



## on Sunday

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**ISRO chief K. Sivan says Chandrayaan 2 follow-up is planned**  
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**Hingoli protesters defy police ban, demand real autonomy**  
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**Shiv Sena leader takes on Bangladesh in the first T20I today**  
page 19

**S. Vignesh wins rugby World Cup for the third time**  
page 21



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### NEARBY



#### Vineet Kothari reverses former CJ's decision

CHENNAI  
Reversing the decision of former Chief Justice Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani, Acting Chief Justice Vineet Kothari has decided that contempt of court petitions in the Madras High Court be listed only before judges whose orders have not been complied with.  
**TAMIL NADU** ▶ PAGE 6

#### MoUs yield investments worth ₹5,541 crore

CHENNAI  
As many as 3,573 firms that signed MoUs in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector at this year's Global Investors' Meet have started operations with ₹5,541 crore in investment, and they have generated 59,631 jobs, Minister for Rural Industries P. Benjamin said.  
**TAMIL NADU** ▶ PAGE 6

#### SHGs roped in for mental health counselling

CHENNAI  
Members of self-help groups (SHGs) across Tamil Nadu will soon be trained as mental health counsellors under Manam Inidhu, an initiative to be implemented by the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women, the Schizophrenia Research Foundation and the Institute of Mental Health.  
**TAMIL NADU** ▶ PAGE 5

#### Chargesheet filed against MLA, wife

CHENNAI  
The CB-CID on Saturday filed a chargesheet against Saidapet MLA Ma. Subramanian and his wife in a court here in a land grab case.  
**TAMIL NADU** ▶ PAGE 5

**MAGAZINE** ▶ 12 PAGES  
**CLASSIFIEDS** ▶ ON PAGES 17 & 18

## No light down the rabbit hole of online political advertising

Despite a code of ethics, sources of three top-spending Facebook pages, with ads backing the BJP and the Shiv Sena, remain unclear

P.J. GEORGE  
CHENNAI

While Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey has said his company would no longer accept political advertisements, the online ecosystem of such advertising is dominated by Facebook and Google. Facebook gets much more advertiser interest because of the level of targeting available, and the possibility of engagement through comments, likes, and shares.

However, as more and more advertisers, including politicians and political parties, embrace this advertisement platform, keeping tabs on election spending be-

comes an issue. In India, since February, when the data became available, advertisers on social issues, elections or politics have spent ₹39.1 crore on Facebook; political advertisements on Google amounted to ₹29.3 crore.

### SPECIAL

Despite the Election Commission and web platforms, including Facebook, Google and Twitter, agreeing to a "voluntary code of ethics", analysis of data on online advertising for the recent Maharashtra Assembly election suggests that identifying the

sources of such campaigns is not easy.

The accompanying table shows some of the top spenders who targeted Facebook users in Maharashtra from August 1 to October 29. Three of the entities — Shiv Sena, BJP-Maharashtra, and Indian National Congress-Maharashtra — have verified pages, and the communication agencies working for them or the party behind the pages are listed as the advertisers.

However, the identities of the other three entities are not clear, with inactive phone numbers. For the top spender, the page 'Distoy Fa-

rak Shivshahi Parat', loosely meaning 'Can see the difference, Shivaji-style rule is back', the phone number given is inactive. The address is also incomplete, mentioning just a street in Nagpur, and the website does not exist.

While 'My First Vote For Modi' has a functioning website, the phone number listed is inactive. Interestingly, the address given is that of the BJP's headquarters in Delhi. There were no responses to emails sent to listed ids of the advertisers of these two pages.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

### Paying for clicks

The battle for Maharashtra was fought not only at the booths but also online

Table shows top spenders who targeted ads at Facebook users from Aug. 1 to Oct. 29

Page name	Amount spent	Paid by
Distoy Farak Shivshahi Parat	₹20,42,841	DFSP 2019
Shiv Sena	₹15,50,211	Indian Political Action Committee
My First Vote For Modi	₹15,59,249	myfirstvoteformodi.com
Aghadi Bighadi	₹12,54,743	aghadibighadi.com
BJP, Maharashtra	₹8,73,688	BJP, Maharashtra
Indian National Congress, Maharashtra	₹8,00,000	Golden Rabbit Communications Pvt Ltd

Table provides information about the level of interaction generated by the advertisements

Page	Followers	Ads	Total interactions	Interaction rate
Distoy Farak Shivshahi Parat	4,68,948	1,518	4.76 million	4.25%
Aghadi Bighadi	3,23,338	928	3.25 million	5.82%

## Maharashtra waits for Shah to resolve crisis

Amid uncertainty, Shiv Sena adopts a tough stand

SHARAD VYAS  
MUMBAI

Maharashtra BJP leaders on Saturday said they were awaiting the arrival of party president Amit Shah, who is likely to begin talks with Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray over government formation next week.

The party, however, has started preparations for a swearing-in ceremony possibly at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium between November 5 and November 7, by which time it would have two days left to install a government, sources said. A new government must be installed before November 9.

### Sena impatient

However, the Sena has warned that it could drop the 'wait and watch' approach if there is no end to the ongoing crisis. Reacting to the BJP's state-



Courtesy call: Mahayuti allies, including Ramdas Athawale, with Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari in Mumbai. •PTI

ment on the looming constitutional crisis, Sena leader Sanjay Raut asked if the alliance partner was threatening the democratically elected legislators of its party.

"If there is a delay in the formation of government in a State and a Minister from the ruling party says President's Rule will be imple-

mented in Maharashtra if a government isn't formed, is this a threat to the MLAs who have been elected?" Mr. Raut said on Saturday.

Former Finance Minister and senior BJP leader Sudhir Mungantiwar had on Friday said Maharashtra was headed for Presidential Rule if a government was not in-

stalled by November 7.

Commenting on the situation, Mr. Raut said that due to the kind of situation prevailing in Maharashtra, all political parties are talking to each other. "Except for the Sena and the BJP, all parties are talking to each other," he said.

### Cong., NCP clarify

Meanwhile, both the Congress and the NCP clarified they were not in touch with other parties. "We are not in contact with anyone. We have got the mandate to sit in the Opposition, we are ready for it," NCP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar said. His comments came a day after rumors were rife of NCP chief Sharad Pawar having a telephonic conversation with Mr. Uddhav Thackeray.

Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge also clarified that the party would sit in the Opposition. "I would like to

make it clear that we have not held discussions with anybody to form the government," he said.

Mr. Ajit Pawar confirmed that Mr. Sharad Pawar would meet Congress president Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi on Monday. "Sharad Pawar will visit Delhi on Monday. I have information that he and Sonia Gandhi had spoken on the phone recently... He will speak to her [in Delhi]... A lot depends on what they discuss," Mr. Ajit Pawar told reporters. NCP chief spokesperson Nawab Malik said alternatives could become available if the Sena took any decision in this regard in the interest of the people.

"The NCP will definitely take a positive view if the Sena is ready to form the people's government, minus the BJP. An alternative will be available if a decision is taken in the interest of people to form a government," he said.

## Naga groups pushing for separate flag, says Deputy Chief Minister

Peace deal to take more time: Patton

VIJAITA SINGH  
NEW DELHI

Nagaland Deputy Chief Minister Y. Patton has said that the signing of the Naga peace accord will take a few more days and that the Naga groups, including the NSCN (IM), will keep negotiating for a separate constitution and flag.

### Future role

Mr. Patton, who also holds the Home portfolio, said Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and he were seeking an appointment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to get clarity on their future role.

"The signing of the final

Naga agreement will not take much time as major groups are on board. We want to know what will be the role of the present government after the accord is sealed. This is the issue we want to discuss with the Prime Minister and the Home Minister," Mr. Patton, who reached Delhi on Friday, told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Rio is also in Delhi. Mr. Patton said they would have to speak to the neighbouring States of Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh amid the possible creation of autonomous councils in Naga-populated areas.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

## Two CPI(M) workers held in Kerala over pro-Maoist notices

Police say the two are suspected of maintaining contact with Maoists

STAFF REPORTER  
KOZHIKODE

The police here on Saturday arrested two Communist Party of India (Marxist) activists, accusing them of having circulated notices criticising the alleged encounter killing of four Maoists in the Manjakkatt forests in Kerala's Palakkad district.

Alan Suhaib and Thaha Fazal were taken into custody from Pantheerankavu on Friday night. They were charged under Sections 20

(punishment for being member of a terrorist gang or organisation), 38 (offence relating to membership of a terrorist organisation) and 39 (offence relating to support given to a terrorist organisation) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

### 'Solid evidence'

The police said the activists, who are studying law and journalism respectively, were suspected of maintaining contact with Maoist func-



Alan Suhaib and Thaha Fazal being taken to a court in Kozhikode on Saturday. •K. RAGESH

tionaries. The arrests were made under the UAPA on the basis of "solid evidence", they asserted.

The police also claimed to

have recovered "suspicious pamphlets", which they allege were aimed at propagating Maoist ideology. Searches were carried out in the

houses of the two activists to get "more documentary evidence". The police said they had intensified the search for another youth who reportedly fled from the spot on seeing the patrol squad.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan sought a report from the State police chief Loknath Behera after the arrests triggered widespread criticism. The parents and relatives of the arrested men met the Chief Minister at the government guesthouse here and sought his intervention.

POLICE FILE REPORT ▶ PAGE 8  
PARENTS MEET CM ▶ PAGE 11

## Man lynched for killing wife in U.P.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

A man, who hacked his wife to death, was lynched by villagers in Uttar Pradesh's Fatehpur district, the police said on Saturday.

On October 30, Nasir Qureshi, who had gone to the house of his in-laws in Semor, had an argument with his wife and hacked her to death. His wife's sister and mother, who went

to her rescue, were injured. As Qureshi, who lived in Chhattisgarh, came out, a mob attacked him, and he died of injuries, said Jafarganj Circle Officer Sripal Yadav.

THREE ARRESTED ▶ PAGE 10

## Can't intervene in Pak. denial of airspace: ICAO

UN body seeks Islamabad's response

JAGRITI CHANDRA  
SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

The United Nations aviation watchdog, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), is "not empowered to intervene" in the affairs of a country and will examine inputs from both India and Pakistan before it takes a decision to pursue the issue of denial of overflight to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's aircraft during his recent visit to Saudi Arabia, its spokesperson said.

The response is significant because Mr. Modi will fly to Brazil for the BRICS summit on November 13 and 14, when the govern-



The ICAO has asked Pakistan for information. •REUTERS

ment's decision to apply for overflight permission again will come under scrutiny.

Nevertheless, following India's representation last month, president of ICAO Council Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu has written to Pakistan, seeking information.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

## T.N. to ink pact on renewable energy with Massachusetts

MoU will facilitate policy dialogue, R&D and investment

T. RAMAKRISHNAN  
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu and Massachusetts are expected to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) shortly in the area of renewable and clean energy.

An 11-member team of senior officials from the U.S. State visited Tamil Nadu in the third week of October where the draft of the MoU was exchanged. The team met representatives of the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco), Energy and Industries departments, Anna University and the Indian In-



stitute of Technology (IIT), said a Tangedco official. The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce was also a participant in the meetings. Apart from Tamil Nadu, there are other States in the country that have partnerships with States in the U.S.

Among them are Telangana (with New Jersey), Rajasthan (with Utah) and Gujarat (with Colorado).

Labelled "non-binding", the proposed MoU facilitates exchange of ideas and experiences in three areas: policy dialogue, research and development and industrial investment. In the area of policy dialogue, discussions will touch upon subjects such as energy transition policy, a concept that envisages smooth transition from conventional sources to renewable sources of energy.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 6

## MUGDHA

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**COIMBATORE** ☀️ **Timings**

<b>SUNDAY, NOV. 03</b>	
RISE 06:14	SET 17:57
RISE 11:51	SET 23:39
<b>MONDAY, NOV. 04</b>	
RISE 06:14	SET 17:57
RISE 12:39	SET 00:00
<b>TUESDAY, NOV. 05</b>	
RISE 06:14	SET 17:57
RISE 13:23	SET 00:29

<b>Coimbatore Weather</b>	max	min
Udhagamandalam	21	08
Tirupur	32	22
Coimbatore City	32	22

**Coimbatore Airport Today**  
32°C Chances of a few drops of light rain. A warm afternoon. The sky will remain cloudy.

**Coimbatore Airport Tomorrow**  
32°C Mild breeze is likely. A warm day. A cloudy sky is expected to persist over the region.

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**IN BRIEF**

**Mobile tomato puree making machine**

**COIMBATORE**  
The Vellingiri Farmers Producers Organisation (FPO), a subsidiary of Isha Foundation, received a mobile tomato puree making machine from the State government at an event held at Karadimadai on Saturday. Minister for Rural Development S.P. Velumani and District Collector K. Rajamani distributed the puree making machine worth ₹ 40 lakh to the farmers of the Vellingiri FPO, a release said.

**UCO bank conducts awareness rally**

Employees of the Coimbatore region of UCO Bank took out a rally to mark Vigilance Awareness Week on Saturday. C.A. Nagarathina, Assistant General Manager and Regional Head (Coimbatore), flagged off the rally, which began from Government Arts College and ended at the bank's branch on Trichy Road, a release said.

**Story telling session today**

Sri Krishna Sweets will organise a story telling session for children between ages five and 12 on Sunday at Sindhu Sadan Hall, R.S. Puram. Amutha Karthik will conduct the story telling session from 11 a.m. and teach traditional games to children, a release said.

**CUBE to conduct nature trail**

The Centre for Urban Biodiversity Conservation and Education (CUBE) will conduct its nature trail at Singanallur Lake on Sunday at 7.45 a.m. P. Pramod, Senior Principal Scientist, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, will lead the event, a release said. For details, contact 7448872233 through call or WhatsApp.

**INTACH to conduct competition**

The Coimbatore Chapter of the Indian National Trust for Arts and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) will conduct a painting and essay competition on the theme 'Gandhi at 150' for school students on November 17 at Prakriya International School. Students from Class VII to Class IX can participate in the event and must bring their own stationery items, a press release said. For registration and details, contact asksrprasad@gmail.com or 98422 31531.

**Man arrested**

**COIMBATORE**  
The Singanallur police on Friday booked a 30-year-old man on charges of spreading low remarks about a private firm in social media, allegedly after he lost his job. A. Santhosh, a resident of Bharathipuram near Sowripalayam, was arrested based on a complaint filed by D. Shanmugasundaram, owner of a private manufacturing facility near Singanallur, the police said. The complainant alleged that the accused demanded money to withdraw his remarks about the firm in social media. Santhosh was also accused of criminally intimidating the complainant. He was arrested and remanded in judicial custody.

# HR & CE closes defunct pit temporarily

It poses threat to residents, particularly children in the area

**STAFF REPORTER**  
**COIMBATORE**

A defunct pit at least 10-feet constructed behind a temple at Maruthur, Ramanathapuram (Ward No. 67) was temporarily closed on Saturday after it posed a threat to the residents, particularly children in the area for over a

month. The pit, which was constructed as part of a new temple for village deity Vandii Muniappan, was closed following an order from V. Prabakar, Executive Officer of the temple, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE). A group of devotees associated with the tem-

ple closed the pit using wooden logs and erected a fence alongside the road, HR&CE sources said. "Devotees attempted to shift the temple to this location without proper permission from HR&CE," sources said, following which the officials ordered to stop the

temple construction works in September. However, the abandoned pit was present amid two other temples and houses on Mariamman Kovil Street in Maruthur, proving to be risky for children playing outside the houses and pedestrians walking during night time.

V. Rajagopal, a resident of Mariamman Kovil Street,

said that the residents opposed construction of the temple since its inception as it was against the agama rules. "Temples for guardian deities should not be constructed in the middle of a street," he said.

HR&CE sources admitted that this location was unsuitable for the temple construction.

Welcoming the closure of the pit, Mr. Rajagopal said that this was only a temporary solution and that HR&CE officials must take steps for



The abandoned pit at Mariamman Kovil Street at Maruthur, Ramanathapuram. • FILE PHOTO

its permanent closure to ensure the safety of children and the residents.

Based on further inspec-

tions by higher officials, the pit would be closed permanently in a week's times, according to HR&CE sources.

## Collector sets deadline for closing abandoned borewells

**STAFF REPORTER**  
**COIMBATORE**

District Collector K. Rajamani has set November 10 as deadline for closure of all abandoned borewells both on government and private lands.

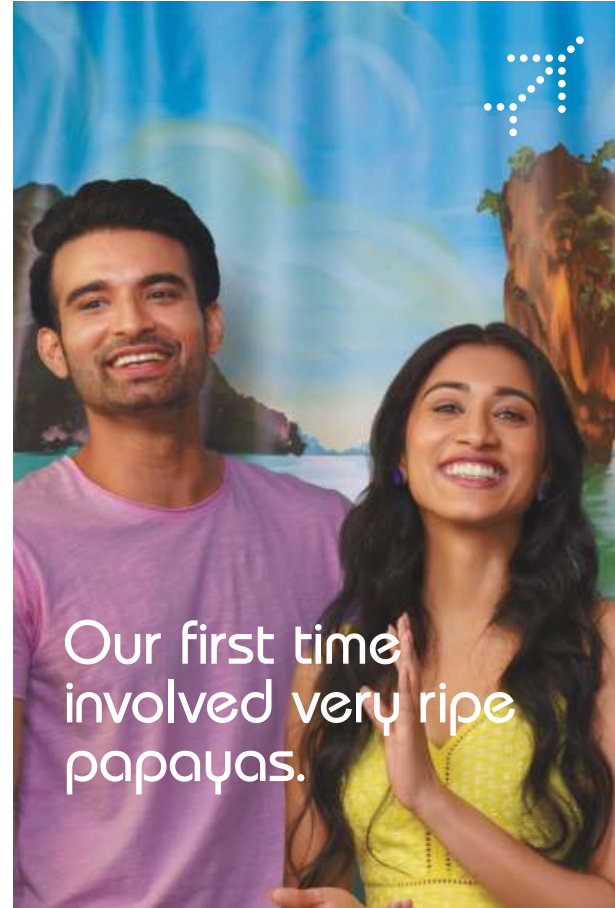
Speaking to *The Hindu* here on Saturday, he said that strict action would be taken against those concerned if they fail to close the borewells within the deadline. "If it is a private borewell, the person concerned would be held responsible. We will book a case," Mr. Rajamani said. Regarding government borewells, the district administration concerned officials would be issued memos and warnings if they fail to ensure the closing of borewells. Officials from the Revenue Department and

District Rural Development Agency would inspect all the borewells every three months to ensure that they are closed, Mr. Rajamani said. "Even if one borewell remains open, it poses a danger," he noted, adding that one week will be specially earmarked every three months for carrying out the inspections. A total of 64 borewells - 22 government and 42 private - are yet to be closed across Coimbatore district as of Saturday, the Collector said.

Apart from borewells, 121 open wells were identified by the officials; 58 of these were covered using grills and 41 were converted into recharge structures. The remaining 22 open wells are yet to be attended to, according to the District Collector.



I'll never forget my first time.



Our first time involved very ripe papayas.

## Assistant town planning officer killed in accident

He was returning to city after attending a meeting in Chennai

**STAFF REPORTER**  
**COIMBATORE**

K. Manoharan (56), an assistant town planning officer of the Coimbatore Corporation (East Zone), Singanallur, was killed in an accident on Avinashi Road near Karumathampatty on Saturday.

The accident took place around 7 a.m. near the flyover at Karumathampatty after the car he travelled rear ended a container truck. Manoharan was returning to the city after attending a meeting in Chennai. He had left for Chennai on October 29, said the police. J. Yesudas (42) of Karumathampatty was at the wheel of the

taxi. The police said that Manoharan, a native of Salem, was sitting next to the driver and he had not worn the seatbelt.

Manoharan was thrown off from the seat in the impact of the collision and his head smashed the front windshield of the taxi.

Seriously injured Manoharan died while being rushed to the Coimbatore Medical College Hospital (CMCH). The taxi driver, who also suffered injuries, was admitted to the CMCH. The police said that the accident took place due to the negligent driving of the taxi driver.



## Awareness meeting held for bankers on solar energy

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
**COIMBATORE**

Bankers from private and public sector banks learnt more about solar energy products and financing these products under various schemes, at an awareness meeting held here on Saturday. Selco Solar, a rural energy service organisation, organised the meeting here for bankers and displayed several products that operate on solar energy.

Coimbatore District lead bank manager S. Venkataraman said that awareness needs to be created among the public and the bankers on solar energy products and how these can be financed with support under the schemes of the govern-

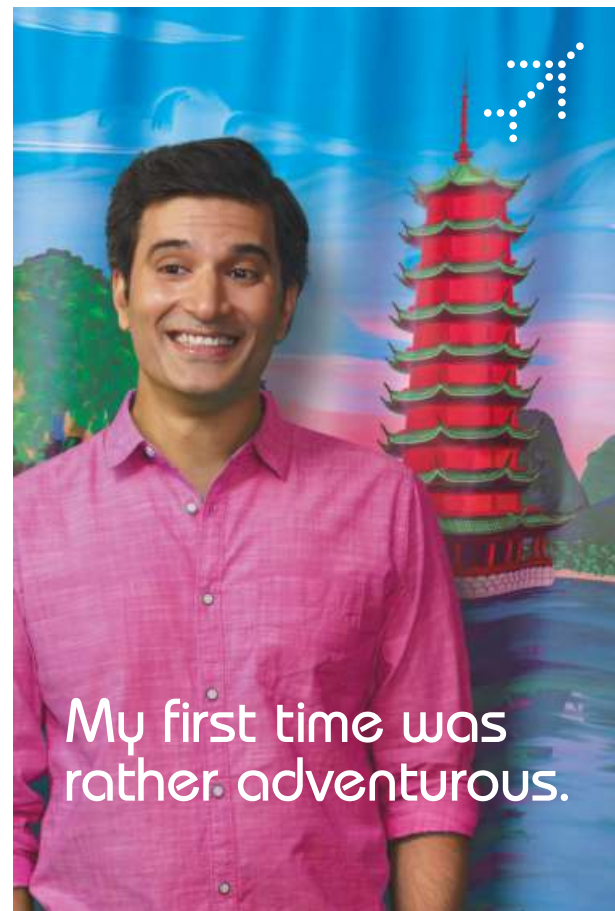


S. Venkataraman, Coimbatore District lead bank manager, (left) taking a look at the solar energy products displayed by Selco Solar at a programme held in the city on Saturday. • S. SIVA SARAVANAN

ment. There are programmes with each bank under which purchase of solar energy products can be funded. But the lending has to improve. It is very minimum now in Coimbatore district, he said.

Farmers and micro, small, and medium-scale enterprises can get loans to buy solar products.

Banks that have branches in own buildings can go in for solar energy and save on the electricity bills.



## 'Dengue cases see declining trend in Coimbatore'

**WILSON THOMAS**  
**COIMBATORE**

The threat posed by dengue has reduced in Coimbatore district according to the Health Department.

According to K. Kolandasamy, Director of Public Health-Tamil Nadu, dengue cases were seeing a declining trend in Coimbatore. Same was the situation in some other districts too.

"Quick response by the Health Department and local bodies in taking measures to contain breeding of mosquitoes was one reason behind the declining trend. Heavy and continuous rain of the north-east monsoon also helped in clearing logging of fresh water, the breeding ground for aedes aegypti mosquito, the principal vector of dengue," he said.

According to the official,

five persons died of dengue in the State this year and cause of the death of two persons were under investigation. There was no deaths due to dengue in Coimbatore this year, he said.

While cases of dengue were considerably lower in the western districts when compared to the southern districts, the situation was yet to improve in places like Vellore, Tiruvallur and Chennai. Dengue cases in the current year were also lower than what the State had in 2012 and 2017.

Dr. Kolandasamy added that participation of the public in clearing breeding ground for aedes aegypti mosquito - freshwater accumulated in discarded containers, tyre, coconut shell, sunshades of buildings, etc., -has to be continued to achieve better results.



## Higher support needed for tribal girl students: AISF

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
**COIMBATORE**

The All India Students Federation (AISF) has demanded increase in education assistance and hostel facilities for tribal girl students to help them pursue education.

This was one of the resolutions adopted at a State-level women conference of the AISF held here on Saturday.

The conference sought formation of special court to expedite the hearing of Polachi sexual abuse case. The Union government should withdraw the national education policy. The government should distribute sanitary napkins free of cost to girl students in schools and colleges and set up incinerators for safe disposal of the napkins. The government should not close schools that have single teacher but fill teacher vacancies. There should be separate committees in universities where doctorate students can discuss issues they face, the other resolutions said.

Earlier, the participants took out a rally here.

The government should not close schools that have single teacher but fill teacher vacancies. There should be separate committees in universities where doctorate students can discuss issues they face, the other resolutions said.

Earlier, the participants took out a rally here.

## Man falls to death

**STAFF REPORTER**  
**COIMBATORE**

R. Natarajan (67), a resident of Ramalinga Colony near Saibaba Colony, died after he accidentally fell on a teapoy at his house, broken glass pieces of which pierced into his body. The police said the man slipped while walking in the hall of the house and fell onto the tea-

poy breaking its glass toppling. He suffered severe injury and blood loss after the broken glass pieces pierced into his body. Though the man was admitted to a private hospital, he died without responding to treatment on Friday.

**Woman dies in accident**  
A 68-year-old woman died

after she was run over by a TNSTC bus at Ukkadam bus stand on Friday. The deceased was identified as V. Lakshmi from Pachiyappa Devar Street near Othakalmandapam. The police said that the woman fell from the foot board when she boarded the moving bus. She was run over by the rear wheels of the bus and died on the spot. The police have booked driver of the bus, J. Peter (35) of Udumalpet.



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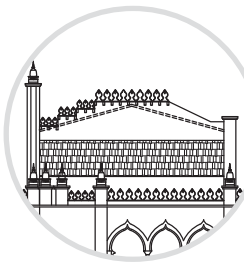
# RESTORING HERITAGE

## One Brick at a Time

Government agencies have woken up to the need for restoration of heritage buildings. While their efforts at conservation are certainly welcome, much more needs to be done to preserve the rich architectural heritage that Tamil Nadu possesses

### To regain glory, learn from the past

The 249-year-old Humayun Mahal, one of the iconic buildings in the Chepauk Palace complex, faces Wallajah Road. Constructed in 1770, the single-storey Indo-Saracenic structure is spread over 81,000 sq. ft. It earlier had a two-floor high durbar hall and accommodated the quarters of the Nawab of Arcot. Several additions were made during the British era, when it was transformed into the Revenue Board building in 1871. It has a connecting corridor to Kalas Mahal, which was recently renovated. The Public Works Department has taken up restoration of the heritage structure using traditional construction techniques. The ₹33.95 crore project is set to be completed by next year-end



#### 1 Roof

Nearly 75% of the roof of the building, with eight large halls, had collapsed over the years due to ageing and a fire in 2012. Wooden beams were also damaged and sourcing Burma teak was difficult. Recreating the Madras Terrace roofing is challenging as the roof of each hall is 40 ft. wide. The roofing of each hall takes 20 days to complete. Workers are involved in laying small bricks in a diagonal manner between the wooden beams and plastering them with lime

#### 2 Removal of invasive plants

Trees and shrubs that have grown in the exterior walls pose a challenge during renovation. In an effort to remove them without causing further damage to the walls, glyphosate is used to dry out vegetation. The solution is poured into trunk holes dug for 10 days

#### 3 Materials

PWD is meticulously sourcing materials to match original ones and is ensuring quality and strength. While lime is sourced from Kazhugu Malai in Tirunelveli district, bricks are from Rajapalayam, sand is specifically brought from the Cauvery river bank near Thanjavur-Tiruchi belt, curd used in wall plastering and jaggery used for the Madras Terrace roof are sourced from Chengalpattu and Udankudi

#### 4 Dome and doors

The building has 108 doors and four corridors. There are no windows. Carpenters with special skills have been brought in from Kerala to carve decorative designs and fit ornamental glass to replicate the original art. The domes require special bricks from Rajapalayam, made using sand available in the hilly region. Unlike concrete work, heavily damaged domes need to be reconstructed with brickwork



#### 5 Flooring

The building originally had a stone floor on the ground floor and clay tiles on the first. While a portion suffered damage, the flooring in some parts has also been modified in the past. In its efforts to match the structure's originality, PWD is now sourcing hand-made tiles from Athangudi

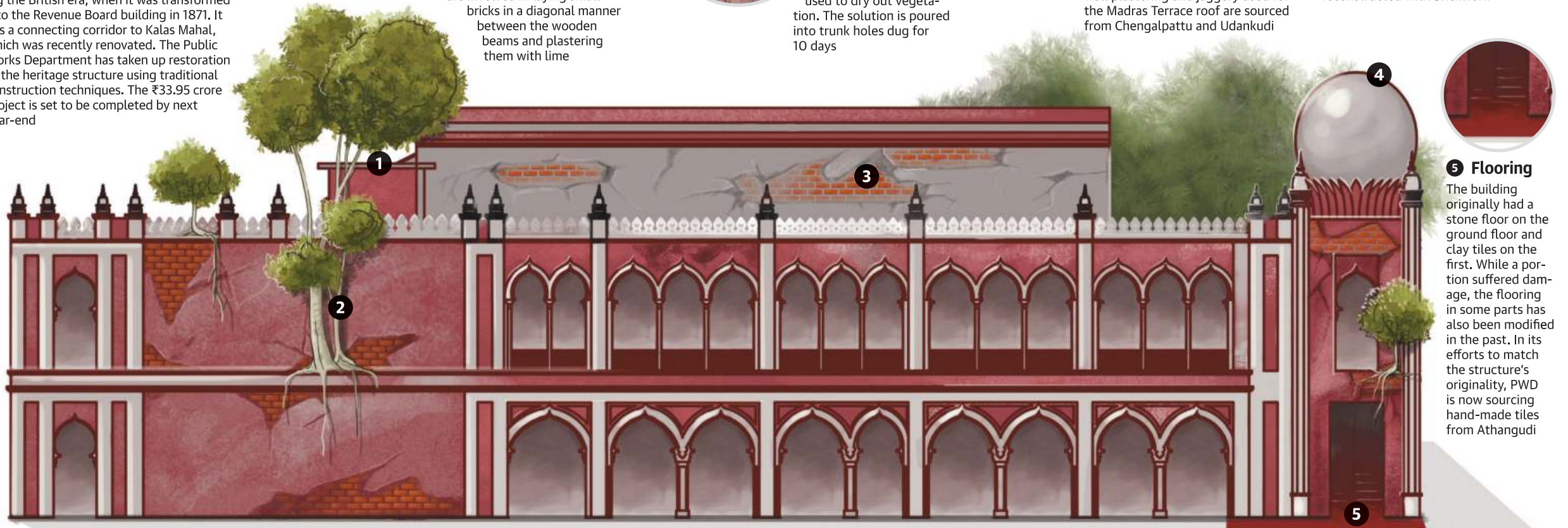


ILLUSTRATION: R RAJESH; SOURCE: PWD

K. LAKSHMI  
CHENNAI

The idea of preserving the built heritage of the city has gained impetus over the past few years. But, the government has only taken baby steps so far in protecting public buildings. There is a long way to go in scaling up conservation efforts, which require a thorough understanding of architectural history to be able to restore them to their authentic state, note heritage experts.

After its initiatives to protect public buildings such as Madras High Court and the PWD complex, the Public Works Department has set the ball rolling to renovate 36 heritage structures at a cost of Rs.100.13 crore across the State, including in Pudukkottai and Kanniyakumari.

#### Multiple projects

The department has recently submitted proposal to restore various public heritage structures that house courts, educational institutions and other government offices. They include Kuthiravandi court or old labour court in Coimbatore; Registration building, George Town; Government Press, Mint and Clock Tower building, University of Madras in Chennai.

Officials of the PWD said the projects would be taken up one after another in three months, according to the funds allotted and skilled manpower available. The Building Centre and Conservation Division formed in 2017 now has nearly 25 engineers across the State who are trained to deal with heritage work. "We are testing the materials sourced from specific locations and construction

procedures for strength. The building techniques are better compared to past years," said an official.

#### Holistic approach

However, heritage experts noted that there needs to be a holistic and sensitive approach as well as a collaborative effort by conservation architects to save the historical structures that are in a decrepit state. A. Srivatsan, professor, CEPT University, Ahmedabad, said there has been a slight shift from 'no will' to 'more will' towards protecting heritage structures in recent years. But, repeated demonstration of conservation efforts

**Cost:** Unlike concrete structures, it would take three times the building cost due to intricate workmanship and special materials. About ₹9,000- ₹9,400 would be the building cost per sq.ft.

is essential for better awareness. There needs to be a check on in-house capacity, skills and technological knowledge as the projects are scaled up.

The plan to set up heritage conservation committees at the district level and the Tamil Nadu Heritage Commission Act must be put into action properly, he said. Conserving private heritage structures also remains a challenge as it is difficult to resist increasing real estate value and renovate at high cost, according to experts.

Sujatha Shankar, architect and convener, INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage) Chennai Chapter, said awareness about heritage preservation has increased after

the issue was brought into focus by many public forums.

"The government has undertaken projects and how it is done needs to be professional. Conservation architects must be engaged and materials and services must be chosen to bring the original touch and turn them usable for contemporary purposes," she said.

The government must come up with a mechanism to encourage protection of private heritage, including subsidies. Transfer of development rights must be implemented effectively, she added.

#### Public access

Experts also suggested that instead of allocating space to government offices, the restored structures should be thrown open for public access.

Taher Zoyab, co-founder, Madras Inherited, said a framework must be chalked out for collaboration with architects and heritage specialists and ensuring quality conservation. Some of the restored heritage structures like Chepauk Palace could be developed as tourist destinations for people to appreciate the richness and complexity of the architecture.

It was equally important to celebrate private buildings and structures in disuse could be put to better use. People were now approaching heritage management consultants for protection measures.



#### Mughal wall plastering

Wall plastering is the most complex work in heritage conservation and involves nearly eight long process and several coatings. The first one requires mixing of lime and sand and leaving it covered for nearly 15 days before it is applied on the walls. After a three-day drying period, the rest of the meticulous processes are done within a day, with a gap of 15 minutes between each process. While the second process involves applying a mixture of lime and white sand, the third one uses a fine paste of lime and sand.

In a few days, the PWD will use bulls from Perumparai, Tirunelveli to churn the lime mortar instead of a grinder for better compressive strength and longer life. The other processes involve applying of different layers of lime at regular intervals. In the last process, workers apply a mixture of egg white and liquid filtered out of curd for strength and finish. Nearly 11 egg whites and one litre of curd are used for a space of 100 sq. ft. After these seven coatings, labourers use smooth stones and white powder for that perfect, glossy finish

## A handbook of traditional techniques for the future

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

The Public Works Department is preparing a handbook on traditional construction techniques to be adopted for preservation of heritage buildings, based on the experience gained from restoration of a few government buildings.

Officials of the PWD said structures built with lime mortar achieved more strength as they grew old compared to concrete buildings that gained strength only up to 60 years. The department is now involved in sourcing materials to match the original ones used for heritage construction.

K.P.Sathyamurthy, joint chief engineer, PWD (Buildings), who has authored the handbook, said the 100-page book would have elaborate details on the materials sourced from specific locations and complex processes, including Mughal wall plastering or *Theervai*.

#### Meticulous work

"There are techniques even to apply each coating and materials are tested in the lab. We want to document the intricate process and share it with other professionals. We also plan to include photographs of the work taken up in government buildings like the PWD complex in the handbook," said



The handbook will comprise photographs of traditional construction techniques adopted by PWD. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

C. Kalyanasundaram, superintending engineer, Building Centre and Conservation Division, PWD.

The book has also incorporated knowledge of heritage contractor S. Paramasivam, who was involved in the preservation of Madras High Court. A native of Sattur, Virudhunagar district, the 74-year-old learnt the Mughal plastering technique from his father.

"Mixing the correct ratio of materials, particularly lime mortar, for every coating is a challenge," said Mr. Paramasivam, who cherishes memories of former President A.P.J. Ab-

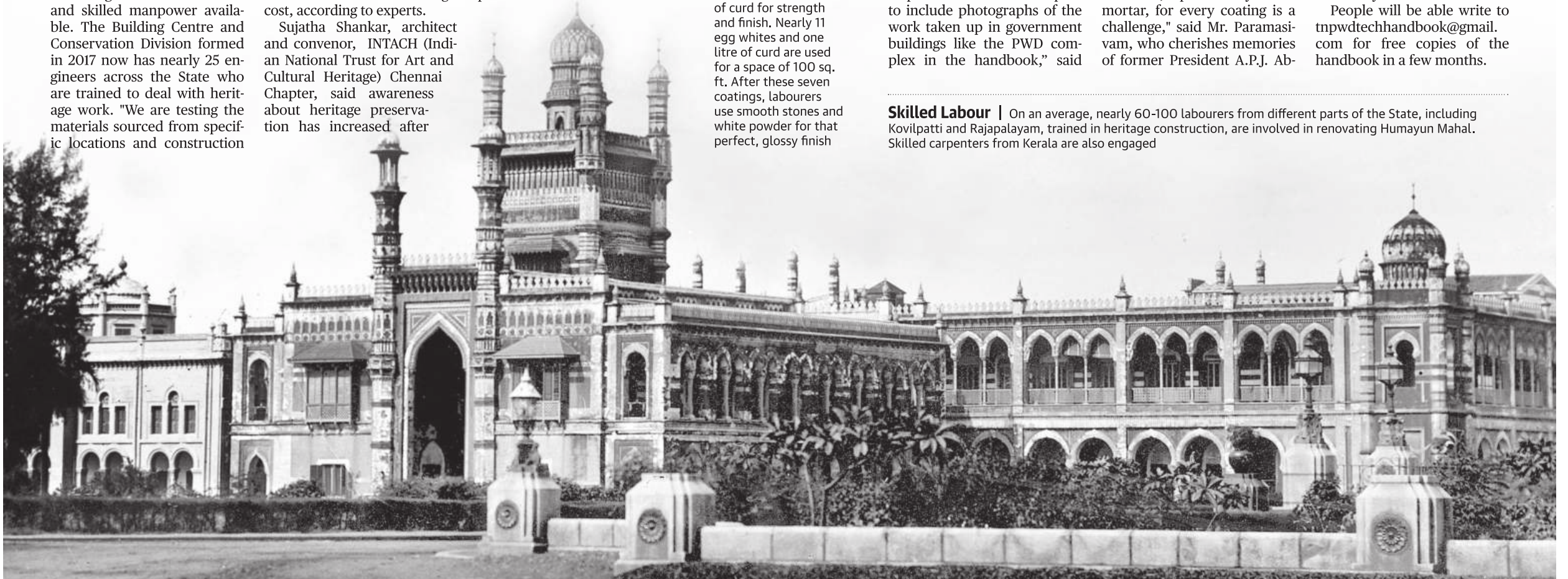
**The 100-page book would have elaborate details on the materials sourced from specific locations and complex processes, including Mughal wall plastering**

K.P.SATHYAMURTHY, joint chief engineer, PWD (Buildings)

dul Kalam who appreciated his work during a visit to Madras University.

People will be able write to [tnpwdtechhandbook@gmail.com](mailto:tnpwdtechhandbook@gmail.com) for free copies of the handbook in a few months.

**Skilled Labour** | On an average, nearly 60-100 labourers from different parts of the State, including Kovilpatti and Rajapalayam, trained in heritage construction, are involved in renovating Humayun Mahal. Skilled carpenters from Kerala are also engaged



## Additional AC coach in Coimbatore to Hisar train

**STAFF REPORTER SALEM**  
The Railways have provided one additional AC 3-tier coach temporarily on the Hisar-Coimbatore-Hisar superfast express trains. According to a release, Train No.22475 Hisar-Coimbatore Weekly AC superfast express will be temporarily augmented with one AC 3-tier coach from November 7 to 28. Also, Train No. 22476 Coimbatore Junction - Hisar Weekly AC superfast express will be temporarily augmented with one AC 3-tier coach from November 9 to 30.

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## SHG members to be trained as mental health counsellors

Move part of initiative to address low awareness in rural areas

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI**  
Members of self-help groups (SHGs) across Tamil Nadu will soon be trained as mental health counsellors under 'Manam Inidhu', an initiative to be implemented by the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women, Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF) and the Institute of Mental Health (IMH), which will train community professionals in the next six months.

R. Thara, vice-chairperson of SCARF, said the programme would be implemented in phases, starting with 22 blocks in districts including Cuddalore, Erode, Salem, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, Ramanathapuram and Tiruchi.

"Our research has shown that 80 to 90% of people in rural areas who need help for mental health issues remain untreated. So, the mental health gap is huge. The District Mental Health



Dr. R. Thara, vice chairperson, Schizophrenia Research Foundation.

Programme is definitely functioning well but we need additional resources. SHGs are a vital resource in our rural communities," she said.

Tamil Nadu has 101 lakh SHG members who work closely with families and communities. Through this programme, these members would be trained on basic principles of mental health. This would enable them to help those in stress and also detect serious disorders such as schizophrenia and depression.

They could then make appropriate referrals to nearby treatment centres, a press release said.

### Three stages

Training will be carried out in three stages. Training for administrators and field-level staff have already been held.

Next, a five-day course for trainers that will cover programme managers - persons who oversee the functioning of SHGs - will be conducted in mid-November.

"These persons will then go to the field and select members of SHGs and train them. We have a manual on mental disorders, and are also working on a mobile application," said Dr. Thara.

The app would be used by the community professionals to collect information and deliver counselling to those with mental health needs. Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami released the manual recently.

## IT searches at firm continues

**STAFF REPORTER ERODE**  
Officials of the Income Tax department continue to search the premises of a private construction company for the second consecutive day here on Saturday.

A 15-member team from Coimbatore and Erode offices began the raid at the office of Annai Infra Developers Limited located on Perundurai Road on Friday whose chairman and managing director S. Ashok Kumar (45) was arrested recently for issuing fake invoices without actual supply services to the tune of ₹450 crore. Also, searches continued at his residence located at Perundurai. The company is engaged in infrastructure

projects and government contracts in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu and a few other States.

The Office of the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI), Visakhapatnam conducted searches at various places of the company and recovered indiscriminating documents recently. Mr. Kumar was picked up for questioning on October 16 during which he confessed to have received and also raised fake invoices without actual supply or receipt of services. The DGGI in a press release said that he artificially boosted the turnover of the company and availed input tax credit (ITC) using the fake invoices that he also passed onto other major infrastructure companies.

## Register housing project for army personnel under RERA: tribunal

Army Welfare Housing Organisation had sought exemption from registration

**SANJAY VIJAYAKUMAR CHENNAI**  
The Tamil Nadu Real Estate Appellate Tribunal (TNREAT) has directed Army Welfare Housing Organisation (AWHO) to register its project in Kancheepuram district under Tamil Nadu Real Estate Regulatory Authority (TNRERA).

The New Delhi-based AWHO, a registered society, provides structurally sound, economically viable and functionally efficient dwelling units to the desirous serving/retired members of the Army and their widows on 'no profit no loss' basis in select popular stations.

It purchased wet land and started constructing 852 dwell-

ing units in 6 towers, each tower having 31 floors above ground level on Thazambur-DLF Link Road, Thazambur village, Chengalpattu taluk, Kancheepuram district. The project commenced construction on May 26, 2012 and the probable completion date was December 2015. The related amenities were fully self-financed and paid in advance by serving soldiers and retired persons of Army, Navy and Air Force.

Three allottees in the project, Colonel C.M. Unnithan, Capt. Nagarajan Vasudeva Rao and Commander N. Koteswar moved the Tamil Nadu Real Estate Appellate Tribunal (TNREAT) stating that common

facilities like swimming pool, club house, sewage treatment plants, gymnasium are all still incomplete. Also, AWHO did not complete the project on or before June 22, 2017, they added. AWHO had sought an exemption from registration under the RERA, for which the Principal Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu, Housing and Urban Development and Chairman, TNREAT, in a letter dated November 13, 2017 found it was an ongoing project and directed it to register under RERA within 15

days, which has not been complied with, they pointed out. In May, 2019, TNRERA passed an order that the project was structurally completed and exempted it from registration with the TNRERA. The allottees said that the TNRERA did not provide an opportunity to present their case and it was against natural justice.

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## Chargesheet filed against MLA

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI**

The CB-CID on Saturday filed a chargesheet against Saidapet MLA Ma. Subramanian and his wife in a Metropolitan Magistrate Court in connection with a land-grab case.

According to a press release, S. Parthiban, who had contested as an independent candidate against Ma. Subramanian in the 2016 Assembly elections, had lodged the land grab complaint. He claimed that the couple had illegally appropriated two plots belonging to Small Industries Development Corporation (SIDCO) in Guindy around 1996. The complainant alleged that the plots were originally allotted by SIDCO to S.K. Kannan, now deceased.

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# ACJ turns clock back on listing of contempt of court petitions

Ponn Manickavel's case will now get listed before Justice R. Mahadevan

MOHAMED IMRANULLAH S.  
CHENNAI

Acting Chief Justice (ACJ) Vineet Kohari has decided that contempt of court petitions in the Madras High Court will be listed only before the judges whose orders had not been complied with.

The ACJ took the call after placing the matter before the Administrative Committee, comprising the top seven judges of the court. The committee was of the opinion that it would be better if contempt petitions got listed before the judges whose orders had supposedly been disobeyed.

The decision will lead to Justices R. Mahadevan and P.D. Audikesavulu getting to hear a contempt petition filed by Idol Wing CID special officer A.G. Ponn Manickavel in June. The case gains significance in view of Mr. Manickavel's accusation against an unnamed Minister and some top government officials of meddling with his investigations.

On November 30 last year, a Division Bench led by Justice Mahadevan appointed Mr. Manickavel as a special officer for a year to continue



Vineet Kohari

**The ACJ took the call after placing the matter before the Administrative Committee, comprising the top seven judges of the court**

probing all idol theft-related cases filed in the State. The appointment was made just hours after the former Inspector General of Police retired from service.

Unhappy with the order, the government filed an appeal in the Supreme Court, but failed to get the appointment set aside.

The special Bench was constituted in July 2018 by then Chief Justice Indira Banerjee, who is now a judge of the Supreme Court.

In March this year, her successor, Chief Justice Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani, directed the High Court Registry not to list criminal cases related to idol theft before the special Bench. In June, she issued another administrative order dissolving the special Bench altogether, on the ground that there were only a few writ petitions related to idol theft, and those cases could be heard by regular Benches.

Immediately thereafter, the retired IGP filed the contempt petition, claiming that a senior Minister in the State Cabinet and top police officers in the State were interfering in the probe being conducted by him, though the court had appointed him as a special officer only to prevent political and bureaucratic interference in the investigations.

The contempt petition forced the High Court Registry to reconstitute the special Division Bench because the court was, back then, following the procedure of listing such petitions only before the judges whose orders had been disobeyed. Accordingly, the petition was listed

before the special Bench on a couple of occasions.

However, Justice Tahilramani found that the Contempt of Court Rules of the High Court of Madras of 1975 had been amended on September 20, 2007. As per the amended Rule 6(2), the Chief Justice had been given the discretion of ordering the listing of contempt petitions before any judge of the court. The amendment had been challenged and subsequently upheld by a Bench comprising then Chief Justice Hemant Laxman Gokhale and Justice D. Murugesan on September 9, 2009.

Therefore, just days before her resignation on September 6, Justice Tahilramani ordered that henceforth, contempt petitions be listed before the roster judges and not the judges whose orders had not been complied with. This administrative decision took Mr. Manickavel's contempt plea away from the special Bench. Now, invoking the same provision, the ACJ has reversed it.

His decision comes a month before the one-year tenure fixed by the court for the special officer expires.

# After bypoll success, AIADMK to hold thanksgiving meetings

Deliberations under way on candidates for local body polls

T. RAMAKRISHNAN  
CHENNAI

The AIADMK will hold thanksgiving meetings in Nanguneri and Vikravandi on November 5 and 8, respectively, following its victory in the byelections to the two Assembly constituencies.

Party coordinator and Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam, who is planning an official visit to the United States from November 7 to 17, will address the meeting in Nanguneri, while party co-coordinator and Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami will take part in the Vikravandi event, according to a press release issued by the ruling party.

In the byelections, held last month, the AIADMK snatched Nanguneri from the Congress and Vikravandi from the DMK.

Mr. Panneerselvam, accompanied by Principal Secretary (Finance) S. Krishnan, is likely to visit Chicago, Houston, New York and Washington, D.C. to participate in discussions on infrastructure finance and meetings with the World Bank, apart from functions organised by the Tamil diaspora,



Panneerselvam will address the meeting in Nanguneri, while Palaniswami will take part in the Vikravandi event.

where the Deputy CM may be felicitated.

Meanwhile, intra-party deliberations are under way about the preparation of the lists of candidates for the proposed polls to local bodies. In a discreet way, the party is undertaking a scrutiny of the credentials of the candidates who were chosen in 2016 for the local body polls. Back then, the poll schedule got cancelled in the wake of litigation in the Madras High Court.

There are two reasons to take a fresh look at the old list. A section of the party members had gone to the camp of rebel leader and AMMK founder T.T.V. Dhinakaran. The ongoing scruti-

ny is meant to ascertain how many of the candidates are with the party now, even though most of them are said to be in the AIADMK, a senior leader said.

Unlike in 2016, when the ruling party had planned to contest the local body polls on its own, it now has to accommodate allies like the BJP, the PMK, the DMKD and the Tamil Maanila Congress (Moopanar), said another leader, hinting that this time, the task of finalising the party's candidates for the local body polls was going to be challenging.

In case the local body elections take place in December, the party's general council may meet.

# 'Will repeat bypoll victory in local bodies'

STAFF REPORTER  
TIRUPPUR

The ruling AIADMK will repeat its recent victory in the Vikravandi and Nanguneri byelections in the upcoming local body polls, Animal Husbandry Minister Udumalai K. Radhakrishnan has said.

"The people gave us a grand victory in the byelections," he said, adding that the party will repeat its by-poll performance in the local body polls.

# Sengottaiyan's assurance to govt. teachers

STAFF REPORTER  
TIRUPPUR

The State government will address the concerns of government school teachers, Minister for School Education K.A. Sengottaiyan said on Saturday.

He was speaking at an event organised by the Jai-vabai Municipal Girls' Higher Secondary School for felicitating the teachers of government schools that recorded 100% pass in the 2018-19 academic year.

FROM PAGE ONE

# T.N. to ink pact on renewable energy with Massachusetts

The idea of an energy transition policy is expected to hold greater relevance for Tamil Nadu, whose installed capacity for windmills is around 8,500 megawatt (MW) and solar plants, 3,600 MW.

As for R&D, institutions of higher learning other than Anna University and IIT can also be part of collaborative projects that may be planned. From the other side, as of now, the University of Massachusetts is taking part in the overall programme. In the field of industrial investment, Tamil Nadu is keen on drawing lessons from the American concept of incubators, providing space and other forms of support to startups for carrying out projects in clean energy.

Meanwhile, Tangedco is about to finalise a tender for "smart meters" in a few weeks. The meters provide for remote-controlled disconnection of services and interface with mobile devices, the official added.

# Festive fervour



**Divine rendition:** A sea of devotees witnessing Soorasamharam, a ritual folk performance, organised by the Vadapalani Murugan Temple in Chennai on Saturday.

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# Tariff ceiling for solar power auction increased

SECI raises threshold to ₹2.93 per unit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

The Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) has increased the tariff ceiling for its 500-MW solar power auction from ₹2.85 to ₹2.93 per unit.

The tender is for grid-connected solar power projects in Tamil Nadu, and the power would be procured by the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco).

The power would be procured for 25 years on the tariff to be determined in the auction.

Earlier this year, Tangedco handed over the task of procuring solar power to the SECI, after its own tender to procure 500 MW of grid-connected projects did not get any response.

In April 2019, the SECI issued a request for selection for 500 MW for the projects in Tamil Nadu. In an amended document,

**The tender is for grid-connected solar power projects in Tamil Nadu, and the power will be procured by Tangedco**

the agency said that the projects can either be connected to Central transmission utility substations or State transmission utility substations.

**Multiples of 10 MW**

In case of Central transmission utility substations, the projects would be allocated in multiples of 10 MW with minimum project capacity being 50 MW, while for State transmission utility substations, the minimum project capacity will be 10 MW. The bids where the tariff quoted is more than ₹2.93 per unit shall be summarily rejected, it said.

# AIADMK's indifference led to quashing of Goondas Act in Pollachi case: Stalin

Police failed to follow the rules, says DMK leader

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

DMK president M.K. Stalin on Saturday alleged that the negligence and indifference of the AIADMK government had resulted in the quashing of the Goondas Act against two persons arrested in connection with the Pollachi serial sexual abuse case.

"The police officials, on indirect advice from the AIADMK government, had not followed even the basic rules in the case of the two persons, who ruthlessly destroyed the lives of young women," he said in a statement.

Mr. Stalin said that when a person gets detained under the Goondas Act, their parents should be intimated about the detention. "The police failed to follow the rules in this case, and this was done deliberately to help someone. The High Court and the Supreme Court have issued clear guidelines, which have been



DMK President M.K. Stalin

given a go-by in this case. The police purposely allowed the culprits to escape. It is shameful," he said.

Mr. Stalin said the case was transferred to the CBI and the charge-sheet had been filed under the monitoring of the Madras High Court. "The indifference of the police and the Coimbatore Collector has totally changed the course of the case," he said.

Mr. Stalin said the accused could come out on

bail, and there was a danger of their tampering with the evidence "Why has the AIADMK government created such a situation? Whom does it want to protect? The people know the answer," he said.

Demanding action against officials who, he said, were responsible for the quashing of the Goondas Act, the DMK leader said all those who had destroyed the lives of the women should be brought to book and punished.

# VCK for reviving Commission on panchami lands

12.5 lakh acres of such land in T.N.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
DHARMAPURI

The AIADMK government should revive the Maruthamuthu Commission to look into panchami lands and their current occupation in various districts, VCK leader Thol. Thirumavalavan has said.

There were over 12.5 lakh acres of panchami land in the State. The DMK government, under M. Karunanidhi, had constituted the panel, which was left in a dysfunctional state by the AIADMK regime that followed. "It is important to look into the extent of panchami lands, their locations and the encroachments. The Chief Minister should revive the Commission," he said.

In the same vein, the VCK leader said, "Those who hadn't spoken out on behalf of Dalits for panchami lands have now suddenly stepped up to taunt the DMK. People

**It is important to look into the extent of panchami lands, their locations and the encroachments**

like S. Ramadoss [PMK founder] and H. Raja [of the BJP] are talking about panchami lands. The DMK leader gave them a fitting reply and these people have gone silent."

The VCK leader was sceptical about the local body elections. The election gains in the Vikravandi and Nanguneri bypolls for the AIADMK were not a vote against the DMK-led front. They were only an interim relief for the ruling AIADMK, he said. "It does not spell the trend for the State Assembly elections," he added. He congratulated actor Rajinikanth on being chosen for the special Icon of Golden Jubilee award by the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), to be held in Goa later this month.

# Vasan greets Rajini for IFFI honour



G.K. Vasan

STAFF REPORTER  
CHENNAI

Tamil Maanila Congress president G.K. Vasan has congratulated actor Rajinikanth on being chosen for the special Icon of Golden Jubilee award by the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), to be held in Goa later this month.

In a statement, he said the announcement was a matter of pride for the Tamil film industry and for the State and its people.

Mr. Vasan also hailed Mr. Rajinikanth for coming up from a modest background and making it big in the film industry through hard work, and setting an example for others.



நாள் : 03.11.2019, ஞாயிற்றுக்கிழமை  
நேரம் : மதியம் 2.00 மணிக்கு  
இடம் : DRG திருமண மண்டபம்  
பல்லடம் ரோடு, அருள்புரம், திருப்பூர்



திருப்பூர் பின்னலாடை நகரில்  
**அறம் மக்கள் நலச்சங்கத்தின் சார்பில்**  
**நலத்திட்ட உதவிகள் வழங்கும் விழா**  
*விழாவிடும் உருகை தரும்*

மக்கள் அரசன், தொழிலதிபர்

மக்கள் சேவகன்

**சு.இரராஜா**

**SRK@ ரமேஷ்குமார்**

நிறுவனர் - தலைவர் அவர்களே

பொதுச்செயலாளர் அவர்களே



*மாண்புமிகு, உடுமலை*

**K.இராதாகிருஷ்ணன்**

தமிழக கால்நடைத்துறை அமைச்சர், புறநகர் மாவட்ட அ.தி.மு.க. செயலாளர் அவர்கள்

*மாண்புமிகு,*

**K.A.செங்கோட்டையன்**

பள்ளி கல்வி, இளைஞர் ஸ்போர்ட் விளையாட்டுத்துறை அமைச்சர், அவர்கள்

*மாண்புமிகு,*

**M.R.விஜயபாஸ்கர்**

தமிழக போக்குவரத்துத்துறை அமைச்சர், அவர்கள்

*திருமிகு,*

**M.S.M.ஆனந்தன்**

முன்னாள் அமைச்சர், அவர்கள்  
மாநகர் மாவட்ட அ.தி.மு.க. செயலாளர்

*திருமிகு,*

**உ.தனியரசு**

சட்டமன்ற உறுப்பினர் - காங்கிரஸ்  
தமிழ்நாடு கொங்கு இளைஞர் பேரவை, அவர்கள்



டாக்டர், **விஜய கார்த்திகேயன்**  
மாவட்ட ஆட்சிதலைவர், திருப்பூர்

உயர்திரு, **கரையபுதூர் நடராஜி**  
சட்டமன்ற உறுப்பினர், திருப்பூர் பல்லடம் தொகுதி

உயர்திரு, **சு.குணசேகரன்**  
சட்டமன்ற உறுப்பினர், திருப்பூர் தெற்கு தொகுதி

உயர்திரு, **K.N.விஜயகுமார்**  
சட்டமன்ற உறுப்பினர், திருப்பூர் வடக்கு தொகுதி

உயர்திரு, **முருகானந்தம்**  
RTO திருப்பூர் தெற்கு

உயர்திரு, **R.குமார்**  
RTO திருப்பூர் வடக்கு

உயர்திரு, **G.K.விவசாயமணி**  
நிறுவன தலைவர் - அனைத்திந்திய விவசாய மற்றும் தொழிலாளர் சங்கம்



ஆகியோர்களையும் மற்றும்  
அனைவரையும் வருக! வருக!! என  
அன்புடன் வரவேற்கின்றோம்...

**அறம் மக்கள் நலச்சங்கம் - தமிழ்நாடு**

IN BRIEF



**PET bottles banned in Sabarimala**

**PATHANAMTHITTA**  
Devaswom Minister Kadakampally Surendran has said that pilgrims coming to Sabarimala this season should not carry bottled water. The Minister said the Travancore Devaswom Board and the Kerala Water Authority would provide treated drinking water and medicated drinking water at various points at Pampa, Nilackal, Sabarimala and along the trekking path so that there would not be any scarcity of drinking water.

**Red sanders, sandra logs seized in A.P., 27 held**

**ANANTAPUR**  
The Anantapur district police on Saturday confiscated 1.67 tonnes of red sanders and 610 kg sandra logs, two vans, 3 cars, three two-wheelers and arrested 27 persons connected with smuggling of red sanders. This is close to the heels of Kurnool police confiscating on Monday 31 logs of red sanders weighing 468.5 kg while they were being smuggled on the Kurnool - Nandyal NH 40 at B. Tandrapadu village and arrested seven persons.

**2 held in A.P. for selling darshan tickets in black**

**TIRUMALA**  
The black marketing of darshan tickets continues at the hill shrine despite stringent measures by the TTD to contain the menace. The fact that the police have registered as many as four cases during the past fortnight substantiates it. The TTD vigilance sleuths took two persons, including a TTD employee, into custody for allegedly selling two 'suprabhatam' tickets at a rate of ₹17,000 against their original price of just ₹480. The accused have been identified as A. Madhusudhan Rao and Ramesh.

# Police file report on gunbattle with Maoists in Palakkad court

Maoists' kin say not enough proof

STAFF REPORTER  
PALAKKAD

District Police Chief Shiva Vikram filed a report before the district sessions court here on Saturday about the gunbattle in Attappady forest, in which four Maoists were killed. The report followed a petition moved by Murugeshan M. and Lakshmi, relatives of slain Maoists Karthi and Manivasakam, accusing the police of violating the Supreme Court guidelines on encounter killings.

The report said the police had complied with all the 16 points specified by the Supreme Court. It said that briefs had been sent to the National Human Rights Commission on the day of the encounter itself, and no out-of-turn promotion or gallantry awards had been recommended for the commandos who took part in the police action.

The report said the Maoists had been killed when the police returned fire in separate incidents on October 28 and 29. Two cases were registered (291/19 and 292/19) at the Agali police station under Sections of the IPC, Arms Act, Kerala Forest Act, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Although the cases are being investigated by the State Crime Branch, a magisterial inquiry is yet to be done.

However, the relatives of the Maoists raised objections to the District Police Chief's report, saying it was "grossly insufficient" and not accompanied by any document.

Principal sessions judge K.P. Indira posted the case on Monday.



Alan Suhaib's parents leaving the Government Guest House after meeting Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. • K. RAGESH

## Chennithala flays Kerala government

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Leader of the Opposition in Kerala Ramesh Chennithala accused the government on Saturday of using draconian laws to muffle democratic dissent. The decision to invoke UAPA against two CPI(M) workers for distributing leaflets was a wrong move, he said.

"These people are not Maoists, they are only sympathisers. Such people had been around when I was Home Minister. All those who disseminate ideologies cannot be branded as extremists," he said.

## Row over killings may rock LDF

N.J. NAIR  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The row triggered by the killing of Maoists in an encounter in Manjakatti near Agali in Palakkad and the arrest of two CPI(M) workers under the provisions of the Unauthorised Activities Prevention Act on Saturday have led to rumblings within the Left Democratic Front.

The public protestations of a CPI delegation that visited Manjakatti against the police claims of an encounter and the response of Law Minister A.K. Balan that the visit would only send a wrong message have exposed the simmering differences among the two major allies on the issue. Though calibrated, the

broadside of CPI assistant secretary Prakash Babu against the police seems to have put the government in the dock.

**'Vocal in criticism'**

Mr. Balan reiterated that neither the government nor the CPI(M) was inclined towards muffling dissenting voices, and clarified that the party had always been unsparing and vocal in its criticism against incidents of hounding those professing Maoist ideology.

Unlike in the past, the CPI response to the killings and the imposition of UAPA on the students, Alan Suhaib and Thaha Fazal, on Saturday was not pungent, but it may cast an impression that the CPI(M) is on the back-

foot on the issue and has failed to honour its commitment to fight against the thoughtless imposition of the UAPA and to conserve the freedom for ideological dissemination.

Prominent CPI(M) leader K.T. Kunhikannan also expressed his resentment against the decision to invoke the UAPA against the arrested students.

The killings of the Maoists in the encounter have raised questions of human rights and also the role of the government in placing curbs on the functioning of the police. More significantly, the row has erupted at a time when both parties are celebrating the centenary of the formation of the Communist Party of India.

# Congress to move SC with video against Yediyurappa

CM reportedly said MLAs would get relief from top court

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday said it would approach the Supreme Court with 'new evidence' against Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa for reportedly telling his party colleagues at a meeting in Hubballi that all the disqualified MLAs would get relief from the top court and can contest elections.

The Congress also alleged that Union Home Minister Amit Shah was behind the 'poaching' of its MLAs to dislodge the Janata Dal (Secular) -Congress government in Karnataka, and demanded answers from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"We all know that the matter is sub judice and the case is reserved for judgment on November 4. It is a matter of serious concern that a Chief Minister is saying that the verdict is in favour of defector MLAs and they can contest elections.



K.C. Venugopal

What does it mean," asked Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal at a press conference in the party headquarters.

"I think the Supreme Court will take it very seriously and take action accordingly," he stated.

On Friday, a video purportedly showing Mr. Yediyurappa making the claims surfaced.

The Congress called it 'new evidence' and asserted that the video only rein-

forced its claim that the BJP was behind the resignation of the 15 Congress-JD-S MLAs, whose quitting brought down the H.D. Kumaraswamy government.

The former Speaker of the Assembly had taken a stern view and barred the MLAs from contesting elections in the current Assembly after disqualifying them. Subsequently, the MLAs challenged his decision and moved the top court.

"With the latest video evidence of CM Yediyurappa, now it is established beyond doubt. He had said that Amit Shah is behind the entire management of this poaching episode. He is telling, you can hear the voice of Shri Yediyurappa, that Shri Amit Shah is managing the stay arrangement at Mumbai and he is managing the defected MLAs. This is what we people also told earlier. Now there is concrete proof," said Mr. Venugopal.

# Karnataka CM completes 100 days, promises change in Bengaluru

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, who completed 100 days in office on Saturday, has promised "visible changes" in the infrastructure of Bengaluru city within the next 100 days.

In an interview to *The Hindu*, the Chief Minister said, "You wait for another 100 days and see the changes for yourself in Bengaluru."

He said he will take about five to six months for the completion of all the proposed works. "But definitely



B.S. Yediyurappa

you will start seeing visible changes by the time our government completes the next 100 days," the Chief Minister, who also holds the Bengaluru City Development portfolio, said.

While the condition of bad roads in the city, post heavy rain, has caused much public outrage, Mr. Yediyurappa said his priority would be upgrading roads and drainage system. "We need an estimated ₹5,000-₹6,000 crore for development of roads alone in Bengaluru. We are examining the ways and means of raising funds to take up these works," he noted. The third meeting of experts from various sectors had been scheduled on November 6 to chalk out a plan for the city's development, he said.

# Telangana govt. sets a new deadline for RTC crew to report for work

Staff can join duty "unconditionally" on November 5: KCR

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has set a fresh deadline of midnight of November 5 for the striking Road Transport Corporation (RTC) staff to report for duties "unconditionally" and warned that they will have to face the consequences if they do not return.

"We are giving one more chance to the crew to resume duties as the government had no intention of snatching their livelihood. After all, they are also sons of the same soil," Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao said at a post-Cabinet media briefing on Saturday.

This is the second deadline set by the government after the lapse of the earlier one exactly a month earlier.

Mr. Rao said the Cabinet had decided to issue permits

to private operators to run 5,100 buses, including 2,100 private hired buses already in operation, if there was no positive response from the striking staff by November 5.

He explained that the RTC had a total fleet of 10,400 buses, of which the corporation ran 8,300 services, leaving the remaining 2,100 to private operators. Of the 8,300 buses, as many as 2,600 had been condemned and 400 buses were on the verge of meeting the same fate. So, handing over these 3,000 services and the existing 2,100 private hired buses would constitute the total private participation. The RTC would own the balance 5,300 buses, which would be run by hired drivers.

Mr. Rao said the Cabinet had agreed that the corporation was in no position to replace the condemned buses

with new ones due to its loss-making position. Incidentally, with 5,100 private buses and corporation's own 5,300 buses, a "level playing" field would be created for public-private partnership. It would help in creating a healthy competition to improve public transport. He said the government would retain control over the 5,100 private buses in the fixation of tariff and deciding the routes.

The Cabinet unequivocally rejected the demand of the RTC unions for merger of the corporation with the government as it was an impossible task. "There will be no change in our stand," he said.

"Let them join first," he said when asked if the employees would get two months' salary if they joined duty by November 5.

# 'Using phone before bedtime leads to fatigue'

TANU KULKARNI  
BENGALURU

If you want to wake up well-rested and alert after a good night's sleep, reduce the amount of time you spend on your mobile phone before going to bed. A study, conducted by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), states that excessive use of mobile phone during bedtime adversely affects the quality of sleep. Increased usage is associated with fatigue and insomnia.

The study, which has been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, states that mobile phone usage around bedtime has become an "unstructured leisure activity during night time" with no fixed starting or stopping points. Researchers surveyed as many as 2,000 people aged between 18 and 40 years, and

assessments were based on a self-reported questionnaire. These included college students as well as people employed in government and private sectors. Among those who used phones before going to bed, 72.4% had poor sleep quality, the survey revealed. Respondents were asked to evaluate their sleep based on a seven-day recall period. The study showed that 65.5% of the respondents - more men than women - kept their mobile phone nearby while sleeping. The survey also found that among the users who slept with their mobile phone by their bedside, 70% of the men and 54% of the women reported poor quality of sleep. Among those who did not keep their mobile phones beside them, only 8.89 to 12.38% reported poor sleep.

Manoj Kumar Sharma, professor, NIMHANS, who conducted the study, found that the pattern of mobile phone usage among men and women differed. While men, particularly students, used several game apps, female undergraduate students turned to multimedia applications and social networking sites.

"There is a need to avoid using mobile phones for 30 minutes before sleep," he said, adding that instead, families should plan activities that don't rely on gadgets.

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Music Dance Drama

Paadi Magilvum Bagavan Naamam.  
Sri Krishna Sweets Presents  
Paadi Magilvum Bagavan Naamam Spiritual Bajam by Shri.Raghunathdass Maharaj, Vishwa Varakari Samsthan, Kadayannalur on 3rd Nov 2019, 6.30 p.m. at Ramar Kovil, Ramnagar, Coimbatore. All are Welcome.

**TAMIL NADU HOUSING BOARD : ERODE HOUSING UNIT**  
EVN Road, Surampatti Nal Road, Erode - 638 009. Phone: 0424 2258664

**Inviting Applications for Sale of Commercial Sites Sealed Tender - cum - open auction and Residential Houses / Plots only through Lot.**

Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Erode Housing Unit has proposed to sell the vacant Commercial Site/ Shop Site / Community Hall Site / School Site / Public Purpose Site (Total 81 units) through inviting applications for sealed Tender - cum - open auction and to sell vacant Residential Houses / Plots / Self Finance Scheme - Houses through inviting applications through Lot.

Please visit TNHB website [www.tnhb.tn.gov.in](http://www.tnhb.tn.gov.in) from 05.11.2019 for further details regarding code No. Plot extent, Upset price, EMD amount, Auction date, Cost of application, Cost details period of sale of application and conditions. Also contact above mentioned address for further details.

**Executive Engineer & Administrative Officer**  
Erode Housing Unit

DIPRI1283/Display2019

**MSME - TECHNOLOGY CENTRE, PUDUCHERRY**  
Adjacent to PEC, Pillaichavadi, East Coast Road, Puducherry - 605014  
(A Govt. of India Society and Autonomous Body under MSME)  
Micro Small & Medium Enterprises

**VACANCY NOTIFICATION**

MSME Technology Centre, Puducherry is being set up at Pillaichavadi, Puducherry. The Technology Centre is a Govt. of India Society registered under Societies Registration Act and is functioning as autonomous body under Ministry of MSME, Government of India. Applications are invited for the below mentioned Posts on Contract Basis. Initially for Five Years and extendable there after based on performance.

Sr. No.	Name of the Post & Trade	Pay Matrix	Max. Age in Years as on 30/11/2019	No. of Posts
1	SENIOR MANAGER (TRAINING)	Rs. 78800 - 209200, Level-12	45	1(UR)
2	MANAGER (TRAINING)	Rs. 67700 - 208700, Level-11	40	1(UR)
3	MANAGER (MARKETING)	Rs. 67700 - 208700, Level-11	40	1(UR)
4	ASSISTANT MANAGER (ADMIN. & ACCOUNTS)	Rs. 56,100 - 177500, Level-10	35	1(UR)
5	SENIOR ENGINEER (TRAINING) (Electronics)	Rs. 44,900 - 142400, Level-7	35	2(UR)
6	ENGINEER (TRAINING) (Electronics)	Rs. 35,400 - 112400, Level-6	32	2(UR)
7	ACCOUNTS OFFICER	Rs. 35,400 - 112400, Level-6	32	1(UR)
8	STORE OFFICER	Rs. 35,400 - 112400, Level-6	32	1(UR)

Age relaxable upto 5 years for SC/ST/Internal Candidates & 3 years for OBC candidates. Reservation in posts for PH candidates as per Govt. Rules.  
For more details visit website: [www.citindia.org](http://www.citindia.org). Application must reach on or before 30.11.2019 to Principal Director, Central Institute of Tool Design, Balanagar 'X' Roads, Balanagar, Hyderabad - 500 037. Telangana State.  
Sd/-  
PRINCIPAL DIRECTOR

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

**DEATH ANNIVERSARIES**

**DEATH**  
MARREY SARASWATHI  
Passed away on 27-10-2019  
Grieved by Husband  
M. Satyanarayana (ONGC) and Family  
11th Day, Rites: 6-11-2019

**DEATH ANNIVERSARIES**  
FIRST YEAR ANNIVERSARY  
MANGALAM RAMAN  
(1942-2018)  
Fondly remembered by  
Col. S.Raman (ret'd) & family

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**DEATH ANNIVERSARIES**  
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In ever loving remembrance  
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C. Rangopal  
C. Rajendra  
C. Raghunathan  
B.S. Purushotham  
R.V. Sundaram  
T.V. Sekar  
THATIKONDA  
VATSALA RAMACHANDRA  
FOUNDATION,  
Chennai.  
HOMAGE  
OBITUARY  
Dr. D. Muthaiyan  
MBBS, DCH, DTCD,  
(Retired District Medical Officer)  
Reached heavenly abode on  
20-10-2019 at Chennai.  
Deeply mourned by  
Family, Relatives and Friends  
Contact 9884039805

**REMEMBRANCE**  
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Seventh Anniversary  
Born 11.10.44 Expired 03.11.12  
D. Peter Francis Advocate  
You will always adorn our hearts  
By Family

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IN BRIEF



Delhi court summons  
Lalu's daughter

**NEW DELHI**  
A Delhi court on Saturday summoned RJD supreme Lalu Prasad Yadav's daughter Misa Bharati and other accused in a money laundering case, taking cognisance of a chargesheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate. IANS

Police seal finance  
firm in Manipur

**IMPHAL**  
Salai Finance, a private undertaking located at Naoremthong in Imphal west district, was sealed by the police on Saturday. The company is one of the undertakings of the Salai Holdings, whose chairman Narengbam Samrajit had recently announced in London that Manipur was now "independent." Police said the finance firm was sealed in the course of an investigation into the matter.

4 Nigerians detained at  
Agartala railway station

**AGARTALA**  
The Government Railway Police on Saturday detained four Nigerian men at the Agartala railway station for lack of proper documents and booked them under the Passports Act. A police officer said the men had sneaked into the State from Bangladesh through an unfenced border. "They wanted to board a Guwahati-bound train", he added.

ED allowed to question  
Christian Michel

**NEW DELHI**  
A Delhi court on Saturday allowed the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to interrogate Christian Michel who was arrested in the AgustaWestland VVIP chopper scam case. Special Judge Arvind Kumar gave the permission to the agency to record the statement of and interrogate Mr. Michel in Tihar prison, where he is currently lodged, on November 5 and 6. PTI

# Evolve consensus on tackling air pollution: Amarinder Singh

We must rise above political affiliations, says Punjab CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

Concerned over the unprecedented situation triggered by the growing air pollution in Delhi, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Saturday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi underlining the need for evolving consensus on tackling the issue, rising above political affiliations and regional considerations.

The Chief Minister said: "No Indian, and definitely no person in Punjab, is oblivious to the misery of our brethren in the national capital, whatever many around the country might have been led to believe."



Amarinder Singh

Pointing out that his own children and grandchildren living in Delhi were sharing the plight of lakhs of people as a result of the toxic air enveloping the city, he said the situation "has exposed the hollowness of our claims of being a progressive and developed nation".

"How can a country be called developed when its

capital city has been reduced to a gas chamber, not by any natural disaster but a series of man-made ones?" he asked.

'Acts of omission'

Making it clear that he had no intent of brushing his hands off Punjab's responsibility in this tragic state of affairs, Mr. Singh, however, said the entire country, including the Delhi government itself and the Centre, had allowed "this state of affairs to emerge and sustain, with our various acts of commission and omission".

Admitting that stubble fires were contributing to the pollution, the Chief Minister noted that data from several independent agencies had pointed out that large-scale industrial pollution, traffic overload and ex-

cessive construction activity taking place in Delhi were equally, if not more, to blame.

"The situation continues to aggravate while we all play ball over the people's pain and grief," the minister said in the letter.

He added that the crux of the problem was that "we have persistently and foolishly refused to rise above political considerations to launch a collective search for a permanent solution."

"The solutions each one of us, the so-called stakeholders, have been proffering from time to time are but knee-jerk interventions that translate into nothing more than a case of 'too little, too late' every time," he wrote adding that he had expected the Centre to find a "holistic" solution long back.

# Delhi police, lawyers clash at Tis Hazari court

Violence broke out after an argument over a vehicle parked by an advocate outside a lock-up

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A major clash broke out between Delhi police officers and lawyers inside the Tis Hazari court premises on Saturday allegedly over a parking issue. Police officers and lawyers sustained injuries in the incident and several vehicles were damaged.

Former president of the Delhi Bar Association advocate Sandeep Nasir, who claimed to be present at the spot, said that around 2.45 pm, an advocate parked his car outside the lock-up on the court premises, a space where mostly police vehicles which bring prisoners are parked.

"An argument between the advocate and the police officers over parking the veh-



Fiery argument: A police vehicle that was set on fire during the clash between advocates and police personnel at the Tis Hazari Court on Saturday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

icle turned violent. Police officers took him inside the lock-up and started thrashing him. Meanwhile, word spread about the incident," he said, adding that the "rumour" was that at least four

advocates, who had come to the aid of the advocate who the officers had the parking issue with, were also taken inside the lock-up and were ill-treated.

The Delhi police, in a

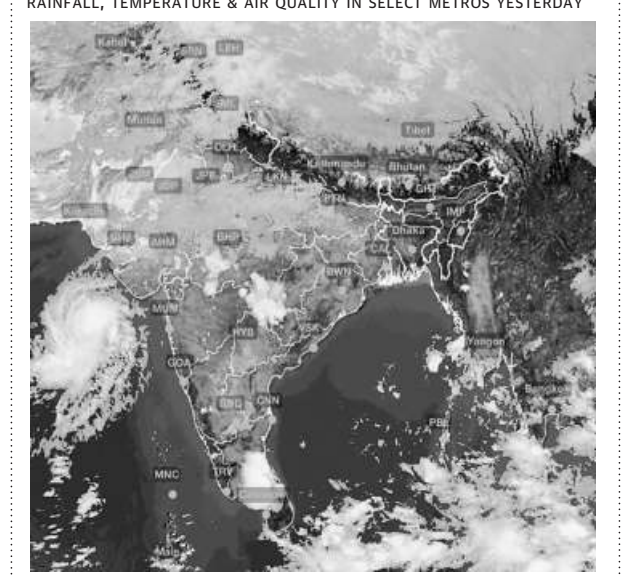
statement, however, said that the officers of the third battalion posted outside the lock-up had requested the advocate to park the vehicle in the designated parking as it would have hindered the

movement of police vehicles. "In protest, a large number of lawyers assembled near the lock-up. CCTV shows that the lawyers forcefully entered the lock up and manhandled the officers on duty," the statement read.

Meanwhile, 21 vehicles including jail vans were torched and damaged and 20 police officers including additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Harendra Singh, station house officers of Kotwali and Civil Lines police station sustained injuries during the clash.

Police said that eight advocates had also sustained injuries. A few journalists covering the incident were also heckled and their mobile phones were allegedly snatched by lawyers.

WEATHER WATCH  
RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18:00 HRS)

**Forecast for Sunday:** Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning very likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir. Gale winds with speed reaching 140-150 kmph and gusting to 165 kmph are likely over the east-central Arabian Sea.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	32.0	21.0		Kozhikode	34.0	23.0	
Ahmedabad	31.0	24.0		Kurnool	33.0	24.0	
Aizawl	25.0	14.0		Lucknow	32.0	17.0	
Allahabad	34.0	19.0		Madurai	33.0	24.0	
Bengaluru	29.0	19.0		Mangaluru	32.0	22.0	
Bhopal	29.0	22.0		Mumbai	46.2	35.0	25.0
Bhubaneswar	31.0	22.0		Mysuru	29.0	17.0	
Chandigarh	28.0	17.0		New Delhi	29.0	19.0	
Chennai	33.0	25.0		Patna	30.0	21.0	
Coimbatore	32.0	21.0		Port Blair	31.0	24.0	
Dehradun	28.0	16.0		Puducherry	32.0	23.0	
Gangtok	21.0	13.0		Pune	4.1	30.0	20.0
Goa	33.0	23.0		Raipur	32.0	23.0	
Guwahati	32.0	20.0		Ranchi	28.0	17.0	
Hubballi	28.0	18.0		Shillong	23.0	11.0	
Hyderabad	31.0	23.0		Shimla	19.0	11.0	
Imphal	28.0	16.0		Srinagar			
Jaipur	33.0	20.0		Thiruvananthapuram	33.0	23.0	
Kochi	32.0	23.0		Tiruchi	33.0	25.0	
Kohima	26.0	13.0		Vijayawada	33.0	25.0	
Kolkata	32.0	22.0		Visakhapatnam	32.0	26.0	

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	107	125	51	93	117	■■■
Bengaluru	4	38	63	53	74	■■■
Chennai	9	28	50	64	74	■■■
Delhi	30	65	103	448	416	■■■
Hyderabad	4	41	42	60	76	■■■
Kolkata	19	62	17	223	190	■■■
Lucknow	10	47	40	455	323	■■■
Mumbai	61	14	32	19	31	■■■
Pune	6	14	32	19	31	■■■
Visakhapatnam	20	49	33	140	121	■■■

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**  
**SO<sub>2</sub>:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.  
**NO<sub>x</sub>:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.  
**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like 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

# Sedition case against Honeypreet dropped

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

A local Panchkula court on Saturday dropped sedition charges against Honeypreet Insan, the adopted daughter of Sirda-based Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim, and 35 others facing the charge in the 2017 violence case.

Over 40 people died and more than 250 were injured in the violence that broke out at Panchkula in August 2017 after Ram Rahim was convicted of rape.

Defence counsel Suresh Rohilla said that the additional district and sessions court had dropped charges against the accused, including Honeypreet under Section 121 (waging or attempting to wage war) and 121A



Honeypreet Singh

(conspiracy to commit offences punishable by Section 121) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). However, cases under other relevant sections of the IPC will continue to proceed.

"The next date of hearing has been fixed for November 6," Mr. Rohilla said.

# Four get death penalty for 2008 Rampur attack

Six were held guilty on Friday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GHAZIABAD

Four persons, including two Pakistani nationals were sentenced to death in the Rampur terror attack case by additional district and sessions Judge Sanjay Kumar Singh on Saturday. One person was awarded a life sentence, while a sixth accused was given 10-years rigorous imprisonment.

Additional government counsel Amit Saxena said those who had been awarded capital punishment include Imran Shahzad, who hails from Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, and Mo-ahammed Farooq of Pakistan's Punjab. Sabauddin from Bihar's Madhubani

and Mohammed Shareef from Rampur were also given the maximum punishment.

Two others were convicted under Section 302 (murder) and Section 121 (waging war against the state). The judge said that the accused attacked the CRPF camp in 2008 without any provocation with AK-47 rifles and hand grenades.

On Friday, the judge had held six of the eight accused 'guilty' in relation to the pre-dawn attack on January 1, 2008, in which seven jawans and a civilian were killed. Two accused - Kausar Farooqi and Gulab Khan - were acquitted by the court for want of evidence.

# Chhath devotees violate NGT directive

People in Kolkata broke through the gates of landmark lake to perform rituals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

In what can be interpreted as a major violation of law, thousands of devotees broke open the gates to Kolkata's key water body, the Rabindra Sarobar Lake, and performed Chhath Puja.

Under pressure, the police opened the main gate to let them in.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has stated that the Puja cannot be performed inside the Rabindra Sarobar because it pollutes the water body. While the Bharatiya Janata Party leaders blamed the State government for failing to restrict the devotees, Trinamool Congress secretary general Partha Chatterjee said he cannot comment.

Earlier this year the NGT had instructed the Chief Secretary to initiate proper



Under pressure: The NGT had stated that the puja cannot be performed in the Rabindra Sarobar lake. ■ SUBHAM DATTA

measures to prevent violation of its order. A committee was formed and over a dozen other smaller water bodies were identified to perform Chhath Puja.

Despite all the 18 gates of the nearly 200-acre-large lake being manned by private security agencies and few personnel of the Kolkata Police, the devotees broke the locks of at least two gates

and entered the area. The organisers of the puja and devotees had severe altercations with the officials of Kolkata police.

'Lack of arrangements' "The police knew that this is going to happen as thousands gather at the lake every year to perform Chhath Puja. But they posted only a few dozen personnel to

# Delhi's air quality could lead to stroke, warn AIIMS doctors

'Even those otherwise healthy are now getting affected'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

With Delhi's air quality over the past few days being the worst so far this season, AIIMS director Randeep Guleria said that the city's "air pollution level is now affecting even healthy individuals and is a cause for concern".

He said that while the worst-hit are children, the elderly, and those with compromised respiratory function, "this sustained level of air pollution is even affecting lungs of those who are otherwise healthy."

"Exposure to air pollution is associated with lung cancer, predisposing individuals to heart attacks and stroke, besides causing bronchitis, asthma etc. General infection levels also go up. Collective action is the only way forward to curb this me-



Gasping for air: Delhi's air quality dropped to the "severe" category on Saturday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

nace. People should use public transport, and walk rather than take a vehicle; children should carpool to school or take the school bus," he said.

Anti-pollution masks

Speaking about the usefulness of anti-pollution masks, Mr. Guleria said that most people in Delhi do not use

the masks properly.

"High-risk patients can use a three-layered surgical mask, or an N-95 mask, worn tightly around the nose and mouth. If it is loosely worn it is of no use. These can be used in areas where pollution level is very high. At best, masks and air purifiers give you a false sense of security," he added.



Dr. K. Sivan, left, giving the distinguished alumni award to Flipkart co-founder Binny Bansal on Saturday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

# Will try safe landing on moon again: Sivan

'No date finalised, but mission certain'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is planning another mission to safely land a vehicle on the moon, its chief K. Sivan said on Saturday.

In the Chandrayaan-2 mission, a lander called Vikram crash-landed on September 6, after a 46-day journey. Vikram contained a robotic vehicle 'Pragyaan' that was to traverse 500m of the lunar surface and relay details of the soil back to ISRO.

Mr. Sivan, who was the

chief guest at the 50<sup>th</sup> convocation ceremony at IIT, Delhi, said, "Chandrayaan-2 mission could not achieve soft-landing but all other mission parameters until 300 metres were successful. We are planning a follow-up mission to demonstrate soft-landing."

In response to questions from *The Hindu*, he said that while no date for the endeavour had been finalised, the mission was a certainty. "We definitely have to demonstrate the technology and we are working out a plan of action," he said.

**ANDHRA PRADESH STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATION**  
 Head Office: 5-9-194, Chirag Ali Lane, Hyderabad-500 001  
 Andhra Division Office: Plot OS No.2, 2nd Cross, 3rd Road, Industrial Park, Vijayawada - 520 007. e-mail: apsfchrd@gmail.com; Website: www.apsfsc.com

**RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION**  
**ADDENDUM**  
 With reference to the advertisements dated 12.10.2019 published in all editions of "The Hindu" and "Economic Times" regarding recruitment of **Executive Director** and AP & Hyderabad editions of "Times of India" regarding recruitment of **Asst. General Manager (Law)**:  
 "The date for submission of applications is hereby extended up to 18.11.2019"  
 For detailed advertisement and application visit Corporation's website [www.apsfsc.com](http://www.apsfsc.com)  
 Place: Vijayawada Date: 03.11.2019 **General Manager [HRD]**

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN) (NIEPMD)**  
 (Accredited by NAAC) (ISO : 9001-2015)  
 (Dept. of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India, East Coast Road, Muttukuduru, Kovilam (PO), Chennai - 603 112; Tamil Nadu - India. Phone: 044-22672104, 22672113, 22672453, 22672046. Toll Free No. 18004200463 www.niepmid.in, n.e. E-mail: niepmid@gmail.com \* niepmidindia@gmail.com

**ADMISSION NOTICE - 2019-20 (M. Phil., CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY)**  
 (Recognized by: Rehabilitation Council of India, New Delhi, Affiliated to: The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University (Awaiting Affiliation))

Course	Eligibility	Application Fee	Last date of submission of Application
M. Phil., Clinical Psychology	The minimum qualification for admission into M. Phil., Clinical Psychology shall be 10+2+3+2 under full time regular mode. The candidates should have obtained their basic Degree in Psychology B.A. or B.Sc. and P.G. Degree in M.A.M.Sc. (Psychology Applied Psychology Counselling Psychology) in full time regular mode from a university recognized by the UGC with a minimum of 55% marks in aggregate. For SC/ST category & PwD, minimum of 50% marks in aggregate is essential, as per GOI.	Rs.1000/- for General & OBC and Rs.750/- for SC/ST/PwD	09 <sup>th</sup> November 2019

Date of Entrance Examination: 10.11.2019 Date of Interview: 11.11.2019 (only for the short-listed candidates)  
 For details of Application Process, Eligibility, Norms, Guidelines and Curriculum refer to M. Phil. Clinical Psychology Sd/- prospectus in [www.niepmid.in](http://www.niepmid.in) Director

**UT OF LAKSHADWEEP**  
**LAKSHADWEEP TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED**  
 (A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)  
 TOURISM BHAVAN, SECRETARIATE ROAD, KAVARATTI ISLAND, U.T. OF LAKSHADWEEP-682555  
 Ph: 04896-263723, 263724, 263725, E-mail: [ltfdc.lak@gmail.com](mailto:ltfdc.lak@gmail.com)  
 F.No.01/27/2019-LTDC Dated: 30.10.2019

**EMPLOYMENT NOTICE**  
 Inviting Applications for filling the posts in Lakshadweep Tourism Development Corporation Limited  
 Lakshadweep Tourism Development Corporation Limited (LTDC) has been incorporated with the primary objective of development of tourism in Lakshadweep. Applications are invited from eligible candidate for the post of Chief Operations Manager for LTDC and Specialty Chef for Bangaram Resort - Flagship Resort of Lakshadweep Administration. The detailed terms and conditions for the filling up the post of Chief Operations Manager for LTDC and Specialty Chef for Bangaram Resort are available on the official website of Lakshadweep administration <https://lakshadweep.gov.in>.  
 Last date of receipt of applications is 20th November 2019.  
**S ASKER ALI, IAS**  
 Managing Director (LTDC)

# PM highlights J&K move in Bangkok

At diaspora event, he says his government is working to fulfil those aims that once seemed impossible

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BANGKOK

India has eliminated a big reason behind the sowing of seeds of terrorism and separatism, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Saturday, in a clear reference to the withdrawal of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and reorganising the State.

Addressing the Indian diaspora here, Mr. Modi said his government was working to fulfil those aims that seemed impossible.

### Right decisions

“You are aware that India has decided to eliminate a big reason behind sowing of seeds of terrorism and separatism,” Mr. Modi said. “When the decision is right, its echo is heard across the globe. And I can hear it in Thailand as well,” he said at the “Sawasdee PM Modi” event.

Mr. Modi also received a standing ovation after he referred to the withdrawal of the special status. He said the ovation was for India’s Parliament and parliamentarians. Expectations of people were more from those who work and deliver, he



Diaspora’s welcome: Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed by the Indian community in Bangkok on Saturday. •PTI

said to a huge applause from the audience.

Mr. Modi talked about the Kartarpur corridor opening, and said pilgrims would now be able to visit Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan freely.

He also highlighted his government’s programmes such as Ujjwala Yojana.

Due to changes in India in the last five years, people

gave a bigger mandate to his government this time, Mr. Modi said.

The Prime Minister also said India was committed, and working hard, to become a \$5-trillion economy.

### Guru Nanak’s heritage

Mr. Modi said Guru Nanak not only belonged to Sikhs but his ideas were also a her-

itage of the world and humanity.

He also released commemorative coins to mark Guru Nanak’s 550th birth anniversary and a Thai translation of Thirukkural, a Tamil classic. “Nanak not only belonged to Sikhism but his ideas are a heritage of the entire world and humanity,” Mr. Modi said.

“It is our responsibility to share the benefit of our heritage with the entire world,” he said. “You would know that in a few days direct connectivity is going to be established with Kartarpur Sahib. On November 9 after the Kartarpur Corridor opens, Indian pilgrims will directly be able to visit Kartarpur Sahib,” he said.

# Germany to invest €1 bn for green urban mobility

Merkel stresses need to replace diesel buses with e-vehicles

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Saturday pledged to invest €1 billion over the next five years on environment-friendly urban mobility in India.

Ms. Merkel, whose visit to the country coincided with one of the worst spells of air pollution in Delhi and the National Capital Region, emphasised the need to replace diesel-run public transport with electric vehicles.

“We have agreed to cooperate on climate protection and green urban mobility and have earmarked 1 billion euros towards this,” Ms. Merkel said at an event here.

Germany would also put in €200 million to reform the bus sector in Tamil Nadu, she added.

Touching upon the subject of air pollution in Delhi, she said that looking at the severity of the situation, it would be a good idea to replace diesel buses with electric ones.

### Air quality

Delhi recorded its worst air quality of the season on Friday as the pollution level touched the “severe plus” category, prompting authorities to shut schools till November 5, ban all construction activities and declare a “public health emergency”.

Ms. Merkel said Germany would also like to work with India on various segments including healthcare, agriculture and artificial intelligence.

On Friday, India and Germany agreed to deepen efforts to resume stalled negotiations for a free trade agreement between India and the European Union (EU).

The negotiations for the pact have been held up since May 2013 as the two sides failed to bridge substantial gaps on crucial issues.

Launched in June 2007, the negotiations for the proposed pact have witnessed many hurdles with the two sides having major differences on key issues such as intellectual property rights,



Site visit: German Chancellor Angela Merkel at the plant of an auto parts company in Manesar, Haryana. •REUTERS

# Ladakh stole, iconic pen

ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has gifted German Chancellor Angela Merkel an exquisite handloom woollen khadi stole from Ladakh and a Ratnam pen.

The stole, known as “Call of Ladakh”, has an intricate traditional Ladakhi border pattern and four corner motifs. The yarn is hand-spun using the finest sheep wool, on a traditional Ladakhi charkha, by native Ladakhi

women, in the harsh winter months.

The Ratnam Pen, named after K.V. Ratnam (originally from a family of goldsmiths in Rajahmundry), was made iconic by Mahatma Gandhi. It is produced even today in its original form by K.V. Ratnam and Sons – Ratnam Ballpen Works, owned by Ratnam’s descendants. Even today, it has a barrel for filling ink using a dropper and the Genius Iridium Nib from Germany.

# Shah to open SCO joint exercise

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate the four-day Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) joint exercise on urban earthquake search and rescue here on Monday, the Home Ministry said.

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is hosting the exercise with the aim to rehearse disaster response mechanisms and share knowledge, experience and technology, it said in a statement on Saturday.

This exercise will also provide an opportunity to enhance coordination and cooperation as it involves multi-agency operations, the Ministry said.

# Rajnath urges SCO to fight terror

‘Implement international laws without exceptions or double standards’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday called upon member-countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to strengthen and implement all existing international laws and mechanisms “without exceptions or double standards” to combat terrorism.

He urged them to invest and set up collaborations in India under the “Make in India” initiative.

“Terrorism continues to disrupt our societies and undermine our developmental endeavours. The only way to fight this scourge is to strengthen and implement, without exceptions or double standards, all existing international laws and mechanisms



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with the other delegates at the SCO meet in Tashkent on Saturday. •PTI

to combat terrorists and their enablers,” Mr. Singh said at the SCO Council of Heads of Government meet in Uzbekistan.

It is important for the SCO countries to come together to deal with this menace, he told the grouping that in-

cludes China and Pakistan, along with Russia and various Central Asian republics.

Mr. Singh reiterated India’s commitment to a transparent, rules-based, open, inclusive and non-discriminatory multilateral trading

system with the WTO (World Trade Organization) at its centre. He emphasised that “unilateralism has done good to none”.

There were ample opportunities for the SCO countries to enter into collaborative joint ventures in India. “The SCO members can work together for technology and investment support to food processing and put in a supporting logistics chain,” he said.

Mr. Singh also invited the SCO member-states to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure for which India has taken the initiative “to assist countries in upgrading their capacities for developing resilient infrastructure.”

# Unions upset over draft wage rules

Floor-level wage mentioned in the rules is unscientific and inhuman, says BMS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The draft rules that would govern wages, including norms for minimum wages and fixing floor-level wages, were published by the Union Labour and Employment Ministry on Friday, leading some workers’ unions to raise concerns about the potentially low floor wages.

As part of its labour law reform agenda, the Narendra Modi government had in July introduced the Code on Wages, 2019 in Parliament, which passed it in August. The code, which subsumed four laws regarding payment of wages, equal pay, payment of bonus and minimum wages, got the President’s assent on August 8.



The rules drafted under the code were published by the Ministry on Friday and opened up for public comments for one month.

For coming up with minimum wages, the criterion would be a standard working class family of one earning worker, a spouse and two children – equivalent to three adult consumption un-

its that would have a net intake of 2,700 calories per unit per day. Under the criterion, the family would be entitled to 66 metres of cloth per year; housing rent expenditure of 10% of the food and clothing expense; fuel, electricity and other miscellaneous items of 20% of the minimum wage; and 25% of the minimum wage for expenditure on children’s education, medical needs, recreation and contingencies.

While the code will extend minimum wage protection to a large section of workers, including in the unorganised sector, it will not provide for a single minimum wage.

Saji Narayanan C.K., presi-

dent of the RSS-affiliated Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, told *The Hindu* that the BMS would submit its “objections” to the Ministry.

“After 70 years also we are talking about floor-level wages, instead of moving on to minimum wage and then a living wage. The floor-level wage mentioned in the rules is unscientific and inhuman. People may accept it out of desperation but it is ridiculous. We will be sending in our strong objections to this,” he said. Chandan Kumar, coordinator of the Working People’s Charter, said while the rules refer to the Supreme Court’s guidelines on need-based wages, they “change the discourse” to “roti-kapda”.

# Parents of arrested CPI(M) activists meet Kerala CM

Party’s district-level leaders say UAPA was invoked in haste

STAFF REPORTER  
KOZHIKODE

The parents and relatives of the two arrested CPI(M) activists met Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan at the Government Guest House in Kozhikode and sought his intervention. The youths had no connection with Maoists and were not part of circulation of any illegal notice, the families said.

Based on the directive of State police chief Loknath Behera, Asok Yadav, Inspec-

tor-General (North Zone), visited the Pantheerankavu police station on Saturday and reviewed the circumstances leading to the arrest of Alan Suhaib and Thaha Fazal. Mr. Yadav later told presspersons that the arrests were made on the basis of “solid evidence”. He said the charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act could not be revoked.

The arrests sparked criticism by CPI(M) activists who called it a “clear case of mis-

use of powers” by the police. The CPI(M) district leadership called for a thorough review of the circumstances that led to the arrests.

CPI(M) Kozhikode district secretary P. Mohanan said the police should review the decision to invoke the UAPA as it was done in haste. “Our party does not support Maoist ideology. We support only a democratic way of functioning. A detailed investigation should be conducted,” he said.

## BRUHAT BANGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, R.R. Nagar Zone,  
No. 144, 2nd Main, Jagajyothi Layout, Bangalore - 560 056.

No. : BBMP/EE/KNG/TEND/40/2019-20 Date : 02-11-2019

### INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT)

(Two Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division invites tenders on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the Construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1.	Comprehensive Development Works in SC-ST Colony in Ward No. 198, Package - 3.	1000.00	837.56	12,60,000/-

(1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-Procurement portal from 08-11-2019 4.00 pm onwards. (2) Pre Bid meeting will be held on 12-11-2019 at 3.00 pm. Venue : Office of the Chief Engineer, RR Nagar Zone, RR Nagar. (3) Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders 16-11-2019 upto 4.00 pm. (4) Opening of Bids : 18-11-2019 at 12.00 pm. (5) Validity of Tenders : 180 Days after the deadline date for tender submission.

The Details regarding participation for this tender can be obtained by logging on to : <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, R.R. Nagar Zone.

Pay Development Charges, Help to Develop Bengaluru

**SOUTHERN RAILWAY**  
Electrical (General), Construction, Chennai Egmore  
Tender Notice No.CN-MTP-Tender-Erode-E125 Dated: 01-11-2019  
For and on behalf of the President of India, The Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer / General / Construction / Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008 invites E-Tender for the following works:

Name of Work:	Period of Completion	Approximate Cost of Work	Cost of Tender Form	Earnest Money Deposited	Tender Closing Date
Electrification of Compressor Rooms and lighting arrangements for concrete apron in between yard lines at ERODE YARD.	12 Months	₹ 1,17,21,334/-	₹ 5,800/-	₹ 2,08,600/-	25-11-2019

Complete details can be seen [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).  
DEPUTY CHIEF ELECTRICAL ENGINEER/General/Construction/  
Egmore, Chennai - 8.

**SOUTHERN RAILWAY**  
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT  
E-TENDER NOTICE FOR THE SUPPLY OF STORES No.15/2019  
Dated: 31-10-2019

Southern Railway has implemented an e-system. All advertised tenders will be dealt through e-procurement system only. No Manual offer / Postal offer will be entertained. These Tenders can be accessed under the link [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) → SR → COS.

Sl. No.	E-Tender No.	Description	Tender Closing Date & Time
1.	82/19/6334/EOT	Supply and Installation of Hybrid Multi Service Equipment 1.5 U Height & 19 Inch Rack Mountable.	27-11-2019 @ 14.30 Hrs.

Railway reserves the right to issue any Corrigendum to the Tenders.  
Important Notice to Vendors: e-procurement is in the link [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
DEPUTY CHIEF MATERIALS MANAGER /  
Construction, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.

**GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION  
ANDHRA PRADESH DISASTER RECOVERY PROJECT  
WORLD BANK FUNDED PROJECT - CREDIT No: 5694-IN  
INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)  
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NCB)  
IFB No: 02/AP/GVMC/APDRP/Visakhapatnam Beach front Re-development/2018-19, Dt.01-11-2019  
Name of the Activity : Beach front Re-development works at R.K. Beach (2nd call)  
Government of India received a credit from the International Development Association towards the cost of Andhra Pradesh Disaster Recovery Project and intends to apply a part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contracts for the above activity. The Project Manager, P.I.U. Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, APDRP invites bids for Beach Front Re-development works at R.K. Beach (2nd call) through online time rate e-bids from the eligible bidders, through Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in> from 05.11.2019 onwards.  
For details please visit [www.apdrp.ap.gov.in](http://www.apdrp.ap.gov.in) and [www.gvmc.gov.in](http://www.gvmc.gov.in)  
Contact Nos. 9948095519, 9912255228 Commissioner, GVMC

**TAMIL NADU HOUSING BOARD**  
BESANT NAGAR DIVISION  
APPLICATIONS FOR SEALED TENDER-CUM-OPEN AUCTION NOTICE  
Besant Nagar Division of Tamil Nadu Housing Board has proposed to sell the Shops (or) Commercial site/Shop site/Community Hall site/School site/Public Purpose site/Primary School site/Nursery School site/Service Industries sites (Totally 36 items) through Inviting Applications for Sealed Tender-cum-Open Auction.  
Please visit TNHB website [www.tnhb.tn.gov.in](http://www.tnhb.tn.gov.in) from 03-11-2019 for further details regarding Code No., Plot No., Plot Extent, Upset Price, EMD amount, Auction Date, Cost of Application, Cost Details, period of sale of Application and conditions.  
Also contact below address for further details.  
Address :  
Executive Engineer and Administrative Officer,  
Besant Nagar Division, Tamil Nadu Housing Board,  
No.48, Dr. Muthulakshmi Salai, Adyar, Chennai-600 020.  
Phone No.: 24913561  
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER & ADMN. OFFICER  
BESANT NAGAR DIVISION  
DIPR/3926/TENDER/2019

**SOUTHERN RAILWAY**  
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)  
E-TENDER NOTICE No.01-DY.CE/CN/IMAS/09-2019  
Dated: 26-11-2019

For and on behalf of the President of India, The Deputy Chief Engineer / Construction, Southern Railway, Park Town, Chennai - 600 003 invites e-Tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our Portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). The Tenderers / Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the Portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) and only Online Tenders will be accepted. The Cost of the Tender Form and the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) should be made through online payment gateway available in the website by the way of Multiple Banks, Net Banking, Debit Card and Credit Card.

Approximate Cash Value in (₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	Cost of Tender Form (₹)	Period of Completion	Closing Date @ 15.00 Hrs.
2,36,92,251.07	2,68,500/-	10,000/-	12 Months	26-11-2019

For further details please refer to website Portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) or Contact Office of the Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Park Town, Chennai - 600 003.  
DEPUTY CHIEF ENGINEER/Construction, Chennai - 3.

FROM PAGE ONE

## No light down the rabbit hole of online political ads

Emails sent to ids mentioned for 'Aghadi Bighadi' (front in trouble) also remained unanswered

Interestingly, the Facebook pages of 'Distoy Farak Shivshahi Parat' and 'Aghadi Bighadi' have been in existence only for a few months — the former since July 2 and the latter since May 22. Both pages have become inactive after the election results were announced.

The amounts spent by these entities might seem small compared to the election advertisement budgets of most parties, but the impact in the online space was exponential. Distoy Farak Shivshahi Parat with 4,68,948 followers was able to generate a whopping 4.76 million interactions via 1,518 ads, resulting in an interaction rate of 4.25%. Aghadi Bighadi with 3,23,338 followers notched up 3.25 million interactions from 928 ads yielding an interaction rate of 5.82%.

Interaction rate is the percentage of people that saw the advertisement and chose to click, like, share, or

comment on it.

How were these pages able to rack up such high engagement on their content?

'Aghadi Bighadi' specialises in what are essentially 'attack ads', with the NCP, MNS and Congress leadership bearing the brunt. Caricatures, modified video clips, morphed images, memes and pointed language were deployed in the 928 ads that were run by the page.

'Distoy Farak Shivshahi Parat' is focused on promoting Devendra Fadnavis and Narendra Modi. While 'Aghadi Bighadi' seemed to have a local focus in its targeting, 'Distoy Farak Shivshahi Parat's' targets included Jawaharlal Nehru and Kanhaiya Kumar.

It is unclear whether these political advertisements had been pre-certified by the Media Certification and Monitoring Committees of the ECI as agreed to under the 'voluntary code of ethics'.

So is the question of who were the advertisers in these cases?

## MEPs' meetings were watched

Ex-Army men headed six civil society groups which interacted with the delegation

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR

At least six civil society groups, comprising 50 local people, which met the 27-member fact-finding delegation of the Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) recently in Srinagar were headed by ex-Army personnel.

Sources privy to the meetings held between the MEPs, drawn from the far-right parties, and the civil society groups said the foreign delegates were appraised by groups headed by Aslam Shah from Tangdar, a retired Army personnel of the 104 Brigade; Mujeeb Ahmad of the 12 Brigade from north Kashmir; and Muhammad Ashraf from Machil, Ehsan from Tangdar and Maqsood Ahmad, who all served in the Army.

Most delegates belonged to Baramulla and Kupwara districts close to the Line of Control (LoC). These groups provided a first-hand account of the ground situation post withdrawal of J&K's special status to the visiting dignitaries.

Sources said several civil society groups which met



No let-up: Vehicles plying in Srinagar on Saturday, though life remained affected for the 89th consecutive day in Jammu & Kashmir. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

the MEPs at the Lalit Grand Palace hotel in Srinagar were introduced by General Officer Commanding, 15 Corps, Lt. General K.J.S. Dhillion to the delegation.

The MEPs' delegation split themselves into several groups and held across-the-board interaction and posed pointed questions like "What Kashmiris think and want?". Comprising five to eight people in each group, the 15 groups were introduced to the MEPs as locals, students, fruit growers and traders.

The group interactions,

however, were closely monitored. "I was tapped from behind and taken to a corner when I touched the issue of Article 370 and raised the separate identity issue with one group of delegates," one member told *The Hindu*.

### Presented as locals

Besides the ex-Army personnel, several other groups working in tandem with the Army in north Kashmir were presented as local youth groups. Interestingly, the Army invite was accepted by two Congress leaders, Channi Singh and Farooq Andra-

both were served a show cause notice by the party.

The MEPs, after the two-day visit on October 29-30, had claimed that they met a cross-section of civil society. They said the impression they got was that "the situation was not as bad as they thought, and people wanted peace, better life, better vocations and jobs".

The visit is facing criticism because of the involvement of a little-known NGO, WESTT, in organising the EU delegation meeting with PM Narendra Modi and pushing for a visit to J&K.

## Naga groups pushing for separate flag: Deputy CM

"Now they (Centre) will have to tell us the truth, they cannot hide from us any more. The Governor is having discussions with NNPGs and NSCN-IM; things are almost settled but I cannot say anything before it is finalised," he said.

Manipur has been on edge as the peace agreement reaches its final stages.

Naga interlocutor R.N Ravi, who is also Nagaland's Governor, is holding final discussions with National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah) and Naga National Political Groups (NNPG) in the last leg of

meetings in Delhi.

Lt. Gen. (ret) Shokin Chauhan, chairman of the ceasefire monitoring group, said the situation in Nagaland was peaceful and he was deputed to speak to the NSCN-IM to sort out any apprehension they might have.

"I spoke to them (NSCN-IM) on the Centre's behalf. Most of them were worried about their safety, like what will happen to their cadres, weapons, etc. after the agreement is signed. I was available to listen to them," Lt. Gen. (ret) Chauhan said.

## 'Can't intervene in Pak. denial of airspace to PM'

"The United Nations and other multilateral agencies ... are neither designed nor empowered to intervene directly in the affairs of national governments, which is why States are still 'sovereign' in the world today," Anthony Philbin, Chief, Communications at ICAO told *The Hindu* in an e-mail interview.

"Our goal in such matters as always is to help assure the safety and efficiency of international civil aviation," Mr. Philbin said about the ICAO's exchange with the two countries.

The emphasis on civil aviation is significant and raises questions about the grounds on which India had sought the Organisation's intervention.

Article 3 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation signed at Chicago on December 7, 1944, clearly states that the treaty "shall be applicable only to civil aircraft, and shall not be applicable to State aircraft." The treaty also underlines in Article 1 that signatories to the convention have to recognise that "every State has complete and exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above its territory."

An e-mail to the Representative of India at the ICAO, Shefali Juneja, for information on the grounds on which India approached the UN body remained unanswered till the time of going to print. The spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), though, has called Pakistan's decision to deny permission a deviation "from well established international practice".

Pakistan's Air Navigation Order of 2016 on procedures for issuing of flight permissions, which is an es-

sential reference for any country or airline seeking to fly to or via Pakistan's skies, clearly lays down that the protocol for applying for permission for a VVIP aircraft is to make a request through diplomatic channels before every flight, unless a blanket permission has been provided. But in case of a commercial (or scheduled) flight, airlines can directly write an email to authorised flight permission agents (AFPAs) for an approval of a schedule of at least six months.

Pakistan has been inconsistent in its policy on permitting overflight for Indian VVIP planes ever since it shut its airspace for all commercial flights from April to August this year following IAF strikes at Balakot.

It allowed former Minister for External Affairs, late Sushma Swaraj, in May and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's plane in June to fly through its skies for the SCO summit in Bishkek. But in September, permission was first denied for President Ram Nath Kovind's flight to the U.S. and then for the PM's flight, also to the U.S. Last week, India's request was again rejected for Mr. Modi's travel to Saudi Arabia via Pakistan airspace.

So, why does India approach Pakistan for flying through its skies only to have its request turned down?

"India is trying to build a pattern of behaviour to show that Pakistan is being unreasonable and given that we have had some success at the International Court of Justice (for counsellor access to Kulbhushan Jadhav) it is clear that the international community is receptive to India's concerns," an MEA official said on the condition of anonymity.

## Sidhu seeks permission to visit Kartarpur

CM forwards letter to Chief Secretary

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amrinder Singh has forwarded former Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu's letter requesting permission to visit Pakistan for the Kartarpur Corridor inauguration to the Chief Secretary.

An official spokesperson said on Saturday that Captain Amarinder received the letter in the morning and immediately sent it off to the Chief Secretary.

"Along with all other MLAs, Mr. Sidhu has been invited to the all-party Jatha from Punjab to Kartarpur Sahib through the Kartarpur Corridor on November 9. The DCs have contacted the MLAs in their districts, and the Amritsar DC has been pursuing the matter with Mr. Sidhu's office, but he has failed to respond," the Chief



Navjot Singh Sidhu

Minister told mediapersons.

He said that with the rest of the Sikhs, he was happy to visit the Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara, which had always been part of their "ardas". But he was still suspicious of Pakistan's intent and believed the Kartarpur Corridor was an operation by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to woo the Sikhs ahead of Referendum 2020, being promoted under the guise of Sikhs for Justice (SFJ).

## 'RCEP pact will hit economy hard'

It will result in untold hardship for farmers, shopkeepers and small enterprises: Sonia

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Saturday said the Indian economy was under siege and signing the proposed trade agreement, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), would deliver a "body blow to the economy, resulting in untold hardship for farmers, shopkeepers and small enterprises".

Addressing a meeting of general secretaries, heads of frontal organisations and senior leaders at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters here, Ms. Gandhi accused Prime Mi-



Sonia Gandhi

nister Narendra Modi of being busy "managing headlines" and events instead of acknowledging the severe slowdown and looking for a comprehensive resolution.

She also raised the recent revelations of snooping of

## Three arrested in U.P. for beating man to death

Lynching video shared on social media

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

A video, purporting to show the lynching in Uttar Pradesh's Fatehpur district, was widely shared on social media.

The footage shows a man lying on the ground, almost motionless, as some villagers take turns to rain lathi blows on him.

On October 30, Nasir Qureshi, visiting the house of his in-laws in Semor village, had an argument with his wife and then hacked her to death with an axe. Qureshi,

who lived in Chhattisgarh, was attacked by a mob, and he died of injuries, the police said.

Fatehpur SP Prashant Verma said three persons were arrested on the basis of the footage and a search was on for others.

Sripal Yadav, circle officer, Jafarganj, said the video that had not surfaced on the day of the incident was being investigated. A case had been registered against unidentified persons on a complaint from the brother of the deceased.

## 'WhatsApp's disclosure to CERT-IN lost in jargon'

Sources say the communication had no mention of Pegasus

ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL  
NEW DELHI

While WhatsApp provided information to CERT-IN, a government agency, in May about the hacking of phones using malware through its messaging platform, the communication was in technical jargon without any mention of Pegasus or the extent of the breach, sources say.

Responding to allegations over the breach of privacy of several Indian WhatsApp users using Israeli surveillance software Pegasus, the Facebook-owned messaging company has said that it remains committed to protecting all messages of its users.

In a statement, WhatsApp said, "Our highest priority is the privacy and security of



WhatsApp users. In May, we quickly resolved a security issue and notified relevant Indian and international government authorities. Since then, we've worked to identify targeted users to ask the courts to hold the international spyware firm known

## New Indian map shows UTs of J&K, Ladakh

President issues notification

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Survey of India has redrawn the map of India to depict the newly formed Union Territories (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh. Areas such as Gilgit, Gilgit Wazarat, Chilas and the Tribal Territory of 1947 that have been occupied by Pakistan are included in the Ladakh UT.

Other areas in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) such as Mirpur and Muzaffarabad have been included in the J&K UT.

The President of India issued a notification on Saturday to define the districts in the two UTs that came into being on October 31 as per the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019. "The new UT of Ladakh consists of two districts of Kargil and Leh. The rest of the former State of Jammu and Kashmir is in the new UT of J&K," the Home Ministry said.

In 1947, J&K had 14 districts: Kathua, Jammu, Udhampur, Reasi, Anantnag, Baramulla, Poonch, Mirpur, Muzaffarabad, Leh and Ladakh, Gilgit, Gilgit Wazarat,



The map depicting the new UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. ■ PTI

Chilhas and Tribal Territory. By 2019, they were reorganised into 28 districts. The new districts were Kupwara, Bandipur, Ganderbal, Srinagar, Budgam, Pulwama, Shupian, Kulgam, Rajouri, Ramban, Doda, Kishtivar, Samba and Kargil.

"The Leh district of the new Union Territory of Ladakh has been defined in the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Removal of Difficulties) Second Order, 2019, issued by the President of India, to include the areas of the districts of Gilgit, Gilgit Wazarat, Chilas and Tribal Territory of 1947, in addition to the remaining areas of Leh and Ladakh districts of 1947, after carving out the Kargil District," the notification said.

## Hooda named CLP leader in Haryana

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday named former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda as the leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) in the 90-member Assembly.

At a press conference at the party headquarters, Congress general secretary in charge of Haryana Ghulam Nabi Azad said the newly elected lawmakers of the party had left the decision of appointing the CLP leader to party president Sonia Gandhi.

Ms. Gandhi appointed Mr. Hooda as the new CLP leader and "the proposal was passed unanimously," Mr. Azad said.

The Congress won 31 seats in the election, 14 short of the majority mark to form a government in the State.

## 'Jay Shah delayed filings to hide rise in fortunes'

We will raise it in Parliament: Cong.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday alleged that Jay Amit Shah, son of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, delayed the "mandatory filing of statement of accounts of his business firm with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) for the past two years and filed after the Lok Sabha election to hide a huge jump in the firm's fortunes".

At a press conference at the party headquarters, party spokesperson Pawan Khera said that Mr. Jay Shah's firm — Kusum Finserv Ltd — did not file the statement of accounts for 2017 and 2018.

### 'Post Lok Sabha poll'

"If you and I had failed to do so, it would be termed an offence and a penalty of up to ₹5 lakh would have been imposed. This provisions does not apply to Prince Jay Amit Shah as he does not submit his accounts in 2017 nor does he do it in 2018. He waits until the Lok Sabha elections are over," Mr. Khera said.

"Now, let us see why he has to wait for the elections to be over. In 2014 the annual income of Kusum Finserv Ltd. was ₹80 lakh. By 2019, the earning had gone up to ₹119.6 crore and in 2017, it was as high as ₹143 crore," he said and asserted that all the figures were in the public domain, including the website of the MCA.



Jay Amit Shah

If you and I had failed to do so, it would be termed an offence and a penalty of up to ₹5 lakh would have been imposed

PAWAN KHERA  
Congress spokesperson

On Friday, a similar news-report was published by *The Caravan* magazine as well that detailed the growth of the business fortunes of Mr. Shah's firm.

### 'Type of business'

Between 2015 and 2019, the assets of the firm grew from ₹1.25 crore to ₹25.83 crore, Mr. Khera said.

"Nobody knows the type of business this company of Prince Shah of the Shah dynasty, Jai Amit Shah, does. What is this business that increased their income by 15,000%?" he said, adding that the Congress would raise the issue on the winter session of Parliament.

# Hong Kong protesters enter downtown

Businesses that were seen as pro-China, multiple subway stations, vandalised in commercial districts

REUTERS  
HONG KONG

Hong Kong police fired tear gas and water cannon on Saturday as thousands of democracy protesters defied authorities in another unauthorised march after Beijing vowed to tighten control over the unrest-plagued city. Commercial districts on the main island became a battleground as crowds of black-clad protesters, many wearing face masks despite a recent ban, clashed with riot police for hours.

Hardcore protesters hurled bricks and petrol bombs and vandalised multiple subway stations and businesses perceived to be pro-China – including the office of China's state-run Xinhua news agency, which had its windows smashed.

## Dozens of arrests

Police responded with sustained volleys of tear gas,



**Counter-attack:** An anti-government protester reacting as police fire tear gas during a march billed as a global 'emergency call' for autonomy in Hong Kong on Saturday. •REUTERS

scattering protesters with water cannon trucks and making dozens of arrests. After one clash, an AFP reporter saw around 100 people being taken away in three coaches.

By evening, the clashes had moved across the harbour to Mongkok and Tsim Sha Tsui, two areas that have seen regular skirmishes in recent months. In a statement Xinhua condemned

the "barbaric acts" of the protesters who targeted their office. The latest unrest came after China warned on Friday that it would not tolerate any challenge to Hong Kong's governing system and

planned to boost patriotic education in the city, which has seen 22 consecutive weekends of youth-led protests.

Hong Kong has been upended by the huge, often violent, pro-democracy protests which have battered the financial hub's reputation for stability and plunged the city into recession. Beijing has shown no willingness to meet protester demands for greater democratic freedoms and police accountability – and activists show no sign of leaving the streets. "The entire government is being controlled by the central government now, so we have to come out to protect the freedoms we deserve," added another 17-year-old protester. Police had rejected an application for an afternoon march, citing safety fears. But as often in the past, protesters simply defied the ban with thousands turning up before the clashes began.

# Iraq cleric warns foreign actors against interfering in protests

Anti-government demonstrations have left 250 dead

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BAGHDAD

Iraq's top cleric warned foreign actors on Friday against interfering in his country's anti-government protests as they entered a second month despite pledges of reform and violence that has left over 250 dead.

The demonstrations have evolved since October 1 from rage over corruption and unemployment to demands for a total government overhaul – shunning both politicians and religious figures along the way.

They have even condemned the influence of the Hashed al-Shaabi paramilitary factions, who have descended into the streets of the capital and elsewhere to flex their muscles.

In his weekly sermon, top Shia religious authority



**Rage against graft:** Iraqi anti-government protesters near Tahrir Square Baghdad last month. •AP

Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani said Iraq must not be dragged "into the abyss of infighting". "No person or group, no side with a particular view, no regional or international actor may seize the will of the Iraqi people and impose its will on them," he said.

On Friday, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo urged the Iraqi government to "listen to the legitimate demands made by the Iraqi people," saying an official probe undertaken last month into suppression of the protests "lacked sufficient credibility".

# Pak. military backs govt. amid resignation calls

Islamists give Imran an ultimatum

REUTERS  
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's powerful military said it supported the country's elected government and the Constitution, as tens of thousands of Opposition protesters gathered in the capital demanding that Prime Minister Imran Khan's year-old government quits by Sunday.

"We believe in the law and the Constitution and our support is with the democratically elected government, not with any party," military spokesman Major General Asif Ghafoor said in

comments to a television news channel late on Friday.

Earlier on Friday, the Opposition had demanded that Mr. Khan and his administration resign within two days, raising the stakes in a protest campaign that the government has denounced as a threat to democracy.

The leader of the protest, religious party chief Fazl-ur-Rehman, told a rally of tens of thousands of supporters that he did not want a "collision with institutions", a thinly veiled reference to the military, and called on them to be impartial.

# Chile march draws 20,000 demonstrators

They demand justice for those killed and injured in two weeks of unrest

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
SANTIAGO

Dressed in black, marching silently and raising one fist, around a thousand women on Friday demanded justice for those killed and injured during the last two weeks of social unrest in Chile. Their march started off a day of demonstrations on a long weekend in the country, expanding later as tens of thousands answered social media calls to match last Friday's huge protest that attracted more than a million people.

Santiago authorities said the protest in the city drew about 20,000 demonstrators, including many young

people and families. Isolated clashes broke out after security forces tried to disperse protesters with tear gas and water cannon.

"Justice, truth, no to impunity," chanted the women marchers in front of the presidential palace in central Santiago, as their silent protest burst to life. They held up signs paying tribute to the 20 people killed and more than 1,300 injured during the protests, according to statistics provided by the National Human Rights Institute.

Protesters, whose rally coincided with the Christian holiday of All Saints Day, stood in silence holding one



A protester in Santiago, Chile, waving a Mapuche flag. •REUTERS

fist aloft in front of impassive police guarding the presidential palace. "We're not going to back down until the

government answers us about the deaths. We feel betrayed by this government," said Marco, a 22-year-old student.

In the central Plaza Italia square, which has been the epicentre of the protest movement these last two weeks – thousands waved Chilean and Mapuche indigenous flags.

Protesters in the country of 18 million people are angry about low salaries and pensions, poor public health care and education, and a yawning gap between rich and poor in Latin America's wealthiest country on a per capita basis.

# Yemen govt. to share power with separatists

Agreement to be signed on Tuesday

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
RIYADH

Yemen's internationally recognised government will sign an agreement with southern separatists on Tuesday aimed at ending a conflict simmering within the country's long-running civil war, Yemeni and Saudi officials said.

The power-sharing deal would see the secessionist Southern Transitional Council (STC) handed a number of Ministries, and the government return to the main southern city of Aden, according to officials

and Saudi media reports on Saturday. Yemeni Information Minister Muammar al-Iryani tweeted that an official signing ceremony for the "Riyadh Agreement" would take place in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday in the presence of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Yemeni President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi.

The UAE-backed Security Belt Forces in August took control of Aden, which had served as the government's base since it was ousted from the capital Sana'a by Houthi rebels in 2014.

# Turkey to send back foreign IS fighters

Some of them have been stripped of their nationality

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
ISTANBUL

The Turkish government said on Saturday that it would send foreign Islamic State (IS) fighters captured in Syria back to their countries of origin, despite the unwillingness of European states to take them in.

Interior Minister Süleyman Soyulu said Turkey would hold captured foreign fighters "for some time. After that we'll send them back to their countries". Mr. Soyulu said EU countries including the Netherlands and Britain had stripped some of the fighters of their nationality to prevent Ankara from sending them home.

"They found an easy solution," he said. "They say 'I took his nationality away, it's your problem now'. That's



Soldiers from Russia and Turkey began joint patrols on Friday in Hasakeh, Syria. •AFP

unacceptable in our view, that's totally irresponsible. What do you want me to do with your terrorists?"

Turkey last month launched an offensive in northeastern Syria against a Kurdish militia Turkey has branded "terrorists", but which was at the forefront in the fight against IS with the

backing of the West. As part of the offensive, Turkey took IS members previously held by the Kurds into custody.

Meanwhile, at least 13 people died on Saturday in a car bomb blast near a market in a Syrian border town controlled by Turkish forces, Ankara and a rights watchdog said. Turkey's military blamed the attack on the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) militia. A 120-km "safe zone" area between the Syrian towns of Tal Abyad and Ras al-Ain was established as part of a deal between Ankara and Washington, involving a ceasefire and the YPG's full withdrawal. On Friday, Turkish troops began joint patrols with Russian forces in northern Syria to ensure the withdrawal.

# U.K. places moratorium on fracking

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

The British government called a halt on Saturday to the controversial process of "fracking" due to fears it could trigger earthquakes, in a surprise U-turn just weeks before a general election. But with just a few weeks to go before the polls – where environmental issues are expected to feature prominently – Business and Energy Secretary Andrea Leadsom announced a "moratorium" at what is currently the U.K.'s only operational shale gas well in Lancashire, northwest England.

Fracking or hydraulic fracturing is used to release oil and gas locked deep underground.

# U.S. panel to probe TikTok app

Lawmakers fear it could be used by China for spying

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

The U.S. government has opened a national security investigation into the Chinese-owned video app TikTok, *The New York Times* reported on Friday.

The report, citing anonymous sources, said the review by an intergovernmental panel may be looking into whether the app, popular for its music videos, was sending data to China.

The investigation is led by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S., a government panel that reviews acquisitions in the United States by foreign companies, the report said. The news comes after lawmakers called for a review of the national security risks of TikTok, warning it could be

used for spying by Beijing.

A review could look into the acquisition in 2017 of TikTok, which at the time was known as Musical.ly, by Beijing-based ByteDance. The deal gave the Chinese company the app, which has been popular with youth for homemade karaoke videos and which now has an estimated 500 million users worldwide.

Senator Marco Rubio welcomed news about the review. "Last month I asked @USTreasury to conduct a CFIUS review of @tiktok\_us," Mr. Rubio tweeted. "Because any platform owned by a company in #China which collects massive amounts of data on Americans is a potential serious threat to our country." Senate Democratic leader

Chuck Schumer and Republican Senator Tom Cotton last week suggested that TikTok's owner ByteDance could be forced to share user information with Chinese intelligence. "With over 110 million downloads in the U.S. alone, TikTok is a potential counterintelligence threat we cannot ignore," the two Senators said in a letter to Acting Director of National Intelligence Joseph Maguire.

The Senators also warned that TikTok could potentially be used to influence voters in next year's election. TikTok said it could not comment on any regulatory matter but noted that it "has made clear that we have no higher priority than earning the trust of users and regulators in the U.S."

## ELSEWHERE



### Beto O'Rourke drops presidential bid

WASHINGTON Beto O'Rourke, the former Texas Congressman, announced on Friday that he was ending his Democratic presidential campaign. Addressing supporters in Iowa, Mr. O'Rourke said he made the decision "reluctantly" and vowed to stay active in the fight to defeat President Donald Trump. "I will be part of this and so will you," he said. •AP

### 9 children killed in Afghan landmine blast

KUNDUZ A landmine explosion killed nine children in northeastern Afghanistan on Saturday, an official said, amid an increase in civilian casualties in the long-running and brutal war. The blast happened in Darqaz district of Takhar province, when the children stepped on a mine that had been planted on a road in a Taliban-controlled village. •AFP

### 53 soldiers killed in Mali militant attack

BAMAKO At least 53 soldiers and one civilian have been killed in an attack on an Army post in northern Mali, the government said, in one of the deadliest strikes against the West African country's military in recent memory. The authorities first reported the attack in Indelimane, Menaka region, on Friday, but gave a lower toll. •REUTERS

### 30 Pak. migrants found in lorry in France

NICE More than 30 migrants from Pakistan were found hidden in a lorry in southern France, prosecutors said on Saturday. They said the driver, who was also from Pakistan, was detained. The group of 31 Pakistani migrants was discovered during a routine check on a motorway near the Italian border on Friday, French prosecutors said. •AFP

## SUDOKU

9	2							
7		6		9				4
		3	5		1			
		4	8	6			9	
3								8
		8		5	7	3		
			1		6	8		
	3			8		7		1
							3	9

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	6	3	9	7	1	2	4	5
9	4	1	5	2	8	3	6	7
7	5	2	3	6	4	9	8	1
5	1	6	8	4	9	7	3	2
3	8	4	7	1	2	5	9	6
2	7	9	6	3	5	4	1	8
6	2	7	1	9	3	8	5	4
1	3	8	4	5	7	6	2	9
4	9	5	2	8	6	1	7	3

# Johnson's pre-poll lead could wither away

Nigel Farage's Brexit Party could act as a spoiler, draining away Conservative votes in election

MARK LANDLER  
STEPHEN CASTLE  
LONDON

Prime Minister Boris Johnson visited a primary school in Suffolk where he showed children old pictures of London. His opponent, Jeremy Corbyn, promised a crowd in London that the Labour Party would never sell out Britain's National Health Service to greedy American companies.

Then, shortly after 6 p.m. on Thursday, Nigel Farage, the insurgent leader of the Brexit Party, welcomed a special guest to his national radio show: President Donald Trump, calling in from Washington to disparage Mr. Corbyn and urge Mr. Johnson to forge a hard-line pro-Brexit alliance with Mr. Farage. In less than 30 minutes of drive-time banter, Mr. Trump had utterly scrambled the narrative, dominating the next day's headlines. Mr. Johnson plans to run on a simple message: Get

Brexit done quickly, under the agreement he negotiated with the European Union, so that Britain can embark on a shiny future of profitable trade deals with the United States and other countries.

## Battle of narratives

Yet he, too, is a hostage to fortune, facing the danger that the narrative may shift unpredictably and in ways that hurt the Conservative Party. Something like that occurred in Mr. Farage's interview with Mr. Trump, when the President said that Mr. Johnson's Brexit deal would foreclose the possibility of a trade agreement with the United States. That undercut Mr. Johnson, who has made such a deal a major selling point for his plan and, indeed, the country's future.

Other dangers lurk, particularly in Britain's winner-take-all electoral system, where the small Brexit Party could act as a spoiler, draining away just enough votes in



**PM goes to school:** U.K. leader Boris Johnson with students at a school in Bury St. Edmunds on October 31. •GETTY IMAGES

enough closely contested districts to swing the balance of power in Parliament toward Labour.

Mr. Johnson is starting out with an undisputed advantage. A poll released Thursday by Ipsos MORI showed the Conservatives leading Labour by 41% to 24% nationally. That would translate into a 108-seat Conservative majority in Parliament, according to Tony Travers, a professor of politics and London School of Economics. These are the

kind of numbers that emboldened Mr. Johnson to call an election now.

The Conservative Party is going after a swath of Labour seats in northern England and the Midlands, where people voted for Brexit in the 2016 referendum and are frustrated that it has not happened. The party has identified a target voter, named "Workington Man," for the coastal town of Workington, in northwest England, which is surrounded by remnants of the coal and steel indus-

tries. He is older, white, not college-educated, a lover of the rugby league and a Labour voter who supported leaving the European Union and feels left behind by the Britain of today. These voters care more about economic security than individual liberty. They favour putting additional police on the streets and toughening immigration policies, according to a study by the right-wing think tank Onward, which coined the phrase Workington Man.

The problem for Mr. Johnson is that he has staffed his Cabinet with politicians who favour deregulation and free trade, viewing Britain's future less as a Tory welfare state than as an agile free agent in the global economy – Singapore-on-Thames, to use the popular shorthand. How Mr. Johnson reconciles Singapore-on-Thames with Workington Man will be one of the tensions of the election. •NY TIMES

## Planters concerned with RCEP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
COIMBATORE

The United Planters' Association of Southern India (UPASI) has said that plantation commodities should be kept out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), if India signs the agreement.

AL. Rm. Nagappan, president, UPASI, said in a statement that in 2018-2019, the trade deficit in plantation commodities was ₹5,716 crore with RCEP countries, though India had overall trade surplus in these commodities.

"This indicates that plantation commodities will be losing significantly if the RCEP agreement materialises," he said. "We fear further reduction in tariff proposed can only worsen trade deficit in plantation commodities."

Among these commodities, natural rubber and pepper have an overall trade deficit, irrespective of RCEP.

This is because natural rubber is classified as an industrial raw material and pepper imports have increased because of multiple bilateral and multilateral trade agreements. Coffee exports by India are high with more than 75% of production exported. However, with RCEP countries, there is a trade deficit to the tune of ₹16,435 crore.

"This suggests that the Indian coffee sector will be a loser. China is a partner country in the proposed RCEP. Though it is the largest producer of green tea, China makes black CTC tea, too, for the export market. We fear that the rules of origin criteria will be taken advantage of to route tea through the ASEAN countries who have a duty advantage," he said.

## 'Reliance digital push a bid to lure buyers'

'Reliance Jio will be an ideal opportunity for the U.S. telecommunications majors to enter India'

PIYUSH PANDEY  
MUMBAI

Reliance Industries Ltd.'s (RIL) decision to set up a wholly owned subsidiary for digital initiatives is aimed at divesting stakes directly in this arm, in Reliance Jio or selling a portion of the assets of the former, a person in the know of the development told *The Hindu*.

Potential strategic and financial partners showed strong interest in the proposal after RIL CMD Mukesh Ambani hinted during the company's AGM at inducting leading global partners in the consumer-facing businesses of the oil-to-retail conglomerate.

"We will induct leading global partners in these businesses (Reliance Retail and Reliance Jio) in the next few quarters, and move towards



**Money calling:** Potential strategic and financial partners have already showed strong interest in the proposal. • AFP

listing of both these companies within the next five years," Mr. Ambani had said.

"Creating a separate digital platforms company and segregating it from Reliance Jio will help Reliance to sell strategic and financial stakes

at two levels," said the person. "One at the digital platform level, which holds all digital assets and another at Reliance Jio level."

When asked for comments, investment adviser S. P. Tulsian told *The Hindu*,

**Digital platform will house all Jio apps, company's investment in digital platforms and tech capabilities**

"U.S. telecommunication majors AT&T and Verizon are yet to enter India which is one of the world's largest telecommunications markets. "Reliance Jio will be an ideal opportunity for the U.S. majors to enter India," he said.

**Housing all apps**

RIL's digital platform will house all Jio apps, the company's investment in digital platforms such as Den and Hathway cable and technical capabilities such as big data, artificial intelligence, blockchain, machine learning, Internet of Things and

robotics.

To raise valuations, the digital platforms company and Reliance Jio will be virtually debt-free on the lines of global large platforms companies like Alphabet, Amazon, Facebook and Apple.

"Debt-free holding company with capital structure similar to global technology peers make it attractive for strategic investments [and] partnerships," said RIL in a presentation to analysts.

"At the AGM, Mr. Ambani announced a partnership with Microsoft for digital transformation; I won't be surprised if the technology major picks up direct stake in the digital platforms company or some of its digital assets going forward," said a Mumbai-based analyst who didn't wish to be named.

## 'Relaxed norms may boost tea tourism'

West Bengal allows 15% of land in a tea garden to be used for economic activities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

The tea industry in West Bengal is witnessing a major boost to employment with the State government's relaxation of norms for use of leasehold land in a tea garden.

The move may induce garden owners to promote tourism, horticulture projects and other allied economic activities, said P.K. Bhattacharjee, secretary general, Tea Association of India

**Well-intentioned act**

"The calibrated manner in which the State's land laws have been amended speaks of the government's well-intentioned acts in this direction," he said.

The West Bengal govern-



The move may also boost horticulture projects and allied economic activities.

ment recently allowed the tea industry to use 15% of land in a tea garden for other economic activities, including tea tourism and horticulture. However, it bars housing projects.

Indian Tea Association (ITA) chairman Vivek Goenka said that the ITA had already identified crops cultivable in West Bengal and the government's initiative would allow it on a commercial scale.

In 2015, the West Bengal Government had amended relevant schedules of the West Bengal Estates Acquisition Act to allow tea estates to use leasehold land for horticulture, medicinal plant farming, dairy farms and micro hydel project besides tea tourism projects.

However, this had capped the relaxation to certain fixed proportions for various uses at 20 acres.

Now, this has been increased to 150 hectares. ITA

noted that by not allowing housing activities, the government had communicated its resolve not to disturb the present ecosystem.

The government has also assured of a 'Tea and Tourism Allied Industry Policy 2019' to complement these initiatives.

The tea industry has been plagued by rising costs (around ₹185 a kg) and stagnant prices (about ₹157.5 per kg in West Bengal). In this scenario, many gardens have begun incurring losses.

Productivity and quality too have been an issue, especially in view of the ageing bushes, which many estate owners have failed to rejuvenate, leading to low yields and poor quality.

## Indiabulls arm sells London property

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Indiabulls Real Estate said it has sold its property in London to a promoter group firm for £200 million as part of its plan to focus on India business and cut debt.

At its AGM on September 28, the firm's shareholders had approved a proposal to sell the property to promoters for £200 million. In a filing, the firm said the "company's wholly owned subsidiary has divested its entire stake in Century Ltd, which indirectly owns Hanover Square property, London to Clivedale Overseas Ltd., an entity owned by promoters of the company."

## Changes in banking hours unsettle customers, say unions

Centre's move aimed at facilitating ease of doing business

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

The revision of public sector bank (PSB) timings beginning November 1 has ended up causing confusion among customers accustomed to particular banking hours.

The change in timings follow a government order aimed at facilitating ease of doing business.

The timing for branches in each of these areas have been decided by the State

Level Bankers Committee.

In Maharashtra, a branch in an area categorised as residential, will have banking hours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and customer banking hours from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A branch located in a commercial area will work from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and customer banking hours of 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Branches in all other areas and offices will have banking hours from 10 a.m. to 5 pm. and customer bank-

ing hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Timings may differ for other States.

"As per Central government direction in the name of ease of doing business, all banks have changed timings with effect from November 1 but this has created lot of chaos. Banks have not changed the boards or given notice," said Devidas Tuljapurkar, general secretary, Maharashtra State Bank Employees Federation.

## U.S. Treasury Secretary meets Das

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

The United States Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin met Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das on Saturday and discussed domestic macro economic scenario, the central bank said in a statement.

"The discussions covered global and domestic macro-economic scenario in both countries and regulatory developments," a statement said.

## L&T looks to derisk West Asia business

Revenue from region down to 50% of global revenues from 80% earlier

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Larsen and Toubro (L&T) is looking to diversify its global operations in politically stable countries to derisk its concentration in West Asia, from where it gets most of its revenues.

International orders constitute about 22%, or ₹66,709 crore of L&T's order book, and during the second quarter alone, the company bagged international orders worth ₹16,675 crore, accounting for 35% of the total order inflow – most of them

from West Asia. "We have benefitted internationally from the major expansion plan of Saudi Aramco, which is doing major developments of its fields. We have bagged major contracts to build oil and gas platforms. We are also benefiting from the refinery expansion plan of Aramco," S.N. Subrahmanyam, MD & CEO, L&T, said.

The firm sees West Asia as a worry and has decided to diversify in the wake of the geopolitical tensions in the region due to broadening of tensions between Iran, Saudi

## RBI search panel may back economist for Deputy Governor

'Tussle between economists, IAS lobby'

MANOJIT SAHA  
MUMBAI

The appointment of the deputy governor in the Reserve Bank of India to fill up the vacancy that was created after Viral Acharya's departure could be a complicated one.

This is because there is a strong view in a section of the bureaucracy that the post, traditionally held by an economist, should be filled by a civil servant this time.

On the flip side, despite the strong push by the IAS lobby to do away with an economist deputy governor, some members of the search panel feel tradition should be maintained since it is a specialist's job.

The interviews for the post, vacant for more than three months, is scheduled for November 7.

The RBI has four deputy governors – two are appointed from outside while the remaining two are promoted from within. Of the two that from outside, one is a commercial banker and the other, an economist.

Mr. Acharya, C.V. Starr Professor of Economics in the Department of Finance at New York University Stern School of Business, resigned from the deputy governor's post six months before his tenure ended. Mr. Acharya's last working day at the RBI was July 23.

Before Mr. Acharya, Urjit Patel was the economist-Deputy Governor at the RBI. He later became the Governor after Raghuram Rajan's term ended. According to sources, despite hectic lobbying by bureaucrats, an



economist may be finally chosen as Mr. Acharya's successor since the deputy governor is also in the monetary policy committee that decides interest rates. The economist deputy governor is also in charge of the all important monetary policy department.

Sources said that earlier too, when the vacancy for commercial banker-deputy governor came up, there was a strong push to appoint a bureaucrat. The Financial Sector Regulatory Appointment Search Committee is responsible for selecting the candidate.

On August 1, the government had invited applications to fill up the Deputy Governor's post, but did not specify that only economists must apply. According to the advertisement, the applicant should have at least 25 years' work experience in public administration, including at the level of secretary or equivalent in the central government.

Candidates with at least 25 years of work experience in an Indian or international public financial institution could also apply. The appointment is for three years and the person was eligible for reappointment.

INTERVIEW | SANTIAGO CROCI

## 'Focus on enforcing contracts, land administration'

Higher you go, more difficult it is to improve: World Bank's Croci on India eyeing top 50 for Doing Business

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

The World Bank's *Doing Business 2020* study, released last week, showed that India improved 14 places from 77 to 63 out of 190 countries in the *Ease of Doing Business (EODB)* rankings. Bank economist, Santiago Croci, who led the data collection and analysis for the study, discusses linkages between the indicators and macro economy, among others. Excerpts:

**On the link between the overall economic situation in India and the Doing Business indicators**

Doing Business, what they've measured, is [concerned with] regulations that are more at micro level and not at the macro level. So, there are little things that can impact the business environment of a country that are not covered by Doing Business.

So, things such as security, the level of education of workers in a given country, infrastructure, broadly speaking, are not covered under Doing Business. What we measure are business regulations that affect local, small companies.

Also, the process of reform that the government undertakes, takes years. In the case of India, we've been working... or they have been

engaged in *Doing Business* indicators for a few years now and you see the results of those efforts down the line.

And during that time, you can see economic impact due to many factors that are not directly related to Doing Business measurements.

**For 11 economies, data are collected from the largest and second-largest business cities. The EODB score is arrived at by taking a population-weighted average of the scores for each city. On reports that Kolkata and Bengaluru are going to be counted in the scoring from next year.**

There are no final decisions on this. We are in discussions with the senior management of the bank and the Government of India to see if at some point we could

include additional cities. We would inform our stakeholders in advance and there will be some sort of collaboration with the countries that ... would be affected by this change, if it happens.

So, doing business does focus on the largest business cities.

Now, with regards whether or not it's a limitation or is not representative, I think we need to be very careful, because, as a matter of fact, it is not true that because they're a larger city, business is easier. It really depends on each country and many different factors.

There's a big chunk of the data that is based on legislation that is applicable at national level.

For instance, if you look at the bankruptcy laws, the secure transactions legal framework, Companies Act, all of these are, generally, in most countries, the same across regions.

So there's a big chunk of the data that will not vary regardless of which city we take into account. Second, there are aspects of doing business here that do change from one city to another.



And these are more of... if you take a look at procedural... procedures such as construction permits, starting a business, getting electricity, [for] those we see more variation.

But again, it's not because you are in the largest city that the process is going to be easier. So, yes, it's a limitation, but going so far as to say it's not representative... I think it's a bit too much.

**On what it will take for India to make a jump into the Top 50.**

The higher you go, the more difficult it is to improve. The dual areas that I see where India could do the

most progress are maybe some of the most difficult ones to reform. India's score in the *Doing Business 2020* 'enforcing contracts' indicator is one of the country's lowest scores. That's an indicator that looks at commercial disputes and the efficiency of courts.

For example, in Mumbai it takes three times longer than in other cities of high income economies to solve commercial disputes through courts.

Another area that I think would be the land administration system, the registered property indicator, where India also ranks pretty low and where there is a lot of room for improvement.

Mumbai, in this case, scores 14 out of 30 so there are a lot of things that can be improved. Delhi's score is even lower [8 out of 30].

**How is India expected to fare when 'contracting with the government' is incorporated into the EODB indicator next year?**

It's too early to tell, because we are still refining the methodology of that indicator.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI					
Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, TTD, TIRUPATI					
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE					
Adv.No. 18/D3/CE/TTD/2019-20					
Sl No.	NIT NO.	Name of the Work	Estimate Amt. Rs.in Lakhs & Time for completion	Schedule Download Start Date	Download end date & last date for bid submission
<b>Superintending Engineer-I</b>					
1	61/SE-I/TTD/2019-20	Construction of Third floor over the existing Additional hostel block and conversion of old dining hall and kitchen into rooms in old hostel block in SGS Arts College at Tirupati	700.00 9 months	07.11.2019 5.00 pm	22.11.2019 1.00pm & 3.00pm
2	62/SE-I/TTD/2019-20	Construction of additional Floors over existing two hostel blocks with precast concrete technology in SPW College Campus at Tirupati	2770.00 7 Months	08.11.2019 5.00 PM	25.11.2019 1.00pm & 3.00pm
3	63/SE-I/TTD/2019-20	Construction of additional Floors over existing Hariji Hostel Block and conversion of rooms in Srinivasa and Gandhi Hostels in SPW College Campus at Tirupati	1990.00 12 Months	15.11.2019 5.00 PM	30.11.2019 1.00pm & 3.00pm
4	64/SE-I/TTD/2019-20	Providing Di Pipeline from Thukivakam Campus treatment plant to Avilala tank at Tirupati	800.00 9 Months	16.11.2019 5.00 PM	02.12.2019 1.00pm & 3.00pm
<b>Superintending Engineer-II</b>					
5	267/SE-II/TTD/2019-20	Expression of Interest for disposal of Dry Waste generated from Tirumala	EOI-offline Tender -10 years	04.11.2019 5.00 PM	19.11.2019 1.00pm & 3.00pm
For NIT No.267/SE-II/TTD/2019-20 EOI document can be downloaded from TTD Website ( <a href="http://www.tirumala.org">www.tirumala.org</a> ) and also can be purchased at O/o SE-II, TTD Tirupati from 04.11.2019 10.30AM to 19.11.2019 upto 1.00 PM IST during office hours and shall be deposited in Tender box kept in O/o SE-II, TTD, Tirupati on or before 19.11.2019 by 3.00 pm IST					
6	268/SE-II/TTD/2019-20	Construction of 5.0 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant at Pachikaiva Gangamma Gudi near outer ring Road, Tirumala	960.00 (Open Tender+ Percentage Tender) 2 Years	05.11.2019 5.00 PM	21.11.2019 1.00pm & 3.00pm
7	269/SE-II/TTD/2019-20	Construction of Crash Barriers, CR Masonry to Central dividers, formation of foot path, slope stabilization works and other ancillary works to the Tiruvetikalpadam Phase-III Ring Road at Tirumala Narayanagiri Rest House-I Junction to GG Dam Junction)	880.00 9 Months	05.11.2019 5.00 PM	20.11.2019 1.00pm & 3.00pm
<b>Superintending Engineer-IV</b>					
8	63/SE-IV/TTD/2019-20	Construction of Sri Padmavathi Ammavari Temple at GN Chetty Street, Chennai, Tamil Nadu State	575.00 24 months	04.11.2019 5.00 PM	19.11.2019 1.00pm & 3.00pm
<b>Superintending Engineer (Elec) TTD, Tirupati</b>					
9	110/SE(Elec)/TTD/TPT/2019-20	Reamping of existing centralised Air Conditioning system provided for Operation theatres, recovery rooms, ICUs Specialty blocks, OPD Block etc in SVIMS Hospital, Tirupati	Open tender 6 Months Pre-Bid Meeting 08.11.2019 @3.00PM	06.11.2019 5.00 PM	21.11.2019 1.00 pm & 3.00PM
Note : For full details log on to the website: <a href="https://tender.apecurement.gov.in/">https://tender.apecurement.gov.in/</a> or <a href="http://www.apecurement.gov.in">http://www.apecurement.gov.in</a>					
Rec. No.PR/4/13912/Adv.No.291/PRO/2019, Dt:02.11.2019					
					EXECUTIVE OFFICER



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

## Sequencing Indian genes

How will CSIR's 'IndiGen' project lead to precision medicine and develop its commercial gene testing services?

JACOB KOSHY

**The story so far:** The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) recently announced the conclusion of a six-month exercise (from April 2019) of conducting a "whole-genome sequence" of a 1,008 Indians. The project is part of a programme called "IndiGen" and is also seen as a precursor to a much larger exercise involving other government departments to map a larger swathe of the population in the country. Project proponents say this will widen public understanding in India about genomes and the information that genes hide about one's susceptibility to disease.

### What is whole genome sequencing?

A genome is the DNA, or sequence of genes, in a cell. Most of the DNA is in the nucleus and intricately coiled into a structure called the chromosome. The rest is in the mitochondria, the cell's powerhouse. Every human cell contains a pair of chromosomes, each of which has three billion base pairs or one of four molecules that pair in precise ways. The order of base pairs and varying lengths of these sequences constitute the "genes", which are responsible for making amino acids, proteins and, thereby, everything that is necessary for the body to function. It is when these genes are altered or mutated that proteins sometimes do not function as intended, leading to disease.

Sequencing a genome means deciphering the exact order of base pairs in an individual. This "deciphering" or reading of the genome is what sequencing is all about. Costs of sequencing differ based on the methods employed to do the reading or the accuracy stressed upon in decoding the genome. Since an initial rough draft of the human genome was made available in 2000,

The IndiGen project, that sequenced the genes of 1,008 Indians, ties in with a much larger programme funded by the Department of Biotechnology to sequence at least 10,000 Indian genomes

the cost of generating a fairly accurate "draft" of any individual genome has fallen to a tenth, or to a ball park figure of around \$1,000 (₹70,000 approximately). It has been known that the portion of the genes responsible for making proteins – called the exome – occupies about 1% of the actual gene. Rather than sequence the whole gene, many geneticists rely on "exome

maps" (that is the order of exomes necessary to make proteins). However, it has been established that the non-exome portions also affect the functioning of the genes and that, ideally, to know which genes of a person's DNA are "mutated" the genome has to be mapped in its entirety. While India, led by the CSIR, first sequenced an Indian genome in 2009, it is only now that the organisation's laboratories have been able to scale up whole-genome sequencing and offer them to the public.

### How did the CSIR enterprise work?

Under "IndiGen", the CSIR drafted about 1,000 youth from across India by organising camps in several colleges and educating attendees on genomics and the role of genes in disease. Some students and participants donated blood samples from where their DNA sequences were collected.

Globally, many countries have undertaken genome sequencing of a sample of their citizens to determine unique genetic traits, susceptibility (and resilience) to disease. This is the first time that such a large sample of Indians will be recruited for a detailed study. The project ties in with a much larger programme funded by the Department of Biotechnology to sequence at least 10,000 Indian genomes. The CSIR's "IndiGen" project, as it is called, selected the 1,000-odd from a pool of about 5,000 and sought to include representatives from every State and diverse ethnicities. Every person whose genomes are sequenced would be given a report. The participants would be informed if they carry gene variants that make them less responsive to certain classes of medicines. For instance, having a certain gene makes some people less responsive to clopidogrel, a key drug that prevents strokes and heart attack. The project involved the Hyderabad-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), the CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), and cost ₹18 crore.

### What are the costs?

Anyone looking for a free mapping of their entire genome can sign up for "IndiGen". Those who get their genes mapped will get a card and access to an app which will allow them and doctors to access information on whether they harbour gene variants that are reliably known to correlate with genomes with diseases. However, there is no guarantee of a slot, as the scientists involved in the exercise say there is already a backlog. The project is free in so far as the CSIR scientists have a certain amount of money at their disposal. The driving motive of the project is to understand the extent of genetic variation in Indians, and learn why some genes – linked to certain diseases based on publications in international literature – do not always translate into disease. Once such knowledge is established, the CSIR expects to tie up with several pathology laboratories who can offer commercial gene testing services.

# Why is the telecom sector under stress?

Why has the Supreme Court order backing the Department of Telecom's definition of adjusted gross revenue hit the telcos?

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

**The story so far:** On October 24, in a strongly-worded order, the Supreme Court of India upheld the Department of Telecom (DoT)'s interpretation of "adjusted gross revenue" (AGR), which came as a huge blow to telecom service providers. Following the order, the telcos are now staring at dues of an estimated ₹1.4 lakh crore, which needs to be paid to the government within three months. Most industry players and analysts have argued that the payout of the huge amount could be the final straw for the already distressed sector.

### Why is AGR important?

The definition of AGR has been under litigation for 14 years. While telecom companies argued that it should comprise revenue from telecom services, the DoT's stand was that the AGR should include all revenue earned by an operator, including that from non-core telecom operations.

The AGR directly impacts the outgo from the pockets of telcos to the DoT as it is used to calculate the levies payable by operators. Currently, telecom operators pay 8% of the AGR as licence fee, while spectrum usage charges (SUC) vary between 3-5% of AGR.

### Why do telcos need to pay out large amounts?

Telecom companies now owe the government not just the shortfall in AGR for the past 14 years but also an interest on that amount along with penalty and interest on the penalty. While the exact amount telcos will need to shell out is not clear, as in a government affidavit filed in the top court, the DoT had calculated the outstanding licence fee to be over ₹92,000 crore. However, the actual payout can go up to ₹1.4 lakh crore as the government is likely to also raise a demand for shortfall in SUC along with interest and penalty. Of the total amount, it is estimated that the actual dues is about 25%, while the remaining amount is interest and penalties.

The total amount to the government is owed by about 15 operators. However, 10 of them have either closed operations or are undergoing insolvency proceedings in the last 14 years. They include Reliance Communications, Telenor, Tata Teleservices, Aircel and Videocon. Currently, the Indian telecom sector has four players – Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio, Vodafone Idea and state-owned BSNL/MTNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited/Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited) – so the government is unlikely to recover the entire amount of dues owed to it.

Of the current players, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea are the most affected by this order. While the total dues of Bharti Airtel are estimated to be about ₹42,000 crore, for Vodafone Idea the amount is around ₹40,000 crore.

The two state-run firms BSNL and MTNL together owe a little less than ₹5,000 crore just as licence fees. The least impacted by the Supreme Court order in the private sector is the relatively new entrant in the market, Reliance Jio. The Mukesh Ambani-owned firm forayed into the sector in September 2016 and owes the government about ₹14 crore.

### Is there stress in the sector?

The telecom industry is reeling under a debt of over ₹4 lakh crore and has been seeking a relief package from the government. Even the government has on various occasions admitted that the sector is indeed undergoing stress and needs support. Giving a ray of hope to the



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

telecom companies, the government recently announced setting up of a Committee of Secretaries to examine the financial stress in the sector, and recommend measures to mitigate it. The move came a few days after the Supreme Court ruling.

The Committee of Secretaries, headed by Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, will have Secretaries of Ministries of Finance, Telecommunication and Law, among others as members and look at "all aspects" of the financial stress. It will also consider some of the long-standing demands of the industry, including granting a delay in payment of dues for spectrum for the next two financial years (2020-21 and 2021-22). This move alone is expected to help telcos avoid an immediate outflow of over ₹42,000 crore, thereby increasing short-term liquidity. The committee will also look at demand of a reduction in the SUC and universal service obligation fund levy.

Interestingly, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) also simultaneously examine the merits of a "minimum charge" that operators may charge for voice and data services. Currently, telecom tariffs are among the lowest globally, driven down due to intense competition following the entry of Reliance Jio in the sector. Top-level executives from both Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea have in recent meetings with Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad sought government intervention to increase "unsustainable" tariffs. However, any decision on tariffs comes under the domain of sector regulator TRAI.

### Why are the private players fighting?

The rivalry between Reliance Jio and the two older operators, Airtel and Vodafone Idea, is not new. The two sides have been engaged in a public row ever since Jio's entry into the telecom market over a variety of issues. It is not much of a surprise that the two sides do not see eye to eye even on the issue of financial stress in the sector.

Reliance Jio earlier this week shot off a letter to Mr. Prasad strongly objecting to the relief sought by the other two players, and also stating that they both had the financial capacity and monetisation possibilities to "comfortably" pay government dues.

The Mukesh Ambani-owned firm pointed out that the Cellular Operators Association of India, the industry body of which Jio is also a member, in its letter to DoT on the industry's behalf did not include Jio's comments. It further added that the COAI had used a "threatening and blackmailing" tone with the government by referring to a possibility of a loss of jobs and investments in the sector if relief was not provided.

Jio has also alleged that these operators have not provisioned for the possibility of the liabilities following the Supreme Court judgment, which is binding on them as per the Indian Accounting Standards under the Companies Act, 2013. The other operators have maintained that the definition of AGR has been sub-judice since 2005 and that before the Supreme Court order, most rulings in several other courts, including the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal, have largely been favourable to telecom operators. Hence, these liabilities were not provided for.

Meanwhile, ignoring Reliance Jio's contentions, the COAI has sent off another note to DoT, requesting complete waiver of statutory dues as a result of the top court's order.

### Is India going to be a three-player market?

The country's telecom sector has seen a lot of consolidation over the past couple of years as a result of intense competition. Recently, the government also announced plans to merge the two telecom public sectors units, BSNL and MTNL, leaving only four players in the market. Many analysts have pointed out that in the event that the government does not announce any relief measures for the sector, Vodafone Idea would be in a "precarious situation", adding that there is a strong possibility that the Indian telecom market could eventually have only two private players.

This was also followed by reports stating that the company is looking at exiting the Indian market. However, Vodafone Group dismissed these as "not true and malicious".

### What happens next?

All the hopes of the industry are now pinned on measures the government announces as part of the relief package for the sector.

On the AGR-related dues, the operators have said that they are seeking clarity from the government on the total amount and have requested support to deal with this "adverse" outcome. The industry body has sought waiver of the complete amount, or at the least, the interests and the penalty charges. However, some experts have questioned whether the government can waive these amounts, given that the Supreme Court has explicitly said in its judgment that interest and penalty have rightly been levied. The top court had held: "... we find no substance in the submission that interest, penalty, and interest on penalty cannot be realised. It is as per the agreement. In the facts and circumstances, we find no ground to reduce the same, considering the nature of untenable objections raised on behalf of the licensees." The operators may also explore legal options and file for review.

# What is the project to redevelop Lutyens' Delhi all about?

Who is drawing up the master plan and what are the concerns about this ambitious scheme?

DAMINI NATH

**The story so far:** The Central government has kick-started its ambitious plan of redeveloping the three-km-long Central Vista and Parliament, and constructing a common Central secretariat for all ministries that are currently spread over many buildings across Delhi. This follows calls from Members of Parliament to have their own offices at Parliament House, which only Ministers get as of now, and it is in keeping with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "vision", according to Union Minister of State (independent charge) for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri. On October 18, the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) selected a Gujarat-based architecture firm, HCP Design, Planning and Management Pvt. Ltd., to serve as its consultant for the project. Announcing the project on October 25, Mr. Puri said he expected work on the ground to start by May 2020.

### Why did the government feel the need for redeveloping the area?

The British built Parliament House and the North and South Blocks, which contain the offices of the Ministries of Finance, Home, Defence and External Affairs, between 1911 and 1931. Post-1947, the government of independent India added office buildings such as Shastri Bhavan, Krishi Bhavan and Nirman Bhavan. According to Mr. Puri and Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry officials, these buildings do not have the facilities and space required today. While the British-built buildings are not earthquake-proof, the buildings that came up after 1947 are prone to fires.

Mr. Puri explained the rationale for a revamp in an interview with *The Hindu* recently: "Government business cannot be conducted out of palaces." The huge rooms for Ministers and secretaries, with corridors lined with clerical staff would be replaced with modern workspaces, perhaps even open-plan or glass-partitioned offices. He said the new buildings that come up would have a lifespan of 150 to 200 years and would be energy-efficient and modern workspaces. Both Mr. Puri and the request for proposal (RFP) floated by the Central Public Works Department said the revamp would represent a "new India".

### What is the plan?

On September 2, the CPWD set in motion the massive project by issuing a request for proposal (RFP) from design and architecture firms to serve as a consultant for the redevelopment of Central Vista and Parliament and development of a new Central secretariat. Six firms responded to the RFP and four were finally short-listed for the opening of financial bids. While Delhi-based C.P. Kukreja Architects had a lower bid (₹218.75 crore), Ahmedabad-based HCP was selected at a cost of ₹229.75



SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

crore. This, Ministry officials said, was in keeping with the quality-cum-cost basis model adopted for projects of this nature as the design proposal as well as the financial bids are taken into account. In its RFP, the CPWD had asked firms to come up with proposals for the buildings on the Central Vista and Parliament; these include suggesting which structures are to be razed and which are to be refurbished. Mr. Puri said while Parliament House and North and South Blocks will not be demolished, their usage may change. For example, they may be used as museums. The rest of the buildings that came up post-independence, including Shastri Bhavan, Krishi Bhavan, etc. are likely to be demolished.

HCP Design, which carried out the development of the Sabarmati riverfront in 2002 and is currently working on the redevelopment of the temple complex in Varanasi, will now prepare detailed designs for each of the buildings as well as a plan for the common Central secretariat. The exact plan has not been made public yet. Which buildings are to be demolished, how Parliament will be expanded – whether there will be an additional building constructed for offices or whether the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha will be split into separate spaces, etc. – will be decided as the process moves forward. Mr. Puri said on October 25 that the winning design by HCP would be published online and wide public consultations would be held before the plan is finalised.

### How much will it cost?

As on October 31, the government is yet to say how much the revamp of New Delhi's seat of power will cost. When announcing the project on October 25, Mr. Puri said usually consultancy fees are 3-5% of the total project cost. However, CPWD officials said that the norm may not apply to a massive project of this size. One senior CPWD official said the amount could be around ₹12,450 crore,

while another top official said it could be higher. The Minister also said the exact cost of the project would be determined by the tender process, which will take place next year. He added that the government will also save about ₹1,000 crore a year, which it spends currently on renting office premises for its ministries outside of Lutyens' Delhi in the Capital. What is known for sure is that HCP Design will be paid ₹229.75 crore for its work.

### What lies ahead?

According to the government's deadlines, the new Parliament (either as a completely new building or a renovation of the existing one) has to be ready by March 2022, the 75th year of India's Independence. The revamped Central Vista, complete with public amenities and parking, has to be ready by November 2021 and the new common Central secretariat by March 2024. Before the tenders are floated for each construction or renovation project, the CPWD will carry out public consultations. Since the government's plan became public in September, it has faced some criticism.

Concerns about conservation of heritage and the environment have come up, though Mr. Puri has said the green cover and the history of New Delhi will not be damaged in the process of the revamp. The CPWD and Mr. Puri have said these will be addressed during the consultation phase, that architects, environmentalists, historians and Delhi-ites are waiting for.

According to the government, while Parliament House and North and South Blocks will not be demolished, their usage may change. For example, they may be used as museums

CAPSULE



**New evidence**  
Based on research at White Pond near Elgin, South Carolina, archaeologists present new evidence of a controversial theory – The Younger Dryas Impact Hypothesis – that suggests an extraterrestrial body crashing to Earth almost 13,000 years ago caused the extinction of many large animals and a probable population decline in early humans.



**Super vaccine**  
A team of researchers has found an antibody that protects mice against a wide range of potentially lethal influenza viruses. This has led to the advancement of efforts to design of a universal vaccine that could either treat or protect people against all strains of the virus, including pandemics.

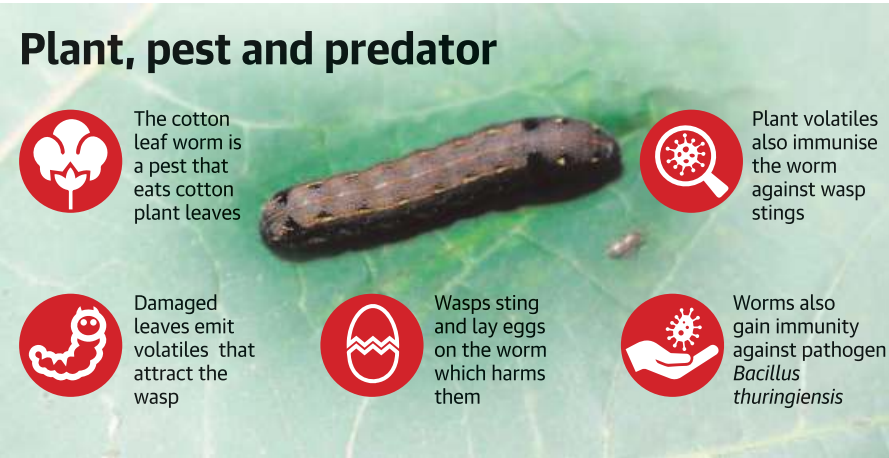
# How cotton leaf worm responds to the defence mechanisms of plants

Plant volatiles that attract predatory wasps could be boosting the worm's immunity levels

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

A new side to the triangular story of interactions among plant, pest and predatory insect emerges as a result of a study carried out by researchers from the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru. The team finds a link between the boosting of immunity levels in pest (cotton leaf worm, *Spodoptera litura*) and exposure to plant volatiles, which are aromatic vapours released by the plant when the worm chews the leaves. "This is the first study showing the impact of plant volatiles on cellular immunity of the worm [S. *litura*], causing elevated defense against natural enemies," says Radhika Venkatesan, in whose lab the work was carried out.

**Natural triad**  
Take the example of the trio: cotton plant, the worm and the predator wasp *Bracon brevicornis*. When the worm feeds on the cotton plant's leaves, the leaves release aromatic and volatile vapours into the air. These volatiles waft in the air and attract the



wasps, which harm the cotton leaf worm. Though the adult wasp is an independent entity, the wasp lays its eggs on the skin of the worm, and when the eggs hatch, the larvae feed on the worm itself, thereby ending up killing it. In order to make this possible, the wasp first injects a toxic substance into the worm which immobilises it, so that the wasp can take time to lay its eggs on the skin of the worm.

Another example of such a triangle is the Cabbage worm *Plutella xylostella*, and the wasp *Cotesia vestalis*. In this

case, the wasp injects the eggs into the body of the worm and the eggs hatch inside and feed on the worm as they grow.

The experiment consisted of spraying the cotton leaf worm with plant volatiles and observing its change in immunity levels. "We exposed the [worm] to various plant volatiles for different time durations, then we collected the blood for immunological assays," says Enakshi Ghosh who is a postdoctoral fellow at NCBS and first author of the paper published in *Journal of Chemical Ecology*.

"As we observed that specific volatiles could modulate their immune status, we challenged the cotton leaf worm with its natural enemies – pathogen and parasitoid," explains Dr Ghosh.

**Induced immunity**  
Six plant volatiles such as beta-cimene and linalool were used in the experiment and each had different effects on the immune system of the cotton leaf worm. "In the case of beta-cimene treatment, immune functions were enhanced that helped the worm combat wasp bet-

ter," says Dr. Ghosh. That is, being immune, the worm is not immobilised by the wasp's sting. This prevents the wasp from laying its eggs on the worm. "In the case of linalool exposure, the worms survived better against bacteria," she adds.

"It is interesting that beta-cimene mediated immunomodulation helped the herbivore [worm] survive better against parasitoid-like stress only, while linalool exposure caused increased survival against pathogen," says Dr. Venkatesan. "The elevated defense caused trade-offs like reduced pupal size and adult life-span in these primed larvae compared to controls," she adds.

Some of the questions that are raised by this study include - what happens when the worms are exposed to a mixture of plant volatiles, and whether this immunomodulation is specific to *Spodoptera litura*. "It would be interesting to see if, in the race of co-evolution, there is any mechanism the parasitoids are building to combat heightened herbivore immunity," says Dr Venkatesan.



**Preventable:** Controlling hypertension, diabetes could have halved the number getting stroke, heart attack. • GETTY IMAGES

## Heart disease risk high in rural area near Chennai

Two-thirds of people in the rural area who developed cardiovascular disease died

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Contrary to the general notion, cardiovascular disease is becoming an important preventable cause of events (heart attacks and stroke) and death even among the rural population in India, a study shows. The study involved 5,641 adults aged 25-64 years living in a rural area near Chennai and followed up for nearly eight years. There were 96 deaths – 79 from heart attacks and 17 from stroke. There were 59 adults who suffered but did not die from heart attack and stroke.

The study, which began in 2005, was carried out in five villages in Tiruvallur district near Chennai. While baseline data were collected in 2005 and two follow-up surveys were carried out in 2008-2009 and 2013-2015.

The study was carried out by a team led by Dr. Prabhdeep Kaur from the Chennai-based National Institute of Epidemiology (ICMR-NIE). The results were published in the journal *BMJ Open*.

Hypertension, which is a huge risk factor for cardiovascular disease, was prevalent in 21.6% of men and women, while tobacco use was high both among men (nearly 35% smokers) and women (43% smokeless tobacco). Central obesity was also high both among men (20.2%) and women (26.4%). Alcohol use was high among men (28.6%), while diabetes, which was self-reported, was 4% in both men and women.

"Two-thirds of people who developed cardiovascular disease died. This could have been prevented.

The risk factors were causing two times or more risk of cardiovascular disease," says Dr. Kaur. "Reducing tobacco use and treating hypertension and diabetes and keeping them under control could have halved the number of people getting stroke or heart attack."

Hypertension was a risk factor for both men and women. In the case of men, smoking turned out to be a big risk factor while it was central obesity and diabetes that were risk factors for women.

"With cardiovascular disease becoming an important preventable cause of death in rural areas, there is a compulsion to focus our attention on rural areas too," says Dr. Kaur. "Early diagnosis, treatment and regular follow-up to ensure control of hypertension and blood sugar will help people through their lifetime."

Dr. Kaur does agree that getting people to achieve control of hypertension and blood sugar is a huge challenge. With an estimated burden of 200 million people in India, hypertension is the most important noncommunicable disease risk factor. Many studies have shown that reducing hypertension by 20 mm mercury in people aged 4-69 years can help achieve a 50% reduction in coronary heart disease.

However, as per a May 2019 study published in *PLOS Medicine*, in India, only about 45% of people with hypertension were even aware of their diagnosis, hardly 13% were under medication and a paltry 8% had hypertension under control.

# Stimulating white blood cells helps clear TB bacteria

Potency of TB drugs improved many times when two receptors of the immune cells were activated

R. PRASAD

Instead of using drugs to directly kill TB bacteria, researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar have directly stimulated the immune system to kill the bacteria. This was achieved by using small molecules (ligands) to stimulate two specific receptors (CLEC4E and TLR4) found on the surface of white blood cells (macrophages) to kill the bacteria. The two receptors are copiously expressed on the surface of the macrophages, and activating them help regulate the cell function.

Once activated, the ability of the macrophages to reduce the TB load and eliminate the bacteria gets enhanced through increased autophagy. Autophagy is the body's way of cleaning out damaged cells, in order to regenerate newer, healthier cells.

Through *in vitro* studies,



**Effective:** Just two doses of rifampicin, along with the small molecules cleared the TB bacteria, says Javed Agrewala •

the team led by Javed N. Agrewala from the Biomedical Engineering Department at IIT Ropar first tested the ability of the two receptors to activate the macrophages to kill the bacteria. The macrophages were first infected with TB bacteria and stimulated for 48 hours by activating the receptors using the small molecules. Compared with controls, the stimulated macrophages exhibited increased bactericidal activity.

The enhanced bactericidal activity was confirmed using animal models.

**Many firsts**  
Similarly, the enhanced expression of autophagy-related genes in macrophages was first observed in the lab and confirmed in animal models by IIT Ropar researchers in collaboration with CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH), Chandigarh.

The specificity of the receptors to regulate macrophage function was tested using inhibitors which block the functioning of the receptors. There was increased survival of the bacteria in the macrophages on inhibiting the receptors.

To reconfirm the role of the receptors in inducing autophagy, the researchers abrogated the autophagy in macrophages and tested the ability of the activated receptors to clear the bacteria in mice models. "The ability to clear the bacteria was absent when autophagy was inhibited. This helped confirm that receptor-mediated elimination of TB bacteria in macrophages was through autophagy," says Prof. Agrewala.

Besides *in vitro* studies and mice models, the activated receptors were found to reduce the TB burden when tested on human macrophages too. The results were published in the journal *Autophagy*.

Compared with controls, the potency of anti-TB drugs – isoniazid and rifampicin – to kill the bacteria dramatically improved when the two receptors were also activated. With rifampicin, the ability to kill the bacteria was seen even at one-tenth of the dose. Greater effectiveness at reduced dosage was seen only when rifampicin was used along small molecules that activated the receptors. Also, the ability to clear the bacteria was achieved with just two doses of rifampicin.

**Enhanced action**  
The enhanced potency of anti-TB drugs when used along with the small molecules that stimulate the receptors was seen in animal models, too. In mice, there was significant reduction in bacteria load in the lungs, liver and spleen compared with controls. The number of granulomas in the lung too decreased.

Even in Guinea pigs, there was significant decrease in

bacterial load and increased efficacy of the drugs to kill the microbes. The lungs and spleen of Guinea pigs treated with small molecules and TB drugs exhibited nearly normal morphology compared with controls.

"The activating the receptors have an immunomodulatory role in reducing both the dose and duration of treatment using anti-TB drugs," says Prof. Agrewala. "Since the receptors only activate the macrophages and do not directly act on the bacteria, there are fewer chances of emergence of drug-resistant strains of TB bacteria."

In mouse and Guinea pig models, there was proliferation of certain T cells that offer protection against TB bacteria. Also, there was significant increase in the number of memory T cells that provide long-lasting protection against TB bacteria thus signifying protection from subsequent infection with TB bacteria.

# Astrosat views star formation in jellyfish galaxies

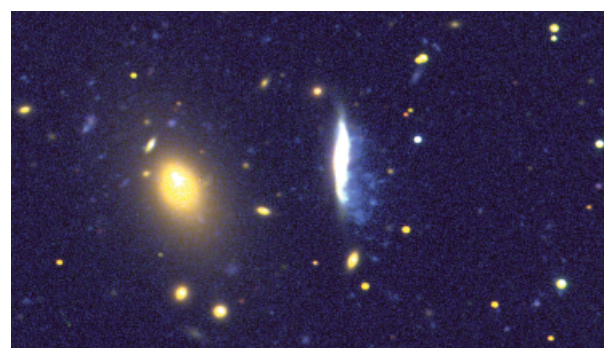
The images were composed using data collected from many telescopes

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

Observations of a jelly fish galaxy, JW100, by Astrosat using its Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope have thrown up interesting puzzles. These puzzles involve star formation in hostile environments containing X-ray-emitting hot plasma. JW100 is located far away in the galaxy cluster Abell 2626. A recent work describes this analysis and poses the puzzle, vouching for the power of multiwavelength astronomy. The measurements made by the UVIT have been crucial for this work which is to be published in *The Astrophysical Journal*.

**Jelly fish galaxies**

Jellyfish galaxies are called so because they are shaped like discs that have many tentacle-like arms streaming away from the disc. They are formed when a disc-shaped galaxy rams into a galaxy cluster, which is a dense region containing many hundreds or thousands of galaxies packed into a small region. This can happen when the galaxy is attracted by the gravitational attraction of the cluster. As the individual galaxy rams into the galaxy cluster, the cold gas in its disc interacts with the hot plasma in the cluster. Acting like a strong wind, the plasma in the cluster strips away



**Colour composite:** This JW100 image is created by combining three images. The red, green, blue colour scheme is assigned to image taken at each wavelength. • KOSHY GEORGE

the cold molecular gas of the disc, causing it to stream behind like tentacles. Unlike usual galaxies that have stars forming in the disc, the jellyfish galaxies have star formation in the tentacles also.

The European Southern Observatory has an international programme led by Bianca Poggianti of Padova Observatory, Italy, to observe 100 such gas-stripping jellyfish candidates using the MUSE Integral Field Spectrograph. This programme is called GASP (Gas Stripping Phenomena in galaxies with MUSE).

Astrosat joins this effort by contributing data from its Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (UVIT) instrument. "We have already acquired data of many jellyfish galaxies with UVIT and the quality of UV images are amazing," says Koshy George who is work-

ing on UVIT data. Dr. George is currently with Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich, Germany and has been working on this since his post-doctoral term at Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru.

The jellyfish galaxies' tentacles contain a very hostile environment as they interact with the galaxy clusters that are rich in X-ray emitting hot plasma. "What triggers star formation in these environments is a puzzle," says Dr George.

**Multiwavelength study**

The jellyfish galaxies are being observed by various telescopes each sensitive to different parts of the electromagnetic spectrum. The star formation in JW100 was gauged using observations of the visible (H-alpha) spectrum using the MUSE in-

strument of the Very Large Telescope in Chile and the ultraviolet imaging using the UVIT instrument of Astrosat.

**Puzzling behaviour**

One of the jellyfish galaxies that UVIT has collected data about is JW100. This galaxy is unusual because of its orientation. We see it edge-on so that the gas stripping can be seen perpendicular to our field of vision. It is also different from other jellyfish galaxies. In other jellyfish galaxies, star formation is estimated by the H-alpha observations matches with that calculated from ultraviolet observations.

In JW100, there is higher contribution from H-alpha but much less from ultraviolet in the tail. This could mean that other mechanisms such as shocks or thermal conduction from the hot plasma of the galaxy cluster is contributing to H-alpha emission from these regions. "Jellyfish galaxies experience several mechanisms at the same time. Many of these happen over various timescales. The paper attempts to throw light on some of these mechanisms in JW100, using data which trace various components," says Annapurni Subramaniam, director of Indian Institute of Astrophysics who was not involved in this work.

# Now, machine learning-based model can determine if skin cancer has spread

Six machine learning models were used to validate the genomic signatures

R. PRASAD

Using the expression of 17 key genes (messenger RNAs) it is now possible to distinguish primary and metastatic cutaneous melanoma, which is the most common type of skin cancer. While 11 of the 17 genes have already been reported by other studies for cutaneous melanoma, it is for the first time that the potential role of remaining six genomic signatures in classifying samples as either primary or metastatic skin cutaneous cancer has been made.

The 17 genomic signatures, which were identified by a team led by Prof. Gajendra P.S. Raghava from the Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), New Delhi, have high accuracy – over 89% – in discriminating metastatic from primary skin melanoma. These signatures also have high sensitivity (in case tumour is metastatic), and high specificity (in case the tumour is primary). The results were published in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

Unlike in the case of primary skin melanoma, people with metastatic cutaneous melanoma have reduced survival rate and higher mortality rates. It therefore becomes important to be



**Discriminative:** The messenger RNA expression profile was the strongest predictor of metastasis, says Harpreet Kaur. •

able to identify and classify skin cutaneous melanoma as either primary or metastatic so correct therapeutic strategies can be chalked out and survival rates improved in patients.

**Messenger RNA**

Six machine learning models were used to study and validate the genomic signatures. They used expression profile of messenger RNA, micro RNA and methylation profile for discriminating tumour as primary or metastatic. "We found the messenger RNA expression profile was the strongest predictor of metastasis. The mRNA expression profile performed better than micro RNA and methylation

profile of the patients," says Harpreet Kaur from Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR-IMTECH), Chandigarh and one of the first authors of the paper. "Of the six models used, one (SVC-W) model showed better ability to discriminate metastatic from primary tumours of validation dataset with overall accuracy of over 89%."

While messenger RNA outperformed microRNA in discriminating the status of the tumour, a particular microRNA was found to be a "strong predictor of metastatic melanoma."

Besides helping in distinguishing the kind of melanoma, the genomic signatures can also help in further cate-

gorising different stages of metastasis. For instance, it can tell if the tumour has spread to lymphatic nodes, which is an early stage of metastasis. Also, it can tell if the cancer has spread to distant parts of the body, which is a late stage of metastasis, says Dr. Sherry Bhalla from IIT Delhi and the other first author.

Six machine learning models were tested and used for classifying the tumour as either primary or metastatic. Of the six models, one model – Support Vector Classification with Weight (SVC-W) – has an accuracy of nearly 89.5%.

The researchers have further integrated the major prediction models in the webserver called CancerSPP that will help clinicians in classifying cutaneous melanoma as primary or metastatic using RNA sequence data, microRNA and methylation expression data. "It will also help in knowing the different states of metastatic samples," says Kaur. "The analysis module in the CancerSPP webserver will provide information on the role of each of the important genes in various stages of metastasis and whether the expression of a gene is up-regulated or down-regulated."

# When 'Padman' became a poll hashtag

Poll manifestos in Sri Lanka promise to address issues of women and marginalised groups

## COLOMBO



What links an Akshay Kumar film, a presidential hopeful and a now-popular hashtag in Sri Lanka? A promise to end period poverty.

"I will wear the #padman label proudly," Sajith Premadasa tweeted earlier this week, as he took on detractors who ridiculed him as "Pad Man" – referring to the 2018 Bollywood film on the subject – for promising free sanitary products to women who cannot afford them.

In a series of tweets, the ruling United National Party's (UNP) candidate said over half of Sri Lanka's adolescent girls missed school when on their period. While the current government has reduced the tax levied on sanitary products, thousands of

women still suffer stigma and put themselves at risk every month, he added. And soon, #Padman became a hashtag that many voters, particularly women, began using.

Not just Mr. Premadasa, all key candidates contesting Sri Lanka's November 16 presidential election are focusing on women's issues that many see as a welcome shift. Especially since they have begun talking specifics.

The Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna's (SLPP) Gotabaya Rajapaksa, in his manifesto, promised to expand childcare facilities to help the women's labour force, enhance nutrition aid for them, provide support for aspiring entrepreneurs and relief from debt to those trapped in micro-finance loans.

In his manifesto, Mr. Premadasa highlighted the need to focus on women's safety and promised speedy

sentencing in cases of rape and sexual harassment, including a pledge to "clarify" its definition to include different forms of harassment and abuse. He has vowed to criminalise marital rape and to work towards a 25% representation of women in provincial councils and Parliament.

### Feminist framework

The leftist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP)'s candidate Anura Kumara Dissanayake went a step further and released a "women's manifesto". "Progressive and leftist women have a long history of leading many social and political struggles in Sri Lanka. Feminism is not just another political perspective but a critical and vital framework through which we can better understand the crisis within society as a whole," said the manifesto, which addresses issues ranging from representation to income disparity and women's reproductive rights. Mr. Dissanayake is also one of the first leaders in the country to make a case for queer rights and



equality on an election platform.

Activist groups working in the area have given a set of recommendations to all candidates that specifically look at the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual (LGBTQIA+) people.

"It is a major landmark for the queer community to see a presidential candidate speak of their rights that too on an election platform. It comes after sustained activism and advocacy, and is significant," according to Subha Wijesiriwardena, of the Colombo-based Women and Media Collective.

Much of the mobilisation of the community, she said, was in good measure provoked by derogatory, homophobic references made by some politicians and their ideological allies.

"It pushed us not only to respond and organise ourselves, but also to think about what language and framing we use when we articulate demands and assert our rights," Ms. Wijesiriwardena notes. "It is interesting to see that we are being taken seriously, and there is a recognition that the queer community is a constituency."

While welcoming the focus on the rights of women and other marginal groups in popular political discourse, Shreen Abdul Saroor, of the

Women's Action Network, remains sceptical. "Speaking about women's issues ahead of polls is not new to us. It happened before the 2015 polls too, but much of that remains on paper." At the same time, it is important to acknowledge the difference, she adds.

"One promise that was delivered by this government was the 25% quota in local bodies. And more importantly, after those 10 dark years of the Rajapaksa rule, this government gave women space to engage with those in power."

Over the last four years, women have been the "noisiest", be it in agitations on land rights, enforced disappearances, higher wages in the tea estate sector, reform of Muslim personal law, abortion rights and mounting household debt due to micro-finance loans. "The manifestos we see today are not surprising. They are a reflection of the many struggles led by women over the years, and especially in the last few years," Ms. Saroor adds.



Meera Srinivasan is The Hindu's Colombo correspondent

# How Bangladeshi migrants' Saudi dream came crashing

Faced with abuse, overwork and non-payment of salaries, migrant women are returning home

## DHAKA



In 2015, Saudi Arabia dispatched a 19-member team to Dhaka with a mission to hire Bangladeshi women as workers, ending a long employment ban. The deal signed between the two countries brought cheer to millions of potential migrants. Greedy agents spread out across the impoverished parts of the country to lure economic migrants.

In the days that followed, the number of women going to Saudi Arabia witnessed a steady rise. Remittances poured in, creating a happy narrative: the rise of women. More than four years later, it's a totally different story.

When Dalia Akhter, 25, left for Saudi Arabia in July 2018, Concorde

Apex, a Dhaka-based manpower company, painted a rosy picture for her with an offer of 1,000 riyals a month (\$266 today). The job was to take care of an old Saudi woman. She took the plunge, leaving behind her two-year child and husband in Dhaka. Soon afterwards, she woke up to the harsh reality: long working hours, rude behaviour and physical abuse by the Saudi family. "I had to work from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day without a break," Ms. Akhter said in an interview from her home in Old Dhaka. Her insufficient knowledge of the Arabic language made her unfit for survival. She said she was beaten with a stick for failing to understand their language. "That's the first time I felt I was trapped."

Ms. Akhter was supposed to work as a caregiver for one family member. Days later, a toddler was added to her everyday responsibilities. On



the other hand, the promised salary was cut to 800 riyals a month. As her work conditions grew harsher, she sought help from the manpower company in Dhaka, but the man on the phone blamed her instead, for going to Saudi Arabia unprepared.

Over 12 million migrant workers fill manual, clerical, and service jobs in Saudi Arabia, constituting more than 80% of the private sector workforce. Many of them suffer abuse and exploitation. The *kafala* system, or visa sponsorship, ties migrant workers' residency permits to "sponsoring" employers, whose written consent is required for them to change employers or leave the country under normal circumstances.

### From bad to worse

One day, Ms. Akhter mustered the courage and refused to work for the abusive family. But she was unable to find an immediate path out of her misery. Five months later, her employer "sold" her to another Saudi family, but her conditions went from bad to worse. Physical abuse was a routine affair. The second employer broke her leg with a stick for "failing" to live up to their expectations.

Ms. Akhter was a victim of a system in which employers confiscate passports, withhold wages, and

force migrants to work against their will. Workers who leave their employer without their consent can be charged with "absconding" and face imprisonment and deportation, according to the Human Rights Watch. "While it's true that many women can't cope with the new environment, no human should be treated the way they're treated. It's the perfect definition of modern-day slavery and many workers are just trapped in it," said Shariful Islam Hasan, head of the migration programme at BRAC, a non-governmental organisation.

About 200 women migrants return from Saudi Arabia every month with broken lives, according to BRAC records. "There's no protection for foreign workers in Saudi Arabia and there's no punishment to abusive employers," Mr. Hasan said.

About one in 10 migrants are women. Many are uneducated and poor and they often receive false promises of salaries of about 20,000 taka (\$237) a month by middlemen,

Thomson Reuters Foundation reported, citing a study.

Thousands of women migrant workers come home empty-handed each year, but only 318 received compensation – averaging 9,200 taka each – from Bangladesh's Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training in 2018. Some 83,000 Bangladeshi women went to work in West Asia in 2017 – a four-fold increase in two years, following the signing of a labour agreement between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia in 2015.

The trend is changing. More and more workers are shunning the kingdom as details of violence and abuse are coming into sharp focus. Ms. Akhter, who jumped off a two-storey building in Saudi Arabia to escape torture and suffered a fractured vertebra, now spends 12 hours a day in bed. She came back home nearly empty-handed, as she was not paid for nine months. "Now I'm too weak to work," she said as her voice trailed off on the phone.



Arun Devnath is a journalist based in Dhaka

# The multiracialism of the Brave Blossoms

From a diverse rugby team to a mixed-race tennis star, sport is redrawing the idea of Japanese identity

## TOKYO



Unlike many other rich countries, Japan has resisted multiculturalism with assiduousness. It's foreign-born population accounts for only about 2% of the total. In contrast, some 14% of the U.S.'s population and 15% of Germany's are of foreign origin. The idea of a homogeneous racial and cultural identity has long been central to Japan's sense of itself, which in part explains why it's been loathe to receive immigrants. In many polls, people have expressed a preference for robots over foreigners to fill the labour shortages that the nation's demographic decline has caused.

But increasingly, sport is challenging the idea that a Japanese identity must be ethnically determined, al-

lowing for new and more inclusive definitions of "Japaneseness". The most visible case in point are the Brave Blossoms, Japan's squad at the ongoing Rugby World Cup tournament that the country is hosting. The team made it to the quarterfinals against the odds. Legions of fans, including Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, could be seen literally leaping with noisy joy every time a team member scored a try. If social media threads are a barometer, the Brave Blossoms and their fight as the underdogs have stirred up heightened feelings in even usually passive spectators.

The catch is that about half of the Japanese rugby team is either ethnically non-Japanese or biracial. A picture of the Brave Blossoms is almost like an ad for the United Colours of Benetton, suggestive of the kind of rainbow nation Japan has never been and seemed determined not to be-

come. The 31-strong team includes 16 players originally from foreign countries, including Tonga, Samoa, New Zealand, Korea and South Africa. The captain, who is the face of Japanese rugby, is Michael Leitch, a player of mixed New Zealand and Fiji heritage, who has lived in Japan since he was 15.

The multiracialism of the Brave Blossoms is possible because of international Rugby's unique rules, wherein players are not required to be a citizen of the country they represent. To qualify, a player must be born, or have a parent or grandparent who is born, in the country, or have been resident in the country for 36 consecutive months immediately preceding the tournament.

There are widespread criticisms of these rules among rugby-playing nations. Some feel they allow weaker teams to "unfairly" become stronger by poaching foreigners. But in Japan, the nation has pulled behind the Brave Blossoms, with a majority of the media defending the team's di-

versity. That Japanese fans are waxing patriotic about a squad that looks un-Japanese, points to a new - in Japan – acceptance of the idea that identity is not just skin deep.

### A diverse mix

Brave Blossoms team member Toshiaki Hirose summed it up in a quote to *The Guardian*, "Maybe if our team was just Japanese, it wouldn't be so successful. Outside the sport, our population is shrinking so we need foreigners to immigrate. It's an important lesson... for Japan, because we can show people how you can make a successful team from a diverse mix..."

On Twitter, the focus has been on the enthusiasm with which the Blossoms sing the national anthem before the start of each game. Takeshi Kato, a middle-level manager at a large corporation, told *The Hindu* that the foreign players had committed to Japan beyond just the sport. "They speak our language and respect our customs."



In fact, all the "foreign" team members of the Blossoms speak Japanese and many have studied in Japan. Some have even become naturalised citizens. There is talk of how despite their racial diversity the team plays a "Japanese-style" of rug-

by with an emphasis on strategy rather than physical heft.

There is a danger in reading too much into the rugby team's multiracialism. An ethnic definition of Japanese-ness is unlikely to be dispensed with any time soon. But increasingly, sport does seem to be aiding a positive spin on difference.

Beyond rugby, the mixed race Haitian-Japanese tennis star, Naomi Osaka (who has renounced her U.S. citizenship and now plays as Japanese), has been embraced. And a number of Japan's top athletes at next year's Olympic Games will not be of "pure" ethnicity. Sprinter Asuka Cambridge, for example, has a Jamaican father. Ace basketball player Rui Hachimura, the first Japanese to make the NBA draft, is half Beninese.

Unity in Diversity is one of the core concepts of the Tokyo Olympics. And it is just possible that the Olympics might be the first step for an, admittedly distant, future in which it becomes the motto for Tokyo itself.



Pallavi Aiyar is an author and journalist based in Tokyo

# Afghan Islamic State after Baghdadi

The leader's death gives the Afghan government a chance to take steps to weaken IS, say analysts

## KABUL



On October 26, the U.S. announced that the Islamic State leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, was killed, in an apparent suicide detonation during a raid at his house in Idlib, Syria. Baghdadi was the leader of the IS insurgency since its inception and had executed many gruesome attacks in Iraq, Syria and elsewhere. His death is widely expected to weaken the global IS structure, including in its wing in Afghanistan.

The Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP), as the Afghan IS is referred to, has been on the rise for the last few years. Largely concentrated in Nangarhar in eastern Afghanistan, the group has carried out several suicide attacks, primarily targeting the

country's minorities. Of the 5,117 civilian casualties reported by the UN this year, 1,013 were attributed to the ISKP, including the suicide bombing at a Hazara Shia wedding ceremony in August in Kabul that resulted in the death of more than 90 people.

### A struggling insurgency

The rise of the IS in Afghanistan, a country ravaged by conflicts, is a complicated one. The IS is still a struggling insurgency that's fighting several battles at the same time. "While the larger ideology of the group has managed to find some inroads into the radicalised segments in Afghanistan, the lack of a nationalist sentiment, such as that offered by the Taliban, has prevented it from growing stronger," according to Omar Sadr, Assistant Professor at the American University of Afghanistan in Kabul. "The ideological influence



is there, they [ISKP] haven't been able to locate themselves within the social and cultural fabric of the Afghan society. Here, it is much different socially, tribally, and ethnically, compared to Iraq and Syria, and that is why they have had challenges in

finding a stronghold here," Mr. Sadr added.

But at the same time, the ISKP is organisationally independent from the IS core in Iraq and Syria. "While talking about Afghanistan, there is kind of a disagreement among many in the intelligence community about the roots of IS in the region. For example, Amrullah Saleh [the former Afghan spy chief], says the IS in Afghanistan is not organically or organisationally linked with the IS in West Asia. A segment of policy analysts proposed that the ISKP was manufactured or contracted out by an intervention of ISI (Inter Service Intelligence) in Pakistan and some other countries," Mr. Sadr told *The Hindu*.

Still, Baghdadi's death gives governments of the countries affected by the IS insurgency an opportunity to tackle the problem. "ISKP fighters, who have lost their leader, will likely be disappointed or demoralised. It is also possible that many will revert back to their original activities

or other groups they were aligned with," Hussain Ehsani, a senior researcher at the Kabul-based Afghan Institute of Strategic Studies, told *The Hindu*, adding that this lack of leadership and chaos could also pave the way for another jihadist organisation to take its place. "For example, in the case of Osama bin Laden, after his death, al-Qaeda grew weak, while a new, resurgent IS emerged as a stronger terrorist group."

Both analysts agreed that there was an urgent need to target the roots of radicalisation to ensure that the ISKP is defeated.

"These groups look for countries with weaker governance and institutions to establish themselves. If the Afghan government reinforces its presence, especially during this period when their leadership is unstable, the ISKP can be subdued. Also, the government should target the ideology and not just the group," Mr. Ehsani said.

Mr. Sadr, of the American University, advised the government to util-

ise the power of Afghan nationalism against the foreign nature of the ISKP. "There will be a crisis of leadership and legitimacy for a while. The government of Afghanistan should seize the moment, and mobilise the nationalistic sentiment against the group. There are many instances where the communities rose against the IS within Afghanistan," he said.

However, the Afghan state remains fragile, and will need concentrated efforts that go beyond military operations to tackle the IS. "The ISKP is operating in those pockets and districts where there is no state at all. The state fragility has provided such non-state actors space to operate. So, countering them militarily is not enough. State structures and governance need to be strengthened, along with counter-radicalisation through education," Mr. Sadr added.

"More work is needed at different levels within the community, education, culture, and to understand why certain segments of fighters are converting to the IS ideology."

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# India favourite even in experimental mode

Best chance for Bangladesh, which is yet to qualify for the T20 World Cup, to come out stronger

RAKESH RAO  
NEW DELHI

If there could be a time for Bangladesh to beat India in a series of any format, it is now.

Though India remains the favourite in the three-match T20I series beginning on Sunday at the Ferozeshah Kotla ground, Bangladesh has reasons to see this as an opportunity to come out stronger.

The biggest reason for the visiting team's optimism is, its batting-depth seems capable of handling India's not-so-experienced pace options. Secondly, the out-of-form opener Shikhar Dhawan and an unsettled middle-order are clear targets to push India on the backfoot.

### Slim gap

Though India appears clearly superior in longer formats, the gap between these teams appears very slim in T20 contests. Although, India



**Seasoned campaigner:** Shikhar Dhawan has the crucial task of getting the Indian innings off to a galloping start. • AFP

enjoys an 8-0 record, Bangladesh has often come within the striking range without landing the knock-out punch. Look at the inexperienced

pace attack that Bangladesh will be up against. Khaleel Ahmed (11 matches), Shardul Thakur (7), Deepak Chahar (4) and a yet-to-debut Shivam Dube. Given these

choices on spin-friendly pitches, the slower bowlers, led by Yuzvendra Chahal, will have a greater lead.

This is where the experience of the Bangladesh bat-

### By the numbers

India	T20I record	Bangladesh
120	Mat	89
75	Won	29
42	Lost	58
3	NR	2
8	Head to head	0

Rohit	Captains' stats	Mahmudullah*
98	Mat	80
2443	Runs	1377
118	HS	64*
32.14	Avg	23.74
136.55	SR	122.07
4/17	100/50	0/4

\* The Bangladesh allrounder also has 31 wickets at an Average of 27.45 and Economy Rate of 7.28

ting against spinners could upset India's calculations. Should India continue to experiment, like it did against South Africa in the last T20I in Bangalore by opting to bat in testing conditions, Bangladesh's prospects could appear brighter.

For India to win, without Virat Kohli, the frontline batsmen will have to bat deep

into the innings and not leave the job to the next one coming in. This has been the biggest cause of India's not-so-impressive record in this format. Loss of wickets in a heap has hurt India far too often.

Against quality attacks, Bangladesh too has shown the tendency to fall apart from a position of strength.

That's why it is ranked a distant ninth, to India's fifth. But on this tour, somehow, the team seems to consider India as a beatable rival.

Taking a cue from South Africa that bounced back in great style to level the T20 series 1-1, Bangladesh could well punish India for its experimental ways.

Though Bangladesh is without dashing opener Tamim Iqbal and allrounders Shakib Al Hassan and Mohammad Saifuddin, the team depends on Liton Das, Mushfiqur Rahim, skipper Mahmudullah and Soumya Sarkar to contribute big, with Afif Hossain and Mosaddek Hossain capable of providing a flourishing finish.

### Bowling options

Among the bowlers, spear-headed by the crafty Mustafizur Rahman, the trio of Mahmudullah, Taijul Islam and Mosaddek Hossain offer reliable options.

So far, for India, batting

coach Vikram Rathour and Rohit Sharma have repeatedly spoken about giving opportunities to youngsters in search of the best combination ahead of next year's T20 World Cup.

With the host in this mindset, Bangladesh which is yet to qualify for the World Cup, could well gain more from this series than what the host has bargained for.

### The teams (from):

**India:** Rohit Sharma (Capt), Shikhar Dhawan, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, K.L. Rahul, Washington Sundar, Krunal Pandya, Shivam Dube, Rishabh Pant, Sanju Samson, Yuzvendra Chahal, Rahul Chahar, Deepak Chahar, Khaleel Ahmed and Shardul Thakur.

**Bangladesh:** Mahmudullah (Capt), Soumya Sarkar, Mohammad Naim, Mushfiqur Rahim, Afif Hossain, Mosaddek Hossain, Aminul Islam, Abu Hider Rony, Liton Das, Mohammad Mithun, Mustafizur Rahman, Shaiful Islam, Taijul Islam, Al-Amin Hossain and Arifat Sunny. Match starts at 7 p.m.

## Focus on improving India's ranking: Rohit

Just want to take the team forward from where Virat has left it, says the captain

RAKESH RAO  
NEW DELHI

For a stand-in captain, Rohit Sharma clearly has too much on his plate. He is served a team comprising several youngsters, some dashing batsmen, others ready-to-be groomed bowlers.

In the absence of several regulars, Rohit has one eye on the 'right' combination and the other on improving India's T20 ranking.

On the eve of India's opening T20I match against Bangladesh here on Saturday, Rohit reflected on the challenges ahead when he met the waiting media.

### Simple job

"My job is as a captain here is very simple because I am not a regular captain. So I just want to take the team forward from where Virat has left it," said the skipper.

On continuing with experiments, Rohit said, "This is the perfect time for us to do

that (experiments) but, at the same time, we want to win games as well.

"It is not about just trying and letting it go easily.

"The first priority for us is to win games, and then focus on the rest. We have not had a great run in T20. We are probably ranked fifth. That is something we are focused on. Get that number a little higher. That is the standard we set. There is no reason we can't achieve that."

Not surprisingly, he went with Rishabh Pant when asked about the possible choice of wicketkeeper. "Both (Rishabh and Sanju Samson) are really talented but we have stuck with Rishabh all this while. This is the format where he excelled to start off with and caught people's attention.

"We have seen how well he can take the game forward when he has his day. We have to back him more. He has hardly played 10-15 T20



**Eye on the road:** Rohit Sharma believes this is the perfect time for the team to try out variations. • R.V. MOORTHY

matches so it is still too soon to judge whether he is good or not. There is a lot of time left before we pass any judgement on Rishabh."

On the possible playing XI, Rohit said, "We have got to see the conditions. If the pitch is low and slow (regarding bounce), we have to play three spinners. If the pitch has some grass and we feel

there might be some bounce as well, we play three seamers.

"All doors are open for everyone. There are a lot of new guys in the squad as well. A lot of the guys have not played a lot of T20s for India. So we want to give opportunities and see what we have before going to the 2020 World Cup in Australia."

## Shakib committed a mistake, not a crime: Mahmudullah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Rohit Sharma's opposite number, Bangladesh skipper Mahmudullah, too, is a stand-in skipper. He knows too well that the team has the resources to beat this Indian combination.

During the press conference on Saturday, Mahmudullah sounded confident of doing the job on hand. "It's a great opportunity for me to lead the team and I think we have to play as a team, collectively use our opportunities and fully commit to it and execute our skills in the game."

### Learning from mistakes

Keen to end the sequence of Bangladesh losing close games to India, he said, "We've gone very close but we didn't cross the line. Hopefully, we're going to learn from those mistakes. I think we need to focus much more on our skills and exe-



**At full tilt:** Mustafizur Rahman bends his back at the nets. • R.V. MOORTHY

cuting it rather than think about the past."

Asked about Shakib Al Hasan's absence from the team, the captain said, "We all know that Shakib has been a great performer for Bangladesh over the years. We still have support for him in spite of what happened to Shakib.

"Probably, he made a mistake, but he didn't commit (any) crime. We still have the same love that we used to have. But that's an issue that

has gone by, we're focusing more on playing tomorrow (Sunday) and win the game."

### Need to be consistent

Reflecting on the team, the skipper said, "We have to be much more consistent with our batting, putting up big scores every now and then. We have very good experience (in our bowling department). It's an opportunity for us to show our performance on this tour."

## Indian women lose by a run

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NORTH SOUND

Opener Priya Punia's well-compiled fifty went in vain as the Indian women's team suffered a narrow one-run defeat against the West Indies in the first ICC Women's Championship ODI here.

Chasing 226 to win, Punia (75) smashed six boundaries in her 107-ball innings, while Jemimah Rodrigues (41) scored at the top but they didn't get enough support from lower-order to be dismissed for 224 in 50 overs by the host.

Earlier, Stafanie Taylor produced a captain's knock, scoring a 91-ball 94 studded with eight boundaries and two sixes as West Indies posted a competitive 225/7 on Friday.

**The scores:** West Indies 225 for seven in 50 overs (Stafanie Taylor 94) bt India 224 in 50 overs (Priya Punia 75; Anisa Mohammed 5/46).

## Mission Olympics accomplished

Skipper Rani's goal makes the difference for the women



**Well done!** Though outplayed in the second match, Indian women did enough to qualify for Tokyo. • BISWARANJAN ROUT

UTHRA GANESAN  
BHUBANESWAR

On Friday, the Indian women were living a dream with a comfortable four-goal advantage against USA and one foot through the door to Tokyo. On Saturday, it almost turned into a nightmare before Rani Rampal took a knee, half-turned and slotted the ball into the roof of the net in the 48th minute of the game.

That moment did not help India win the game – USA did it 4-1 – but ensured the host snatched the Olympic ticket with a 6-5 aggregate, surviving the longest 12 minutes for the team in recent history.

It also took the team to its second successive Olympics and third ever.

USA coach Janneke Schopman had said after the 5-1 drubbing in the first game that things were still "doable" for her team, even if no one gave them a chance to

overturn the deficit. They did a lot more than that.

### Aggressive game

Aggressive from the start, USA dished out a ruthless display of perfect planning and made sure the half chances counted, the Indians left panting in the wake of its speed and precision.

Every Indian pass was intercepted, every aerial ball brought down within its own half. USA cut through the Indian defence with ease, finding space at will to play ball.

India struggled to hold the ball, USA winning turnovers with barely an effort. Captain Kathleen Sharkey was all over, scoring once and terrorising the Indian defence, as threadbare as it was, further.

Erin Matson joined ranks and simply kept running into the Indian circle at will. When they did not have a shot at goal, they earned PCs. And Amanda Magadan kept

converting them. At half time, the lead was gone, USA led 4-0 and India looked down and out.

India coach Sjoerd Marjine admitted there was so much going wrong.

"But he told us the score was 0-0 and we had a new 30-minute game to play. The result of that would decide our fate and that's what we did in the next two quarters," goalkeeper Savita said.

India grew post break but USA held firm. Till that one moment when, scrapping for possession and almost a dozen legs from both sides inside the circle, the ball landed with Rani and the Indian skipper stamped her mark on the game, in more ways than one.

**The result:** USA 4 (Amanda Magadan 2, Alyssa Parker, Kathleen Sharkey) bt India 1 (Rani Rampal). India won 6-5 on aggregate.

## Indian men good enough for Russia

UTHRA GANESAN  
BHUBANESWAR

The Indian team has a tendency to concede goals very early or very late in a game but even by its own standards, a 22nd-second opener by Russia would be a shocker. The final result though was 7-1 in the second leg of the Olympic Qualifiers as the host booked its ticket to Tokyo with a 11-3 aggregate.

There was never a doubt of Indian victory in the men's competition but it was a patchy performance from the World No. 5 against the World No. 22, specially in the first half.

One goal in the bag and the aggregate lead cut to just one, Russia knew it had nothing to lose. It ran hard, opened up space and made full use of the openings against an erratic India. The host was also slow to pick up and the midfield was non-existent.

### Equaliser

It took a solo effort from Lalit Upadhyay 17 minute into the match to pull India level. Akashdeep got two more in the 2nd quarter but the missed chances were much



**Firing it in:** Akashdeep Singh scored a brace in India's huge win over Russia. • BISWARANJAN ROUT

more. The finishing, so stressed upon, was messy and wayward. Ramandeep, Mandeep, Simranjeet and Sunil found ways to hit wide or over from all angles. Harmanpreet Singh fluffed two PCs.

The second half was better and India finally played the way it was expected to. The cohesion was back. The attack was sharp.

The movements in rhythm. And the gap in quality visible. Russia still fought hard but there was no fight-back left.

And the more India went upward, the more the Russians went defensive, ceding goals, space and the game to the host.

It got the Indian men on the flight to Tokyo but coach Graham Reid and his team would do well to get back to the drawing board ahead of the Olympics, ironing out the several chinks that Russia exposed over the two games.

**The result:** India 7 (Rupinder Pal Singh 2, Akashdeep Singh 2, Lalit Upadhyay, Amit Rohidas, Nilakanta Sharma) bt Russia 1 (Alexey Sobolevskiy). India won 11-3 on aggregate.

## Escape acts by Liverpool and City

### EURO LEAGUES

AGENCIES  
LONDON

Liverpool staged a thrilling fightback to beat Aston Villa 2-1 thanks to Sadio Mane's last-gasp winner, while Manchester City kept in touch with the Premier League leaders after its own escape act in a 2-1 victory against Southampton on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Lionel Messi scored again but was helpless to prevent Barcelona conceding three goals in seven minutes on Saturday as Levante stormed to a surprise 3-1 victory in La Liga.

**The results:** Premier League: Bournemouth

1 (King 45) bt Manchester United 0; Arsenal 1 (Aubameyang 21) drew with Wolves 1 (Jimeenez 76); Aston Villa 1 (Trezeguet 21) lost to Liverpool 2 (Robertson 87, Mane 90+4); Brighton 2 (Trossard 68, Duffy 84) bt Norwich 0; Manchester City 2 (Agueiro 70, Walker 86) bt Southampton 1 (Ward-Prowse 13); Sheffield United 3 (Lundstram 17, 43, Fleck 44) bt Burnley 0; West Ham 2 (Balbuena 73, Snodgrass 90) lost to Newcastle 3 (Clark 16, Fernandez 22, Shelvey 51).

**Bundesliga:** Borussia Dortmund 3 (T. Hazard 52, Guerreiro 58, Gotze 88-pen) bt Wolfsburg 0; RB Leipzig 8 (Sabitzer 5, Werner 30, 48, 87, Nkunku 35, Halstenberg 38, Poulsen 44, Mukiele 50) bt Mainz 05 0; Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Volland

25) lost to Borussia M'gladbach 2 (Wendt 18, Thuram 42); Eintracht Frankfurt 5 (Kosti 25, Sow 33, Abraham 49, Hinteregger 61, Paciencia 85) bt Bayern Munich 1 (Lewandowski 37); Werder Bremen 2 (Rashica 9, Gebre Selassie 59) drew with Freiburg 2 (Petersen 28, 90+3).

**La Liga:** Espanyol 1 (Roca 31-pen) lost to Valencia 2 (Parejo 69-pen, Gomez 80); Levante 3 (Campana 61, Mayoral 63, Rodaja 68) bt Barcelona 1 (Messi 38-pen).

**Serie A:** Roma 2 (Zaniolo 19, Veretout 55-pen) bt Napoli 1 (Milik 72).

**Friday: Bundesliga:** Hoffenheim 3 (Skov 2, Kaderabek 15, Locadia 25) bt Paderborn 0.

**Serie A:** Milan 1 (Suso 63) bt SPAL 0.

## Hyderabad rallies to post win

### ISL

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM  
HYDERABAD

Hyderabad FC brushed aside the disappointment of the losses in the first two games to script a remarkable 2-1 win after trailing at half-time against Kerala Blasters FC in the Hero ISL at Gachibowli Stadium here on Saturday night.

Finally, Phil Brown's boys produced the kind of football, especially in the second-half, the Hyderabadis were looking for.

It was Kerala which took the lead in the 34th minute thanks to the efficacy of the K.P. Rahul and Sahal Abdul Samad who combined well close to the 'D'. First, Rahul essayed a short lob to Sahal who in turn relayed a neat through pass which was latched onto by the former to deflect the ball into the goal in the 34th minute. It was not as if Hyderabad



**On the mark:** Marko Stankovic made the most of the penalty for Hyderabad. • K.V.S. GIRI

was outplayed in this first session for it missed a couple of chances.

On resumption, it was a totally different Hyderabad FC which went on the offensive from the word go.

### Penalty converted

To the delight of home team fans, a foul by Mouhamadou Moustapha on Mohammed Yasir saw Hyderabad FC earn a penalty in the 54th minute which was smartly

converted by midfielder Marko Stankovic.

It was another foul by Moustapha on Nikhil Pojary which saw Hyderabad earn a free-kick in the 84th minute. A stunner by the mercurial Marcelinho whose left-footer curled into the left-corner of the goal to the dismay of the Kerala camp.

**The result:** Hyderabad FC 2 (Marko Stankovic 54, Marcelinho Pereira 81) bt Kerala Blasters FC 1 (K.P. Rahul 34).

TV PICKS

**New Zealand vs England:** 2nd T20I, Star Sports Select 1 (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m.  
**NBA:** Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 a.m.  
**Olympic hockey qualifiers:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 a.m.  
**Australia vs Pakistan:** 1st T20I, Sony Six (SD & HD), 9 a.m.  
**Badminton:** Macau Open: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m. & 12 p.m.  
**Serie A:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 6.30 p.m.  
**India vs Bangladesh:** 1st T20I, Star Sports 1 & Star Sports Select 1 (SD & HD), 7 p.m.  
**Paris Masters:** Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.  
**Premier League:** Star Sports Select 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m. & 9.30 p.m.  
**ISL:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Star Sports 3, 7.30 p.m.  
**Bundesliga:** Star Sports Select 2 (SD & HD), 10.30 p.m.  
**F1:** United States GP: Star Sports Select 2 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Monday)  
**FIFA U-17 World Cup:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Monday)

IN BRIEF



James, Green dazzle against Mavericks

LOS ANGELES  
LeBron James had a triple double and Danny Green hit a buzzer beating shot to force overtime as the Los Angeles Lakers stunned the Dallas Mavericks 119-110 on Friday. James, a 15-time all star, finished with a season high 39 points and added 16 assists and 12 rebounds for the Lakers.  
**The results:** Brooklyn Nets 123 bt Houston Rockets 116; Indiana Pacers 102 bt Cleveland Cavaliers 95; Milwaukee Bucks 123 bt Orlando Magic 91; Boston Celtics 104 bt New York Knicks 102; Chicago Bulls 112 bt Detroit Pistons 106; Los Angeles Lakers 119 bt Dallas Mavericks 110 (OT); Sacramento Kings 102 bt Utah Jazz 101; San Antonio Spurs 127 bt Golden State Warriors 110. AFP

Axar is the hero in India-C's big victory

Leg-spinner Markande picks up four wickets as India-B gets skittled out for 144

DEODHAR TROPHY

Y.B. SARANGI  
RANCHI

Axar Patel's excellent all-round show guided India-C to a convincing 136-run victory over India-B in the inconsequential last league engagement of the Deodhar Trophy at the JSCA Stadium here on Saturday.

Axar's blistering unbeaten 98, his highest List-A score and ninth half-century, enabled India-C recover from a precarious situation and register a competitive 280 for five after skipper Shubman Gill opted to bat.

Later, the southpaw claimed Vijay Shankar's wicket as India-C bowled out India-B for 144 for a morale-boosting win ahead of Monday's final between the two sides.

Bad start

The start was not ideal for India-C as it lost Shubman in the second over.

Anmolpreet Singh (23) and Priyam Garg (18) added 53 before the latter was adjudged lbw off pacer Mo-



Blistering knock: Axar Patel pulled India-C out of a precarious situation with an unbeaten 98.

ammed Siraj. Shahbaz Nadeem's accuracy fetched him the wickets of Anmolpreet and Suryakumar Yadav (10).

Nitish Rana bowled Dinesh Karthik (34, 48b, 5x4) through the gate as India-C tottered at 126 for five in the 32nd over.

Virat shows his talent

Young Jharkhand batsman Virat Singh rose to the occasion and combined with Axar to revive the team.

Virat showed maturity while playing some attractive strokes and getting his 10th half-century dotted with three fours and as many sixes.

Axar, who took 46 balls to get to 50, displayed more aggression to plunder his next 46 runs from just 15 deliveries. His knock had 13 boundaries and three sixes. Virat and Axar added 154 for the sixth wicket in 18.4 overs.

India-B didn't look at ease

in the chase. As soon as Divesh Pathania castled Ruturaj Gaikwad (20) in the 10th over, Lalaj Saxena got into the act, snaring Yashasvi Jaiswal (28) and Kedar Jadhav (5).

Leg-spinner Mayank Markande bowled wicket-to-wicket to dismiss Rana, Parthiv Patel, Anukul Roy and Nadeem.

B. Aparajith's lone resistance ended after he scored his 21st half-century (53, 90b, 5x4).

The scores:

**India-C:** Shubman Gill c Kalaria b Vijay Shankar 1, Anmolpreet Singh lbw b Nadeem 23, Priyam Garg lbw b Siraj 18, Virat Singh (not out) 76, Suryakumar Yadav b Nadeem 10, Dinesh Karthik b Rana 34, Axar Patel (not out) 98; Extras (lb-1, w-19); Total (for five wks. in 50 overs): 280.  
**Fall of wickets:** 1-1, 2-5, 3-54, 4-70, 5-126.  
**India-B bowling:** Kalaria 10-0-75-0, Vijay Shankar 3-0-18-1, Nadeem 9-2-37-2, Siraj 10-1-60-1, Rana 10-0-30-1, Anukul 5-0-25-0, Jadhav 2-0-25-0, Aparajith 1-0-9-0.  
**India-B:** Yashasvi Jaiswal c Axar b Lalaj 28, Ruturaj Gaikwad b Pathania 20, B. Aparajith b Porel 53, Kedar Jadhav c Porel b Lalaj 5, Nitish Rana lbw b Markande 1, Parthiv Patel c Anmolpreet b Markande 1, Vijay Shankar lbw b Axar 9, Anukul Roy c Karthik b Markande 1, Shahbaz Nadeem c Pathania b Markande 12, Rush Kalaria c Gill b Porel 6, Mohammed Siraj (not out) 1; Extras (lb-1, w-6); Total (in 43.4 overs): 144.  
**Fall of wickets:** 1-34, 2-7, 3-84, 4-90, 5-94, 6-108, 7-115, 8-129, 9-143.  
**India-C bowling:** Porel 7.4-0-33-2, Pathania 8-1-32-1, Axar 10-1-28-1, Lalaj 8-0-25-2, Markande 10-0-25-4.

Djokovic in summit clash

PARIS MASTERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
PARIS

Serbia's Novak Djokovic reached the Paris Masters final for the sixth time when he downed Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov 7-6(5), 6-4 but Rafael Nadal pulled out injured on Saturday.

Djokovic will face Canada's Denis Shapovalov in Sunday's showpiece at Bercy after 19-time Grand Slam champion Nadal, who

would have secured the year-end No.1 spot with the title here, withdrew minutes before his semifinal match.

**The results: Semifinals:** Novak Djokovic bt Grigor Dimitrov 7-6(5), 6-4; Denis Shapovalov w/o Rafael Nadal.

**Quarterfinals:** Shapovalov bt Gael Monfils 6-2, 6-2; Nadal bt Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 7-6(4), 6-1.

**Doubles: Quarterfinals:** Karen Khachanov & Andrey Rublev bt Rohan Bopanna & Denis Shapovalov 7-5, 6-7(1), [10-8].

Heartbreak for Ankita and van der Hoek pair

SPORTS BUREAU  
LIUZHOU (CHINA)

Ankita Raina and Rosalie van der Hoek of the Netherlands were beaten 6-4, 6-4 by the Chinese Xinyu Jiang and Qianhui Tang in the final of the \$60,000 ITF women's event here on Saturday.

Ramyra Natarajan reached the singles semifinals of the \$15,000 ITF women's event in Cancun, Mexico.

**The results:**

**\$135,400 Challenger, Shenzhen, China: Doubles (final):** Cheng-Peng Hsieh & Tsung-Hua Yang (Tpe) bt Mikhail Elgin (Rus) & Ramkumar Ramanathan 6-2, 7-5.

**\$60,000 ITF women, Liuzhou, China: Doubles (final):** Xinyu Jiang & Qianhui Tang (Chn) bt Rosalie van der Hoek (Ned) & Ankita Raina 6-4, 6-4.

**\$15,000 ITF women, Cancun, Mexico: Singles (quarterfinals):** Ramyra Natarajan bt Anfi-sa Danilchenko (Rus) 6-3, 6-1.

PCB invites South Africa for T20 series

CRICKET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KARACHI

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has invited Cricket South Africa (CSA) to send its national team for a T20 series in Pakistan next March, according to chief executive officer Wasim Khan.

Speaking to the media in Lahore, Khan said that they had also got positive signs from the Sri Lankan board that it would send a full strength side to play two Tests in Rawalpindi and Karachi in December.

“The gates to international cricket returning properly to Pakistan are open and there is no doubt that the recent tour by the Sri Lankan

team to play the T20 and ODI series has helped us a lot,” he said.

Confirmation to come

He said the Sri Lankan board would confirm the tour in a week's time.

The PCB official said that talks were going on with Cricket South Africa to send their team for a T20 series.

“We are hopeful they will come in late March as the series will also help both teams prepare for the World T20 Championship in October,” he said.

Positive reply

A reliable source said that the South African board had given a positive reply and in all probability the tour would go ahead next year.

K.S. Rangasamy CT takes the honours

TIRUNELVELI: K.S. Rangasamy

CT defeated Loyola-ICAM CET by three wickets to win the title in the Anna University inter-zonal cricket tournament, organised by the Anna University Regional Campus-Tirunelveli, here recently.

**The scores: Final:** Loyola-ICAM CET 136/6 in 25 overs (Ryan Jebaraj 48, R. Vivek 30) lost to K.S. Rangasamy CT 137/7 in 23 overs (R. Naveen 35, R. Sridharan 54).

**Third place:** Kumaraguru CT 80 in 19.2 overs (T. Surya 36, S. Ragavan 3/7, S. Prakash 4/13) lost to C. Abdul Hakeem CET 84/9 in 19.4 overs.

**Chess tournament SIVAKASI:** The second of the five All-India Chess Grand Prix, the Sri Kaliswari College all-India FIDE-rated rapid tournament, will be organised by the Sivakasi Chess Club at the college

TAMIL NADU ROUND-UP



Champion: K.S. Rangasamy CT defeated Loyola-ICAM CET by three wickets to win the title.

here on November 17. Call R. Anantharam on 94431 55852.

TN and Kerala get a point each

WAYANAD: Tamil Nadu and Kerala shared a point each in the under-16 Vijay

Merchant Trophy South Zone cricket tournament after the last day's play was stopped early due to bad

light here on Saturday.  
**The scores:** Kerala 237 in 93.3 overs (Abhishek Nair 96, Niranjay Dev 41, P. Vignesh 5/62) drew with Tamil Nadu 184/6 in 64 overs (Anirudh Krishnan 32, A. Badrinath 90 n.o., Vijay Viswanath 3/41).  
**TN 1 point; Kerala 1.**

**Tamil Nadu loses**  
MYSURU: Half-centuries from Pradosh Ranjan Paul and R.S. Jaganath Sinivas went in

as Tamil Nadu lost to Gujarat by 13 runs in the Elite-A BCCI u-23 one-day competition on Saturday.  
**The scores:** Gujarat 260 in 50 overs (Urvil Patel 94, Manan Hingiraja 37, Kshitij Patel 57, H. Trilok Nag 4/60) bt Tamil Nadu 247 in 48.1 overs (Pradosh Ranjan Paul 69, R.S. Jaganath Sinivas 56 n.o., Yash Gardharia 3/31, Siddharth Desai 3/37).

Match drawn

HYDERABAD: The three-day league match between Hyderabad and Cricket Association of Puducherry (CAP) in the South Zone u-16 Vijay Merchant Trophy ended in a draw.  
**The scores:** Hyderabad 259 in 88.5 overs & 160/3 (Mayank Gupta 75 n.o., Pranav Varma 39 n.o., Rishit 36) drew with CAP 175 in 102.2 overs (Nitin Sai Yadav 6/43) & 159/6 in 51 overs (Kushwanth Sulora 35, P. Akash 38 n.o., Ashwad Raju 4/50).

ENGAGEMENTS

**At Coimbatore Cricket:** CDCA league, PSG IMS 'C', CIT, Sri Shakti 'B', Rathinam TC & NPT (Pollachi) grounds, 9.30 a.m.  
**At Dindigul Cricket:** DDCA league, PSNA, RVS & SBM, 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.  
**At Tiruchi Chess:** District-level tournament, Mout Litera Zee School, 9 a.m.

Barty to meet Svitolina



Elina Svitolina.  
\*GETTY IMAGES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
SHENZHEN

World No.1 Ashleigh Barty overcame the hitting power of Karolina Pliskova with a comeback victory on Saturday to set up a mouth-watering WTA Finals decider against defending champion Elina Svitolina.

The French Open champion prevailed 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 in one hour and 53 minutes in a matchup of the top two ranked players in the world.

Barty, playing in her WTA Finals debut, will look to cap off a momentous season when she plays Svitolina in Sunday's final. Ukraine's Svitolina won her 10th straight WTA Finals match with a 5-7, 6-3, 4-1 victory over a hobbed Belinda Bencic in one hour and 50 minutes.

The Swiss struggled with cramping from late in the first set but gamely fought on before retiring hurt.  
**The results: Semifinals:** Elina Svitolina bt Belinda Bencic 5-7, 6-3, 4-1 ret.; Ashleigh Barty bt Karolina Pliskova 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

New Moon has an edge in feature

CHENNAI: New Moon has an edge in the Merchants Cup (1,400m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Sunday (Nov. 3).

**1. PRETTY WOMAN PLATE** (1,600m), rated 0 to 25, 2:15 p.m.: 1. Famous Queen (4) Shahar Babu 60, 2. Poppy (6) S. Shareef 59.5, 3. Jessica (-) 59, 4. Cleona (1) Brisson 58, 5. Party Starter (5) Umesh 57 and 6. Balahak (3) Irshad Alam 51.  
**1. POPPY, 2. CLEONA**

**2. ALANDUR PLATE (DIV. I)**, (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 2:45: 1. Shreya's Pet (7) Jagadeesh 60, 2. Sultan Pheroze (2) Azfar Syeed 58.5, 3. Daiyamondo (1) Nazrul 57.5, 4. Deetocve (5) T.S. Jodha 57.5, 5. Petunia (4) B. Nikhil 57, 6. Betty Boop (3) Zulmar 55.5, 7. Mighty Princess (8) M. Bhaskar 55.5 and 8. Sundance (6) Umesh 54.  
**1. SHREYA'S PET, 2. SUUNDANCE, 3. MIGHTY PRINCESS**

**3. ALANDUR PLATE (DIV. II)**, (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 3:15: 1. Chaitanya (5) Umesh 60, 2.

Glorious Asset (1) Brisson 58.5, 3. Princess Saaraa (8) M. Bhaskar 58.5, 4. Welcome Chakkaram (3) Kamigallu 58.5, 5. Crimson Lane (4) B. Nikhil 57, 6. Merrywin (7) Jagadeesh 57, 7. Price Striker (2) K. V. Baskar 57 and 8. Dean's Grey (6) Kabdhar 56.5.  
**1. MERRYWIN, 2. CHAITANYA, 3. GLORIOUS ASSET**

**4. MERCHANTS CUP** (1,400m), rated 60 to 85, 3:45: 1. Wonder Blaze (1) B. Nikhil 60.5, 2. Rum Runner (4) Jagadeesh 59, 3. Semele (2) R.N. Darshan 57.5, 4. Kapalua (6) K.V. Baskar 57, 5. New Moon (12) P.S. Jodha 56, 6. Catelyn (7) Umesh 55, 7. Queen Of Clubs (5) M. Bhaskar 54.5, 8. Sentosa (8) Azfar Syeed 54.5, 9. My Kingdom (3) Brisson 54, 10. Zynifandelle (1) Shahar Babu 53.5, 11. Arca Cruise (10) Ayaz Khan 51 and 12. Teodoro (9) Farhan 50.  
**1. NEW MOON, 2. RUM RUNNER, 3. SEMELE**

**5. V.G. SARA-ME**

**MORIAL CUP** (1,800m), rated 40 to 65, 4:15: 1. Camila (4) Brisson 60, 2. Pacific Dunes (2) Umesh 55, 3. Brothers In Arms (1) T.S. Jodha 54.5, 4. Brilliant Script (8) Jagadeesh 53.5, 5. Royal Chieftain (3) R.N. Darshan 52, 6. Shield Maiden (6) Shahar Babu 52, 7. Regal Tribute (-) 51.5 and 8. Agnes (5) Farhan 51.  
**1. BROTHERS IN ARMS, 2. CAMILA, 3. BRILLIANT SCRIPT**

**6. ANTONIOS PLATE** (1,200m), 5-y-o & over rated 20 to 45, 4:45: 1. Hadar (3) Umesh 60, 2. Intox (7) Shahar Babu 56.5, 3. Fatboyslim (5) Brisson 55.5, 4. Silverman (2) Azfar Syeed 55.5, 5. Roses In My Dreams (6) M. Bhaskar 55, 6. Fire Strike (4) B. Nikhil 54, 7. Young Darling (1) Nazrul 54 and 8. Supreme Commander (6) R.N. Darshan 53.5.  
**1. HADAR, 2. SILVERMAN, 3. INTOX**

**Jkt:** 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6; Mini Jkt: 3, 4, 5 & 6; Tr: (0): 1, 2 & 3 (ii): 4, 5 & 6.

Rijiju unveils u-17 women's WC emblem

G. VISWANATH  
MUMBAI

Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju unveiled here the emblem of the FIFA under-17 Women's World Cup set to kick off on November 2, 2020.

The emblem of the 16-team competition, was unveiled by Rijiju, FIFA Chief Women's Football officer Sarai Bareman and AIFF president and chairman of the Under-17 Women's World Cup, Praful Patel.

"This tournament is much more than a World Cup. It represents so much for the women and young girls of this country. It represents their empowerment. "My challenge to you, Mr.



The grand reveal: The FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup logo was projected on the Gateway of India. \*VIVEK BENDRE

Rijiju and Mr. Patel, is to make the next year's World Cup a record breaking event.

We want to leave a legacy," Sarai said Rijiju revealed that a women's league will be

launched next month. "We will do it and you will see it," he said.

Yashaswini makes light of her challenges

Payas not so lucky as the long air journey and lack of sleep take their toll

WZ RANKING TT

AMOL KARHADKAR  
THANE

Since Yashaswini Ghorpade and Payas Jain were supposed to return from the World Cadet Challenge in Poland - where they were a part of Asian squads - late on Friday night, their junior girls' and boys' matches were rescheduled to Saturday in the UTT West Zone National Ranking table tennis tournament.

While three semifinalists had already been spotted, the duo - with barely six hours' sleep after a long flight - had to start their surge on Saturday from the round of 32. While the travel and extraordinarily hot and humid conditions at the Smt. Sulochanadevi Singhania School took its toll on Payas



Triumphant: The winners in various categories, from left, Yashaswini Ghorpade, Manush Shah, Yashansh Malik and Moumita Dutta. \*VIBHAV BHARWARKAR

in the semifinal, Karnataka's Yashaswini proved her superiority by lifting the junior girls' title. Despite playing five matches in six hours, including the nail-biting final against Delhi's Vanshika Bhargava where she clawed her way back after trailing 3-2, the 15-year-old Yashaswi-

ni appeared fresh as ever. "It was a different experience but I really enjoyed the last week, getting to play with the best juniors in the world and then coming over and continuing in the same vein," Yashaswini told The Hindu after the final.

**The results: Boys: Junior (U-18): Final:** Yashansh Malik



On Cloud nine: The South African team is a joyous lot after regaining the Webb Ellis Cup.. \*AP

## Third title for Springboks

South Africa stuns pre-match favourite England

### RUGBY WORLD CUP

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
YOKOHAMA (JAPAN)

South Africa stunned pre-match favourite England 32-12 with a brutally effective forward display to win its third World Cup here on Saturday.

The Springboks' victory was built on a colossal performance by the powerhouse pack that allowed fly-half Handre Pollard to kick six penalties before Makazole Mapimpi's 66th-minute try – the first the Springboks had scored in a World Cup final. Fit-again fellow flyer Cheslin Kolbe then crossed from the other wing to put the result beyond doubt and set off celebrations for the South African public.

Victory ensured the Springboks made it three wins from three World Cup final appearances – after missing the first two editions because of apartheid – and maintained the record of being crowned champions at 12-year intervals following triumphs in 1995 and 2007.

Saturday's victory also

**W** We have so many problems in our country but a team like this, we come from different backgrounds, different races but we came together with one goal and we wanted to achieve it

— SIYA KOLISI,  
South Africa captain

saw South Africa become the first team to win a World Cup having lost in pool play, with the Springboks beaten by reigning champion New Zealand in their opener.

#### Tactical triumph

It was a tactical triumph for South Africa coach Rassie Erasmus, who has overseen a Springbok revival after taking charge two years ago following a miserable 2016.

Siya Kolisi, South Africa's first black captain, lifted the Webb Ellis Cup in a moment of symbolism to rival 1995.

"We are so grateful to the people of South Africa," Kolisi said. "We have so many problems in our country but

■ Springboks made it three wins from three final appearances and maintained the record of being crowned champions at 12-year intervals following triumphs in 1995 and 2007

■ It was the third defeat in four finals for England

a team like this, we come from different backgrounds, different races but we came together with one goal and we wanted to achieve it. Just shows that we can pull together if we want to achieve something."

For England, four years on from the humiliation of a first-round exit on home soil in 2015, which led it to appoint Australian coach Eddie Jones, it was a match too far after quarterfinal and semifinal wins over Australia and New Zealand.

A third defeat in four finals for England was also its second by South Africa, which defeated it 15-6 in the 2007 showpiece.

**The result:** South Africa 32 bt England 12.

## Shaili Singh and Bharti break National records

Long jumper Sandra Babu qualifies for under-20 Worlds

### JR. NATL. ATHLETICS

SPORTS BUREAU  
GUNTUR

Karnataka long jumper Shaili Singh and Haryana shot putter Bharti broke the under-16 National records on the opening day of the 35th National junior athletics championships here on Saturday.

Shaili bettered her own National record with a 6.01m effort (OR 5.94m) in the qualification round. Bharti's effort of 15.32m in the under-16



Sandra. \*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

shot put was more than a metre better than the record. Sandra Babu of Kerala qualified for next year's under-20 World championships while winning the girls' long jump with an opening round effort of 6.16m (entry standard 6.15m) and Karnataka's A.T. Daneswari broke the under-20 girls' meet record in the 100m heats, clocking 11.70s (OR 11.92).

**The results: Boys: Under-20: 10,000m:** 1. Gurpreet (Har) 30:52.00s, 2. M. Sathish Kumar (TN) 21:11.93, 3. R. Niteshkumar (Guj) 31:27.69.

**Under-18: Pole vault:** 1. Deepak Yadav (Mah) 4.55m, 2. Gourav (Har) 4.55, 3. Sandeep Kumar (MP) 4.45. **Javelin:** 1. Vivek Kumar (AFI-SSCB) 71.90m, 2. Ajai Raj Singh Kunwar (Pun) 71.33, 3. Suraj Kumar (UP) 70.95.

**Under-16: Discus:** 1. Arvind Sharma (Del) 50.16m, 2. Jatin Dhaka (Har) 49.39, 3. Akshay Sheoran (Raj) 49.16. **Shot put:** 1. Jitender (Del) 16.89m, 2. Jaidev Dikka (Del) 16.89, 3. Kunak Kaushik (Har) 16.76.

**Girls: Under-20: 5000m:** 1. Seema (HP) 17:03.14s, 2. Amrita Patel (UP) 17:10.67, 3. Poonam

Dinkar Sonune (Mah) 17:35.24.

**Long jump:** 1. Sandra Babu (Ker) 6.16m, 2. Manisha Merel (Odi) 6.07, 3. Ancy Sojan (Ker) 5.96.

**Shot put:** 1. V. Ambika (Kar) 14.24m, 2. Rekha (Har) 13.95, 3.

Paramjot Kaur (Pun) 13.76.

**Under-18:** 1. P.M. Thabitha (TN) 5.85m, 2. P.S. Prabhavathi (Ker) 5.76, 3. P. Babisha (TN) 5.70.

**Under-16: High jump:** 1. Sharvani Ramachandra (Mah) 1.62m,

2. Payal Jamod (Guj) 1.62, 3. B. Sandhya (TN) 1.62.

**Shot put:** 1. Bharti (Har) 15.32m NR, OR 14.27; 2. Vidhi (UP) 14.40 BR, 3. Yashshree (Raj) 13.68.

## 93 overaged athletes stopped from competing

STAN RAYAN  
KOCHI

Over 90 athletes were stopped from competing in the 35th National junior athletics at Guntur after failing age-verification tests.

"Many of them are from Haryana, UP and Rajasthan," Nitin Arya, the Athletics Federation of India's Manager-Competitions told *The Hindu* while confirming the number as 93.

The age-fudging issue had troubled the sport for long and 41 athletes, including star sprinter Nisar Ahmed, were found overage and disqualified from the Youth Nationals in Raipur early this year.

Three others were disqualified at the junior Nationals in Guntur for violating the federation's no-needle policy on the opening day of the five-day meet and the entries of nearly 200 athletes were rejected as their age-proof certificates were not in order.

"Officials are keeping a close watch and the three athletes were caught with syringes," said the official.

The AFI also started the process of biometric registration of athletes at Guntur to tackle the age-fraud issue.

Special cards with unique ID numbers will be issued to all athletes to avoid the age-verification process at every meet.

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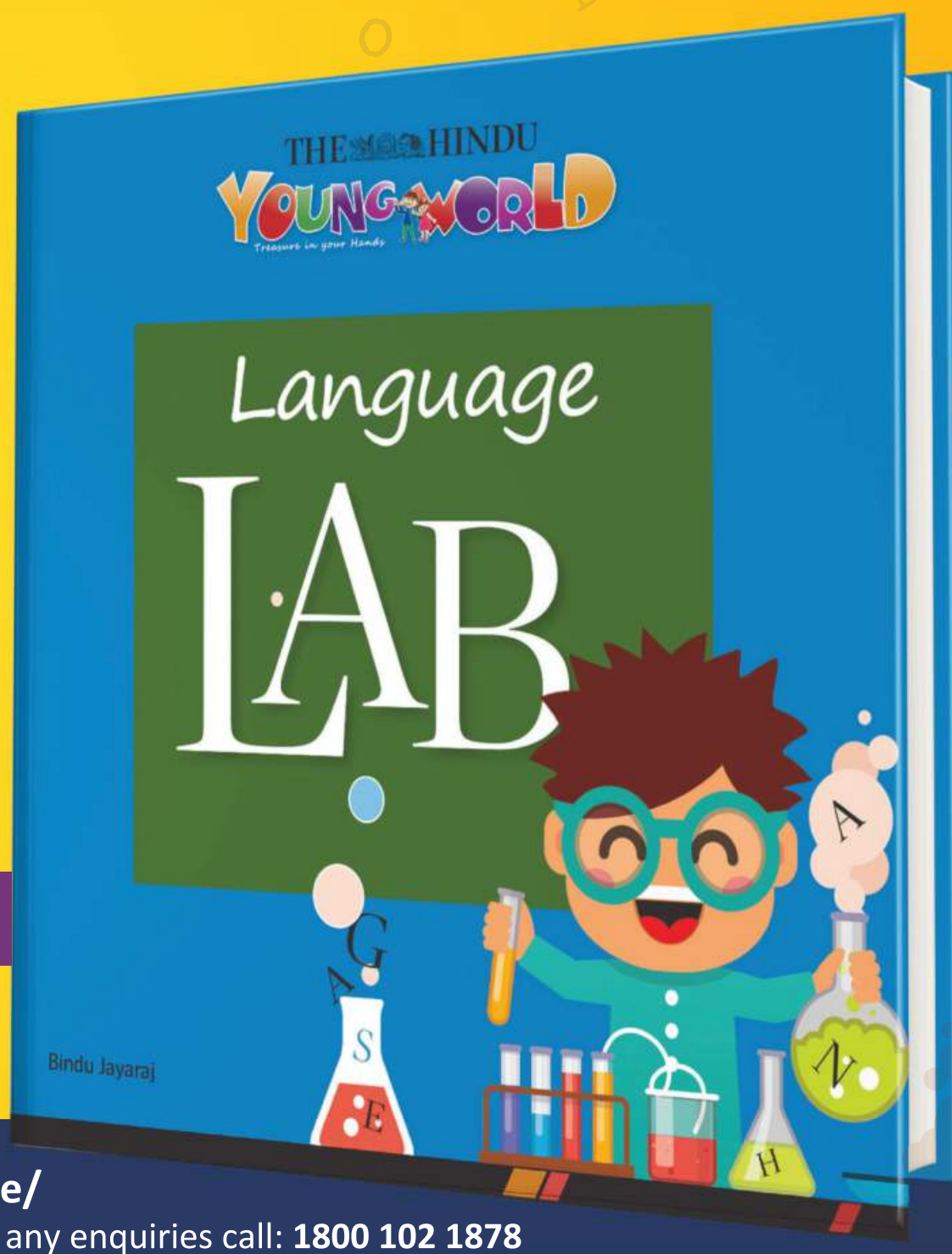
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# Rajinikanth to get special honour at IFFI

Actor will be conferred with the 'Icon of Golden Jubilee' award at the film festival's 50th edition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The 50th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will honour actor Rajinikanth with an 'Icon of Golden Jubilee' award, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar announced on Saturday.

The festival will be held in Goa from November 20 to 28, with close to 250 films from various countries being screened.

"The festival's steering committee had recommended a special icon award which will be conferred on



Show stopper: Rajinikanth in a still from Petta.

legendary actor Rajinikanth. This will be a great attraction during IFFI," the Minister told reporters here.

On Twitter, Mr. Rajinikanth thanked the government for the honour. "I thank the government of In-

dia for this prestigious honour bestowed upon me on the golden jubilee of the International film festival of India," the actor posted.

Mr. Javadekar also said that celebrated French actor Isabelle Huppert would be given the Lifetime Achievement Award for a foreign actor.

In its golden jubilee year, the festival will screen 50 films by 50 female filmmakers to acknowledge the contribution of women in cinema, Mr. Javadekar said.

The Minister also revealed that of the 200 foreign films

being screened, 24 movies are in the race for Oscar nominations.

Russia will be the partner country of the festival this year.

Dadasaheb Phalke Award winner Amitabh Bachchan's seven or eight films will be showcased at the festival.

Members of the festival steering committee and Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant will meet on November 4 to discuss final preparations. More than 10,000 people and cinema enthusiasts are expected to attend the film festival.

# Lady Gaga to play Gucci wife in new film

REUTERS  
LOS ANGELES

Lady Gaga will play the wife of a murdered heir to the Gucci fashion dynasty in her next film, Hollywood media reported on Friday.

Gaga, whose first lead movie role in *A Star is Born* last year was critically acclaimed, will play Patrizia Reggiani, who served 18 years in an Italian prison for orchestrating the 1995 murder in Milan of her husband Maurizio Gucci, according to *Variety*, the *Hollywood Reporter* and *Deadline*.



Lady Gaga

Reggiani, dubbed the Black Widow in what was one of the most scandalous high society crimes in Italian history, was released from prison in 2016. Ridley Scott will direct and produce the movie.

# Thailand cave open to visitors after 16 months

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BANGKOK

Thailand has reopened the cave where 12 young footballers and their coach were trapped last year in a rescue saga that captivated the world.

The Tham Luang cave had been closed to visitors since the Wild Boars football team were rescued after nearly three weeks inside the grotto's waterlogged corridors.

But the world-famous cave in northern Chiang Rai province was re-opened on Friday, drawing some 2,000 tourists in a single day, a local conservation official said.

"We have allowed visitors to see the mouth of the cave," said Kamolchai Kotcha, director of the local conservation office.

Guests are not allowed beyond the entrance for now, where they can peer into the cave opening, but officials said they were considering allowing people deeper inside after surveying the safety of the route.

Some of the rescue equipment left behind - including telephone wires, hoses and zip lines - could be exhibited inside the cave for visitors to view in the future, Mr. Kotcha said.

# Social networks are taking on streaming giants

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
NEW YORK

Even as Disney, HBO and Apple lavish billions on content to gate-crash TV streaming wars, social networks like Facebook, YouTube and Snapchat are creating their own original shows to get their piece of the advertising pie.

Historically, these three social networks are better known for hosting user-generated content.

But in recent years, each has invested in scripted programming which is free to view - unlike the streaming giants, who charge subscriptions.

At one stage, YouTube planned to charge for shows such as *Karate Kid* spin-off *Cobra Kai* and Generation Z comedy *Liza on Demand* using its premium service. But it backtracked this year. Free access "gives advertisers more opportunities to engage with a broader audience ... and align with top Hollywood talent and YouTube creators," the company said in May.

In mid-October, Facebook released *Limetown*, a web drama starring Jessica Biel based on a popular podcast of the same name.

## User interaction

Both *Limetown* and Elizabeth Olsen-starring flagship show *Sorry for Your Loss* benefit from and drive interaction among Facebook's nearly 2.5 billion monthly users. "That, to me, is the most exciting part," Michelle Purple, co-producer of *Limetown*, said at the Toronto film festival in September.

While Snapchat also produces fictional programming to increase user interactions and time spent on its platform, it does so in its own distinctive way.

Episodes are typically only a few minutes long, shot at a frantic pace with flashy visual effects, and are filmed vertically to suit smartphone viewing.

"Mobile is now the dominant medium for telling stories and consuming content," said Snapchat original content head Sean Mills at a summit in April.

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