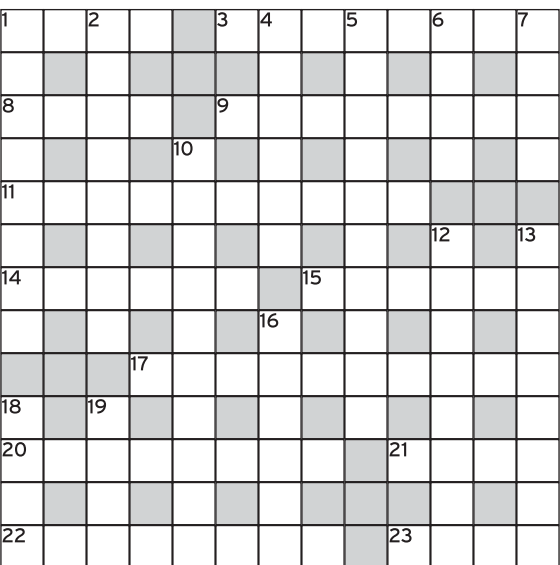
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13373



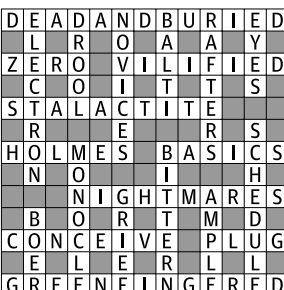
- Across
- 1 Select (4)
 - 3 Winged angels (8)
 - 8 River at Luxor (4)
 - 9 West African baboon-like primate (8)
 - 11 Rebuked (10)
 - 14 Existing but not yet manifest (6)
 - 15 List of text corrections to be made in a publication (6)
 - 17 Rabbi's name (anag) — infant (4,2,4)
 - 20 Begin (8)
 - 21 Spanish sparkling wine (4)
 - 22 Traditional pub game (8)
 - 23 Aurally challenged (4)
- Down
- 1 Peak (8)
 - 2 Catastrophe (8)
 - 4 Throaty (6)
 - 5 Misleading clue (3,7)
 - 6 French cheese (4)
 - 7 Kind of Scotch



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

- whisky (4)
10 Flood (10)
12 Matrimony (8)
13 Shakespeare's Sir John (8)
16 Stinging plant (6)
18 Wrap tightly — nuisance (4)
19 Movie (4)

Solution will appear on August 27, 2020
Solution No. 13372



Joe Biden wins Democratic nomination

Former Presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter and Republican Colin Powell bat for him

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

Former U.S. Vice-President Joseph R. Biden Jr. won the Democratic Party's nomination for the presidency on Tuesday night U.S. time. The nomination was expected and confirmed on Day 2 of the virtual Democratic Convention by way of a virtual roll call across 57 States and territories.

The "Roll Call Across America" was a virtual substitute for what normally happens: an in-person roll call at the convention venue (in Milwaukee this year), which could not be held due to the pandemic. Delegates from diverse locations, including one standing in front of livestock on a Montana ranch and some on a beach in American Samoa, declared, for their respective territories, the number of votes cast for Mr. Biden and his main challenger, progressive candidate and Senator Bernie Sanders.

Prior to the roll call, former Presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter delivered messages of support for Mr. Biden's candidacy. Day 2 of the Convention was also forward-looking: featuring young and future leaders of the party. The keynote ad-



Unified front: Joe Biden celebrating his Democratic presidential nomination with wife Jill and family. ■ AP

dress was unconventional: video messages from close to 50 individuals, including 17 elected Democratic officials, most of them young leaders.

Continuing a theme introduced by former First Lady Michelle Obama, who said, "It is what it is" about President Donald Trump's fitness for the top job, Mr. Clinton elaborated on the origins of that phrase — an Axios interview of Mr. Trump in early August. "When asked about the surge in deaths, he [Mr. Trump] shrugged and said, 'It is what it is,'" Mr. Clinton said.

"If you want a President who defines the job as spending hours a day watching TV and zapping people

on social media, he's your man. Denying, distracting, and demeaning works great if you're trying to entertain and inflame. But in a real crisis, it collapses like a house of cards," Mr. Clinton said.

"COVID doesn't respond to any of that. To beat it, you've got to go to work and deal with the facts. Our party is united in offering you a very different choice: a go-to-work President. A down-to-earth, get-the-job-done guy," he said.

'Right person'
Mr. Carter spoke of Mr. Biden's experience as a family caregiver, as a young widower — and more recently when his son Beau Biden died of

cancer in 2015. Calling Mr. Biden a "loyal and dedicated friend", he said Mr. Biden was the "right person for this moment" in America's history.

"He understands that honesty and dignity are essential traits that determine not only our vision but our actions. More than ever, that's what we need," Mr. Carter said. Former U.S. First Lady Rosalynn Carter also delivered an audio message.

Also featured was one of the potential future leaders of the Democratic Party, Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of Queens, New York. Ms. Cortez spoke for about a minute and a half to second the candidacy of Mr. Sanders.

Political movement
She used her time to praise the political "movement" headed by Mr. Sanders, which she characterised in part as "a mass people's movement working to establish 21st century social, economic and human rights, including guaranteed health care, higher education, living wages and labour rights for all people in the United States".

Other speakers for the evening included former

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, daughter of former President John F. Kennedy, Caroline Kennedy, and her son, as well as former Republican Secretary of State Staff Colin Powell.

"With Joe Biden in the White House, you will never doubt that he will stand with our friends and stand up to our adversaries," Mr. Powell said.

The programming ended with a segment on former Second Lady Jill Biden (Mr. Biden's wife).

This featured clips of how Mr. and Ms. Biden met, after the former Vice-President's daughter and first wife were killed in a car crash and Mr. Biden was raising two boys.

"How do you make a broken family whole? The same way you make a nation whole," Ms. Biden said. "With love and understanding — and with small acts of kindness. With bravery. With unwavering faith."

A live shot of Ms. Biden, a professor of English and a former school teacher, standing in an empty classroom followed. "Yes, so many classrooms are quiet right now," she said. "...With Joe as President, these classrooms will ring out with laughter and possibility once again."

Mali wakes up to military rule after President is forced out

Boubacar Keita says he resigned to avoid bloodshed

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BAMAKO

Mali awoke on Wednesday to a new chapter in its troubled history after rebel military leaders forced President Boubacar Keita from office, prompting its West African neighbours to threaten border closures and sanctions against the coup leaders.

Mr. Keita, embattled by months of protests over economic stagnation, corruption and a brutal Islamist insurgency, said he had resigned to avoid bloodshed. There were few obvious traces of the previous day's drama in the capital Bamako — there were no troops on the streets despite the coup leaders announcing a night-time curfew.

The burnt-out home of the former Justice Minister after an attack by protesters was one of the few visible signs of the overthrow.

UN seeks Keita's release
Jubilant crowds had cheered the rebels on Tuesday as they arrived in Bamako, where they detained Mr. Keita along with Prime Minister Boubou Cisse. UN Secretary General An-



Boubacar Keita

tonio Guterres demanded the "immediate and unconditional release" of both men as diplomats in New York said the Security Council would hold emergency talks on Wednesday.

It was unclear whether Mr. Keita was still in custody on Wednesday at the Kati military base — a facility seized by the mutineers that was also the site of the 2012 coup that brought him to power.

The coup leaders appeared on television overnight to pledge a political transition and new elections within a "reasonable time".

Malian Air Force deputy chief of staff Ismael Wague said he and his fellow officers had "decided to take res-

ponsibility in front of the people and of history".

There were no reports of casualties during the military takeover but the coup leaders announced a curfew and border closures, in effect sealing off the country.

French President Emmanuel Macron was among the first to condemn the mutiny, his office saying that he still supported mediation efforts by other West African states.

Mali is the cornerstone of French-led efforts to roll back jihadists in the Sahel, and its neighbours are anxious to avoid the country sliding into chaos.

Colonel Wague said "all past agreements" would be respected, including Mali's support for anti-jihadist missions in the region.

"MINUSMA (the UN force in Mali), (France's) Barkhane force, the G5 Sahel, Takuba (a European special-forces initiative) remain our partners," he said.

The coup leaders also remain "committed to the Algiers process," a 2015 peace agreement between the Malian government and armed groups in the north of the country, he said.

EU rejects Belarus poll result, warns sanctions are imminent

'Alexander Lukashenko's victory was neither free nor fair'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRUSSELS

The European Union on Wednesday rejected the result of the disputed Belarus election, saying President Alexander Lukashenko's victory was neither free nor fair, and warned fresh sanctions against his government were imminent.

After an emergency video summit, EU Council President Charles Michel told the people of Belarus the bloc stood "by your side" as unprecedented protests against strongman Mr. Lukashenko entered an 11th day.

German Chancellor Ange-

la Merkel called for national dialogue in Belarus — including Mr. Lukashenko, who has ruled for 26 years — to find a peaceful way out of the crisis.

The EU has been working on a new round of sanctions against Belarus, targeting those involved in allegedly fixing the August 9 vote and in the bloody repression of protests, which have shaken Mr. Lukashenko's grip on the ex-Soviet republic as never before.

Mr. Michel said this would lead "shortly" to "a substantial number of individuals responsible for violence, repression and election fraud"

being hit with EU travel bans and asset freezes.

"These elections were neither free nor fair and did not meet international standards. We don't recognise the results presented by the Belarus authorities," Mr. Michel told reporters.

"The people of Belarus deserve better. They deserve the democratic right to choose their leaders and shape the future."

Mr. Michel, along with Ms. Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron, all held telephone talks with Mr. Lukashenko's close ally Russia to push for dialogue to end the crisis peacefully.

Israel bombs Gaza after warning Hamas

It says the attacks were response to fire balloons launched from across the border

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
JERUSALEM

Israeli warplanes bombed the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip overnight after Palestinians fired a rocket into southern Israel, the army said.

The latest exchange came as Israel warned Hamas it was risking "war" by failing to stop fire balloons being launched across the border.

Egyptian security officials shuttled between the two sides in a bid to end the flare-up, which has seen more than a week of rocket and fire balloon attacks from Gaza and nightly Israeli reprisals.

"Earlier tonight, a rocket was fired and during the day, explosive and arson balloons were launched from the Gaza Strip into Israeli territo-



Smoke and flames rising over Gaza city following the Israeli airstrikes. ■ AFP

ry," said a military statement released by Israel. In response, "fighter jets and (other) aircraft struck Hamas military targets in Gaza".

"During the strike, a military compound belonging to one of the special arrays of

the Hamas terror organisation was struck," the statement added.

There were no reports from Gaza of casualties.

In Gaza city on Wednesday, demonstrators burned Israeli flags and pictures of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in protest at last week's announcement that the United Arab Emirates was normalising relations with the Jewish state.

Many Palestinians saw the move as a betrayal of their cause by the Gulf country.

Saudi Arabia said on Wednesday it would not follow the UAE in establishing diplomatic ties with Israel until the Jewish state had signed an internationally recognised peace accord with the Palestinians.

Marchers carried placards reading, "Palestine is not for sale, down with the deal of shame."

"We reject normalisation from any country and from any regime," senior Hamas official Khalil al-Haya said during the protest.

In response to the persistent balloon launches, Israel has banned fishing off Gaza's coast and closed the Kerem Shalom goods crossing, cutting off deliveries of fuel to the territory's sole power plant.

Power had been in short supply even before the shutdown, with consumers having access to electricity for only eight hours a day. That will now be cut to just four hours a day using power supplied from the Israeli grid.

UAE connects first Arab nuclear plant to power grid

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DUBAI

The oil-rich United Arab Emirates announced on Wednesday that it has connected its Barakah nuclear power plant to the national grid in a new first for the Arab world.

The milestone follows the successful start-up of the plant's first reactor at the end of last month and launches the UAE on the road to meeting 25% of its electricity needs from nuclear power.

"The safe and successful connection of Unit 1 to the UAE grid marks the key moment when we begin to deliver on our mission to power the growth of the nation by supplying clean electricity, around the clock," said Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation CEO Mohamed Ibrahim al-Hammadi.

"We are confident in our people and our technology to continue to

progress to reach... the completion of the remaining three units, with the goal to power up to 25% of the UAE's electricity needs for at least the next 60 years."

The plant on the Gulf coast west of Abu Dhabi had been due to go online in late 2017 but faced delays that officials attributed to safety and regulatory requirements.

The UAE has substantial oil and gas reserves, but with a power-hungry population of 10 million, it has made huge investments in developing clean alternatives, including solar energy.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, has said it plans to build up to 16 nuclear reactors, but the project has yet to materialise.

Barakah was built by a consortium led by the Korea Electric Power Corporation at a cost of some \$24.4 billion.

Berlin car crashes being treated as Islamist attack

REUTERS
BERLIN

German authorities are investigating a series of apparently deliberate car crashes on a Berlin motorway on Tuesday evening as an Islamist attack, media reported on Wednesday.

"Comments made by the

suspect after his criminal acts suggest a religious Islamist motivation," the joint statement from the Berlin police and the public prosecutors office said.

There are also indications that the 30-year-old suspect had psychological problems, the statement added.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS: TIRUPATI NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-tenders are invited for **Outsourcing Printing and Supply of Kavithraya Mahabharatham-15 volumes**. For Tender Notice & details - e-tenders: log on the web site <http://www.tirumala.org> and <https://tender.aeprocurement.gov.in>.

For further details contact: **0877:2264355 (or) 0877-2264292**.

Roc.No.PR4/13921/Adv.No.107/PRO/2020; Dated:19-08-2020 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

KOCHI METRO RAIL LIMITED
(A joint venture company of Govt. of India & Govt. of Kerala)
4th Floor, JLN Stadium Metro Station, Kallor, Ernakulam-680171
Ph: +91-484-2846700

TENDER

1. Comprehensive annual maintenance contract for UPS
E-tender ID: 2020_KMRL_377586_1; Last date of submission: 16.09.2020
2. For providing maintenance services to KMRL Telecommunication Systems
E-tender ID: 2020_KMRL_376382_1; Last date of submission: 12.09.2020
3. Contract KBC 2 - Road widening of JLN to Kunnumpuram Junction in connection with KMRL Phase II preparatory works
E-tender ID: 2020_KMRL_377108_1; Last date of submission: 05.09.2020
4. Contract No KAT 1-Supply Installation Testing and Commissioning of Ballastless Track work of Standard Gauge from Petta Station (excluding) to Thripunithura Terminal Station (inclusive) of the Elevated Section of Phase I Extension of KMRL.
E-tender ID: 2020_KMRL_377895_1; Last date of submission: 18.09.2020

Tender documents can be downloaded from www.etenders.kerala.gov.in / www.kochimetro.org
Further corrigendum & addendum will be published only on websites

TAMILNADU TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED, CHENNAI-2
PROVIDING CERTAIN SERVICE ON OUTSOURCING BASIS - TENDER IN 2 BID SYSTEM CALLED FOR PLEASE SEE THE WEBSITES: www.tamilnadutourism.org & www.tenders.tn.gov.in

1. Tender for	Supply of Manpower for performing certain services on outsourcing basis to TTDC, Chennai Region Hotels
2. Document No	124/RM (C)/Chennai/2020
3. Tender Inviting Authority & Office	Regional Manager (Chennai) 2 nd Floor, Tamilnadu Tourism Complex, No.2, Wallajah Road, Chennai-02
4. Approximate man power required	162
5. Tender form cost	Rs. 1180/- incl. GST
6. Tender Form Cost (Tamil)	Rs. 1280/-
7. Tender Form Free of Cost	www.tamilnadutourism.org & www.tender.tn.gov.in
8. EMD amount	Rs. 3.00 lakhs
9. Payments tender form/ EMD	Through DD or Banker's cheque
10. DD drawn for tender cost/EMD	Tamilnadu Tourism Development Corporation Ltd., Chennai-2
11. DD Payable at	Chennai
12. Last date & time for sale of tender	3.00 PM on 22.09.2020
13. Last date & time for receipt tender	11.00 A.M on 23.09.2020
14. Opening of Tech Bid	11.30 A.M on 23.09.2020
15. Place for purchase, Submission, opening of tender form	As in SI.No. 3 above

Other conditions as applicable in the tender schedule
DIPR/3124/TENDER/2020 REGIONAL MANAGER (CHENNAI)

INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY (IMU)
(A Central University, under the Ministry of Shipping, Government of India)
Established by an Act of the Parliament in 2008
www.imu.edu.in

Online Applications are invited for admission of students in the Academic Year 2020-21 for the following Programmes of IMU.

Under-Graduate	Post-Graduate
<ul style="list-style-type: none">B.Tech (Marine Engineering)B.Tech (Naval Architecture & Ocean Engineering)B.Sc (Nautical Science)BBA (Logistics, E-Commerce & Retail)B.Sc (Ship Building & Repair)DNS leading to B.Sc. (Nautical Science)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">M.Tech (Marine Engineering & Management)M.Tech (Naval Architecture & Ocean Engineering)M.Tech (Dredging & Harbour Engineering)MBA (Port & Shipping Management)MBA (International Transportation & Logistics Management)M.Sc (Commercial Shipping & Logistics)
Research Programme	PG Diploma
<ul style="list-style-type: none">M.S (By Research)Ph.D	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Post Graduate Diploma in Marine Engineering.

Last date of registration - 21.08.2020.
For further details, please visit IMU website www.imu.edu.in

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY PORT DEPARTMENT

3128/PORT/EE/Sagarmala/2020-21
Puducherry 21-08-2020

DATE CORRIGENDUM

Name of Work : Dredging in the Entrance channel and Harbour mouth.

Tender ID : 2020_PORT_6401

The following changes have been made to the critical dates of the above referred tender:

Closing date and time for submission of e-tender : **02.09.2020 at 3.30 PM.**

Date and time of opening of e-tender : **03.09.2020 at 11.00 AM**

Other critical dates remain the same.

Further all prospective bidders are advised to constantly monitor the website <https://pudutenders.gov.in> for further updates, if any.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

No.150/DIP/AD(Press)/2020-21

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
COIMBATORE HIGHWAYS, (CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE) CIRCLE

TENDER NOTICE

T.N. No. 15 / 2020-21 / HDO, Dated 19.08.2020

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, **Percentage tender through online only** will be received up to **25.09.2020, 15.00 hours** by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Coimbatore Circle for **CRIDP 2020-21 Works, (1 work) pertaining Pollachi (H) C&M Division.**

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available in the Government website <https://tntenders.gov.in>. from **24.08.2020**. If any Changes / Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Coimbatore Circle.

DIPR/3124/Tender/2020

MARKET WATCH		
	19-08-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	38,615	-0.22
US Dollar	74.82	-0.08
Gold	54,269	-1.07
Brent oil	44.89	-0.18

NIFTY 50		
	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	356.65	-0.80
Asian Paints	1885.70	11.60
Axis Bank	444.20	-1.60
Bajaj Auto	3059.80	-45.00
Bajaj Finserv	6299.05	-44.00
Bajaj Finance	3409.95	-9.95
Bharti Airtel	535.85	9.55
BPCL	403.70	1.40
Britannia Ind	3875.40	-38.90
Cipla	758.35	-6.50
Coal India	135.10	-1.55
Dr Reddys Lab	4489.25	-31.15
Eicher Motors	21261.35	-143.35
GAIL (India)	101.45	4.50
Grasim Ind	664.85	-2.25
HCL Tech	709.85	-4.60
HDFC	1827.95	7.25
HDFC Bank	1066.60	10.10
HDFC Life	603.45	5.85
Hero MotoCorp	2933.05	8.90
Hindalco	196.80	0.80
Hind Unilever	2193.60	-20.75
ICI Bank	374.45	4.90
IndusInd Bank	522.15	0.55
Bharti Infratel	201.30	0.75
Infosys	959.30	-8.25
Indian Oil Corp	88.00	1.00
ITC	198.45	-0.10
JSW Steel	278.55	1.40
Kotak Bank	1355.60	-13.75
L&T	1009.10	4.55
M&M	623.90	1.25
Maruti Suzuki	6990.30	97.20
Nestle India Ltd.	16345.75	-208.85
NTPC	94.65	-0.40
ONGC	79.55	-1.10
PowerGrid Corp	177.35	-0.40
Reliance Ind	2131.55	13.00
State Bank	197.05	1.95
Shree Cement	22081.30	167.00
Sun Pharma	525.40	-0.60
Tata Motors	125.15	-0.45
Tata Steel	431.70	-2.80
TCS	2256.60	-13.15
Tech Mahindra	726.70	13.65
Titan	1148.40	2.85
UltraTech Cement	4199.85	30.90
UPL	499.40	-0.75
Wipro	279.75	-2.95
Zee Entertainment	196.80	22.85

EXCHANGE RATES		
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except Yen at 4 p.m. on August 19		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.62	74.94
Euro	89.10	89.49
British Pound	98.84	99.27
Japanese Yen (100)	70.78	71.10
Chinese Yuan	10.81	10.85
Swiss Franc	82.66	83.02
Singapore Dollar	54.72	54.97
Canadian Dollar	56.77	57.02
Malaysian Ringgit	17.87	17.97
Australian Dollar	54.24	54.47

Source: Indian Bank

Centre relaxes norms for PFC, REC to lend to discoms

Government seeks to improve liquidity in power sector with one-time easing

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

To provide liquidity to the power sector, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Wednesday approved a one-time relaxation to Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation for extending loans to distribution companies (discoms) above the limits of working capital cap of 25% of last year's revenues.

"Currently, the power sector is facing problems... due to COVID-19, the consumption of electricity has fallen... and bills are not being paid on time. State discoms are facing issues, so to help



Dent in collections: Revenues of power distribution firms have shrunk as people are unable to pay for power consumed. •AP

them PFC and REC have been allowed to give loans above the limit more the 25% working capital limit," Union Minister Prakash Javdekar said in a briefing. The go-

vernment said the one-time relaxation will help provide liquidity to the power sector and ensure payments by States to discoms. An official statement noted that the out-

break of COVID-19 and the consequent lockdown had exacerbated liquidity problems for the power sector.

"Revenues of power distribution companies have nosedived as people are unable to pay for the electricity consumed while power supplies... have been maintained," it said, adding that the energy consumption has decreased substantially.

Power sector liquidity is not expected to improve in the short term, as economic activity and power demand will take some time to pick up. There is, thus, an immediate need to infuse liquidity in the sector for continued-power supply, it added.

World Bank may forecast steeper India contraction

'Critical reforms needed in key sectors'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The World Bank on Wednesday indicated that it may further lower its GDP projections for India and said critical reforms in key areas such as health, labour, land, skills and finance were needed to come out stronger from the COVID-19 crisis.

The World Bank, had in May, projected that the Indian economy would contract by 3.2% in FY 2020-21 and rebound slowly in the next financial year.

'Further challenges'

"Further challenges have emerged in recent weeks which are likely to weigh on the prospects in the near term. These risks include

the virus continuing to spread; further deterioration in the global outlook; and additional strains projected on the financial sector," the bank said in its India Development Update.

"Keeping these factors in mind, a steeper contraction may be projected in the revised outlook that will be available in October 2020," it added.

It projected India's fiscal deficit to rise to 6.6% of GDP in FY21 and remain elevated at 5.5% in the following year.

Also, there would be a second round of consumption and investment slowdown, compounded by (and ultimately driving) distress in the financial sector and financial markets, the World Bank said.

GST Council to meet on Aug 27

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The GST Council is likely to meet on August 27 to discuss the compensation payout to States and the opinion of the Attorney General on the legality of market borrowing to meet revenue shortfall.

Sources said the 41st meeting of the council would be a single agenda meeting to be held via video conferencing.

The options before the council to meet the shortfall could be to rationalise GST rates, cover more items under the compensation cess or increase the cess, or recommend higher borrowing by States to be repaid by future collection into the compensation fund, the sources added.

Logistics firm DP World buys 3 Transworld units

'Acquisitions to boost market coverage'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Logistics services provider DP World, through its step-down subsidiary Unifeeder ISC (Indian Subcontinent) platform, has announced the acquisition of three units of the Transworld Group for an undisclosed sum.

The units are Transworld Feeders FZCO, Avana Logistek Ltd. and Transworld Feeders Pvt. Ltd.

Transworld Feeders and Avana Logistek maintain a comprehensive coverage of all main ports, terminals and inland destinations in India.

"Both are market leaders in providing logistics solutions to cargo owners, trad-



ers, forwarders and shipping lines," said DP World.

"These bolt-on acquisitions give us complete coverage in fast-growing markets between East Africa, Gulf and the wider Indian Subcontinent," said Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, group chairman and CEO, DP World, in a statement.

Banks set to restructure up to ₹8.4 lakh cr. of loans: Ind-Ra

'More than 60% of amount may have turned NPA'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Banks are likely to restructure up to ₹8.4 lakh crore of loans, or 7.7% of the overall system's credit, under the newly announced recast package, a domestic ratings agency said on Wednesday.

More than 60% of this ₹8.4 lakh crore was likely to slip into the non-performing assets (NPAs) category if not for the recast move, and the restructuring would help banks' bottomlines as the funds needed to be set aside, as provisions, would be lower, India Ratings and Research said. Earlier this month, the RBI had an-



nounced a recast package which focussed on a case-by-case approach for restructuring rather than a blanket or sectoral approach. The central bank had also allowed small-value, non-corporate loans to be recast.

Unlike the earlier experience post the global financial crisis – when about 90% of the restructuring happened in corporate loans – the non-corporate segment, which includes small businesses, agricultural loans and retail lending, will account for a higher share this time, the agency said.

It estimated the total amount of non-corporate loans to be recast at ₹2.1 lakh crore. It further said the non-corporate segment was showing signs of stress even before the start of the pandemic, when things seemed to be normalising in the corporate space.

'Over 7.5 lakh COVID-19 policies sold'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

About 7.5 lakh Corona Kavach policies, or the standard cover for COVID-19 the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) mandated all health insurers to offer, have been sold in a little over a month since introduction.

About 12.86 lakh people have been covered and the premium collected is ₹215 crore, said IRDAI Member (Non-Life) T. L. Alamelu.

In contrast, only 72,000 policies of Arogya Sanjeevani, the standard health insurance policy which insurers unveiled on April 1, had been sold. The premium collected under the policy, that also covers COVID-19, was about ₹33 crore, she said, urging insurers to consider offering disease-specific policies.

ACMA seeks policy for scrappage of vehicles

Auto parts sector FY20 revenue fell 12%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The auto component industry in India, which witnessed a 12% decline in turnover in the last fiscal, on Wednesday reiterated its demand for introduction of a vehicle scrappage policy and rationalisation of taxes both on components as well as vehicles to generate demand.

As per data released by the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA), the auto component industry registered a turnover of ₹3.49 lakh crore (\$49.2 billion) in 2019-20 fiscal, a contraction of almost 12% from the previous year.

Deepak Jain, president, ACMA, said factors such as subdued vehicle demand, investments made for transition from BS IV to BS VI, liquidity crunch, lack of clari-



ty on policy for electrification of vehicles and a slowdown in key export markets had an adverse impact on the performance of the sector as also on its expansion plans.

Mr. Jain added ACMA continues to support the vehicle industry's request to the government to boost demand through reduction in GST to 18% on all vehicles, and introduction of an incentive-based scrappage policy.

T.N. withdraws case against Nissan Motor

MOHAMED IMRANULLAH S.
CHENNAI

The Tamilnadu government on Wednesday withdrew a case filed by it in the Madras High Court in 2017 to restrain Japanese automaker Nissan Motor from proceeding with an international arbitration to recover \$770 million.

Nissan alleged the government failed to make timely payment of investment promotion incentives.

Justice N. Sathish Kumar dismissed the case as withdrawn after he was informed that the Industries Secretary N. Muruganandam had written to Additional Advocate General Narmadha Sampath on Monday, requesting her to withdraw the petition filed by the government since the issue had been settled amicably out of court.

'Demand supports new overseas routes'

Indian diaspora travelling during the pandemic presents an opportunity: Vistara

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

Despite an overall slump in demand for air travel, the vast Indian diaspora travelling to be with their families during the pandemic presents airlines an opportunity to launch new international flights, said Vistara's Chief Commercial Officer Vinod Kannan.

Vistara on Tuesday announced flights to London from August 28 to September 30, and said it intended to start flights to Frankfurt and Paris. This makes it the only India airline, apart from Air India, to fly to the U.K.

In a telephonic interview to *The Hindu*, Mr. Kannan said that the airline could also look at launching flights to the Far East as the government was pursuing talks with more countries for resuming flights in addition to the seven countries it had al-



Turbulent skies: Even if there are fewer competitors, the overall demand has shrunk, says the Vistara COO. •REUTERS

ready entered into an agreement with. "Regardless of a general slump in demand there is still movement of essential traffic, or people who are stuck in different places," the COO said.

"In India's context, this is very high because we have a large size of diaspora in different parts of the world [and, more so] in today's times

when people want to take care of their loved ones. But compared to where we were at the same time last year, there is a drastic reduction in demand," he added.

The COO explained that the airline had opened bookings only until September 30 because the U.K.-India agreement for flights was only until then.

The airline, however, has slots at London's Heathrow airport until the end of the summer schedule, i.e. October 24, and would be able to offer continued services when the agreement is extended.

The nature of the bilateral agreement India had entered into with the U.K. and other countries, which allows only point-to-point travel on airlines of the bilateral partners, is an opportunity for airlines like Vistara to launch new destinations.

"There is less competition because the Gulf carriers or transit carriers or 6th freedom airlines are not operating," Mr. Kannan said.

"But even if there are fewer competitors, the overall demand has also shrunk. Fundamentally, it is still a positive opportunity for us which is why we are embarking on this," he added.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY
e-Tender Notice
Tender No: 03/SE/PHC/TSR/2020-21. RK1 - Supplying, Laying, Testing and Commissioning of Distribution network of 109 km, with 350 mm to 80 mm DI/PVC/GI pipelines for Mullassery & Pavaratty Panchayaths. EMD : Rs. 500000. Tender fee : Rs. 16800. Last Date for submitting Tender : 18-09-2020 03:00:pm. Phone : 0487-2423230. Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.
Superintending Engineer
PH Circle, Thrissur
KWA-JB-GL-6-153-2020-21

Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited
Notice inviting e-RFQ dated 20.08.2020
RFQ No: IRSDC/HQ/RFQ/2020/18/CSMT
IRSDC invites Request for Qualification (RFQ) for the work of "Redevelopment of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (Mumbai) on DBFO mode".

1	Indicative Station Redevelopment Cost (Excluding Real Estate development Cost)	Rs. 1642 Crore
2	RFQ Document Cost	Rs. 1,70,000/-
3	RFQ document available at website	https://irsdcl.enivida.com

Note: Revenue sources-Real Estate, User Charges and Station Revenue.
MD & CEO/IRSDC, 7th floor, Tower-1, Konnectus Building, Bhambhuti Marg, New Delhi 110002. Phone no.: +91-11-68142400, Fax No.: +91-11-68142448, Website: www.irsdcl.in, Email id: info@irsdcl.in, (CIN : U45204DL2012GOI234292)

Government of India
Department of Atomic Energy
BHABHA ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTRE, MYSORE
NOTICE INVITING e- TENDER
The Chief Engineer, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mysore, invites on behalf of the President of India, online tenders in two parts from experienced Contractors with sound financial & technical capacity for the following work(s):

Tender Reference No.	BARC/MYS/PROJ/SS PIPING/01/2020, dated: 13.08.2020
Name of work	Fabrication of Stainless Steel piping & related MS structural support including erection & testing works in DF-1 & DF-2, at BARC site, Mysore.
Estimated Cost	Rs. 90,00,000 ~ (Rupees Ninety Lakh only)
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 1,80,000/- (Rupees One Lakh and eighty thousand only)
Period of Completion	Eighteen (18) Months
Tender Sale Period	20.08.2020 (11:00 Hrs.) to 05.09.2020 (15:00 Hrs.)

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from web site www.tenderwizard.com/dae and www.barc.gov.in
Sd/- Chief Engineer
For & on behalf of President of India

READ
SPORTSTAR
EVERY FORTNIGHT.
TO SUBSCRIBE,
VISIT
www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (E-TENDERING PROCESS)

Sl. No	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No.	Total
1	CE/Hydro	HE 2391	1

TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD.

2	SE/Transmission-II	T-2162	1
---	--------------------	--------	---

For details of works/Procurement/Due date of submission/opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tantransco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
DIPR/3092/Tender/2020

PROFESSOR JAYASHANKAR TELANGANA STATE AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY
Administrative Office: Rajendranagar: Hyderabad-500 030.
SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION
Ref.No.8598/UCC/PJTSAU/2020 Date:19-08-2020
Sealed tenders are invited for "Internet Leased Lines" from different firms. The tender application forms and other details will be available from 20-08-2020 (11:00 AM) to 29-08-2020 (5:00 PM) on the University website www.pjtsau.edu.in. The last date for submission of tender is 01-09-2020 by 4:00 PM.
Sd/-
S. SUDHEER KUMAR
REGISTRAR

V.O.CHIDAMBARANAR PORT TRUST
CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
TUTICORIN - 628 004.
INVITATION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
V.O.Chidambaranar Port Trust invites Expression of Interest from the experienced firms / contractors for "Design, Finance, Build, Operate, Maintain and Transfer (DFBOMT) for installation of 5 MLD capacity desalination plant based on sea water reverse osmosis at V.O.C Port Trust, Tuticorin on PPP mode". The interested parties may download the detailed EOI notice from VOCPT website www.vocport.gov.in and submit their proposals on or before 17.00 hrs of 21.09.2020.
Chief Engineer

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Project South, South Zone Office Complex, 9th Main, 9th Cross, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Bengaluru - 560011
No.: EEP(S)/E-Proc/23/2020-21 Date: 19.08.2020
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
Two Cover System (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)
The Executive Engineer, Project South, BBMP, invites tenders on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru from eligible tenderers for the construction of work detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Amount put to tender (Rs. in Lakh)	EMD (in Rs. Lakhs)
1	Improvement to park at 8th Main, 11th Cross of J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Ward No. 177 J.P. Nagar. (As per KW-4)	140.00	2.10

Calender of events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka. (2) Pre bid meeting will be held at the Office of the Executive Engineer, Project (South) on 28.08.2020 at 3:00 p.m. (3) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 4:00 p.m. on 08.09.2020 and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines. (4) Technical bid opening date: 10.09.2020 at 4:30 p.m. (5) Financial bid opening date: 14.09.2020 at 4:00 p.m. or after Technical bid approval. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Project South, BBMP
"Pay Development Charges, Help to Develop Bengaluru"

Koeman is
Barca coach



Ronald Koeman.

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BARCELONA

Barcelona will try to end one of the worst crises in club history with Ronald Koeman as its coach.

Barcelona officially announced a deal with Koeman on Wednesday, a day after club president Josep Bartomeu had said the Dutchman accepted the coaching offer and only details needed to be sorted out.

Barcelona said the former defender's deal runs through June, 2022.

TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Six (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m., 10. 30 p.m. & 3.30 a.m. (Friday)
Magnus Carlsen Chess Tour Finals: Eurosport (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
PGA Tour: Eurosport (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Friday)

IN BRIEF



Trail Blazers, Magic upset top seeds

ORLANDO

A pair of eighth-seeded teams delivered stunning upsets in their NBA playoff openers as Portland Trail Blazers toppled West's No.1 seed Los Angeles Lakers 100-93 and Orlando Magic surprised East's top seed Milwaukee Bucks 122-110 on Tuesday. Houston Rockets and Miami Heat also started with a win.

The results: Trail Blazers 100 (Lillard 34, McCollum 21) bt Lakers 93 (Davis 28, James 23); Magic 122 (Vucevic 35) bt Bucks 110 (Antetokounmpo 31); Rockets 123 (Harden 37, Green 22) bt Thunder 108 (Gallinari 29, Paul 20); Heat 113 (Butler 28, Dragic 24) bt Pacers 101 (Warren 22, Brogdon 22). AFP

Nagal moves into Challenger quarterfinals

NEW DELHI

Sixth seed Sumit Nagal beat wild card Jiri Lehecka 5-7, 7-6(4), 6-3 in the third round of the €130,000 Challenger tennis tournament on clay in Prague on Wednesday.

Mahmood in England coaching staff

LONDON

Former Pakistan all-rounder Azhar Mahmood is set to play a crucial role in scripting his native country's downfall in the three-match T20 series against England after the hosts included him in the coaching staff for the contests, starting on August 28. He will support England bowling coach Jon Lewis. PTI



Sims to drive for Mahindra Racing

NEW DELHI

Mahindra Racing on Wednesday announced that Formula E race winner Alexander Sims will compete for the Indian outfit in the 2020-21 season. Sims has a lot of experience in both single-seaters and sports cars. PTI

Froome, and Thomas left out of Ineos team

LONDON

Four-time Tour de France champion Chris Froome and 2018 winner Geraint Thomas are glaring omissions from the formidable Team Ineos Grenadier line-up for this year's race. Thomas will target the Giro d'Italia, leaving defending Tour de France champion Egan Bernal as Ineos team leader. AFP

PSG cruises into final

Di Maria, Neymar and Mbappe prove a handful for Leipzig



Catalyst: Angel Di Maria, who did the star turn for PSG, slots in the second goal. ■ REUTERS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

REUTERS
LISBON

Paris Saint-Germain, inspired by Angel Di Maria, reached its first-ever Champions League final with a 3-0 win over RB Leipzig on Tuesday.

The big-spending PSG, celebrating the 50th anniversary of its founding, was a step too far for Leipzig, which had outperformed all expectations by reaching the last four.

Di Maria was in fine form, constantly probing, while Neymar created from deep and Kylian Mbappe pushed on to the last defender looking to use his pace.

Right from the outset, PSG looked a threat to the Leipzig defence with Neymar clipping the post after he was slipped in by Mbappe in the sixth minute.

Seven minutes later, Neymar and Di Maria lined up to take a free kick on the left and it was the Argentine who floated in a lovely cross which was nodded home by Marquinhos.

Paying the price

It was a poor clearance from the Leipzig 'keeper which led to PSG's second. Leandro Paredes collected the ball and then found Neymar who cleverly flicked it with

the back of his heel into the path of Di Maria who made no mistake.

In the 56th minute, Leipzig defender Nordi Mukiele slipped while attempting to clear, allowing Di Maria to cross the ball back in to the box and Juan Bernat's glancing header floated into the far corner.

PSG's only other appearances in the final of a European competition came with the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup victory in 1996 and a runner-up spot in the following season.

The result:

Paris Saint-Germain 3 (Marquinhos 13, Di Maria 42, Bernat 56) bt RB Leipzig 0.

Prajnesh to try his luck in New York

S. DIPAK RAGAV
CHENNAI

Prajnesh Gunneswaran, India's No. 2 singles player, will travel to New York, hoping lady luck smiles on him as he bids to get into the main draw of the US Open.

The World No. 132 is third on the alternate list and should there be as many pulls-outs, he will join compatriot Sumit Nagal in the main draw of the Major, which begins on August 31.

"Yes, I will be travelling to New York and see if I can get in. I had planned to go back to my base in Germany either way and since it is the Grand Slam, I want to give myself the best chance of getting in," said Prajnesh.

If he does get in, it will be a sixth straight appearance in the main draw of a Grand Slam, something not achieved by an Indian singles player in the last decade. Somdev Devvarman played in five consecutive Majors from the 2010 US Open to the 2011 US Open.

When asked about it, Prajnesh said, "Well it would be nice, but I would like to focus more on winning my first-round matches. I am focused on my



Prajnesh. ■ FILE PHOTO

preparations and the things I need to do, and feel if I can put everything together, it will happen eventually."

Elite sportspersons across the world have found it challenging to train over the last few months, given the lockdown restrictions. Prajnesh has been able to train properly only for the last month and a half here in the city.

"Yes it is far from ideal, but I have been able to train since the second week of July," he said. "It helps that I have had good hitting partners like Sasi Kumar Mukund and Ramkumar [Ramanathan] to stay sharp. Being in Chennai, you always have good players around."

Curator
Kasturirangan
passes away



G. Kasturirangan. ■ THE HINDU ARCHIVES

SPORTS REPORTER
BENGALURU

Former Mysore State cricketer and reputed pitch curator G. Kasturirangan passed away. He was 89.

A fast-bowler who bowled off the wrong foot, Kasturirangan picked up 94 wickets in 36 First Class matches for the then Mysore State.

He was picked for the Indian team to tour the West Indies in 1952, but declined due to personal reasons.

After his playing days, Kasturirangan – an avid horticulturist – earned plaudits as a pitch curator.

Parameters to recommend names for awards may be reviewed

Idea mooted for separate para awards

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Sensing the need to review the parameters designed for the selection committee to recommend names for the National Sports Awards, the Sports Ministry is aiming to bring about changes.

Some jury members were keen on setting appropriate norms for judging performances in team and individual events separately. Others sought parity in treating performers from Olympic and non-Olympic disciplines. Further, the stress was also on separate awards for para athletes and those excelling in indigenous disciplines.

One eminent jury member suggested a separate set of awards, other than the Dronacharya awards, for coaches who work at the grassroots level and harness raw talent into potential champions. The two-day meeting ended by recommending a longer list of awardees on Tuesday than ever before. Changes cannot be ruled out after Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju reviews these recommendations.

Names recommended for awards

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna: Rohit Sharma (cricket), Vinesh Phogat (wrestling), Manika Batra (table tennis), Rani Rampal (hockey), and Mariyappan Thangavelu (Para high jump)

Arjuna Award: Atanu Das (archery), Deepak Hooda (kabaddi), Deepika Thakur & Akashdeep Singh (hockey), Divij Sharan (tennis), Ishant Sharma & Deepti Sharma (cricket), Manish Kaushik & Lovlina Borgohain (boxing), Manu Bhaker & Saurabh Chaudhary (shooting), Sandesh Jhinghan (football), Dattu Bhokanal (rowing), Rahul Aware & Divya Kakran (wrestling), Dutee Chand (athletics), Shiva Keshavan (winter sports), Madhurika Patkar (table tennis), Manish Narwal (para shooter), Sandeep Chaudhary (para swimmer), Suyash Jadhav (para swimmer), Chirag Shetty & Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (badminton), Vishesh Bharguvanshi (basketball), Ajay Sawant (tent pegging), Aditi Ashok (golf), and Sarika Kale (kho kho)

Note: The selection committee has forwarded the names of Mirabai Chanu (weightlifting) and Sakshi Malik (wrestling) for Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju to decide

Dronacharya Award: Jaspal Rana (shooting), Jude Felix (hockey), Yogesh Malviya (mallakhamb), Gaurav Khanna (para badminton), and Kuldeep Handoo (wushu)

Lifetime Category: Dharmendra Tiwari (archery), Purshottam Rai (athletics), Shiv Singh (boxing), Romesh Pathania (hockey), K. K. Hooda (kabaddi), Vijay Munishwar (para powerlifting), Naresh Kumar (tennis), and O.P. Dahiya (wrestling)

Dhyan Chand Award: Jincy Philips & Kuldeep Singh Bhullar (athletics), Trupti Murgunde & Pradeep Gandhe (badminton), N. Usha & Laksha Singh (boxing), Sukhwinder Singh Sandhu (football), Ajeet Singh (hockey), Manpreet Singh (kabaddi), Manjeet Singh (rowing), Sachin Nag (posthumous, swimming), Nandan Bal (tennis), Natar Pal Hooda (wrestling), and J. Ranjit Kumar (para athletics)

Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Air Force Sports Board, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Army Sports Institute, Lakshya Institute, and International Institute of Sports Management

Webinar on
Indian hockey
today



Sportstar, in the third Sepisode of its *Star Talk* series, takes a look at the journey of the Indian hockey team so far and the path ahead. The webinar *Indian Hockey in the 21st century*, moderated by Uthra Ganesan (Special Correspondent, *The Hindu*), will host Vishal K. Dev (commissioner-cum-secretary, Sports and Youth Services, Govt. of Odisha), Sardar Singh (former India captain) and Adrian D'Souza (former India goalkeeper).

You can attend the webinar on August 20 (Thursday) at 5 p.m. You can register for free at <http://bit.ly/INDHOCKEY>

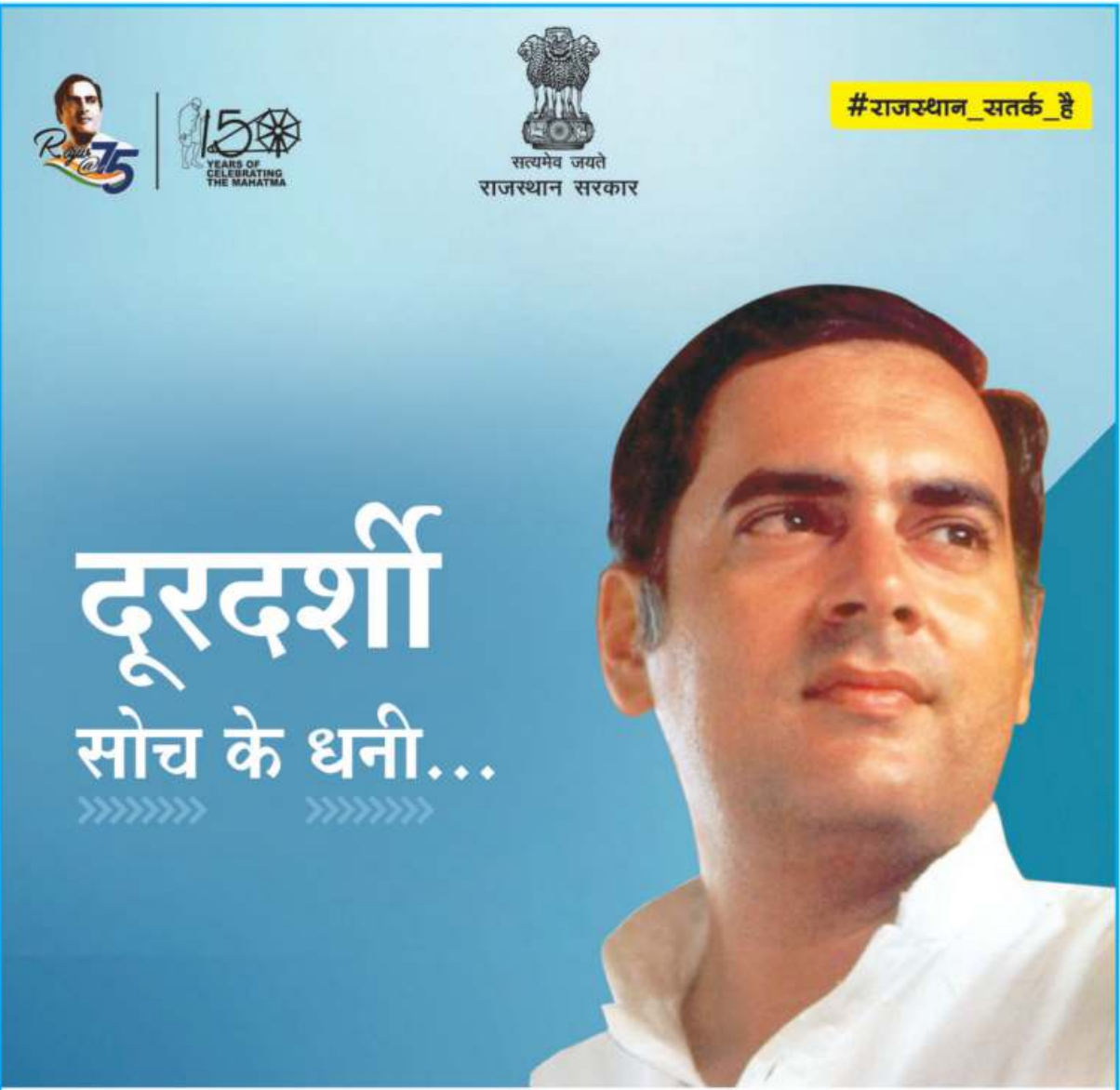
Carlsen leads in must-win set

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Desperate for a victory, Magnus Carlsen posted a dramatic triumph over Hikaru Nakamura in the opening game of the sixth set and kept alive hope of forcing the decider in the \$300,000 Magnus Carlsen Chess Tour Finals on Wednesday.

After Nakamura bounced back from the brink in Set Five to humble Carlsen 4-3 and lead 3-2 in the best-of-seven-set final on Tuesday, the World champion gained an early lead following a fine victory.

The results: Final: Set Six, Game One: Magnus Carlsen bt Hikaru Nakamura; **Set Five:** Nakamura bt Carlsen 4-3. **After five sets:** Nakamura leads Carlsen 3-2.



अशोक गहलोत
मुख्यमंत्री, राजस्थान

कोरोना महामारी से प्रभावी मुकाबले में संचार तकनीक की बड़ी भूमिका रही। यह देश में संचार क्रांति की नींव रखने वाले स्व. श्री राजीव गांधी के कारण ही संभव हो पाया। देश का पंचायतीराज तंत्र भी उनकी व्यापक सोच से ही मजबूत हुआ है। आईये, इस सद्भावना दिवस पर हम 21वीं सदी के स्वप्नदृष्टा स्व.श्री राजीव गांधी जी की दूरगामी सोच को नमन करें।

भारत रत्न एवं भारत के पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री

स्व. श्री राजीव गांधी
जन्मदिवस-20 अगस्त (1944-1991)

सद्भावना दिवस पर शत्-शत् नमन

सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग