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BASIRHAT VIOLENCE: INTERNET, CABLE SERVICES SUSPENDED

West Bengal, Centre face off again: Home flags state law failure, angry TMC hits out

Centre expresses 'deep concern'; Governor leaves for Delhi; State says it's in control

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, NEW DELHI, JUNE 9

A DAY after violence in the Basirhat subdivision of North 24 Parganas claimed the lives of two workers of the BJP and one of the Trinamool Congress, the West Bengal government and the Centre were on a collision course with the Union Home Ministry describing the situation on the ground as "a failure of the law enforcement machinery", and the Trinamool Congress saying it "will respond appropriately" to this "political conspiracy".

In an advisory to the West Bengal government, the Ministry of Home Affairs, while expressing "deep concern", said: "The unabated violence over the past weeks appear to be a failure on the part of the law enforcement machinery of the state to maintain the rule of law and inspire confidence among people."

It asked the state government to not only ensure maintenance of law and order but to also identify and punish "delinquent" officers. "It is strongly advised to ensure that all necessary measures are taken to maintain law and order, peace and public tranquility. It is also requested to take strict action against officials

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

The mother and wife of BJP worker Pradip Mondal who was killed at Bangipara. *Partha Paul*

Families recall how men were chased and killed

SANTANU CHOWDHURY
SANDESHKHALI, JUNE 9

A DAY after two workers of the BJP and one of TMC were killed and another BJP worker went missing, charges flew thick and fast as a pall of gloom descended on two villages under Basirhat subdivision in North 24 Parganas.

At Bangipara village under Sandeshkhali I block, wails of women rang out in the congested locality of single-storey houses. The dead and missing workers of the BJP, related to each other, belonged to the same area. Thirty-five-year-old Padma Mondal, wife of BJP worker Pradip Mondal who was shot dead Saturday, was inconsolable.

Mondal had gone to his in-laws' house for Jamai Shasthi but

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED

BJP vs TMC just got more intense

THE SATURDAY incident has sharply escalated the situation on the ground in West Bengal where TMC and BJP have been at loggerheads. That the Home Ministry, now headed by Amit Shah, has stepped in, calling it "a failure of the law enforcement machinery", has not gone down well in Kolkata. A new battle is likely.

Woman at centre of UP video row has guards: To stop her from running away

Mother says her daughter is 'mentally unwell', marriage didn't last 2 weeks

MAULSHREE SETH
KANPUR, JUNE 9

SITTING IN her two-room house on the first floor of a run-down building in a local market in Kanpur city, the 32-year-old woman — now at the centre of a video row that has led to the arrest of a freelance journalist and an editor and head of a Noida-based channel — watches videos on a loop on her cellphone.

A woman officer of the UP Police's Local Intelligence Office sits in another room while on the ground floor, near a few vegetable vendors, sits a male constable. They have been here since the video, in which she is heard making claims about Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, was aired by the Noida channel. While the woman says the police personnel are here for her "security", the mother says they have been helpful in "stopping her from running off to Lucknow, now and then".

The woman, her mother says, was married to a Kanpur-based man two years ago, but came home barely 10 days later. Much of the space in the two rooms is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Sealed office of the TV channel in Noida that aired the video

SPORT

INDIA BEAT AUSTRALIA IN WORLD CUP THRILLER
PAGES 16, 17

Masalawala & Kalburgi case: Entry in diary helps SIT nab murder suspect

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, JUNE 9

AN ENTRY, 'Masalawala', in a diary seized from a key accused in the killings of journalist Gauri Lankesh and Kannada scholar M M Kalburgi in 2017 and 2015 enabled a Special Investigation Team of Karnataka Police to identify and arrest a 27-year-old Belagavi man in the Kalburgi murder case on May 31.

The SIT, during the course of its investigation into the Lankesh murder case and the arrest of prime suspect Amol Kale in May 2018, found a notebook used as a diary by Kale. It contained references to persons recruited for subversive activities by a radical right wing outfit linked to the Sanatan Sanstha group. The diary

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

TERROR CAN'T DEFEAT LANKA: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi at St Anthony's Church in Colombo, Sunday. The church was among the sites targeted by the Easter Sunday bombers. *PTI* REPORT, PAGE 6

Pak faces FATF blacklist: Key goals unmet, call for action against Jaish, LeT

SUSHANT SINGH
NEW DELHI, JUNE 9

THE JOINT Group of Asia Pacific Group (APG) has informed Pakistan that an assessment of its action plan against eight proscribed terror outfits, including Lashkar-e-Tayyaba and Jaish-e-Muhammad, after it was greylisted by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for terror financing has found that its compliance on 18 of 27 action plans was unsatisfactory.

In its assessment report, sources told *The Indian Express*, APG specifically demanded stringent actionable steps by Pakistan against Da'esh, Al Qaeda, Jamaat-ud Dawa, Falah-i-Insaniyat Foundation, Lashkar-e-Tayyaba, Jaish-e-Muhammad, Haqqani Network, and persons affiliated with the Taliban, and that its law enforcement agencies show more concrete outcomes on fighting money laundering and terror-financing.

The report, sources said, essentially asks Pakistan to do more until September when the FATF Action Plan is concluded for a final assessment.

This assessment report, which was shared last week with Islamabad, is based on last month's APG Joint Group meeting in Guangzhou where Pakistan presented its case and provided details of all the actions it had taken in compliance with FATF directions. India's Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) Director General was a co-chair at the APG meeting despite Pakistan's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

3 arrested by UP police in judicial custody, new FIR against a fourth

MANISH SAHU, AMIL BHATNAGAR & SOMYA LAKHANI
LUCKNOW, NEW DELHI, JUNE 9

A DAY after they were arrested for allegedly making "objectionable comments" and "propagating defamatory content" against Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, freelance journalist Prashant Kanojia, Ishika Singh, head of a Noida-based news channel, and Anuj Shukla, one of the editors of the channel, were remanded in judicial custody.

Amidst these arrests, another

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THE EDITORIAL PAGE

LUCKNOW'S LONG ARM
Arrests of three by UP police for a tweet and a video are an attack on free speech — they need a strong rebuff PAGE 10

BUSINESS AS USUAL
BY UNNY

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WAY FORWARD IN KASHMIR
BY RAJMOHAN GANDHI
PAGE 10

How Patiala villages ended practice of separate cremation grounds for Dalits

Gobindpura has a common cremation ground. *Harmeet Sodhi*

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DIVYA GOYAL
LUDHIANA, JUNE 9

"MANAS KI jaat sabhe eke pehchanbo... Saariyan jaatiyan tey dharman de log iss swaragdham vich sanskaar kar sakde han (Recognise mankind as a single caste... People of all castes and religions can perform the last rites of their near and dear ones here)...," reads the stone plaque outside the cremation ground at village Gobindpura in Nabha tehsil of Patiala district of Punjab.

In Punjab, the land of Sikhism whose Gurus denounced casteism and popularised concepts such as the langar (community kitchens where everybody sits together and eats), caste remains a reality whose vice-like grip often follows people to their grave, with several villages setting up separate cremation grounds for Dalits. However, that's slowly changing in villages such as Gobindpura.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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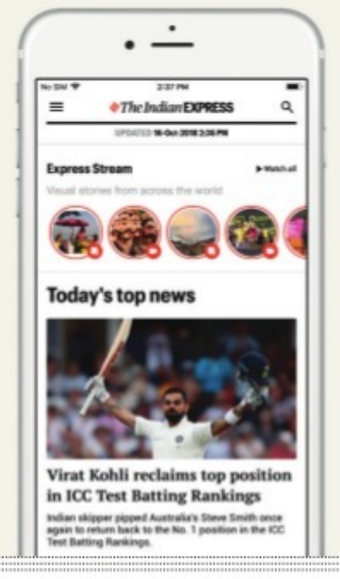

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BENGALURU: LUDO GAME TURNS FATAL, MAN KILLED OVER RS 100 BET
Thirty-two-year-old Shekh Milan, hailing from West Bengal, was stabbed to death by a friend over a Ludo game on a smartphone. More than two people have been arrested so far and a probe is underway

VIDEO OF THE DAY

IDEA EXCHANGE WITH PADDY UPTON
Rajasthan Royals's head coach talks about the 2011 World Cup-winning team

FULL COVERAGE

PM MODI'S SRI LANKA VISIT
Modi says cowardly acts of terror cannot defeat Sri Lanka's spirit

EXPRESS AUDIO
Cricket Diplomacy and why Modi gifted a bat to Maldives
NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY
In this episode, we look at how Cricket is used for diplomatic advantage and why the Maldives President wants to promote sports in his country

FROM PAGE ONE

Kalburgi case

entry 'Builder' had earlier helped the SIT identify a 26-year-old man from Bijapur in north Karnataka, Parashuram Waghmore, as the September 5, 2017 shooter of Lankesh.

Following the arrest of 38-year-old Kale, the SIT identified the person nicknamed 'Masalawala' and 'Masala' in Kale's diary as Praveen Prakash Chatur, a 27-year-old from Belagavi who was arrested earlier this year by Belagavi police for a January 2018 petrol bomb attack on a theatre screening the film Padmaavat.

Praveen Prakash Chatur alias Masalawala has been identified by the SIT on the basis of statements by witnesses as the suspect who waited on a motorcycle outside the home of Kannada scholar Kalburgi on the morning of August 30, 2015 when his associate Ganesh Miskin, now 27, went up to the door, rang the bell, asked for Kalburgi and shot him down at close range.

"Praveen Prakash Chatur is identified as Masalawala in Kale's diary. This was the code name given to him," sources in the SIT said.

Pages from the diary which have been enclosed along with a chargesheet in the Lankesh case reveal the presence of the name 'Masala' among the trusted recruits listed by Kale.

Both Kale and Chatur alias Masalawala, who were in SIT custody over the last week, were remanded in judicial custody by a Dharwad court on June 6. The SIT probes into the Lankesh and Kalburgi cases have shown that all persons actively involved with the activities of the extremist right wing group were provided operational names by Kale to prevent easy identification.

The youth now identified as the shooter of Kalburgi was given the name 'Mithun', the SIT probe found during the Lankesh investigation. 'Mithun' had earlier been identified by the SIT as the rider of the motorcycle that brought Waghmore alias Builder to Lankesh's house in 2017.

An associate of Miskin from Hubli city, Amit Baddi, 26, who was responsible for retrieval of guns, clothes and other equipment used in the Lankesh murder, was named 'Govinda' by Kale while another accomplice Bharat Kurne, 37, was named 'Uncle'.

Based on the diary entries — forensically proven to have been written by Kale and a key recruiter of the group Sujeet Kumar alias Praveen, 38 — the SIT has found such references to over 24 persons recruited by the group in Karnataka for subversive activities apart from dozens in Maharashtra.

Kale's diary also reveals that the prime accused in the Lankesh and Kalburgi killings was also involved in the planning of the attack on theatres screening the film Padmaavat last year.

"Throw stone at the entrance (sic). Use petrol bomb on the vehicle. Use crackers and rods at the ticket counter. Make fake call and throw pamphlet. Theatre audience and producer will have loss. Mumbai Pune, Kolhapur, Sambhaji. Be practical at the gate," says one entry by Kale in his diary in a possible reference to plans to attack theatres.

Video row

taken up by gifts, still wrapped, that were returned by the woman's in-laws — a dressing table, an almirah, a refrigerator, a mixer-grinder, a suitcase.

In the first room, right at the entrance, the woman's father lies on a wooden cot, bedridden since he suffered a heart attack about a year ago.

As the woman watches another video, her mother intervenes but fails, and says the 32-year-old had been mentally unwell since her failed marriage. The family says the woman had of late been living separately, in a room some distance away from their house, but has moved back to this house since the row over the video.

"Her mental condition started deteriorating after the divorce and became worse after she started living alone. She does no work and has no income. My elder daughter lives in Delhi and sends her some money. We are poor people and do not know what to do. She even sold off her gold jewelery to go to Gorakhpur and Lucknow and would not listen to us. My husband used to work at a tent house, but now we have no income," says the mother.

The woman, still watching her phone, says, "Like the rest of the world, my mother too does not understand me. My family is not supportive and that is why I have been living alone. I need to settle down now. I am not a fool like everyone thinks. I did my BSc in 2008. I wanted to meet the Chief Minister to seek help after I was abandoned by my in-laws. I could not meet him in Lucknow but then someone told me that he visits Gorakhpur during festivals. So I first went to Gorakhpur last Diwali and handed him my application seeking help," says the woman. "I met the CM next at a Janta darbar during Holi this year and again handed over my application."

Additional SP, Kanpur South, Raveena Tyagi, who met the woman at her home, said, "We heard her out. She kept repeating what she told the media. The family told us they had consulted a psychiatrist in the past."

Pak blacklist risk

demand for India's removal from the group while its case was being considered. While Pakistan will submit its reply to the FATF, it leaves Pakistan with a real danger of being downgraded to the blacklist on terror financing in the upcoming FATF plenary meeting. FATF's Plenary and Working Group meetings are scheduled to be held in Orlando from June 16 to 21, where such a proposal could be moved.

Pakistan requires votes of at least 15 of FATF's 36 voting members to move out of the grey list, sources said, and a minimum of three votes to prevent itself from being blacklisted. The FATF plenary meeting at Orlando will decide Pakistan's future listing even though a formal announcement will only be made at the next FATF plenary scheduled in Paris from October 18 to 23, sources said.

The assessment report assumes significance as FATF had issued a statement in February which stated: "Given the limited progress on action plan items due in January 2019, the FATF urges Pakistan to swiftly complete its action plan, particularly those with timelines of May 2019."

Besides the economic consequences of being placed on a blacklist, Pakistan has been negotiating a $6-billion loan from IMF to bail it out from low foreign exchange reserves which also seems to be under threat due to the IMF listing. An IMF press release had asked Pakistan to show commitment against money laundering and terror financing, meaning thereby that FATF clearance is mandatory to qualify for the loan programme.

Pakistan was placed on FATF's grey list for terror financing in June 2018, on a proposal moved by the US, UK, Germany and France. FATF is the global watchdog on anti-money laundering and combating financing terror.

Home says law machinery failed, TMC hits back

found delinquent in discharge of their duty," the MHA advisory said.

Rejecting the charge of the failure of the state law and order machinery, the Mamata Banerjee government maintained that the situation in the state was "under control".

In a letter to the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, West Bengal Chief Secretary Malay Kumar De said "firm and appropriate actions" were initiated in all cases of violence without delay.

"... while there have been a few stray post-poll clashes in the state perpetrated by some anti-social elements, the law enforcement authorities have been taking firm and appropriate actions in all such cases without any delay," De wrote to the MHA. "The situation is under control and it may not be construed under any circumstance to be a failure on the part of the law enforcement machinery of the State to maintain the rule of law and impute confidence among the people," he said.

In a statement, the Trinamool Congress said: "The so-called advisory from MHA to the West Bengal government on the law enforcement machinery in the State is nothing but a political conspiracy. We will respond appropriately."

Internet and cable services have been suspended in Basirhat and surrounding areas as authorities moved to deal with the situation.

Governor Kesari Nath Tripathi left Kolkata for New Delhi where he is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday. Sources claimed that the law and order situation and "internal issues" of the state may be on the table. On Saturday evening, Mukul Roy, member of the BJP national executive committee, spoke to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and gave details of the violence.

State BJP president Dilip Ghosh said, "Law and order in the state has completely broken down. It is the Centre's duty to ask the state for a report. Trinamool Congress is spreading terror since it knows the days of its government is numbered."

CM Mamata Banerjee offered no immediate comment but Trinamool Congress leaders and ministers bristled over the Centre's advisory.

Partha Chatterjee, Trinamool Congress secretary general and state education minister, said, "It seems that BJP has become desperate in the state and is resorting to violence. They may have got some seats through the help of the Left, but people of Bengal are still with us."

Jyotipriyo Mullick, state food minister and party president for North 24 Parganas district, said, "This is interference by the Centre in matters of the state. Law and order is a state subject."

Both Trinamool Congress and BJP sent delegations to visit the injured in the hospital and the families of party workers who died.

Police have suspended Internet and cable connections in Basirhat area, fearing further clashes. Basirhat and Baduria saw communal clashes in July 2017 where central forces had to be called to control the situation.

On Sunday, BJP workers and leaders took out protest rallies and blocked roads in various parts of Bengal, following which several were arrested including in Kolkata.

Families recall how men were chased, killed

returned home after receiving a call that some customers had turned up at his garments shop to buy clothes. "That was a trap set by local TMC men to attack my husband. As soon as he returned, the TMC men came, who on motorbikes, ransacked his shop. As my husband stepped out of the house, they opened fire at him. They chased him to the fields and shot him dead there," Padma told The Indian Express.

Fort-year-old Mondal had been an active BJP worker in the area. He ran a garments shop and owned a hatchery. He is survived by his mother, wife, two children and two brothers.

According to his younger brother Sandip Mondal, local TMC workers held a booth-level meeting at Nolkora Junior Basic Primary School, some 200 metres from their house, around 3 pm Saturday and began putting up party flags in the area.

"They had come here with the intention to attack us as we are supporters of the BJP. All our relatives here support the BJP and they have been planning the attack ever since BJP received a lead of around 150 votes from booth number 56 here. The entire incident took place in the presence of police officers," he Sandip alleged.

He said he was lucky to survive since he too was at his in-laws in Bongaon on Jamai Shasthi. He claimed that the TMC chose Jamai Shasthi to target them as most men in the area were away.

BJP supporter Sukanta Mondal (23) too was killed in the violence. Sukanta's younger sister Biva Mondal (19) demanded exemplary punishment for the culprits. "My brother dealt in fish and was the only earning member of the family. When TMC men started shooting, my brother went out to help others. But he ran to the fields nearby as he too was chased. The miscreants had only one agenda: attack everyone living in this area. Later, we found my brother's body in the field. We want justice and immediate arrest of the culprits," she said. Sukanta leaves behind his sister and mother Kinu Mondal.

Adjacent to their house lives Debdas Mondal (34) who has been missing since the clash. "I pleaded with my husband and asked him not to go out of the house as shots were being fired. But he insisted and went after others. We later saw that he was being attacked in the field. He was put in a sack and was carried away," claimed Supriya Mondal, wife of Debdas. His father, Basudeb Mondal (64), was also attacked but survived.

About 7 km away, at Rajbari Purbapara village, the family members of TMC worker Kaim Mollah who was killed in the Saturday clash, are speechless. Kaim's father Liyakat Ali Mollah admitted that his son had gone to attend the booth committee meeting at Bangipara. "He was putting up party flags at Bangipara when Pradip Mondal shot him from his shop. Later, they attacked him with a sharp weapon," Liyakat alleged. His son got married only five months ago and his wife Zebunnissa fainted when she heard about her husband's death.

A TMC delegation led by senior leaders Jyotipriya Mullick, Tapas Roy, Madan Mitra, Sujit Bose and Nirmal Ghosh visited Kaim's house and blamed the BJP for the clash. "The BJP is in a hurry to come to power here by indulging in violence. They want to disturb peace in the state. We will not tolerate this relentless violence and the law will take its own course," Tapas Roy said. Sheikh Shahjahan, who the BJP blames for the attack, was seen with the TMC leaders during their visit.

Meanwhile, a BJP delegation went to Basirhat Hospital to bring the bodies to Kolkata to hold their final rites. However, police stopped their convoy twice at Malancha and Minakhan areas and asked them to take the bodies to their village. The BJP delegation began a protest after being stopped by police and decided to cremate the bodies on Basanti Highway. But as family members of the victims became unwell, the party decided to withdraw the protest.

The BJP has called a 12-hour bandh in Basirhat sub-division Monday and announced that it will observe a black day across the state.

"We will also take out a protest rally from state party headquarters in Kolkata to Lalbazar (city police headquarters) on June 12. We will also take legal action on this incident," said BJP national secretary Rahul Sinha. Later, the bodies were taken to their village to hold the last rites.

West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh, party MP Locket Chatterjee and others were part of the BJP delegation.

Three arrested

case was lodged in Fatehpur district on Saturday night against 30-year-old Raju Singh Yadav who allegedly uploaded on his Facebook account morphed photographs of the CM and the Kanpur-based woman at the centre of the video row.

Police said Raju, who belongs to Fatehpur district and works in Mumbai, has been booked for "promoting enmity".

On Sunday, police visited Raju's village in Fatehpur, where they were told that he is in Mumbai. Police said the complaint was lodged by "social worker" Gaurav Singh who belongs to Raju's village.

Fatehpur Superintendent of Police Kailash Singh said, "We are seeking the help of the Special Task Force to arrest the accused. A team will be sent to Mumbai to trace him."

In the case of Prashant Kanojia, Ishika Singh and Anuj Shukla, UP DGP O P Singh said, "All three accused have been sent to judicial custody."

Kanojia was arrested from his Delhi residence on Saturday for allegedly uploading a video on Twitter in which a woman is heard making some claims about Adityanath. Kanojia had posted a comment with the video. Singh, 26, and Shukla, 30, of news channel Nation Live were booked for allegedly propagating "defamatory content" by airing footage of the woman's claims on their channel.

The Nation Live office in Noida's Sector 65 was deserted on Sunday. A lock with a red seal sat on the glass door.

A sealing order issued on Sunday by the Noida administration and signed by City Magistrate Shailendra Kumar Mishra said, "...There is anger within the party workers and keeping in mind the popularity of UP CM Yogi Adityanath, it cannot be denied that there could be a possible law and order situation in parts of the state and country..."

While one FIR has been filed against the channel for airing the Kanpur-based woman's video, another FIR is over alleged fraud in licence.

The order went on to claim that during inspection, a member of the staff presented a licence belonging to channel 'Network 10'.

The order alleged the channel aired content with a "polluted mind" and that its actions hinted at a "criminal conspiracy".

At Kanojia's house in East Delhi, his wife Jagisha Arora, 26, said, "The SHO of the Harzratganj police station made me talk to Prashant, who told me he's fine and that I should call his lawyer and come to Lucknow for his bail on Monday," said Arora.

According to Arora, Kanojia had been freelancing for the last few months and was looking for a job.

On the video that Kanojia shared, Arora said, "It's sarcasm and that's not a crime... Will the police arrest everyone who questions the government? I stand by his right to post anything on social media."

After his post was widely shared on Twitter, Arora remembers Kanojia showing her the number of "likes and shares". "It feels good to see people appreciating your post. Over 7,500 people liked his tweet. Will they put all of them in jail too?" said Arora.

The Editors Guild of India condemned the arrests and called the police action "high-handed, arbitrary and amounting to an authoritarian misuse of laws". The fact that the FIR was taken up suo motu by the police, the statement said, "is a condemnable misuse of law and state power".

Patiala villages

Gobindpura is one of 144 such villages in Patiala that have done away with caste-based cremation grounds, a change that was ushered in after its former Lok Sabha MP Dr Dharamvir Gandhi used a simple carrot-and-stick approach — villages that agreed to end the system of separate cremation grounds were given MPLAD funds for renovation and other development work at cremation grounds; those that resisted the change were denied the funds.

Gandhi, who the won the 2014 polls on an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) ticket and was later suspended from the party, contested the 2019 election on the ticket of the Punjabi Ekta Party but lost to Preneet Kaur of the Congress.

Says Gurdarshan Singh, former sarpanch of Gobindpura and a Dalit, "Earlier our cremation ground was very far from the village, almost 2 km away in the fields. There was no drinking water there, no proper road. Now we cremate our dead at the same ground used for people from the general category — this one is easier to access and has all facilities such as water, washrooms, etc."

Gurdarshan Singh says the change came with other positives. "Now everyone stands together at the time of grief. Both SC/ST and general category residents attend each other's cremations. We also visit each other's homes," he says.

The village got Rs 3 lakh as MPLAD grant, which they used to build boundary walls, a shed and toilets at the common cremation ground. The old cremation ground set aside for Dalits was closed and converted into a park. Of the 1,050 voters in the village, around 250 are Dalits.

At Ablowal, another village in Patiala that switched to a common cremation ground, there has been another key change — two Dalits are now members of the management committee of the village gurdwara.

Baljinder Singh Zaildar, president, Swaragdham Welfare Society, Ablowal, which manages the cremation ground and allied services in the village, says earlier, there were two grounds.

"However, when we approached Dr Gandhi for funds to renovate our cremation ground, he refused, saying we have to first end this practice of separate spaces and only then would he support us. Finally, everyone came around." he says.

But then, they encountered another problem. After the village shut down its ground for Dalits and used MPLAD funds to develop a park there, some of the elderly among the Dalits insisted that they should be cremated in the old ground "since their fathers or grandfathers were cremated there," he says.

Gandhi, the former Patiala MP who was the brain behind the idea of common cremation grounds, says, "Dignity and equality in death is everyone's right. Some villages even had as many as five cremation grounds, each for a separate caste group. I made it clear to panchayats that whether they vote for me or not, they will not get funds if this system of separate cremation grounds is not ended."

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ANAND VIHAR	SIRIFORT	SHADIPUR	DWARKA- SECTOR 8
Very Poor	Poor	Very Poor	Very Poor
343 AQI PM: 10	243 AQI PM:10	303 AQI PM: 2.5	360 AQI PM: 10

0-50 Good | 51-100 Satisfactory | 101-200 Moderate | 201-300 Poor | 301-400 Very Poor | 401-500 Severe

Discoms seek tariff hike, public hearing on June 10

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, JUNE 9

THE THREE major discoms in the city have petitioned the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) for a hike in the city's power tariff, claiming a collective deficit of Rs 287 crore in the average revenue requirement for the financial year 2019-20 and past dues.

The DERC has now issued a notice for a public hearing on the petitions submitted by BSES Rajdhani, BSES Yamuna and TPDDL (Tata Power) on June 10. The hearing assumes significance against the backdrop of CM Arvind Kejriwal's recent assertion that fixed charge rates will be reduced in the next tariff order.

The commission will also take suggestions and comments on the petitions till June 10. The new tariff order, already delayed due to the Lok Sabha elections, is expected by the end of June.

According to the DERC, the BYPL (BSES Yamuna), in its petition, claimed that the revenue deficit — the difference between earnings and expenditure — will be Rs 64 crore in 2019-20 at the existing tariff. BRPL (BSES Rajdhani) has put the estimated deficit at Rs 123 crore.

The two BSES subsidiaries serve over 42 lakh consumers in Delhi while TPDDL, a joint venture between Tata Power and the Delhi government, has a customer base of 16.4 lakh in North and North West Delhi.

In its petition, the BYPL has sought to justify its claim by referring to the increase in power cost due to the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) orders, the sealing drive undertaken by the civic bodies, increase in fuel and distribution costs due to inflation, impact of the Seventh Pay commission, GST, Minimum Wage Revision among others.

It has also sought a trajectory from the DERC to recover its "huge accumulated regulatory gap of Rs 14,289 crore up to Financial Year 2017-18". The BRPL has put its accumulated regulatory gap at Rs 14,782 crore.

The DERC, has in the past, rejected the demands of the discoms, and Kejriwal has claimed that discoms were inflating their liability figures.

BRPL has cited an "adverse consumer mix which has resulted in a lower distribution margin at the hands of the licensee as compared to its peers" in demanding a tariff hike, while also pointing out "high power purchase cost".

Last year's tariff order had come into effect in May. The DERC had left the per unit tariff unchanged, while effecting a hike in fixed charges. The Congress and BJP have claimed the hike in fixed charges was done to benefit discoms, a charge rejected by the AAP government.

Elderly couple die in blaze at Faridabad house

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
FARIDABAD, JUNE 9

A 65-YEAR-OLD man and his wife died after sustaining burn injuries when their house caught fire in Faridabad's Gandhi Colony on Sunday. Police said the blaze was caused by a short circuit.

Poonam and Satya Prakash were at home with their 28-year-old daughter when the incident took place around 7.30 pm. "We reached the spot immediately after the incident was reported. The three people were taken to a nearby hospital, where the doctor declared the couple dead on arrival. The daughter is unhurt but in a state of shock," said Faridabad police spokesperson Sube Singh.

The couple had three children, two sons and a daughter. While one son, who lived with them along with his wife, was not at home at the time the fire broke out, his wife had gone to visit her parents. The other son lives in Bengaluru and has been informed of the incident, police said.

On Saturday, a 29-year-old woman and her two children died while they were trying to escape a blaze that had broken out at their building in Faridabad's Dabua Colony.

Man who shot neighbour in face arrested

New Delhi: Two days after a 25-year-old woman was shot in the face and thrown out of a moving SUV in Vasant Kunj, police have arrested the accused.

Police said Rahul Singhal used three different vehicles while fleeing and was arrested near Chhattarpur Enclave.

"We searched for Singhal in Kishangarh, Devli, Ranikhera, Harevli and Rohtak," said Additional DCP (South West) Benita Mary Jaiker.

Police said that an associate helped him evade arrest, and he has been arrested as well. "Singhal had a monetary issue, due to which he shot the woman," said Jaiker. **ENS**

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Campus crunch

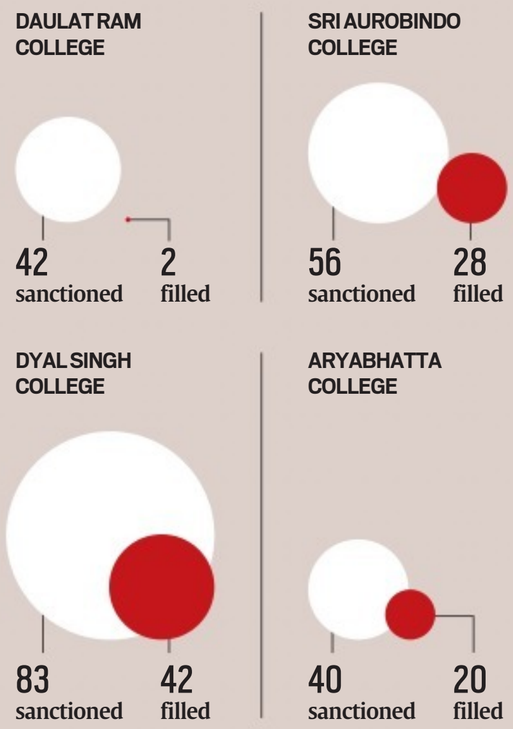
For the first time in history, Delhi University will admit over 60,000 students. But does it have enough infrastructure and teachers to meet the challenge? ARANYA SHANKAR & SUKRITA BARUAH find out

Student intake increases this yr

DAULAT RAM COLLEGE	
Current strength	3,800
Seats to be added this year	300
SRI AUROBINDO COLLEGE	
Current strength	970
Seats to be added this year	97
DYAL SINGH COLLEGE	
Current strength	1,636
Seats to be added this year	164
ARYABHATTA COLLEGE	
Current strength	2,200
Seats to be added this year	70

(Figures exclude supernumerary seats for sports, ECA and other quotas)

TEACHING POSTS DURING OBC EXPANSION



WHY FUNDING HAS HIT EXPANSION

- An issue that is affecting expansion is lack of funds, with DU and UGC locked in a funding battle. A new system of funding, Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA), is replacing the older UGC grants model to promote internal resource generation.
- Under HEFA, DU will have to pay 10% of the principal amount, while 90% is payable by the government. Amid resistance, the university is yet to sign an MoU with MHRD and UGC. Till such time, funds will not be released.
- Earlier this year, colleges were asked to draw up a programme-wise seat matrix and financial requirements to meet expansion. Colleges are bracing themselves for the eventual funds reaching them in the form of a loan instead of a grant.
- "It is understandable, the government wants to push colleges towards output and returns through research. However, colleges are barely making ends meet so it will definitely be a challenge," said the principal of a South Campus college.
- In the meantime, the 12 colleges which are completely funded by the Delhi government have written to them with their requirements. However, these colleges are already being starved of funds by the latter, with their funds being withheld for the last few months due to a deadlock between the state government and the university over the constitution of governing bodies in colleges.

A LAB functioning out of what was once a toilet, an institute without an auditorium, classes running out of porta cabins — as Delhi University prepares for a fresh influx of students, the need for better infrastructure is being felt now more than ever. What's more: For the first time in a decade, DU colleges have increased their student strength, after the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) mandated a 25% quota for students from the economically weaker section (EWS).

This year, the university has increased seats by 10%, which means around 6,000 seats are being added to the current strength of 56,000. In 2020, 15% more seats will be added.

To understand the challenges the university is facing, *The Indian Express* looked closely at four colleges and spoke to faculty and heads at several others — and discovered how urgently expansion is required.

Another red flag is that there aren't enough teachers — in 2008, after DU increased seats for OBC category students, DUTA president Rajib Ray said around 4,400 teachers were supposed to be recruited to ensure enough staff. That never happened, as roughly 2,000 teaching posts are yet to be filled.

This essentially means that when colleges open in July, students will be greeted with more sections per course, more classes, less classroom and lab space, and a slim chance of getting a hostel seat.

To fix this, a university official said, every college is making estimates of requirements and writing to respective funding agencies for assistance.

"A rough estimate is that smaller colleges which have around 550 students will require 10-15 new teachers. In colleges with over 5,000 students, requirement will go up to around 50 new teachers. The effect will be felt acutely four years from now, when 15% more students are admitted. Infrastructure crunch, however, will be felt from the first year itself," the official told *The Indian Express*.

Rajesh Jha, an elected member of the Executive Council (EC), DU's highest decision-making body, admitted that there is limited space in laboratories and dearth of equipment. "In many courses and colleges, majority of teaching happens inside laboratories. How will they manage? Are we trying to give quality education or just handing out degrees for the sake of it?" he said.

Former EC member Abha Dev Habib highlighted the dearth of non-teaching staff. "From admission to examination, non-teaching staff are involved everywhere. It is unfortunate that the government is rushing EWS expansion without providing grants for expansion of infrastructure and hiring teaching and non-teaching staff," she said.

At the four colleges *The Indian Express* visited, the problems manifested in many ways.

Daulat Ram College

Makeshift arrangements to stretch resources for 3,800 students are ubiquitous at the college. A wooden partition runs through its erstwhile seminar hall, so it can function as two classrooms. What used to be a toilet now houses seven stoves and a refrigerator to function as a laboratory for the Nutrition and Health Education Department. The sprawling canteen on the ground floor has been shifted out and the space is being used as a conference hall.

On the terrace, semi-permanent porta cabin structures have been set up to function as laboratories and teaching rooms for the psychology, biochemistry and physics departments. In empty spaces in the corridor on the ground floor, six semi-permanent classrooms have been set up.

"We are saturated and don't have room for any more improvisation," said Principal Dr Savita Roy.

To accommodate the student influx in 2008, the college had received over Rs 9 crore from the University Grants Commission (UGC), which was never utilised. "The process was in limbo for a long time. When I took charge as the principal in 2014, I created plans for new structures. But permission from the MCD is not in. We are going to have to return the amount, which will be a disaster," said Roy.

In 2016, the college extended its class hours to make more use of classrooms. Classes now begin at 8 am instead of 9 am and end at 5 pm instead of 3.30 pm, increasing teaching time by 12 hours per week.

After expansion, the college will find itself with more than 100 students in programmes like BA (Hons) Economics, BA (Hons) Political Science and BA (Hons) Hindi.

"Before OBC reservation expansion, we had 28 students in a zoology class. With this year's 10% expansion, we will have 51. It's almost double, but labs and staff remain the same. We will have to create more sections," said Roy.

This will prove to be a challenge, since the college has over 120 teaching vacancies. Out of the 188 teachers in the college, only 58 are permanent, and the rest ad hocs. The English department has 15 teachers — 13 of them ad hoc.

The hostel manages to accommodate only 200 students, and the problem will become more acute this year.

Sri Aurobindo College

It has been 47 years since the college was established, yet it does not have an auditorium or a proper sports field. It shares half its campus with a government school.

Classrooms are smaller than those in most DU colleges, not equipped to accommodate more than 50 students. Its seminar room can accommodate just over 100. Plus half the infrastructure is shared with the college's evening counterpart.

"Evening colleges are ideally supposed to start at 5-6 pm, but they start much earlier, while morning classes are on. Students will increase in both colleges, so how will we manage? Even now, in BCom (P), there are so many students (around 270) that 20 rooms are needed, but they are managing with 12 classrooms. Class timings are being stretched from 8 am to 5 pm. The MHRD took the decision but should also have released funds," said Hansraj Suman, a teacher.

In 2010-11, the college renovated 40 classrooms, but there has been stagnation since. Principal Vipin Aggarwal said the college meant to build porta cabins, but work hasn't started yet due to governing body issues.

The college will add 97 seats to its already existing strength of 970 seats this year.

"Suppose we have a class strength of 66 right now, and we need to expand by 25% to 80 or 85 students (by next year), we can't accommodate them in one class. Then we'll have to make two sections, which means double the workload. Our original faculty strength was 102. During the OBC expansion, we were sanctioned 56 or 57 additional teaching posts, but we only got 28 or 29, and that too on ad hoc basis," he said.

For now, the college is planning to increase lectures and reduce tutorial classes to deal with more students.

"Most teachers only take classes five days a week and tutorials on Saturdays. This time we will have proper classes on Saturday as well. We will request some teachers to take extra classes and increase strength of tutorial class from about 15 students to 20-25 students, so more extra classes can take place," the official said.

Suman said the workload of extra classes would fall on ad hoc teachers since they are not in a position to say no.

DU Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Tyagi and registrar Tarun Das did not respond to calls and messages seeking a comment.

Dyal Singh College

Embroiled in a tussle with the Dyal Singh (Evening) College which now also operates during morning hours, this college is not new to problems. In 2017, the morning and evening college principals got into a spat when the latter started taking classes at an under-construction building, which the former said was allegedly built on land meant for a sports ground.

The college has 10 bamboo-based classrooms and porta cabins. It has a small library and no auditorium. The geography department, for example, has two small labs which barely accommodate 40 students, even though the strength of just one batch is double this number. Teachers said that during the monsoon, labs get flooded and expensive equipment is ruined.

"There is such a dearth of space that the administration put partitions in classrooms to make space for tutorials. These rooms have just three-four benches and no doors, so noise from the corridor comes in. You can't teach," said P K Parihar, a teacher.

"Classrooms, even in the new block, have been designed to accommodate 40 students in honours courses, and around 60 students in pass courses. This number will rise this year, so where will they go?" he said.

Principal I S Bakshi accepted it would be a problem, but more so next year: "With this 10% increase, we will have to see whether sections need to be increased in theory classes or tutorial groups. Wherever manageable, we will try to avoid this. Next year, the issue will become more pressing."

Bakshi said he had written to the UGC demanding around 40 additional staff when the full 25% expansion takes place next year. "We got 83 posts under OBC expansion, and of these, 41-42 teaching posts are still pending," he said, hoping that these too will come through.

Aryabhatta College

Delhi University's newest college, earlier called Ram Lal Anand (Evening) College, is still in the process of building itself up, but is faced with a different set of challenges.

Formed in the 2014-2015 academic year, the college's main academic and administrative buildings are still under construction, but the administration is now rethinking its plans.

"Both buildings were to be four storeys tall, the outer structures are already complete but we plan to make them seven storeys high instead and have put the proposal before authorities," said Principal Dr Manoj Sinha.

The college is trying to add core sciences to its 14 undergraduate courses but finds itself redirecting resources and infrastructure to expand the capacity of existing courses.

"We are in a much better position than older colleges where infrastructure is inadequate. Since we are starting with 2,200 students, we are more flexible. We will have to stretch resources but are awaiting the second phase of teacher recruitments from OBC expansion, which will give us 20 new teachers," said Sinha.

Sinha, also the secretary of the DU principals' association, questioned the way expansion is being carried out.

"What must really be questioned is the sequence in which this is playing out. Infrastructure and teaching capacity should be expanded first, but here we are, standing on our heads. The 10% increase will be squeezed in... we can only pray that in the coming year, colleges will receive resources from the government before the second phase," he said.

PRINCIPALS VOICE CONCERNS

We are all writing to the UGC for funds for infrastructure as well as more teachers. This time, the percentage increase is less, but by next year it will be tough; we will need this support. Students can be accommodated in classrooms, but what about labs? They cannot be expanded like that; equipment and everything needs to be according to student strength. If we increase students in tutorial classes, it becomes almost like a classroom. It's a very good move but we need more resources."

BIJAYALAXMI NANDA
PRINCIPAL, MIRANDA HOUSE

"Understanding what the requirements are and expanding is not a simple exercise at all. It will be a challenge both within the classroom and in terms of other facilities. One of the problems that my college faces — as do a lot of other colleges — is that we are hard-pressed for space. But it is obvious that the government has a plan, and I am hopeful that in the course of the year, we will resolve many of the issues."

DR VIBHA CHAUHAN
PRINCIPAL, KIRORI MAL COLLEGE

"This year is not going to be such a problem because only four-five students are increasing in every class. Next year is when we will need support. We already have construction happening, whether it's the new science block, or an elevator in the library which now has three floors. We already had an auditorium, but we are completing work on another mini auditorium. So we should be okay this year."

RAMA, PRINCIPAL, HANSRAJ COLLEGE

"In our college, we have had expansion work done recently and our infrastructure is large enough to absorb an additional intake. The funds should hopefully come in over the course of next year, but we will actually know our requirements best when students come in and the situation within the college stabilises."

DR MANOJ KHANNA
PRINCIPAL, RAMJAS COLLEGE

***The Indian Express* visited four colleges over the past week.**
Credit: Amit Mehra, Praveen Khanna, Tashi Tobgyal

SUSPECTED CARJACKING ATTEMPT, 3 POLICEMEN SUSPENDED

Two journalists, their driver shot at, bullets hit car on Barapullah flyover

SHIVAM PATEL
NEW DELHI, JUNE 9

TWO JOURNALISTS with ABP News and the driver of their office car were fired upon by two unknown men on a motorcycle, who chased them for around 500 metres on the Barapullah flyover Sunday. While police are yet to trace the assailants, three officers have been suspended for failing to help the men.

The incident took place around 1.30 am when a reporter and cameraman were on their way from their Noida office to report on a murder case in Karol Bagh. The assailants approached their car on the flyover near Jangpura Metro station. What followed was a chase across the flyover as the men fired at the car and the journalists ducked for cover, while their driver drove them to the nearest police picket.

Instead of helping them, the policemen allegedly took photos of their bullet-ridden vehicle and left. When a series of frantic PCR calls were made, police did not respond, leaving the three to fend for themselves, the men claimed.

JCP (Southern Range) Devender Srivastav said: "We have suspended an ASI, constable and head constable." The PCR unit is also making a report following allegations that the PCR van arrived two hours after the incident.

Siddharth Purohit (26), the reporter, said, "I was sitting behind and my colleague was in the passenger seat. Just before the Pragati Maidan cut on the flyover, I saw two men on a motorcycle outside the window towards my right, waving a gun at me as a signal to pull over."

The incident took place around 1.30 am. *Archive*

Purohit said the assailants did not conceal their faces. The driver of the motorcycle was holding a gun in his left hand. "Our driver started slowing down because he did not see the gun. He thought the motorists were asking for directions. We asked him to speed up and that's when they fired three shots at us," Purohit added.

Two bullets hit the driver's side — one hit the door and the other shattered his window — Purohit said, adding that the third one missed them. He said he called PCR at 1.33 am but the call disconnected midway.

PCR staff said the first call was made at 1.33 am, but the operator couldn't hear anything. At 2.43 am, five calls were made. "We are retrieving phone calls from our system and a report will be submitted tomorrow. There is one PCR van at INA and we are thinking of deputing a PCR van for active patrolling duty on the flyover," said a senior PCR officer.

"There were many things going through my mind, that a bullet might hit the driver next, or my window would get smashed too," Purohit said.

After they travelled over a kilometre, they were relieved to find three policemen at the INA picket. "We told them what had happened, but they took photos, removed the barricades and left in their jeeps," Purohit claimed.

A case has been registered at Lodhi Colony police station under IPC sections 393 (attempt to commit robbery) and 307 (attempt to murder).

A crime branch officer said his team has taken over the probe and they have prepared a sketch of one assailant. He also claimed that it appears to be a car jacking attempt. Police said four bikes patrol the area but there are no CCTVs on the stretch.

'Saw man with gun inching towards car, told driver to flee'

SHIVAM PATEL
NEW DELHI, JUNE 9

ARVIND KUMAR (34), a cameraman with ABP News, was engrossed in a mobile phone game en route to an assignment in the office car when his colleague suddenly called out to him. Kumar looked out the driver's window on the right and saw a hand holding a gun inching close to the car on the Barapullah flyover before Jangpura Metro station.

Within seconds, three shots were fired at the crew, two of which hit the driver's door and smashed his window.

"I asked the driver to press the accelerator and keep driving as fast as he could. It all happened very quickly and we kept our heads low till about half a kilometre, but they were still following us. However, they could not fire at us from that distance," Kumar said.

The driver, Chandar Sen Vimal (53), recalled that he saw two unknown men on the bike gesturing him to pull over, but claimed that he did not see the gun.

"I thought they had lost their way. The moment I slowed down, Kumar screamed saying '*bhaga gaadi*' and the shots were fired immediately after I accelerated. After the first one, the window was smashed and the second one hit my door. The third missed us. I panicked and thought that these men will definitely shoot us today," Vimal said.

He added, "There were many exits out of the flyover but I kept going straight because our speed would have slowed us down and in the rush of events, we could have even crashed into one of the exits."

The crew kept racing until they exited the flyover and found a police picket at gate three of the INA Metro station.

Kumar added, "My colleague narrated the incident to police while I drank water and informed our office about the incident. Around 2.30 am, many journalists reached the station... After speaking to a PCR van around 3 am, we went to the spot where the shots were fired with other journalists. A PCR van there showed us a bullet they had recovered from the scene."

8 held in 'rave party' bust, police seize drugs, tablets

Joint raid by Excise dept, police; main organisers on the run

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, JUNE 9

A RAIDING team from the Delhi government's Excise department and Delhi Police arrested eight people, and claimed to have recovered morphine and hashish which was allegedly sold to guests, at what police are claiming was a rave party in South Delhi's Dhan Mill compound in Chhattarpur Saturday night.

Police claimed the main organisers, Amit Mavi and Ali Chitle, are on the run. Police have arrested another organiser, Pulkit Rastogi, after they claimed to have found narcotic substances in his possession.

As per the FIR, the party was organised at AGNEC CoLab cafe in Pocket D at Dhan Mill. The compound houses designer clothing stores, a theatre and cafes.

On Sunday, people trying to get into the cafe left after finding a locked door, crates of soda bottles and boxes with melting ice. Inside the cafe, the floors were swept clean with a broom, while a life-sized painting of a pixelated Mona Lisa stared at a glass cubicle packed with tables and chairs. The cafe owners did not respond to calls and messages seeking a comment.

According to police, the party organisers charged Rs 2,000 for a single guest and Rs 3,000 for couples. Police found a large number of people under the age of 25. While their names were noted down, police decided not to invoke punitive sections against them.

Outside AGNEC CoLab at Dhan Mill compound, where the party took place on Saturday. *Prem Nath Pandey*

In total, police said they recovered 156 bottles of foreign liquor, 12 packets of hashish and 21 morphine tablets. The raiding teams also recovered Rs 5.43 lakh, which they claimed was also reflected in cash entries in a diary maintaining a record of liquor and drug sales.

"Many guests did not know what was going on. There are some provisions in the Excise Act in giving liquor to those under the age of 25," said Additional DCP (South) Parvinder Singh.

"Two other people are absconding and our teams are tracking them down. The Excise department had raided the location after they received inputs about the rave party. A case has been registered under the Excise Act and sections 20 and 21 of the NDPS Act at Mehrauli police station," Singh said.

ACP Alok Kumar, who led the Excise team, said his source gave a tip-off that the organisers obtained a p-10 license under the name of Pulkit, and despite no provisions of hard liquor, he would get it from Haryana.

According to police, two decoy policemen, carrying two Rs 2,000 notes, were initially sent. They ordered some drinks and clicked photographs of the guests. The raiding team from Mehrauli police station entered the cafe after a green light by the policemen, who handed over their cash to Pulkit.

As police started confiscating the liquor, and the guests were questioned, some members of the team also found an SUV parked outside where around 75 bottles of foreign liquor was found.

After DTC, cluster buses to get marshals

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 9

THE DELHI government has decided to extend the deployment of marshals to cluster buses in the capital, for which the divisional commissioner has been directed to quickly process the engagement of civil defence volunteers.

Marshals are already deployed in over 3,000 DTC buses plying in the city.

The decision was taken on June 3, at the same meeting where the proposal to exempt women from paying fares in public transport was floated, according to an official memo signed by Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot.

"Bus marshals are being provided in buses of DTC. It has been decided to extend the scheme to cluster buses as well. It is requested that necessary ground work in this regard may be done at the earliest...," reads the memo.

Around 1,679 orange cluster buses ply on city roads

As per the government's latest outcome budget, out of 3,879 DTC buses, marshals are deployed in 3,041 of them. A total of 5,558 buses run on the city's roads. Around 1,679 orange cluster buses, owned by private players and managed by the DIMTS, do not have marshals on board.

English (Hons) most sought after course in DU, over 90,000 applications so far

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 9

CONTINUING THE trend of the last few years, English (Hons) is emerging as the most sought after undergraduate course in Delhi University (DU) so far. As of now, the university has received 92,346 applications for the course.

Registration for undergraduate courses began on the night of May 31, and will continue till June 14. The first cut-off list is likely to be out on June 20.

IN FULL SWING

1,67,048
Total paid applications received (till Sunday)

Unreserved	1,03,760
OBC	31,301
SC	23,475
ST	4,756
EWS	3,756

Besides English, other courses emerging as most sought after include Political Science, BA Programme, Economics and History. As per the usual pattern, science subjects are not on top of the charts.

Last year too, English had received the maximum number of applications — 1,26,327, thereby making it a highly contended seat, with 55 students competing for each seat. Of DU's 63 colleges, 48 offer the subject.

As per figures released by DU Sunday, Political Science has received 83,504 applications, BA Programme has received 80,967 applications, Economics has received 80,277 applications and History has received 76,635 applications so far.

Admission in-charge Rajeev Gupta said the applications were as per earlier trends and dismissed the possibility of Economics being third on the list, having to do with Maths being compulsorily added to the best of four subjects: "If we compare this data with last year's data, it is the same trend."

DELHI UNDERGROUND

Gender gap

Out to gauge views of women on the proposal to make their travel free in buses and Metro last week, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia also experienced the sheer gender disparity in the city's public spaces. Sisodia and a large group of journalists had to skip several buses simply because there were no women travelling in them. Even the ones the minister and journalists took had barely three to four women commuters each.

Two sides

Responding to a question on the Delhi government's proposal of free Metro rides for women, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said at a press conference last week that the DMRC or the Centre was yet to receive any official communication on the matter. However, even as Puri was speaking, a DMRC delegation was giving a powerpoint presentation to the Delhi government's transport commissioner on ways to implement the scheme.

BRIEFLY

Salon owner held for trying to 'kill' rival

New Delhi: A salon owner was among four people arrested for allegedly trying to kill a woman, who also ran a salon, in Shalimar Bagh, police said. The main accused, Rajkumar Verma, had become insecure as the woman was getting more customers than him.

Caught between lift doors, man dies

Gurgaon: Two days after he was caught between the doors of a lift in a gated condominium in Gurgaon, a lift mechanic succumbed to his injuries Sunday, police said. "We have registered a case against the builder and caretaker of the society," said Inspector Kuldeep Kumar, SHO of Kherki Daula police station.

Man attacked with blade

New Delhi: A man was attacked with a blade allegedly by an acquaintance when the former refused to show the latter a video game on his phone, police said Sunday. **ENS**

PUBLIC NOTICE
Delhi International Airport Limited
Delhi International Airport Limited has established a Noise Complaint Cell. In case of any grievance or suggestion on high level of aircraft noise kindly contact IGI Airport **Noise Complaint Cell at our 24 hr helpline no. : 011- 47198600**
GMR GROUP - DIAL / 65 - D / PREM ASSOCIATES

BIHAR SCHOOL EXAMINATION BOARD
CANCELLATION of e-TENDER NOTICE NO:- PR 184/2019
Tender Notice No. PR 184/2019 issued in various newspapers on 1st May 2019 for **"Mobile and Web-based Application for Pre & Post Examination processing for Matric and Inter Examination (Compartmental and Annual) and other examinations as per decision of BSEB and their operations"**, has been cancelled due to unavoidable reasons.
Secretary

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF PUNJAB
(Established by Government of India)
Advt. No. CUPB/19-20/006 Date: 10/06/2019
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Central University of Punjab, Bathinda invites sealed Expression of Interests (E.O.I.) from reputed Insurance Companies/Firms/Bidders for **Introduction and Implementation of Group Insurance Scheme** for nearly 184 Regular employees of CUPB.
Last date to submit EoI in the University: **01/07/2019** by **1700 hours**
For more details please visit University website: www.cup.edu.in.
REGISTRAR
Mansa Road, Bathinda-151001, Email: registrar@cup.edu.in ; Tele: 0164-2864122, 2864107
विज्ञापन का हिंदी रूपान्तर विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध है।

The Odisha Agro Industries Corporation Ltd.
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)
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Sealed Quotations are invited from Manufacturers / Source company having SLTC approval for supply of Self propelled / Power Driven / Power operated Agricultural Machinery and Implements to various destinations (Block point) throughout the State. Only those manufacturers whose items are approved by SLTC and are not empanelled in OAIC can apply through this EOI. Those who are already empanelled and price is finalised till 2018-19, need not apply again unless they want to change their price of the existing models or to introduce the new models having SLTC approval for the financial year 2019-20.

Cost of EOI schedule	Date of Sale of EOI schedule	Last Date of submission	Date of opening of offers
Rs.1120/- inclusive of GST 12%	Dt.10.06.2019, 10.30 am to Dt.28.06.2019, 2.00 pm	Dt.28.06.2019 upto 2.00 PM	Dt.28.06.2019 at 4 PM

EOI schedule may be obtained in person from the Registered office **between Dt.10.06.2019, 10.30 A.M. to Dt.28.06.2019, 2.00 P.M in working days** on payment of cost of EOI Schedule in shape of cash or Demand Draft drawn in favour of "The Odisha Agro Industries Corporation Ltd" payable at Bhubaneswar. EOI Schedule can also be downloaded from our website **www.orissaagro.com**. Filled up downloaded schedule with the Demand Draft (non-refundable) towards the cost of EOI schedule should be submitted as per terms and conditions. The downloaded EOI schedule, received without Demand Drafts towards cost of EOI schedule will be rejected. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reason thereof.
Sd/
Managing Director
Odisha Agro Industries Corporation Ltd

HARYANA STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION
BAYS NO. 67-70, SECTOR-2, PANCHKULA-134151
(Website: www.hssc.gov.in)
POSTPONEMENT NOTICE
Postponement of Online Written Examination (Computer Based Test) for the various posts of Instructors, against Advt. No. 05/2018 for Skill Development and Industrial Training Department, Haryana
Reference Haryana Staff Selection Commission Online Written Examination (Computer Based Test) Notice Dated: 24.05.2019 & Reschedule Notice Dated: 03.06.2019 which was published in various Leading Newspaper of Hindi & English and also uploaded on the Commission's website for holding the Online Written Examination at Chandigarh, Yamunanagar & kurukshetra on dated 10.06.2019 to 16.06.2019 for the various posts of Instructors against Advt. No. 05/2018 Cat. No. 02, 03, 06,10,14, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 33, 34, 36, 37, 39, 40, 41 for Skill Development and Industrial Training Department, Haryana.
It is notified for the information of all concerned that the aforesaid examinations are hereby Postponed on administrative grounds till further orders.
Inconvenience is regretted.
Place: Panchkula
Dated: 09 June, 2019
Secretary,
Haryana Staff Selection Commission, Panchkula.

Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of Higher Education
Language Division
Advertisement for the post of DIRECTOR CIIL, Mysore
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up, on deputation basis, one vacancy of the post of Director, Central institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, a subordinate Office of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India . The vacancy circular regarding eligibility criteria, age limit, tenure, etc and application proforma and other details of the post is placed on the M/o HRD's website **www.mhrd.gov.in** and in the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore's website **www.ciil.org**. The details of the vacancy is published in the Employment News/Rozgar Samachar 15 June 2019 - March, 2019. Applicants working in Central or State Governments or Union Territories or Universities or Recognised Research Institutions or Public Sector Undertakings or Statutory or Autonomous Organisations must send their application through proper channel along with supporting documents to **Smt. Sangita Toppo, Under Secretary, Language Division, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Room No. 502, D-Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110115** within **60 days** from the date of publication of the advertisement for the above post in the Employment News/Rozgar Samachar.
davp 21201/11/0004/1920

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
NUNAR CAMPUS, GANDERBAL-191201 (J&K)
WRITTEN TEST FOR NON-TEACHING POSITIONS
Central University of Kashmir shall conduct written test for various non-teaching positions, advertised by the University vide Employment Notification No.'s 02 of 2019 dated 28.02.2019, 01 of 2018 dated 07.02.2018, 08 of 2017 dated 20.12.2017, 12 of 2016 dated 28.12.2016, 15 of 2015 dated 07.10.2015 & 08 of 2014 dated 08.08.2014 as per the following schedule:

Sr. No.	Post	Date/Time of Test: Section-I	Date/Time of Test: Session-II	Venue
01.	Medical Officer	Paper- A (Objective) 16th June, 2019 (11.30 A.M. - 01.00 P.M.)	Paper- B (Descriptive) 16th June, 2019 (02.00 P.M. - 3.30 P.M.)	Central University of Kashmir, Green Campus Opposite Degree College Ganderbal – 191201 (J&K)
02.	Pharmacist			
03.	Statistical Assistant			
04.	Section Officer			
05.	Professional Assistant			
01.	Assistant Registrar	Paper- A (Objective) 23rd June, 2019 (11.30 A.M. - 01.00 P.M.)	Paper- B (Descriptive) 23rd June, 2019 (02.00 P.M. - 3.30 P.M.)	
02.	Lower Division Clerk			
03.	Upper Division Clerk			
04.	Library Assistant			
05.	Assistant Engineer			
01.	Junior Engineer	Paper- A (Objective) 30th June, 2019 (11.30 A.M. - 01.00 P.M.)	Paper- B (Descriptive) 30th June, 2019 (02.00 P.M. - 3.30 P.M.)	
02.	Semi Professional Assistant			
03.	MTS			
04.	Personal Assistant			

All the concerned candidates are hereby informed to visit the University website (www.cukashmir.ac.in) for the following:
i) Status of Eligibility
ii) Downloading of Hall Ticket (Eligible Candidates only) from 13.06.2019 onwards
iii) Syllabus & Scheme of written test
No communication shall be made in person. The candidates in their own interest are advised to be in regular touch with the University website for further updates. In case of any query, please contact on Cell No. 7006991091/9797267231, Email: jobs@cukashmir.ac.in.
Dated: 08.06.2019
Sd/
Controller of Examinations

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डॉ. प्रेरणा चतुर्वेदी
कनिष्ठ फेलो, एन.एम.एम.एल
सायं : 3.00 बजे, मंगलवार, 11 जून 2019
संगोष्ठी कक्ष, प्रथम तल, पुस्तकालय भवन
नेहरू स्मारक संग्रहालय एवं पुस्तकालय
तीन मूर्ति भवन, नई दिल्ली
सभी का स्वागत है।

PM visits church hit on Easter Sunday: Acts of terror cannot defeat Lanka spirit

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 9

MORE THAN a month after the Easter Sunday terror attack rocked Sri Lanka, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday arrived in Colombo — the first foreign leader to visit the country after the suicide bombings — and paid tribute to the victims, saying "cowardly acts of terror cannot defeat the spirit of Sri Lanka".

Through Sunday's meetings, Delhi also tried to maintain balance with the political leadership which has witnessed power struggle in the past eight months. Sources told *The Indian Express* that the effort was to reach out to all political sections, since the elections are due in December this year.

"I am confident Sri Lanka will rise again. Cowardly acts of terror cannot defeat the spirit of Sri Lanka. India stands in solidarity with the people of Sri Lanka," Modi tweeted as he began a packed one-day visit to the island nation.

Modi, who arrived in Colombo from the Maldives after a day-long visit, was received by Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe at the Bandaranaike International Airport earlier in the day.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena in Colombo on Sunday. *AP*

Modi's visit is part of his first foreign trip after re-election and is focused on the government's Neighbourhood First policy. It is aimed at signalling a strong message of solidarity as Sri Lanka is struggling with a dent on its international image, which is likely to make a substantial impact on the foreign tourist inflows into Sri Lanka, and on the Sri Lankan economy at large.

Soon after landing, the Prime Minister headed to the St Anthony's Church — one of the sites for the terrorist attack which claimed more than 250 lives on April 21. He tweeted, "Started the Sri Lanka visit by paying my respect at one of the sites of the horrific Easter Sunday Attack, St Anthony's Shrine, Kochchikade. My heart goes out to the families of the victims and the injured."

He met Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena, Leader of Opposition and former President Mahinda Rajapaksa and Tamil National Alliance delegation led by R Sampanthan during the brief visit.

While there was no separate bilateral meeting with Wickremesinghe, he received Modi and accompanied him to the church and also saw him off at the airport. Modi tweeted, "Had fruitful discussions with Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe. Assured India's full support to further strengthen bilateral development partnership including through people oriented projects in Sri Lanka."

President Sirisena tweeted, "Thank you @narendramodi, for your brief, but highly productive visit to our country today, thus proving you are a true friend of ours. I highly appreciate and value your kind gesture, support and cooperation extended to Sri Lanka."

The Ministry of External Affairs' official spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted, "Leader of Opposition and former President @PresRajapaksa called on PM @narendramodi. Discussed steps to further strengthen wide ranging bilateral relations between the two countries."

Sources said the meetings between Modi and the political leadership took place about six months ahead of the elections. And this is part of India's outreach to all the major political players in the Lankan political arena. While his meeting with Sirisena was one-on-one, he also spent considerable time with Wickremesinghe.

The two Lankan leaders have had a testy relationship, after Sirisena tried to remove Wickremesinghe from the Prime Minister's position and replace him with Rajapaksa, which was rejected by the apex court of Sri Lanka.

In such a politically volatile situation, the Indian leadership on Sunday tried to craft a fine balancing act with all the major players in the Sri Lankan political arena.

Later, while addressing the Indian community, Modi lauded the contribution of the Indian diaspora and said he and the Indian community overseas have the "same wavelength". "There hasn't been any complaint against the Indian community overseas. It's a matter of pride," he told to a cheering audience.

"There is a wavelength between the current government and the Indian diaspora.what the PM thinks, the Indian diaspora thinks in a similar fashion. That is our strength," he said.

Modi, while addressing the Indian community at India House in Colombo, said India's position in the world is getting stronger and a large part of that credit goes to Indian diaspora. He said, "Wherever I go, I am told about the successes and accomplishments of the Indian diaspora."

After his meetings in Sri Lanka, he returned to India in the afternoon.

Jagan will take Andhra forward, Centre will support him: Modi at Tirupati

ENS & PTI
HYDERABAD, JUNE 9

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi, who visited the temple town of Tirupati on Sunday, said newly-elected Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy will receive all support from the Centre.

"Jagan Mohanji will take Andhra Pradesh forward and the Centre will provide all support," Modi said at a meeting of BJP workers at Renigunta.

The Prime Minister arrived from Colombo and was received by Chief Minister Jagan, Governor E S L Narasimhan and other ministers at the Tirupati airport.

At the BJP workers' meet, Modi said that increased aspirations of the people, as reflected in the verdict of the general elections, were a guarantee for making India brighter. "Given the huge mandate we got, some people think expectations and aspirations (on the government) have increased. They also wonder what can Modi do. We should see it as a great opportunity. I see it as a guarantee for a brighter India," said the Prime Minister.

Modi said he has confidence in 130 crore Indians.

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

LOOKING SOUTH

AFTER IMPRESSIVE poll performances in two eastern states, West Bengal and Odisha, where it had put its focus over the past two years, the BJP has turned its attention to the south. With the party leadership not satisfied with the performance in the southern states, except in Karnataka, Prime Minister Narendra Modi appears to be in no mood to take it lightly. His first trip after taking oath as Prime Minister has given enough indication of it. In the past two days, Modi has visited Guruvayur temple and Tirupati temple to seek divine blessing before the party embarked on a new journey in the south, according to a party leader. His visit to Guruvayur temple, where he performed Tulabharam — a ritual of devotee being weighed against an offering — with lotus flowers, the BJP's symbol, was significant, party leaders in Kerala said. On the way back from Sri Lanka, he visited the Tirupati temple. This, party leaders said, was to seek blessings for the BJP's attempts to emerge as an alternative in Telangana where the party won more seats than the opposition Congress.

SLIGHT CHANGE

RANDEEP SURJEWALA, who like his party chief Rahul Gandhi, was one of the fiercest critics of Prime Minister Narendra Modi now rarely uses the phrase Modi government which he was so fond of using. He now prefers to address the government as BJP government and not Modi government. Even at the Congress's official briefings, the attack is now against the BJP government. The party's official statements issued after press conferences this week made no mention of the Modi government. But old habits die hard. At the Congress briefing on Friday, party spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi uttered Modi government once — possibly a slip of tongue. Party leaders said it was a conscious decision not to use the phrase "Modi government" for the time being.

COUGHING FIT

AS PRIME Minister Narendra Modi and Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih delivered their press statements on Saturday, Solih had a sudden coughing fit in the later part of his statement. He had to take several breaks, and had to drink water several times, as TV cameras broadcast him live on television. The coughing fit continued, but Solih — undeterred — continued to speak, and managed to finish his statement in Dhivehi.

EYES ON THE NEXT CONTEST

BJP president and Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the party headquarters in Delhi Sunday. Party sources said Shah met BJP leaders from Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Haryana, which would go to polls later this year, and discussed the preparations for the polls. *Prem Nath Pandey*

Top Congress leaders may meet Rahul, push revival of party Parliamentary Board

MANOJ C G
NEW DELHI, JUNE 9

SIGNALLING THAT the uncertainty which is plaguing the Congress over party chief Rahul Gandhi's insistence to step down has to end sooner than later, top Congress leaders have decided to step in and may propose a 'collective leadership model' with him continuing at the helm. Sources said senior leaders may meet Rahul this week to persuade him to continue and find an amicable solution.

The top leaders, sources said, would convey to Rahul that he and Sonia Gandhi will have to lead the Congress at this critical juncture as there is no other alternative for the party. But certain other measures — such as reviving the Parliamentary Board mechanism to make the decision-making process collective and appointing a couple of working presidents to ease pressure on Rahul — can all be explored.

"There is no other option before us. Rahul has to continue. There is no other alternative. That is our collective opinion and we will convey him that. Nobody will accept any another leader as Congress president. Sonia and Rahul are the unifying force in the Congress now. Nobody knows what will happen after 10 or 15 years. But the situation now is that Rahul is the only acceptable face," a senior leader told *The Indian Express*.

Sources said top leaders A K Antony and Ahmed Patel may meet Rahul this week as part of the efforts to find a way out. "First he has to accept our view that he should continue. We have had several rounds of informal discussions and we have come to this conclusion. All other proposals like reviving the Parliamentary Board and appointment of working presidents and all can be considered after that," another top leader said.

Congress chief Rahul Gandhi with Rajamma on Sunday. *PTI*

The resurrection of the Parliamentary Board mechanism could also address the criticism that key political decisions are at times taken by apolitical advisers. The Congress constitution envisages Parliamentary Board as a key body for "regulating and coordinating the Parliamentary activities of the Legislature Congress parties". According to the Congress constitution, the Board will be set up by the Congress Working Committee and it will have as its members the Congress president and nine others, including the leader of the Congress party in Parliament.

A senior leader said the "uncertainty could end in the next few days".

One senior leader said Rahul was "misled" by a handful of people on various aspects, including on setting up of one million booth committees and appointment of 10 trained workers per booth. "The kind of people who got appointed and those who were micro-managing from Delhi... the feeling among the senior leaders is that Rahul trusted them and he was misled...." He said Parliamentary Board is one of the proposals being considered. "It was always an integral part of the Congress... it has always been there till the early 1990s," he said.

At Wayanad, Rahul meets nurse who held him after birth

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JUNE 9

ON the last day of his visit to Wayanad, Congress president Rahul Gandhi had a special visitor — a retired nurse, who was at the Holy Family Hospital in Delhi when Rahul was born.

Rajamma Rajappan had been longing to meet Rahul. On Sunday, she got permission to meet him at a guest house where he was staying. "Today when I met him, he did not say anything. We stood looking at each other and he greeted me. I was trying to recall the day he was born. I was one of the few hospital staff at the labour room who could take the VIP boy in our hands. Rajiv Gandhi and his brother Sanjay waited outside. We all then knew that the baby was grandson of then prime minister," said Rajamma.

Rajamma later joined the Army as a nurse. After several years of service, she opted for voluntary retirement and moved to Wayanad in 1987 with her husband.

Win back believers, CPM leadership tells Kerala unit

MANOJ C G
NEW DELHI, JUNE 9

CONCLUDING THAT the controversy over women's entry into the Sabarimala temple has alienated a section of the Hindus in Kerala, the CPM central leadership has asked the state unit to work out a plan to win back the confidence of the believers even as party veteran V S Achuthanandan suggested that the party requires a "perspective tactical plan".

The CPM central committee, which met here for three days from Friday to analyse the party's disastrous performance in the Lok Sabha elections, is learnt to have also devised a multi-point action plan to strengthen the CPM's independent strength and political intervention capacities.

The assessment that a section of its believers had moved away from the party because of the Sabarimala controversy is in a way a subtle disapproval of the Pinarayi Vijayan government's handling of the controversial issue. The CPM central committee said the Kerala leadership from its top echelons to the bottom rung will have to work hard to win back the confidence of the believers.

Achuthanandan, meanwhile, in a note to the central committee called for a "perspective tactical plan" rather than cosmetic efforts to reconnect with the masses. The CPM central committee also felt that many of the decisions taken by the party plenum, held in 2015 the wake of the party's defeat in the 2014 elections, were not implemented by many states. The CPM central leadership will now prescribe a time table for implementation of the plenum decisions.

Sources said Politburo member B V Raghavulu came in for much criticism in the central committee for forging a "Bahujan Left Front" in Telangana ahead of the Assembly elections. Many of the members are learnt to have argued that the party in Telangana should not have succumbed to social identities and caste politics.

The party assessed that the reasons for its defeat differed from state to state. While Sabarimala played a major role in Kerala, the Left was edged out in West Bengal because of the binary politics between the Trinamool Congress and the BJP and the Congress's decision not to align with the Left. It felt that both the BJP and the Trinamool parties had indulged in competitive communal politics.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEET

JD(U) to contest Assembly polls in four states alone

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, JUNE 9

THE JD (U), which has been striving to get national party status, has decided to contest Assembly elections in four states alone. JD (U) national president and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar also made it clear at the party's national executive meet on Sunday that the party had nothing to do with its national vice-president Prashant Kishor's company, which has decided to manage the campaign of the Trinamool Congress for the Assembly polls in West Bengal.

The JD(U)'s national executive meet assumed importance after the party did not accept the offer of "symbolic representation of one ministerial berth at the Centre".

JD (U) national spokesperson K C Tyagi said, "The party wants to expand its base beyond Bihar. Though we will contest the 2020 Assembly election in Bihar under the NDA banner, we have decided to contest Assembly polls in Jharkhand, Delhi, Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir alone."

EXPLAINED

Posturing with eye on Bihar polls

THE JD (U) has started its posturings ever since it refused the offer of one ministerial berth at the Centre. Since Assembly election is due in Bihar next year, JD (U) is likely to put pressure on ally BJP. The party is likely to do everything to suggest that it is indispensable for the BJP and the Assembly election in Bihar can be won only under Nitish Kumar's leadership.

Tyagi said the party had been strengthening its organisational structure in some other states.

Asked about JD (U) national vice-president Prashant Kishor's company agreeing to manage West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's campaign for the upcoming Assembly polls, Tyagi said, "Our national president and Bihar CM Nitish Kumar has made it clear that the JD (U) has nothing to do with the company owned by Prashant Kishor. We would also like TMC to lose."

Kishor, who also attended the national executive meet, was not asked to explain his recent meeting with the West Bengal Chief Minister.

Tyagi said there was no confusion over the NDA alliance in Bihar. "The NDA alliance is as strong as ever. Just because we are not part of Union cabinet does not mean that we are unhappy. Our objective is to get national status for the JD (U). We won seven out of 15 Assembly seats we contested in Arunachal Pradesh with 10 per cent vote share."

On a question on Article 370, Tyagi said, "If there is any attempt to repeal Article 370, we will oppose it from within NDA."

Cong leader on fast says TRS buying MLAs to finish Oppn

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, JUNE 9

CONGRESS LEGISLATIVE Party leader in Telangana Assembly, Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, who is on a fast-unto-death to protest the Speaker allowing 12 rebel Congress MLAs to switch to the TRS, on Sunday alleged that the ruling party was "purchasing Congress MLAs to finish off the Opposition".

The TDP's Telangana unit and Telangana Jana Samithi have backed his fast.

Vikramarka is set to lose his position as Leader of Opposition in Assembly as the Congress now has just six MLAs.

"TRS is buying Congress MLAs to finish off the Opposition. Several disqualification petitions we submitted are pending with the Speaker but he still accepted the rebel MLAs' request to switch sides. We have filed a petition in court. We will also file a petition in Lokpal," Vikramarka said.

TRS Working President K T Rama Rao said the Speaker did nothing illegal.

Defections rattle Congress, NCP camps in Maharashtra

SANDEEP ASHAR
MUMBAI, JUNE 9

A FEAR of defections has gripped the Opposition in Maharashtra. Amid indications that Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis is set to accommodate former Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, Radhakrisna Vikhe-Patil, and former NCP minister Jaidutt Kshirsagar in his Cabinet, both the Congress and the NCP are taking measures to avoid further defections, confirmed sources.

Last week, Congress leaders met at the party's state headquarters in Dadar to take stock of the situation. AICC's Maharashtra incharge Mallikarjun Kharge was also present during the meeting. "We are holding district wise meetings to keep our flock together," a Congress leader said.

State Congress chief Ashok Chavan accused the BJP of using power to engineer a split in the party. "They (BJP) won't succeed in their sinister plan. Our legislators are committed to the party's ideology," Chavan said.

Besides Vikhe-Patil, four other sitting Congress legislators — Kalidas Kolambkar, Nitesh Rane, Abdul Sattar and Jaykumar Gore — are in touch with the BJP's state leadership, confirmed party sources. Sattar has already resigned from the Congress, while the others may soon switch sides.

In the NCP camp, party president Sharad Pawar is personally taking stock of the situation. While Pawar's party has been the most hit by defections since the BJP came to power in the state, speculation that three more senior leaders — including two sitting legislators and a former minister — are planning to jump ship have rattled the party's leadership. Sources said Pawar has personally reached out to these leaders.

Key desertions from the Congress and the NCP had earlier hit the Opposition's Lok Sabha campaign in Maharashtra, where both suffered defeats.

Congress's Satara district president Ranjitsinh Naik Nimbalkar and NCP's former MP Ranjitsinh Mohite-Patil were among those who switched sides. Mohite-Patil's father Vijaysinh Mohite-Patil, a former Deputy CM, is also expected to join the BJP soon.

Hinting at further defections from the Opposition, BJP minister Girish Mahajan last week claimed that at least 25 MLAs of the Congress and the NCP were in touch with him. "Some of them have either met me personally or called me or sent feelers through a third party that they were interested in joining BJP," said Mahajan.

Responding to Mahajan's claims, NCP state president Jayant Patil said, "Why does he (Mahajan) need to talk about it? They are simply trying to induce a false impression that the Opposition is splitting apart. But none of this is true." He, however, admitted that the party has adopted measures to curb defections, while refusing to divulge further details.

Chavan, too, hit out at Mahajan. "It is the arrogance of power that is making him make such outlandish claims."

A Congress leader said, "We have had an internal review. At this moment, none of the other MLAs are vulnerable to defection. But we aren't taking any chances."

N.E. W.S.

NORTH

Bhagat Singh case: Laywer gets Saunders murder FIR

Ludhiana: The Lahore police on Saturday submitted in a local court a copy of the FIR which was registered in 1928 against 'unidentified' persons at Anarkali police station in the murder case of British police official John Saunders. The court then handed over a copy of the FIR to Lahore-based advocate and petitioner Imtiaz Rashid Qureshi, the chairman of Bhagat Singh Memorial Foundation. Qureshi had filed a petition seeking an attested copy of the FIR registered in the case in which martyrs Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev were hanged to death by the British at Shadman Chowk in Lahore, Pakistan in 1931. **ENS**

Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Arjun Ram Meghwal at Baba Ramdev Ji Pir temple, Jaisalmer on Sunday. *PTI*

EAST

Harsh weather hampers search for An-32 aircraft

Guwahati: Search for IAF's missing An-32 aircraft faced difficulties on Sunday due to harsh weather conditions in parts of Arunachal Pradesh. "Today the weather in the area was poor thus, hampering the search by aerial platforms. Helicopters and transport aircraft could carry out very limited operations due to low clouds and rain in the area," IAF PRO Wing Commander Ratnakar Singh said. He added that ground teams have however made "considerable" progress. "Ground teams have made considerable headway into the search area," he said. **ENS**

WEST

40-year-old man arrested for killing younger brother

Palghar: A 40-year-old man was arrested for allegedly killing his younger brother in Maharashtra's Palghar district, a police official said on Sunday. The accused, Ravish Sambre, was angry with his brother Sharad Sambre (35) over some petty issue, he said. While the victim and his wife were walking towards their home in Wada taluka here on Saturday, the accused hit him with a wooden log, killing him on the spot, the official said. The deceased's wife lodged a complaint, following which the accused was arrested and booked under Indian Penal Code Section 302 (murder), he said, adding that a probe was underway into the incident. **PTI**

SOUTH

Eight dead as ambulance crashes into mini-truck

Palakkad (Kerala): Eight people travelling in an ambulance died when the vehicle collided with a mini-truck at Thannisserry in the district on Sunday, police said. The ambulance driver was among the deceased, they said. A total of 12 people were there in the ambulance. Some of the deceased, hailing from Pattambi, had met with a minor accident earlier in the day when they were on their way to Nelliyampathy for a vacation trip. They were admitted to a private hospital in Nenmara from where they were being taken in the ambulance to the government district hospital when the accident happened, police said. **PTI**

Vote mark on victim's finger helps police crack murder case

MOHAMED THAVER
MUMBAI, JUNE 9

THE INDELIBLE ink voting mark on the finger of a murder victim has helped Mumbai Police identify the man and solve the case, police officers said.

Kiran Wankhede's body was found near a public toilet on the Ghatkopar-Mankhurd Link Road along the city's western suburbs in the first week of May. His face had been smashed with a stone and other than the voting mark, the only other marks on his body were tattoos — a 'holy cross' and the alphabets B and K on his hand. Both turned out to be red herrings.

Post-mortem reports confirmed that his head had been smashed and Deonar police registered a case of murder against unidentified persons.

During the course of the investigation led by Assistant Police Inspector Mohan Sarode, the police arrested two persons, Shafiullah Qureshi (23) and Niyaz Choudhary (20). Police said that duo, both drug addicts, confessed that they wanted money and when they saw a man in the area early in the morning, they thought he would have money. When he started fighting with them, the duo allegedly smashed his head and fled.

The victim Kiran Wankhede

The Deonar police found themselves in a unique situation: they had the "killers", but didn't know who the victim was. Police said the accused told them that they had randomly attacked the victim and did not know his identity and there was nothing on the deceased's body to identify him.

Sarode said they put up posters with the photograph of the deceased in the Shivaji Nagar-Deonar area and also got it flashed on local TV channels, but no one came forward. "All we were left with was the voting mark, a cross and the initials BK on his body," Sarode said.

Since he was walking around the area, the police suspected that he was a local resident and the voting mark indicated that his name would be on the voters' list. Senior inspector P Darade asked Sarode and Police Sub-Inspector V Babar to form separate teams and start poring through the voters' list from the Assembly segment comprising Shivaji Nagar and Deonar.

"The voters' list contained 3.5 lakh names. A team of 12 policemen sat in the detection room and divided the 3.5 lakh voters. They then removed the names of women, men over 40 and Muslim men. The post-mortem report said the deceased had not been circumcised, therefore establishing him as a non-Muslim. They also compared the photograph on the voters' list to that of the partly damaged face of the deceased," said DCP (zone 6) Shashi Meena.

Sarode said they also looked for people with names beginning with B or K and someone who may have converted to Christianity since there was a cross on the hand.

"After applying these filters, we got around 125 men," Babar said. Fortunately for the police, one of the first names on the list was that of Kiran Wankhede. When a team reached his PMGP colony residence in Mankhurd, his mother Kantabai Wankhede (50) said he had been missing for several days. "When we showed her the photograph, she started crying. She said it was her son's body," Sarode said.

While the police was convinced she was the mother of the deceased, two questions still remained unanswered — why did he have a cross when they were not Christian and why the alphabets B and K. "His mother told us that his friends had been getting cross tattoos on their hands, so he got it too Sarode said. He added, "As for the B K initials, while K was for his name, B was the initial of a former girlfriend that he had not bothered to get removed."

MUMBAI

Resto-bar manager booked as woman says he helped harasser escape

SAGAR RAJPUT
MUMBAI, JUNE 9

THE MANAGER of a restro-bar in Saki Naka was booked after a 23-year-old software engineer alleged that he helped a man misbehaving with her escape. Saki Naka police has registered an FIR against the man and the manager.

On Wednesday around 8 pm, the woman , along with her three female friends, visited Pop Tate's in Saki Naka, where one of the three men seated on the opposite table allegedly kept staring at her and made unpleasant expressions. "After a while I complained to the hotel manager, looking at which the three got up and were about to leave the restaurant. As I saw that the restaurant management was not taking any action, I walked upto the man, who was making me uncomfortable, and confronted him. He told me that he looked at me as I was pretty," the woman said.

According to the police complaint, when the four women started arguing with the man, the manager took them out of the restaurant and in the meantime, the three men left the restaurant through the back door.

"Instead of getting hold of them and handing them over to the police, the manager was busy explaining things to us. When I again went inside, someone from the restaurant staff told me that the three had escaped from the back doors," the woman said.

She then called the police, who took them to the beat chowki. "As it was already midnight, I decided to go home and told the police that I will lodge a complaint the next day," said the complainant.

The woman then went to the Saki Naka police station on Thursday and registered a complaint against the man and the manager. A case under sections 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the IPC has been registered, said police.

Sub-inspector Eknath Bhise said, "We have registered a case against the unknown person who leered at her, while we have also booked manager of Pop Tate's under Section 34." Police said they are yet to make an arrest as they are trying to identify the suspect.

Pop Tate's manager, Sadanand Mule, said: "As the four women were drunk, I was scared that the men could harm them... so I took the women out. I told them that we will help in registering an offence. But she has now registered a case against me. I didn't help the culprits in escaping, infact I somehow managed to get the contact number of the suspect and have handed them over to the police."

Later, the woman put up a post on her Instagram about the incident. Pop Tate's social media account replied to her on social media: "Last night you were drunk and we think you forgot the incident... we feel, we have done more than enough in this situation... If you still have any complaint or still unsatisfied with our action then an ideal way would be to reach out to us for more discussion. In the meanwhile, if you're done posting and sharing unnecessary hatred on social media, we would love to talk to you in a way which is more acceptable in a civilised and educated society." Sandya Johari, public relation and marketing head of Pop Tate's, said, "The facts that she states are incorrect. After she raised the issue, we tried to calm her down. Meanwhile, the men escaped from the second exit of the restaurant. We did not help them in escaping, "

Minor raped, murdered in Bhopal, body found near drain

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, JUNE 9

A MINOR girl was allegedly raped and murdered by a neighbour at a slum in Bhopal. Accusing police of inaction, residents of the area gheraoed the local police station.

A senior police officer said rape had been confirmed and that the victim was at least 10 years old.

The victim had gone to buy a gutka pouch late on Saturday, but did not return home. Her body was found early the next day near a drain not far from the slum where she lived. Her family members alleged that they had tried to lodge a complaint twice, but the police did not respond. They also alleged that police made no attempt to look for the victim. A complaint was finally registered after intervention by the local municipal councillor.

Seven police officers have been suspended for dereliction of duty following allegations of inaction and insensitivity. A police officer allegedly commented that the victim might have eloped with someone and would return after some time.

DIG, Bhopal, Irshad Wali told *The Indian Express* that the police have identified the culprit, who lived close to the victim's house, and are closing in on him. The 33-year-old suspect is married, but his wife left him a few years ago.

The police detained a couple of persons who had rented home to the accused.

BJP MP from Bhopal Pragya Singh Thakur and other ministers submit a memorandum, citing deteriorating law and order in the state, to MP Governor Anandiben Patel on Sunday. *Express*

Bhopal MP Pragya Singh Thakur and Congress leader Digvijaya Singh were among those who visited the victim's family. Led by Pragya Thakur, a BJP delegation called on Governor Anandiben Patel and submitted a memorandum, citing instances of "deteriorating law and order situation" in the state. The memorandum claimed that nearly 15,000 government officials have been transferred by the Congress government and that has taken a toll on administration and policing.

Holding Home Minister Bala Bachchan and Chief Minister Kamal Nath responsible for the situation, Leader of Opposition in Assembly Gopal Bhargava demanded their resignation and alleged that incidents of rape and murder were on the rise in the state.

The Bhopal incident followed another rape and murder case in Ujjain. The body of a five-year-old girl was recovered from Kshipra river after she was allegedly raped and murdered by a labourer. The accused was arrested on Saturday. Police said that the accused had told them that he killed the minor after raping her because she knew him. Police said they would file a chargesheet in the case in a couple of days.

India requests Pak to let PM's flight pass through its airspace to Bishkek

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 9

INDIA HAS requested Pakistan to let Prime Minister Narendra Modi's aircraft fly over its airspace to Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan where he has to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit on June 13 and June 14, said a senior government official.

Pakistan had fully closed its airspace on February 26 after an IAF strike on a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terror camp in Balakot. Since then, it has only opened two routes, both of them pass through southern Pakistan, of the total 11.

"We have requested Pakistan to let the PM's plane fly over its airspace through one of the routes that has not been opened as yet. The PM has to attend the SCO meet on June 13 and June 14," a senior government official said.

Pakistan had given special permission to India's then external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj to fly directly through Pakistani airspace to attend the SCO Foreign Ministers' meet in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on May 21.

Apart from the two routes through southern Pakistan, the neighbouring country's airspace remains closed for commercial airliners.

The IAF announced on May 31 that all temporary restrictions imposed on Indian airspace post the Balakot airstrike have been removed.

PUNJAB: CHILD STUCK IN BOREWELL

Rescue operation nears completion, toddler turns 2 today

RAAKHI JAGGA
SUNAM, JUNE 9

AN OPERATION to rescue a child stuck in a 150-foot-deep borewell at Bhagwan Pura village in Punjab's Sangrur district for past three days was nearing completion, officials said on Sunday. At the time of going to press, the rescuers, who have dug a parallel tunnel, needed to dig a horizontal tunnel of 2-and-a-half feet to reach the child.

Fatehveer Singh, who will turn 2 on Monday, fell into the unused borewell in his father Sukhjinder's field around 4 pm on Thursday. The borewell was covered with a jute bag and the child accidentally stepped on it.

He is stuck at a depth of 125 feet, said officials. More than 700 people, including 400 policemen and 32 personnel from the National Disaster Rescue Force, have been involved in digging the parallel tunnel to rescue the child. At least 200 volunteers from the Dera Sacha Sauda apart from villagers are also helping in the rescue operation that has lasted more than 78 hours.

"We are close to reaching the child. We were hoping to complete the operation during the day, but we faced some technical issues and hopefully these will be overcome," Deputy Commissioner Ganshyam Thori said.

No food could be provided to the child, who has been unconscious, Thori said. Oxygen was being supplied to him, he said.

On Saturday morning, officials, who were monitoring the child's condition through camera, had said they had noticed movements by the child.

TWO-YEAR-OLD GIRL KILLED

Aligarh: Sadhvi Prachi stopped from visiting victim's village

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NEW DELHI, JUNE 9

HINDU LEADER Sadhvi Prachi was stopped on Sunday from entering the village in Aligarh where a two-year-old girl has been killed. The administration has cited that Section 144 is in force in the area as a precaution against any possible flare-up.

Prachi was stopped by Aligarh Police on Sunday afternoon near Jewar Toll Plaza while she was on her way to meet the minor's family. "There have been 27 such incidents in 10 days in Uttar Pradesh. Who will answer for that? Who is responsible for that? I am a social worker, I am not here for politics. Till the accused are burnt publicly, there will be no solution. I have also heard that the administration is pressuring the family," she told the police at the toll plaza.

On Sunday, word spread in the village that a 'Mahapanchayat' will be held. The administration, however, said that the plan was cancelled after discussions with villagers. "Messages were being spread that a Mahapanchayat was to be held on Sunday. The police have arrested all accused in connection with the case and we spoke to the villagers and agreed that there was no need for one. It was a satisfactory discussion and the mahapanchayat was called off mutually," Aligarh DM Chandra Bhushan Singh told *The Indian Express*. A magisterial inquiry has also been started.

Police have been deployed in large numbers in the village to prevent any untoward situation. "More than 400 personnel of UP Police, Rapid Action Force and Provincial Armed Constabulary have been deployed in the area. At present, there is no communal tension," said Mani Lal Patidar, SP Rural (Aligarh)

Aligarh Police has arrested four persons in connection with the case so far.

Woman saves Muslim family from mob in Aligarh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ALIGARH, JUNE 9

DAYS AFTER the killing of a two-year-old girl triggered tension in Aligarh district, a 24-year-old woman saved a Muslim family from getting attacked by a mob on Sunday, police said.

The incident occurred in Jattari area, over 40 km from here, when the family from Balabgarh, Haryana, was travelling in a van. They were accompanied by Puja Chauhan, a close family friend.

One of the travellers, Shafi Mohammad Abbasi, said men on motorcycles attacked the van with iron rods. "They would have killed us had not Puja Chauhan, who is like my daughter, stepped out of the van and came between us and the attackers," said AbbasiSome of the women in the van were wearing veils, making them targets of the mob, according to a complaint filed at the Civil Lines police station here.

"She confronted the attackers who were all wearing saffron scarfs," Abbasi said. "Why are you venting your anger on innocent persons?" Abbasi quoted Chauhan as saying.

On hearing Chauhan's plea, Abbasi said one miscreant handed them back the vehicle keys.

Civil Lines station officer Amit Kumar said the victims had been sent for medical examination. Security has been strengthened all over the district.

SSP Akash Kulhari told PTI that it was an isolated incident. "We are not going to permit any person to take law in his hand. A case has been registered, " he said.

2 Chinese men among 3 killed in boiler blast

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 9

THREE MEN, including two Chinese nationals working at Pusilin Biotechnology Private Limited, died in a boiler blast at the company's factory in Rojka, Haryana on Sunday.

According to police, the boiler caught fire and burst when a local, Vicky, was welding a leak.

"Two Chinese nationals, production manager Zhayn Yang and senior manager Jhin Jhin, were at the site to make sure the boiler is fixed as it had been giving trouble. The boiler burst at around 3.30 pm and all three died," said SP (Mewat) Sangeeta Kalia.

According to officials, while the fire was not major, the three were standing close to the boiler when it burst.

"We have been trying to contact the management but nobody is responding. Boilers are supposed to be inspected timely, but nobody from the company is there to produce any document to prove this was done. It seems there were lapses in regular inspection otherwise the blast would not have taken place. An FIR will be registered and the matter investigated thoroughly," Kalia said.

According to the police, company breaks down animal products for medicinal use. "These products are dried in a big oven, which is where the use of a boiler comes in," a police officer said.

UP'S HAMIRPUR

One held for gangrape, murder of minor: Police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JUNE 9

A DAY after an 11-year-old girl was found raped and murdered at a graveyard near her house in Hamirpur district of Uttar Pradesh, police have found that it was a case of gangrape and arrested one accused who revealed the involvement of another person in the crime.

The arrested accused has been identified as Pappu Khan (42) while another accused Veeru Singh (26) is absconding, police said. SP Hemraj Meena said Pappu confessed that the duo raped the girl before she was killed.

"We questioned several persons that led us to the two key suspects. We picked up Pappu Khan and during interrogation, he confessed to his involvement in the crime and talked about Veeru's role . On Friday, they planned to target the girl and consumed liquor. In an inebriated state, they abducted her while she was sleeping outside her house. They took her to the nearby graveyard, raped her and then strangulated her," said the SP.

"We have arrested Pappu and search is on for Veeru. They both are alcoholics and do odd jobs. They are unmarried and live with their brothers. We will add IPC section 376 D (gang rape) and relevant sections of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act against the accused," the SP added.

MEANWHILE

G20 WEIGHS AGEING AS GLOBAL RISK

Ballooning healthcare costs, labour shortages and financial services for the elderly: for the first time Sunday, the world's top policymakers are tackling economic issues relating to ageing and shrinking birthrates. G20 finance ministers meeting in Japan have been warned to address the issue before it is too late.

TOP OF THE WORLD

BRITAIN

Gove becomes 3rd candidate for PM to reveal past drug use

London: Britain's environment secretary acknowledged using cocaine on "several occasions" two decades ago, the latest politician hoping to become PM to reveal past drug use to circumvent negative headlines during what a heated contest. Michael Gove, 51, told the *Daily Mail* that using cocaine was a mistake and "something I deeply regret," but he didn't think it should exclude him from office. In recent days, Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt told the *Times of London* he drank a "cannabis lassi" in his youth while backpacking in India. International Development Secretary Rory Stewart told the *Telegraph* he smoked opium at a wedding in Iran 15 years ago.

USA

Injuries amid gun scare at gay pride parade

Washington: A panic caused by a mistaken belief that a gun had been fired during a pride parade in Washington, DC, sent people running through the streets of the nation's capital on Saturday evening, city officials said. Police said some of the people who ran sustained minor injuries and seven were taken to hospitals. "As the officers were going to the scene, there was a crowd of people going away from it and some of the individuals in the crowd said there was a man with a gun and that someone had fired a shot," said the Metropolitan Police Department.

GERMANY

Just-rebuilt historic ship sinks after collision

Hamburg: A collision between a vintage sailing ship and a container vessel in Germany injured five people and sunk the wooden ship which had just been restored at a cost of 1.5 million euros ($ 1.7 million), police said. The 43 passengers and crew aboard the *No 5 Elbe*, originally built in 1883, were rescued after it was in collision with the Cyprus-flagged container ship *Astrosprinter* on the Elbe River at Stade near Hamburg around 1230 GMT Saturday.

Normalise economic ties or face consequences, Iran warns Europe

German Foreign Minister to visit Tehran in bid to save nuclear deal; Iran unveils air defence system

REUTERS
LONDON, JUNE 9

IRAN SAID on Sunday Europe was in no position to criticise Tehran for its military capabilities and it called on European leaders to normalise trade ties with the Islamic Republic despite US sanctions, or face consequences.

President Donald Trump last year withdrew the United States from world powers' 2015 nuclear deal with Iran and reimposed sweeping sanctions.

The west European signatories to the deal — France, Britain and Germany —share the same concerns as the United States over Iran's ballistic missile development and regional activities.

However, they have defended the nuclear accord as the best way to limit Iran's enrichment of uranium.

"Europeans are not in a position to criticise Iran for issues outside the JCPOA," Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif was quoted as saying by the state broadcaster, using the acronym for the nuclear deal. "The Europeans and other signatories of the JCPOA should normalise economic ties with Iran...We will halt our commitments or will take action in accordance with their measures."

> **Europeans are not in a position to criticise Iran for issues outside the (nuclear deal)... (They) should normalise economic ties with Iran.**
>
> — MOHAMMAD JAVAD ZARIF
> IRAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER

Last month, Iran scaled back some commitments under the 2015 deal and warned that in 60 days it would resume enriching uranium to a higher degree than that permitted by the accord if the Europeans failed to shield it against the US sanctions, which aim to cripple its oil-dependent economy.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas will visit Iran this week to explore options for preserving the fraying nuclear nonproliferation pact.

Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani on Sunday criticised French President Emmanuel Macron for saying last week in a meeting with Trump that they shared the same objectives on Iran.

Larijani was quoted as saying by state media: "The recent remarks by the French President in a meeting with Trump were shameful and inept...Macron's comments did not match what he has been telling our president...in their meetings and on the phone."

Tehran unveiled on Sunday a new "domestically-produced" air defence system with the capability to trace six targets - including fighter jets, bombers and drones at the same time and destroy them with missiles.

"Iran will increase its military capabilities to protect its national security and interests, and it will not ask permission from anyone on this matter," Defence Minister Amir Hatami said at an unveiling ceremony for the system.

AFTER BOMBINGS, COMMUNAL VIOLENCE

Sirisena warns against emergence of a 'Muslim Prabhakaran'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO, JUNE 9

WARNING AGAINST the emergence of a "Muslim Prabhakaran", Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena has called for unity among all communities in the country which saw the worst terror attack on Easter Sunday.

Acknowledging that the country has now been divided, Sirisena, who spoke in Mullaitivu, a former bastion of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), said on Saturday that religious leaders and politicians in the country were divided today.

The President urged the public "not to leave room for a Muslim Prabhakaran to be born," *Colombo Gazette* reported.

Velupillai Prabhakaran was the founder and leader of the LTTE or the Tamil Tigers, a militant organisation that sought to create an independent Tamil state in the north and east of Sri Lanka. The civil war in Sri Lanka that has claimed the lives of tens of thousands of people ended with the killing of Prabhakaran by Sri Lankan army in 2009.

"If we divide and fall apart the whole country will stand to lose. Another war will break out," he warned.

Following the Easter Sunday terror attacks on three Catholic churches and three luxury hotels by a local Islamist outfit with possible links to the Islamic State terror group, there were widespread attacks on the Muslim community.

> **If we divide and fall apart, the whole country will stand to lose. Another war will break out."**
>
> — MAITHRIPALA SIRISENA
> SRI LANKAN PRESIDENT

Sirisena lamented that most politicians are focused on the elections later this year and not the country.

He said that the division is preventing the country from moving forward.

The President said that he understands the issues faced by the Tamils and will address some of them, the report said.

However, he said the past must be set aside and the country must unite to take the country forward.

He said that there should not be room for extremism to prosper.

Hundreds held as Kazakhs elect first new leader in decades

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ALMATY, JUNE 9

POLICE IN Kazakhstan arrested hundreds of opposition protesters Sunday as the country voted to elect its first new president in 30 years following the departure of historic leader Nursultan Nazarbayev.

His hand-picked successor Kassym Jomart-Tokayev is a shoo-in to win the vote contested by six other candidates.

But the day was marked by the biggest protests the Central Asian country has seen in three years, as demonstrators urged a "boycott" of what they see as fixed polls.

The build-up to the vote was marked by an intensifying crackdown on the opposition with courts sentencing protesters to short stays in jail and police raiding activists' homes.

The interior ministry said shortly after polls closed that around 500 people had been arrested, with deputy minister Marat Kozhayev blaming "radical elements" for holding "unsanctioned" rallies.

Reporters witnessed hundreds of arrests in the largest city Almaty and capital Nur-Sultan.

Protesters shouted "shame, shame, shame!" and said "police come to the side of the people" before officers moved in on the crowd.

Many journalists were also arrested, as was a representative of the Norwegian Helsinki Committee rights NGO.

A protest in Hong Kong on Sunday. *Reuters*

Political crisis in Hong Kong amid huge protest

JAMES POMFRET & SUMEET CHATTERJEE
HONG KONG, JUNE 9

HONG KONG was plunged into a fresh political crisis Sunday night after hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets to thwart a proposed extradition law that would allow suspects to be sent to mainland China to face trial.

After seven hours of marching, organisers estimated 1,030,000 people took part, far outstripping a demonstration in 2003 when half that number hit the streets to challenge government plans for tighter national security laws.

A police spokesman said police estimated 240,000 were on the march "at its peak".

EXPLAINED

Extradition Bill stirs biggest Hong Kong protests since 1997

THE PROPOSED Extradition Bill seeks to change Hong Kong's extradition laws to allow suspected criminals to be extradited to mainland China. This is seen as the latest in an increasing number of attempts to chip away at the autonomy of Hong Kong, which has its own laws and freedoms not available in China. Protesters see the new Bill as a ploy to target political opponents of China, and a surrender of their rights to what they say is China's unfair judicial system. It has brought around a million of the city's 7 million people out on to the streets in what is its biggest protest since the British handed Hong Kong over to China in 1997.

Sunday's outpouring was already raising the pressure on the administration of Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam and her official backers in Beijing.

"She has to withdraw the Bill and resign," veteran Democratic Party lawmaker James To told crowds gathering outside the city's Parliament on Sunday night.

"The whole of Hong Kong is against her." After To spoke, thousands were still arriving, having started the march five hours earlier, filling four lanes of a major thoroughfare.

The unusually broad opposition to the Bill came amid a series of government moves to deepen links between southern mainland China and Hong Kong. Chants of "no China extradition, no evil law" echoed through the highrise city streets while marchers called for Lam and other senior officials to step down. **REUTERS**

AGAINST DEADLY MILITARY CRACKDOWN

Sudan protesters begin civil disobedience, four killed in unrest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KHARTOUM, JUNE 9

FOUR PEOPLE were killed in Sudan on Sunday as protesters launched a civil disobedience campaign against the military after a bloody crackdown on a sit-in demonstration calling for civilian rule.

The campaign got underway nearly a week after the assault on demonstrators at the sit-in outside Army headquarters in central Khartoum, which followed talks breaking down between protest leaders and military rulers over who should lead a new governing body — a civilian or soldier.

Following the call for the campaign of civil disobedience, protesters set about building roadblocks in Khartoum while markets and shops were closed in several other towns and cities.

A doctors committee linked to the demonstrators said two people were killed on Sunday in unrest that rocked Khartoum and two others in its twin city of Omdurman, just across the Nile.

The Central Committee for Sudanese Doctors blamed forces of the ruling military council and paramilitary "militias" for the four deaths, which it said took the overall toll to 118 since the June 3 crackdown to disperse the sit-in.

The health ministry says 61 people died nationwide in Monday's crackdown.

In the capital's northern Bahari district, people gathered tyres, tree trunks and rocks to build new roadblocks as the campaign began Sunday.

"Almost all internal roads of Bahari have roadblocks. Protesters are even stopping residents from going to work," a witness said. But riot police swiftly moved in, firing gunshots in the air and tear gas at demonstrators before clearing the makeshift barriers, he said.

Sudanese Americans rally outside the White House in solidarity with pro-democracy protests in Sudan. *AP*

Democrats begin public airing of Mueller's Russia report

MARY CLARE JALONICK
WASHINGTON, JUNE 9

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump says it's "case closed". But Democrats are just getting started with Robert Mueller.

House Democrats have scheduled a series of hearings this coming week on the special counsel's report as they intensify their focus on the Russia probe and pick up the pace on an investigative "path" — in the words of Speaker Nancy Pelosi — that some of them hope leads to impeachment of the President.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi says the Democrats are picking up pace on investigations stemming from the report. *AP*

In doing so, they are trying to draw the public's attention on the allegations that Trump sought to obstruct a federal investigation and they want highlight his campaign's contacts with Russia in the 2016 election.

And they will lay the groundwork for an appearance from Mueller himself, despite his stated desire to avoid the spotlight.

The hearings will focus on the two main topics of Mueller's report, obstruction of justice and Russian election interference.

The House Judiciary Committee plans to cover the first topic at a Monday hearing on "presidential obstruction and other crimes." The House Intelligence Committee on Wednesday intends to review the counterintelligence implications of the Russian meddling. Mueller said there was not enough evidence to establish a conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia, but he said he could not exonerate Trump on obstruction.

On Tuesday, the House has scheduled a vote to authorise contempt cases against Attorney General William Barr and former White House counsel Donald McGahn for failing to comply with subpoenas from the Democratic-controlled House.

Language in the resolution would make it easier for committee chairmen to take the Trump administration to court. **AP**

POPULAR VIDEO SHARING SITE BLAMED FOR CREATING A DANGEROUS PATHWAY TO EXTREMISM

'I fell down the alt-right rabbit hole': The making of a YouTube radical

KEVIN ROOSE
MARTINSBURG, JUNE 9

CALEB CAIN pulled a Glock pistol from his waistband, took out the magazine and casually tossed both onto the kitchen counter.

"I bought it the day after I got death threats," he said.

The threats, Cain explained, came from right-wing trolls in response to a video he had posted on YouTube a few days earlier. In the video, he told the story of how, as a liberal college dropout struggling to find his place in the world, he had gotten sucked into a vortex of far-right politics on YouTube.

"I fell down the alt-right rabbit hole," he said in the video.

Cain, 26, recently swore off the alt-right nearly five years after discovering it, and has become a vocal critic of it. He is scarred by his experience of being radicalised by what he calls a "decentralised cult" of far-right YouTube personalities, who convinced him that Western civilization was under threat from Muslim immigrants and cultural Marxists, that innate IQ differences explained racial disparities and that feminism was a dangerous ideology.

"I just kept falling deeper and deeper into this, and it appealed to me because it made me feel a sense of belonging," he said. "I was brainwashed."

Over years of reporting on internet culture, I've heard countless versions of Cain's story: An aimless young man — usually white, frequently interested in video games — visits YouTube looking for direction or distraction and is seduced by a community of far-right creators.

Some young men discover far-right videos by accident, while others seek them out. Some travel all the way to neo-Nazism, while others stop at milder forms of bigotry.

The common thread in many of these stories is YouTube and its recommendation algorithm, the software that determines which videos appear on users' home pages and in the "Up Next" sidebar next to a video that is playing. The algorithm is responsible for more than 70 per cent of all time spent on the site.

Caleb Cain, 26, recently swore off the alt-right nearly five years after discovering it. *NYT*

The radicalisation of young men is driven by a complex stew of emotional, economic and political elements, many having nothing to do with social media. But critics and independent researchers say YouTube has inadvertently created a dangerous on-ramp to extremism by combining two things: a business model that rewards provocative videos with exposure and advertising dollars, and an algorithm that guides users down personalised paths meant to keep them glued to their screens.

Like many Silicon Valley companies, YouTube is outwardly liberal in its corporate politics. It sponsors floats at LGBT pride parades and celebrates diverse creators. In reality, YouTube has been a godsend for hyper-partisans on all sides. It has allowed them to bypass traditional gatekeepers and broadcast their views, and has helped once-obscure commentators build lucrative businesses.

It has also been a useful recruiting tool for far-right extremist groups. Bellingcat, an investigative news site, analyzed messages from far-right chat rooms and found that YouTube was cited as the most frequent cause of members' "red-pilling" — an internet slang term for converting to far-right beliefs.

I visited Cain in West Virginia after seeing his YouTube video denouncing the far right. We spent hours discussing his radicalization. To back up his recollections, he downloaded and sent me his entire YouTube history, a log of more than 12,000 videos and more than 2,500 search queries dating to 2015.

This form a picture of a disillusioned young man, an internet-savvy group of right-wing reactionaries and a powerful algorithm that learns to connect the two. It suggests that YouTube may have played a role in steering Cain, and others like him, toward the far-right fringes. **NYT**

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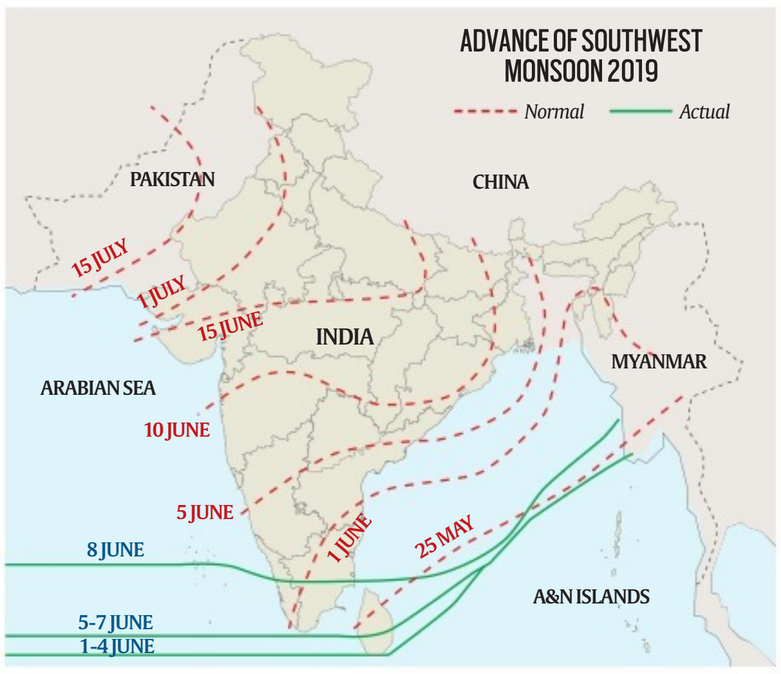
If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to **explained@expressindia.com**

FACT CHECK, GROUND REALITY

WHY LATE MONSOON IS NOT RELATED TO TOTAL SEASONAL RAINFALL



THE ONSET of the southwest monsoon over Kerala, which happened on June 8, marks the beginning of the four-month monsoon season over India. It came a week after its normal date of June 1.

The southwest monsoon brings over 70% of India's annual rainfall. Though an important marker for the season, the timing of the onset does not have any bearing on the quality or amount of rainfall during the season. It is just an event during the progress of the monsoon.

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands generally start getting monsoon rainfall between May 15 and 20, and the Kerala coast generally begins to have monsoon rainfall sometime in the last week of May. The onset of the monsoon is announced when certain criteria are fulfilled after May 10. If at least 60% of the 14 designated meteorological stations in Kerala and Lakshadweep report at least 2.5 mm rain for two consecutive days after May 10 — and a few other conditions relating to wind and temperature are also fulfilled — the onset of monsoon is said to have taken place; if not, it is not declared. The IMD announced that all the conditions were fulfilled on the morning of June 8.

A delayed onset has the potential to delay the arrival of the monsoon in other parts of the country as well, especially in south India, most of which starts getting rainfall within days of it reaching the Kerala coast. However, it does not mean that the monsoon over the entire country would be delayed. The northward progression of the monsoon from the Kerala coast depends on a lot of local factors, including the creation of low pressure areas. It is possible, therefore, that despite the onset happening late, other parts of the country start getting rains on time.

The IMD has maintained that most of the northern and eastern parts of the country, which start receiving rainfall only towards the end of June and early July, would have monsoon rain on time. But southern and central India, which have normal monsoon arrival dates in the first, second and third weeks of June, would obviously get delayed rains.

The delay in the onset over the Kerala coast also means that the June rainfall is likely to be deficient. But the IMD has predicted that some of this deficiency would be made up for in July and August, and that the overall seasonal rainfall would be around the 96% of the normal that it has predicted. India as a whole receives about 89 cm of rainfall in a normal monsoon season.

AMITABH SINHA

TIP FOR READING LIST

LIFE THROUGH WOMEN'S HIDDEN POCKETS

BEFORE WOMEN'S dresses had modern pockets sewn into their seams, they carried detachable pouches which the women would tie around their waists and hide under their skirts. In *The Pocket: A Hidden History of Women's Lives, 1660-1900*, Barbara Burman and Ariane Fennetaux explore what women used to keep in these pockets — pencils, a sketchbook, cake, thimbles, keys, money — and use these accessories as a lens to explore the complexities of women's experiences. For example, in a London household in 1765, a "pretty bulky" pocket gave domestic help Frances Burk away, revealing that she had helped herself to a silk handkerchief, a pair of stays, and other items. Another example is Annie Chapman, one of Jack the Ripper's victims in 1888. Her pocket was "torn down the front and also at the side" and contained an envelope, pills, a small comb and a piece of coarse muslin that she had been hoping to pawn or sell. "What particularly interests Burman and Fennetaux is the way in which women of all classes have historically used these tie-on pockets as a supplementary body part to help them negotiate their way through a world that was not built to suit them," *The Guardian* writes in its review.

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SIMPLY PUT

Govt wish list for schools

Draft for new National Education Policy is public, open for feedback, suggestions, discussion. What does it prescribe for schools, from enhancing learning to restructuring curriculum and Board exam format?

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 9

ON MAY 31, a committee set up for drafting a new National Education Policy submitted its report to the HRD Minister. The draft policy is in the public domain for feedback and suggestions. A meeting with all state governments has also been called later this month to seek their views. Once feedback is received, the government will finalise the policy and move it in Parliament. Some of the broad draft recommendations on school education:

Pre-primary education

The draft NEP acknowledges a "severe learning crisis" in India, where children in primary school fail to attain basic math and reading skills. Attributing a major part of this crisis to a "tragic deficiency" in early childhood care and education (ECCE) of children in the age group 3-6 years, the draft recommends that ECCE be made an integral part of the Right to Education (RTE) Act. Once ECCE becomes a justiciable right, it will be "obligatory for the public system to provide appropriate and quality educational infrastructure, facilities, and educators to all children in the age group 3-6 years".

To strengthen and expand ECCE, the draft policy recommends increased investment in existing *anganwadi* centres (meant for providing basic nutrition, healthcare and pre-school education to 3-to-6-year-olds), locating *anganwadi* centres in primary schools, encouraging primary schools to add pre-school, and building high-quality standalone pre-schools in areas where existing *anganwadis* and primary schools are not able to fulfill ECCE requirements. To ensure continuity from pre-primary to primary schools, the draft advocates bringing all aspects of ECCE under the purview of the Human Resource Development Ministry.

Reading and math skills

A large number of children currently in elementary school — perhaps over 5 crore — cannot read and understand basic text and solve simple addition and subtraction problems, the report states. Many of them eventually drop out. To address this, the draft policy proposes a host of interventions:

- Redesigning of school curriculum for Grades 1 to 5 to include dedicated mathematics and reading hours every day, activities that relate classroom maths to real-life maths, weekly puzzle-solving sessions to inculcate logical thinking, and language and maths-focused morning assemblies.
- A 'National Tutors Programme' that will enrol the best performers of each school for up to five hours a week as tutors for students who have fallen behind.
- A 'Remedial Instructional Aides Programme' to draw instructors from the local community to hold remedial classes during schools hours, after school hours and during summer vacations for students who need help.
- A school preparation module to be prepared by NCERT for all Grade 1 students to ensure they have the required learning levels (letters, shapes, colours, numbers) before starting the Grade 1 syllabus.
- Vacancies to be filled urgently to ensure a pupil-teacher ratio of 30:1.
- A nutritious breakfast, in addition to the midday meal, for improved learning.

Curriculum and pedagogy

While the 1986 education policy standardised school education with its push for a uniform 10+2 structure, the 2018 draft pitches for reconfiguration of curriculum and pedagogy in a "5+3+3+4" design, which recognises different stages of development of cognitive abilities in children. This corresponds to the age groups 3-8 years (foundational stage), 8-11 (preparatory stage), 11-14 (middle stage), and 14-18 (secondary stage).

The foundational phase (from three years of pre-school to Grade 2), the draft policy recommends, should comprise five years of flexible "play-based, activity-based, and discovery-based" learning and interaction. Instilling multilingual skills in children will be the key focus of this stage.

"This is followed by a preparatory phase consisting of three years (Grades 3, 4 and 5) of basic education incorporating some textbooks as well as aspects of more formal classroom learning. The next three years of middle school education (Grades 6, 7 and 8) would involve developing more abstract thinking and subject teaching leading up to a secondary education phase of four years (Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12)," the report reads.

The secondary phase will comprise four years of multidisciplinary study, with each year divided into two semesters. Grades 11 and 12 will be considered a part of the secondary stage (not junior college or higher secondary).

"There will be some essential common subjects for all, while simultaneously there will be a great flexibility in selecting elective courses... so that all students can expand their horizons as they see fit and explore their individual interests and talents," the draft states. It adds that the choice among science, arts and commerce should be delayed so that it is based on a student's experience and interests and not dictated by parents and society. It proposes no hard separation of school content in terms of curricular, extracurricular, or co-curricular areas, and between arts and sciences.

Languages

While the draft recommends continuance of the three-language formula, it has proposed flexibility in the choice of languages, as long as students can show proficiency in any three languages. Hindi and English are no longer the stipulated languages that students must study from Grade 6.

Further, it advocates reduction in curriculum load and reorientation of curriculum to promote multilinguism, ancient Indian knowledge systems, scientific temper, ethical reasoning, social responsibility, digital literacy and knowledge of critical issues facing local communities. The National Curriculum Framework 2005, it states, should be revised by end-2020.

Board exam restructure

Class 10 and 12 Board examinations, according to the draft NEP 2018, should serve as a "check for basic learning, skills and analysis", which one should pass comfortably without coaching and cramming. To eliminate the "life-determining" and "high stakes" nature of Board examinations, it calls for changes including allowing students to sit for the examination twice in any given school year. "Eventually, when computerised adaptive testing becomes widely available, multiple attempts for Board examinations could be allowed," it proposes.

It also pitches a shift to a "modular" approach in which a student is able to sit for the Board exam in a range of subjects across eight semesters. "Students will be expected to take a total of at least 24 subjects (such as science, economics, Indian history, philosophy, digital literacy, physical education) Board Examinations, or on average three a semester (every six months), and these examinations would be in lieu of in-school final examinations so as not to be any additional burden on students or teachers," the draft reads.

Governance of schools

At present, the Department of School Education (DSE) in a state is in charge of operation, regulation and policy-making. The draft NEP 2018 calls for decentralisation, with each of these functions carried out by separate bodies — policy-making by a 'Rashtriya Shiksha Aayog' (Education Commission at national level, headed by the PM); operation by DSE; regulation by an independent 'State School Regulatory Authority' or SSRA in each state, which will set basic and uniform standards for both public and private schools; academic matters, including standard setting and curriculum, to be continued to be led by the State Councils of Educational Research and Training.

While the policy advocates an end to "loading of regulatory requirements" against private institutions, it also recommends that school management committees or SMCs be set up in private schools. SMCs (with parents as members) are currently mandatory for government schools and play a significant role in governance and functioning.

For fee hikes in private schools, the draft states that the percentage of increase, based on inflation, will be decided by SSRA for every three-year period. Private schools will not use the word "public" in their names in any communication, documentation or declaration of status, it recommends.

Right to Education Act

The policy envisages a detailed review and subsequent amendment of the RTE Act for extension "downwards to include up to three years of early childhood education prior to Grade 1, and upwards to include Grades 11 and 12". It calls for a review of Clause 12(1)(c) — providing for mandatory 25% reservation for economically weaker section students in private schools — in the wake of its alleged misuse.

Other recommendations

- Early vocational exposure, with basic knowledge of various livelihoods (gardening, pottery, electric work, etc) will be taught at Foundational and Elementary levels.
- Students' progress throughout school, and not just at the end of Grades 10 and 12, should be mapped regularly through state census examination in Grades 3, 5, and 8.
- Teachers will not be engaged in time-consuming, non-teaching work such as electioneering and cooking of midday meals.
- "Para-teacher" (Shikshakarmi, Shikshamitra, etc) systems to be stopped by 2022.
- Excessive teacher transfers to be halted immediately.
- All schools will be accredited as per the School Quality Assessment and Accreditation Framework.

NEXT
HIGHER EDUCATION

WHY NEW EDUCATION POLICY

1 FROM THE CENTRE, UP TO THE STATES

THE POLICY: The National Education Policy (NEP) serves as a comprehensive framework to guide the development of education. A new policy has come along every few decades and offered the government of the day an opportunity to leave its imprint on the education system.

NOT MANDATORY. Although the state governments are expected to follow NEP, they are not bound to do so. Tamil Nadu, even today, does not follow the three-language formula prescribed by the first education policy in 1968.

2 BEFORE THIS ONE, 1968 AND 1986

SO FAR: There have been two National Education Policies, in 1968 and 1986, during the respective regimes of Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. The NEP of 1986 was revised in 1992 when P V Narasimha Rao was Prime Minister.

NEP & BJP: The Bharatiya Jana Sangh, or the BJP in its original form, was part of the 1977-79 Janata Party government, which attempted to draw up a policy in 1979, but it was not approved by the Central Advisory Board for Education. In a way, this is the BJP's second attempt at drafting the NEP.

3 THE LATEST ONE, AFTER DELAYS

NDA's NEP: Since 2014, the NDA government has set up two committees to draft the new NEP. The second panel, led by former ISRO chief K Kasturirangan, submitted its report to the HRD Minister on May 31, after five deadline extensions.

WHAT NEXT: The draft policy is now in the public domain for feedback and suggestions. A meeting with all state governments has been called later this month to seek their views. After assimilating feedback, the government will finalise the policy and present it in Parliament.

Students in Chandigarh after a CBSE Class 10 paper this year. Draft policy proposes that the 10+2 format be replaced with 5+3+3+4, covering ages 3 to 18. *Jaipal Singh*

Traffic Index 2018: how Mumbai congestion was measured at world high

SRINATH RAO
MUMBAI, JUNE 9

A RECENT study has ranked Mumbai as the most traffic-congested city in the world for the second straight year, and Delhi at fourth place. How was this determined, and what do the findings say of traffic across the world?

The study

The findings, published Tuesday, are part of the Traffic Index 2018 published by TomTom, an Amsterdam-based company that offers traffic solutions, uses location technology to collect traffic information, and has been publishing city rankings for eight years. The latest index ranks 403 cities across 56 countries, including 13 new cities.

The measure

For this study, congestion has been defined in terms of the additional time taken to reach a destination as opposed to when the road would have been clear of traffic. Mumbai's 2018 congestion level of of 65%, therefore, means that the extra travel time is 65% more than an average trip would take during uncongested conditions. For Delhi, by the same yardstick, the extra travel time is 58% more.

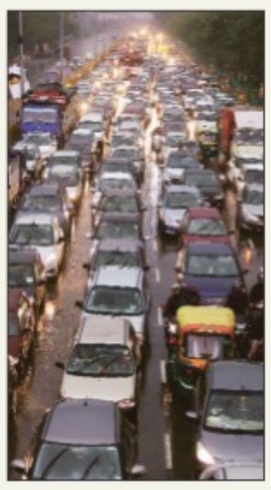
Average times are of actual taken trips, across every vehicle in the entire network, 24/7, TomTom explains on its website. This is worked out by establishing a baseline of travel times during uncongested conditions across each road segment in each city; travel times are analysed across the entire year (24/7) for each city, the company website states.

TomTom states that it factors for peak hours, accidents, inclement weather, construction work and all other factors likely to cause disruptions. It adds that its statistics are "calculated using GPA data from navigation devices, in-dash systems and smartphones".

MOST CONGESTED CITIES

RANK	CITY	CONGESTION LEVEL 2018	CONGESTION LEVEL 2017
1	Mumbai (India)	65%	66%
2	Bogota (Colombia)	63%	62%
3	Lima (Peru)	58%	50%
4	New Delhi (India)	58%	62%
5	Moscow (Russia)	56%	57%
6	Istanbul (Turkey)	53%	59%
7	Jakarta (Indonesia)	53%	61%
8	Bangkok (Thailand)	53%	55%
9	Mexico City (Mexico)	52%	52%
10	Recife (Brazil)	49%	47%

Source: TomTom Traffic Index 2018



Prem Nath Pandey

Mumbai and Delhi

In both Indian cities, traffic congestion during morning and evening peak hours varies between 73% and 102%. Last year, August 8 (83%) was the worst day to drive in Delhi, owing to the movement of VIPs and restrictions put in place in the run-up to Independence Day celebrations. In Mumbai, August 21 (102%) was the worst day on the road, because of heavy showers and work on multiple Metro rail lines. The index found that traffic flows most freely between 2 am and 5 am in both cities. The least congestion last year happened on March 2 (-16%), the second day of Holi.

Around the world

Nearly 75% of the cities part of the 2018 index had increased or stable congestion levels between 2017 and 2018, with only 90 cities showing measurable decreases, states the report. Congestion in Jakarta, for example, decreased by 8 percentage points while that in Lima rose by the same number of points. "Globally, traffic congestion is rising. And that's both good, and bad, news. It's good because it indicates a strong global economy, but the flip side is drivers wasting time sitting in traffic, not to mention the huge environmental impact," said Ralf-Peter Schaefer, TomTom's Vice President of Traffic Information.

Globally, Christmas Day resulted in the least traffic congestion. Overall, the index showed that an individual stuck in traffic in 2018 could have completed listening to one audio-book per week. Drivers in Tel Aviv and Istanbul stood to save the most time by avoiding driving during morning and evening rush hours.

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

SPORTS DO NOT BUILD CHARACTER. THEY REVEAL IT.

— HEYWOOD BROUN

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

LUCKNOW'S LONG ARM

The three arrests by UP police for a tweet and a video are an attack on free speech — they need a strong rebuff

THE HEART OF the matter is a video in which a woman makes several claims regarding herself and UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath. She is, according to her family, seeking medical help for her "mental condition". But the Uttar Pradesh Police, which prides itself on the dubious way it has "encountered" criminals, promptly files an FIR in Hazratganj, Lucknow, on a tweet referencing the video by freelance journalist Prashant Kanojia in Delhi, picks him up from his Delhi home and takes him to Lucknow. Also arrested are Ishika Singh and Anuj Shukla, who work with the TV channel which aired the video. If the police forces were to spend their days making arrests for the unverified content that people tweet about from buses and trains, from bedrooms and even from bathrooms, it would offer relief to real criminals, who could live their lives more richly, without fear of state intimidation. Clearly, therefore, this response of the police is an attempt to intimidate anyone who takes a swipe at those in power.

In this, the UP police are doing what is, disturbingly, becoming frequent, evident in the shameful string of arrests of men and women across the country for posting or even forwarding material critical of those in power. An FIR is lodged, a quick arrest made -- and the stain spreads. In this case, it's no outraged citizen who has filed the case, it is the police themselves. How should the TV channel have treated this video is a question for the channel to answer -- there's due process available to all sides to deal with content that's allegedly defamatory. But arrests for airing the video and sharing it are a clear violation of that process. Of course, it is too much to expect the mandarins of the UP police to read the legal provisions carefully, including the ringing Supreme Court verdict that extended the contours of free speech to online. Recall the observations of the Supreme Court in 2015, in the matter of Shreya Singhal vs Union of India. Therein, the court had struck down as unconstitutional Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, which had been repeatedly misused to launch witch-hunts against ordinary people who had spoken online against the powerful. The specific ground for quashing the section was the vagueness of the terms inviting charges — "annoying" or "offensive" comments, for instance. The term "objectionable", which the UP Police has used to justify driving down to Delhi to make arrests, is no less vague and unconstitutional.

Hopefully, the courts, which have had a tradition of upholding free speech against the excesses of the state, will step in and show UP police their rightful place.

BREAKING THE ICE

In the new India-Pak normal, Islamabad will need to go beyond optics to revive bilateral dialogue

PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER Imran Khan's letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterating his call for dialogue to resolve the problems between the two countries is unexceptionable. However, the Indian experience of dialogue with Pakistan is unfortunately one in which Pakistan-based terror groups have repeatedly played spoiler — witness Mumbai 2006, Mumbai 2008, Pathankot 2016 — with Islamabad pretending helplessness, or spouting denial. Yet, Pakistan has also shown several times it is not entirely without control over its so-called "non-state actors". Whenever push has come to shove, it has taken steps against such groups, but as events proved, only for momentary optics. Now for Prime Minister Modi to pick up Khan's olive branch, after a poll campaign that highlighted the Balakot action, Islamabad will need to go beyond such optics.

In the new India-Pakistan normal, restraining a Hafiz Saeed from leading the customary Eid prayers at Lahore's Gaddafi stadium, or restraining a Masood Azhar to his home or hospital, is insufficient. Pakistan is readying for the Financial Action Task Force plenary later this month, where it will be tested against its commitments last year on actions against terrorist groups. Modi has signalled through the guest list of leaders from the region at his swearing in that there will be no friendly overtures toward Pakistan for now. It was, therefore, not surprising that India has declared there will be no meeting between Prime Ministers Modi and Khan at Bishkek, on the sidelines of the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation. Just as well. Public meetings between the two sides have served little purpose in recent years. Conducted under the glare of media, they have tended to descend into a bitter point-scoring exercise for the benefit of domestic galleries on each side.

It would be folly, however, to pretend that Pakistan does not exist in the Indian neighbourhood. Despite all the rhetoric, Modi 2.0's plans for Kashmir, whatever those might be, cannot be delinked from India's relations with Pakistan. The second reality is Pakistan's involvement in the US engagement with the Taliban in Afghanistan, with which India has to come to terms. Despite all the hostility, the two sides remain engaged in arrangements for pilgrims from India to access Kartarpur Sahib gurudwara for the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak. In the NDA government's previous term, the two NSAs met in secret regularly. Given that India does not want to hand Pakistan the satisfaction — or victory — of an official bilateral engagement when its long-demanded conditions for dialogue are yet to be met, the best way forward is for Delhi and Islamabad to set up a similar backchannel process. Such an engagement cannot hurt, even if it does not help.

FREEZE FRAME

E P UNNY

Way forward in Kashmir

Actions intended to change the state's status and demographics will intensify alienation

RAJMOHAN GANDHI

WITH ELECTIONS BEHIND us, and Narendra Modi armed with a comfortable majority for five more years, difficult national questions should be looked at. One of the hardest — as hard as creating millions of jobs, or restoring life to rural India, or protecting vulnerable children, women and men across the land — is the situation in Kashmir.

In August 1947, when India and Pakistan emerged as independent nations, Pakistan claimed the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir on the ground that Muslims constituted its majority. Less than three months later, Pakistan seized control of two-fifths of Jammu and Kashmir. For the next few years, India's stand before the world was that the Kashmiri ruler had signed his state's accession to India and that Kashmiris, whether Muslim, Hindu or Sikh, wished to remain with India.

Speaking for India before the UN, Kashmir's popular leader, Sheikh Abdullah, defended this position. Over time, however, with unresolved discontent in Kashmir and a man like Abdullah in and out of prison, India's reasoning over Kashmir was modified.

Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians, it was explained, enjoyed equal rights in India, but inter-communal harmony was a delicate matter. Calls to detach Kashmir from India would hurt Muslims across India. Moreover, such calls would make sense only if India were a Hindu state, which it was not.

In a typical comment, Sumit Ganguly and Kanti Bajpai wrote in *Asian Survey* May 1994: "For India, Kashmir is symbolic of secular nationalism." A Muslim-majority area living and prospering in a Hindu-majority country was a matter of pride. It's a wholly different scene today. The number of MPs in the 17th Lok Sabha who want India to become a Hindu state may not be known exactly, but it is not small.

> Why should an Indian government hesitate before launching tough new policies over Kashmir? It should hesitate because Kashmiris are human beings who matter, and because India is different from China and from Israel. Today almost every country in the world has a significant Indian presence. Millions of Indian citizens live in the Gulf and in other Muslim-majority countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Millions more live in countries with Christian or Buddhist majorities.

Modi, Amit Shah and their colleagues, the Opposition and the Indian public should all reflect carefully before the government tries to implement the BJP's recent promises to abolish Articles 35A and 370, which preserve Kashmir's special status, and before ominous hints to transfer Hindus and Sikh populations from elsewhere into Kashmir are acted upon. Actions intended to change Kashmir's status and demographics will only intensify alienation, open or secret, in Kashmir. They will damage India's standing in the world.

Some might ask whether the world would really bother if the two Articles are abolished, or if settlements of imported non-Muslims emerge in Kashmir. After all (they might add), each part of our world has its own problems to worry about. Threats to human rights in a distant country do not make headlines in the US, Europe, Brazil, Canada or Australia.

China's hardening policies in Xinjiang, its sole Muslim-majority province, do not invite the world's condemnation. Over Tibet, even India prefers to remain silent. In Palestine, Israeli settlements in Palestine expand by the week, without the world protesting. Why should an Indian government hesitate before launching tough new policies over Kashmir?

It should hesitate because Kashmiris are human beings who matter, and because India is different from China and from Israel. Today, almost every country in the world has a significant Indian presence. Millions of Indian citizens live in the Gulf and in other Muslim-majority countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Millions more live in countries with Christian or Buddhist majorities.

Many countries have witnessed opposition to Muslim as well as non-Muslim immigrants. By and large, however, rapidly growing numbers of Indian and other immigrants in Europe, the US and elsewhere have been shielded from discrimination by their host country's laws, constitution and media. There are grim exceptions. Dhriti Narayan, a 13-year-old Indian-American, is now lying in hospital with an injured brain because on April 24, an Iraq War veteran named Isaiah Peoples drove his car into pedestrians at a crosswalk in California's Sunnydale town, which has a large Indian population. He evidently thought that Dhriti and those walking with her were Muslim. Seven including Dhriti were injured because the attacker saw no difference a brown Hindu and a brown Muslim. It will be a hard sell for any Indian wishing to persuade the world that while discrimination against Muslims in India should be overlooked, Hindus everywhere should be treated as equals.

India has championed individual liberty, equality between races, nations and communities, and amity among them. Let us be careful before reneging on our basic principles and on constitutional guarantees. Let us also remember that while India is a strong player on the Asian stage, with the potential to become a world leader, it must live with difficult neighbours, including two who, like us, possess the Big Bomb. One of them is pretty strong, the other pretty close.

Bombs, big or small, will not bring progress on Kashmir. Nor will changes in the Constitution. Drones and stones, and bullets and bricks will be equally ineffective. Only an honest, hard-nosed and multi-layered dialogue, involving all stakeholders including representatives from Pakistan, can take us forward on Kashmir.

The writer is research professor at Centre for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

INDIA VERSUS BHARAT

Electoral compromises of BJP indicate that idea of India has prevailed over Bharat

JYOTI PUNWANI

DOES THE TRIUMPHANT return of Narendra Modi, and the humiliating defeat of the Congress, signify the end of the "idea of India"? The RSS seems to think so, for twice since the result, they have extolled the "idea of Bharat" and contrasted it with the "Idea of India". The former is said to be indigenous and inclusive, symbolised by the phrase "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", while the latter is described as an alien concept where differences of identity are emphasised.

The exact meaning of the "idea of Bharat" is available in a note by Ramakant Tiwari, co-convenor of the Delhi BJP Intellectual Cell. Titled "Idea of Bharat supercedes idea of India", the note explains how the "idea of Bharat" draws on India's ancient cultural heritage, symbolised by dharma, shakti, the guru-shishya parampara, maya, rebirth, the primacy of Sanskrit and the scriptures, teertha (pilgrimages), and the Kumbh Mela. Bharat was the rashtra chosen by Brahma for his incarnations, including the Buddha, writes Tiwari.

This, then, is the original genius of India. Compare that to the "malevolent" "idea of India", traced by Tiwari not to our "first PM J L Nehru", but to Lord Macaulay. This "malafide" foreign idea replaced our decentralised, dharma-based, democratic civilisation where "honoured visitors" were welcomed and assimilated. What we got instead was centralised planning, invaders, "selfish identities intruding from all corners of the world", contrived phrases such as "unity in diversity", the "conspiracy of secularism" replacing sarva dharma sama bhava, cowardice as ahimsa, subservience as "tolerance" and socialism/communism replacing our own arthashastra.

> The BJP has almost dropped the 'idea of Bharat' in its policies in the North East and Goa, where it has not only allied with parties led by Christians but even refrained from its core belief that beef must be banned. Now, the 'idea of Bharat' is getting even more diluted as BJP leaders with RSS backgrounds don topis and grace iftars. Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis even had an Arab-style gamchha draped around him at his party's iftar.

It is clear that the "idea of Bharat" is not merely an exclusively Hindu view of the country but an "upper caste" one. The British destroyed our ancient gurukuls which guaranteed 100 per cent literacy, says Tiwari. Surely he means 100 per cent "upper caste" literacy?

Today there's no way this "idea of Bharat" can prevail. And it's not because of the *tukde tukde* gang.

The reason this idea is impossible today is because of the politics followed by the political arm of the RSS. From 2014 to 2019, the BJP has gone out of its way to woo every caste, no matter how small, and also to give tickets to candidates based on their caste. Whereas the "idea of Bharat" signifies an "upper caste" utopia, the BJP this time ensured that "lower castes", who were not expected to vote for it, were the first recipients of its welfare schemes in a crucial state like UP, where the challenge to the BJP was primarily caste-based.

So coloured by caste is the BJP's electoral worldview that, in the 2017 UP assembly polls, it projected our national icon, Emperor Ashok, as belonging to the Maurya caste. This Lok Sabha election, UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath called Hanuman a Dalit, while his own minister for religious affairs said the deity was a Jat.

The BJP has almost dropped the "idea of Bharat" in its policies in the Northeast and Goa, where it has not only allied with parties led by Christians but even refrained from its core belief that beef must be banned.

Now, the "idea of Bharat" is getting even more diluted as BJP leaders with RSS backgrounds don topis and grace iftars. Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis even had an Arab-style gamchha draped around him at his party's iftar. These events are particularly hated by Hindutva-vadis who see them as political appeasement of a community that forms no part of the Hindu/Bharatiya ethos. Union minister Giriraj Singh was, in fact, expressing the "idea of Bharat" in his tweet against BJP ally Ram Vilas Paswan's iftar, attended by Bihar CM Nitish Kumar and deputy CM Sushil Modi.

As Gujarat CM, Narendra Modi famously refused to wear a topi, and after he became PM, neither did he host an iftar nor did he attend President Pranab Mukherjee's iftars at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. After President Ramnath Kovind took over, the Rashtrapati Bhavan iftar, and even the singing of Xmas carols there, has stopped. Now that's the "idea of Bharat".

Partly in 2014, and much more so in 2019, PM Modi's campaign, and that of party president Amit Shah, was in keeping with this Hindu-centric idea. His allegiance to this idea came through also in his indifference to the continuous lynchings and Una-like incidents affecting Muslims and Dalits.

Despite that, in his first speech in Parliament, both in 2014 and 2019, the PM-elect made it a point to include minorities while describing his vision of the country. And Amit Shah reprimanded Giriraj Singh for his tweet.

Now if that's not the victory, however superficial, of the "idea of India" over the "idea of Bharat", what is? To make it endure is everyone's job.

The writer is a Mumbai-based freelance journalist

JUNE 10, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

ASIAN POWERS UNITE

EVEN AS BLEARY-EYED delegates went about coaxing the hard-line Arabs and the Egyptians to arrive at something resembling consensus on the language in which the treaty with Israel is to be mentioned in the final communique of the conference, Indian and Sri Lanka foreign ministers, A B Vajpayee and Shahul Hameed went about more positive business. They have been jointly promoting an idea of an Asian bloc of nations, like an association of Asian Unity. Vajpayee has personally sounded out several leaders of delegations from Asian countries, and the response has been positive. The nucleus of such a grouping might take shape in Havana when the heads of states meet for the non-aligned summit in September.

JUPITER'S VOLCANOES

VOYAGER I HAS TRANSMITTED some major data regarding Jupiter, which leads space scientists to believe that the planet may have, barring the earth, the only active volcanoes in the entire solar system. Larry Soderblom of the US said that the discovery had been made in the course of the scrutiny of a film taken by the spacecraft when it encountered the planet on March 5 last. UNI adds: The film revealed some red spots on Jupiter which rotated like cyclones with the atmosphere on the planet being very turbulent. Another discovery was the eight volcanoes... These were claimed to be the only active ones in the entire solar system, other than those on earth.

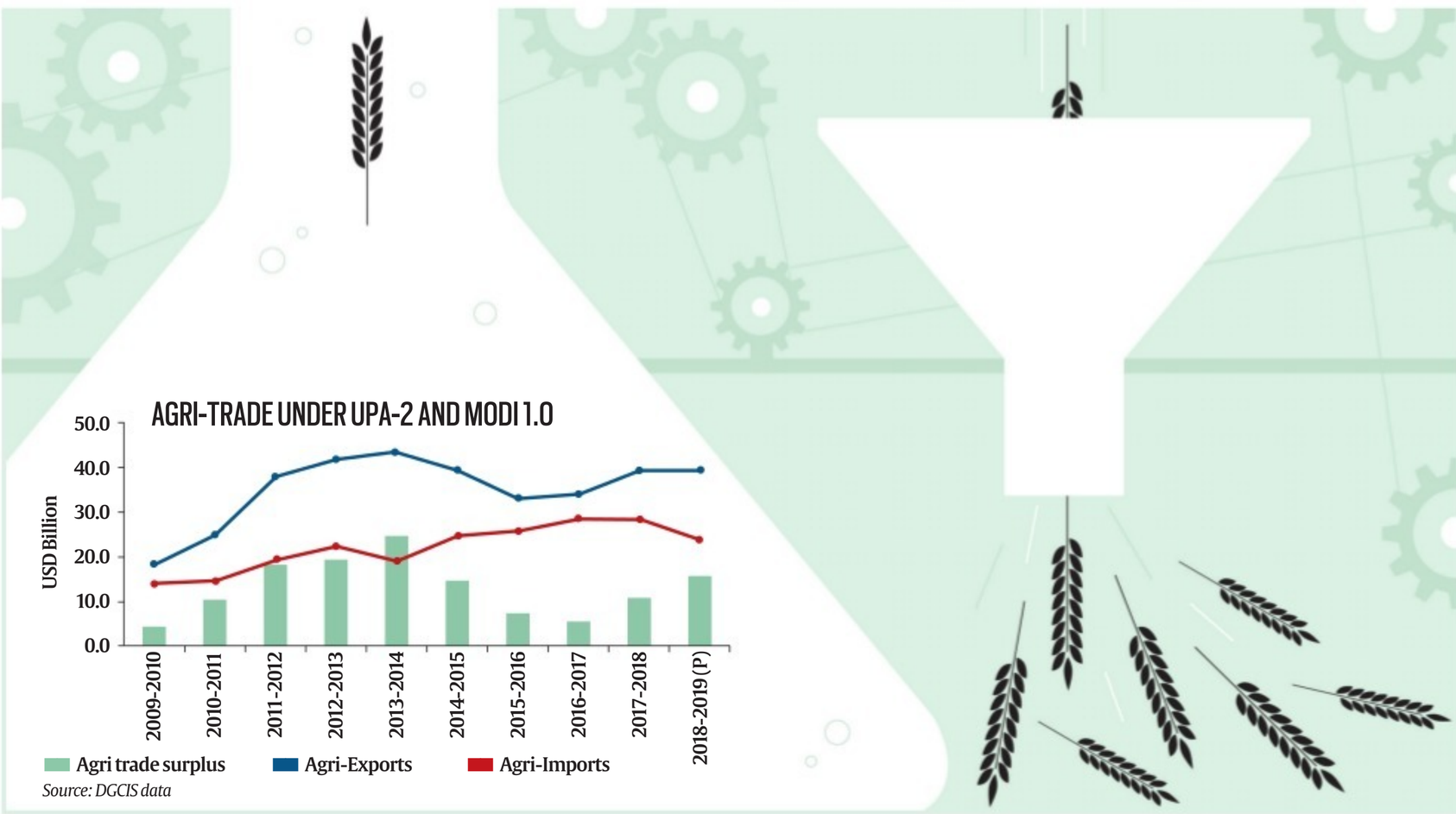
CONGRESS SPLITS

THE CONGRESS (I) in West Bengal has split. In view of Indira Gandhi's open support, however, the official group led by A B A Gani Khan Chowdhury and Subrata Mukherjee, has so long been on the top. But things started changing from the day the two groups fought in the presence of Mrs Gandhi at the airport hotel. The immediate provocation was perhaps the official group's decision to invite Sanjay Gandhi to lead the Congress (I) march to Writers Building on June 22.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Starting from the two leaders' firm political will, the stable China-Russia strategic relationship today is deeply rooted in the two countries' national interests. ."

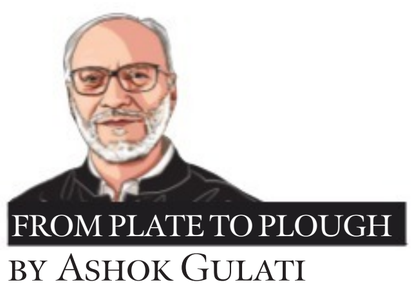
— GLOBAL TIMES CHINA



C R Sasikumar

The farm-factory connect

Raising farm productivity is the first step to increasing rural demand and reviving the manufacturing sector



FROM PLATE TO PLOUGH

BY ASHOK GULATI

AS PER THE last report of National Statistical Office (NSO) released on May 31, the Gross Value Added (GVA) at basic prices (2011-12 prices) for the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2018-19 has slumped to 5.7 per cent for the overall economy, 3.1 per cent for manufacturing, and -0.1 percent for agriculture, forestry and fishery. However, for the entire financial year, FY19, GVA growth is more respectable — 6.6 per cent for the economy, 6.9 per cent for manufacturing and 2.9 per cent for agriculture.

Incidentally, for the Narendra Modi government's first five-year stint (2014-15 to 2018-19), agri-GDP grew at 2.9 per cent per annum. Many experts believe that agriculture cannot grow at more than 3 per cent per annum on a sustainable basis. Swaminathan A Aiyar, for example — whose brilliant writings I admire — has recently written that "no country has managed more than 3 per cent agricultural growth over a long period".

This is not correct. China, for example, registered an agri-GDP growth of 4.5 per cent per annum during 1978-2016, a very long period indeed. In fact, the first thing Chinese government did in 1978, when it started off economic reforms was to reform agriculture. Agri-GDP in China grew at 7.1 per cent per annum during 1978-84, and because the Chinese government also liberated price controls on agricommodities, farmers' real incomes increased at 15 per cent per annum. That set the stage for the manufacturing revolution, which was revved up through town and village enterprises (TVEs) to cater to domestic demand from rural areas. The rest is history.

Indian industry is today complaining that the rural demand is collapsing. Tractor sales are down by 13 per cent, two-wheeler sales are down by 16 per cent, car sales are down by similar percentage, and even FMCG (fast move consumer goods) sales are down in April 2019 over April 2018. One of the reasons is that India has never had any major agri-reforms and farmers' incomes have remained very low. But there have been periods, reasonably long enough, when agri-GDP has grown well above 3 per cent. In fact during the 10 years of UPA from 2004-05 to 2013-14, agri-GDP grew at 3.7 per cent per annum. This dropped to 2.9 per cent during the NDA's stint between 2014-2019. When the masses do not gain, the demand for manufactured goods remains limited, slowing down the wheels of industry. So, if industry wants to prosper, we must aim at an agri-GDP growth of more than 4 per cent. My assessment is that it can grow even at 5 per cent per annum at least for a decade, provided we are focused on reforming this sector.

For that, we need to raise farm productivity in a manner that can cut down unit costs and make Indian agriculture more competitive, enabling higher exports. Unfortunately, agri-exports had a negative growth during Modi 1.0 (see graph).

During UPA-2, agri-exports more than doubled, from $18.4 billion in 2009-10 to $43.6 billion in 2013-14. But during Modi 1.0, they declined, going down to $ 33.3 billion in 2015-16 and then recovering to $ 39.4 billion by 2018-19 — but still below the peak of 2013-14.

Officials managing agri-trade need to pay heed to this massive failure as it has implications not only for overall agri-GDP growth, but also for slowing down of manufacturing growth due to sluggish demand for industrial products in rural areas. There is ample evidence that much of Indian agriculture is globally competitive. But our restrictive policies constrain the private sector from building direct supply chains from farms to ports, which bypass the *mandi* system. This leads to a weak infrastructure for agri-exports. The net result of all this is that Indian farmers do not get full advantage of global markets. Further, an obsessive focus on inflation targeting by suppressing food prices through myriad controls works against the farmer. If these policies continue, Prime Minister Modi's target of doubling farmers' real incomes by 2022-23 will remain a pipe-dream.

> There is ample evidence that much of Indian agriculture is globally competitive. But our restrictive policies constrain the private sector from building direct supply chains from farms to ports, which bypass the mandi system. This leads to a weak infrastructure for agri-exports. The net result of all this is that Indian farmers do not get full advantage of global markets.

It has to be noted that any attempt to artificially prop up farmers' prices through higher minimum support prices (MSPs), especially in relation to global prices, can be counterproductive. Normally, MSPs remain largely ineffective for most commodities in larger parts of India. But even if they are operational through massive procurement operations, a policy of high MSPs can backfire when it goes beyond global prices.

Take the case of rice. India is the largest exporter of rice in the world, exporting about 12 to 13 MMT of the cereal per year. If the government raises the MSP of rice, by say 20 per cent, rice exports will drop and stocks with the government will rise to levels far beyond the buffer stock norms. It would be a loss of scarce resources. Besides, it would create unnecessary distortions adversely impacting the diversification process in agriculture towards high-value crops. This needs to be avoided.

Our global competitiveness in agriculture can be bolstered by investment in agri-R&D and its extension from lab to land, investment in managing water efficiently and investment in infrastructure for agri-exports value chains. Today, India spends roughly 0.7 per cent of agri-GDP on agri-R&D and extension together. This needs to double in the next five years. The returns are enormous. The meagre investments in Pusa Basmati 1121 and 1509, for example, have yielded basmati exports between $ 4 and 5 billion annually. The returns from the sugarcane variety Co-0238 in Uttar Pradesh are similarly impressive. The recovery ratio has increased from about 9.2 in 2012-13 to more than 11 per cent today. Massive investments are also needed in managing our water resources more efficiently, to produce more with less.

But augmenting productivity alone — without pushing for export markets — can lead to glut at a home and depress farm prices, shrinking their profitability. So, first think of markets and then give a push to raise productivity and exports simultaneously.

Can all this be done under Modi 2.0? Only time will tell.

The writer is Infosys Chair Professor for Agriculture at ICRIER

The original Khan Market Gang

Long before the epithet was made a topic of debate by the PM, a bunch of teenagers ruled the roost in the now controversial area

SOMYA LAKHANI

DAMN, IT FEELS good to be a gangster. At least in retrospect. It was on a winter afternoon in 2003 when, unwittingly, I joined a gang — one that swindled innocent juniors of their pocket money and squandered them on gol-gappas. The gang members — teenagers, all of us — dressed in rust sweaters and grey skirts and trousers, operated from the confines of a noisy school canteen, past the sand pit in the junior school and all the way to the notorious Khan Market.

It took me 16 years and a one-liner by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to accept that I am, in fact, the OG (original gangster) of Khan Market, since my beloved school, Sardar Patel Vidyalaya (SPV) is only a five-minute walk from there.

In the early 2000s, when my parents reluctantly agreed to let me saunter outside school with two friends, "Khan" was the obvious, most doable option. With Rs 30 in my pocket, the heavy school bag on my back, I galloped away to freedom aka Bengal Sweets, the makers of XL size chole bhature and buttery pav bhaji.

That day, no one could convince me that I was any less of a gangster in my tiny universe of school friends and crushes to impress. Life taught us many lessons as we grew up, and one of them was to not take our Khan Market status seriously.

Before the wisdom of adult life had kicked in, back in the early 2000s, I found myself a best friend in school and together, we convinced Javed bhai and Saleem bhai of Khan Chacha to give our "order" of mutton seekh rolls and paneer tikka rolls priority — much like our Patelian seniors and juniors. When the brothers saw "rust sweater"-sporting kids approaching their *khokha*, they knew it was time to delay the rest of the orders.

Their clients envied us school children as we raced back to school with our order to catch the bus back home. We, however, swore lifelong loyalty to the "best kebab shop" in town. When money was sparse but the desire was strong, a senior would order an onion roll — a paratha stuffed with onions and green chutney — for Rs 5.

In 2010, as a cub reporter with *The Indian Express*, I filed a story on Khan Chacha turning into a swanky two-storeyed restaurant in the market. The rolls were costlier, and us old-timers were sceptical but Javed and Saleem's familiar smiles kept us coming back — till they, tragically, shut shop in Khan Market after a trademark battle a few years ago.

The Khan Market gang was in deep despair, and battled the charm of other kebab shops. Aggressive Twitter and Facebook appeals to "save Khan Chacha" didn't create a ripple. Not entirely disheartened, we continued to visit our beloved market, with its quaint terrace restaurants that now served "global" cuisine. And the Parisian patisseries replaced Mrs Kaur's Crepes & More; the mysterious Mrs Kaur who sated many a craving without ever having met us.

But before we get distracted by the grown-ups, let's rewind to the gang-wars of Khan Market. For a single afternoon, after the last exam of the semester, the market would be flooded with various gangs: The Patelians, the Modernites, the St. Columba's boys. Arch enemies on the basketball court and acutely aware of past ego battles, the gangs of boys and girls — in their school uniforms — gave each other cold stares. Since there was no Facebook or Instagram, senior-school scandals began at tournaments and reared their ugly heads at Khan Market.

ONE OF 800 MILLION

A VOICE, UNDER 35

The dogs of Khan Market grew fatter in front of us and the pet shop there was a revelation to me, as near my house - in the ignored Jamna Paar - pet shops hadn't yet arrived. On one such visit, my mother picked up a red belt for me excitedly, only to be told by an embarrassed teenaged daughter that it was for a dog!

Another cherished memory of the gang members was bumping into former cricketer Ajay Jadeja - a Patelian - in Khan Market, occasionally. It was a rule to do the SPV wave (if you know it, you know it) at him every single time he was spotted.

Now, the gang is in their 30s and spread across the world — a photographer, a filmmaker, a journalist — and with a whole bunch of challenges and fewer solutions. But every single time when the OGs reunite in Khan Market, a rush of memories take over — the first sip of beer at a famous dingy bar, Javed and Saleem Bhai's gracious service, and the cookies at Mrs Kaur. At the time, little did we know we were the Khan Market Gang. Thank you, Prime Minister.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

EC FALLS SHORT

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The burden of elections' (IE, June 7). The writer's exhortation to avoid sullying the reputation of Election Commission is lopsided. A range of questionable decisions and dissent by one of the top officials in EC has surely eroded the public's trust that was once reposed in the body. Moreover, the article denigrates the significance of raising questions and keeping constitutional bodies in check for their behaviour in checking — or failing to check — nationalist rhetoric. Such questioning is essential to the healthy functioning of democracy, as well as the institutions that stand as its pillars.

Ali Rizwan, *Kalyan*

FREE RIDES

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A ticket to ride' (IE, June 5). The idea behind free travel for women in DTC buses and the Delhi metro is right. It could improve the presence of women in Delhi's labour force. However, the move needs to be thought through. There will be logistical issues. How will the DMRC, for example, register the passengers who opt for the scheme? Will there be separate gates for them? What about the revenue foregone by Delhi's exchequer?

Sushanto Mitra, *Delhi*

PRAGYA'S APPEAL

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Pragya seeks exemption from court appearance' (IE, June 7). It seems to have become fashionable for political leaders to seek exemption from appearing in court for hearings on health grounds. It is surprising that Pragya Singh Thakur, the prime accused in the Malegaon 2008 blasts, who actively canvassed without any health problems during the Lok Sabha elections, is now seeking exemption from court appearance on flimsy grounds.

Tharcius S Fernando, *Chennai*

KEEPING FRIENDS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'An ocean of neighbours' (IE, June 7). The author's observations regarding the expansion of the idea of the neighbourhood bodes well. But this should not lead to ignoring the traditional neighbourhood, especially Bangladesh and Nepal. Domestic rhetoric against Bangladeshi Muslims and fears that they will be deported can queer the pitch in bilateral relations. Nepal, meanwhile, has growing ever-closer to China.

Bishwadeep Chatterjee, *via email*

LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

To encourage quality reader intervention, The Indian Express offers the Letter of the Week award. The letter adjudged the best for the week is published every Saturday. Letters may be e-mailed to editpage@expressindia.com or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301. Letter writers should mention their postal address and phone number.

THE WINNER RECEIVES SELECT EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS

VIEW FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

A weekly look at the public conversations shaping ideas beyond borders — in the Subcontinent. Curated by Aakash Joshi

URGE TO TALK

THE JUNE 9 editorial in *Dawn* begins with the assertion of a sentiment that has become common in Pakistan when it comes to talks with India: "While the messages coming from New Delhi are mixed, Islamabad is clear in its vision: Let both nations come to the negotiating table and find a way forward to shed the animosity of the past seven decades — and counting — and attempt a new start in South Asia".

It recalls that post the Pulwama attacks, the two countries were on the "brink of war", and given that scare, "the importance of talks cannot be overstated". The editorial contends that post the elections in India, it remains unclear what position Prime Minister Narendra Modi intends to adopt vis a vis Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in Kyrgyzstan is an opportunity for Imran Khan and Modi to break the ice.

The editorial even goes on to suggest a trajectory for a possible diplomatic detente: "Let both start with the 'soft' issues (CBMs, people-to-people contact) and work their way up to the major issues (Kashmir, violence). It is clear that if these opportunities are lost, then only further turbulence is likely in one of the most tortured geopolitical relationships in the world". It does not, however, mention New Delhi oft-stated pre-condition — "terror and talks can't go together".

SRI LANKA, UNFORGED

WHILE THE NEWS pages of the Sri Lankan English language media have given extensive coverage to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the country, on the eve of his arrival, there were few editorials or opinion articles on the visit. Instead, the social cleavages and political turmoil that have come to the fore since the Easter terror attacks continue, understandably, to dominate the conversation. Siri Hettige, Chair of Sri Lanka Studies at the South Asia Institute at the University of Heidelberg argues in *The Daily Mirror* on June 6 that "what we witness today is an extraordinary situation that we can ignore only at our own peril. It is the culmination of a series of long-neglected economic, political and societal issues. If we fail to identify the gravity of the emergent situation in the country today and explore all possible avenues and find a way out of this unprecedented crisis, consequences for the country and the people can be dire".

On the political front, he argues, "people inhabiting this landmass have not come together as a cohesive political community transcending ethnic, religious and linguistic divisions. This is largely due to the failure of post-independence regimes over the last sixty years to adopt appropriate national policies to achieve such a national goal. The result has been intermittent inter-community violence and conflict that not only led to an enormous waste of financial and human resources but also encouraged many people to leave the country".

On the economy, uneven development and the retreat of the state led to much dissatisfaction, as was seen during the Tamil insurgency.

Finally, and most importantly, governments have failed in their primary duty of being the arbiters of violence: "Successive governments including the present one have failed to even effectively enforce the law against the perpetrators of violence. It is against this background that we need to look at the most recent terrorist attacks and other violent incidents that followed. The way the government leaders have reacted to these recent developments has made the situation worse".

READING AN ELECTION

MUHAMMAD ZAMIR, A former diplomat and foreign affairs analyst weighs on Narendra Modi's decisive election to a second term by the people of India in *The Dhaka Tribune* on June 9. Zamir highlights the growing and deepening relationship between Bangladesh and India, as well as the fact the PM Sheikh Hasina was among the first to congratulate Modi.

Yet, as has been the trend in Bangladesh since the issue of the NRC in Assam and the Citizenship Bill has become salient in India, Zamir flags many issues. Among these is Amit Shah's (now home minister) divisive and offensive rhetoric against Muslims and Bangladeshis in political speeches: "Shah… also needs to understand that fuelling nationalist sentiment by accusing others of appeasing Muslims can only create instability. This needs to be avoided."

Zamir also points out that the election win in India has been seen globally in complex ways: The foreign media have acknowledged that a mixture of development and nationalism has worked in Modi's favour. There has been a subtle juxtaposition of nationalist rhetoric, subtle religious polarisation, and a swing of welfare programs, and these have helped the BJP considerably. Modi and the BJP managed to fuse nationalism and development with technology as the common denominator. He has promised the citizens safety and security through the protection of India's "land, air, and outer space," and also targeted welfare schemes for the poor— homes, toilets, credit, and cooking gas".

TRADE WATCH

IMPORTS FROM PAK DOWN 92% IN MAR

New Delhi: Imports from Pakistan declined by 92 per cent to $2.84 million in March after imposition of 200 per cent customs duties on goods following Pulwama terror attack. As per commerce ministry data, imports from Pak stood at $34.61 million in March 2018. **PTI**

AFTER THE PNB SCAM, OTHER JEWELLERY CHAINS UNDER SCANNER

Banks cut down exposure to jewellery sector amid lingering liquidity issues

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, JUNE 9

BANKS HAVE cut down their exposure to the gem and jewellery sector amid indications that some jewellery chains in the South India are facing liquidity issues a year after the massive defaults by companies owned by Mehul Choksi and Nirav Modi.

According to the Reserve Bank of India data, total loan outstanding to the gem and jewellery sector declined to Rs 85,281 crore as of December 2018 from Rs 90,495 crore in March 2018. Non-performing assets (NPAs) in the jewellery sector also fell to Rs 20,135 crore in December 2018 from a high of Rs 23,887 crore, the RBI said in an RTI reply.

In percentage terms, as much as 23.61 per cent of the exposure of banks was reported as bad loans as of December 2018 against 26.39 per cent in March 2018. After the PNB scam involving Gitanjali Gems of Mehul Choksi and Nirav Modi's companies surfaced in early 2018, other jewellery companies and chains came under the scanner of banks and the RBI. "Some prominent jewellery chains in the South India are now facing liquidity issues. Their balance sheets are in a big mess. We have cut down our exposure and tightened the lending norms to the sector. We're assessing their balance sheets," said an official in a leading commercial bank.

State Bank of India, India's largest lender, said in the case of non-corporate borrower, the bank decided to cap exposure to Rs 100 crore for single borrower and Rs 200 crore for group exposure. In the case of corporate borrowers, SBI has capped the exposure at Rs 400 crore for single borrower with BBB rating and above, Rs 100 crore for borrower with BB rating and Rs 50 crore for borrowers without rating. SBI has capped group exposure at Rs 1000 crore.

According to SBI, all new exposures beyond Rs 100 crore is to be considered under consortium lending only. If existing exposures are under the multiple banking, it will be brought under consortium lending only.

"No further enhancement will be permitted if the exposure continues MBA (multiple banking arrangement)" SBI said in an RTI reply.

SBI's total exposure to the gem and jewellery sector was Rs 12,408 crore as of March 2019, out of which Rs 797.59 crore loans were classified as NPAs. While its exposure marginally declined from Rs 12,693 crore in the previous year, NPAs fell from Rs 2,242 crore in March 2018.

"Loan exposures to some gold jewellery retailers in South India are under close scrutiny. Some of them had been on an unbridled expansion spree of their retain chain," said a senior official of a bank.

Bank lending to the jewellery sector has turned cautious with greater due diligence and checks on credit and inventory qualities. In fact, stricter credit norms have affected the store expansion plans and working capital position of industry players, especially the unorganised ones.

According to rating firm ICRA, the gold jewellery retail business is highly fragmented and competitive; the pricing flexibility of all major players remain under pressure with continuous store expansions by larger retailers in recent years.

This coupled with the limited value addition in the products keeps the operating margins lower. Loan exposure to the sector started coming down after the Rs 14,000 crore fraud by Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi companies came to light early last year.

NPAs FALLS TO ₹20,135 CR IN DECEMBER 2018

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EXPLAINED

G20 FINANCE MINISTERS AND CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS' MEETING

Finance chiefs express concern over risks from 'intensified' trade conflict

REUTERS
FUKUOKA, JAPAN, JUNE 9

GROUP OF 20 finance leaders on Sunday said that trade and geopolitical tensions have "intensified", raising risks to improving global growth, but they stopped short of calling for a resolution of a deepening US-China trade conflict.

After fiery negotiations that nearly aborted the issuance of a communique, finance ministers and central bank governors meeting in southern Japan repeated tepid support for a rules-based multilateral trading system.

"Global growth appears to be stabilising and is generally projected to pick up moderately later this year and into 2020," the G20 finance leaders said in a communique issued as the meetings closed.

"However, growth remains low and risks remain tilted to the downside. Most importantly, trade and geopolitical tensions have intensified. We will continue to address these risks and stand ready to take further action."

It also said that G20 finance leaders had agreed to compile common rules by 2020 to close loopholes used by global tech giants such as Facebook and Google to reduce their corporate taxes.

The communique also contained pledges to increase debt transparency on the part of borrowers and creditors. Another priority is sustainable infrastructure development, an issue brought into sharper focus by concerns that China's massive Belt and Road infrastructure drive was saddling poor countries with debt they can't repay. However, the final language excluded a proposed clause to "recognise the pressing need to resolve trade tensions", which was dropped from a previous draft debated on Saturday.

The deletion, which G20 sources said came at the insistence of the United States, shows a desire by Washington to avoid encumbrances as it increases tariffs on Chinese goods. The statement also contains no admissions that the deepening US-China trade conflict is hurting global growth.

ADB President Takehiko Nakao, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Bank of England (BOE) Governor Mark Carney and British Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond talk during the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in Fukuoka, Japan. *REUTERS*

BRIEFLY

BoB puts over 65 accounts on block

Mumbai: Bank of Baroda has put on sale non-performing loans amounting to Rs 9,060 crore, including two large accounts - Bhushan Power & Steel and Alok Industries which are undergoing insolvency process but delayed. Besides these two big accounts, the bank is also looking to sell 65 other medium and small-size stressed accounts worth Rs 6,057 crore, only on cash basis, according to the information on the bank's website.

Pre-Budget consultations from Jun 11

New Delhi: The pre-Budget consultation exercise is all set to commence this week, with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman scheduled to meet economists, banks and financial institutions as well as industry chambers between June 11-23. The state finance ministers are also expected to give their suggestions for Budget 2019-20.

Central Bank of India plans to raise ₹5,000 cr

New Delhi: Central Bank of India (CBI) is planning to raise up to Rs 5,000 crore in the current fiscal through various means, including rights issue and FPO, to meet Basel III norms by March 2020, it said in its annual report 2018-19. **PTI**

'FPIs pour in ₹7,095 crore in first week of June'

Continuing buying spree, foreign investors pumped in Rs 7,095 crore into the Indian capital markets in June first week in anticipation of continued policy reforms

NET BUYERS
Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have been net buyers for the previous four consecutive months

MORE INFLOWS
For the period under review, not a single day did we see outflows exceeding the inflows, said Groww

REASONS BEHIND
Election of a stable govt and the Centre meeting fiscal deficit target of 3.4 per cent seems to have helped increase FPIs' confidence

INDICES ALL-TIME HIGH
Strong FPI inflow has taken the benchmark indices to their respective all-time highs with the S&P BSE Sensex closing above the 40,000 mark for the first time ever, Bajaj Capital said

₹5,180.43 cr
As per the depositories data sourced by *PTI*, FPIs invested a net sum of Rs 1,915.01 crore in equities and Rs 5,180.43 crore in the debt segment during June 3-7, taking the cumulative net investment to Rs 7,095.44 crore

GLOBAL FRONT
A significant fall in crude oil prices as well as interest rates in the midst of the US-China trade war have augured well for India

Goyal: Nations must have 'sovereign right' to use data for people's welfare

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JUNE 9

COUNTRIES MUST have the "sovereign right" to use their data for welfare of people and advocacy on free trade should not necessarily justify free flow of data, said Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal during the two-day Group of 20 ministers' meet in Japan. He pointed out need for clarity on issues like privacy and security before making rules on e-commerce, adding that this is why India does not support joint initiative on e-commerce "at this stage".

"With growing Internet usage domestically, an enormous amount of data is being generated in the country. This includes personal, community and public data, and countries must have the sovereign right, to use their data, for the welfare and development of its people," stated Goyal.

The digital divide within and across nations is a "serious impediment" for developing countries to benefit from digital trade, and capacity constraints in developing countries require timely support of training and creation of a digital infrastructure, he said. "This is important, for facilitating a level playing field, in the digital economy, for all countries to take equitable advantage of data free flows. Developing countries need time and policy space to build deepest understanding of the subject and formulate their own legal and regulatory framework before meaningfully engaging in e-commerce negotiations," Goyal stated. India's draft e-commerce policy restricts storage of data collected here outside of the country.

During the speech, Goyal emphasised the need to preserve the fundamental principles and objectives of the World Trade Organization, including the Special and Differential Treatment mechanism and consensus based decision making, amidst an "abrupt push" to alter rules of the institution. "The concerns of all member countries must be accommodated," he said, adding that the reform process should begin with reviving WTO's dispute settlement mechanism.

Digital divide within and across nations is a 'serious impediment' for developing countries to benefit from digital trade, Goyal said

He further raised concerns that joint initiatives formed outside WTO with no mandate had set an "unhealthy" trend of influencing rulemaking within the organization. "I am suggesting we must collectively look at mainstreaming these discussions in the WTO after informal consultations. The G20 should commit to support only WTO consistent rules and avoid creating insurmountable goals," he stated. Goyal also sought preferential market access for developing country's micro, small and medium enterprises to be part of global supply chain to promote investment.

Trade and digital economy ministers participating the G20 discussions this year exchanged views on various issues, including the concept of data free flow with trust, WTO discussions on e-commerce and the need for capacity building.

They stated that challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights and security needed to be addressed in facilitating data free flow. It is also necessary that both domestic and international legal frameworks "should be respected", they said.

India calls for early solution on taxing digital cos

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 9

INDIA SUNDAY called on G-20 countries to adopt principle of 'significant economic presence' while addressing challenges to tax profits made by the digital companies.

Addressing the two-day meeting of the G-20 finance ministers and central bank governors in Fukuoka, Japan, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman noted the urgency to fix the issue of determining right nexus and profit allocation solution for taxing the profits made by digital economy companies. "FM (Finance Minister) noted that the work on tax challenges arising from the digitalisation of economy is entering a critical phase with an update to the G20, due next year.

"In this respect, the FM strongly supported the potential solution based on the concept of 'significant economic presence' of businesses taking into account the evidence of their purposeful and sustained interaction with the economy of a country," a finance ministry statement said.

Sitharaman expressed confidence that a consensus-based global solution, which should also be equitable and simple, would be reached by 2020.

The minister said that with almost 90 jurisdictions now adopting the automatic exchange of financial account information (AEOI), it would ensure that tax evaders could no more hide their offshore financial accounts from the tax administration.

'Govt move to ban non-electric 2 and 3-wheelers impractical'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JUNE 9

FOLLOWING THE government's proposal banning sales of non-electric three wheelers by 2023 and two-wheelers of less than 150cc by 2025, auto body SIAM on Sunday opposed the idea, terming it as impractical and untimely.

Society of Indian Automobile Association (SIAM) president Rajan Wadhera said the government's ambition needs to be tempered with a practical approach without needlessly disrupting the automotive industry.

"Such unrealistic expectations and policies would only adversely affect the world's number one two/three-wheeler industry but may not help in making EVs acceptable to the customer and the market," Wadhera said.

Industry chamber CII said the government should carry out wider consultations before finalisation of goals and time lines for electric mobility. It called for multi-stakeholder consultations across the value chain with a special focus on affordability for consumers. It suggested a three-pronged strategy to make this transformational shift in transportation.

The ministry of road and transport is reportedly in consultations with NITI Aayog and other stakeholders proposing that all three-wheelers and all two-wheelers below 150cc will need to go electric by 2023 and 2025, respectively. Wadhera pointed out that the auto industry is already leapfrogging to BS-VI emission norms in the shortest time-frame ever with investments of close to Rs 80,000 crore. **FE & PTI**

Divest brownfield assets to revive pvt investments: CII

New Delhi: The government should divest some of its viable operating brownfield assets - like ports and airports - as it could provide a low risk investment option to private sector, industry body CII has said.

"The government could put up for sale some of its viable operating brownfield assets, such as ports, airports, power plants, roads. Private investors get low risk project options to invest in," Confederation of Indian Industry said in a statement on Sunday. **PTI**

Reliance Power posts ₹3,558 cr net loss in Q4

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 9

ANIL AMBANI Group firm Reliance Power Sunday reported a net loss of Rs 3,558.51 crore for the quarter ended March 31, as against a net profit of Rs 189.21 crore in the year-ago period.

In a filing to the BSE, Reliance Power said board in its meeting on June 8 approved the audited financial results for the quarter and financial year ended March 2018, and also approved raising resources by issuing debt securities by way of privately placed debentures, subject to approvals.

For full fiscal, Reliance Power reported net loss of Rs 2,951.82 crore as against net profit Rs 840.46 crore.

Le Maire hopes to fortify Renault-Nissan alliance

ASSOCIATED PRESS
FUKUOKA (JAPAN), JUNE 9

THE FRENCH government's priority as a shareholder in automaker Renault SA is to fortify its alliance with Japan's Nissan, France's finance minister, Bruno Le Maire, said on Sunday.

Protecting jobs and Renault's factories and technology is the top concern given the government's 15 per cent stake in the automaker, Le Maire told reporters during a news conference after a meeting in Japan of the Group of 20 major economies. "We are very proud of Renault as a company," Le Maire said. "The employees of Renault, the factories of Renault, research centers, are really a symbol of French industrial excellence. But when you look at what has happened in the last 20 years, we see that this quality has been reinforced by the partnership with Nissan within the alliance." Fiat Chrysler suddenly withdrew an offer to merge with Renault this past week after the French automaker asked for more time to persuade Nissan Motor Co. to agree to the plan.

He saidconsolidating alliance with other automakers such as Fiat-Chrysler is a secondary issue, but decisions on that should be made by the companies themselves. Nissan would have to be fully committed if a merger is to be carried out. "Renault and Nissan together, France and Japan together. We need to be committed in this second step if we want it to succeed," he said. When asked, he said he had no plans to meet Nissan CEO Hiroto Saikawa.

'Taxation imbalances in aviation sector need to be corrected'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SEOUL, JUNE 9

ASSERTING THAT Indian aviation sector has terrific potential, SpiceJet chief Ajay Singh has said imbalances in regulatory and taxation structure need to be corrected for the sector, which can be a bright spot of the economy.

"If there was any government which has will and political strength, then it is this government. Aviation can be one of the bright spots of the economy ... Some wonderful work has been done, if you see UDAN scheme and other initiatives," Singh said.

DESPITE A BAN BY THE US

Huawei gets 46 commercial 5G contracts from 30 nations

K J M VARMA
BEIJING, JUNE 9

CHINESE TELECOM firm Huawei said it has obtained 46 commercial 5G contracts so far in 30 countries and shipped more than one lakh 5G stations globally, emerging as a top player in the race for setting up the super-fast telecommunications system despite the US ban on use of its 5G services.

The Shenzhen-headquartered firm, which is under immense pressure after the US issued the ban warning that Huawei systems could be manipulated by Beijing to spy on other countries and disrupt critical communications, made the announcement on Thursday in a press statement.

China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on Thursday granted commercial-use 5G licenses to four state-owned telecom giants to start rolling out 5G services, signalling Beijing's determination to be the global leader in setting up super-fast wireless networks.

It issued licences to China Broadcasting Network and the country's top three telecom operators -- China Telecom, China Mobile and China Unicom.

The company said it was well prepared for China's 5G commercial use. In February last year, it made the world's first 5G call and launched the first 5G terminal device. Huawei is caught in the intensifying trade war between China and the US after President Donald Trump imposed tariffs on USD 200 billion on Chinese goods, prompting Beijing to hike duties on USD 60 billion in American products. The dispute has snowballed into a tech war with the US urging nations to shun the company in 5G networks.

The concerns have escalated as Huawei has risen to become the world leader in telecom networking equipment and one of the top smartphone manufacturers alongside Samsung and Apple.

However, details of the countries where the company has managed to obtain the contracts have not been revealed, official media here reported.

5G is the next generation cellular technology with download speeds stated to be 10 to 100 times faster than the current 4G LTE networks.

Apart from much faster data download and upload speeds, 5G technology promises wider coverage and more stable connections. The 5G technology will establish a high-speed, mobile, safe and widespread new-generation information infrastructure, MIIT Minister Miao Wei said at the licence presentation

Some countries, including Australia and New Zealand, have blocked Huawei from supplying equipment for 5G mobile networks. **PTI**

'Trump could ease up on Huawei if trade talks advance'

Bengaluru: US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on Sunday that President Donald Trump might ease US restrictions on Huawei if there was progress in the trade row with China - but absent a deal, Washington would maintain tariffs to cut its deficit.

"I think what the president is saying is, if we move forward on trade, that perhaps he'll be willing to do certain things on Huawei if he gets comfort from China on that and certain guarantees," he said. "But these are national security issues." **REUTERS**

AMERICAN POWER

Weapons of mass disruption

America is deploying a new economic arsenal to assert its power

US President Donald Trump and his advisers are convinced that the world order is rigged against America, pointing to its rust-belt and its trade deficit. *Reuters*

WHEN DONALD Trump arrived in the Oval Office he promised to restore America's might. His method has turned out to be a wholesale weaponisation of economic tools. The world can now see the awesome force that a superpower can project when it is unconstrained by rules or allies. On May 30th the president threatened crippling tariffs on Mexico after a row over migration. Markets reeled, and a Mexican delegation rushed to Washington to sue for peace. A day later preferential trading rules for India were cancelled. Its usually macho government did not put up a fight and promised to preserve "strong ties". China faces a ratcheting up of tariffs soon, and its tech giant, Huawei, has been severed from its American suppliers. The country's autocratic leaders are enraged, but on June 2nd they insisted they still seek "dialogue and consultation". A tighter embargo on Iran, imposed over European objections, is strangling its economy.

President Trump must view this scene with satisfaction. Nobody takes America for granted any more. Enemies and friends know that it is prepared to unleash an economic arsenal to protect its national interest. America is deploying new tactics—poker-style brinkmanship—and new weapons that exploit its role as the nerve centre of the global economy to block the free flow of goods, data, ideas and money across borders. This pumped-up vision of a 21st-century superpower may be seductive for some. But it could spark a crisis, and it is eroding America's most valuable asset—its legitimacy.

You might think that America's clout comes from its 11 aircraft-carriers, 6,500 nuclear warheads or its anchor role in the IMF. But it is also the central node in the network that underpins globalisation. This mesh of firms, ideas and standards reflects and magnifies American prowess. Though it includes goods traded through supply chains, it is mainly intangible. America controls or hosts over 50% of the world's cross-border bandwidth, venture capital, phone-operating systems, top universities and fund-management assets. Some 88% of currency trades use greenbacks. Across the planet it is normal to use a Visa card, invoice exports in dollars, sleep beside a device with a Qualcomm chip, watch Netflix and work for a firm that BlackRock invests in.

Foreigners accept all this because, on balance, it makes them better off. They may not set the rules of the game, but they get access to American markets and fair treatment alongside American firms. Globalisation and technology have made the network more powerful although America's share of world GDP has fallen, from 38% in 1969 to 24% now. China cannot yet compete, even though its economy is approaching America's in size.

Despite this, Mr Trump and his advisers are convinced that the world order is rigged against America, pointing to its rust-belt and its trade deficit. And rather than mimic the relatively restrained tactics of the last trade conflict, with Japan in the 1980s, they have redefined how economic nationalism works.

First, instead of using tariffs as a tool to extract specific economic concessions, they are being continuously deployed to create a climate of instability with America's trading partners. The objective of the new Mexican tariffs—fewer migrants crossing the Rio Grande—has nothing to do with trade. And they breach the spirit of USMCA, a free-trade deal signed by the White House only six months ago, which will replace NAFTA (Congress has yet to ratify it). Alongside these big fights is a constant barrage of petty activity. Officials have skirmished over foreign washing machines and Canadian softwood lumber imports.

Second, the scope of activity has been extended beyond physical goods by weaponising America's network. Outright enemies such as Iran and Venezuela face tighter sanctions—last year 1,500 people, firms and vessels were added to the list, a record figure. The rest of the world faces a new regime for tech and finance. An executive order prohibits transactions in semiconductors and software made by foreign adversaries, and a law passed last year known as FIRRMA polices foreign investment into Silicon Valley. If a firm is blacklisted, banks usually refuse to deal with it, cutting it off from the dollar payments system. That is crippling—as two firms, ZTE and Rusal, discovered, briefly, last year.

America is deploying new tactics—poker-style brinkmanship—and new weapons that exploit its role as the nerve centre of the global economy to block the free flow of goods, data, ideas and money across borders. This pumped-up vision of a 21st-century superpower may be seductive for some. But it could spark a crisis, and it is eroding America's most valuable asset—its legitimacy

Such tools used to be reserved for times of war: the legal techniques used for surveillance of the payments system were developed to hunt al-Qaeda. Now a "national emergency" has been declared in tech. Officials have discretion to define what is a threat. Though they often clobber specific firms, such as Huawei, others are running scared. If you run a global company, are you sure your Chinese clients are not about to be blacklisted?

The damage to America's economy so far has been deceptively small. Tariffs cause agony in export hubs such as northern Mexico, but even if Mr Trump imposes all his threatened tariffs, the tax on imports would be worth only about 1% of America's GDP. His poll ratings at home have held up, even as they have slumped abroad. His officials believe the experiment in weaponising America's economic network has only just begun.

In fact, the bill is mounting. America could have built a global coalition to press China to reform its economy, but it has now squandered precious goodwill. Allies looking for new trade deals with America, including post-Brexit Britain, will worry that a presidential tweet could scupper it after it has been signed. Retaliation in kind has begun. China has begun its own blacklist of foreign firms. And the risk of a clumsy mistake that triggers a financial panic is high. Imagine if America banned the $1trn of Chinese shares trading in New York, or cut off foreign banks.

In the long run the American-led network is under threat. There are hints of mutiny—of America's 35 European and Asian military allies, only three have so far agreed to ban Huawei. Efforts to build a rival global infrastructure will accelerate. China is creating its own courts to adjudicate commercial disputes with foreigners. Europe is experimenting with building a new payments system to get round the Iran sanctions, which could in time be used elsewhere. China, and eventually India, will be keen to end their dependence on semiconductors from Silicon Valley. Mr Trump is right that America's network gives it vast power. It will take decades, and cost a fortune, to replace it. But if you abuse it, ultimately you will lose it.

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THAI POLITICS

An unequal sequel

The leader of the Thai junta tortures the rules to remain in power

NO ONE can deny his tenacity. More than five years after seizing control of Thailand in a coup and declaring himself prime minister, nearly three years after pushing through a constitution designed to prolong his rule and more than two months after an election his supporters almost managed to lose despite all kinds of unfair advantages, Prayuth Chan-ocha was at last affirmed as prime minister by parliament on June 5th.

As it happens, Mr Prayuth, without any sense of irony, recently urged his fellow Thais to read "Animal Farm". The process that led to his affirmation as prime minister was redolent of the coup-leading pigs of the novel, who declare: "All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others." Take the parliament that selected him at a joint sitting of its two chambers. All 250 members of the upper house were appointed by Mr Prayuth's government. Roughly a third of them have links with the armed forces or the police. The body contains such impartial figures as Mr Prayuth's younger brother.

Or consider the national election in March in which Thais selected the 500 members of the lower house. The country's election commission decided to change the formula by which it apportioned party-list seats *after* the vote had taken place, robbing anti-junta parties of a slim majority in favour of tiny, biddable outfits. The commission and the constitutional court have also helped by disqualifying opposition MPs and, in one case, banning an entire opposition party.

By unpopular acclaim

The party founded last year to support the generals' interests, Palang Pracharat, won 24% of the popular vote in March, just ahead of the Pheu Thai party, linked to Thaksin Shinawatra, an exiled opposition leader, with 22%, and another opposition outfit, Future Forward, which won 18%. To turn its meagre showing into a governing majority, Palang Pracharat has assembled an unwieldy coalition of 19 parties. In addition to the minnows, it will have to keep in line the 53 MPs of the Democrat Party, Thailand's oldest, and the 51 of the Bhumjaithai Party, an openly transactional operation, to maintain its slim majority of 255 of the 500 seats in the lower house.

The price of co-operation varies. The Democrats say they want to shape economic policy, change the constitution and curb corruption. They look set to win a deputy prime minister and three cabinet seats (including the coveted ministry of commerce). Already one of their own, Chuan Leekpai, a former prime minister, has secured the job of speaker of the lower house. But not all its members are keen: its leader until the election, Abhisit Vejjajiva, who had vowed to oppose an extension of Mr Prayuth's tenure, resigned from parliament when the Democrats joined the coalition, along with several democratically minded colleagues.

Bhumjaithai may earn the ministries of transport, health, and tourism and sport. Its boss, Anutin Charnvirakul, says its conditions for working with Palang Pracharat are simple: that the government enact Bhumjaithai's policies. This will include liberalising rules around farming marijuana (which was legalised for medical purposes by the military regime in December). "I'm a political engineer," explains Mr Anutin, "Since we are not ideologues we do things practically."

Those at odds with Mr Prayuth can expect anything but rewards. Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit, the leader of Future Forward party, was picked to stand against Mr Prayuth as prime minister by the parties opposed to the former general. He enjoys particular popularity among young Thais. "We must make parliament a place of honour, not a place where people's faith goes to die," he thundered ahead of Mr Prayuth's inevitable acclamation.

Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha outside the Government House in Bangkok, on June 5. *Reuters*

Future Forward and its leadership face at least 16 charges of wrongdoing. Mr Thanathorn has been suspended as an MP by the constitutional court, which is investigating whether he sold all his shares in media companies before registering to stand for parliament, as required by the constitution. Officials have also been asking questions about loans Mr Thanathorn made to Future Forward. In addition, he has been charged with sedition and computer crimes. He denies all wrongdoing and says he is prepared to go to prison.

Mr Thanathorn's political purity terrifies the establishment. The band of self-interested survivors clustered around the prime minister are not paragons of consistency or principle. They are likely to jostle constantly for advantage and favour, making the government unstable.

Mr Prayuth, meanwhile, has not given much inkling of what he plans to do with his mandate. His latest slogan, "Security, Prosperity, Sustainability", does not shed much light. He did not bother to attend the session at which he was chosen or lay out an agenda to MPs, saying—again, without irony—that his actions over the past five years speak for themselves.

The constitution may, as intended, save Mr Prayuth's bacon. It empowers the senate appointed by the junta to intervene to resolve gridlock in the lower house over important legislation, such as the budget, if it stalls for more than 105 days. The junta's supporters argue that the charter allows minority government more broadly. Mr Prayuth also enjoys the crucial support of the king. "While the government is a farce from a democratic perspective, I suspect they have the resources to keep their thin margin together for some time," says Karen Brooks of the Council on Foreign Relations, an American think-tank.

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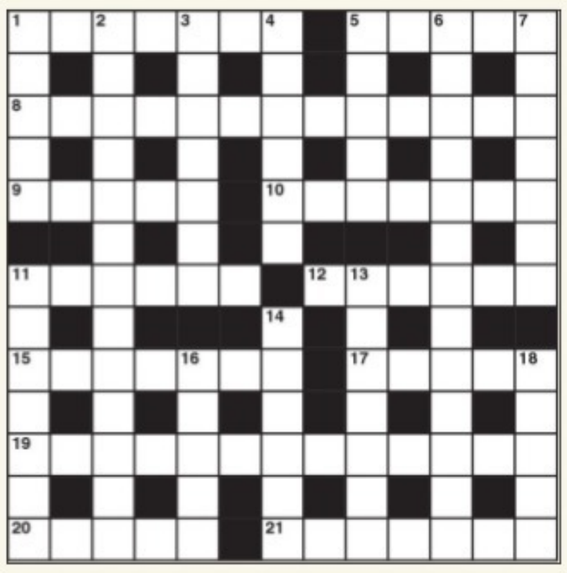


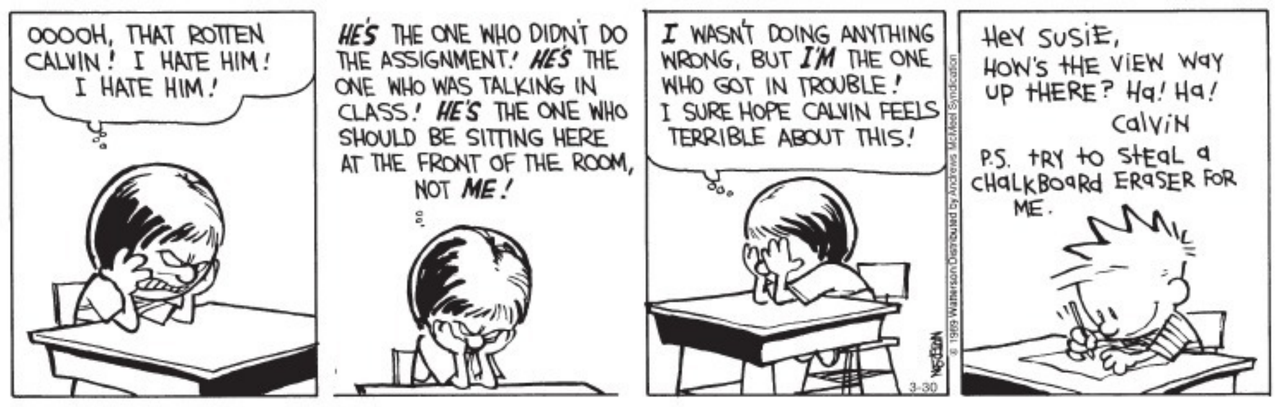
ACROSS
1 Non-fire form of hell (7)
5 Almost rate as fools (5)
8 Physical training manuals? (8,5)
9 I sell broken thread (5)
10 Give one the right to call (7)
11 He is in highest command (6)
12 Is deep, perhaps, but may be detected (6)
15 Accuse the little devil of taking every one (7)
17 Wants to sound negligent (5)
19 Provided what was necessary and completed the account (6,3,4)
20 Hurry back, they're hard to fathom (5)
21 Opposes the Ugly Sisters (7)

DOWN
1 Having no flaws, though I have a lot (5)
2 Finds out if beatings are regular (5,3,5)
3 Fraudulent schemes taken in hand in courts (7)
4 Roy set out sea-food (6)
5 Am given little scope (5)
6 Current faults that appeal to tired racing drivers (5,8)
7 Stay and use up the money going round America (7)
11 Given instruction in law (7)
13 Joins as senior on board (7)
14 More like the snow I threw out? (6)
16 Declares a piece of poetry lacks point (5)
18 They're trodden on underfoot (5)

Solutions Crossword 3827: Across: 1 Meals, 8 Cinerama, 9 Herbs, 10 Underbid, 11 Atoll, 12 Bar, 16 Cinema, 17 Acidic, 18 Any, 23 Scour, 24 War-weary, 25 Quite, 26 Castaway, 27 Study. **Down:** 2 Electric, 3 Labelled, 4 Sienna, 5 Level, 6 Lambs, 7 Handy, 12 Baa, 13 Ray, 14 Discount, 15 Situated, 19 Norman, 20 Twice, 21 Brass, 22 Relay.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis

CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
It's an emotional day and you're set for a busy week with many changes of mood. From today, the urgency to pursue various negotiations, especially those with a personal dimension, will become more obvious. Yet there is no immediate rush to reach a decision.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
At last, you can begin to map out the future. Plans for the next stage of your relentless advance should now be complete. You are being buoyed up by a continuing sense that financial conditions can only improve. On the other hand, further information is required, as you well know.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
That optimistic planet Jupiter is at a crucial point in its twelve-year cycle around your horoscope, during which opportunities have come and gone. The sky is the limit as the culmination of this long-term phase approaches. I'd say it's time to broaden your horizons.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Your passions are due to increase. Far from undermining you, partners' discreet actions will be calculated to further your interests. In any case, it will be a brave person who manages to take you on, and win, as long as Mars and Venus are so closely linked.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
Partners are playing a complicated game, that's for sure. You're still faced with contradictions, but may be utterly unable to clarify the issues, let alone resolve differences. Fall back on support from social contacts as a means of pursuing your goals.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
You've got three substantial planetary movements over the next week. Venus is soon to join Mercury and Uranus to complete a brilliant and determined trio in critical sectors of your solar chart. There really is nothing that you cannot achieve, if you set your heart on it.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Yours is not usually known as an adventurous sign, even though individual Librans have often been known to take a tough stance. Now is one of those times when all of you may take several major steps forward. If you have any truly loyal friends, stick close — they're the ones who will carry you to the future.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
Much has been written about your financial and business affairs over recent months. Everything that takes place now will convince you that good fortune is likely to become permanent rather than, as once you feared, be no more than a temporary blip.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)
However much you pretend otherwise, chance words can go deep. It must now be repeated that if you step aside and allow partners to take centre stage, you may share in their good fortune. Also, decisions involving your personal affairs must be taken in the full light of day.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
The planets are indicating the possibility of a dramatic improvement in your health. Yet this will not take place without some initiative on your part, perhaps dietary, perhaps associated with complementary medicine or a new exercise regime.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
An extraordinary line-up of pugnacious planets is exerting an influence over creative sectors of your chart, producing exactly the degree of support that you need at this time. Among the beneficiaries are people to whom you are romantically linked.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
At last you can feel that property and domestic affairs are going your way. Certainly, you can afford to be optimistic about family relationships and everything which is emotionally fundamental to your existence. You'll also stop imagining that a partner is blocking your path.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

___is the barometer of a society's____. - Ayn Rand (5,..,6)

TXEER

ACEMNU

NRIOT

VERILY

SOLUTION: EXERT, INTRO, ACUMEN, LIVERY
Answer: Money is the barometer of a society's virtue. - Ayn Rand

SUDOKU 3874

Difficulty Level 2s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 3873

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

MAHANAGAR TELEPHONE NIGAM LTD.
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Khurshid Lal Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi-110050

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of MTNL, New Delhi vide Tender enquiry:
1. **No. EE(E)-P/CE(E)/2019-2020/4** Online tenders are invited for SITC of AC units for various areas under sub-division Lodhi Road, New Delhi (Estimated Cost Rs. 58,20,800/-)
2. **No. EE(E)-P/CE(E)/2019-2020/5** Online tenders are invited for SITC of 1 No. 15 passengers lift at T.E. Building MTNL, Lodhi Road, New Delhi (Estimated Cost Rs. 26,00,000/-)
3. **No. EE(E)-P/CE(E)/2019-2020/6** Online tenders are invited for Miscellaneous electrical works at various areas under AE(E) Mtce. Lodhi Road, New Delhi (Estimated Cost Rs. 14,30,000/-)
4. **No. EE(E)-P/CE(E)/2019-2020/7** Online tenders are invited for Providing different types of electrical works in LRD DTAX-II hall at fifth floor CGO complex MTNL, New Delhi (Estimated Cost Rs.5,82,943/-)
5. **No. EE(E)BCP/MTNL/2019-20/21** Online item rate tenders are invited for SITC of air cooled type AC units and associated work for switch room at TE Bldg/RSU/RLU under EE(E) BCP & others, MTNL, New Delhi (Estimated Cost Rs. 57,78,570/-)

For more information please log on to our website: **http://www.eprocure.gov.in**

Transparency Makes us Different !

Bihar School Examination Board

NOTICE INVITING e-Tender
(Through e-procurement mode only over https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)
Tender Notice No.:- PR 242/2019

Bihar School Examination Board, Patna invites e-tenders under two bid systems from the reputed Agency/ Sound Firms/Companies for the **"Mobile and Web-based Application for Pre & Post Examination processing for Matric and Inter Examination (Annual and Compartmental) and other examinations as per decision of BSEB and their operations."**

Scope of Work : Mobile and Web-based Application for Pre & Post Examination processing for Matric and Inter Examination (Annual and Compartmental) and other examinations as per decision of BSEB and their operations.

Cost of Tender document (In Rupees)	Tender processing Fee (Non Refundable) (inclusive of GST @18.00%) to be paid through e-payment mode (i.e. NEFT/RTGS/Credit Card/Debit card) (in Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)
5,000 /- (Five Thousand Rupees only)	1,180/- (One Thousand One Hundred Eighty Rupees only)	4,00,000/- (Four Lakh Rupees only)

Tender Schedule/ Programme:

Date and Time for Activity	Date/Time : Duration
Online Sale/Download date of Tender documents	**From : 11/06/2019 (11:00 Hrs.) to 02/07/2019 (14:59 Hrs.) (https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)**
Pre-Bid meeting	**18/06/2019 at 11:30 Hrs.** (Bihar School Examination Board, Sinha Library Road, Patna-800017)
Last Date/Time for submission / uploading of offer/Bid	**02/07/2019 upto 15:00 Hrs. (https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)**
Submission of form fee & EMD in Hard copy/ Original	**02/07/2019 upto 15:30 Hrs.** (Bihar School Examination Board, Sinha Library Road, Patna-800017)
Date & Time for opening of Technical Bid	**02/07/2019 at 16:00 Hrs. (https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)** (Bihar School Examination Board, Sinha Library Road, Patna-800017)
Financial Bid Opening Date and Time	Date to be announced later by competent authority

- Detailed descriptions of the items and instructions for submitting your offer can be downloaded from e-tender website **https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in**
- For support related to e-tendering process, Bidders may contact at "e-Procurement HELP DESK First Floor, M/22, Bank of India Building, Road No.-25, Sri Krishna Nagar, Patna- 800001, Ph. No: 0612-2523006, Mob- 7542028164" or may visit the link "Vendor Info" at **https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in.**
- Corrigendum / Addendum, if any, will be published on e-Procurement Portal, Bihar **https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in** itself
- **Contact Details :** Sh. Jai Kishore Singh, Nodal officer - 9431396069, E-Mail ID – dsjs.bseb@gmail.com
- **Note: -** Bihar School Examination Board reserves the right to accept/reject/reschedule any or all tenders without assigning any reasons.

Secretary

URDU ACADEMY, DELHI
(Govt. of Delhi)
AUCTION NOTICE

It is notified for general information that one Ambassador Car model 1999 bearing no. DL-7SK-0049 will be sold by public auction to the highest bidder on 18th June, 2019 at 3 p.m. in the premises of Urdu Academy, Delhi, CPO, Building, Kashmere Gate, Delhi-6.

The bidder who intends to participate in the auction will have to deposit Rs. 5000/- in cash. The auction will be on "As is where is basis." The vehicle will have to be removed on the same day from the office premises within one hour after finalizing the bid in favour of the successful bidder at their own expenses. The vehicle can be inspected on any working day between 11.a.m. to 3. p.m. except holidays from 10th June, 2019 to 17th June, 2019. Secretary reserves the right to accept/ reject any bid without assigning any reason.

S.M. ALI (Secretary)
Phone no. 23863858, 23865436
CPO, Buidling, Kashmere Gate, Delhi-110006
DIP/Shabdarth/0174/19-20

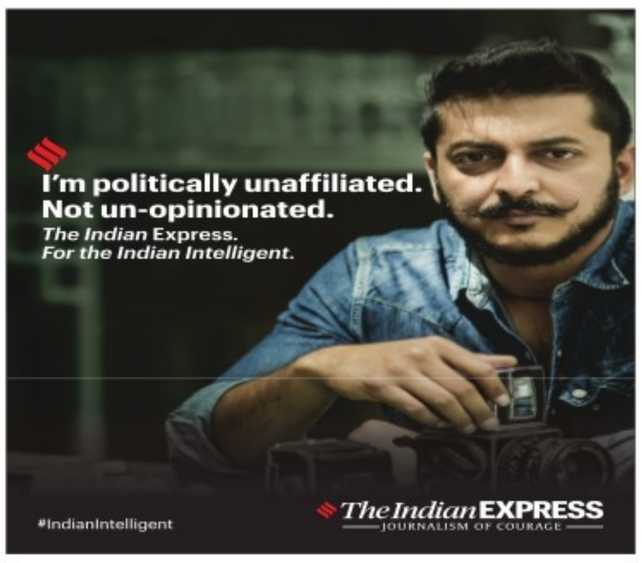
Urdu Academy, Delhi
(Govt. of Delhi)
TENDER NOTICE

Urdu Academy, Delhi invites open tender regarding purchase of paper for its monthly magazines and publication of books from authorised agencies, mills and firms on two bid system i,e, technical bid and financial bid. The tender form with terms and conditions & declaration form can be download free of cost from e-procurement website: **http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in** and Urdu Academy, Delhi website: **urduacademydelhi.com**

The technical bid should accompanied with samples of paper make specification and gsm clearly in a sealed cover separately otherwise tender will not be considered. Technical tender and declaration form along-with EMD(D.D.) will have to be uploaded online as well as submitted physically in the Academy too before the due date and time. The tenderer should be registered with N.I.C. application service provider. The tenders will be opened by the tender committee in the office before the tenderers who wish to attend the same.

- **Tender ID: 2019_URDAC_173692_1**
- **Last date for submission of tender: 28.06.2019 upto 3.00 pm.**
- **Opening of tender (technical bid) 02.07.2019 at 4.00 pm.**

Secretary, Urdu Academy, Delhi
CPO Building, Kashmere Gate, Delhi
Ph.: 23865436/23863858
DIP/Shabdarth/0173/19-20



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UTTAR PRADESH UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
Saifai, Etawah-206130 (U.P.)

Ref No.: 276/MM-Deptt./UPUMS/19-20 Dt. : 06.06.2019

Notice Inviting Open E-tender

Uttar Pradesh University of Medical Sciences, Saifai, Etawah hereby invites online bids/tenders from Reputed Manufactures/Importers/Authorized Distributors for medical Equipment, under E-Tendering procurement rules in two cover system. Tender documents downloading **start date is 11.06.2019**

For important dates and details please visit website **www.etender.up.nic.in**

The Vice Chancellor reserves the right to accept/cancel or reject full or any part of tender or whole tender without assigning any reason thereof.

JD(MM)/Chairman
Tender Cell

SBI STRESSED ASSETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH II, KOLKATA
'Jeevandeep Building', 1st Floor, 1, Middleton Street, Kolkata - 700071
Ph: 033-22880199/0200, Fax: 033-22880233, E-mail: sbi.18192@sbi.co.in
E-AUCTION NOTICE

Authorised Officer's Details : Name: Pratap Mukherjee, e-mail ID : pratap.mukherjee@sbi.co.in, Mobile No. 09674795648 / 9674710632

[See Proviso to rule 8 (6)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE / IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act,2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules,2002

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION : DATE : 11.07.2019 TIME : 120 MINUTES FROM 11.00 A.M. TO 1.00 P.M. WITH UNLIMITED EXTENSIONS OF 5 MINUTES FOR EACH BID.

Date and time for submission of request letter of participation/KYC Documents/Proof of EMD etc. for All : On or before 09.07.2019 upto 04.00 p.m.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", As is What is" and Whatever there is" basis on **11.07.2019**, for recovery of **Rs. 49,54,35,894.22 (Rupees Forty Nine Crores Fifty Four Lakhs Thirty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Four & Paisa Twenty Two Only) as on 29-05-2018** due to the secured creditor from the Borrower **M/S. FINECRETE ECO-BLOCKS PVT. LTD.** having its Registered Office at Anuj Chambers, 24, Park Street, 3rd Floor, Kolkata-700016, West Bengal & Factory at Village & Post: Waisor 132 113, Madlauda, Dist: Panipat, Haryana AND Personal Guarantors **(1) Shri Kishan Gopal Biyani, (2) Shri Samir Biyani, (3) Shri Dilip Sodani, (4) Shri Pradeep Sodani, (5) Mrs. Chetna Toshniwal @ Chetna Dilip Toshniwal** AND Corporate Guarantors **(1) Muskan Tie-up Pvt. Ltd. (2) Sagun Sales Pvt. Ltd.** The reserve prices will be **1. Rs. 2214.00 Lacs, 2. Rs. 84.00 Lacs, 3. Rs. 34.00 Lacs** and the earnest money deposit will be **1. Rs. 221.40 Lacs, 2. Rs. 8.40 Lacs, 3. Rs. 3.40 Lacs**, the latter amounts to be deposited with the Bank on or before **09.07.2019.**

(Short description of the movable / immovable properties with known encumbrances, if any)

1. Factory Land, Buildings/Structures and Plant & Machinery at Village & P.O. : Waisor- 132 113, Madlauda, Dist.: Panipat, Haryana. (Including additional Plot of 1 acre Land Building situated at Village & P.O. : Waisor- 132 113, Madlauda, Dist.: Panipat, Haryana)
2. Residential Apartment situated in Level 11 of Tower 5 in Prestige Notting Hill Bangalore measuring 1880 sq feet of super built up area.
3. Plot No. 40 and 41, Revenue Survey No. 1283/Paiki-1, At Vraj Vatika- 1, Near Mayur Avenue, Rajkot Okha Bye Pass Road, Jamanagar, (Gujarat).

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor's website **www.sbi.co.in, https://sbi.auctiontiger.net & https://tenders.gov.in.**

Date: 10.06.2019
Place: Kolkata

Authorised Officer
State Bank of India

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I,Vimal Kumar S/o-Sat Pal Seedhar R/o:10/XII, Third-Floor, Sanjay-Nagar,Near-Gulabi Bagh, Delhi-7.Have Changed My Name to Vimal Kumar Seedhar. 0040498673-6

I,Sheela Devi W/O Anil Kumar R/O 811,Village Ladpur,Delhi-110081.Have Changed My Name To Shila. 0040498673-5

I,Naresh Kumar Malhotra S/O Om Prakash Malhotra R/O-Wz-909,Rani Bagh,Delhi-110034.Have Changed My Name To Naresh Malhotra. 0040498673-4

I, Sunil Kumar Yadav S/o Shri Kishan Yadav R/o D-1504 Bestech Parkview Ananda sector 81 Gurgaon Haryana shall henceforth be known as Sunil Yadav affidavit no 40AA 038730 sworn before notary Baljeet Singh Sangwan dated 07 June 2019. 0050149922-1

I, Ranjeet Singh S/O Pritam Singh R/O A-20,A-21,Block-A, Gurunanak-Enclave, Nilothi Extension, Nilothi, Delhi-110041. Changed my name to Ranjit Singh. 0040498673-3

I, Ashutosh S/o Kuldeep R/o M-703, Ajnara Landmark, Sector-4, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, have change my name as Ashutosh Kashyap for all future purposes. 0040498673-2

I, No.16019653Y RFN Surender Kumar,Serving at 21 RAJRIF,Delhi Cantt,inform that in my service records my wife's name is wrongly mentioned as TEENA her correct Name is TEENA DEVI which may be amended accordingly. 0040498630-1

I, Nidhi Dwivedi W/o Shiv Mehra R/o B-46, Sector-39, Noida(U.P.) have changed my name to Nidhi Mehra for all purposes. 0040498643-1

I, Mohammad Noshad Ali S/o Shamshad Ahamd R/o-53/2, Moh Pansariyan, Shamli, Uttar Pradesh-247776 have changed my name to Mohammad Noshad. 0040498673-1

I, Kusum D/o Sh. Ram Niwas R/o Village Nilaheri, Jhajjar, Haryana, informs that in my 10th Class certificate my name mentioned as Kusam Lata. Kusum & Kusam Lata both are same & one person. My actual & correct name is Kusum. 0040498596-1

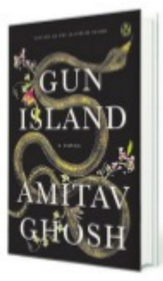
I, Harleen Kaur D/o Jagmohan Singh Sethi R/o CA-112C DDA Flats Hari Nagar New Delhi-110064 have changed my name to Harleen Kaur Sethi for all future purposes. 0040498470-1

I, Raj Singh S/o Kirath Singh R/o-5-D/68 3rd floor NIT.Faridabad Haryana,have Changed my Name to Rajpal Singh for all purposes. 0040498624-2

HER SIDE OF THE STORY

Known to the world as Emily Doe, the woman who was sexually assaulted by the then-Stanford University student Brock Turner, is writing a memoir that will be published by Viking Books. Her case received attention after Turner was sentenced for only a six-month sentence.

WEEK AHEAD



World Making

THE GUN is a common word, but it turns Deen Datta's world upside down. A dealer of rare books, he is soon forced to set out on an extraordinary journey that takes him from India to Los Angeles and Venice. Listen to the award-winning writer Amitava Ghosh talk about his latest fiction *Gun Island* on June 13. His previous work includes *The Circle of Reason*, *The Shadow Lines*, *The Glass Palace*, and *Sea of Poppies*, among others. At 7 pm, Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road.

Summer Cool

TO BEAT the heat, The All American Diner, at Lodhi Road's India Habitat Centre, has introduced a summer special menu which includes cold soups and salads such as Smoked Chicken Sausage Soup, Watermelon Gazpacho, Lychee Soup, Curried Chicken Mango Salad, Panzanella Salad and Blackened Chicken Salad, among others. Available from 11 am till midnight everyday, till June 30.

Note by Note

AT THIS year's IIC Summer Festival of Hindustani Music, Delhi's Siddhartha Banerjee (*pictured*), a disciple of Pradip Chaktavarty and Pt Narayandas Chakravarty, will play the siddha veena, whereas Odisha's Meghna Kumar, who has trained under Samir Bhalerao and Pt Raja Kale, will present a Hindustani vocal recital. On June 13, 6 pm, CD Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre.

'I'm very ordinary and that's my strength'

Ahead of the release of *The Extraordinary Journey of the Fakir*, actor Dhanush talks about dancing with French actor Bérénice Bejo, music being his lifeline and his love for direction

ALAKA SAHANI

What do you think is the significance of *The Extraordinary Journey of the Fakir*, your first major international project?

It is a crossover film and can set an example of collaboration, blurring of the boundaries and reaching a wider market. Dealing with an international cast was a learning experience for me and helped me understand how actors from different parts of the world work. I had so much to observe, learn and unlearn. So far, it has been received well in some key markets. It has already released in Spain and it's going to release in the US, the UK, India, and Japan. I am curious to know how the Indian audience will receive it.

Was it overwhelming that many fans turned up for the movie's trailer launch in Mumbai?

I consider myself blessed. It must be the result of my parents' prayers and my good deeds in the past life. There are always better, talented and more good-looking people out there waiting for a break. Then out of nowhere, a normal, mediocre actor is sitting here. This is something extraordinary, something you can't see with your eyes, which has played a major part in this.

What about you, do you think, connects with the fans and has given you pan-Indian acceptance?

I'm very ordinary and that's my strength. I have never worked towards a pan-Indian recognition as such. It is great to enjoy popularity across India. I am not going to say no to it. I do my job sincerely and wait for the right script. There are times when a beautiful script comes my way but I don't see myself playing that role. I have missed a few opportunities because of this. I regret some of these decisions. Some, I don't. I always wait for that one story which urges me to be part of the movie regardless of the language it is in.

> There are times when a beautiful script comes my way but I don't see myself playing that role. I have missed a few opportunities because of this... I always wait for that one story which urges me to be part of the movie
>
> DHANUSH

How did you prepare for the role of a Mumbai slum boy who tricks people with street magic?

I had no time to prepare. Director Ken Scott was very helpful and he guided me through its making. I tried to understand the character and do justice to it. I hope I did that.

You have a dance number with Bérénice Bejo, who dances beautifully in the Oscar-winner, *The Artist* (2011).

We are used to the kind of dancing shown in our movies. But it must be new to her. We should give her credit for the hard work she must have put in and for doing it beautifully. We canned the sequence in two days.

Today, even though we are watching a lot of regional content, do you think the language barrier is still there?

When you create good art, be it music, painting, poetry or literature, it manages to reach people. So many good books have been translated and read widely. I have read Hindi and English books translated in Tamil. We come from a country where people speak in different languages, yet art finds a way to communicate.

You have produced a bunch of movies so far. How do you decide which project to back?

The reasons are different for each movie. However, the most common reason is that I want to tell a story and I believe it is going to make a difference.

Did the urge to tell a story turn you into a director with *Power Paandi* (2017)?

Yes. I wanted to tell the story that once our parents become old, we take them from for granted. We forget about their happiness and the fact that they need love. My directorial debut was about that. I wanted to tell this story in a light-hearted manner and convey that even after you turn 60, you can still enjoy life.

As a producer and director, how hands-on are you?

When I am acting, I do what's asked of me. As a producer or director, I get involved with everything and give my feedback. I enjoy directing the most. I am writing something at present. It would take a while for me to start the project as I have other projects to wrap up. It should go on floors in mid-2020.

Do you always write what you direct?

Till date, I have been writing what I direct. It may change tomorrow once my thoughts slow down. I love writing. I also love jamming. I never feel tired. They are like those fun activities that kids do between their studies.

How important is music for you?

Without music, I will perish. Music is my lifeline and keeps me going. I am not talking only about the music I make. I am talking about music in general. As long as I remember, I have always enjoyed music.

You were reluctant to take up acting initially. Which profession would you have liked to pursue other than acting?

I wanted to be a chef. I don't cook but I always wanted to.

Actor Dhanush in a still from *The Extraordinary Journey of the Fakir*

ON THE LOOSE

LEHER KALA

Ladies Rights

The rare times when women are the beneficiaries of sexism

THE DELHI Government announced recently that women in the Capital will be able to avail free rides in the Metro, DTC buses and cluster buses. According to an article in *The Financial Express*, women account for around 25 percent to 30 percent passengers on the metro, almost one-third of total commuters contributing around 700 crore rupees per annum to DMRC (Delhi Metro Rail Corporation). If ridership for women is made free, there is no information (yet) on how this gap in revenue is to be closed.

It makes sense for certain disadvantaged groups to be given concessions for travel, Delhi is notoriously dangerous. Safe and free public transport may transform the daily lives of working women. This is not going to be a compulsory rule and if a woman can afford it, basic civic duty suggests, absolutely, she should pay for her own transport — while not grudging her fellow female commuter this small allowance, to travel free. As the cliche goes, travel broadens one's horizons, so one may be certain that a safe commute will broaden women' career prospects and eventually, their definition of themselves.

The only criticism one can think of while analysing this deeply populist move of free transport is that a fee difference based on gender perpetuates jaded stereotypes, that women are somehow less than men and unable to fend for themselves. Though it could easily be argued that in India, indeed, women are an underprivileged sex and on the whole considering men have so many more advantages, a free pass for travel isn't such a big deal. Women are acknowledged victims of everyday sexism, whether it's a leering guy at the gym or a lewd upstart in a bus. If the intention is to give equal protection to both women and men, some gender-specific measures have to be put in place.

Gender equality in India is decades, if not a century away. However, the unfair laws and social practices prevalent that keep us from achieving this feat should be continuously examined. Take for instance, the one enduring element of the old world, the concept of 'Ladies Night', alive and thriving, in Indian cities. A quick glance at Little Black Book *www.lbb.in* in Delhi shows several restaurants which provide some sort of special privileges for women, especially on slower nights like Tuesdays and Thursdays. Price breaks for women are ultimately just marketing play, anything to get the customers into a space. The general consensus in the restaurant and bar business is that once the space is full of women, the men will follow. In fact, the nightclub and dining industry may perhaps be the only business where men are treated less favourably than women. The poshest of restaurants practice blatant gender discrimination.

The owner of a popular bar in Khan Market tells me that his very experienced doorman can suss out customers instinctively, and politely turns away groups of men. Since the future of the dining space depends on creating the right atmosphere, a delicate balance is easier to achieve by being lenient with women and having a higher standard for the male customer. Still, any practice of benevolent sexism should make us uncomfortable because allowing women to pay less as an act of chivalry, or rejecting a man based on how he looks, takes us back 20 years. Recently my 16-year-old son asked me whether he should pay for the two (female) friends he was going out for lunch with. His friends told him that if he wants them to go out with him again, he better foot the bill. As it turned out, the two girls had strict instructions from their own parents to pay for themselves. It will take a change in attitudes for this to become the norm but affirmative action like free transport for women is a move in the right direction.

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Other Side of the River

Director MS Raj's political investigative documentary drama, *Marina Puratchi*, reveals hidden stories of the Jallikattu protests

PALLAVI CHATTOPADHYAY

IN JANUARY 2017, following the arrest of over 200 protestors revolting against the Supreme Court's ban on Jallikattu in the village of Alanganallur, renowned for the bull taming sport, Chennai-based director MS Raj was intrigued by how it served as fuel for a leaderless protest. For the first time since 1965, when there was a huge uprising against the imposition of Hindi as a national language that was backed by political parties, these protests — without any backing of a leader, political party or actors' support — lasted over eight days and brought together over four lakh people across numerous locations in Tamil Nadu. In Coimbatore, Madurai and Trichy, people were asking for the removal of the ban.

"A lot of women were part of the protests, along with young girls and children, who would sleep on the beach. Not a single eve-teasing complaint was launched," says Raj, ahead of the release of his Tamil fiction documentary *Marina Puratchi*, which literally translates to *Marina Revolution* (the protests happened at Chennai's Marina beach).

After the film was rejected by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) twice, Raj was granted permission to screen his 82-minute film last month, after he took up the case in the Madras High Court.

Featuring Naveen Kumar and Shruthi Reddy, who were participants in the Jallikattu protests, the 43-year-old director investigates the events leading to the protests, by bringing in fictional characters — two communication students chronicling the musings of the protest. "One may hear of the Occupy Wall Street protest and the Mexican protests but this protest was very unique. It was winter time and it would often rain, but nobody dispersed or left the area. They were there for more than 192 hours. They sat at their site of protest," says Raj.

The film, dealing with the protests that forced the Tamil Nadu assembly to modify the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act to allow the continuation of the sport, has been screened in the US, the UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Malaysia, so far.

(Clockwise from above) MS Raj; a still from his film *Marina Puratchi*; youngsters and students at Marina Beach

Raj highlights American documentary filmmaker Michael Moore's political investigative film *Fahrenheit 9/11* (2004), which looked at the events that led to the Twin Tower blasts in the US and revealed many hidden secrets. "Everybody thinks that Osama Bin Laden was the reason for the blasts but Moore revealed the secret truths of the American nuclear policy and how America fed the seeds for Al-Qaeda. More than 400 million dollars were collected from the film's screening in the US theatres, which means people actually have an interest in wanting to know the truth," he says.

Raj tries to depict the findings of his investigation by revealing, how despite many celebrities trying to capitalise on the protests, it was a bunch of 18 young girls and boys who served as catalysts behind the protests. "They think that the cultural rights of Tamilians were being questioned by the government authorities and they just wanted to regain their cultural rights," says Raj, while pointing out how his film has received a censor certificate from Singapore and Australia.

With India's 29 states harbouring their own distinct culture and festivals, Raj feels how it is imperative that everybody has a right to lead their life as per their culture and tradition. "Jallikattu has a very long history of more than 2000 years. We have many references of Jallikattu in old Tamil literature. So we simply can't wipe it from the history," says Raj.

SNAP SHOT

A Place Called Home

BRITISH VISUAL artist Kate Daudy has embroidered phrases and quotations of refugees, diplomats and aid workers across 60 countries on a tent that was sited in Jordan's Za'atari refugee camp. It had housed a Syrian refugee family. The work, titled *Am I My Brother's Keeper*, is installed in London's St Paul's Cathedral to draw attention to the global immigration crisis. It was previously showcased in Palermo, Segovia and Brussels. Decorative crochet elements made by "internally displaced" Syrian women cover the installation. They were brought out of the war-torn country via an intricate network of journalists, filmmakers and aid workers. Later this year, Daudy will showcase her works at London's Saatchi Gallery that are linked to a major exhibition of King Tutankhamun's treasures. The show *Tutankhamun: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh* will commemorate the centenary of the discovery of the ancient-Egyptian ruler's tomb.

ON TV TODAY

SA vs WI

3 pm onwards from Southampton

Champions get a masterclass

Shikhar Dhawan's century, captain Virat Kohli's steady 82 and pacers' incisiveness hand India a comfortable 36-run win over holders Australia

EXPRESS AT WORLD CUP

SRIRAM VEERA
LONDON, JUNE 9

SOMETIMES, COPYING an opponent's success-mantra doesn't work as Australia found out at the Oval in London. India started slow in their batting, built up through middle overs, and exploded in the end but that worked as Australia had just two good bowlers – Mitch Starc and Pat Cummins, especially as Adam Zampa had a pretty ordinary day.

Australia tried the same tactic but it exploded on their face as India had two good spinners for this slow track and Hardik Pandya rose to the occasion. By the time David Warner scratched around for a Dinesh Mongia-type knock (84-ball 56, cocooned in his own bubble, oblivious to the escalating run-rate), India already had one hand on the match, especially after Pandya recovered smartly from a 19-run second over to tighten the screws. By the time the spinners came on, Australia were faced with a high-risk scenario that was never going to work. Eventually, they lost by 36 runs. It was surprising to see Australia err on strategy. Anyone could have a bad day but to almost plod along within the contours of a tactic that was never going to work against India was a bit strange.

Yes, Bumrah and Kumar were going to be threat and you could understand the wariness in not giving their wickets to them, but excessive respect is also a thing – and not a good thing at that.

It's almost as if they waited for Indians to serve them bad deliveries but apart from Pandya's second over where he fed them with short and wide stuff, Indians were spot on. As the middle overs neared their end, the run-rate had climbed alarmingly and Australians had to dish out high-risk shots. Though the likes of Glen Maxwell and Alex Carey managed to land a few blows, it wasn't a consistent and constructive approach. Carey's breezy 55 made it the match seem closer than what it was. By the half-way mark of the chase, the result was apparent to most Indians in the stands and they had a ball, shouting, cheering, drinking, and having loads of fun.

Australia's insipid bowling

Australia would have to do something different with their bowling. Since the last World Cup, Australia's fourth and fifth bowlers have the worst economy rate. Worse than all other teams. So, any team worth its salt would see off their new-ball bowlers and then lash out against the rest. Zampa becomes ultra-crucial and on his off days, Australia have no place to hide on the field. If Pandya could show such resourcefulness and change his game, perhaps Coulter-Nile too can.

But, it's almost as if he is frozen on his pre-injury days and still thinks himself as a fast bowler, bowling far too short, far too often. Marcus Stoinis is more perplexing. As he did here against India, and he has shown in the IPL, he can actually hit decent lengths in the end overs, but he is too errant in his initial spells, hurling them on a length and hoping for the best. If these two can tweak their thinking – or Australia get a replacement for Coulter-Nile, they can of course turn things around.

Knowing that Australia would be handicapped after the opening spells of Starc and Cummins, India chose to preserve wickets against the new ball. In the six overs after first powerplay, they shifted gears, leaping from 41 for 0 to 81. Starc and Cummins, as well as they bowled, would perhaps ponder the fact that they hardly bowled many wicket-taking deliveries. Only a handful of deliveries were full, slightly strange as Dhawan was beaten a couple of times when Cummins seamed the ball across him. The pitch of course had to do something with it; it was a touch slow but considering their only chance was a couple of wickets with the new ball, they could have done a little more.

Sharma's issues with the leg-side play threw up a tough chance when he was on 2 and flicked a Starc delivery uppishly but Coulter-Nile, who dived to his right at square-leg, couldn't hold on.

He returned to the caution he showed in the first game. Similarly, Dhawan who was struck on the helmet once, and beaten a couple of times outside off, tightened the game until Coulter-Nile was introduced into the attack.

From then on, Indians flowed along — first Dhawan and then Kohli, before they promoted Pandya to No. 4 and had him unleash hell on the Australians. It would please the Indians that Kohli didn't go full-throttle and didn't shift gears. He went at a steady tempo, ensuring India didn't lose wickets, and laying the base for the bash at the end. This is India's style; they don't go hammer and tongs like England who can hence end up with near-400 totals but can potentially slip a bit against stronger bowling attacks.

It says something about the modern-day cricket that India racked up 352 and yet, exuded the feeling that they played within themselves.

SPOT THE AUSSIE: There are around 300,000 Australians living in London, but only a few could be spotted at the Oval on Sunday. More than 85 per cent of the capacity crowd were India supporters, turning this high-octane clash into a virtual home game for Virat Kohli's team. *Reuters*

SLUGGISH DAVE

50 David Warner laboured to his slowest ODI fifty against India at the Oval on Sunday. Fifty of Warner's 84 balls were dots.

37 Number of innings taken by Rohit Sharma to score 2000 runs against Australia in ODIs — the fastest Indian to reach this landmark. Sachin Tendulkar, who took 3 innings more than Rohit is second in the list.

> **Absolutely happy with that result. It is a great team effort, which is a great sign for the team. Very happy with the all-over performance. We are a great fielding side as well. We have a very balanced side with fast bowlers and spinners. I am happy to be part of it. We work really hard in the nets and that is why it is going our way as well."**
>
> **SHIKHAR DHAWAN,** INDIA OPENER

Warner's 'zing' reprieve reopens dogged bail issue

REUTERS
LONDON, JUNE 9

AUSTRALIA OPENER David Warner became the fifth batsman at the World Cup to get an unexpected reprieve after he dragged a ball on to his stump but the impact failed to dislodge the zing bails in Sunday's match against India.

The southpaw was on one when he inside-edged a Jasprit Bumrah delivery on to his leg stump but much to his delight the bails did not come off.

South Africa's Quinton de Kock, Sri Lankan Dimuth Karunaratne, West Indian Chris Gayle and Mohammad Saifuddin of Bangladesh have already enjoyed similar luck at this World Cup but several former players felt it was harsh on the bowlers. "This can't keep happening with the bails!!! Hard enough being a bowler nowadays... needs changing," tweeted former England captain Nasser Hussain.

Former Pakistan speedster Shoaib Akhtar also took to Twitter to express his dismay. "What's going on?? In my entire life, I have not seen five instances like this, let alone in the space of 10 days or a tournament," he wrote.

> This can't keep happening with the bails!!! Hard enough being a bowler nowadays... needs changing."
>
> **@NASEER HUSSAIN**
> Former England Captain

On the eve of the match against India, Australia captain Aaron Finch said the zing bails, which light up when the ball hits the wicket, appeared to need a bigger impact to be dislodged from their grooves. "The bails seem to be a lot heavier, so it does take a bit of force," he said on Saturday, pointing to similar cases during the Indian Premier League (IPL) Twenty20 competition.

"I've seen it a handful of times now in IPL and Big Bash where the ball rolls back on to the stumps, where the bails traditionally one of them will pop off. "I think it's just one of those things that you are aware of that when you're on the right side of it, you are aware of it a bit easier than when you're not."

SCORECARD »

AUS vs IND

The Oval, London | Toss: India

INDIA 352/5 IN 50 OV

R Sharma c Carey b Coulter-Nile	**57** (70b, 3x4, 1x6)
S Dhawan c sub (Lyon) b Starc	**117** (109b, 16x4)
V Kohli c Cummins b Stoinis	**82** (77b, 4x4, 2x6)
H Pandya c Finch b Cummins	**48** (27b, 3x4, 1x6)
MS Dhoni c&b Stoinis	**27** (14b, 3x4, 1x6)
KL Rahul not out	**11** (3b, 1x4, 1x6)
K Jadhav not out	**0** (0b)
Extras: (lb 3, w 7)	**10**

Fall of wickets: 1-127 (R Sharma, 22.3 ov), 2-220 (S Dhawan, 36.6 ov), 3-301 (H Pandya, 45.5 ov), 4-338 (MS Dhoni, 49.1 ov), 5-348 (V Kohli, 49.5 ov)

Bowling:

P Cummins	10-0-**55-1**
M Starc	10-0-**74-1**
N Coulter-Nile	10-1-**63-1**
G Maxwell	7-0-**45-0**
A Zampa	6-0-**50-0**
M Stoinis	7-0-**62-2**

AUSTRALIA 316 IN 50 OV

D Warner c Kumar b Chahal	**56** (84b, 5x4)
A Finch run out (Jadhav/Pandya)	**36** (35b, 3x4, 1x6)
S Smith lbw Kumar	**69** (70b, 5x4, 1x6)
U Khawaja b Bumrah	**42** (39b, 4x4, 1x6)
G Maxwell c sub (Jadeja) b Chahal	**28** (14b, 5x4)
M Stoinis b Kumar	**0** (2b)
A Carey not out	**55** (35b, 5x4, 1x6)
N Coulter-Nile c Kohli b Bumrah	**4** (9b)
P Cummins c Dhoni b Bumrah	**8** (7b, 1x4)
M Starc run out (Shankar/Kumar)	**3** (3b)
A Zampa c sub (Jadeja) b Kumar	**1** (3b)
Extras: (b 3, lb 3, nb 1, w 7)	**14**

Fall of wickets: 1-61 (AJ Finch, 13.1 ov), 2-133 (DA Warner, 24.4 ov), 3-202 (UT Khawaja, 36.4 ov), 4-238 (SPD Smith, 39.4 ov), 5-238 (MP Stoinis, 39.6 ov), 6-244 (GJ Maxwell, 40.4 ov), 7-283 (NM Coulter-Nile, 44.5 ov), 8-300 (PJ Cummins, 46.6 ov), 9-313 (MA Starc, 49.1 ov), 10-316 (A Zampa, 49.6 ov)

Bowling:

B Kumar	10-0-**50-3**
J Bumrah	10-1-**61-3**
H Pandya	10-0-**68-0**
K Yadav	9-0-**55-0**
Y Chahal	10-0-**62-2**
K Jadhav	1-0-**14-0**

In ICC events, Dhawan again shows he's the one for India

SANDIP G
JUNE 9

IT WAS only three innings ago that Shikhar Dhawan had put to rest the doubts about his form with a thrilling century against Australia in Mohali. But in the three months between then and now, Mohali and Oval, Dhawan was talked up as man rolling down the slope to perdition.

Maybe it was because he didn't set the IPL stage ablaze and the television cameras didn't sport him twirl his moustache or slap his thighs often enough. So he landed in England with the extra baggage of doubts and apprehensions.

Forgotten thus was his unshakable bond with the biggest stage in this format, the World Cup and the Champions Trophy. After all, he was India's highest run-getter in the last two editions of the Champions Trophy held in these shores. Today, after his 146 at Oval, Dhawan's average leaped from 66.50 to 82 in England.

The reason Dhawan doesn't have an aura of solidity is the fans proneness to mix up his long-form travails in England with his limited-over mastery. It has also to do with his batting style.

At times, Dhawan looks loose and shaky, out-of-depth and out-of-place. His stroke-making isn't clean, it is a mangled mess of whirring limbs. Like when he was cut open by a Pat Cummins scorcher in the fifth over. He was not just beaten but he was made to resemble a nervous wreck. Cummins just smirked, Dhawan smiled back. A ripe moment for doubters to mutter: "Oh didn't I tell you".

Dhawan has been at this juncture many a time. And how many times has he spectacularly bounced back. As he did after Cummins beat him. Two balls later, he stroked the Aussie pacer through covers, hardly bothering to move his feet, all fluid bat-swing and timing, entirely detached to the hopeless batsman he had seemed a few seconds ago. Someone in the crowd then flashed a banner: "Gabbar is back!".

But watching Dhawan is like being on an emotional roller coaster. Next over, he tried to hook a Cummins bouncer, which brushed his elbow to the keeper, making him look inept again. The television analysts scathingly harped on his static back-foot and those leaden wrists.

These glitches, besides his much storied outside the off-stump indiscretion, have existed in his batting from the start of his career. But it's a testament to his strength of will and desire to prosper at the grandest stage that he has learnt to find the runs despite these weaknesses. Like he once admitted: "I am not the most perfect batsman, but if I keep thinking only of my weaknesses, I wouldn't have played even Ranji Trophy."

Self-belief

His greatest gift, thus, is his unflappable self-belief, and the faith he has in his percentage strokes, like those slashy cuts and the feisty square-cut. The latter stroke also is an indicator of his form. Today he played a little beauty of a square-cut in the eighth-over off the match. It was bowled by Nathan Coulter-Nile. It was marginally wide and short, and Dhawan just smeared it behind point, without even bothering to shuffle his back-foot across.

Next over of the strapping Western Australian, he copped a blow on the thumb, requiring prolonged treatment from the physio. It was evident that he was in pain. You could see him take the bottom hand off several shots and mis-timing it. But then, he isn't the one to shirk from physical pain. Some three years ago, after scoring a defiant 84 against the West Indies in North Sound, he talked up the demands of his trade: *"Yeh sabse mushkil kaam hain."*

Today he showed courage and also restraint. He temporarily curbed his aggressive strokes like the sashay-down-the-wicket whack and more inclined to rotate the strike through an assortment of nudges and pushes.

In fact, his strike-rotation stroke percentage was 49, the highest in any of his 17 hundreds. There was a high percentage of singles and twos (53 off 117 runs), though he didn't spare the loose balls (16 boundaries) either.

The Australians, though, continued harassing him with the short ball--one took his wrists and whizzed over the 'keeper to the fence. Dhawan was troubled, but as he often says, he didn't let those troubles stew in his mind. Rather, he showed and guts and will power. He also enhanced his reputation of delivering on the big stage.

Shikhar Dhawan's 117 was the cornerstone of India's humongous score. *AP*

Pandya's song of ice and fire

After helping India reach 350 with explosive batting, all-rounder outwits Aussies with sharp, crafty bowling

SRIRAM VEERA
LONDON, JUNE 9

HARDIK PANDYA stood there at end of follow through, wincing and scratching his two-day stubble. He had just been smashed for 19 runs in his second over, the 10th of the chase, and Australia had exploded after a sedate start. On a slightly slow pitch, chasing 353, Australia had to target Pandya, especially after Jasprit Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar had been tight with the new ball. It wasn't going to be easy. What does Pandya have that could stop Aaron Finch and David Warner?

We know couple of things about his bowling: Almost always, he likes to first check the bounce on the pitch by banging it in short. Then he settles on a length where he thinks he can slip in a few quiet overs and starts hitting it with regularity. Of late, he has been learning how to work the angles at the crease. He bowls the slow cutters, too. But seldom has he combined all that as effectively, mixing and matching them, as he did against Australia.

The second over must have been a shock – and it cleared any notions he might have had of settling on a back of length as Finch repeatedly bled him with cuts. At 54 for 0 in 10, suddenly Australia were in the game. Would Pandya crack under pressure or will India take him out of attack? Neither panic-result happened as Pandya rose to the occasion with a crafty little performance.

He switched angles in the same over, going from around the stumps to over and hurled in bouncers as well as slipping in the slower ones. He shifted from wide of the crease to closer to the stumps and moved from back of length to fuller. In other words, not only did he show cricketing intelligence but also had the control in execution.

And it wasn't just a meaningless, contextless, mix of bunch of different deliveries stitched together in a spell; he tailored it to the different batsmen. To Warner, he used the surprise bouncers and deliveries kicking up length, and also targeted his leg and middle stump line. IPL had made clear that Warner had trouble with that line of attack; middle-and-leg line had kept him quiet. And Pandya went at it, relentlessly. Warner was either arching back, surprised at the bounce or falling over his front foot as the slower ones would defeat his pushes and prods and hit his thigh.

He returned later – bowling a three-over spell from the 24th over onwards and, yet again, he impressed with the variance in lengths. To Steve Smith, he generally kept it full in length around the off-stump line. To Usman Khawaja, he punctuated the slower cutters with a few bouncers. He gave 16 runs in that spell, which in the scheme of the chase, was a deal that his captain would have taken.

All this came on the back of an explosive knock that played a huge part in India finishing with a par-score and escalating beyond 350. It should have ended first ball when he poked at slow cutter from Nathan Coulter-Nile but the edge wasn't taken by the 'keeper Alex Carey.

Unfortunately for Australia, since they just have two good bowlers in Pat Cummins and Mitch Starc, they had to press the likes of Coulter-Nile, Glen Maxwell, and Adam Zampa, who was off-colour, and though they had the right ideas, they didn't have the skills to back it up. A sharp bouncer to Pandya isn't a bad idea but not at pace of Coulter-Nile. Maxwell tried flighting a couple without the guile to go with it and the crowd beyond midwicket stands appreciated getting a chance to look and feel the match ball.

And so we moved to the 44th over when Cummins came on for the first real test for Pandya. The first delivery was thrown back from long-on stands and the second, a short-ish ball not too far from the body on the off-stump line, was met with a rasping cut that sent it plummeting to the backward point boundary.

By this time, as he did in IPL, Pandya had stationed himself in that off-stump stance and retreated well inside the crease. Next over, Cummins fired in a pretty good yorker-length delivery outside off stump and Pandya crouched to calmly and expertly steer it past the two-point fielders. That shot would have worried Australia for it told them that Pandya wasn't just swinging big, not pre-determining his shots, but reacting to the demands of the ball. Though he fell in the 46th over, almost against the run of play, scooping Cummins to mid-off, he had provided the much-needed momentum to India's innings and had set them on the path to a match-winning score.

More than his batting, though – not that it didn't impact the game – India would be happy with the way he thought through his bowling.

Like he did in the IPL, Hardik Pandya stationed himself in that off-stump stance and retreated well inside the crease. *Reuters*

At 54 for 0 in 10, suddenly Australia were in the game. Would Pandya crack under pressure or will India take him out of attack? Neither panic-result happened as Pandya rose to the occasion with a crafty little performance.

Windies coach urges pacers to forge their own identity

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SOUTHAMPTON, JUNE 9

WEST INDIES bowling coach Roddy Estwick wants to be really clear about Joel Garner, Michael Holding, Malcom Marshall, Andy Roberts or any of the other pace greats of the Caribbean. They're not in this team.

The way Jason Holder's bowling attack has started this Cricket World Cup has had some observers comparing them with the famous Windies pace batteries of the 1970s and 80s. Not Estwick, a former first-class bowler from Barbados who played in England and South Africa and has been West Indies bowling coach since 2016.

"We can't keep looking back," he said Sunday, on the eve of the World Cup group game against South Africa. "We have to respect the past — our great bowlers of the past obviously they are very important in our history. But what we've got now, this group of bowlers now, they have got to find their own identity. They have got to find their own way."

Having said that, Estwick certainly was happy to buy into the vibe.

"Every West Indian is in this. This is big for the Caribbean people," he said. "One thing that we have been stressing is to go out and put a smile on the people's faces in the Caribbean. We want people to wake up in the morning with a smile on their face, seeing West Indians playing good cricket."

Once the pioneering powerhouses of one-day international cricket, West Indies weren't even ranked highly enough to get a direct place when the 2019 tournament was cut from 14 teams to 10, having to secure one of the two spots on offer in qualifying.

But things are changing. An ODI series win at home against top-ranked England seemed to be the confidence boost they needed. The West Indies blasted Pakistan out for 105 in a convincing opening win and had five-time champion Australia in serious trouble at 38-4 before a 15-run loss in their second game.

They're next up against a South Africa lineup coming off three straight losses and desperate for a victory to stay in contention.

Monday's match at Hampshire's Rose Bowl should have shaped up as a barrage of pace, with Kagiso Rabada leading South Africa's attack. But Dale Steyn's withdrawal and other injuries have reduced the Proteas' options in the pace department and forced a strategic rethink.

Rabada likes the idea of the pacemen dominating cricket, but his concern is more on Chris Gayle and Co than Holder, Oshane Thomas, Sheldon Cottrell and Andre Russell.

"Our batsmen should be focused on their fast bowlers. I'm focused on their batters because my job is to get their batters out," Rabada said, smiling, when asked about the pace duel. "I'm not thinking too much about their bowlers — I'm a bowler." Still, he doesn't mind the look of the Windies.

"It's nice to watch when they play — they've got some good pace," he said. "The West Indies have always had fast bowlers. Everyone knows about the Marshalls, the Holdings. So it's a culture, a culture of fast bowling in the West Indies and, yeah, it is nice to see. It is good for cricket."

1 WORLD CUP • 10 COUNTRIES • 1000 OPINIONS

Gaffes on and off the field for Bangladesh

First, they won the toss and refused to bat – paraphrasing a South African newspaper headline that had come up with the gem many moons ago. As Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Mortaza elected to field against England in Cardiff on Saturday, Kevin Pietersen screamed on Twitter: "Bangladesh had ZERO chance by bowling first! ZERO, ZERO, ZERO! To beat England, you have to bat first and score 340+". Bangladesh also made a team selection error by not picking their only fast-medium bowler Rubel Hossain. England batters – how ironic that a Roy extinguished Bengali hope – feasted on Mortaza and Mohammad Saifuddin's dibbly-dobbly medium pace.

And the mistakes appeared to be contagious, as Habibul Bashar, too, had his 'dimensions' wrong. The former Bangladesh captain analysed the game during the innings break – the video was posted on the Prothomalo website – and spoke about how England's total, 386/6, was "a little above par". Bashar still hoped against hope, because according to him, Sophia Gardens "is a small ground". Now, Sophia Gardens has an 84m boundary towards deep mid-wicket on one side and 79m on the other. Jason Roy and Jonny Bairstow even ran four once, when the ball went towards deep mid-wicket. Bangladesh were, indeed, error-strewn against England, on and off the field.

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Chana keeps Tahir going

Leggie Imran Tahir went wicketless against the Indians, whose batsmen have largely read his googly well. 0 for 58 meant Tahir didn't get the opportunity to do his trademark running towards the fans football-style celebration. In a show hosted by off-spinner Harbajan Singh, Tahir is asked how much distance he would have covered while celerating his wickets across formats. "*Jalandhar se Lahore tak*," says the Pakistan-born Tahir. Where does he get the energy from to do this after every wicket-taking delivery? It perhaps has to do with his diet when he was a budding cricketer. When Tahir was young, he could only afford to have chickpea or *chole/chana* and it till date remains his favourite Punjabi dish. "*Paanch rupaye ka ya 10 rupaye ka.. aur naan ke saath*," Tahir says. "*Waise bhi ghode chana hi khate hai*," Harbhajan jokes. Against the West Indies, Tahir would like to believe he has a better chance of bagging a wicket or two. He may go a little overboard, when it comes to sprinting, but Tahir should show some respect when if and when he takes a wicket against the Windies. They have in their ranks Andrew Russell who has clocked a sub 10.50 second in the 100 metres (when he was in school)!

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Moosajee, the doctor on call

It says a lot about South Africa's campaign so far that the team's busiest man in the first week has been Mohammed Moosajee. And if he's seen so much, it's never a good sign for the team's doctor-cum-manager who prefers to work in the background. However, injuries to key players mean he has had to accompany captain Faf du Plessis at press conferences, negotiate with the ICC for replacements and ensure — amidst all the chaos — the team operations run smoothly and no other player picks up an injury.

Moosajee has been associated with the team for more than a decade. Over the last one week, Moosajee's managerial skills have drawn praise in South Africa, especially his role in convincing the ICC's technical committee to allow a replacement for the injured Dale Steyn. The rules do not allow a team to replace a player who arrived at the World Cup with an injury. Steyn came to England nursing a shoulder injury, with the team management hoping he would be fit to play later. However, he had to be replaced and Moosajee's negotiating skills made sure they could fly in Beuran Hendricks last Tuesday. With little else to cheer for, the South African media has hailed him as the team's 'great achiever.'

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Grounds inspire *roti* challenge

Last week some fans posted pictures of the ground dimensions of all the 11 stadiums hosting World Cup matches on social media platforms. It was soon termed as the '*roti* challenge'. The discussions were about the shape of the *rotis* they have attempted to make and the closest it is to the shape of one of the ground in England. Answers would range from the almost-square outfield of Sophia Hardens to a rectangle - the shape of the Lord's ground. Comments would range from: *Grounds se zyada gol toh meri maa roti banati hai* (roti made by mother is rounder than these grounds) to former Indian opener Virender Sehwag saying that he tried making *roti* like Rosebowl but ended up making it like Headingly.

TRUMP TURNS UP

No, Donald Trump did not extend his state visit to the UK to catch up on the cricket. Instead, an Indian fan decided to don a mask of the US President at the Oval. *Reuters*

KING OF CLAY

Dozen get any better: Rafa extends reign with 12th French Open title

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PARIS, JUNE 9

FOR A few, fleeting moments Sunday, Rafael Nadal found his French Open supremacy seemingly threatened by Dominic Thiem, a younger, talented opponent challenging him in the final for the second consecutive year.

A poor game from Nadal allowed Thiem to break him and even things at a set apiece. That development brought fans to their feet in Court Philippe Chatrier, roaring and clapping and, above all, wondering: Was this, now, a real contest? Could Thiem push Nadal more? Could he make this surge last? Would Nadal falter?

That the questions arose at all was significant. The answers arrived swiftly. Nadal reasserted himself, as he usually does at Roland Garros, by grabbing 16 of the next 17 points and 12 of the remaining 14 games, pulling away to beat Thiem 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 for his record-extending 12th championship at the French Open. "I gave everything I had," Thiem said. "It's amazing: 12 times here. It's unreal."

No one in tennis ever has won any major tournament that many times. Then again, no one ever has been as suited for success on any of the sport's surfaces as this 33-year-old Spaniard is on red clay: Nadal is 93-2 for his career at Roland Garros, winning four in a row from 2005-08, five in a row from 2010-14, and now three in a row.

"I can't explain my emotions," said the No. 2-seeded Nadal, who dropped to his back after the final point, getting that rust-colored dirt all over his neon yellow shirt, then wiped away tears during the trophy ceremony.

Looking at the bigger picture, he is now up to 18 Grand Slam trophies, moving within two of Roger Federer's men's record of 20.

Thiem, a 25-year-old Austrian who was seeded No. 4 and upset No. 1 Novak Djokovic in the semifinals, was eyeing his first major title in this rematch of the 2018 final in Paris. But again, he couldn't solve Nadal.

Rafael Nadal defeated Dominic Thiem 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 to claim his 12th French Open title, taking his Grand Slam tally to 18. *Reuters*

"First thing that I want to say is congrats to Dominic. I feel sorry, because he deserves it here, too," Nadal said. "He has an unbelievable intensity." So, of course, does Nadal. This had been, by his lofty standards, a rough season, from the most lopsided Grand Slam final loss of his career — against Djokovic at the Australian Open — to entering May without a title for the first year since 2004. He started to right himself by taking the title on clay in Rome last month, then found himself in a familiar position in Paris: playing in the final, and winning it. This one began on a cloudy afternoon, with the temperature in the low 60s (mid-teens Celsius) and only a slight breeze. In the initial game — interrupted briefly by a baby wailing in the stands, drawing a laugh from other spectators and prompting Nadal to back away from the baseline between serves — three of the five points lasted at least 11 strokes.

And, thereby, a pattern was established: By the end of the 3-hour, 1-minute match, a total of 46 points went 10 strokes or more. Each man claimed half.

Both would station themselves along the baseline and sprint, scramble, slide, stretch to somehow reach just about every ball, not merely putting a racket on it but conjuring a booming reply. It was an impressive display of athleticism, skill and will, with Thiem managing to give just as good as he got, particularly with his ferocious backhand.

From the get-go, it was such a physical grind that Nadal was soaked with sweat and changed neon yellow shirts after seven games and 45 minutes, eliciting catcalls from the stands. Early on, there were no signs of fatigue for Thiem, even though he was competing for a fourth straight day, because of rain that jumbled the schedule. Nadal, meanwhile, entered Sunday having played just once in the previous four days. Not only that, but while Nadal dismissed Federer with relative ease in a straight-set semifinal that concluded Friday, Thiem was forced to work overtime, eliminating Djokovic in a five-setter that wrapped up less than 24 hours before the final began.

Thiem showed he can play defense. Showed he can flip to offense in a blink. Showed power off both sides. Showed precision, too, making only three of the match's first 12 unforced errors. Indeed, it was Thiem who nosed ahead first, closing a 12-stroke exchange by ripping a forehand to earn the first break point of the final, then converting it with an overhead to cap a 20-stroke point for a 3-2 edge. He turned with a clenched right hand to face his guest box, where all of his supporters were yelling and shaking fists, too, including his girlfriend, French tennis player Kristina Mladenovic, who won the women's doubles championship earlier in the day.

Nadal immediately responded. He grabbed the next four games with elan, using a drop shot to help break for a 5-3 lead, then a serve-and-volley to help hold for the set. That must have been demoralizing for Thiem. But at the ensuing changeover, he didn't whack a ball toward the stands, as Federer memorably did during his semifinal loss. He didn't spike a racket or kick a ball. He sat in his gray sideline seat, bounced his legs and chewed on an energy bar, furtively glancing to his left at Nadal.

Thiem bounced back, if only briefly. Talk about a stunning shift: Nadal won 25 of 26 points on his serve before — with spectators trading between-point chants of nicknames, "Ra-fa!" and "Do-mi!" — he got broken to cede the second set. That was the only set he'd managed to steal from Nadal in four career meetings at Roland Garros. Maybe this was going to be a long one. But Thiem, put simply, wilted a bit. He made three unforced errors in the next set's opening game to get broken at love, creating an opening that Nadal barged through. By now, Nadal was creating magic at the net, and he won the point on 23 of 27 times he went forward. One drop volley was spun so marvelously that it landed on Thiem's side, then bounced back toward the net. All Thiem could do was watch — and offer an appreciative thumbs-up.

Soon enough, it was over. The King of Clay, as Nadal is known, still reigns.

NUMBER PLATE

12 Nadal becomes the first male or female player in tennis history to win 12 titles at a single major, breaking a tie with Margaret Court who won the Australian Open 11 times.

11 The Spaniard extended the streak of Grand Slam titles won by men aged 30 and older to 11 straight.

3 Nadal is now the third-oldest Roland Garros champion, only younger than 34-year-old Andres Gimeno (1972) and 33-year-old Ken Rosewall (1968).

It was a dream to play here in 2005. I could not imagine I would be back in 2019. I want to say congratulations to Dominic. I feel sorry. He has absolute intensity, passion for this sport."
RAFAEL NADAL

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM
THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2019

Eye on semifinal spot, Manpreet & Co. take on Uzbekistan

Manpreet Singh has led India from the front so far in the tournament. *File*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 9

INDIA WILL start overwhelming favourites against Uzbekistan when the hosts take on their lower-ranked rival to seal a semifinal spot in the FIH Series Finals hockey tournament, here Monday. After thrashing Russia 10-0 in their tournament-opener, world no. 5 India scrapped past 21st ranked Poland 3-1 in the second match.

India are now sitting atop Pool A with maximum points from two games and are virtually assured of a direct berth in the semi-finals because of a better goal difference. But they cannot afford to be complacent against world no. 43 Uzbekistan in their final Pool A match as two places are up for grabs from this event for the FIH Olympic Qualifiers, to be held in October-November this year.

"World rankings do not matter at all as the gap between teams are very small. Rankings are there only for the International Hockey Federation (FIH) to place teams in certain order," India coach Graham Reid had said. After a clinical performance against Russia, the patchy show against Poland showed that consistency is an area, which has to be addressed at the earliest.

The Indians created numerous scoring opportunities against Poland but the forward-line lacked finishing. "One of my main goals is to get consistency in terms of performance. Sometimes you have to learn to play at the highest level and develop the practice of winning. With Australia that was always our goal, to play in the final of every tournament," the coach said.

With the level of opposition not the best, the Indian citadel has hardly been tested in the tournament. Reid has shuffled his two goalkeepers PR Sreejesh and Krishan Bahadur Pathak in the four quarters in the previous two games, giving them more game time. But what is a worrying factor is that both Sreejesh and Pathak have hardly been tested so far.

Along side Nilkanata Sharma, skipper Manpreet Singh has been one of the outstanding performers for India in the tournament so far as he not only held the mid-field together but also scored goals. But it is the form of Indian strikers which would be a cause of concern for Reid. The likes of Akashdeep Singh, Mandeep Singh and Ramandeep Singh, who returned after almost one year, will have to take more responsibility in India's quest for Tokyo Olympic qualification. As per the format of the tournament, the top two two teams of each pool will directly qualify for the semifinals, while the second and third placed sides will play in the cross-overs to enter the last-four.

BRIEFLY

India U-19 hold Bulgaria 1-1

New Delhi: Akash Mishra's perfectly-placed header earned India a 1-1 draw against Bulgaria in the last match of the group phase in the Granatkin Memorial Tournament in St Petersburg Sunday. In the process, India finished the group with one point from three matches. They will now play two play-off matches to decide the final standings. India conceded an own goal in the seventh minute. But Mishra scored from a corner in the 50th to salvage a draw. **PTI**

Eng beat Swiss on penalties

Guimaraes: England finished third in the Nations League after beating Switzerland 6-5 on penalties on Sunday as the game ended goalless after extra time. England keeper Jordan Pickford produced an outstanding save to keep out Josip Drmic's spot kick low to his right to win the game, after both teams had converted all their previous penalties. England thought they had grabbed victory in normal time when substitute Callum Wilson scored in the 84th minute but to their dismay Romanian referee Ovidiu Hategan enlisted the help of VAR and the goal was chalked off due to a push by the Bournemouth striker. **REUTERS**

Archery: Parallel polls held

Kolkata: Defying World Archery's suspension threats, the two factions of Archery Association of India Sunday unanimously elected two presidents -- union minister Arjun Munda and BVP Rao -- in separate elections in New Delhi and Chandigarh respectively. Both the warring factions, who claimed to have followed the constitution and abided by the National Sports Code, will submit their respective compliance reports within six weeks to the Delhi High Court. **PTI**

Vettel puts Ferrari on pole

Montreal: Sebastian Vettel put Ferrari on pole at the Canadian Grand Prix for the second consecutive year on Saturday, snatching top spot from Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton at the death with a breath-taking lap. Vettel, who won from pole position last year in Canada to revive Ferrari's title hopes, will be hoping for the same on Sunday with world championship leader Hamilton, chasing a record equalling seventh win in Montreal, starting alongside him. It was the German's first pole in 17 races and 56th of his career. **REUTERS**

World Cup: Italy stun Australia

Valenciennes: Barbara Bonansea fired Italy to a remarkable comeback win over Australia after her brace, including a stoppage time winner, claimed a 2-1 Group C victory on Sunday. Juventus' Bonansea pounced on a dreadful first touch from Clare Polkinghorne to race through and level for the Italians 11 minutes after the break after hotshot striker Sam Kerr had rammed home the opener for the Matildas on the rebound from her own 22nd-minute penalty. Bonansea scored from a free-kick five minutes into added time to see the Italians home on their return to the World Cup after a 20-year absence. **AFP**

MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD.

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

CIN-L65910KL1992PLC006623
IV/470A (old) W638A(New), Manappuram House, Valapad, Thrissur, Kerala - 680 567.

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 29/06/2019 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any)will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

List of pledges:-

DELHI, DELHI, BHOLENATH NAGAR DELHI, 121570700008459, 8718, 9011, 9015, 9023, 9024, 9037, 9040, 9042, 9048, 9055, 9066, 9067, 9070, 9083, 9084, 9093, 9094, 9095, 9097, 9099, 9106, 9115, 121570730002293, 2864, 2870, 2871, 2889, 2890, 2912, 2913, 2924, 2925, 2960, 3007, 3015, 3016, DWARAKA SECTOR 7, 113760700009465, 9604, 9683, 9977, 113760700010059, 0062, 0071, 0072, 0079, 0090, 0120, 0121, 0122, 0132, 0134, 0153, 0154, 0155, 0156, 0163, 0164, 0172, 0173, 0175, 0177, 0181, 0195, 0196, 0200, 0202, 0205, 113760730002602, 2614, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2634, 2635, 2641, 2643, 2654, 2657, 2668, 2680, 2710, 2721, 2725, 2736, 2737, 2743, 2746, 2761, 2765, 2774, 2775, 2779, 2784, 2787, 2793, 2800, 2805, 2806, GEETHA COLONY, 107590700018632, 8883, 9016, 9058, 9225, 9227, 9228, 9229, 9631, 9757, 9781, 9831, 9906, 9930, 9931, 9946, 9947, 9948, 9959, 9962, 9965, 9969, 9974, 9975, 9977, 9982, 9984, 9989, 9993, 107590700020018, 0019, 0049, 0051, 0052, 0055, 0062, 0064, 0072, 0077, 0091, 0096, 0101, 0102, 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For Manappuram Finance Ltd

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