



Toll in Bengal violence rises to six: Centre sends advisory

page 12



Nitish Kumar-led JD(U) to go it alone in four Assembly elections

page 12

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Nadal tames Thiem, wins a record 12th French Open title

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NEARBY



Assailants open fire at TV crew at Barapullah

NEW DELHI
 In a suspected attempt-to-robbery case, bike-borne assailants opened fire at a TV news channel crew on the way to an assignment at the Barapullah flyover in south Delhi on Sunday morning. Three policemen have been suspended for ignoring the complaint of the victims, said an officer.

NATION PAGE 9

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EDGE PAGE 4

Terrorism is a joint threat: PM

India, Sri Lanka call for collective and focussed action to counter the problem

MEERA SRINIVASAN
 COLOMBO

In a visit spanning barely five hours, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held discussions with Sri Lanka's top leadership - both in the government and the Opposition - in a string of short meetings here on Sunday.

The focus at most of the interactions, sources said, was cooperation in economic initiatives and countering terrorism.

'Immensely fruitful'

Even as he wound up his 'solidarity visit', Mr. Modi tweeted that he had a "short but immensely fruitful" visit to the island.

Mr. Modi, who was here on President Maithripala Sirisena's invitation, is the first foreign head of state to visit the island, after the Easter terror attacks that killed over



PM Modi, with Archbishop Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith (left) and Ranil Wickremesinghe (right), pays homage to the victims of the Easter attacks at St. Anthony's Church in Colombo. ■ AFP

250 people. The Indian Prime Minister visited St. Anthony's Church here and paid respects to those who died in the April 21 bombings.

"Since both Sri Lanka and India have been victims of terrorism, both leaders con-

demned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and decided to step up cooperation in this critical area," a statement from Mr. Sirisena's media division said.

On his meeting with Mr. Sirisena, Mr. Modi said it was their second meeting in 10

days. "President Sirisena and I agreed that terrorism is a joint threat that needs collective and focussed action. Reiterated India's commitment to partner with Sri Lanka for a shared, secure and prosperous future," he said in a tweet.

After Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe received his Indian counterpart at the Bandaranaike International Airport, Mr. Sirisena accorded him a ceremonial welcome, with a guard of honour and a 19-gun salute.

Mr. Sirisena escorted Mr. Modi in, holding an umbrella for him as sudden showers struck Colombo. He threw a special banquet for his guest and presented him with a replica of the 'Samadhi Buddha Statue', hand-carved in white teak.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Draft NEP proposes formal education from age of three

'RTE to cover three years of preschool before class 1'

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
 NEW DELHI

All Indian children could soon enter the formal education system at the age of three, with the draft National Education Policy projecting an expansion of the Right To Education Act to cover the three years of preschool before Class 1.

The draft policy also wants early childhood education to be overseen and regulated by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) as part of the school system, rather than the private pre-schools and anganwadis that currently cater to the age group of 3-6.

This could result in an upheaval in the anganwadi system which has been overseen by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) for more than four decades.

An inter-ministerial task force will work out a roadmap for the transition by the

Fresh focus Key differences between the existing system and the NEP recommendations

Current system	Draft policy recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RTE covers Class 1 to Class 8 Anganwadis, preschools cover 3 to 6 age group Focus on health and nutrition in anganwadis Rote learning, formal teaching in preschools WCD Ministry oversees anganwadi system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RTE from preschool (age 3 onwards) till Class 12 Integrated primary school framework from age 3 to 8 Anganwadis, preschools to be linked to local primary schools Focus on play and discovery-based learning MHRD to oversee educational aspects



end of 2019, says the draft policy.

Assessing implications

The HRD Ministry is in the early stages of assessing the implications. Additional costs will come in the form of teacher recruitment and training, infrastructure and learning materials, as well as nutritional aspects (including the plan to provide

breakfast to children), said Ministry officials. The Ministry does not have accurate data on what percentage of children are neither in pre-schools nor in anganwadis. Given that the WCD Ministry has been in charge of this for over 40 years, it's not clear if it would be willing to give it up, said one official.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Clinical India prevails in a high-scoring affair

Bolstered by Dhawan's 117 and a steady attack, Kohli's men overcome the Aussie challenge

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
 LONDON

India continued its winning run in the World Cup with a 36-run triumph over Australia at the Oval here on Sunday.

Virat Kohli's men registered their second successive win through an effort that rode on batting superiority amplified by some restrictive bowling later in the day.

India accumulated 352 for five in 50 overs, largely thanks to Shikhar Dhawan's excellent 117, and then bowled out Australia for 316.

The defending champion briefly rode on the efforts of David Warner (56) and Steve Smith (69), but they eventually proved inadequate.

In the match's pre-lunch session, India cruised high

after Kohli preferred to take first strike.

Led by opener Dhawan's century and ably aided by a superb support cast of Rohit Sharma (57), Kohli (82), Hardik Pandya (48), M.S. Dhoni and K.L. Rahul, India kept shifting to the higher gears all through its batting stint, much to the delight of a packed venue with its overwhelming presence of Indian fans.

The batting carnival, with some vociferous support from the stands, had the regular highlights of towering sixes and punchy fours, while the Aussies seemed resigned to their fate.

MAMMOTH TOTAL PROVES TOO MUCH FOR AUSTRALIA PAGE 17
GLOVES SANS INSIGNIA PAGE 17



Chic show: Shikhar Dhawan celebrates his century en route to India's formidable 352 for five against Australia at the Oval on Sunday. ■ HENRY BROWNE/GETTY IMAGES

All States, Union Territories can now set up Foreigners Tribunals

Ministry amends order, empowers district magistrates

VIJAITA SINGH
 NEW DELHI

With Assam's National Register of Citizens as the backdrop, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has laid out specific guidelines to detect, detain and deport foreign nationals staying illegally across the country.

The MHA has amended the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, and has empowered district magistrates in all States and Union Territories to set up tribunals to de-

cide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not. Earlier, the powers to constitute tribunals were vested only with the Centre.

The tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies, unique to Assam, to determine if a person staying illegally is a "foreigner" or not. In other parts, once a "foreigner" has been apprehended by the police for staying illegally, he or she is produced before a local court under the Pass-

port Act, 1920, or the Foreigners Act, 1946, with the punishment ranging three months to eight years in jail. Once the accused have served the sentence, the court orders their deportation, and they are moved to detention centres till the country of origin accepts them. Last month, the MHA convened a meeting with representatives of all States on the issue.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Two Chinese nationals among three killed in boiler explosion

Incident happened during repair work



Fire department personnel at the Nuh plant. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 GURUGRAM

Three persons, including two Chinese nationals, died when a boiler exploded at an animal feed manufacturing unit in Nuh, about 40 km from Gurugram, on Sunday.

The deceased have been identified as senior engineer Jhin Jhin Yang, production engineer Jhang Yang and Vicky Rajput, an operator. Vicky was a resident of Sohna in Gurugram.

Nuh SP Sangeeta Kalia said the incident took place around 3:30 p.m. when the boiler in Pusilin Biotechnology exploded during repair. "Vicky was carrying out some welding work to repair the boiler and the two Chinese nationals were standing close to him when the boiler exploded, causing a fire. All three were engulfed in flames and died

on the spot," she said.

The company, which manufactures and trades in animal and poultry feed, was set up in 2017.

Ms. Kalia said preliminary investigation suggested the incident was caused due to lack of proper maintenance of the boiler and the police were trying to contact the management.

"A case will be registered against the management in this connection. We are trying to procure documents from them about the periodic maintenance of the boiler," she said.

Five fire tenders from Nuh and Sohna were sent to put out the fire. Locals claimed that the fire tenders took 30 minutes to reach the spot.

The bodies were pulled out after the fire was doused and sent to Shahid Hasan Khan Medical College for post-mortem.

2 more scribes arrested for 'defaming' Yogi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 NEW DELHI

Nation Live channel head Ishika Singh and editor Anuj Shukla were on Sunday remanded in 14-day judicial

custody for allegedly broadcasting defamatory content against Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

They were arrested on Saturday. Prashant Kanojia, a

freelance journalist, was also arrested for uploading a related video. The Editors Guild of India has condemned the action.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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Delhi University fails to make room for more

Increase in number of seats for undergraduate courses does not translate into better lodging facilities for students from other States



SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI

"A hostel is an institution where students thrive in a community, play and build character," said Payal Mago, Dean of Academic Affairs, Delhi University, and principal of Shaheed Rajguru College.

But a majority of students from other States who enter Delhi University don't get a chance to be a part of these communities as the varsity hostels do not have adequate lodging facilities.

This year, DU has increased its seats by 10% to accommodate students under the Economically Weaker Section category. Close to 63,000 students are likely to get admission in undergraduate courses in this academic session. However, going by the admission bulletins of different colleges, the hostels in the university can accommodate only 4,331 students.

The rest need to fend for themselves, either take up a paying guest facility or look for other private accommodations.

"PG accommodations are just rooms where you can sleep. They tend to be very expensive and not up to the mark," said Ms. Mago.

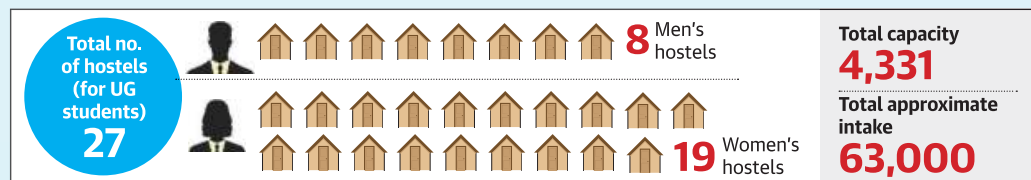
Safety concerns

The DU bulletin also advises students to check the safety arrangements in such accommodations. In fact, the university officials who addressed DU's 'open days' advised students to "make sure there are proper locks while opting for PG facilities".

Most migrant students seeking admission in DU prefer hostel accommodation. Manvi Jain, a student from Jaipur, said she did not know anyone in the city and wanted a seat in the university hostel so that she could make new friends and maybe shift into an apartment with them later on. For Manvi's mother, college hostel is the best option as there the "university would be accountable for her daughter's safety and



Close to 63,000 students will be admitted by Delhi University this academic session, but the hostels can accommodate only 4,331 students. The rest will have to fend for themselves. FILE PHOTO: SANDEEP SAXENA



well-being".

Tabassum from Muzaffarnagar said she wanted a hostel seat as it would be equipped with basic facilities and be available on subsidised rates.

She said she was aware that hostel seat allocation would be based on strict conditions such as merit, first-come, first-served and with proportional reservation for students from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Persons with Disabilities and wards of Armed Forces personnel under CW category.

Common prospectus

A senior university official said that a common prospectus is being developed this year so that the students don't have to run from one hostel to another to collect information. However, the demand to have a common hostel admission process has not been taken up yet. An official explained that though it's a valid concern as students have to fill

up multiple application forms, it is difficult to implement common hostel admission process as different students get admission on different days, and some students change colleges at the last minute to suit their preferences.

There is willingness as well as funds required to carry out the expansion of hostels and build new ones.

Even colleges want hostels as they act as an attraction for admission seekers. However, a senior official said that expansion process has been delayed due to multiple approvals required at various levels and the problems of land acquisition.

Hostel issues

For those students who manage to get a hostel seat, the struggle doesn't end there. Different rules for male and female inmates, poor facilities and ill-treatment by hostel authorities are some of the grievances raised by the students from time to time.

On the various demands

raised as part of the 'Pinjra Tod' campaign, senior university officials acknowledged that the rules for men and women hostellers are different, especially with regard to 'curfew timings' and leave from hostel.

However, they cited backlash from parents as a major reason for not bringing in changes. "Parents send their wards to university hostels because they believe the premises are safe," an official said, adding: "It's unfortunate, but there are law and order problems in this city that pose danger to women students and we are accountable for their safety."

The issues with hostels are not limited to just curfew timings. In Daulat Ram College, students knocked at the doors of the High Court earlier this year complaining of harassment by hostel authorities. They alleged being tracked on social media by hostel wardens, poor and some times abusive treatment. Physically disabled students alleged being chided for eating "too much".

PG accommodations go 5-star

Gym, vending machines, doctor on call and café-like dining on offer

LYDIA JAYAKUMAR
NEW DELHI

Boasting facilities such as a gym, laundry, vending machines, doctor on call, transport for the college commute, high-speed Wi-Fi and fully furnished rooms, high-end paying guest accommodations near the North Campus of Delhi University are pulling out all the stops to woo those hunting for accommodation.

Ranging from ₹20,000 to ₹22,000 a month for a single bed in a twin- or triple-bedroom apartment, these PGs have become an attraction for students looking to make Delhi their home during three-year undergraduate programme.

One of these PGs, Oxfordcaps, has a café-like dining area within the property. In their newly-built girls' PG in Malka Ganj, they provide students with a medical insurance of ₹50,000. Students Inn, a PG for girls in Kamla Nagar, has an e-rickshaw facility that drops students off at their colleges in the morning. Besides, many of them also conduct cultural nights and other

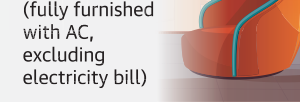
Costly affair

Price range of Paying Guest accommodations around North Campus
₹8,000- ₹25,000

Price range of a 3-bedroom flat

₹27,000 (unfurnished)

₹40,000 (fully furnished with AC, excluding electricity bill)



workshops giving students networking opportunities.

Biometric system

To ensure security, most of them have a biometric check-in and check-out system. In Stanza Living, a PG in Hudson Lane, if students don't check in at the curfew time then their parents are informed.

"Unless you have a blanket approval, every time someone takes a night out or is late, parents are informed," says Anvita Meena, who lives in one of

the PGs.

Stanza Living has an app through which students can apply for a 'night out' and give their feedback. The curfew timings are between 9 p.m.-10.30 p.m. Although curfews exist in all the PGs, they are more strictly enforced in the girls' PGs. The Stanza Living boys' PG, for example, does not have a curfew. Most of these PGs also have CCTV coverage of the entire property.

Shradha Prajapati, an employee at Oxfordcaps, says, "We publicise mostly during college events, like fests in Hindu College and Hansraj College, and have a strong online presence. We promote our PGs on Facebook and Instagram to attract freshers."

Students living in these accommodations feel that being new to the city, the luxuries help them settle down and they move out to flats or apartments in their second and third year which don't have the kind of CCTV surveillance and strict rules that the PGs have.



Students at Oxfordcaps hostel on Roshanara Road in Delhi. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Air quality of Delhi-NCR	
Delhi	239
Gurgaon	257
Ghaziabad	304
Faridabad	246
Noida	274
Greater Noida	233

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

AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M., YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) | SOURCE: CPCB

IN BRIEF



Violators can pay challan online by June end

Traffic violators in Delhi will be able to pay challans online as the Traffic Police is all set to launch its e-payment facility by the end of this month, officials said. At present, traffic violators have to go to the headquarters of the Traffic Police in west Delhi's Todapur to pay the amount. Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) K Jagadesan said a large number of challans were generated through automated machines and an online payment facility would make the process easier.

DELHI TODAY

Talk: "Kaifi Azmi: Poems | Nazms", a homage to the great poet's 100th birth centenary year by Shabana Azmi and Sudeep Sen. The evening will feature readings in Urdu and English, anecdotes by Shabana Azmi, screenings and conversation at The Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Bahaar-e-dilli", a solo exhibition by Bahaar Jain. Calligraphy in Urdu by Dr. Touseef Sheikh at Delhi 'o' Delhi Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: A solo show of artworks by T.K. Hareendran at Art Konsult, 3, Ground Floor, Hauz Khas Village, 10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. (Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@thehindu.co.in)

Electricity for CCTVs to come from houses; govt. to subsidise

'Residents must sign undertaking, cannot disconnect power to camera'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Residents on whose boundary walls CCTV cameras will be installed, as part of the Delhi government's plan to instal 1.4 lakh CCTV cameras across the city, will have to provide power from their residential connection, which would be subsidised by the government.

Residents have to sign an undertaking and they cannot disconnect power to the CCTVs, said AAP MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj.

A team, including the local MLA or his representative, and officials from the PWD, police, RWA and BEL (Bharat Electronics Limited), which is installing the cameras, is visiting diffe-



The Delhi government plans to instal 1.4 lakh CCTV cameras across the city.

rent areas and urging people to sign the undertaking.

"In one spot, a maximum of four CCTVs will be installed and it would consume about 5.5 units of electricity. The government will give a subsidy of six units to the resident," Mr. Bharadwaj said.

For instance, if the resident's electricity bill states he/she has consumed 146 units, then six units will be deducted in the bill and he/she would have to pay only for 140 units.

Wireless CCTVs

"These are wireless CCTV cameras and the data will be transferred through SIM cards, but it has to be charged. We decided to go use power from houses to avoid a more power cables running across the colony. Also, a decentralised system is better as miscreants would not be able to disconnect it," the MLA said.

An Outdoor Equipment box will be connected to the residential power con-

nection and the CCTVs would be connected to the box. Mr. Bharadwaj said that the decision on where to instal the CCTVs were also taken by the team during visits to different areas.

In each of the 70 Assembly constituencies about 2,000 cameras will be installed, according to the plan. AAP Tri Nagar MLA Jitender Singh Tomar, said that in his Assembly constituency, part of the process was done before the election and the rest is being carried out now.

"The survey is mostly completed in my area. Cameras have also been installed in two colonies," said AAP Malviya Nagar MLA Somnath Bharti.

Public meetings on free rides for women

Aam Aadmi Party says citizens are in full support of the plan

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has conducted meetings with citizens across the city regarding the Delhi government's plan to provide free metro and bus rides to women. On June 3, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had announced the government plans to offer free rides to women on the metro and buses.

The party said that its workers held about 200 meetings with the public over the weekend. It added that around 95% of the people were in favour of the scheme and 100% of women

supported the scheme.

Mr. Kejriwal had earlier directed AAP MLAs, councillors and the party's women's wing to organise public meetings to engage directly with the people on the issue.

Workable suggestions

"Along with their support, the people have also offered the government several workable suggestions for the smooth implementation of the plan. The Delhi government will consider all such suggestions and feedback and incorporate them into the final plan after due assessment," read a statement issued by the party.

The Opposition has decried the government's plan as "misleading" and a "poll plank" inspired by AAP's defeat in the recent Lok Sabha elections. It also questioned why no such efforts had been made over the last four-and-a-half years that the AAP government had been in power.

On June 6, Union Minister of State (Independent charge) Hardeep Puri had said that the Delhi government had not yet sent any proposal to the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry or the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation regarding free metro rides for women.

AAP challenges Cong. on power bills

'Congress hiked tariffs every year it was in power in Delhi'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Sunday challenged the Congress to show a single State in which the party is in power where power tariffs are lower than in Delhi.

The challenge was in response to an allegation made by the Congress that the AAP government was "looting consumers" by being in "connivance with power distribution companies".

"The Congress still has governments in some States. We challenge the Congress to show a single State it has governed where power tariffs and bills are lower than that

No HC relief for NHAI in arbitral award case

Private firm given relief of over ₹54 crore

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has dismissed a plea by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) challenging an arbitral award of over ₹54 crore granted in favour of PNC Infratech Ltd. for delay in the widening of National Highway-24 between Garhmukteshwar and Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh.

The NHAI and a joint venture of PNC Infratech Limited and Bhagheeratha Engineering Limited (BEL) had entered into an agreement in February 2005 for the project of widening and strengthening of NH-24 from 93 km to 149.25 km to four-lane standards (Garhmukteshwar to Moradabad), a road over-bridge, and bridges on NH-87 in Uttar

Pradesh. BEL had later walked out of the project. In its September 20, 2018, order the arbitral tribunal had found the NHAI guilty of causing delay in the execution of the work.

Project delay

PNC Infratech Limited had claimed that the delay in the execution of the work was caused due to the NHAI's failure to give unhindered and unobstructed possession of the site for road work and structures.

The NHAI had claimed that PNC Infratech Limited had failed to discharge its responsibility and therefore could not have claimed that the State-run agency was at default for allegedly not giving unhindered access to the site.

Women empowerment programme looks for brand ambassador

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

On completing four years of 'Selfie With Daughter' campaign, Sunil Jaglan, the man behind the movement, is now looking for a face from a minority community to be the brand ambassador of the programme.

Mr. Jaglan said the objective of the programme, which was launched at Haryana's Bibipur village in Jind on June 9, 2015, is to empower women by making them aware of their rights and promoting education.

He said he now wants the message to be more effectively propagated to Nuh, which figures in the list of hundred most backward areas in the country.

"Among the 22 districts in Haryana, Nuh is the most backward with poor health and education infrastructure. The school dropout rate among girls is high. We have decided to choose a Muslim woman to be the face of our programme. It will disseminate the message more effectively among women in Nuh," said Mr. Jaglan.

Forms to initiate the selection process for brand ambassador were distributed on Sunday at a function to mark the fourth anniversary of the programme at Patuka village, he said.

Mr. Jaglan added that he was looking for a woman with good oratory skills and leadership qualities and there were no conditions fixed for minimum qualification or age.

Rave party busted in south Delhi; 8 organisers held, 2 absconding

Joint team of excise department, police seize drugs, recover over ₹5 lakh in cash

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

In a joint raid, the Delhi government's excise department and the police busted a rave party at Dhan Mill compound in south Delhi on Sunday morning.

The police said over 600 men and women, including minors, were held during the raid. They also seized a large quantity of liquor and drugs from the venue.

The party-goers were later allowed to go, the officials said, adding that eight organisers have been arrested while two are absconding.

Online tickets

A French DJ was performing at the party and tickets were sold online at ₹2,000 per person and ₹3,000 per couple, said officials.

A senior excise department official said they got specific information regarding the party being organised at AGENC Colab in Chhatarpur on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday. "We received inputs that the party organis-



Reservation cards, foreign liquor and drugs seized from the rave party in Chhatarpur on Sunday. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ers have obtained a temporary licence in the name of one Pulkit Rastogi to serve liquor but instead they would be serving alcohol from Haryana. We also got to know that there would be drugs. A joint team of the excise department and the police raided the party venue," said the official.

During the raid, 156 bottles of foreign liquor (non-duty paid) and reservation cards with 'Wedance X Phat Cow Highlight Music Festival' written on them were seized. "Pulkit from Farida-

Pulkit [accused] from Faridabad was arrested. We have recovered 17 dark brown tablets, 20 pink tablets of charas, and morphine from him

SENIOR POLICE OFFICER

bad was arrested. We recovered 17 dark brown tablets, 20 pink tablets of charas and morphine from him," said an officer.

On his disclosure, the police recovered 75 bottles of

foreign liquor (non-duty paid) and ₹1.39 lakh cash from a luxury car parked inside the venue. They claim to have recovered 12 bottles of foreign liquor from another vehicle there.

"We have recovered ₹5.55 lakh cash from the venue. An FIR was registered at the Mehrauli police station under relevant sections of the excise and NDPS Act. The case is under investigation," said the officer.

Gaurav Mavi and Ali Chitley are said to be absconding.

Ayushman Bharat being imposed on Delhiites: AAP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party on Sunday termed the BJP-led Centre's scheme Ayushman Bharat health insurance programme a *jumla* (gimmick) and alleged that it is being imposed on Delhiites.

The reaction came after Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Saturday rebutted Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's claim that the AAP government's

health scheme is "10 times bigger and comprehensive" than the Ayushman Bharat. He called the Chief Minister's response "callous".

AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj said, "The DDA has not allotted land for a single mohalla clinic. If Mr. Vardhan is so concerned about the well being of the people of Delhi then he should allot land for construction of mohalla clinics."

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Invitation to Tender

To provide technical support to Solid Waste Management measures including C&D and Plastic waste in the cities of Kochi, Coimbatore and Bhubaneswar

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Bids must reach GIZ office, New Delhi on or before Monday, 1 July 2019, 1730 hrs

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6 July 9 AM	18 June 5 PM	

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15 May	3 June	15 May	22 June

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DELHI: 13 June	LUCKNOW: 11 July	JAIPUR: 22 June	Batch also @ AHMEDABAD
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Homeless fend for themselves in city's scorching heat

Insufficient shelter homes and unsafe conditions at the facilities put thousands at risk of heat exposure

PALLAVI KESWANI
NEW DELHI

Forty-five-year-old Rakesh Singh sits in the shade of a flyover, watching his two children have a meal.

Right next to them is his wife relighting the firewood in the 44°C heat.

Singh is one of the thousands of homeless people living in the city. Most of them are more often than not migrant labourers, and the city's infrastructural capacity regularly fails them.

The ongoing heatwave, which is set to intensify in the coming week, will force such people to resort to taking some risky decisions.

Water scarcity

"Daily water is not a guarantee for us. I usually arrange for water from a nearby temple. The authorities



No respite: People rest on a footpath near Yamuna Bazar in Delhi. •SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

there give only a limited amount to us. I have to be quick as there are many people living on the adjoining streets," says Singh.

Hailing from Rajasthan, Singh along with his family earn their living by selling balloons at a traffic signal lo-

cated next to Lajpat Nagar flyover on Ring Road.

"We had gone to live in the shelter home about two years ago but someone stole all our belongings. We came to know that these homes are not safe for children and hence decided to leave,"

Mercury likely to touch 45°C today

NEW DELHI
The temperature in the Capital is likely to rise to 45 degrees Celsius on Monday under severe heatwave conditions, the Meteorological Department said on Sunday. The maximum temperature on Sunday was recorded at 43.8 degrees Celsius, four degrees above normal. Palam weather station recorded a maximum of 46.2 degrees Celsius. Humidity ranged between 19% and 65%.

homes with an overall capacity of just 16,760 are built across the city and are managed by different NGOs.

They, however, fail to be of respite to the burgeoning migrant homeless population.

The lack of sufficient shelter homes has been an issue during extreme temperature conditions in Delhi for a long time.

Santosh Jha, executive director of Safe Approach, an NGO that manages up to 75 of such shelter homes said, "We have addressed the problems of safety and security and also improved the services. To combat the heat, there are coolers and cool water dispensers at every shelter home."

He added there are limited shelter homes due to infrequent rescue operations.

"Homeless people are rescued regularly and in large numbers during the winter. The same needs to happen in the summer. Rescue operations have gone down significantly."

Parvati Lal (38), who waits in the sweltering heat under a tree inside the AIIMS says, "Until it is time for our appointment, we are not allowed to enter the building. The hospital authorities make us sit here till 9.00 p.m. and after that, we are told to vacate the premises. The only option for us is to be on the footpath or at the metro station if the authorities are kind enough. We get water from the dispenser next to the waiting hall but that too shuts at 9.00 p.m." She has traveled from Jharkhand for treatment.

'CM has failed to provide adequate water supply'

DJB has no summer action plan: Tiwari

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari on Sunday alleged that even though Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal holds the responsibility of heading the Delhi Jal Board, the Department has not framed a summer action plan due to which Delhiites are suffering.



Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari

'Leakage in city'

"The people of Delhi are fighting the heatwave. Water supply is very essential for them. On one hand, lakhs of litres of water is wasted due to leakage here and on the other hand, people are fighting over fetching a bucket of water," he said.

He added that Mr. Kejriwal had promised free wa-

ter but has failed to supply adequate water to the people, who are craving for a few drops.

"Water is not being supplied in 849 unauthorised colonies and pipelines have not been laid in 147 such colonies because No Objection Certificate has not been issued to the DJB. Lakhs of people living in these colonies are dependent on the water supplied by tankers," he added.

Forum asks private cab operator to pay ₹15,000 compensation

Cab failed to arrive despite a 30-minute wait: passenger

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A district consumer disputes redressal forum here has directed a private cab company to compensate a complainant by paying ₹15,000 after it was alleged that the passenger had to wait for over 30 minutes for the cab booked by him, which eventually failed to arrive.

Directing the Meru Cabs to compensate the complainant, the consumer panel held, "In case of any exceptional circumstances and non-availability of cab, proper communication to the complainant ought to have been given in time so that he could make for some alternative. The [company] in the garb of uncommunicated terms and conditions cannot be allowed to take shelter of such terms and conditions



Private taxis lined up in New Delhi.

which have been alleged to be applicable."

The company had however contended that the cab failed to arrive at the pick-up point due to "technical faults."

'Technical faults'

"It is stated that the vehicle could not reach the destination because of technical faults as ascertained from the activity report and the said reason was beyond the

control of the company. Further, it is stated that the complainant had not suffered any loss due to the unavailability of the cab," read the contentions made by the company.

However, rejecting the arguments made by the company and directing it to compensate the complainant, the consumer panel observed, "Once a booking has been confirmed and the customer has agreed to pay the cost for the services, the opposite party without cancellation of booking, cannot opt out to provide the services to the complainant."

The directions came on a plea by city resident Amitabh Narayan who alleged that Meru Cabs failed to provide services for a cab booked from the Delhi High Court to Daryaganj.

Court upholds jail term in cheque bounce case

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has dismissed an appeal by a borrower against his conviction and three months' imprisonment in a cheque bounce case, stating that there is no error in the trial court judgment.

Besides the imprisonment, the Metropolitan Magistrate court had also asked the accused to pay a compensation of ₹7.05 to his creditor.

According to the complainant, the creditor had given an interest-free loan of ₹4.25 lakh to the borrower for a month.

Legal notice

To repay the loan amount, the borrower in return had issued a post-dated cheque in his favour.

But when the creditor presented the cheque to

the bank concerned, it was dishonoured with the comment that the account had insufficient fund.

Thereafter, the creditor served a legal notice on the borrower, yet he failed to repay the loan.

Then he filed a complaint in the trial court under the Negotiable Instruments (NI) Act.

The court held him guilty and awarded three months' imprisonment with the direction to pay a compensation of ₹7.05 lakh to the creditor.

The borrower had come in appeal against this judgment on the ground that he not had taken any loan from the complainant.

He further said that the complainant misused a leaf of his stolen signed cheque book and presented it to the bank for encashment.

UPPCB to look into pollution by poultry farm

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Following a plea alleging operation of illegal poultry farms in Uttar Pradesh's Shamli district, the National Green Tribunal has directed the State Pollution Control Board to look into the matter and furnish a report.

A Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said, "Let the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board [UPPCB] look into the matter, take appropriate action in accordance with law and furnish a factual and action taken report in the matter."

The directions came when the green panel was hearing a plea moved that alleged pollution caused due to the unscientific disposal of waste from the poultry farms.

Man arrested for shooting at woman over monetary dispute

Accused refused to return over ₹2 lakh that he had borrowed

NEW DELHI
STAFF REPORTER

A man has been arrested for allegedly shooting at a 25-year-old woman over a monetary dispute in south-west Delhi's Vasant Kunj, the police said on Sunday.

Two of his accomplices have also been nabbed in connection with the incident that took place on Friday, they said.

Sonali Singh had given the accused a loan of over ₹2.5 lakh some two to three years ago, the police said. Over the years, she kept asking him to return the money. She also told him that if he fails to return, she will inform his

wife, the police added.

Fed up of her constant demands, the man tried to kill her while they were inside a car. Sonali had known the accused since 2013. They live in the same locality, an officer said.

The police said they received information regarding the incident. They were told that Sonali, who was shot in the face, was admitted in Fortis Hospital.

The victim from Dewali village alleged that she was shot at by Rahul Singhal. He fled the spot after the incident in his car, the officer added. A case was registered and multiple teams were

formed to investigate the matter. Multiple raids were conducted at places such as Kishangarh, Devli, Ranikhera, Harevli and Rohtak, the officer said.

Rahul was then arrested from Chhattarpur Enclave, the police said.

Changed hideouts

Interrogation revealed the accused used three different vehicles to hoodwink the police and constantly changed his hideouts.

His accomplices, who provided him vehicles, money and place to hide have also been arrested, the police added.

हरियाणा सरकार						
TENDER NOTICE						
SR. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT/E MD (APPROX.) in Rupees	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER
1	TOHANA W.S.DIVISION TOHANA	REHABILITATION/RE-LINING OF FATEHABAD DISTY FROM RD 0 TO 7800 OFFTAKING REACH RD 538630 TAIL BHAKRA MAIN LINE + 1 OTHER WORK	CLOSING 20.06.2019	1506.20 LACS	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	01692-230001 hid.ewstohana@yahoo.com
2	HARYANA IRRIGATION AND WR DEPTT SAFIDON	LAYING RCC PIPE LINE FROM THE FIELD OF VILLAGE BHAGHERA AND SIWANA MAL IC CONSTRUCTION OF PUMP HOUSE AT R.D.81400/L PADANA DRAIN	CLOSING 13.06.2019	79 LACS	hid.gov.in	xensafidon@yahoo.com
3	HARYANA IRRIGATION AND WR DEPTT JIND	REMODELLING OF WATER COURSE AT OUTLET RD 4226-R, SUNDER SUB BRANCH + 3 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING 18.06.2019	61.77 LACS	hid.gov.in	xenwsjd@gmail.com
4	IRRIGATION AND WATER RESOURCES FATEHABAD	REHABILITATION OF MANAWALI MINOR FROM RD 0 TO 40800(TAIL) OFF-TAKING AT RD 25904-L SIRSA MAJOR DISTY + 11 WORKS	CLOSING 21.06.2019	354.81 LACS	hid.gov.in	xen-wsftb.irr@gov.in
5	IRRIGATION AND WATER RESOURCES PANCHKULA	WORK FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF DAMAGED OUTLET AT RD 40500-RI & 40500-RII KHANOURI MINOR + 8 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING 18.06.2019	10.69 LACS	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	01746-222384 xenkti@gmail.com
6	IRRIGATION AND WATER RESOURCES GOHANA	INTERNAL CLEARANCE OF ROHTAK DISTY, FROM RD 0 TO 39200 DURING 6/2019 + 20 OTHER WORKS	04.06.2019 12.06.2019	EMD-28.66	www.hid.gov.in	Exec Eng
7	IRRIGATION AND WATER RESOURCES SIRSA	WHITE WASHING AND PAINTING OF OTTU HEAD GRILLS CONTROL ROOM AT OTTU HEAD, PARAPETS AND HEAD REGULATOR OF NGC SGC + 7 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING 13.06.2019	17.20 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666-235721 xenghagar@gmail.com
8	IRRIGATION AND WATER RESOURCES JHAJJAR	REHABILITATION OF BABRA PUMP HOUSE AT TALAO LINK DRAIN + 7 OTHER WORKS	OPENING 11.06.2019	40190	hid.gov.in	xenmechjir@gmail.com
9	IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT HARYANA BHIWANI	RUBBER INSERTION SHEET 1/8" MAKE KYOTI 200KG + 22 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING 12.06.2019	4.71 LACS	www.hid.gov.in	01664-242515 xenmechbhiwani@gmail.com
10	IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT HARYANA BHIWANI	RUBBER HAND GLOVES 11000 V 50 PAIR + 28 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING 13.06.2019	4.14 LACS	www.hid.gov.in	01664-242515 xenmechbhiwani@gmail.com
11	DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYAT DEPARTMENT SONPAT	1 CONSTRUCTION OF GRAM SACHIVALAYA + 8 NOS OTHER WORKS	11.06.2019 20.06.2019	127.65 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	Exec Eng
12	DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYAT DEPARTMENT KARNAL	COMPLETION OF KACHA SHED INCLUDING PH WORKS	06.06.2019 17.06.2019	20.36 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0184-2262916 prexeeng.krl@hry.nic.in
13	DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT	PROCUREMENT OF 142 NOS OF ORDINARY RAIN GAUGES(FRP TYPE ORG OF 200 CM2 COLLECTOR) WITH TWO MEASURING GLASSES OF 20 MM FOR ALL THE TEHSILS AND SUB-TEHSILS IN THE STATE	05.06.2019 20.06.2019	30000	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2545938 sdmaharyana@gmail.com
14	PWD B&R HISAR	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD FROM VILLAGE NIYANA TO KHARKARI ROAD IN KM 0.00 TO 3.200 IN HISAR DISTT (CM ANNOUNCEMENT CODE NO. 22837 + 3 OTHER WORKS	10.06.2019 19.06.2019	510.17 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	Exec Eng
15	PWD B&R YAMUNA NAGAR	RE-INVITE WIDENING AND STRENGTHENING OF KANSEPUR TO RATAULI ROAD (ID 435)/KM 0.565 TO 1.93 & 2.133 TO 2.35+ 1.582 + 8 OTHER WORKS	10.06.2019 19.06.2019	499.82 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01732-237834 pwd-eeepd-yamunanagar@hry.nic.in
16	PWD B&R SIRSA	CONSTRUCTION OF RUB ON RAILWAY LINE X-ING AT RD 37.333 KM. ON BATHINDA BIKANER RAILWAY NEAR SHAMSHAN BHUMI, DABWALI MANDI IN SIRSA DISTT + 2 OTHER WORKS	03.06.2019 12.06.2019	450.83 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666-220530 pwd-eeepd1-sirsa@hry.nic.in
17	PWD B&R SIRSA	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD FROM SINGHPURAM TO MIRJEWALA PUNJAB BORDER KM. 0.00 TO 2.80, SINGHPURA TO BEHMAN KAUR SINGH PUNJAB BORDER KM.0 TO 0.80 AND THIRAJ TO BIRUWALA GUDHA KM. 0 TO 2.70 IN SIRSA	03.06.2019 12.06.2019	385.74 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666-220530 pwd-eeepd1-sirsa@hry.nic.in
18	PWD B&R HISAR	RAISING, WIDENING & STRENGTHENING OF SATROD KHURD TO LADWA ROAD(RD 0.00 TO 5.410) IN HISAR DISTT. + 1 OTHER WORK	10.06.2019 19.06.2019	209.14 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	Exec Eng
19	PWD B&R AMBALA CANT	C.C PARKING, BOUNDARY WALL AND SHEET SHED AT COMMISSIONER RESIDENCE AT AMBALA CANTT IN AMBALA DISTRICT	01.06.2019 10.06.2019	8.44 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2631396 pwd-eeepd2-ambala@hry.nic.in
20	PWD B&R FATEHABAD	CONSTRUCTION OF PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRE WITH RESIDENTIAL QUARTER AT INDACHUAI IN FATEHABAD DISTT., + 4 OTHER WORKS	03.06.2019 13.06.2019	547.60 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01667-220120 pwd-eeepd-fatehabad@hry.nic.in
21	PWD B&R SONEPAT	PROVIDING & LAYING 30MM THICK B.C & C.C PAVEMENT (M-40) ON GURUDWARA TO KAMI ROAD IN SONEPAT DISTRICT(ROAD ID-8133) + 1 OTHER WORK	CLOSING 13.06.2019	204.84 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0130-2244690 pwd-eeepd1-sonapat@hry.nic.in
22	PWD B&R BHIWANI	SPECIAL REPAIR OF KIRORI MAL SR.SEC. SCHOOL AT BHIWANI IN BHIWANI DISTT.(PART 1 & 4) + 1 OTHER WORK	05.06.2019 11.06.2019	30.33 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01664-24243 pwd-eeepd-bhiwani@hry.nic.in
23	PWD B&R JHAJJAR	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ROAD FROM DIVERSION ROAD TO SILANI VILLAGE VIA GURUKUL IN JHAJJAR DISTRICT + 7 OTHER WORKS	04.06.2019 13.06.2019	938.10 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01251-252085
24	PWD B&R NUH	CONSTRUCTION OF GATE FOR LAWYERS AT BACK SIDE OF JUDICIAL BLOCK IN MINI SECTT COMPLEX AT NUH IN NUH DISTT + 1 OTHER WORK	04.06.2019 14.06.2019	17.18 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01267-271237
25	PWD B&R REWARI	CONSTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT COLLEGE FOR WOMEN AT JATUSANA IN REWAI DISTRICT (EXCLUDING EI WORKS)	05.06.2019 19.06.2019	1172.23 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01274-253703 pwd-eeepd-rewari@hry.nic.in
26	PWD B&R REWARI	CONSTRUCTION OF CIVIL REST HOUSE AT BAWAL IN REWARI DISTRICT(EXCLUDING EI WORKS)	05.06.2019 14.06.2019	270.80 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01274-253703 pwd-eeepd-rewari@hry.nic.in
27	PWD B&R AMBALA CANT	SPECIAL REPAIR BY PROVIDING STRENGTHENING WITH CCP ON ANAJ MANDI MULLANA ROAD TO AMBALA DISTRICT (ROAD ID 10405)	05.06.2019 15.06.2019	123.99 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9417362462 pwd-eeepd2-ambala@hry.nic.in
28	PWD B&R KAITHAL	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD FROM HABRI DEEG ROAD NEAR REST HOUSE TO AKAL ACADEMY ON HAJWANA ROAD IN KAITHAL DISTT. + 3 OTHER WORKS	12.06.2019 14.06.2019	283.20 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01746-234087 eeepd2.pwd.ktl-hry@hry.nic.in
29	PWD B&R JIND	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD FROM HATT TO BHAMBHEWA(RAJA WALI SADAK) AT SAFIDON IN JIND DISTT.	CLOSING 18.06.2019	704.25 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01681-249416 pwd-eeepd-jind@hry.nic.in
30	PWD B&R HISAR	CONSTRUCTION OF BURJIS AND BARBED WIRE FENCING FOR LAND AT AIRPORT HISAR IN HISAR DISTRICT + 2 OTHER WORKS	07.06.2019 17.06.2019	644.53 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01662-239887 pwd-eeepd3-hisar@hry.nic.in
31	CIVIL SURGEON NUH	PROVIDING SUPPORT SERVICES SUCH AS-HOUSES KEEPING, GENERAL DUTY ASSISTANT, MALI AND DHOBI AND ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES SUCH AS MAINTENANCE OF CIVIL WORKS	04.06.2019 19.06.2019	2.25 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	Exec Eng
32	CIVIL SURGEON AMBALA	E-TENDER FOR OUTSOURCING OF SUPPORT SERVICES, SECURITY SERVICES, ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES AND CLEANING & SANITATION SERVICES	04.06.2019 18.06.2019	1 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2557473 dhs.csamb@hry.nic.in
33	PANCHAYAT RAJ ROHTAK	PAVMENT OF RASTA JALAD WALA POND TO DADA LANGDA SATHAL AT VILLAGE MOKHRA KHANDYAN CHAJJAYAN BLOCK MEHEM + 2 OTHER WORKS	12.06.2019 26.06.2019	59.07 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9812175055
34	PANCHAYAT RAJ ROHTAK	RE-TENDER FOR CONST OF COMMUNITY CENTER AT VILLAGE KAROR BLOCK SAMPLA + 2 OTHER WORKS	11.06.2019 26.06.2019	40.39 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9812175055
35	PANCHAYAT RAJ FATEHABAD	(SR NO.1 TO 13 IN TENDER NOTICE) CONST OF GRAM SACHIVALAYA IN 5 NOS VILLAGE 2 NOS PANCHAYAT GHAR CUM SACHIVALAYA, 2 NOS IPB STREET/PHIRNI 1 NOS AYUSH DISPENSARY + 1 OTHER WORK	07.06.2019 13.06.2019	529.62 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01667-230855
36	FISHERIES DEPARTMENT PANCHKULA	PURCHASE OF INDIAN MAJOR CARP FISH SPAWN	06.06.2019 19.06.2019	8 LACS	www.harfish.gov.in	7982484936 mangalajugal1961@gmail.co
37	HIGHER EDUCATION PANCHKULA	SELECTION OF PRIVATE INDUSTRY PARTNER TO PROMOTE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND TO PROVIDE FREELANCING/SELF-EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO THE YOUTH + 1 OTHER WORK	07.06.2019 21.06.2019	N.A	highereduhry.com	hemant.hechry@gmail.com

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PRDH-76713

DELHI ☀️ **Timings**

MONDAY, JUNE 10

RISE 05:23 SET 19:19
SUNSET 12:19 SET 00:35

TUESDAY, JUNE 11

RISE 05:23 SET 19:19
SUNSET 13:22 SET 01:15

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

RISE 05:23 SET 19:19
SUNSET 14:23 SET 01:52

Delhi Weather max min

Delhi City 44 27
Safdarjang 44 27
Palam 46 29

Delhi Palam Today
46°C Dry and hot weather will heat wave to prevail. Moderate hot and dusty winds to affect.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
44°C A dusty and uneasy morning. Day will hot and windy. Chances of duststorm/thundershower with strong winds.

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Operation to rescue boy in 'final stage'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA SANGRUR (PUNJAB)

Nearly 70 hours after two-year-old Fatehvir Singh fell into a 150-foot-deep borewell in Punjab's Sangrur district, officials said on Sunday that the rescue operation was in its "final stage".

"The rescue operation is in its final stage and is expected to be completed today," said Sangrur Deputy Commissioner Ganshyam Thori.

No food could be provided to the child, who has been unconscious after he fell into the borewell, he said, adding that oxygen is being supplied to him. On Saturday morning, officials, who were monitoring the boy's condition through camera, had said some movements of the child were noticed.

Minor girl raped, killed in Bhopal; 6 cops suspended

A reward of ₹20,000 for information on the accused: police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BHOPAL
The body of an eight-year-old girl, who was allegedly raped, was found near a drain in Bhopal on Sunday, the police said.

Preliminary investigations revealed she died of strangulation after being raped, an officer said. Six police officers have been suspended for dereliction of duty and a reward of ₹20,000 has been announced for providing information on the accused, police officers said.

The girl had reportedly gone out of her house in Kamla Nagar at 8 p.m. on Saturday to buy something. When she did not return, her family members approached the police that

We have identified the accused and a team has launched a search for him

AKHIL PATEL
Additional Superintendent of Police

night, an officer said.

Inspector General (Bhopal zone) Yogesh Deshmukh said that the police searched for the girl in the night and the body was found near a drain in the same area around 5 a.m. on Sunday.

According to initial post-mortem report, the girl "died of strangulation after rape", said Additional Superintendent of Police Akhil Patel. "We have identified the accused and a team has launched a search for him."

Kamla Nagar police station in charge Alok Shrivastava said the accused, Vishnu Mohare, lives close to the girl's home. Six of his relatives have been detained, he said.

A constable was suspended after the girl's family alleged that the police did not act on their complaint after she went missing, he said.

Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Bala Bachchan said on Sunday that six police personnel, including an Assistant Sub-Inspector, had been suspended for dereliction of duty.

Leaders visit family
Congress leader Digvijaya Singh, newly elected Bhopal BJP MP Pragna Singh Thakur, State Ministers P.C. Sharma and Arif Aqueel visited the girl's residence.

Cotton acreage to rise in 2 States

Punjab, Haryana farmers expecting better returns on produce

VIKAS VASUDEVA CHANDIGARH

Farmers in Punjab and Haryana have sown more cotton this season as against the corresponding period last year on expectation of better returns on the produce, experts and officials told *The Hindu*.

In Punjab, cotton crop has been sown in nearly 4 lakh hectares and may go up by 10,000 hectares as the sowing is still going on, according to the State Agriculture department. The acreage was nearly 2.84 lakh hectares in 2018.

In Haryana, farmers had sown cotton in 6.35 lakh hectares till June 6. Last year the total area under cotton was 6.61 lakh hectares.

"The area in Punjab and Haryana has seen an increase this year as farmers are expecting to fetch better price. Last season the yield was good and incidence of disease was less, which has motivated the farmers to opt for cotton this year," India Cotton Association Limited president Mahesh Sharda told *The Hindu*.

Bt cotton

In Punjab and Haryana, Bt cotton is sown in over 95% of the total area, the rest 5% cotton are usually the indigenous (desi) varieties. Cotton is usually planted from mid-April till late May in most parts of the States.

Punjab Agriculture Secretary K.S. Pannu said that cot-

ton acreage is likely to surpass the 4 lakh-hectare mark as the rise in the minimum support price last year had helped farmers fetch better returns. "After the whitefly attack in 2015, the farmers were a little reluctant to sow cotton, but after reaping a good yield last couple of years their confidence has increased," said Mr. Pannu.

Haryana Agriculture department Joint Director Jagraj Dhandi said, "the area under cotton is likely to remain the same as last year or could even surpass it as the sowing is still going on. This year the cotton sowing has been delayed as the wheat crop was harvested late on account of intermittent rains."

Kathua rape-and-murder case verdict today

In-camera trial ended on June 3

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA PATHANKOT (PUNJAB)

The verdict in the case of rape and murder of an eight-year-old nomadic girl in Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir will be delivered by a special court here on Monday.

The in-camera trial in the case that shook the nation ended on June 3, when District and Sessions Judge Tejwinder Singh had announced that the verdict was likely to be delivered on June 10.

Elaborate security arrangements have been made in and around the court and in Kathua in view of the pronouncement of the judgment, officials said on Sunday. The situation will be monitored closely, they said.

According to the 15-page

charge sheet, the girl, who was kidnapped on January 10 last year, was allegedly raped in captivity in a small village temple in Kathua district after having been kept sedated for four days before she was bludgeoned to death.

The day-to-day trial commenced in the first week of June last year at the district and sessions court in Pathankot in neighbouring Punjab, after the Supreme Court ordered that the case be shifted out of Jammu and Kashmir.

The apex court order came after lawyers in Kathua prevented the Crime Branch officials from filing a charge sheet in the case.

The prosecution team in the case comprised J.K. Chopra, S.S. Basra and Harinder Singh.

Four killed in boundary wall collapse in Odisha

Ex gratia of ₹25,000 announced

STAFF REPORTER BHUBANESWAR

Four persons died and several others suffered injuries when the boundary wall of an abandoned rice mill collapsed in a vegetable market at Alasua on the outskirts of Odisha's Dhenkanal town on Sunday morning.

People from the morning, people had started thronging the weekly market since morning. Some vendors had even sat close to the six-foot-high wall.

As trading was under way, the big wall collapsed and vendors and buyers could not run away. Four vendors died on the spot while 11 were rushed to the

Dhenkanal district headquarters. Three of the injured were later shifted to SCB Medical College Hospital, Cuttack. Several two-wheelers were also damaged in the incident.

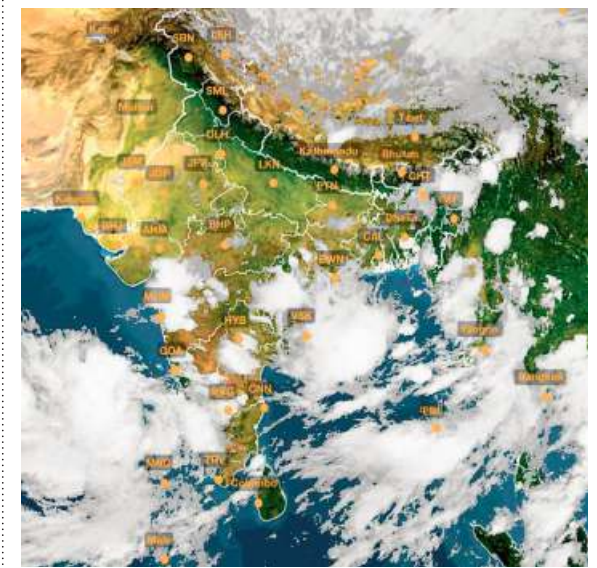
The district administration has announced an ex gratia of ₹25,000 each to the next of kin of the deceased.

"We have received information about deaths of four persons due to collapse of a boundary wall. A case will be registered," said Dhenkanal Superintendent of Police Anupama James.

The district administration dismantled walls, which were in bad condition, near the market area.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.30 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Kerala, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Lakshadweep, coastal and south interior Karnataka, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...	32.9	26.2	Kozhikode	...	33.0	26.0
Ahmedabad	...	44.3	29.0	Kurnool	...	40.1	26.7
Aizawl	...	25.9	19.5	Lucknow	...	43.1	28.8
Allahabad	...	47.7	28.0	Madurai	...	38.8	27.6
Bengaluru	...	33.6	22.3	Mangaluru	...	35.5	25.9
Bhopal	...	45.9	30.9	Mumbai	...	36.6	28.8
Bhubaneswar	0.5	37.7	25.0	Mysuru	10	32.2	21.2
Chandigarh	...	42.7	26.8	New Delhi	...	43.8	27.2
Chennai	...	40.1	29.9	Patna	...	43.2	30.2
Coimbatore	...	35.4	26.4	Port Blair	67.5	29.4	24.2
Dehradun	...	39.4	22.7	Puducherry	...	40.1	28.6
Gangtok	73.2	21.2	17.0	Pune	...	37.7	26.8
Goa	...	34.6	28.0	Raipur	...	43.3	29.8
Guwahati	2.4	34.2	26.6	Ranchi	...	38.8	26.0
Hubballi	...	33.0	23.0	Shillong	7.9	25.0	17.3
Hyderabad	...	38.6	27.2	Shimla	...	29.2	18.9
Imphal	0.6	31.5	21.9	Srinagar	...	28.2	12.6
Jaipur	...	45.0	31.2	Trivandrum	31.9	30.6	25.3
Kochi	...	23.2	30.2	Tiruchi	...	40.5	28.4
Kohima	5.8	26.5	15.4	Vijayawada	...	42.1	29.7
Kolkata	...	36.2	28.6	Visakhapatnam	...	33.6	29.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing Yesterday

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE
Ahmedabad	107	172	00	66
Bengaluru	4	16	21	47	34	...
Chennai	14	9	43	121
Delhi	48	73	48	255	365	...
Hyderabad	10	43	14	79	89	...
Kolkata	2	14	19	44	38	...
Lucknow	6	35	47	275
Mumbai	25	20	83	28	63	...
Pune	42	20	29	64	61	...
Visakhapatnam	12	43	43	100	121	...

Air Quality Code: **Red** Poor **Orange** Moderate **Green** Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.
NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.
CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.
PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

E-cigarette ban comes after sustained effort

Gehlot govt. locates 'missing' file, takes action

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT JAIPUR

The ban on e-cigarettes, imposed in Rajasthan a day before World No Tobacco Day last month, has come after a sustained campaign by voluntary groups spanning several months and recovery of a "missing file" with original note-sheets and documents following the change of government in the State Assembly election.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced the decision to ban production, distribution, advertisement and sale of e-cigarettes on May 30. He said the Congress had promised to take steps to curb smoking and addiction among the youth in its election manifesto and the decision would prove to be effective.

The previous BJP government had appointed a committee of experts to study the effects of e-cigarette and

make its recommendations in September 2017.

Though the committee recommended an immediate ban, no concrete action was taken and the file with original papers went missing from the office of the Additional Chief Secretary, Medical & Health Department.

The committee, headed by medical expert Nalin Joshi, had found that the nicotine-laced and heat-not-burn devices were "extremely harmful" recommended a ban on e-cigarettes.

Meanwhile, voluntary groups kept appealing to the government to ban e-cigarettes. When the Congress government took over in December 2018, representatives of Vaagdhara group met Mr. Gehlot and took up the case of the "missing file".

Vaagdhara secretary Jayesh Joshi told *The Hindu* that the file was located and its movement within the bureaucratic framework was accelerated.

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M.Des	Specialization in Social Design		-
M.Phil	Development Practice, History, Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy, Women's & Gender Studies, Mathematics and Comparative Literature & Translation Studies (CLTS).		-
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'Nirbhaya squad' to curb crime against women

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NASHIK

The Nashik Police have set up a 'Nirbhaya squad' to prevent incidents of harassment of women.

State Water Resources Minister Girish Mahajan launched the newly formed 10-member squad, comprising both men and women security personnel, on Saturday evening. Police Commissioner Vishwas Nangre-Patil told reporters.

The squad has been named after the 23-year-old woman who came to be known as Nirbhaya after she was gang-raped in New Delhi in 2012.

The squad members will maintain a strict vigil in crowded areas of the city, like bus stands, railway stations and malls, to ensure safety and security of women, the police said. Citizens, specially women, can also complain to the police on their toll free number (1091) about any incident of harassment or molestation, he said.

Mr. Mahajan, the guardian minister of Nashik, felicitated bank employee Savita Murtadak, who foiled a robbery bid at the bank last month, with a prize of ₹11,000 and a citation.

'Pune will see clean Mula-Mutha soon'

Javadekar says ₹990-crore river cleaning project, a 'gift from the Centre', has been fast-tracked

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE PUNE

Terming the Mula-Mutha river cleaning project as a "gift from the Centre" to Pune, Union Minister for Environment Prakash Javadekar on Sunday said about 70% of the first package of the project has been completed.

"The construction of branch sewers in Baner, which forms part of the first package, has been completed and I will be reviewing it soon. Pune's dream of seeing their beloved river pollution-free is going to be realised soon as the project has now been fast-tracked," Mr. Javadekar said, speaking to reporters after reviewing the progress of the ambitious ₹990-crore project for pollution abatement in the Mula-Mutha river.

He said the foundation stone for four more packages, involving the construction of sewage treatment plants, would be laid within the next two months, and final clearance for these will be obtained in a few days.

'Not a JICA project'

Mr. Javadekar said the river cleaning project was a joint operation of the Union government and the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) under the National River Conservation Plan and not a project of the Japan In-



Green crisis: Sections of the Mula-Mutha river are among the 351 most critically polluted stretches identified by the Central Pollution Control Board. ■ FILE PHOTO

ternational Cooperation Agency (JICA) as is believed. "JICA is only the bank which is providing the finances," the minister said, noting that the loan given by JICA would be repaid by the Central government and not by the State or the PMC.

"Hence, I say that this project is a gift given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to Pune's citizens.

All agencies concerned with the project have met and decided to give timelines for its projected completion. I will conduct a monthly follow-up of the project activities," Mr. Javadekar said.

He said the project had been hanging fire for a decade - from 2004 to 2014 - and it was cleared only when he took over as Environment Minister in 2014.

The Mula-Mutha river, formed by the Mula and Mutha rivers coming together, courses through the city and is an integral component of its heritage. Sections of the river are among the 351 most critically polluted stretches identified by the Central Pollution Control Board, earning it the ignominy of being one of India's most polluted rivers.

Untreated sewage and industrial effluents have brought the Mula-Mutha to the brink an ecological nightmare.

A loan agreement was signed between the Centre and JICA in January 2016 to clean the river under the National River Conservation Plan. The government of Japan has committed to provide a soft loan of JPY 19,064 billion (around ₹990 crore) to the Centre at an interest rate of 0.3% per annum. The project cost is to be shared between the Centre and the PMC, which is the implementing agency, in the ratio of 85:15 respectively.

The loan is to be repaid by the Centre over a 40-year period. The project is scheduled to be completed by January 2022.

On the anvil

Major components proposed under the project include the construction of 11 new sewage treatment plants, laying of 113.6 km of sewer lines for collection of untapped sewage, and renovation of four existing intermediate pumping stations.

These measures are to help increase the city's sewage treatment capacity from 477 MLD to 873 MLD, enabling Pune to cater to its sewage treatment requirements till the year 2027.

Cong. alleges formalin-laced fish still being sold in Goa

PRAKASH KAMAT PANAJI

The Congress alleged on Sunday that formalin-laced fish continues to be sold in Goa's fish markets, and accused the State government of not doing enough to regulate the use of the dangerous preservative.

The Congress's allegation comes nearly a year after the coastal tourist State was rocked by fears of rampant use of formalin in fish brought into the State from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh during the monsoon fishing ban. The Goa Food and Drugs Administration had detected the use of the preservative in a raid at a South Goa fish market in July last year.

On Sunday, Goa Congress president Girish Chondankar said at a press conference, "We have examined mackerels, a staple fish for thousands of Goans, from the Margao fish market. A laboratory test revealed 2 ppm (parts per million) of formalin in the fish, which means formalin-laced fish is still being sold in Goa."

"The government has failed to set up mechanisms to ensure sale of fish that is safe for human consumption," he said.

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IN BRIEF



8 killed as ambulance hits lorry in Palakkad

PALAKKAD
Eight persons were killed and four others were injured when the ambulance carrying them collided with a lorry at Thannisseri, about 10 km from here on Sunday. Eyewitnesses said the driver of the ambulance lost control of the vehicle while overtaking another vehicle and crashed into the lorry.

Team from Karnataka to study Germany's libraries

MYSURU
An eight-member delegation of public library officers from Karnataka will begin a seven-day tour of public libraries in Germany from June 10. The team is led by Principal Secretary to Government's Education Department S.R. Umashankar. The visit is on the invitation of Bengaluru's Goethe-Institut, which will also bear the trip expenses.

Centre to look into hike in airfares

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
The Civil Aviation Ministry has agreed to look into the rise in airfares to the four international airports of Kerala during festival seasons. Civil Aviation Secretary Pradeep S. Kharola will convene a meeting of the representatives of the airlines to discuss the increase in airfares during Onam, Christmas and Ramzan.

Emulate solar-powered Kochi airport, says PM

KOCHI
Impressed by the fully solar-powered operations at the Cochin International Airport, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said it should be an inspiring model for energy guzzlers, a statement issued by the airport authorities said here on Sunday. The PM also suggested that solar panels could be installed on the roof of the galleries of stadiums.

49 years later



Congress president Rahul Gandhi meeting retired nurse Rajamma Vavathil, who was present when he was born in a Delhi hospital in 1970, at Kalpetta in Wayanad on Sunday. ■PTI

Cong. fighting the hatred spread by Modi, says Rahul

Ends three-day tour of Wayanad with assurances

**STAFF REPORTER
MUKKOM (KOZHIKODE)**

Congress president Rahul Gandhi called Prime Minister Narendra Modi "the idea of division" and said the people of India were going to "pay the price for his politics".

He said the Congress would ensure that Mr. Modi's politics did not succeed and he did not "make Indians hate each other," while winding up his three-day tour of the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency with a roadshow at Mukkom in Kozhikode on Sunday.

Mr. Gandhi said that even

though the Congress was fighting an ideological battle with the CPI(M), they could work together for Wayanad's development.

'No expectations'

"But I don't have similar expectations from the Prime Minister and the BJP. I don't expect that the Prime Minister will be fair either to Kerala or Wayanad," he said.

Mr. Gandhi said the Congress was fighting the poison being spread by Mr. Modi at the national level. "Hatred, poison, and anger. I'm using a strong word, but there is no other word I can use."

Mr. Gandhi claimed that no country in the world had been strengthened by divisions. No country had become successful or built itself because of divisiveness. "Mr. Modi divides India, he divides the people, he makes different religions fight with each other, he makes different communities fight with each other."

He promised that he would be the voice of Wayanad in the Lok Sabha. "I will make it sure that the name of Wayanad is heard not only in India, but across the world. I will also raise Kerala's issues in Parliament," he said.

Modi sets sights on A.P., T.N.

Urges party workers at Praja Dhanyavada Sabha to continue outreach

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
TIRUPATI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday hailed Andhra Pradesh for being a pioneer in agriculture, science and technology, innovation and several fields.

Conveying his greetings to the new government formed by Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy at a thanksgiving meet titled 'Praja Dhanyavada Sabha' organised by the State BJP at Renigunta, Mr. Modi assured the State of all support from the Centre in realising its development endeavour. "The States and Centre should work together. Then we can make a New India," he said.

Thanks voters

Sending out a clear message that the BJP had set its sights on A.P. and Tamil Nadu, Mr. Modi asked party workers to stay focussed on reaching out to people. He thanked



New ground: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing party workers in Tirupati on Sunday. ■K.V. POORNACHANDRAKUMAR

people of the two States for participating in the electoral process.

Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered prayers at the hill shrine of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala. It was his first visit to the shrine after becoming the Prime Minister for the second term.

Andhra Pradesh Governor

E.S.L. Narasimhan, Chief Minister Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy, Union Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy and others received the Prime Minister at the Tirupati airport at Renigunta after he landed from Colombo.

Addressing the public meeting, Mr. Modi said, "It does not matter if it [the political process] yielded results

for us or not; it is important for us to remain in the service of people," and cited coming to power as one of the several ways of serving people, but not the end in itself.

"We have to focus on coming to power, but we also need to build a strong nation, which is of greater importance to us," he observed.

'India first'

Referring to the party's ideology of 'India first' and its firm belief in karma philosophy, Mr. Modi said an average BJP worker would proudly proclaim 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' even after losing a local body election, but would stay focussed on national development.

"Winning polls comes through winning the hearts of people," the Prime Minister said.

Yeddyurappa protests sale of land to firm

**STAFF REPORTER
YADGIR**

Suspecting kickbacks behind the Karnataka Cabinet's decision to sell 3,667 acres of land to JSW Steel, Leader of the Opposition and BJP State president B.S. Yeddyurappa on Sunday warned of a Statewide protest if the decision is not withdrawn.

During an interaction with the media, he said the BJP would not allow the sale. He also pointed out that senior Congress leader H.K. Patil had written to the government opposing its decision. But the Chief Minister was trying for a compromise with him, Mr. Yeddyurappa alleged.

Lobbying continues for Cabinet berths in Karnataka

Senior Congress leaders unhappy at being overlooked

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU**

With indications coming from the leadership of the Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) coalition in Karnataka that no seniors will be accommodated during the Cabinet expansion on June 12, senior leaders, who see themselves as the "original" Congressmen, seem to be at their wit's end.

Amid hectic lobbying by seniors in the Congress and the JD(S) for the three remaining Cabinet berths, it is likely that one berth will be kept vacant, while two will go to Independents.

According to the coalition's seat-sharing arrangement, of the three berths, two belong to the JD(S) and one to the Congress.

Congress sources said senior leaders were feeling slighted by the decisions of former CM and Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah, who is seen as a "migrant" to the party. [He was once with the JD(S)].

Former Minister Ramalinga Reddy and H.K. Patil see themselves as "original Congressmen". Sources said Mr. Reddy was upset at being denied a berth despite his seniority, sources said.

Though senior leaders such as B.C. Patil and Roshan Baig had been claiming seniority for berths, they were still considered migrants from the Janata Parivar, sources said. "Seniors who have misused berths are blaming Mr. Siddaramaiah and KPCC president Dinesh Gundu Rao for not standing by them," a source said.

For the coalition, another Congress source said, inducting two Independent MLAs might help its stability. "Inducting one senior and ignoring others may lead to another round of internal revolt," the source said.

Nipah-positive patient recovering

52 people under strict observation

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI**

The lone Nipah virus positive case, recuperating in a private hospital here, is recovering well, according to medical and diagnostic reports.

A health bulletin said that of the second set of blood, urine and throat swab samples sent for examination to National Institute of Virology, Pune, only the urine samples showed traces of the virus. The tests done at the Nipah detection facility at the Government Medical College, Ernakulam, also showed similar results.

Three test negative

There are now eight patients in the isolation ward at the medical college hospital, including one who was

brought in from the Paravur taluk hospital on Sunday. Four were discharged on Saturday. A patient each at three private institutions in the district admitted with Nipah-like symptoms had tested negative for the virus.

So far, 327 persons who had come in contact with the Nipah positive case have been traced in an attempt to curb the spread of the virus. The 52 high-risk people among them are under strict observation. Those who had come in contact with the body fluids of Nipah positive person, or had spent about 12 hours in the same room with the person, are in the high-risk category.

There are also 275 persons in the low-risk category who had some contact with the infected person.

Amid rain in Kerala, a cyclonic storm brews in Arabian Sea



Rain fury: Sea water entering coastal areas of Chellanam panchayat in Kochi as the monsoon gathers strength. ■THULASI KAKKAT

Fishermen advised to stay off seas

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

A cyclonic storm is gradually building up in the Arabian Sea, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Sunday.

The low-pressure area that has taken shape in the Arabian Sea is likely to concentrate into a depression during the next 48 hours, subsequently churning into a cyclonic storm, the IMD said in a Sunday evening bulletin. But in all likelihood, the depression will move north-northwestwards as it develops into a cyclonic storm, the IMD said, adding that the low-pressure area is under constant surveillance.

"It is very likely to intensify into a depression over southeast and adjoining east-central Arabian Sea during the next 48 hours. It is likely to move north-northwest-

wards and intensify further into a cyclonic storm in the subsequent 24 hours," the IMD said in a Sunday evening bulletin.

With bad weather prevailing over the Arabian Sea, fishermen have been advised to stay away from the Kerala and Karnataka coasts and Lakshadweep region, and southwest Bay of Bengal.

Meanwhile, Kerala received widespread rainfall on Sunday, with heavy falls in isolated places. Between 8.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. on Sunday, Alappuzha recorded the highest rainfall with 7 cm. Thiruvananthapuram received 1 cm and Kochi city, 2 cm, the Met Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, said.

Orange level alerts indicating the possibility of heavy to very heavy rainfall have been issued for Malappuram and Kozhikode for Wednesday.

Sangareddy jail launches FM radio service 'Antarvani'

Inmates receive voice training, programmes lined up

**R. AVADHANI
KANDI (SANGAREDDY DT.)**

In a move to improve communication with inmates and bring their hidden talents to the fore, the district jail authorities here in Telangana are launching an FM radio service, 'Antarvani' (inner voice), on Monday.

Five inmates have already received training in speaking impressively, playing songs, and entertaining listeners. Another five are currently undergoing training.

The radio broadcast will be from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. The morning programme will commence with the *Suprabhatam*, and will include the playing of patriotic songs. Drum music will be played while inmates exercise. This



Inmates Philip and Sampangi practising for the Antarvani FM launch. ■MOHD. ARIF

ments too will be made through Antarvani.

Inmates of each of 11 barracks will get a chance to participate in the programmes. There will also be announcements on new stock arrivals. Likewise, if there is any 'moral lecture', it will be broadcast directly on the FM channel, instead of having all inmates congregate at one place to listen to a guest speaker.

"Twice daily - morning and evening - I will address the inmates for about 15 minutes. In the evening, after lock-up time, guards will play songs till 9 p.m. so that the inmates can relax," Jail Superintendent Nawab Shiva Kumar Goud told *The Hindu*.

Farmers face a jumbo problem in Chittoor

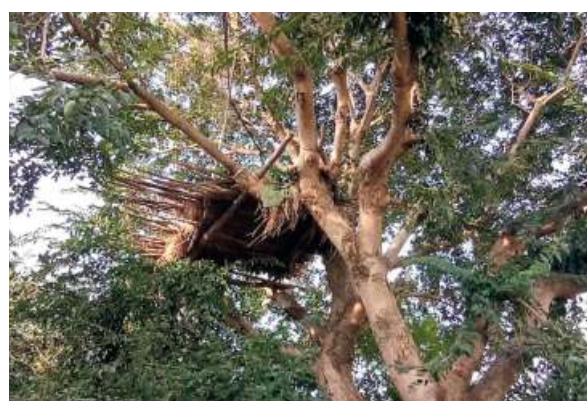
3 elephants that strayed from a sanctuary are yet to be traced while four herds are damaging crops

**STAFF REPORTER
CHITTOOR**

A week after three wild elephants from Andhra Pradesh's Koundinya wildlife sanctuary in Palamaner and Kuppam ranges strayed far away into the adjoining Punganur range, the forest officials are yet to trace the pachyderms.

Around midnight on June 2, three male elephants left the sanctuary. On June 4 morning, they were sighted at a hillock close to Chowdepalle of Punganur range, several kilometres away from sanctuary.

The presence of jumbos in this area has triggered panic among the farmers. While efforts are under way to make the animals retreat, they suddenly disappeared into the thickets, and moved into a valley. The Madanapalle



Watch tower: Farmers have readied treetop platforms for night vigil in fields near the Koundinya sanctuary in Chittoor.

forest officials said that in the small hours of Saturday, the trumpeting of the elephants was reported from the forests close to Nelamalleswara Swamy temple near Chowdepalle. Trackers found the dung and footprints of the elephants near the temple.

Ten forest staff was entrusted with the job of tracing the elephants.

In case of any emergency, the officials are planning to deploy the trained elephants (kumkis) to accomplish the task. The villagers expressed fears that in view of the non-

availability of water and fodder in the forests, the elephants, in all probability, would raid the human habitations and fields.

The episode of a wild elephant from Karnataka killing a farmer three years ago in Punganur area, and remaining elusive for a week, is still fresh in their minds.

Divisional Forest Officer (Chittoor) T. Chakrapani told *The Hindu* that the elephants were reported to be moving in Kanduru village in Chowdepalle limits.

More worry
During the last 24 hours, four herds are reported to be moving in the forest fringe areas surrounding the Koundinya sanctuary.

In the early hours of Sunday, a herd of 10 elephants raided the sugarcane fields

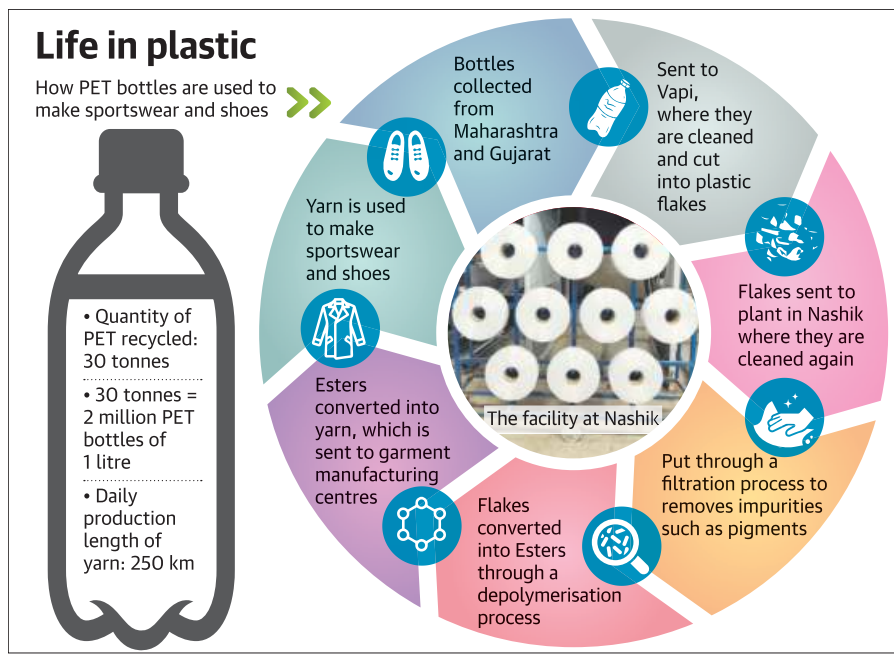
and mango farms in Mandipeta Kotur village.

On Saturday night, three herds created panic at Musalamadugu, Kaluvapalle and Mandipeta Kotur. Elderly farmers feel that the entire jumbo population of the Koundinya, estimated to be around 45, has moved out of the deeper zone and is lingering in the buffer areas.

Fearing jumbos, the farmers have built small machans - platforms on treetops - for night vigils.

Adding to the farmers' worry, a lone male adult elephant, known for damaging fields since a couple of years, has been targeting mango orchards and damaging farm equipment in the forest fringe villages of Baireddipalle mandal between Palamaner and V.Kota, during the last five days.

Sportswear giant set to tap Indian firm's PET project to cut virgin plastic use



Discarded bottles are upcycled to make high-quality polyester filament yarn for Adidas products

AJEET MAHALE
NASHIK
Global sportswear giant Adidas aims at eliminating the use of virgin plastics in its products by 2024, with a little help from a Maharashtra-based firm – the only one of its kind in the country to produce yarn out of discarded PET bottles.

At its first factory set up in Nashik five years ago, Polygenta Technology Limited deploys a unique technology to break down used PET (short for Polyethylene Terephthalate) bottles and convert them into polyester filament yarn.

The firm, with a capacity to convert 30 tonnes of PET

bottles into yarn a day, plans to scale up capacity to around 100 tonnes a day in the next two years to meet demand from the likes of Adidas – one of its first clients.

Gobbling bottles
This would mean Polygenta would be converting around 8 to 10 million bottles a day in a couple of years from now. The yarn produced by Polygenta, currently sent to Adidas' manufacturing centres to be converted into sportswear, may also be tapped to potentially upcycle clothes made from polyester yarn, said the firm's chief marketing officer Mak-

arand Kulkarni. According to the United Nations, around 300 million tonnes of plastic are produced every year – roughly the weight of the entire human population. Of this, eight million tonnes of plastic waste ends up in the oceans; PET bottles are the main contributors to plastic waste globally and in India.

Mr. Kulkarni said the firm's technology allows for breaking down used PET bottles to the base product – an ester, which is then used to manufacture yarn.

"Since the time we started, we have recycled over two billion bottles. At present, we recycle roughly two

million bottles a day," he said.

Mr. Kulkarni said the PET material collection rate in India is nearly 80% – among the best in the world – but a good portion of these bottles are downcycled, eliminating the possibility of further recycling. Downcycling is reuse of waste in a manner that the recycled product is of lower value than the original material.

"Through our process, we produce high quality polyester filament yarn, which is on par with yarn made through the conventional process. Moreover, there is huge energy savings through this process, mak-

ing it more sustainable," he said.

Energy efficient
The upcycling process consumes 86% less water and 75% less energy than conventional manufacturing, but costs approximately 10% more, Polygenta claims.

"A key area where costs can be reduced is curbing the level of contamination in PET bottles. If PET bottles are disposed and collected properly, one can expect savings to the tune of ₹5 per kg," Mr. Kulkarni said, citing an example of Japan where individuals dispose PET bottles after removing the caps and the labels.

IN BRIEF



Male tiger shifted to Sariska dies

ALWAR
A tiger has died at the Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan's Alwar district, officials said on Sunday. The cause of the animal's death will be ascertained after the post-mortem to be conducted late on Sunday, Chief Wildlife Warden Arindam Tomar said. The male tiger, aged around seven-eight years, was shifted to Sariska from the Ranthambhore National Park only two months ago. The Sariska Tiger Reserve is now left with three tigers, eight tigresses and five tiger cubs. PTI

Baalu denies report of DMK joining Cabinet

CHENNAI
DMK parliamentary party leader T.R. Baalu on Sunday dismissed as an "unadulterated lie" a report in a Tamil daily that his party would join the Union Cabinet headed by the BJP. In a statement, he accused the newspaper of twisting his meeting with Parliamentary Affairs Minister Prahlad Joshi and his deputy in the Ministry, Arjun Ram. "It is normal for Ministers to meet leaders of Opposition parties to seek their support for the smooth functioning of Parliament. The report that the DMK will join the Cabinet after six months is an unadulterated lie," he said.

12-year-old girl raped by six men in U.P.

GORAKHPUR
A 12-year-old Dalit girl was allegedly raped by six men in Kushinagar district in Uttar Pradesh, police said on Sunday. The incident took place in a village in the Ahirouli Bazar area on Friday evening. Of the six men, four have been arrested. Police have registered a case under various sections of IPC, including section 376 (rape), POCSO Act and SC/ST Act. The girl has been sent for medical tests. PTI

Assailants open fire at TV crew

3 Delhi policemen suspended for ignoring complaint; robbery bid suspected

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

In a suspected incident of attempted robbery, two bikeborne assailants opened fire at a TV news channel crew on their way to an assignment at the Barapullah flyover in South Delhi on Sunday morning.

Three Delhi policemen have been suspended for ignoring the complaint of the victims, said an officer.



Crime scene: The car that was attacked. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Brandished pistol
Siddharth Purohit, who works with a TV news channel, in his complaint alleged that on Sunday around 1.30 a.m., when he was passing through the Barapullah flyover in his office cab with a camera person and cab driver, two persons on a bike followed their car.

The pillion rider brandished a pistol and signalled

them to stop. To avoid a confrontation, the cab driver tried to drive away. However, the pillion rider opened fire on the car and shot three rounds, aiming at the driver and passengers, but did not hit any of the occupants.

"Despite being followed by the attackers, the cab driver continued driving the vehicle in order to spot police PCR vans for help. In the meantime, he dialled 100

number for police assistance but he got the call back from the PCR van after 30 minutes," said Mr. Purohit in his complaint.

He further said that after the crew spotted policemen at a barricade installed on a road outside the INA metro station, they stopped the cab and reported the incident. But instead of helping them, the policemen removed the barricades and left the spot.

"I had informed the police control room about the incident at 1.30 a.m. but the PCR reached to me at 3:05 a.m. I informed my colleagues and office about the incident and also reported the insensitive attitude of the policemen at barricade duty to senior police officers," said Mr. Purohit.

Devesh Srivastava, Joint Commissioner of Police (Southern range), said an FIR under IPC Sections 393 (attempt to commit robbery), 307 (attempt to murder) and under the Arms Act had been lodged at the Lodhi Colony police station.

"Several teams are working to identify the attackers. The case has been transferred to the crime branch..." said Mr. Srivastava. He also said that his team had prepared a sketch of a suspect.

Dismissed teacher can file writ plea for her rights: SC

Bench orders back wages for former teacher

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A teacher whose service is illegally terminated can file a writ petition in a constitutional court to protect her fundamental rights against a private unaided school, the Supreme Court has held.

Whether government or private school, both "perform public functions i.e. providing education to children in their institutions throughout India."

Appeal dismissed

A Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra made the observations while dismissing an appeal filed by Marwari Balika Vidyalaya, a private unaided educational institution, against its former teacher, Asha Srivastava.

A Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court, acting on a writ petition filed by the teacher, had in 2009 ordered the institution to pay Ms. Srivastava her back wages. But the school reneged, contending that a writ petition would not be maintainable against a private unaided institution.

Writ petitions are usually filed by citizens against the state and its agencies to protect their fundamental rights.

But the apex court disagreed with the argument of the school. "While the functioning of both aided and unaided educational institutions must be free from unnecessary governmental interference, the same needs to be reconciled with the

conditions of employment of the employees of these institutions and provision of adequate precautions to safeguard their interests," the Supreme Court said.

The court referred to how the procedural safeguard of Section 8(2) of the Delhi School Education Act to ensure that order of termination or dismissal is not passed without the prior approval of the Director of Education applies to all schools.

"Section 8(2) of the DSE Act is one such precautionary safeguard which needs to be followed to ensure that employees of educational institutions do not suffer unfair treatment at the hands of the management," the court pointed out.

A banker's guide to making a style statement

Bank of Baroda wants staff moustaches trimmed, shirts tucked-in

MANOJIT SAHA
MUMBAI

It's a bank directive with a difference – setting guidelines and limits not for monetary transactions and loans – but for hemlines and hairlines.

'Look smart'

Bank of Baroda, which recently merged with Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank to become the third largest lender of the country, has sent out a letter to all branch staff in the Bhuj region, urging them to "look smart", with instructions on grooming and appearance during working hours.

Listing a series of sartorial "offences", the letter says, "It has been noticed during branch inspections that many employees are not wearing clean and well-ironed clothes; employees are not



ILLUSTRATION: SANJAY TAMBE

shaving properly, shoes are not polished, hair not properly trimmed. Shirt not properly tucked in. It is also observed that employees are not coming to branch as per branch timing."

And the final straw: "Employees are coming to branch in slippers."

The letter then sets out 11 "guidelines" for employees

to "wear and look smart". Employees' hair, it says, should be trimmed and neat. In case someone wants to have long hair, the locks should be "shaped and combed".

Acknowledging that well-shaped moustaches and beards give a "good look", the guidelines advise staff to keep their whiskers in good

shape. Coming down on slippers, the guidelines say: "Slippers should be avoided except in emergency cases," pointing out that "shoes with laces" add considerably to the personality. "Shoes should always be polished and shined," it insists.

No jeans, T-shirts

Jeans and T-shirts are a strict no-no as they "give a casual look to the personality," the letter says, suggesting male staff wear "pant and shirt" on all working days.

And shirts should be tucked in and there should not be any wrinkle on the front of the shirt after being tucked in.

An advisory on how to speak wraps the list, saying, "Our voice should be polite."

ISRO gears up for Chandrayaan-2 mission

Space agency sets September 6 as the date for soft landing of its craft at the lunar south pole

MADHUMATHI D.S.
BENGALURU

Chandrayaan-2, the country's first moon lander and rover mission, is a month away from launch.

The Indian Space Research Organisation has marked mid-July for the take-off and kept the launch window open from July 9 to 16.

After putting the spacecraft through manoeuvres at the earth end, a journey of over a month and a few more orbital manoeuvres as it approaches the moon, ISRO has set September 6 as the date to soft-land its landing craft at the lunar south pole – a region where no agency has got to so far.

ISRO recently listed at least six complexities of soft landing a mission on the Moon – something that pioneers Russia and the U.S. could not achieve easily back

Challenges of a Moon landing

- Trajectory accuracy:** Ensuring trajectory accuracy while covering a destination of 3,844 lakh km has its own challenges
- Communication issues:** Owing to the large distance from earth, radio signals would be weak when Chandrayaan's handlers need to be in touch with the orbiter, monitor and control the lander and the rover later on Moon
- Trans-lunar injection:** On-board motors will be programmed to burn at the appointed time and spot, so that the spacecraft slips precisely into the pre-planned orbit
- Lunar dust:** The lunar dust that may rise from craters can be deadly for the lander and rover. The dust can cling to the machines and damage their sensors and functions

Source: ISRO

in the mid-1960s. Soft landing, it says, is the most challenging part of the mission.

The lander is named Vikram (meaning valour, after the father of the Indian space programme, Vikram Sarabhai). It will release a small robotic rover, named Pragyan

(wisdom), to move around, feel and understand the lunar surface.

Vikram must gently descend on a harsh rugged lunar surface, without getting damaged. It must also avoid landing in a shadowy patch. It needs sunlight for generating its power.

Meanwhile, the mother ship or the orbiter that carries Vikram and Pragyan will go around the moon at a distance of about 100 km, taking pictures and gathering surface information and sending them back to earth.

The moon's constantly sunny side gets light for 14

Earth days or one lunar day. The lander and the rover are expected to work for just that duration.

The mission carries 14 payloads or instruments to observe and gauge the lunar scene – both from a distance and on its surface. One of them is a tiny NASA reflectometer to mark the spot for future missions and assess the distance from the earth.

Heavyweight launch

Weighing about 3,500 kg, Chandrayaan-2 will be launched on the heavy-lift GSLV-Mk III rocket. The mission has missed many dates and its lander elements have been revamped as recently as in 2018. The tests related to the lander were conducted at the Challakere multi-agency campus where ISRO, DRDO, BARC and the IISc facilities are located.

SIAM, CII call for practical road map for electric vehicles

'Unrealistic expectations may disrupt automotive industry'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government's policy to switch to electric vehicles should be driven by practicality, rather than unrealistic expectations which may disrupt the automotive industry that is already reeling under stress, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers said on Sunday.

Another industry body – the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), came out in support of the auto sector, stating that there is a need for wider consultations with stakeholders before the target and the time line for electric vehicles are set.

Terming the auto industry "perhaps the only real success story of India's manufacturing", SIAM President

Rajan Wadhwa said it was imperative that this success story was not affected by "undue haste" in banning mature automotive technologies in the next 5-6 years, while hoping that EV technologies would fully replace the demand within such a short period.

The reactions come amid reports that the government plans to ban sale of internal combustion engine (ICE) three-wheelers by 2023 as well as of less than 150 cc two-wheelers by 2025.

"Such unrealistic expectations and policies would not only adversely affect the world no 1 two/three-wheeler industry, but may not help in making EVs acceptable to the customer and the market," he added.

"...the [government's EV] ambition needs to be tempered with a practical approach and what is possible without needlessly disrupting the automotive industry," Mr. Wadhwa, who is also the President of Automotive Sector at Mahindra and Mahindra, said.

Multiple challenges

SIAM pointed out that the automotive industry is currently facing multiple challenges, including leapfrogging to BS VI emission norms and complying with new safety norms "in the shortest time-frame ever attempted in the world. This is engaging the attention of the industry and is involving investments of the order of ₹70,000-80,000 crore."



Andhra spectrum

Jagan Reddy is showcasing his widened social base with his choice of Ministers

Starting off as an unsure heir to his father Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy's legacy 10 years ago, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has since transformed himself into a mass leader. He has done this by sheer tenacity, but his political rise was devoid of an ideological thread. Deeply aware of this inadequacy, which is more pronounced amid the BJP's dominance nationally, Mr. Reddy has made an early move to fortify the wide-spectrum social coalition that accorded his YSR Congress Party a landslide victory, by appointing five deputies. The death of his father, then Chief Minister and better known as YSR, in 2009 had pushed the Congress over the cliff in the State, a downslide in fortunes that befell it nationally too. Humiliated by the Congress and jailed during its rule, Mr. Reddy continued his tireless travels across the State, finally arriving this summer at his destination, the CM's chair. The constitution of his Council of Ministers, including Mekathoti Sucharita, a Dalit woman, as the Home Minister, and five deputies, is evidently aimed at nurturing the coalition of social groups that he singlehandedly built up through his travels. The five Deputy CMs are from the Scheduled Caste (K. Narayana Swamy), Scheduled Tribe (Pamula Pushpa Sreevani), backward caste (Pilli Subhash Chandrabose), Muslim (Amzath Basha) and Kapu (Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas) communities.

Unitary projects such as nationalism have strong homogenising tendencies that consider particular identities and their aspirations for representation irrelevant or even fissiparous. Weaker sections of society are often at the receiving end of such projects, even if they are enthusiastic subscribers. Mr. Reddy's success in weaving together a political base that denied the BJP a foothold in Andhra Pradesh, a State where it could not win a single seat, and vanquished the Telugu Desam Party was built on a sensitive appreciation of the aspiration for representation among diverse sections of society. Mr. Reddy's predecessor, N. Chandrababu Naidu, had two deputies, one a Kapu and one from another backward caste; that was aimed more at accommodating formidable interest groups rather than empowering the weakest. YSR had won in 2004 and 2009 with an expansive welfare agenda. Mr. Reddy believes that welfarism alone is not sufficient and representation is critical in the changed situation. YSR's victories were the bedrock of the Congress in 2004 and 2009; Mr. Reddy's victory signals the decimation of the party in the State. But his politics holds out some useful lessons for the Congress and other parties seeking to challenge the Hindutva juggernaut: that material betterment of the citizenry needs to be complemented with wider social coalitions.

St. Petersburg consensus

Russia and China are strengthening ties amid tensions with the U.S.

The bonhomie between China's and Russia's leaders at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum last week was demonstrable. In a sign of the heightened tensions between the U.S. and the two countries, Russia's annual investment gathering was boycotted by the U.S. Ambassador to Russia, Jon Huntsman. His absence was ascribed to the prevailing environment in Russia for foreign entrepreneurs, typified by the detention of U.S. private equity investor Michael Calvey on allegations of fraud. Conversely, the Chinese telecommunications equipment manufacturer Huawei signed an agreement with Russia's principal mobile operator to start 5G networks, in a rebuff to Washington's attempts to isolate the firm internationally. Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping made it clear in St. Petersburg that the tensions with the West had only drawn them closer. The rift with Russia began with Moscow's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the stand-off in eastern Ukraine that continues. Russia's tensions with the U.S. and some EU countries stem also from their opposition to the 1,200-km-long Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline from Russia to Germany. U.S. objections draw in part from its eagerness to export liquefied natural gas to Europe, besides thwarting Moscow's ambition to dominate the region's energy market. Far more sensitive has been U.S. Special Counsel Robert Mueller's inquiry into possible Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. Washington's blacklisting of Huawei, prohibiting it from selling technology to the U.S. and barring domestic firms from supplying semiconductors to Beijing, falls into a class of its own among international trade disputes.

Amid these tensions, in St. Petersburg Mr. Xi and Mr. Putin emphasised that bilateral relations were at a historic high, marked by increased diplomatic and strategic cooperation. China participated in Russian military exercises on its eastern border last September, marking a watershed. Moscow and Beijing, hostile rivals of the Cold War era, have for a while been adopting common positions at the UN Security Council on critical international issues. Bilateral relations are also guided by pragmatism. Russia appears realistic about the growing Chinese economic clout in Central Asia, once firmly in its sphere of influence, thanks to China's massive infrastructure investments under the Belt and Road Initiative. Chinese cooperation would moreover prove critical for Russia's elaborate plans to exploit the Northern Sea Route along the Arctic as an alternative transportation hub. International sanctions have not been very effective in isolating Russia. European states, notably Germany, recognise the importance of engaging with Russia to contain Mr. Putin's expansionist aims. Equally, President Donald Trump's "America first" policy is compelling potential rivals to make common cause.

Inhumane, and utterly undemocratic

Mohammad Sanuallah's case must serve as an urgent call for rethinking the National Register of Citizens



GAUTAM BHATIA

On June 8, upon the orders of the Gauhati High Court, Mohammad Sanuallah was released on bail from a detention camp in Assam. He had been detained on May 29, after a Foreigners Tribunal had declared him an illegal immigrant. The Gauhati High Court's bail order came after a week of sustained public pressure, occasioned by the revelation that Mr. Sanuallah had served for three decades in the Indian Army.

In the intervening period, a shocking number of irregularities surfaced. In its inquiry report, the Assam border police had written that Mr. Sanuallah was a 'labourer'. The three men who signed the case report claimed that the investigating officer had fabricated their signatures. The investigating officer himself admitted that it might have been an "administrative mix-up". Yet, it was on the basis of such shoddy material that the Foreigners Tribunal — a quasi-judicial body expected to follow the rule of law — came to the conclusion that Mr. Sanuallah was a "foreigner", and packed him off to a detention camp — until the High Court stepped in to set him at liberty.

But Mr. Sanuallah is among the luckier ones. Investigative journalists have revealed over the last few years that 'administrative errors' of this kind are the rule rather than the exception. As Mr. Sanuallah acknowledged in an interview after being released, there were people in the detention camps with similar stories, who had been there for 10 years or more. For these individuals, without the benefit of media scrutiny, there may

be no bail — only an endless detention. But by forcing the conversation onto the national stage, Mr. Sanuallah's case has provided hope that we may yet recognise the unfolding citizenship tragedy in Assam for what it is, and step back from the brink while there is still time.

NRC, Foreigners Tribunals

According to the Assam Accord, individuals who entered Assam after March 24, 1971 are illegal immigrants. There are two parallel processes to establish citizenship: the Foreigners Tribunals operating under the Foreigners Act, and the National Register of Citizens (NRC), which is under preparation. While nominally and formally independent, in practice, these two systems bleed into each other, with people who have been declared as foreigners by the Foreigners Tribunals, and even their families, dropped from the draft NRC.

For something as elemental and important as citizenship, one would expect these systems to be implemented as carefully as possible, and with procedural safeguards. This is especially true when we think of the consequences of being declared a non-citizen: disenfranchisement, exclusion from public services, incarceration in detention camps, statelessness, and deportation. Before treating an individual — a human being — to such drastic consequences, the very least a humane and civilised society can do is to ensure that the rule of law has been followed to its last degree.

The reality, however, is the exact opposite. In a vast number of cases, the legally mandated initial inquiry before an individual is dragged before a tribunal as a suspected "foreigner" simply does not happen — indeed, it did not happen for Mr. Sanuallah. The Tri-



RITU BAIKONWAR

bunals themselves are only constrained by a very limited number of procedural safeguards. This has led to situations where Tribunals have issued notices to entire families, instead of just the suspected "foreigner". Additionally, reports show that Foreigners Tribunals habitually declare individuals to be "foreigners" on the basis of clerical errors in documents, such as a spelling mistake, an inconsistency in age, and so on. Needless to say, the hardest hit by this form of "justice" are the vulnerable and the marginalised, who have limited documentation at the best of time, and who are rarely in a position to correct errors across documents. On occasion, orders determining citizenship have been passed by tribunals without even assigning reasons, a basic *sine qua non* of the rule of law. In addition, a substantial number of individuals are sent to detention camps without being heard — on the basis of *ex parte* orders — and the detention centres themselves are little better than concentration camps, where families are separated, and people not allowed to move beyond narrow confined spaces for years on end.

The process under the NRC is little better. Driven by the Supreme Court, it has been defined by sealed covers and opaque proceedings. For example, in a behind-closed-doors consultation with the NRC Coordinator, the Supreme Court developed a new

method of ascertaining citizenship known as the "family tree method". This method was not debated or scrutinised publicly, and ground reports found that people from the hinterland were not only unaware of the method, but those who were aware had particular difficulties in putting together "family trees" of the kind that were required (the burden fell disproportionately upon women). And recently, it was found that a process by which individuals could file "objections" against people whose names had appeared in the draft NRC — and on the basis of which these people would be forced to once again prove their citizenship — had resulted in thousands of indiscriminate objections being filed, on a seemingly random basis, causing significant hardship and trauma to countless individuals. However, when the people coordinating these "objections" were contacted, they brushed it off by saying that it was mere "collateral damage" in the quest to weed out illegal immigrants.

The role of the judiciary

In a process riddled with such flaws, and where the consequences are so drastic, one would expect the judiciary, the guardian of fundamental rights and the guarantor of the rule of law, to intervene. Instead, the Supreme Court, led by the present Chief Justice of India, has played the roles of cheerleader, midwife, and overseer. Not only has it driven the NRC process, as outlined above but it has repeatedly attempted to speed up proceedings, pulled up the State government when it has asked to be allowed to release people detained for a long time, and instead of questioning procedural violations and infringement of rights, has instead asked why more people are not in detention centres, and why

more people are not being deported. Most egregiously, the Court even used a PIL about the inhumane conditions in detention centres in order to pursue this project.

However, what the Supreme Court has failed to understand is that in questions of life and death, where the cost of error is so high, it is not "speed" that matters, but the protection of rights. But through its conduct, the Supreme Court has transformed itself from the protector of the rule of law into an enthusiastic abettor of its daily violation. And the Gauhati High Court has been no better, passing a bizarre and unreasoned order stating that it would be a "logical corollary" that the family members of a declared foreigner would also be foreigners, on the basis of which the border police have sent the names of entire families to NRC authorities. This is the very antithesis of how constitutional courts should behave.

Focus the spotlight

Mohammad Sanuallah is, for now, a free man. But a society in which his case is the exception instead of the rule, where it needs a person to be an ex-Army man, and his case pursued by national media for a full week before interim bail is granted, is a society that has utterly abandoned the rule of law. Yet Mr. Sanuallah's case can do some good as well: it can prompt some urgent national introspection about a situation where, in the State of Assam, thousands of people languish in detention camps for years, victims of a process that, to use an old adage, would not be sufficient to "hang a dog on". If anything can trigger an urgent and imperative call for change, surely this will — and must.

Gautam Bhatia is a Delhi-based lawyer

A clear arc from India to Nigeria

The leadership in both countries must take the initiative to energise bilateral ties



MAHESH SACHDEV

It was a coincidence straight out of the silver screens in Mumbai or Lagos: the leaders of India and Nigeria both began their respective second terms within a day of each other following their unexpectedly decisive election victories. The challenges faced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nigerian President Muhammad Buhari during their first terms were uncannily similar: security against terror, monetary and fiscal conundrums, a communal and sectarian divide, chronic unemployment, rampant corruption, rural distress and a fragile neighbourhood being the recurrent themes.

Each of the two leaders is widely acknowledged as an outlier to the system riddled with corruption and nepotism and is admired for his personal probity, hard work and discipline.

For instance, Mr. Buhari, 76, returned to power in 2015 — 30 years after he ruled Nigeria as a military dictator. The intervening decades were spent variously in detention, farming and as challenger-candi-

date in three presidential elections.

Diverse trade

It may be tempting to both Indians and Nigerians to shrug at these similarities as banal trivia; however, under them lies plenty of substance and potential linking the two countries and aspirations of their people. First, Nigeria being Africa's most populous country (191 million) and economy (\$376 billion) as well as the world's sixth largest oil exporter (about 2 million barrels per day) is evidently important to us. According to the latest Indian Department of Commerce statistics, Nigeria is India's largest trading partner in Africa (19th overall) with total trade estimated at \$13.5 billion in 2018-19. As official Nigerian data show, thanks to our booming oil imports, India is Nigeria's largest trading partner. For the same reason, Nigeria enjoys 4:1 surplus in bilateral trade. Nevertheless, it is still a sizeable market for India's manufactured exports, such as (2018-19 figures) miscellaneous machinery (\$500 million), vehicles (\$495 million), pharmaceutical products (\$447 million), textile items (\$299 million), iron and steel articles (\$152 million) and plastics (\$109 million).

In contrast to the stagnancy in India's global exports, its exports to Nigeria surged by 27% last year



ELEPHOTO/AF

to reach around \$2,880 million. Indian investments in Nigeria are estimated at around \$15 billion with a further \$5 billion in the pipeline. There are at least 180 Indian companies operating in Nigeria with pharmaceuticals, steel, power, retailing, fast-moving consumer goods and skilling as their mainstay. Approximately 50,000 Indians reside in Nigeria, some of them for decades. Most of them are professionals, such as engineers, accountants, bankers, trainers and health-care experts.

Success despite apathy

While all these facts go to underline the substantive nature of India-Nigeria ties, they also point to two important contextual factors. First, all these achievements are the outcome of valiant attempts by individual stakeholders with scant official encouragement or support.

For instance, some simple tweaking in our visa procedure can help thousands of Nigerians avail of our medical and educa-

tional facilities, benefiting all sides and creating huge people-to-people goodwill. Despite the encouraging numbers, the two governments have not yet been able to facilitate direct connectivity of air travel, banking and shipping — steps which could have promoted the ease of doing bilateral business.

Second, enormous potential still waits to be leveraged in such sectors such as upstream hydrocarbons (despite India being the largest buyer of Nigerian crude), agriculture, health care and skilling. Despite their growth, Indian exports to Nigeria are still around a quarter of China's.

Much potential

Although bilateral ties have had to face strong headwinds during the past five years, more could have been accomplished. Mr. Buhari, who was trained in India as a military officer and holds this country in high esteem, attended the third India-Africa Forum Summit held in October 2015 and met Mr. Modi for bilateral talks. Then Vice President Hamid Ansari's bilateral visit in September 2016 broke the hiatus in top-level contact since Manmohan Singh's Nigeria visit, as Prime Minister, in 2007.

Though some ministerial-level visits took place in the past five years, these were mostly for multi-lateral events in India. The last ses-

sion of the Joint Commission Meeting was in 2011 and the Foreign Office Consultations were held in 2003. Bilateral ties have not drawn commensurate proportion of the resources offered by India to its African partners largely due to some systemic issues. Defence cooperation has been mostly episodic and training oriented.

As the two leaders begin their respective second innings, they need to give a push to India-Nigeria ties sooner rather than later. Actions along few force-multiplier axes suggest themselves. With oil and other commodities becoming a seller's market, an early summit between the two leaders is an obvious imperative. It could evolve a multi-pronged strategy to leverage evident economic complementarities in sectors such as hydrocarbons, infrastructure, institution-building, defence and agriculture. A purposive follow-up session of the joint economic commission soon thereafter could provide an incremental and sustainable road map empowering the relevant bilateral stakeholders. If handled deftly and with political will, it could usher in an India-Nigeria economic synergy that has been untapped for some decades.

Mahesh Sachdev was the Indian High Commissioner to Nigeria during 2008-13. He is the author of the book, 'Nigeria: A Business Manual'

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

A word of advice

One wonders which direction Indian democracy is headed upon hearing Congress president Rahul Gandhi's renewed attack on the Prime Minister ("Modi's campaign filled with hatred: Rahul", June 9). The campaigning during the general election was marred by personal insinuations. Practically no short- or long-term policies for the welfare of people and steps to strengthen democracy were discussed. Mr. Gandhi knows very well that his 'chowkidar chor hai' line did not find resonance with the people. The Opposition must let the government begin work, while maintaining vigil.

P. R. V. RAJA,
Pandalam, Kerala

Party travails

The emerging fault lines within the Congress party,

right from its AICC headquarters to almost every State unit, are a serious setback to the party ("Congress travails go from bad to worse", June 9). The epidemic of open dissidence explains the parochial mindset of Congress leaders. The lack of ideological commitment is evident. The leaders of the party are supposed to be its soldiers who should know that during crises, but we have the reverse happening here.

N. SADHASIVA REDDY,
Bengaluru

Creeping fear

The report, "A thread of fear and hate" ("Ground Zero" page, June 8), holds a mirror to the harsh reality of fear gripping the minorities predominantly in north India as well as highlighting the danger posed to lives and

livelihoods by right-wing elements. The Prime Minister's pronouncement of 'Sabka Vishwas' immediately after the general election, his declared intention to win over the minorities and his dramatic gesture of highlighting the importance of the Constitution raised hope of a new beginning. It should not be allowed to fade away. The right wing should know that the greatness of India can never be realised by suppressing its multiple identities.

MANOHAR ALEMBAATH,
Kannur, Kerala

Use with care

In our school days in the 1950s and 1960s, paper and stationery use were important especially in large families that worked hard to make both ends meet. In our family, for instance, we were given

strict instructions by elders not to leave any blank space in notebooks ("Open Page", "Go for the blank space", June 9). Any blank space was later combined with other such papers and bound afresh into small rough notebooks 4 inches by 5 inches in size. There were occasions when the opening side of a notebook and the pages thereafter were used for one subject, with the reverse end (upside down) used for another subject. I still remember how some of us did combined studies in mathematics. We used chalk pieces to work out the problems on a red oxide floor in order to save paper, and then used a duster cloth to wipe off our work. The 'use with care' habit was reflected in postcard writing too.

SESHAGIRI ROW KARRY,
Hyderabad

The wink

It was a delight to read the writer's delectable account of variants of the wink ("Open Page", "The simple pleasures of a momentary wink", June 9). I wonder whether the present generation, so busy with gadgets, has found time to even think about the fading of this 'simple pleasure'.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

In the 'Life' page article titled "A glorious yellow bloom in honour of botanist E.K. Janaki Ammal" (June 9, 2019), a sentence that read "Mrs. Viraraghavan, who claimed that the rose named E.K. Janaki Ammal is the only tropical rose species in the world..." should be corrected to say: "Mrs. Viraraghavan said that the rose named E.K. Janaki Ammal was bred from *Rosa chinophylla*, which is the only tropical rose species in the world..."

A sentence in the Business page report headlined "Banking system on the cusp of a transformation: Das" (June 8, 2019) read: "However, if we take into account the capital conservation buffer (CCB), some banks, especially public-sector banks (PSBs), are falling short of the required 10.875%." It should have been 1.875%.

In the story titled "Can't stop, won't stop: the rise of Tamil rap" (The Hindu Weekend, June 8, 2019), the reference to Singapore-based Lady Kash should be corrected to read as Singapore-born Lady Kash.

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

Is NITI Aayog old wine in a new bottle?

There must be a review of what the think tank has achieved to adopt the new role described in its charter



ARUN MAIRA

The Narendra Modi government has its plate full. It needs to increase employment and incomes; revive investments and growth; untangle the financial sector; navigate muddled-up international trade; solve the perennial problems of poor education and health, and the growing problems of environmental pollution and water scarcity. Even though statistical confusion was created in the run-up to the election to deny that problems of unemployment and growth were serious, high-powered Cabinet committees have been formed to tackle them.

Regardless of whether or not India has the fastest growing GDP, it has a long way to go to achieve economic and social inclusion, and restore environmental sustainability. India's problems are complex because they are all interrelated. Fixing one part of the system alone can make matters worse. For example, providing skills to millions of youth before there are enough employment opportunities is a bold fix that can backfire. The complexity of the task demands a good plan and a good strategy.

Under scrutiny

Does the Indian government have the capability to make good plans and strategies to address its complex challenges? Since India has not done as well as it should have to produce faster growth with more inclusion and sustainability, one would have to surmise that it has not developed the requisite capabilities. Mr. Modi has known this. Indeed, the first major reform he announced in his first term was to abolish the Planning Commission. He replaced it with the lofty titled 'National Institution for Transforming India' (NITI Aayog).

Now, when the country's economy has not performed to the high expectations Mr. Modi had created, and citizens' aspirations for 'acche din' have not been realised, the performance of the NITI Aayog is under scrutiny, as it should be. Many people are even nostalgically recalling the Planning Commission, including



KAMAL NARANG

some who were very critical of it and wanted it overhauled.

Mr. Modi's predecessors, Manmohan Singh and Atal Bihari Vajpayee, had faced similar, large, economic, social, political and global challenges. When Vajpayee was presented a nine-point plan by a global think-tank to increase the economy's growth to 9%, he famously retorted, "We know all that. The question is, how will it all be done?" He highlighted that many stakeholders must be involved in the implementation of a plan in a large, diversified and democratic country – the States, the private sector, civil society and even the political Opposition. Therefore, it is not good enough to have a plan, there must also be a strategy for its cooperative implementation too.

Dr. Singh declared that reform of the Planning Commission was long overdue. An intensive exercise was undertaken. Many stakeholders were consulted. International practices were examined. An outline was drawn of a substantially reformed institution which would, in Dr. Singh's words, have a capability for "systems reform" rather than making of Five-Year Plans, and which would have the "power of persuasion" without providing budgets.

A commission chaired by C. Rangarajan, then Chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, examined budgetary processes, divisions of responsibilities between the Finance Ministry and the Planning Commission, and distinctions between 'plan' and 'non-plan' expenditures. It concluded that budgetary responsibility must be concentrated in the Finance Ministry, and it was no longer desirable for the Plan-

ning Commission to have powers for financial provisions.

Some in the Planning Commission were worried that it would lose its teeth if it did not have any financial power. How else would it persuade the States to do what it wanted them to do? Chief Ministers retorted that the Planning Commission must improve its ability to understand their needs and to develop ideas that they would want to adopt because they accepted the ideas as good for them, not because they would have to if they wanted the money. Mr. Modi, as a powerful Chief Minister, understood well the limitations in the Planning Commission's capabilities and what it needed to do to reform itself, which the investigations commissioned by Dr. Singh had also revealed. It is not surprising, therefore, that the bold charter of NITI Aayog that Mr. Modi announced in 2015 was consistent with Dr. Singh's and Vajpayee's insights. He was implementing an idea whose time had come.

A good starting point

Implementation of radical change is never easy. If things don't go well soon, nostalgia will rise for the old order – even though there was dissatisfaction with it. And the change-maker will be blamed for the disruption. The NITI Aayog charter is a good starting point for a new journey in transforming the governance of the Indian economy. The NITI Aayog and the government would do well to conduct an open-minded review of what NITI Aayog has achieved so far to adopt the new role described in its charter – that of a catalyst of change in a complex, federal, socioeconomic system. And assess whether it has

transformed its capabilities sufficiently to become an effective systems reformer and persuader of stakeholders, rather than merely be an announcer of lofty multi-year goals and manager of projects, which many suspect it is.

There is deep concern that NITI Aayog has lost its integrity as an independent institution to guide the government; that it has become a mouthpiece of the government and an implementer of the government's projects. Many insist that NITI Aayog must have the ability to independently evaluate the government's programmes at the Centre and in the States. Some recall that an Independent Evaluation Office set up in the last days of the UPA-II government was swiftly closed by the NDA government. Others counter that the Planning Commission had a Programme Evaluation Organisation all along and which continues. They miss the need for fundamental transformation in the approach to planning and change.

The traditional approach of after-the-fact evaluation sits in the old paradigm of numbers, budgets and controls. The transformational approach to planning and implementation that 21st century India needs, which is alluded to in NITI's charter, requires evaluations and course-corrections in the midst of action. It requires new methods to speed up 'organisational learning' among stakeholders in the system who must make plans together and implement them together.

The NITI Aayog's charter has provided a new bottle. It points to the need for new methods of cooperative learning and cooperative implementation by stakeholders who are not controlled by any central body of technical experts with political and/or budgetary authority over them. Merely filling this new bottle with old ideas of budgets, controls and expert solutions from above will not transform India. The debate about NITI Aayog's efficacy must focus on whether or not it is performing the new role it must, and what progress it has made in acquiring capabilities to perform this role, rather than slipping back into the ruts of yesterday's debates about the need for a Planning Commission.

Arun Maira was a member of the Planning Commission

FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

A debate that divides

An ideological prism should not be used to malign a journalistic inquiry



A.S. PANNEERSELVAM

Polarisation is not restricted to our body politic alone; it is seeping into the vitals of our social fabric, leading to a situation where there is just lazy opinion masquerading as a feature? The story asked why Akshaya Patra Foundation (APF), run by Iskon, refuses to add onion or garlic to the mid-day meals (MDM) it provides in Karnataka even though the children crave the familiar taste.

A range of interviews

As a news ombudsman, I have to address two questions. One, what did the story say that provoked such angry responses and counter-responses? And two, did the story meet the crucial requirements of journalism or was it just lazy opinion masquerading as a feature? The story asked why Akshaya Patra Foundation (APF), run by Iskon, refuses to add onion or garlic to the mid-day meals (MDM) it provides in Karnataka even though the children crave the familiar taste.

It was a story based on interactions with the beneficiaries of the affirmative action, the children. It was neither a quick opinion piece quoting just one critical expert, nor did it black out the opinions of those who support the programme. If children find the food unpalatable, is it right for anyone else to say that they should not complain and instead eat what is provided to them? Isn't this an indication that the purpose of the affirmative action has been turned on its head? The report drew its larger conclusion based on interviews with a range of people, including the children, the director of the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), the principal secretary of education in Karnataka, and Right to Food activists. It also quoted APF.

Was the story hurriedly written as some Twitter warriors claim? If it failed to provide the arguments advanced by the defenders of the scheme, then it would be fair to term it an attack. But the report recorded the opinions of most of the agencies involved. It cited what NIN said when it gave a formal nod to APF's menu: "The nutritive values of menus with ingredients used in the mentioned amounts certainly meet and often exceed the prescribed energy (Kcal) and protein requirements prescribed by MHRD (Ministry of Human Resource Development) for the MDM." It also recorded the view of the principal secretary of education in Karnataka:

"Under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, what the government has prescribed are the nutrient levels required in a meal – the level of carbohydrates, proteins, etc. They have not prescribed the ingredients. So when we got this particular complaint, we referred it to CFTRI and NIN asking them about the advantages of onion and garlic and if we have to use them. NIN has said that APF meets the nutrition standards, so why should we cancel the contract with APF? Except for this one small reason (the refusal to use onion and garlic), there are a lot of advantages for the govern-



M.A. SHIRAM

ment to continue its contract with Iskon. They provide hygienic meals and cater to a large group of children in the State as well as in the country. We aren't delving into philosophical and religious issues. And we cannot punish them unnecessarily for somebody's objections."

Understanding a complex reality

In a fair journalistic manner, the report questioned the arguments advanced by the defenders of the scheme but never did it attempt to silence any one of them. In fact, it is the only place where we find the technical reading of the NIN: "We computed macronutrients and micronutrients from the MDM menus recommended by the Karnataka government and the MDM menus provided by APF from the published scientific data of the Institute (Indian Food Composition Table and Nutritive Value of Indian Foods). It is an accepted norm to assess the nutritional quantity and quality of food using the computational methods from the quantities of ingredients that go into making it."

Partisanship and polarisation should not come in the way of our understanding a complex reality. A few years ago, a story dealing with the nutrient content of a moon-meal scheme meant for underprivileged children would not have drawn the ire of anyone. An ideological prism should not be used to malign a journalistic inquiry.

readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

SINGLE FILE

Crossing the barrier

PM Modi has adopted an aspect of the presidential system by appointing S. Jaishankar as External Affairs Minister

T.P. SREENIVASAN



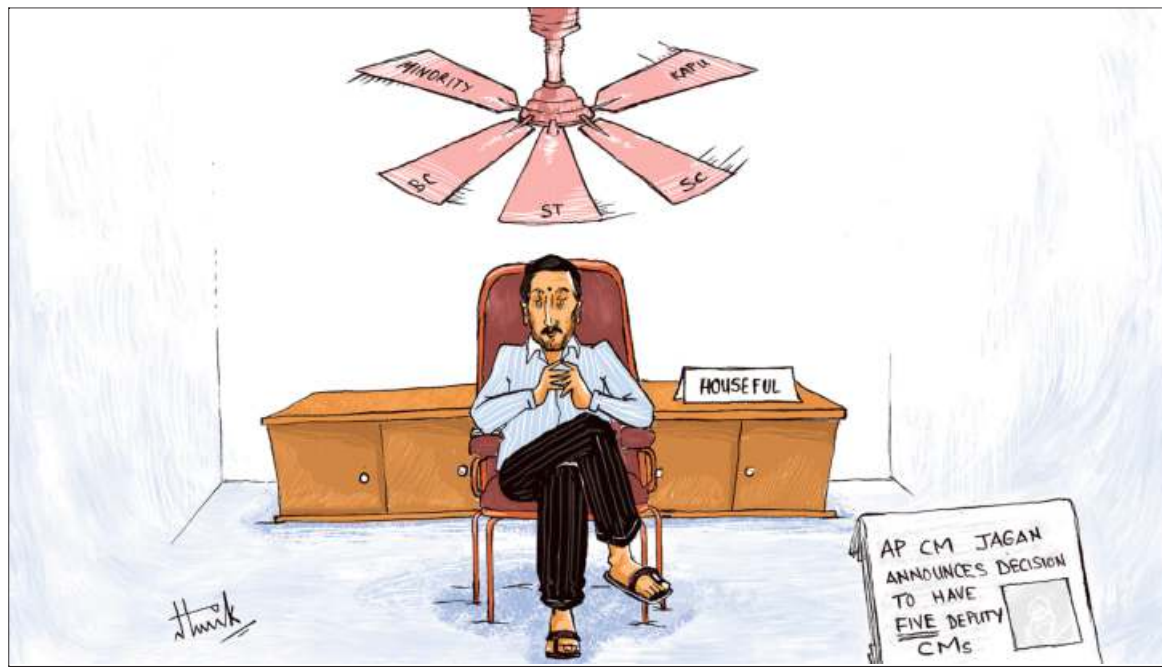
In the management of international affairs in parliamentary democracies, there is a barrier between politicians who formulate policies and the professionals who implement it. To cross the barrier, professionals have to join politics and move up the hard way to ministerial positions. By

appointing former Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar as the Minister of External Affairs, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has created history by adopting an aspect of the presidential system, in which professionals do not need to go through the parliamentary process. A rare chemistry between the Prime Minister and his former Foreign Secretary has led to this step, about which there are dissenting murmurs in political and bureaucratic circles. Therefore, this is likely to be an isolated event. But its significance will be discussed in the days to come.

Diplomatic outcomes are difficult to measure and no one person can claim credit or blame, as many people work over time to ensure that initiatives fructify. For instance, the nuclear deal took several years to accomplish right from the days of the Vajpayee government. Many diplomats, scientists and politicians worked at different levels. But as the point person for the U.S., Mr. Jaishankar was credited with the success of the negotiations. Though much of the 123 Agreement was not implemented, every word was fiercely fought. The deal still remains a major accomplishment of Indian diplomacy. Mr. Jaishankar has a consistent record of successful tenures in Moscow, Colombo, Budapest, Prague, Singapore, Beijing and Washington with intermittent key postings at headquarters. Successive governments rated Mr. Jaishankar high, and finally Mr. Modi appointed him Foreign Secretary by curtailing the tenure of his predecessor. Mr. Jaishankar provided the professional touch to Mr. Modi's disruptive and innovative ideas, which made waves around the globe. It is no wonder that Mr. Jaishankar was inducted as a Cabinet Minister in Mr. Modi's second term.

When Mr. Jaishankar was appointed the Foreign Secretary in 2015, I had written, "The 60th year in Jaishankar's life is just an important landmark and it is too early to assess his lifetime achievements. He has much more to do and to tell before he hangs his diplomatic boots." As predicted, he has to do much more in his new post. Indian foreign policy is at a crossroads. The present trajectory needs to be changed because of the unpredictability of the U.S., and the growth of influence of China and Russia. The spirit of Wuhan and Sochi needs to be nurtured with a view to creating a niche for India in an emerging multipolar world. It is here that Mr. Jaishankar will be an asset to Mr. Modi.

T.P. Sreenivasan is former Ambassador of India and Governor for India of the IAEA



DATA POINT

State of NEET

States with a higher proportion of CBSE schools have a good NEET qualification rate in general. Despite having the lowest student dropout rate by Class XII, Tamil Nadu has a relatively low NEET qualification rate (better by 9 percentage points since 2018), unlike Punjab and Kerala. By **Varun B. Krishnan**

State	Children aged 17-18 (lakh)*	Dropout rate (%)	NEET qualification rate 2019 (%)	Change since 2018	% aged 17-18 who cleared NEET 2019	No. of students per CBSE school
Delhi	6.54	21.4	73.73	-1.19	3.46%	305
Haryana	10.43	14.8	72.59	-0.82	2.16%	628
Andhra Pradesh	29.81	N/A	72.55	1.83	1.31%	9,033
Rajasthan	33.77	20.4	69.66	-4.64	1.92%	2,981
Punjab	10.00	16	68.61	2.68	0.95%	733
Kerala	11.00	14.4	66.74	0.15	6.67%	819
Karnataka	20.74	N/A	63.51	0.26	3.13%	2,121
Bihar	63.08	53.6	60.15	2.54	0.70%	7,119
Odisha	16.90	32.1	59.44	-1.24	1.14%	3,657
West Bengal	35.75	44.9	59.38	0.8	1.03%	10,578
Uttar Pradesh	106.96	25.8	58.61	-1.22	0.79%	3,180
Madhya Pradesh	35.04	28.1	50.15	-0.79	0.76%	2,830
Tamil Nadu	24.30	13.8	48.57	9.01	2.46%	2,500
Gujarat	24.46	31.7	45.09	-1.26	1.44%	5,150
Maharashtra	42.76	14.4	39.26	-0.31	1.90%	4,559

* No. of students aged 17-18 is projected from the 2011 Census. Figures in the table are approximations based on this. Dropout rates for Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh were not available in the District Information System for Education

■ In States such as Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan, the NEET qualification percentage could be higher because of coaching centres despite the availability of CBSE schools being lower

■ Calculations projected from the Census 2011 figures show that Tamil Nadu and Kerala are among the States where the proportion of 17-18-year-olds who appear and qualify for NEET is high (compared to the total no. of 17-18-year-olds in other States). This is because these States have a low dropout rate

■ Tamil Nadu has shown the highest improvement in NEET qualification percentage since 2018. With comparatively lower dropout rates, States like Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have the potential to train a higher percentage of 17-18-year-olds

Source: NEET results, Census 2011, DISE, CBSE

FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 10, 1969

Nixon announces troops withdrawal from Viet Nam

President Nixon yesterday [June 8] announced at his summit talks here [Midway Island] with the South Viet Nam's President Nguyen Van Thieu that 25,000 American troops would be withdrawn from Viet Nam by the end of August and that more pullbacks would take place as events justified. Shortly after Mr. Nixon disclosed the first unilateral U.S. withdrawal in the war, President Thieu denied that he and Mr. Nixon had differences over political problems blocking a peace settlement. The two Presidents displayed a united front when they appeared before reporters to issue a joint communique after their five hours of talks on this desolate mid-Pacific island. The two Presidents rejected any attempt to impose a coalition Government on South Viet Nam, but said they would respect any decision arrived at by the South Viet Namese people through free elections.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 10, 1919.

Education of Mahomedans.

The subject of improving the education of the Mahomedan community is receiving the anxious attention of the Travancore Government. It is reported that the number of Mahomedans of school-going age is about 34,000 and the number attending schools and colleges is 11,066, of which 10,505 are in vernacular schools, and 556 in English schools. The educational opportunities offered to the community, such as free primary education, and half-fees in higher classes of schools and colleges, have not helped to raise the community out of the slough of apathy. The Director of Public Instruction in Travancore was requested to enquire into the reasons for this indifference. He has come to the conclusion, and Government agree with him, that for securing better attendance of Mahomedan pupils, it is necessary to afford facilities for teaching the Koran.

CONCEPTUAL

Miracle of aggregation

POLITICS

This refers to a theory in favour of democracy which states that even when a large number of uninformed people vote in an election, the policy outcomes of such an election can turn out to be rational. This is said to happen because the ignorant choices of some voters, it is believed, will be more than compensated for by the intelligent choices of the rest of the voters who will sufficiently influence the final verdict. The miracle of aggregation theorem is considered to be an example of the wisdom of crowds. It has, however, been criticised by certain political scientists who claim that voting data suggest irrational voters heavily influence election outcomes.

MORE ON THE WEB

Ecologists have 596 reasons to cheer

<http://bit.ly/596species>

FROM PAGE ONE



PM Modi inspecting the Guard of Honour in Colombo on Sunday. Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena is also seen. •PTI

Terrorism is a joint threat, says PM

Mr. Modi also planted a sapling of an evergreen Ashoka tree at the President's house.

"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 President tweeted.

Mr. Wickremesinghe, tweeting on Mr. Modi's visit, said he looked forward to holding discussions including on increasing multi-lateral investment projects and collaboration in counter-terror actions.

Former President and Leader of Opposition Mahinda Rajapaksa called on Mr. Modi at India House, the official residence of the Indian envoy in Colombo.

Mr. Modi met a delegation of the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), led by senior

politician R. Sampanthan, representing the war-affected Tamil minority from the island's north and east.

New Constitution

According to sources, the Tamil leadership emphasised that India urge the Sri Lankan government to frame a new Constitution, as had been promised by Mr. Sirisena and Mr. Wickremesinghe, when their coalition came to power in 2015.

India has historically been one of the arbiters for a political solution to Sri Lanka's Tamil question.

According to TNA spokesman M.A. Sumanthiran who attended the meeting, Mr. Modi assured the Tamil leaders that "India was conscious" of their demand. Further, he told them that he looked forward to meeting them soon in New Delhi, for a discussion on India's possible role in nudging the Sri Lankan leadership towards a new Constitution.

All States can constitute Foreigners Tribunals

The 1964 order on Constitution of Tribunals said: "The Central Government may by order, refer the question as to whether a person is not a foreigner within meaning of the Foreigners Act, 1946 (31 of 1946) to a Tribunal to be constituted for the purpose, for its opinion." The amended order issued last week says - "for words Central Government may", the words "the Central Government or the State Government or the Union Territory administration or the District Collector or the District Magistrate may" shall be substituted.

The MHA sanctioned around 1,000 Tribunals to be set up in Assam in the wake of publication of the final NRC by July 31. As per di-

rections of the Supreme Court, the Registrar General of India (RGI) published the final draft list of NRC on July 30 last year to segregate Indian citizens living in Assam from those who had illegally entered the State from Bangladesh after March 25, 1971.

The amended Foreigners (Tribunal) Order, 2019 also empowers individuals to approach the Tribunals. "Earlier only the State administration could move the Tribunal against a suspect, but with the final NRC about to be published and to give adequate opportunity to those not included, this has been done. If a person doesn't find his or her name in the final list, they could move the Tribunal," said a senior official.

Formal education proposed from age of 3

The draft Policy praises the contribution of anganwadis to improving health and nutrition, but notes that their record in education is not so strong. "Anganwadis are currently quite deficient in supplies and infrastructure for education; as a result, they tend to contain more children in the 2-4 year age range and fewer in the educationally critical 4-6 year age range; they also have few teachers trained in or specially dedicated to early childhood education," says the draft Policy.

Three languages

The draft Policy suggests a new integrated curricular framework for 3 to 8-year olds with a flexible system based on play, activity and discovery, and beginning exposure to three languages

from age 3 onwards. This framework would be implemented by training and strengthening anganwadi capabilities and linking them to a local primary school, co-locating anganwadis and pre-schools with primary schools, or building stand-alone pre-schools also linked to a local primary school.

All aspects of early childhood education must come under the HRD Ministry, says the draft Policy, just as health services in anganwadis lie with the Health Ministry.

A joint task force from Health, HRD and WCD will draft "a detailed plan outlining the operational and financial implications of the integration of early childhood education with the school education system".

Two more scribes held

"The police action is high-handed and arbitrary, and amounts to an authoritarian misuse of laws. The Guild sees it as an effort to intimidate the press and stifle freedom of expression," it said in a statement.

"Whatever the accuracy of the woman's claims, to re-

gister a case of criminal defamation against the journalists for sharing it on the social media and airing it on a television channel is a brazen misuse of law," it said. The Guild pointed out that the Uttar Pradesh police filed the case *suo motu*.

(With PTI inputs)

Murder and mayhem shock West Bengal again

Two BJP workers, one Trinamool activist killed in North 24 Parganas

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
SANDESHKHALI

It all started on Saturday afternoon when Trinamool supporters tried to raise their party flag on the shop of a BJP worker at Bhangipara village in Sandeshkhali block of North 24 Parganas district in West Bengal.

On Sunday morning, the village of just 20 houses, built close to each other and mostly with thatched roofs, woke up to the wailing of women. The shop and a number of houses were ransacked and bloodstains on the alleys spoke of the violence the previous evening.

The bodies of BJP supporters Pradip Mondal and Sukanta Mondal and Trinamool worker Abdul Kayum Mollah were recovered from the village and its adjoining areas.

People of Bhangipara said Devdas Mondal, who was chased and attacked by Tri-



Deadly politics: Zebunissa, wife of Trinamool Congress worker Abdul Kayum Mollah, and, right, Kinubala Mondal, mother of BJP supporter Sukanta Mondal, mourning their loss. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

namool supporters, remained missing.

Repeatedly attacked

Between her sobs, Pradip's wife's, Padma, narrated how her husband was chased out of the village into the fish ponds and repeatedly attacked by several men. Bibha Mondal, sister of 24-year-old Sukanta, said the violence started around 4 p.m. "We all hid in the houses or on the roof as the men fled. It was only after dusk had descended that we found the bodies from the fish ponds

(bheries) and brought them to the village," the college student said.

Pradip, Sukanta and Devdas are relatives and were active BJP workers. The villagers said the BJP had secured a lead of about 150 votes in the polling booth in the region, and tensions prevailed in the area even weeks after the Lok Sabha election result.

"I fell at the feet of one of the policemen as my husband ran for his life but they did nothing," Supriya, wife of Devdas, said.



About 7 km from Bhangipara, similar scenes played out at Rajbari Purba: 25-year-old Abdul Kayum Mollah hailed from the village. The Trinamool worker had married 21-year-old Zebunissa only a few months ago.

A delegation of Trinamool leaders visited the house of the slain worker. "Abdul Kayum Mollah was hacked to death by BJP workers. He was shot too," said State Minister Jyotipriya Mullick. Another Minister Tapas Roy said the incident occurred as "the BJP is in a hurry to come

to power in the State".

While Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee maintained silence, Governor K.N. Tripathi expressed concern over the violence. He is likely to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

Later in the evening, the situation turned more volatile when a delegation of BJP leaders, including MPs and State president Dilip Ghosh, tried to bring the bodies to Kolkata. A stand-off with the police ensued, but the BJP called off the plan.

Situation is under control: State to Centre

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Sunday issued an advisory to the West Bengal government expressing "deep concern" over continued violence in the State.

The advisory, sent on the instructions of Home Minister Amit Shah, said, "It is strongly advised to ensure that all necessary measures are taken to maintain law and order, peace and public tranquillity."

In response, State Chief Secretary Malay Kumar De wrote to the Ministry, saying the situation was "under control". "There have been a few stray post-poll clashes perpetrated by some anti-social elements, the law enforcement authorities have been taking firm and appropriate actions without any delay."

(With PTI inputs)

Pre-Budget talks to begin this week

Finance Minister will meet experts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
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 and 23.

The State Finance Ministers are also expected to give their suggestions for Budget 2019-20 to the Centre during the GST Council meeting slated for June 20.

Ms. Sitharaman will be presenting the full Budget on July 5. In her Budget, the 59-year-old JNU alumnus will have to address a slowing economy, financial sector troubles such as the rising non-performing assets and a liquidity crisis in non-banking finance companies, job creation, private investments, exports revival, agrarian crisis and raising public investment without compromising on fiscal prudence.



Nirmala Sitharaman

The Minister would start the pre-Budget consultation by meeting the members of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC) and seek their views on the state of the economy and the way forward.

Over the fortnight, the Minister is likely to meet agriculture sector experts, banks, financial institutions and industry chambers.

With a view to making the Budget more participative and inclusive, the government has sought inputs from citizens on the government's 'mygov.in' portal by June 20.

JD(U) to go it alone outside Bihar

Party will not be part of NDA for Assembly polls in Delhi, Jharkhand, J&K, Haryana

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

At its national executive meeting here on Sunday, the Janata Dal(U) announced that it would not be part of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance outside Bihar and would contest the Assembly elections in Delhi, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir and Haryana on its own.

The party, however, said it would contest the Bihar Assembly election due next year in alliance with the BJP.

Senior JD(U) leader K.C. Tyagi said party presidents in the four States had been asked to start preparations for the Assembly elections and identify the seats to contest.

"We are part of the NDA only in Bihar... outside Bihar, the JD(U) is not part of the NDA," he said.

Recently, the JD(U) was recognised as a State party in Arunachal Pradesh after it won seven seats in the 60-member Assembly.

Contrary to expectations, Prashant Kishor, party national vice-president and poll strategist, did not ex-



Exchanging views: (from left) JD(U)'s K.C. Tyagi, Prashant Kishor and Bihar CM Nitish Kumar in Patna on Sunday. •ANI

plain his position at the meeting, in view of his recent meeting with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over the Assembly election in her State in 2021.

On Saturday, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar told presspersons that Mr. Kishor would explain his stand.

"The JD(U) has no problem with what his [Mr. Kishor's] organisation does for making poll strategies for different political parties... but he will explain on his own about his recent meeting

with Ms. Banerjee," Mr. Kumar said.

'Given go ahead'

Mr. Kishor was seen sitting next to Mr. Kumar at the Sunday meeting, but he did not give any "explanation" to the party men or to the media on his discussions with Ms. Banerjee.

Party sources, though, told *The Hindu* that ahead of the national executive meeting, Mr. Kishor had an hour-long chat with Mr. Kumar and he, perhaps, had re-

ceived the go-ahead for his "poll strategy contract with Ms. Banerjee".

Mr. Tyagi told presspersons that "the party has no problem with Mr. Kishor's organisation working with the Trinamool or any other political party... the JD(U) has no relation with his work, and our party president has already made the issue clear on Saturday."

Party leader and Rajya Sabha member R.C.P. Singh, though, said Mr. Kishor's issue was not on the agenda of Sunday's meeting.

Asked about any rift between the BJP and the JD(U) over allocation of berths in the Union Cabinet, Mr. Tyagi said, "We refused Central berths and had not put forth any names for them. Amit Shahji had called up Nitishji multiple times in this regard and our CM said no to him every time."

Asserting that there were no differences between the two alliance partners, he said, "Nitishji had campaigned for Narendra Modi's prime ministership at 171 public meetings."

CPI(M) stands by Sabarimala stance

Party Central Committee discusses reasons for its Lok Sabha poll debacle

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) has applauded Pinarayi Vijayan-led Kerala government's stand on the Sabarimala shrine, against the popular sentiment," one of the CC members told *The Hindu*.

Though the party conceded that it failed to counter the propaganda of both the Congress and the BJP on the issue in time, which meant that a large chunk of Hindu votes that traditionally the party got stayed away. "A serious course correction is required which means that the party will have to have a mass outreach programme

stand on the Sabarimala controversy and concluded that the Kerala government was right in implementing the Supreme Court verdict allowing entry of women to the Sabarimala shrine, against the popular sentiment," one of the CC members told *The Hindu*.

Though the party conceded that it failed to counter the propaganda of both the Congress and the BJP on the issue in time, which meant that a large chunk of Hindu votes that traditionally the party got stayed away. "A serious course correction is required which means that the party will have to have a mass outreach programme



Pinarayi Vijayan

to speak to the devotees to clear the air on party's stand on the issue," another member from Kerala said.

Achuthanandan's letter
Former Kerala Chief Minister V.S. Achuthanandan's letter was read out at the meeting. According to sources, he

said that in Kerala "individualism" has trumped over the party programme and there is a serious lack of introspection.

A similar mass outreach will be launched in Tripura and West Bengal too. Following the 2014 Lok Sabha election in which the CPI(M) won nine seats, a plenum was held in Kolkata where a voluminous report was released to bring changes at both micro and macro levels in the party's machinery and functioning. The CC has asked all State units to submit a report in three months on the progress made in implementing the road map suggested in the plenum.

Pawar flays Modi's Balakot air strike claim

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

Stating that the surgical strikes carried out by the Air Force against Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) training camps actually took place in Kashmir and not in Pakistan, veteran Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Sharad Pawar on Sunday lambasted the Prime Minister's oft-reiterated assertion of "entering the enemy's home and killing him".

Addressing people and party workers in a live chat



Sharad Pawar

on Facebook, Mr. Pawar further accused Mr. Modi and the BJP of indulging in opportunistic politics for petty electoral gain, and for "threatening the country's social harmony".

"It made a great impression on the people, especially the youth, when they perceived Mr. Modi talking tough on Pakistan after the Pulwama terror strike... However, people do not know what's going on in the Line of Control (LoC) and have no access to information on the exact situation there. So, after the PM's triumphal announcement of the Balakot air strikes, the public thought some action had been taken against Pakistan whereas the strikes took

place in Kashmir," said the NCP chief.

The NCP chief highlighted the BJP's superior use of social media to reach out to the electorate. "For the past years, the BJP led by Mr. Modi made several attractive promises... But whether they have delivered on them or not, the BJP has certainly 'marketed' their promises better than us," Mr. Pawar said, urging party workers to "market" their work better to the public ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly poll.

Move ED under Home Ministry, MP urges Modi

'Finance Ministry officials lack training'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

BJP MP from Jharkhand, Nishikant Dubey, has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking that the Enforcement Directorate (ED), which investigates crimes related to money laundering, be shifted from its current parent Finance Ministry to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Mr. Dubey said most of the cases registered under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) are for offences under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) or Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act or the Arms Act and others.

Under the present system, the ED cannot independently register a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and it has to mandatorily take cognizance of a case re-

gistered under other laws like the IPC, NDPS or the Passport Act among others. "The ED predominantly consists of officers from the Finance Ministry who do not have adequate expertise or training in matters pertaining to the IPC or other such laws," Mr. Dubey said, adding that knowledge of such laws is an essential prerequisite to deal with PMLA matters.

"Given that majority of the scheduled offences are in the domain of the Ministry of Home Affairs, it is a natural corollary that the PMLA must be moved to the ministry and also the ED," he said.

The MP said shifting the ED to the Home Ministry made more sense also because it is being headed by Amit Shah "who is decisive, pro-active and unbiased".

APPEAL

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All correspondence is done through WWS, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, Flat No.GF 1, Cordell Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/2823524 E-Mail ID: womenswelfaretrust@gmail.com Website: www.womenswelfaretrust.org

WWS

IN BRIEF



Singhvi criticises FIR against journalist

NEW DELHI
Calling the "detention" of journalist Prashant Kanojia illegal and arbitrary, Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi on Sunday urged the Allahabad High Court to take suo motu cognisance of case. The U.P. police on Saturday booked Mr. Kanojia for sharing an allegedly objectionable post against Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. **PTI**

Woman saves Muslim family from mob

ALIGARH
Days after the killing of a two-year-old girl fuelled tension in Uttar Pradesh's Aligarh district, a 24-year-old woman saved a Muslim family from getting attacked by a mob on Sunday, police said. The incident occurred when the family from Balabgarh, Haryana, was travelling in a van to attend an engagement. One of the travellers, Shafi Mohammad Abbasi, said the goons 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," a visibly-shocked Mr. Abbasi told the media here. **PTI**

Aerial search for An-32 stalled for second day

NEW DELHI/TANAGAR
Aerial search operation to trace the missing transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force could not be undertaken for the second consecutive day on Sunday due to bad weather in remote Mechuka in Arunachal Pradesh. However, ground troops continued their search for the missing aircraft in the mountainous area for the seventh consecutive day. "No search and rescue operation could take place on Sunday due to bad weather and low clouds," a Shillong-based spokesperson of the Indian Air Force said. **PTI**

Bank raid has political message

Officials say action in J&K part of Centre's crackdown on corruption in State

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

A day after J&K Bank Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Parvez Ahmed was removed from his post, the government said the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) would probe his "meteoric rise from a chartered accountant" to the bank's top position in just 15 years.

Mr. Ahmed was appointed chairman in October 2016, when Mehbooba Mufti was the Chief Minister, with the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in an alliance with the BJP. Mr. Ahmed's three-year tenure was to end in October.

Nepotism charge

A senior government official said Mr. Ahmed's removal and subsequent searches in his office were part of an effort by the Union Home Ministry to "crackdown on corruption, nepotism,



Surprise action: A team of the Anti-Corruption Bureau and the police searched J&K Bank in Srinagar. **•NISSAR AHMED**

favouritism", and a strike against the "back-door non-transparent employment" encouraged by him.

"It is also to bring transparency and accountability in the functioning of the bank while ensuring compliance with RBI [Reserve Bank of India] directives to bring checks and balances," the official said.

"He had his nephew, Muzafer, posted to his office immediately after taking over

as Chairman. His daughter-in-law, Shazia Ambreen, was appointed a probationary officer and is currently heading the Hazratbal branch," the official said.

The J&K government owns a 59% stake in the bank. The State is under President's Rule and the ACB was constituted a few months ago.

The official said the ACB was investigating the alleged role of Mr. Ahmed in spend-

ing "₹8 crore from corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds on the beautification of the Royal Spring Golf Course in Srinagar, which is a [place of] rendezvous for the elite and has no utility for common people".

The action against the J&K Bank Chairman and the investigation into alleged backdoor appointments, "irregularities, loot and plunder" are intended to cleanse the system, a government official said, requesting anonymity.

J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik on Saturday removed Mr. Ahmed from the post of CMD. The ACB also raided the bank's headquarters.

After his removal, Mr. Ahmed said on Twitter that he was "open to scrutiny" on each and every transaction he had done. He said he had done his job "most diligently, honestly and in the best interest of the institution".

Id fervour



Message of unity: Lieutenant-General K.J.S. Dhillion, Chinar Corps Commander, celebrates Id Milan with defence employees and their families in Srinagar. **•ANI**

36 luxury duplex flats await new Lok Sabha members

The four-bedroom residences have modern amenities

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI**

Thirty-six new four-bedroom duplex flats, each complete with a modular kitchen and office space, are waiting for newly elected MPs in North Avenue in Lutyens' Delhi.

The flats, which offer a view of the Rashtrapati Bhavan, will be handed over to the Lok Sabha Secretariat by June-end for allotment to the MPs, a senior government official says.

The official says the low-rise buildings are equipped with solar panels, LED lights, basement parking for two cars each and modern amenities.

"The flats have been constructed at a cost of around ₹80 crore against the sanctioned cost of ₹92 crore," he says. The Central Public Works Department started the work in October 2017 after demolishing the old flats



New to Lutyens' Delhi: Mimi Chakraborty and Nusrat Jahan, MPs-elect, at Parliament House. The new Lok Sabha has over 300 first-time MPs. **•PTI**

built several decades ago. "According to the plan, the old flats located in South and North Avenues which were built a long time ago, will be demolished in a phased manner and new ones will be constructed there," he says.

Nearly 300 of the MPs-elect are first-timers, and they include ex-cricketer Gautam Gambhir, Union Ministers Ravi Shankar Prasad and Smriti Irani, Sufi singer Hans Raj Hans and Bengali actors Mimi

Chakraborty and Nusrat Jahan Rishi.

The government has arranged temporary accommodation for 350 MPs till the time they are allotted full-time residences. In the past, new MPs used to stay in five-star hotels, but the Lok Sabha Secretariat no longer book them as part of cost-cutting steps. The first session of the 17th Lok Sabha begins on June 17, and the first two days will be spent on the swearing-in of the members.

India protests as Canadian city revokes nod to hoist Tricolour

Mayor withdraws permission on insistence of Sikh activists

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

India lodged a very strong protest after a Mayor in Canada denied permission to hoist the national flag at an Indo-Canadian community event. The incident took place in Oakville, Greater Toronto, where the Indian Consul-General Dinesh Bhatia was to hoist the Indian tricolour to mark the founding of the Oakville Indo-Canadian Association at the

Town Hall. A source said on Sunday that India took up the issue and protested "very strongly" with Mayor Rob Burton who denied permission at the last moment. It is learnt that Mr. Bhatia met the Mayor.

Though India has raised the issue at appropriate levels, the source said, the incident basically indicates that the Mayor was misled by some local elements. Hoisting of the Indian flag

was part of the programme and guests were accordingly informed. However, the mayoral decision left the gathering disappointed. The decision was reportedly taken after a few local Sikh activists objected to the event as it was being organised around the time of the 35th anniversary of Operation Bluestar.

Oakville is part of Greater Toronto and is home to many Indian immigrants.

CAPF personnel's retirements and benefits stalled

Delhi High Court ruled that the policy of different superannuation ages is unconstitutional

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI**

Hundreds of retirements and pension procedures of personnel of four Central armed police forces (CAPFs) have been stuck since May 31 as the Home Ministry is yet to take a decision over fixing a benchmark superannuation age in these uniformed services.

The headquarters of the

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the Border Security Force (BSF), the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) here have been continuously getting messages from their field units, seeking directions on the way forward. But they are being asked to "maintain status quo till the government takes a final decision", multiple of-

ficials in these forces said.

These forces have issued a number of orders putting on hold an action till the Ministry and the Department of Personnel and Training take a final decision.

The ceremonial farewells and processing of retirement papers have been halted for hundreds of personnel from the constabulary up to the commandant level (senior

superintendent of police equivalent) since May 31, the officials said. While some forces have asked the retirees to stay at home, others have asked them to keep coming to office but refrain from doing any work, they added.

In an order in January, the Delhi High Court called the current policy of different superannuation ages in the

four forces "discriminatory and unconstitutional", and said it created two classes in the uniformed forces. This led to the confusion.

All personnel in the Central Industrial Security Force and the Assam Rifles retire at the age of 60. However, in the four forces, those from the ranks of constable to commandant retire at 57, but those above them at 60.

India and Myanmar to hold high-level meeting

Ram Madhav greets the delegation

**IBOYAIMA LAITHANGBAM
IMPHAL**

India and Myanmar will hold a high-level meeting in Imphal on Tuesday to bring the two countries closer. A nine-member team of Myanmar, led by Aung Moe Nyo, Chief Minister of the Magway region government, arrived at Moreh, Manipur's border town, on Sunday.

Ram Madhav, BJP general secretary in charge of party affairs in the Northeast, flew to Moreh despite inclement weather and welcomed the team members at the international bridge. Later, Mr. Madhav accorded them a warm welcome at the hotel where the delegates stay. The Myanmarese Ambassador to India, Moe Kyaw Aung, is in the team. They will hold bilateral talks with top-ranking officials of India during the meeting in Imphal.

As a part of its "Act East" policy, India and Myanmar have shared a cordial relationship. India has been extending development assistance to Myanmar over these years. The Myanmarese Army



Ram Madhav

has been over-running some military and administrative camps of Northeast militant groups taking shelter in Myanmar. Assam Rifles personnel have also been destroying the camps of some militant groups in some hill districts of Manipur.

The previous Home Minister, Rajnath Singh, had claimed that insurgency in the Northeast was petering out.

Mr. Madhav underlined the need to revamp the transport system in and around Imphal. Security measures in Manipur have been beefed up to ensure there is no untoward incident during the stay of the Myanmar Chief Minister.

Sukhois to be tipped with BrahMos ahead of deadline

Balakot strikes and Pak. retaliation have spurred the move

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI**

Weeks after the Balakot air strikes, the government decided to fast-track arming over 40 Sukhoi fighter jets with the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, a closely guarded strategic project aimed at bolstering the combat capability of the Indian Air Force, official sources said on Sunday.

They said Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. and BrahMos Aerospace Ltd. were told to complete the work much before the December 2020 deadline. In 2016, the government decided to fit the air-launched variant of BrahMos in over 40 Sukhoi jets. The work started by 2017-end, but it has been progressing slowly, the sources said.

A review on ways to strengthen the Air Force against the backdrop of the Balakot air strikes and Pakistani retaliation concluded that the early integration of BrahMos with the Sukhois should be a priority, they said.



More teeth: The missile is expected to extend the strategic reach of the combat aircraft. **•VIJAY SONEJI**

It was felt that the planned induction of Rafale aircraft equipped with the Meteor beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile, procurement of the S-400 air-defence missile system and integration of BrahMos with the Sukhois would provide India a significant advantage over the Pakistani Air Force.

One view in the IAF is that had it possessed high levels of "technological asymmetry", Pakistan could have been dealt a heavy blow during its aerial raid on February 27.

The government is undertaking several measures to

strengthen the Air Force's combat prowess, the sources said, adding that the HAL had been specifically told to put additional manpower and resources to fast-track the BrahMos project.

Once the weapon is integrated with the combat fleet, the IAF's capability to strike from large stand-off ranges on any target in sea or land is expected to go up manifold. The missile, coupled with the superlative performance of the Sukhoi aircraft, will give the IAF a strategic reach and allow it to dominate the ocean and land battlefields, an IAF assessment says.

Sadhvi Prachi stopped from visiting Aligarh

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ALIGARH**

Hindutva leader Sadhvi Prachi was denied permission on Sunday to visit Tappal township here, which was rocked by the murder of a toddler, a senior police officer said.

The police used mild force to break up a crowd that demanded justice for the two-and-a-half-year-

old girl, who was reportedly strangled after her father failed to repay a loan of ₹10,000, he said.

Senior Superintendent of Police Akash Kulhari said security was tightened at Tappal. "The police denied permission to Hindutva leader Sadhvi Prachi to visit Tappal on Sunday. She was stopped at the border..." he said.

Two lakh Indians to perform Haj

**SHAMMI MONDAL
MUMBAI**

Union Minister of Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Sunday claimed that the quota for Indians to perform Haj has increased from 1,32,000 pilgrims in the last five years, the highest number since Independence.

Mr. Naqvi was addressing a press conference at the Haj House where he launched an online portal <http://haj.nic.in/pto/> and a mobile App (HPFS) for the better organisation and experience of all Indian pilgrims.

The Union Minister credited the increase in Haj pilgrims over the last five years to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said this could be brought about by communicating with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia. "The number of Indian Haj Pilgrims is more than that of Pakistan and the quota is most likely to increase," he said.

**CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**

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upto:19-06-2019 @ 16:00 Hrs
Last date and time for submission of bid:
upto: 24-06-2019 @ 15:00 Hrs
The bid forms and other details can be seen on websites
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ELSEWHERE



'U.S. could ease curbs on Huawei if deal is reached'
U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on Sunday that President Donald Trump might ease U.S. 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. **REUTERS**

'Don't allow a Muslim Prabhakaran to be born'

COLOMBO
Warning against the emergence of a "Muslim Prabhakaran", Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena has called for unity among all communities in the country. Speaking in Mullaitivu, Mr. Sirisena urged the Sri Lankan public "not to leave room for a 'Muslim Prabhakaran' to be born," *Colombo Gazette* reported. **PTI**

New extradition Bill rocks Hong Kong

Protest against proposed law, which will allow expulsion of suspects to China, unites lakhs of marchers

**REUTERS
HONG KONG**

Hong Kong was plunged into a fresh political crisis on 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 that 10,30,000 people took part, far outstripping a demonstration in 2003 when half that number hit the streets to successfully challenge government plans for tighter national security laws.

A police spokesman said police estimated 2,40,000 were on the march "at its peak".

'Withdraw and resign'

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 with-



Preserving autonomy: Protesters in Hong Kong marching along a downtown street against the proposed amendments to an extradition law. **AP**

draw the Bill and resign," veteran Democratic Party lawmaker James To told crowds gathering outside the city's Parliament and government headquarters in the Admiralty business district on Sunday night. "The whole of Hong Kong is against her."

Riot police armed with batons and helmets were gathering while government-funded broadcaster RTHK reported that they used pepper spray on six masked men trying to block the road.

Ms. Lam had yet to comment on the rally and the fu-

ture of the Bill, which is due to be debated in the Legislative Council on Wednesday and could be passed into law by the end of June. Ms. Lam has tweaked the amendments but refused to pull the Bill, saying it is vital to plug a long-standing "loophole".

The demonstration capped weeks of growing outrage in the business, diplomatic and legal communities, which fear corrosion of Hong Kong's legal autonomy and the difficulty of ensuring basic judicial protections in mainland China.

United in opposition

Opposition to the Bill has united a broad range of the community, from usually pro-establishment business people and lawyers to students, pro-democracy figures and religious groups.

The amendments would simplify case-by-case arrangements to allow extradition of wanted suspects to jurisdictions, including mainland China, Macau and Taiwan, beyond the 20 with which Hong Kong already has extradition treaties.

Opponents of the Bill question the fairness and transparency of the Chinese court system and worry about Chinese security forces contriving charges.

Palestinians hit out at U.S. envoy's comments

Also warn of taking the issue to ICC

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
RAMALLAH**

Palestinian leaders said that a U.S. envoy's comments on Israel having the right to annex at least parts of the occupied West Bank showed that "extremists" are involved in White House policy on the issue.

In a statement late on Saturday in response to U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman's comments, a Palestinian government spokesman said some of those leading U.S. policy on the issue were "extremists" lacking in "political maturity."

The Palestinian Foreign Ministry said it was looking into filing a complaint with the International Criminal Court (ICC) on the issue. Palestine Liberation Organisation secretary general Saeb Erekat on Twitter called Mr. Friedman an "extreme ambassador of the settlers." "Their vision is about annexation of occupied terri-



Palestinian official Saeb Erekat. **REUTERS**

tory, a war crime under international law," he said.

Mr. Erekat also renewed a Palestinian call for countries to boycott a June 25-26 conference in Bahrain to discuss economic aspects of a peace deal the White House has been working on.

In an interview published on Saturday, Mr. Friedman said some degree of annexation of the West Bank would be legitimate. "Under certain circumstances, I think Israel has the right to retain some, but unlikely all, of the West Bank," he said.

Europeans are in no position to criticise Iran, says Javad Zarif

'Western policies have only caused damage in the region'

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN**

European countries are in "no position" to criticise Iran, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Sunday ahead of a visit by his German counterpart Heiko Maas.

Mr. Maas is due in Tehran on Monday, against a backdrop of Iranian pressure for Europe to uphold commitments made under a 2015 nuclear deal since abandoned by the U.S.

"Europeans are certainly in no position to criticise



Mohammad Javad Zarif. **REUTERS**

Iran, even about issues that have nothing to do with" the agreement, Mr. Zarif said.

European and Western

policies "have only caused damage in the region," Mr. Zarif said.

"Now some countries like Germany have stopped selling arms to Saudi Arabia for bombarding the people of Yemen, some other countries haven't done so," he added.

"In general, the West has allowed the autocratic regimes in our region to commit crimes."

Mr. Zarif said that Europeans have "a duty" to ensure that Iran's economic relations return to normal.

Trump confident of getting Mexico's cooperation

**REUTERS
WASHINGTON**

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Sunday that his administration will release additional details of its agreement with Mexico as he denied a news report that there were no new major commitments made by Mexico to stem a flow of Central American migrants at the U.S. southern border.

"...I have full confidence, especially after speaking to their President yesterday, that they will be very cooperative and want to get the job properly done," he tweeted. "Importantly, some things not mentioned

in yesterday press release, one in particular, were agreed upon. That will be announced at the appropriate time," he added. He did not elaborate on what that matter was.

The agreement expands a controversial programme that sends migrants seeking asylum in the U.S. to Mexico while their cases are being processed and boosts security at Mexico's southern border.

Mr. Trump also pushed back at a *New York Times* report that the deal consisted of commitments previously agreed by Mexico, calling it a "false report."

Parliament warns Sirisena against scuttling Easter attacks investigation

'Any public servant summoned is obliged to give evidence'

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO**

Sri Lanka's Parliament warned President Maithripala Sirisena not to scuttle an investigation into security lapses before the Easter suicide bombings, the Speaker's office said on Sunday.

The warning came after Mr. Sirisena said he would not cooperate with the parliamentary probe and would not allow defence or police officials to testify before the committee. Mr. Sirisena called an emergency Cabinet meeting on Friday to op-

pose the legislature's investigation into the attacks.

"Any public servant summoned by the PSC [Parliamentary Select Committee] is obliged to give evidence," Speaker Karu Jayasuriya said in a two-page response to Mr. Sirisena. "Officials are fully aware of the serious consequences if they fail to respond."

Officials at the Speaker's office said Mr. Jayasuriya made it clear to Mr. Sirisena that he will not call off the PSC and it will continue its public hearings. Evidence

before the parliamentary select committee, which began its publicly televised sittings late last month, has placed Mr. Sirisena in a poor light, suggesting that he failed to act on advance warning of the attacks.

Mr. Sirisena told his police top brass on Friday that he would not allow any police, military or intelligence personnel to testify. However, senior Defence Ministry sources said that in view of the Speaker's latest warning, they will have to cooperate with the committee.

Incumbent Tokayev set to win Kazakh election

He was handpicked by Nazarbayev

**REUTERS
ALMATY**

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the interim President of Kazakhstan handpicked by veteran leader Nursultan Nazarbayev as his successor, was to confirm his position on Sunday in an election triggered by Mr. Nazarbayev's resignation.

Hundreds of people protested on Sunday, criticising the election as undemocratic. But the smooth transition is positive news for its neighbours Russia and China as well as for foreign energy and mining companies who have invested hundreds of billions of dollars in the Central Asian state.

For many of its 12 million registered voters, Mr. Tokayev, a former Prime Minister and Foreign Minister,



A voter casting her franchise in Nur-Sultan. **REUTERS**

was the only familiar face among seven candidates in a brief and uneventful campaign.

Hundreds of people chanting "Shame!" staged protests in Almaty and Nur-Sultan, the capital that was named after Mr. Nazarbayev on Mr. Tokayev's suggestion.

'EU is now willing to re-open Brexit deal'

Hunt quotes conversation with Merkel

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON**

British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt, a contender to replace Theresa May as Prime Minister, said on Sunday that German Chancellor Angela Merkel had indicated that the European Union (EU) was willing to renegotiate the Brexit divorce deal.

Mr. Hunt said he spoke with Ms. Merkel at this week's D-Day commemorations and was convinced that changing Ms. May's agreement was possible.

"She said that of course with a new British Prime Minister we would want to look at any solutions you have," he told Sky News. "I'm absolutely clear that if we take the right approach to this, the Europeans would be willing to negotiate on the package." Mr. Hunt did not specify if he was referring to the withdrawal agreement which the EU has repeatedly insisted cannot be re-opened, or to the accompanying political declaration on future relations.

Meanwhile, former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, the frontrunner to replace Ms. May as Conservative leader and Prime Minister, said in an interview published on Sunday that he would refuse to pay Britain's £39 billion divorce bill until the EU agrees better withdrawal terms. He also signalled that he would scrap the backstop and try to settle the border issue once London and Brussels were negotiating their future relationship.

Bangladesh fishermen block highway

Several thousand fishermen blocked Bangladesh's busiest highway on Sunday, police said, as protests escalated over a two-month fishing ban in the Bay of Bengal.

The fishermen say the 65-day blockade — intended to replenish fish stocks — is driving them out of business. Their one-hour protest at the coastal town of Sitakunda caused tailbacks on the main road linking Dhaka and Chittagong.

Local police chief Suman Banik said the demonstration by 3,000 fishermen and their families was peaceful. They only cleared the road after a government administrator and a local Member of Parliament promised to help.

U.S. writer sues publisher after losing book deal due to tweet

Tynes had posted the photo of a worker eating on train

**ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON**

A writer who faced social media backlash for calling out a transit worker eating on a train sued her publisher on Friday after it cancelled her book deal over the controversy. Lawyers for Jordanian-American writer Natasha Tynes filed suit against publisher Rare Bird Lit. Inc. She's seeking \$13.4 million in damages.

In May, Ms. Tynes tweeted a picture of a worker eating on a Washington Metro train with the message: "When you're on your morning commute & see wmata employee in UNIFORM eating on the train I thought we were not allowed to eat on the train. This is unacceptable. Hope wmata responds."



Jordanian-American writer Natasha Tynes

Scores of Twitter users criticised her for shaming the black worker.

No ban on eating

A transit worker union official said at the time that woman had been taking a break while going from one job to another. The union official also noted that Metro Transit

police no longer enforces the ban on eating and drinking on trains. Ms. Tynes later apologised, deleted the tweet and took down her personal website.

But the publishing house condemned her comments and said it was cancelling her book deal. Ms. Tynes "did something truly horrible today in tweeting a picture of a metro worker eating her breakfast on the train this morning and drawing attention to her employer," Rare Birds said.

In the lawsuit, Ms. Tynes's lawyers say the company's inflammatory statements forced their client to temporarily flee back to Jordan with her family because they endured weeks of online harassment, including death threats and racial slurs.

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Poised for growth?

Senior Minister Nitin Gadkari, who has been given the portfolio of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), said recently that the Ministry would identify goods being imported by India and evaluate those that could be manufactured locally by MSMEs. This could possibly give a boost to the sector. Meanwhile, here's a snapshot of the arena. By Varun B. Krishnan

MORE RURAL ENTERPRISES

There are over six crore MSMEs in the country, as per the MSME Ministry's 2017-18 report. Of these, micro enterprises comprise the highest percentage. Rural enterprises are higher in percentage than urban

Sector	Rural	Urban	Total (in lakh units)
Micro	324.09	306.43	630.52
Small	0.78	2.53	3.31
Medium	0.01	0.04	0.05
Total	324.88	309	633.88
Share (%)	51	49	100

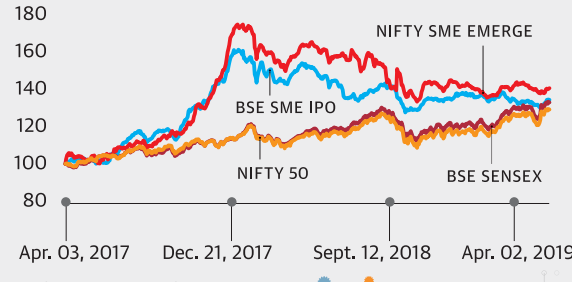
EMPLOYMENT SKEW

Though the number of rural enterprises is higher, urban MSMEs employ about 23% more people than rural ones. MSMEs employ about 11 crore people across the country

Sector	Rural	Urban	Total (in lakh nos.)
Micro	489.3	586.88	1076.19
Small	7.88	24.06	31.95
Medium	0.6	1.16	1.75
Total	497.78	612.1	1109.89
Share (%)	45	55	100

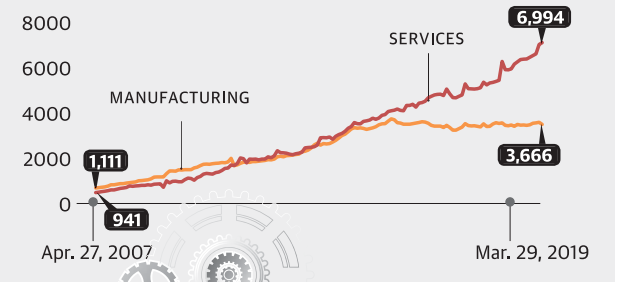
INDEX WATCH

After reaching a high in January, the NIFTY SME Emerge and BSE SME IPO* slowed down in subsequent months, but have picked up between May 15 and May 30, possibly buoyed by the Lok Sabha exit poll results and the results of the election



MORE CREDIT FROM BANKS

Bank credit to MSMEs has grown at a CAGR of 15% in the last decade, with the growth more accentuated in the services sector, which accounts for over 60% of the total bank credit disbursed to this sector



INTERVIEW | SRIVATS RAM

'Slow economy drives caution in decisions'

Hoping that new policy decisions will spur growth: Wheels India MD

K.T. JAGANNATHAN
K. BHARAT KUMAR

Wheels India recently announced its annual results. In the media conference, its Managing Director **Srivats Ram** was candid and said that the second half of the last financial year was in deep contrast to the previous six months. As he sees it, the economy has certainly slowed down. But he is also optimistic that the new government's policy announcements will spur investments by the September timeframe. Excerpts from an interview:

How will the trade war between China and the U.S. play out on India?

It depends on how long the trade war goes on in an unresolved mode. That will determine whether it becomes strategic or opportunistic. The difference is ... opportunistic is where companies look at it purely as a purchasing decision (to buy from an Indian manufacturer) ... and they just change the mix to give more to another country in the short-term.

Strategic view would be that when one of the manufacturing bases is in China and if the trade war looks like it is going to be prolonged, whether the U.S. companies would look at another country to make it an alternative manufacturing base.

Once the investment happens in a new country, then chances that it is short-term are lesser. It becomes more strategic because they have made an investment in a new country, changing the base from one to another. So, if the trade war goes on for a longer period, the chances are that they could look at this decision strategically and not opportunistically. While India is not the only choice, the country could well benefit from it in the manufacturing sector given that we have some scale.

What is your view on making investments in the current scenario?

Typically, when the economy grows fast like it did at the beginning of last year, it gives you confidence to make capacity additions. When the economy slows down like it has now, it makes you more guarded in making investments. That said, certain investments may take a longer period of time and companies may be open to making such long-term investments and may start the investment process now. There are investments that you make as an immediate reaction to the market scenario but there are also those that you make strategically.

One also has to bear in mind the technological and regulatory changes that are likely to take place – for example the emission norms changes and safety-related regulations. So, there is a technological and regulatory angle that can lead companies to make investments which are out of the pure volume growth-based investments. We generally tend to think of investments from a growth angle alone but there are these kinds of investments as well that companies make, regardless of the volume.

What, according to you, have been the reasons for the slowdown?

While you may not believe this as a reason for slowdown in CV and cars, the challenges in the financial services space last year did lead to a conservative approach and impact the lending cycle that had a cascading effect on the availability of funds in the manufacturing sector. When financial institutions took a hit, they reduced their exposure to other financial institutions who lend to the manufacturing sector. So, the amount of cash going to other financial institutions reduced.

As a result, when the money became tighter, these financial institutions began imposing newer and stricter norms for lending. It was a typical Indian reaction to risk – that of increasing regulation. By amending regulation, a step was added in the lending process. Regulation and conservatism led to a certain amount of contraction and slowness in the system. Now, this is the new normal.

When I did the budgeting a few months back, I thought I was being very pessimistic. But when I look at it now, it seems like I was quite optimistic. No one is sticking their neck out. It is a fact that economy has slowed down. Everyone has recognised that. Sentiment has undergone a change. At the same time, one cannot say that this will continue forever. With the new government coming to power and policy announcements, new impetus will help the economy grow and can change the sentiment very quickly.

By August-September, investments should start kicking in again.



U.S. is shooting itself in the foot on GSP

'Terminating India's beneficiary status will cost U.S. businesses over \$300 million in additional tariffs'

SRIVIDHYA RAGAVAN

After targeting China and Mexico, President Trump has declared a trade war on India. Unsurprisingly, the U.S. decided to terminate India's designation as a 'beneficiary developing country' under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) effective June 5, 2019.

Under the programme, India, as a developing country, enjoyed special trade benefits which allowed duty-free entry of Indian goods worth \$5.6 billion into the U.S.

The seeds for this discord were sown way back when the Trump administration introduced steel and aluminum tariffs under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, citing national security reasons. This subjected imported steel to a tariff, the burden of which would be borne by steel producers outside of the U.S., who stood to either lose a share of the market or a percentage of profits.

India was one of the countries affected by the U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs. India retaliated immediately and announced tariffs on U.S. imports worth about \$240 million although these are yet to take effect.

With a move to teach India a lesson, the U.S. had been threatening to withdraw India's benefits from the GSP system. The GSP preferential trade term forms a part of the trade obli-



Unfair practice: The withdrawal of India's Generalised System of Preferences benefits is a violation of trade terms. •GETTY IMAGES/STOCK

gation of the U.S., and is designed to positively impact the "development, financial and trade needs of developing countries." Internationally, the legal basis for the GSP programme is found in the Enabling Clause (EC), which is a platform established under the international trade regime of the World Trade Organization (WTO) for developed countries to offer preferential trade treatment on a non-reciprocal basis to products originating in developing countries.

Enabling clause

The reason for the non-reciprocal arrangement was that the Enabling Clause means to provide differential and more favourable treatment with a view to incentivising

developing countries and promote their fuller participation in global trade. Nationally, the U.S. trade obligations have been codified as part of the Trade Act of 1974 under which the GSP system has been established.

Under this system, the U.S. allows preferential duty-free entry for thousands of products from about 120-plus designated beneficiary countries, of which India is one. Thus, products from these countries enter the U.S. duty-free, provided the beneficiary developing countries meet the eligibility criteria.

The U.S. Trade Representative's (USTR) office-established eligibility criteria includes affording worker rights, prohibiting child la-

bour, ensuring occupational safety, etc.

In reality, the Coalition of GSP, which is a think-tank, estimates that the GSP programme ultimately benefits U.S. small businesses which import lower cost raw materials, which, in turn, lowers the cost of consumer products in the U.S.

The Trump administration's withdrawal of India's GSP benefits is a violation of the trade terms. That is, in a dispute that involved EC Tariffs, the WTO's Appellate Body (AB) considered special tariff preferences that EC extended to 12 of its trading partners to the exclusion of some others.

At that time, India challenged the EC's preferential trade programme. The AB

opined that GSP programmes can award different benefits to different developing countries on the condition that any such differential treatment should positively lead to the developmental and trade needs of developing countries, and it should be available to all similarly-situated countries.

Unfortunately, the withdrawal is not based on any criterion that is to be applied to other nations. Nor does this move by the U.S. benefit India. Indeed, it is intended as a sanction towards India and Turkey, thus making the U.S. move a positive violation of the WTO norms.

In reality, withdrawing India from the list of GSP beneficiaries will also hurt the U.S. First, a trade war with India will reportedly cost American businesses over \$300 million in additional tariffs, as per the Coalition for GSP's executive director Dan Anthony. Second, America's belligerent stance has not gone well with most trading partners. Operationally, in order to determine whether trade terms of other countries are fair, America uses the opinions of its industries and corporations.

That is, when the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) asserts that India or China's trade terms in, say seed imports, is not to America's benefit, it is not an impartial determination. USTR's judgments are based on its seed companies' submissions.

The world trading system is not based on the leadership of any one country. It is a mechanism to work with trade partners.

The U.S. action, unfortunately, seeks leadership among its trading partners and that hurts America first and its allies next.

(The author, an expert in international trade and intellectual property laws, serves as a Professor of Law at Texas A&M School of Law)

Premji thought, meant and did well

His commitment and passion to philanthropy are unparalleled

MINI TEJASWI

The czar of the Indian IT industry, Azim Premji, has decided to hang up his boots 53 years after he started his entrepreneurial journey. He will step down from his position as executive chairman and managing director of Wipro on July 31, leaving behind a rich corporate legacy. The succession plan he quietly put in place stands out in India Inc., which is known for succession stories riddled with controversies, infighting and bruised egos.

But that's not the only characteristic that makes him different from stiff-collared promoters and owners with whom one is familiar.

He is known for top-class business integrity, corporate governance, transparency and ethical values. He promoted openness and a non-hierarchical culture in his organisation, where speaking one's mind was the way of life and the organisation listened to people seriously.

T.K. Kurien, managing partner and chief investment officer at Premji Invest, a venture capital company set up by Azim Premji, says: "You join a job for opportunity. But one stays with a company for its high standard of ethics and values. That company is Wipro."

Mr. Premji gave philanthropy a different hue altogether. His passion and commitment towards philanthropy are unparalleled in India's history of giving.

"Premji is not a

cheque-writing philanthropist. He is deeply committed to difficult issues like primary education and enhancing quality of teaching. Whatever he does is completely black and white and he leaves no grey areas in anything," says Krishnakumar Natarajan, one of the co-founders of Mindtree. Mr. Natarajan began his career in Wipro and held various key positions before founding Mindtree. Mr. Premji is the second-richest Indian with a wealth pool of \$22.6 billion. The Premji family owns 74.3% of shares in Wipro.

Mr. Premji has pledged 67% of Wipro shares to charity and he is the first Indian to sign the Bill Gates' and Warren Buffett's 'Giving Pledge' initiative, donating 50% of his wealth.

Dileep Ranjekar, CEO, Azim Premji Foundation, who has worked with Mr. Premji in the last 43 years says: "To begin with, he is a good human being – everything emanates from there – he thought well, meant well and did well with no interest in

promoting self. He engaged high quality professionals to man critical roles.

Mr. Premji was barely 21 years old when he joined his father's company, Western Indian Vegetable Products.

1976 cooking oil crisis

The country witnessed a severe cooking oil shortage in 1976. Most players inflated the cost of their oils by multiple times and made a quick buck then, but Mr. Premji decided to continue to sell his Sunflower Vanaspati at the regular price.

"End of the day, his managers will go to sleep with peace and clean conscience. Because nobody can match Premji and his company when it comes ethical standards," added Mr. Kurien.

Following his father's sudden demise he had to discontinue his studies at Stanford University. Since then he has been at it with great focus, transforming the cooking oil company to a global tech giant with revenues of over \$ 8 billion. It was in 1977 Wipro got its name and it fo-

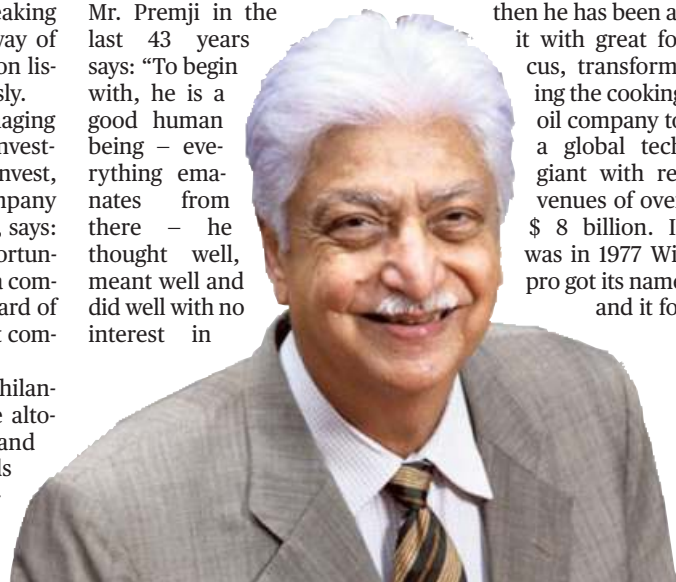
rayed into IT services business in 1982. Ashok Soota, who served as president of Wipro Infotech from 1984 to 1999, calls Mr. Premji a long-distance runner.

"He is someone who well understood the key parameters of success at a very early age. He was not hesitant to try new things. He is a man with no ego issues and he never overruled the decisions of any of his CEOs," says Mr. Soota, who later co-founded Mindtree and Happiest Minds.

Pradeep Kar, CMD of Mircroland, who started his career at Wipro in 1983 said: "My learnings from Azim's [he is fondly known as AHP] and Wipro's journey are many – hardwork, fairness and an egalitarian approach and a vision for a better world, and a faith that anything can be achieved through education and equal opportunity."

Co-founder of Infosys N.R. Narayana Murthy, in his media tribute to Mr. Premji on his completing 50 successful years in business three years ago wrote: "Azim is one of the finest exponents of good governance in India. He is the best example for separating management from control."

"Premji will go down in the annals of history as one of the iconic pioneers of India's IT sector. He has been a visionary entrepreneur, who has pursued his business with the highest values of good governance. His value system is reflected in his philanthropy," said Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, CMD, Biocon.



Demand dynamics: High demand and low availability had contributed to the price rise. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ginger turns spicier

Rhizome sold at ₹5,800 per 60-kg bag

E.M. MANOJ
KALPETTA

Ginger prices have been soaring, owing to arrival of lesser quantum of the commodity and high demand for the produce.

After six years, the spot price for ginger rhizome touched ₹5,800 a bag (60 kg) in Wayanad on Friday, as against ₹ 1,800-₹2,000 a bag in the corresponding period last year.

The price of ginger had shot up to ₹8,500 a bag in 2013. Farmers are anticipating that the prices would go up further during June-July this year.

Though the demand has increased, availability is restricted to some regions of Mysuru, Shivamogga, Chamarnaganagar and Dhara-wad districts of Karnataka, and some parts of Wayanad in Kerala, trading sources said. The availability of ginger in the market from the northern States and Nepal is also very low, which has contributed to the price rise, sources added.

Moreover, farmers are holding the produce, antici-

pating a better price in the coming months, the sources pointed out. The average price that ruled the market in the last five years was ₹600 to ₹700 a bag (60 kg), which resulted in the cultivating area reducing considerably this year.

Many a farmer would not get the benefits of the higher price as 85% of the commodity had already been harvested, N. Mo-hanan, general secretary, Kerala Ginger Growers' Association, (KGGA) told *The Hindu*.

According to trade circles in Wayanad, the momentum is likely to persist, considering the low availability of ginger.

The demand-supply gap of the commodity is expected to grow till August-end, when fresh stocks would begin to arrive in the market, a leading trader said.

Ginger cultivation by Kerala farmers on leased land in various parts of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Goa shrank considerably this year, after farmers incurred huge losses owing to the low price.

COMMODITY WATCH

ed, N. Mo-hanan, general secretary, Kerala Ginger Growers' Association, (KGGA) told *The Hindu*. According to trade circles in Wayanad, the momentum is likely to persist, considering the low availability of ginger. The demand-supply gap of the commodity is expected to grow till August-end, when fresh stocks would begin to arrive in the market, a leading trader said. Ginger cultivation by Kerala farmers on leased land in various parts of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Goa shrank considerably this year, after farmers incurred huge losses owing to the low price.

ASK US

VIDYA BALA

Q. I have an 11-year old son. I wish to know if there are schemes for young boys like Sukanya Samridhi for girl children. Do we have any good savings options? If not, please suggest some profitable options.

AARYA MITHRAN

A. As the government's intention is to encourage education, improve social status and financial security for girls, there are special schemes available for girl children. There is none specific to boys.

However, there are a plethora of profitable options to invest in.

You can use the public provident fund as a fixed, stable investment option. It has a 15-year lock-in period with option to withdraw 50% of the balance after five years.

There is also an option for premature closure after five years on specific medical grounds and educational requirements.

Keep this as a stable option. On top of it, you can consider investing in equity mutual funds through the systematic investment plan (SIP).

Start an SIP and keep increasing it every year based on your pay hikes, so that your rate of saving does not remain stagnant. Choose a combination of equity funds that will invest in large companies and those that will invest mid-sized, fast-growing companies.

Do not get swayed by short-term returns and go with those with a sound, long-term track record.

Q. I'm 19 years old. For the next 3 years, I will be able to save ₹15,000 per month on a consistent basis.

I am willing to invest this money every month to get a minimum return of 12% p.a over the next 3 years.

At the end of the 3-year period, I would like to allocate ₹6 lakh as emergency fund, buy a Royal Enfield Bike worth ₹2 lakh and ₹50,000 as miscellaneous expenses.

Waiting to get your valuable suggestion.

V. SIVA

A. You are starting with sound monthly savings. However, your return expectation is high for a three-year period.

For your time frame, we usually recommend fixed income options (deposits, debt mutual funds) and about a fourth in equities or equity funds. But your return expectation with this should not be more than 8-9%.

That would leave you with about ₹6 lakh at the most.

Focus on your target of buying a bike and use the remaining as emergency corpus. Invest 75% in a combination of recurring deposits and short duration debt funds and 25% in multicap equity funds. Use SIPs with MFs.

Q. I am an NRI and invested in mutual funds. If I become a Resident Indian and opt for monthly dividend option with a return of 10%, what will be the tax amount that will be deducted from my monthly dividend income?

Is there any other tax I need to pay? Shall I further invest in mutual funds or diversify my investments? These funds invested are for my retirement and should be repatriable if I migrate to another country.

S. RAMANATHAN

A. If you are saving for retirement, you should be using the growth option and not dividend option. Dividend option will not allow your wealth to compound. Also, dividend is not fixed nor guaranteed by any fund. Dividend distribution tax (DDT) of 29.12% will apply on debt funds and 11.648% on equity funds.

This will be deducted from your NAV directly and not as TDS.

This is the same whether you are an NRI or resident Indian. Apart from this, at the time of redemption, capital gains tax, if any, will apply. Yes, you can invest more in mutual funds. It will help build a good retirement corpus with diversification.

However, if you are an NRI in the U.S. or Canada and plan to continue there, there are too many restrictions and hassles involved. You can repatriate your investments if you change your residential status when you migrate and you change to a NRE account.

(The author is head, MF, Research, FundsIndia.com)

Readers can send in queries on personal finance and investing to moneywise@thehindu.co.in. Our experts who write on personal finance will answer these queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

A bank account for YOUR BABY

Banks today offer a wholesome bouquet of services for children right from new-borns to teenagers

PARVATHA VARDHINI C

Savings might have been synonymous with piggy banks when we were children, but not any longer. The needs and demands of today's children have multiplied and traditional methods of imparting a lesson or two on money are passé. Banks now offer special savings bank (SB) accounts for children replete with personalised debit cards, Internet banking, SIP and sweep options.

Account basics

Believe it or not, you can open an account in the name of your child the next time after you have seen her coming into the world. Predictably, the upper age limit stands at 18, beyond which the account can be converted into a normal savings account. Some banks such as Karur Vysya Bank set the upper limit for a child account at a lower age of 12 years.

While accounts can be opened even for a day-old child, most banks require it to be tagged to a 'guardian' account. The Indus Young Saver

It is child's play

- Accounts can be opened even for a one-day old child
- Upper age limit for opening such an account is 18 years
- Minors can operate account on their own
- Documentation for opening such accounts are quite simple

account from IndusInd Bank, for example, allows minors to open and operate an SB account on their own if they are over 12 years of age. Else, the account will be opened as an 'under guardian' account where the parent shall be operating it. Similarly, Punjab National Bank allows children only above 10 years of age to operate their accounts independently. In other cases, banks at least insist either the parent or the guardian of the child should also be an account holder in the same bank.

Documentation requirements for these accounts are

quite simple revolving broadly around providing photographs, proof of age of the minor, proof of identity and address. Standing instructions can be given to transfer money from the account of parents to the child's account.

Banks like KVB are among the conservative, adding almost no frills to its Jumbo Kids account except a debit/ATM card. But, Internet banking facilities, investment options as well as offers on cards are available aplenty. HDFC Bank offers 'sweep' facility to its 'Kid's Advantage Account.' Once the balance reaches/exceeds ₹35,000, the amount in excess of ₹25,000 will automatically be transferred to a fixed deposit for 1 year and 1 day, in the

child's name, fetching higher returns than what a normal SB account would bring. ICICI Bank's 'Young Star' account also offers money multiplier facility. This facility would teach a child ways to invest and earn more. Citibank introduces the world of stock markets to children by enabling investments into mutual fund SIPs from the account. An SIP begun early and continued for the long-term could help in creating a corpus for the child's higher education or other needs. Many banks offer different forms of insurance cover as an add-on. HDFC Bank, for example, offers free education insurance cover of ₹1 lakh in the event of death of parent or guardian from an accident. Kotak Bank offers exclusive discounts and privileges across shopping, dining and entertainment for children.

Food for thought

While there are many benefits that flow from making your kids financially independent-

dent, there are a few things you need to consider. One, you need to review the liberal spending limits that almost all banks offer. Yes, banks like Citibank allow parents to set limits on the child's debit card to curb expenses. Some such as PNB allow only 'view' facility on the Internet or in mobile banking in a bid to prevent transactions, and a few others hand out a debit card to children only after they reach a certain age.

But most banks offering these facilities give the child a

free hand. Would you give a debit card to your offspring with a daily spending or ATM withdrawal limit of ₹1,000/ ₹2,500/ ₹5,000? Not unless you are really rich or you want your children to become spendthrifts!

Second, the minimum balance requirements and the cost associated with these accounts also need to be taken into account. HDFC bank puts the average quarterly balance requirement at a somewhat high ₹5,000, though City Union Bank's 'Juniors India' account is more considerate and keeps the monthly average balance requirement at ₹100 (₹250 for accounts with cheque books).

Axis Bank, on the other hand, waives monthly average balance requirements if a recurring deposit of ₹2,000 a year or a fixed deposit of a daunting ₹25,000 for six months is initiated. And, non-maintenance of minimum balance is chargeable. Non-maintenance of average quarterly balance in the HDFC Bank kids' savings

account, for example, would cost a not-so-small ₹150-300. A more important point to consider is whether children would be careful with their debit cards and Internet pins and passwords or would such facilities give room for misuse?



BORROWING SMART

Shopping for home loans? Hold on

Deals could get sweeter with banks likely to reduce lending rates significantly

RADHIKA MERWIN

Lending rates, which were on the rise last year, have been cooling off since the beginning of this year – a welcome relief for borrowers.

But the cuts have been few and little. This despite the 50 basis-point (bps) reduction in policy repo rate by the RBI this year, up until the latest policy review last week, when the central bank cut rate by another 25 bps.

Tight liquidity, thus far, has limited banks' ability to lower lending rates. If liquidity eases in the coming months, banks may speed up lending rate cuts; the RBI's rate cut last week can also nudge banks to make more meaningful cuts in lending rates.

So, as a borrower, if you have been waiting on the sidelines, you should hold out a bit more before shopping for home loans. Sharper reduction in lending rates by banks in the coming months could make home loans cheaper.

More cuts

From January until now, many banks have lowered their one-year MCLR (marginal cost of funds based lending rate) by just 5-10 bps. Floating home-loan rates are benchmarked against MCLR, on which banks add a spread to arrive at the effective loan rate. Hence, unless there is a

Homing in

- Tight liquidity, thus far, has limited banks' ability to lower lending rates
- Unless there is a sharp cut in MCLR, existing home loans may not get much cheaper
- Rates For MCLR-linked loans will be reset annually

sharp cut in MCLR, home loans may not get significantly cheaper.

With the latest rate cut by the RBI, the policy repo rate has fallen by 75 bps so far this year. This is likely to trickle down on lending rates in the coming months, making loans much cheaper. Hence, keep a watch on rate movements and start shopping for home loans when the deal gets sweeter. But while you are on the wait, it would be prudent to know what banks are offering now and what the best deals are.

When lending rates start declining significantly, the cheapest loans now are likely

to get more attractive.

So what are the best deals now?

In the ₹30-75-lakh loan category, for salaried borrowers, Central Bank of India offers home loans at 8.55% effective interest. Allahabad Bank (for borrowers with high credit score), United Bank of India (8.6%), Bank of Baroda (for high credit score), Bank of Maharashtra, Canara Bank, PNB and Union Bank of India (8.7%) are a few other banks that offer among the best deals.

The home loan rates in other leading banks, such as ICICI Bank (9.15%) and SBI (8.85-8.95% depending on risk grade of the borrower) are slightly higher. Currently, interest rates offered by

housing finance companies (HFCs) are higher than the best deals offered by banks.

With lending rates to move lower, keep an eye on the cheaper loans.

Remember, unlike under the earlier system (base rate as against MCLR), where a revision in base rate would be immediately be reflected in the lending rates of all loans benchmarked against it, under MCLR, lending rates are reset only at intervals corresponding to the tenure of the MCLR.

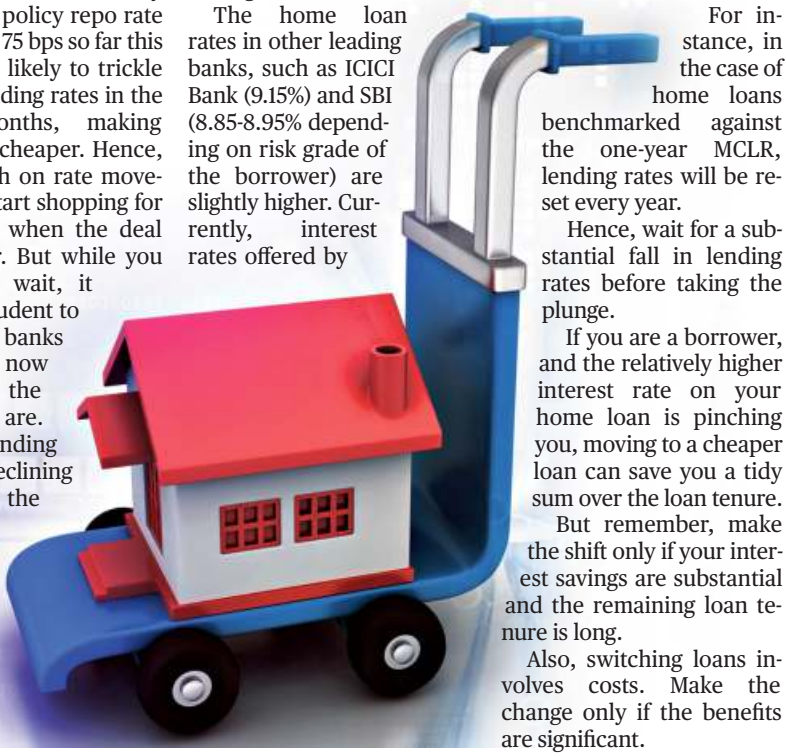
For instance, in the case of home loans benchmarked against the one-year MCLR, lending rates will be reset every year.

Hence, wait for a substantial fall in lending rates before taking the plunge.

If you are a borrower, and the relatively higher interest rate on your home loan is pinching you, moving to a cheaper loan can save you a tidy sum over the loan tenure.

But remember, make the shift only if your interest savings are substantial and the remaining loan tenure is long.

Also, switching loans involves costs. Make the change only if the benefits are significant.



BLACKBOARD: EXIT LOAD

Not a load at all if you plan investments carefully

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR

What is exit load?

Exit load is a cost that an investor needs to bear if he or she sells the mutual fund units before a predefined time frame. Typically, equity mutual fund schemes levy an exit load of 1% if the units are sold within one year of buying. Simply put, it is a mechanism to deter investors from premature withdrawals.

Do all schemes levy exit load?

Not all, but most of the schemes do levy an exit load. Mostly the exit load is levied for selling the units within one year of buying but there are some funds that have a longer period defined for the levy of such load. Debt funds, too, levy an exit load but the period could be as low as a day or a month since the overall tenure of the fund could be only a few weeks or months. Also, fund houses, if they so desire, can levy a higher exit load as well.

Why is exit load levied?

While the most obvious reason is to discourage investors from early redemption while encouraging building a long-term corpus, an exit load helps the fund manager as well.

With the assurance that money will not be flowing out regularly in the form of frequent redemption pressures, a fund manager can better plan the investment of the corpus. If there's a history of regular redemption requests, the fund manager will be forced to keep a portion of the corpus as liquid cash to merit such redemption pressures or else will have to rejig the portfolio to generate cash.

This, in turn, would affect the

long-term returns of the scheme as the fund manager might be forced to sell the most liquid stocks to generate cash.

Are exit loads mandatory?

It's not mandatory but most fund houses levy it for a variety of reasons explained above. Investors should remember that exit loads in no way reflect the quality of the fund. Exit load is only a mechanism to discourage early redemptions.

Where does the exit load go?

Earlier, fund houses could use the exit load money for their sales and marketing expenses but in 2012 the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) changed the regulations. As per the amended norms, the exit load money is put back in the scheme. This was essentially done so that investors who continue to stay invested in the scheme do not lose out on account of investors who exit. To compensate the fund houses, however, the regulator allowed a higher expense ratio to be charged to meet the fund management expenses.

Can exit load be avoided?

Exit loads can be avoided if the investor smartly plans his or her sale of units. If investments are being made through systematic investment plans (SIPs), then an investor can choose to sell only those number of units that have been bought more than an year ago. So, for instance, if an investor has 1,000 units and out of that 600 units were bought over an year ago then only 600 units can be sold to avoid paying exit loads.

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EDUCATION LOAN FOR STUDIES ABROAD

Name of lender	Interest rate	Loan amount (₹)	Processing fee (₹)	Margin requirement	Maximum tenure	Moratorium period
Syndicate Bank	9.25%-11.5%	Upto 2 crore	NIL	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : Upto 15%	15 years	Course period + 1 year
State Bank of India	9.95%-10.7%	Upto 1.5 crore	Upto 10,000	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : Upto 15%	15 years	Course period + upto 1 year
Punjab National Bank	10.3%-11.05%	No limit	1% of loan amount (refundable after first disbursement)	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : Upto 15%	15 years	Course period + 1 year
HDFC Credila	12.55% + Spread	1 lakh onwards	1-2% of loan amount	Upto 100% funding	12 years	Course period + upto 1 year
Canara Bank	10%-10.7%	Upto 20 lakhs	NIL	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : 15%	15 years	Course period + 1 year
Avanse	12.65% + Spread	1 lakh onwards	1-2% of loan amount	Upto 100% funding	10 years*	6 months after course completion or 3 months after getting job, whichever is earlier
Axis Bank	13.7%-15.2%	50,000-75 lakhs	Loan upto 20 lakhs: 15,000 (refundable) Loan above 20 lakhs: 0.75% of differential amount	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : 15%	15 years	Course Period + 1 year or 6 months after getting job, whichever is earlier
Bank of Baroda	9.45%-10.7%	Upto 80 lakhs	Upto 0.75% of loan amount (refundable on first disbursement)	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : Upto 10%	15 years	Course period + 1 year
Union Bank of India	10.1%-11.75%	Upto 30 lakhs	NIL	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : Upto 15%	15 years	Course period + 1 year
Federal Bank	10.85%-15.25%	Upto 20 lakhs	0.25% of loan amount	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : 15%	15 years	Course period + 1 year
Bank of Maharashtra	9.7%-10.7%	Upto 20 lakhs	NIL	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : 15%	15 years	Course Period + 1 year or 6 months after getting job, whichever is earlier
South Indian Bank	11%-15.8%	Upto 1.5 crore	1% of loan amount	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : Upto 25%	15 years	Course Period + 6 months to 1 year
Corporation Bank	10.4%-11.25%	Upto 20 lakhs	₹2,000 (refundable on availing loan)	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : 15%	15 years	Course period + 1 year
UCO Bank	9.8%-11.05%	Upto 30 lakhs	NIL	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : Upto 15%	15 years	Course period + 1 year

* Tenure includes course duration

Source: Paisabazaar.com

India's mammoth total proves too steep for Australia

Dhawan's hundred and Kohli's 82 set up a 36-run win for the Men in Blue, making it two out of two



K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
LONDON

At lunch, the Indian fans were belting out the old number "we will, we will rock you". And beyond the ropes, Sunil Gavaskar, here as a commentator, jived and exhorted the crowd to maintain the tempo. It was that kind of a joyous day as Virat Kohli's men defeated Australia by 36 runs in a key ICC World Cup clash at the Oval.

Chasing India's 352 for five that featured Shikhar Dhawan's 117, Aaron Finch's men replied with 316.

Cautious pursuit

The pursuit commenced cautiously as David Warner (56) and Aaron Finch were circumspect against Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah. The latter was unlucky as he had Warner hopping but the awkward fend and the resultant inner-edge just rolled into the stumps without dislodging the bails! Just as the runs dried, Finch cut loose in a Hardik Pandya over that yielded 19. The Australian skipper, though, failed to beat a throw from Kedar Jadhav.

Placed at 61 for one, Australia's hopes rested on Warner and Steve Smith (69). Kohli swapped his bowlers, used Bumrah in short bursts and kept the runs under check. Smith struck Kedar Jadhav for a six but India was happy with its economy rate. The almost run-a-ball 72 partnership between Smith and Warner for the second wicket, however, couldn't kick off on to a higher plane.

Warner succumbed to leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, but Smith soldiered on. With Usman Khawaja slamming a six and four off Kuldeep Yadav, the Aussies hinted that they were still alive. Kohli immediately employed Bumrah, who knocked down Khawaja's stumps.

Glenn Maxwell then flung his bat around, but with Bhuvneshwar delivering a double blow in the 40th over to dismiss Smith and Marcus



Stepping up: Shikhar Dhawan scored his third World Cup century, and sixth in ICC events. ■ AFP

Stoinis, Australia was gaping at a steep 115 from the last 10 overs. The final nail was driven in when Maxwell miscued a hit off Chahal and the rest flickered and perished.

Earlier, Sunday dawned bright and out in the middle, Kohli elected to bat and his decision found vindication through a commanding performance. Dhawan's ton (117, 109b, 16x4) top-lined the innings while Rohit Sharma (57), the skipper (82) himself and Pandya (48) played their parts.

Initially, openers Rohit and Dhawan practised watchful consolidation against Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc. They had their lucky moments, especially when Rohit upishly flicked Starc and watched Nathan Coulter-Nile drop a tough chance at square-leg.

On fire

On two then, Rohit just focused on settling down. Dhawan, meanwhile, cover-drove Cummins and gratefully tucked into seamer Coulter-Nile's errant line and hit three fours. Rohit, too, broke his shackles once leg-spinner Adam Zampa was pressed into to service. A loose delivery

was promptly slog-swept, and the first-wicket pair cut loose. Rohit guided Maxwell past third-man and hooked Coulter-Nile for six while Dhawan slashed and upper-cut, and India reached 100 in 19 overs.

Just as the Aussies seemed resigned to a leather-hunt, Rohit got dismissed while trying to dab one behind the wicket. By then, Dhawan and Rohit had added 127 in 22.3 overs. Finch's men then tried to follow a parched-earth policy for Kohli, pitching it a bit wide after packing the off-side.

The Indian captain, though, stole his singles and when Zampa came on, Dhawan drove and lofted with finesse. Kohli, too, cashed in and lashed at Cummins. After Dhawan reached his hundred, he drilled one past Starc, disdain rippling through that stroke. The southpaw eventually holed out in the deep but his 93-run second-wicket partnership with Kohli laid the foundation for the final assault.

Mayhem ensued as Pandya, promoted to the order, and Kohli pressed the accelerator. The latter, dropped on 41 by Alex Carey off Coulter-

SCOREBOARD INDIA VS AUSTRALIA

INDIA

Rohit Sharma c Carey b Coulter-Nile 57 (70b, 3x4, 1x6), Shikhar Dhawan c sub b Starc 117 (109b, 16x4), Virat Kohli c Cummins b Stoinis 82 (77b, 4x4, 2x6), Hardik Pandya c Finch b Cummins 48 (27b, 4x4, 3x6), M.S. Dhoni c & b Stoinis 27 (14b, 3x4, 1x6), K.L. Rahul (not out) 11 (3b, 1x4, 1x6), Kedar Jadhav (not out) 0 (0b); Extras (lb-3, w-7): 10; Total (for five wkts. in 50 overs): 352.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-127 (Rohit, 22.3), 2-220 (Dhawan, 36.6), 3-301 (Pandya, 45.5), 4-338 (Dhoni, 49.1), 5-348 (Kohli, 49.5).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING

Cummins 10-0-55-1, Starc 10-0-74-1, Coulter-Nile 10-1-63-1, Maxwell 7-0-45-0, Zampa 6-0-50-0, Stoinis 7-0-62-2.

AUSTRALIA

David Warner c Bhuvneshwar b Chahal 56 (84b, 5x4), Aaron Finch run out 36 (35b, 3x4, 1x6), Steve Smith lbw b Bhuvneshwar

Nile, reached his fifty. Pandya hoisted a six off Maxwell, Kohli thumped Cummins and the two added 81 for the third wicket off just 53 deliveries. The runs flowed as M.S. Dhoni struck a cameo, and Australia was left wringing its hands.

69 (70b, 5x4, 1x6), Usman Khawaja b Bumrah 42 (39b, 4x4, 1x6), Glenn Maxwell c sub b Chahal 28 (14b, 5x4), Marcus Stoinis b Bhuvneshwar 0 (2b), Alex Carey (not out) 55 (35b, 5x4, 1x6), Nathan Coulter-Nile c Kohli b Bumrah 4 (9b), Pat Cummins c Dhoni b Bumrah 8 (7b, 1x4), Mitchell Starc run out 3 (3b), Adam Zampa c sub b Bhuvneshwar 1 (3b); Extras (nb-1, w-7, b-2, lb-3): 14; Total (in 50 overs) 316.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-61 (Finch, 13.1 overs), 2-133 (Warner, 24.4), 3-202 (Khawaja, 36.4), 4-238 (Smith, 39.4), 5-238 (Stoinis, 39.6), 6-244 (Maxwell, 40.4), 7-283 (Coulter-Nile, 44.5), 8-300 (Cummins 46.6), 9-313 (Starc, 49.1).

INDIA BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 10-0-50-3, Bumrah 10-1-61-3, Pandya 10-0-68-0, Kuldeep 9-0-55-0, Chahal 10-0-62-2, Jadhav 1-0-14-0. Toss: India. MoM: Dhawan. India won by 36 runs.

Next assignment

AUSTRALIA: June 12 vs Pakistan, Taunton, 3 p.m.
INDIA: June 13 vs New Zealand, Trent Bridge, 3 p.m.

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INNINGS SCAN			PROGRESSION		
IND	AUS		IND	AUS	
1	Maidens	1	41/0	10 overs	48/0
31	Fours	28	111/0	20 overs	99/1
8	Sixes	4	170/1	30 overs	155/2
127 (1st)	Best stand	72 (2nd)	236/2	40 overs	238/5
7.04	RR	6.32	352/5	50 overs	316/10

TOP SHOWS

For	Batting	Bowling
India	Dhawan 117 (109b, 16x4)	Bhuvneshwar 3/50 (10)
Australia	Smith 69 (70b, 5x4, 1x6)	Stoinis 2/62 (7)

STAT SPHERE

1 India scored the highest total against Australia in the World Cup

Top WC totals vs Australia
352/5 India (The Oval, 2019)
312 SL (Sydney, 2015)

294 SA (Basseterre, 2007)

291/8 WI (Lord's, 1975)

289/6 India (Delhi, 1987)

1 Rohit is the fastest to 2,000 ODI runs against a particular side

Innings taken
37 Rohit vs Aus

40 Tendulkar vs Aus

44 Richards vs Aus

44 Kohli vs SL

45 Dhoni vs SL

1 Carey's 25-ball 50 is this edition's fastest so far, eclipsing Gayle's (vs Pak, Nottingham) & Buttler's (vs Ban, Cardiff) 33-ball efforts. This is also the second quickest WC half-century by an Australian, behind Maxwell's 21-ball effort (vs Afg, Perth, 2015)

3 Rohit-Dhawan's century stand is only the third for the opening wicket against Australia in the WC

3 India has become the third team, after England and West Indies, to win 50 ODIs against Australia

4 Number of consecutive 50-plus scores in ODIs by Rohit, his longest sequence so far

4 Number of ODI hundreds by Dhawan in England, the most by an Indian

6 It was Dhawan's sixth ODI hundred in an ICC event. Only Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly have more (7)

7 Ganguly 7 Tendulkar

6 Dhawan 6 Sangakkara

6 Ponting

50 Number of half-centuries for Kohli in ODIs. He also has 41 hundreds

8 The defeat ended Australia's eight-match winning streak in World Cups. Their sequence of 10 ODI victories also ended

16 Number of century partnerships by Rohit and Dhawan for the first wicket in ODIs. Only Ganguly and Tendulkar are ahead with 21



Series loss against Australia gave us added motivation: Kohli



All together: Kohli said all units of his team played in cohesion. ■ AFP

'Don't boo, cheer Smith'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LONDON

In the rough world of sport where the winner takes all, it is good to see an empathetic heart. Virat Kohli was upset when a section of the Indian fans booed Steve Smith during the World Cup match at the Oval here on Sunday. The India captain gesticulated to the crowd to pipe down and also requested that Smith should be cheered. Later, he also had a word

with the Australian. Asked about the incident, Kohli said: "I feel for him. Look, we have had a few incidents in the past, we have had our arguments, but now he is coming back. I noticed this in the IPL too that he was keen to play and there were some incidents. It happened today too (fans booing) and I felt bad for him. I went and apologised to him on behalf of the crowd."

No insignia on MS' gloves

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

M.S. Dhoni took the field without a controversial dagger logo on his wicketkeeping gloves in Sunday's World Cup game against Australia after being ordered to remove the symbol by the ICC. Dhoni's gloves in the opening game against South Africa bore an apparent military insignia that breached rules laid down by the ICC.



M.S. Dhoni. ■ REUTERS

But he wore a different pair of gloves, that appeared to conform with ICC regulations, when India fielded.

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
LONDON

Virat Kohli stressed that all units of his team played in cohesion in the win over Australia here on Sunday.

Speaking to reporters at the Oval, Kohli said: "It was a fine performance, all of us batsmen played well and the bowlers were excellent and restricted Australia. Back home, we lost a series to Australia after leading 2-0 and that gave us added motivation."

The Indian captain lauded his openers Shikhar Dhawan and Rohit Sharma: "They are world-class and have been together for six years. Both are instinctive and perform even better in ICC events. Rohit takes some time but with Shikhar, once he hits a few fours he can take off from there. And they give us confidence."

Pandya in a good space Kohli also pointed out that Hardik Pandya is in a good space mentally and it shows in his game: "He loves playing the sport and does not think about the tournament

and plays with a free mind. He told me that he will strike big while I could stay at the wicket and we played that way. He can strike at even 200 per cent."

Meanwhile, Aaron Finch rued the regular fall of wickets during the chase. "Look, we need a few things to fall in place when you are chasing. Unfortunately, we kept losing wickets and I think we gave them a few extra runs. The Indian bowlers kept it tight and my run-out did not help," the Australian captain said.

Where they stand

Team	Mat	Won	Lost	NR	PTS	NRR
New Zealand	3	3	0	0	6	2.163
England	3	2	1	0	4	1.307
India	2	2	0	0	4	0.539
Australia	3	2	1	0	4	0.483
Sri Lanka	3	1	1	1	3	-1.517
Pakistan	3	1	1	1	3	-2.412
West Indies	2	1	1	0	2	2.054
Bangladesh	3	1	2	0	2	-0.714
South Africa	3	0	3	0	0	-0.952
Afghanistan	3	0	3	0	0	-1.493

*till the India-Australia match on June 9

What was Zampa doing?

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LONDON

Australian leg-spinner Adam Zampa caused tongues to wag, especially on Twitter, after he was sighted slipping his bowling arm into his pocket before giving the ball a twirl and then ambling down to bowl.

A few clips were circulated on social media, questioning whether Zampa was applying some substance onto the ball. Later Australian skipper Aaron Finch clarified that "Zampa had hand-warmers in his pockets and there was nothing more".



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Time to come good: With South Africa's fortunes hanging by the thread, Hashim Amla and Quinton de Kock need to deliver. • AP

Uphill task awaits South Africa

West Indies better placed with a win and loss to its name

WC PREVIEW

IANS
SOUTHAMPTON

After three consecutive defeats, South Africa will look to get its first win of the World Cup when it faces West Indies at the Hampshire Bowl, here on Monday. After a below par show so far, the Proteas desperately need a win to stay in contention for a spot in the semifinals.

West Indies, on the other hand, is slightly better placed after a win and a loss from its two games. The Jason Holder-led side kicked-off its campaign on a convincing note with an impressive seven-wicket win over Pakistan before suffering a narrow 15-run loss to Australia.

West Indian pace attack

For the Proteas – having lost to England, Bangladesh and India – it's the batsmen who need to step-up against a

THE FACE-OFF					
South Africa vs West Indies					
SOUTHAMPTON					
HEAD-TO-HEAD					
	SA	WI	Tied	NR	
Overall	61	44	15	1	1
World Cup	6	4	2	0	0

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & SELECT 1 (SD & HD), 3 P.M.

good looking West Indies pace attack.

However, the pacers' performance in the six-wicket loss to India must be heartening for skipper Faf du Plessis and the team management.

So far, nothing seems to have worked well for South Africa with pacer Dale Steyn ruled out due to injury and Lungi Ngidi also unfit for the game on Monday.

South Africa has plenty to discuss about its inconsistent performance with the bat.

Its openers – Quinton de Kock and Hashim Amla –

will have to surely fire against the Windies.

The middle-order looks decent and the lower order has also chipped in. The Proteas now need to play fearless and attacking cricket.

West Indies' aggressive opening bowling in the first two matches has impressed everyone and if it happens again, the South African openers could be in trouble again.

The Caribbean side would be the favourites on Monday. South Africa, however, has a 4-2 advantage over West Indies in World Cup games.

Who else but Rafael Nadal on clay in Paris!

Claims 12th Roland Garros title and 18th Grand Slam crown

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Rafael Nadal swept to an historic 12th Roland Garros title and 18th Grand Slam crown on Sunday with a 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 victory over Austria's Dominic Thiem.

The 33-year-old Spaniard becomes the first player, man or woman, to win the same Slam 12 times after seeing off a brave challenge from a weary Thiem in a repeat of the 2018 final.

The world number two has previously won the title in 2005-2008, 2010-2014, 2017 and 2018.

"I want to say congratulations to Dominic. I feel sorry as he deserves to win it as well," said Nadal. "But he has every chance in the future."

"It's a dream to win again, an incredible moment. When I first played here in 2005 I never thought I would be still playing here in 2019. "It's very special for me."

'Big three' stranglehold
Sunday's triumph confirmed the 'Big Three' stranglehold on the Grand Slams having shared the last 10 between them. It also gave Nadal an 82nd career title and 950th match win.

"It's very tough. I gave everything these last two weeks," said Thiem, who had seven fewer winners and seven more unforced errors in the final.

"Rafa, well done. You are an amazing champion and a legend in our sport. I am happy that you are playing. To win 12 times, it's unreal. I will try again, for sure."

In a 53-minute first set of brutal hitting and raw physicality, it was Thiem who broke first for a 3-2 lead.

But the 25-year-old's joy was short-lived as Nadal retrieved the break in the sixth game before racing away



Top of the heap: Rafael Nadal underlined his supremacy at the French Open yet again.

• CLIVE BRUNSKILL/GETTY IMAGES

with the next three games to pocket the opener.

Thiem, who had beaten his opponent four times on clay in his career, failed to claim a single point off Na-

dal's first five service games of the second set.

However, the dogged Austrian pushed and pushed, forced Nadal into three rushed groundstrokes and,

from nowhere, broke to take the second set.

It was the first set he had managed to take off Nadal at Roland Garros after three previous defeats.

La Docena

The only player – male or female – to win 12 singles titles at a single Grand Slam, eclipsing Margaret Court's 11 at the Australian Open

- Ties for most titles at a single tournament with Martina Navratilova's 12 at the now-defunct Ameritech Cup/Virginia Slims of Chicago/Avon Championships of Chicago

- Moves to within two Grand Slam titles of Roger Federer's record of 20

- Now has three streaks of at least three titles at Roland Garros

- Has never been taken to five sets in a French Open final

- Has played only two five-set matches at the French Open since his 2005 debut – against John Isner in the first round in 2001 and Novak Djokovic in the 2013 semifinals

Maintains his unbeaten record in French Open finals

Nadal was riled by the insult. He swept the first 10 points of the third set, carving out a double break for 3-0 before sweeping to a third break for the set.

Telling toll

Thiem, bidding to become just Austria's second Grand Slam champion after Thomas Muster won in Paris in 1995, had played four successive days to reach Sunday's final and the toll was slowly telling.

He wasted break points in the first and third games of the fourth set and Nadal pounced to stretch to 3-0.

That was soon 5-1 and the relentless barrage continued with Nadal taking the title on a second match point when Thiem fired a return long.

Italy upsets Australia with Bonansea double

Cristiane hat-trick seals Brazil win; Norway too strong for Nigeria

WOMEN'S WC

REUTERS
REIMS

Barbara Bonansea scored twice to give Italy a surprise, last-gasp 2-1 victory against Australia in its opening Group C game at the women's World Cup on Sunday.

The Italians, back at the World Cup after a 20-year absence, prevailed when striker Bonansea headed home from a free kick five minutes into stoppage time.

Opening goal

Australia captain Sam Kerr had opened the scoring by firing home on the rebound after her penalty was saved by Italy keeper Laura Giuliani in the 22nd minute. Bonansea, however, equalised 11 minutes into the second half after a defensive blunder on the edge of the box.



On target: Barbara Bonansea celebrates scoring the winner with Valentina Giacinti. • REUTERS

Later Brazil's Cristiane scored a hat-trick as the former finalist sealed a superb 3-0 victory over debutants Jamaica on Sunday to kick off its campaign in style.

Victory at Stade des Alpes in Grenoble meant Vadao's

side maintained its perfect record in World Cup openers and also snapped a run of nine straight defeats in the lead-up to the tournament since a 2-1 win over Japan last July.

On Saturday, Former champion Norway kicked off its campaign with a routine 3-0 victory over Nigeria, despite the absence of Ballon d'Or winner Ada Hegerberg.

Lyon striker Hegerberg refused to come to the tournament due to a dispute with her national federation, which she accuses of failing to respect women players.

The results: Australia 1 (Kerr 22-pen) lost to Italy 2 (Bonansea 56, 90+5).
Brazil 3 (Cristiane 15, 50, 64) bt Jamaica 0; Norway 3 (Reiten 17, Utland 34, Ohale 37-og) bt Nigeria 0.

England 2 (Parris 14-pen, White 40) bt Scotland 1 (Emslie 79).

France comes unstuck in Turkey

EURO QUALIFYING

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KONYA (TURKEY)

World champion France slumped to a 2-0 loss to Turkey in Euro 2020 qualifying on Saturday amid a red-hot atmosphere in Konya.

Kaan Ayhan headed Turkey ahead on the half-hour mark and Cengiz Under fired in a second before half-time to give the hosts a first ever win over France.

Didier Deschamps fielded nine of the players that started last year's World Cup final but France struggled to create chances, while Hugo Lloris denied Turkey on a number of occasions.

"That was a slap in the face for us and there's not a lot I can say," Deschamps told TFI.

The results:
Group C: Estonia 1 (Vassiljev 25) lost to Northern Ireland 2 (Washington 77, Magennis 80);



The clincher: Cengiz Under fires in Turkey's second goal against France. • REUTERS

Belarus 0 lost to Germany 2 (Sane 13, Reus 62).

Group E: Croatia 2 (Lawrence 17-og, Perisic 48) lost to Wales 1 (Brooks 77); Azerbaijan 1 (Emreli 69) lost to Hungary 3 (Orban 18, 53, Holman 71).

Group H: Iceland 1 (Gudmundsson 22) bt Albania 0; Turkey 2 (Ayhan 30, Under 40) bt France 0; Moldova 1 (Armas 8) bt Andorra 0.

Group I: Russia 9 (Cevoli 25-og, 41-og, Dzyuba 31-pen, 73, 76,

88, Kudryashov 36, Smolov 77, 83) bt San Marino 0; Belgium 3 (Mertens 11, Castagne 14, R. Lukaku 50) bt Kazakhstan 0; Scotland 2 (Robertson 61, Burke 89) bt Cyprus 1 (Kousoulos 87).

Group J: Finland 2 (Pukki 56, 68) bt Bosnia-Herzegovina 0; Armenia 3 (Ghazaryan 2, Karapetyan 18, Barseghyan 90+1) bt Liechtenstein 0; Greece 0 lost to Italy 3 (Barella 24, Insigne 30, Bonucci 33).

England beats Swiss on penalties

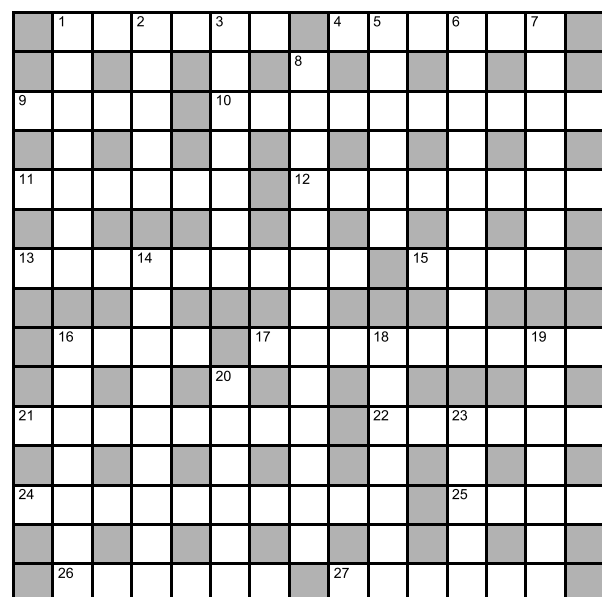
REUTERS
GUIMARAES (PORTUGAL)

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 it had grabbed victory in normal time when substitute Callum Wilson scored in the 84th minute but to its dismay Romanian referee Ovidiu Hategan enlisted the help of VAR and the goal was chalked off due to a push by the Bournemouth striker.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12648



ACROSS

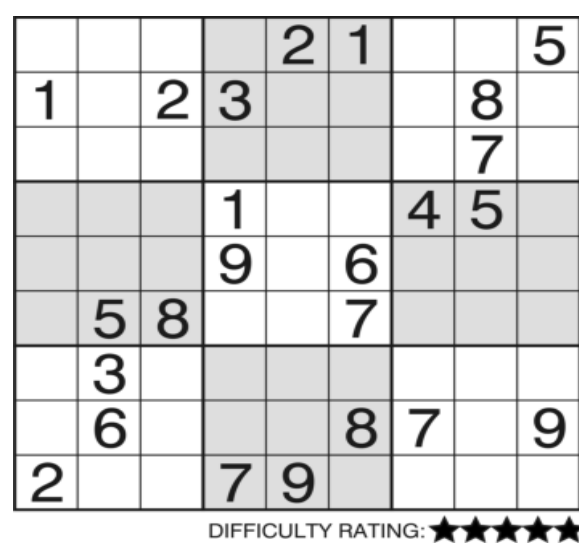
- 1 Idyllic setting outside earth (6)
- 4 Spell fairy put on old duke (6)
- 9 Air to paralyse fish (4)
- 10 Seasoning as amenable as salt (4,6)
- 11 Rod is involved in anarchist plot (6)
- 12 Oldie's prodigal redhead son grunts (8)

- 13 Much that might be had at flea market (5,4)
- 15 Thin layer with fairly regular mass (4)
- 16 Intend to traverse the Northern Alps from the east (4)
- 17 USA mandate to repeal immigrant's right repulsive to a sickening extent (2,7)
- 21 Boeing leak that can be traced to criminal? (8)
- 22 Instruments with unexpected drawback returned to Operations Research (6)
- 24 Nancy's father finds politician (conservative) imperious (10)
- 25 Sound level for swimmers (4)
- 26 RCMP must excel in this Canadian political constituency (6)
- 27 Stopped, picked up, impounded (6)

(set by Skulldugger)

- 3 Sanctioned drug nurse administered initially reduced body fluids (7)
- 5 Exam cleared even by unintelligent student annulled with little effort (6)
- 6 Foolish remarks asinine, beastly, it must be admitted (9)
- 7 Local street rally with back-up plan (7)
- 8 Family acted on old Don's behalf (5,3,5)
- 14 Discrimination for a time interrupted state of equality two people had briefly (9)
- 16 Leading revolutionary embraced by colleague a trailblazer (7)
- 18 She follows; Lawrence, a short, callous Yankee leads (7)
- 19 Cross recklessly one day around mid-morning (7)
- 20 Female boxing program to materialise (6)
- 23 Shoots shell from gunwale on ship (5)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12647

S	A	N	T	I	A	G	O	A	C	T	O	U	T
O	U	D	R	O	N	H							
L	I	M	B	E	R	E	D	O	N	E	D	G	E
O	B	A	E	T	E	S							
N	E	E	D	L	I	N	G	T	E	A	M	U	P
G	R	S	L	O	M	A	I						
F	E	E	R	G	E	T	D	N					
L	E	T	T	E	R	H	E	A	D				
A	L	E	S	T	I	F	C	S					
G	Y	R	A	T	E	C	A	T	A	R	A	C	T
R	I	N	R	I	T	I	N	A					
A	N	I	M	A	L	I	S	H	I	S	T		
N	T	I	M	O	N	U							
T	R	I	N	G	S	E	A	M	L	E	S	S	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Necessary qualities

In the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna tells Arjuna that one must have certain qualities to acquire atma jnana, said Valayapet Ramachariar, in a discourse. One of the necessary qualities is amAnitvam – that is to be without pride due to one's birth, one's education or wealth. Another quality that is necessary is adambhitvam. Dambha is ostentation and doing something so that we are praised by other. So, adambhitvam means being free of such vanity, which makes us clamour for public approval. Another quality prescribed is ahimsa. Himsa is causing hurt to others, whether this is through the mind, through one's words or actions. The opposite of himsa is ahimsa, which means abstaining from causing harm to anyone in any of these three ways. Kshantih is also talked about by the Lord. This means that even when someone harms us, we must refrain from paying him back in his own coin. We must be patient. Arjavam, which the Lord speaks of, means that as one thinks, so must one speak. As one speaks, so must one act. In a person who aspires for atma jnana, thought, word and deed must be the same. Saucam is also needed. Saucam means purity. This purity encompasses purity of body, mind and speech. While we understand purity of the body, we forget about purity of the mind. Will bathing many times a day make us pure, if we have bad thoughts? It may also be the case that there may be someone so ill, that he cannot bathe. Will he be denied moksha, just on that ground? A sick man, in bed, may still think of the Lord with all piety, and may not have any other thought in his mind. He is indeed pure. Sthairyam implies that we should believe implicitly what our Acharyas teach us and should never doubt them. We should think of the sorrow caused by birth, old age, disease and finally death.

TV PICKS

FIH Series final: Star Sports 3, 8.45 a.m., 5 & 7 p.m.
ICC World Cup: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 3 p.m.
FIFA women's World Cup: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Neymar likely to return after four weeks
PARIS
Days after Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) confirmed that Neymar will miss Copa America, his club PSG on Sunday revealed that the 27-year old striker's injury may take four weeks to recover. Neymar suffered an ankle injury during Brazil's friendly match with Qatar and subsequently left the field. ANI

IAAF to re-brand as World Athletics

MONACO
World Athletics' governing body, the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) is to re-brand as World Athletics, it was announced on Sunday. It was initially founded in 1912 as the International Amateur Athletic Federation. The body, currently presided over by two-time Olympic 1500m gold medalist Sebastian Coe, took its present name in 2001 and World Athletics should be operational from October. AFP

Govindaraj is FIBA Asia Central Board member

BENGALURU
K. Govindaraj, President of the Basketball Federation of India (BFI), has been elected as a member of the FIBA Asia Central Board, at the FIBA Asia Zonal Congress held here on Sunday. The FIBA Asia Zonal Congress and the FIBA Asia Cup 2021 qualifiers' draw ceremony were held over the weekend, with more than 100 FIBA delegates in attendance.

Indian team claims silver

SPORTS BUREAU
ORIMATTILA (FINLAND)

India's Vivaan Kapoor and Manisha Keer clinched the mixed trap silver, behind Italy-A, in the 11th international junior shotgun Cup here on Sunday. Vishwa Kundu and Kirti Gupta finished fourth.

After qualifying for the final in the second place with 93 out of 100, the Indian duo was beaten 45-39 for the gold by Lorenzo Ferrari and Sofia Littame.

In mixed team skeet, Areeba Khan and Abhay Singh Sekhon made the final but finished sixth. Ayush Rudraraju and Gurnihal Singh Garcha placed seventh and 11th respectively in partnership with Muffaddal Zahra Deesawala and Parinaaz Dhalivali.

The results: Mixed team trap: 1. Italy-A (Lorenzo Ferrari, Sofia Littame) 45 (97); 2. India (Vivaan Kapoor, Manisha Keer) 39 (93); 3. Italy-B (Matteo Maronglu, Gaia Ragazzini) 30 (89); 4. India-A (Vishwa Kundu, Kirti Gupta) 24 (92); 5. India-B (Manavadiya Singh Rathore, Preeti Rajak) 85.
Mixed team skeet: 1. Germany (Christoffer Honkomp, Eva Tamara Reichert) 50 (92); 2. Czech Republic-A (Richard Klika, Dominika Brozkova) 45 (94); 6. India-A (Abhay Singh Sekhon, Areeba Khan) 21 (87); 7. India-B (Ayush Rudraraju, Muffaddal Zahra Deesawala) 85, 11. India (Gurnihal Singh Garcha, Parinaaz Dhalivali) 79.

Akash earns India a draw

India's Akashdeep Singh, Mandeep Singh and Ramandeep Singh will have to take more responsibility for their performance in the final pool match against Uzbekistan in its last Pool A match of the Hockey Series Finals (HSF) here on Monday.

India has swung between brilliant and below par

The likes of Akashdeep, Mandeep and Ramandeep will have to take more responsibility

Area of concern

This switching-on, switching-off of players, especially the strikers, through a game has been an area of concern for Reid.

Knotty Ash wins Shapoorji Pallonji Million

BENGALURU: Knotty Ash (Antony up) won the Shapoorji Pallonji Million, the chief event of the races held here on Sunday (June 9).

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HSF

UTHRA GANESAN
BHUBANESWAR

The Indian men's hockey team will be up against its own objectives rather than the opposition when it takes on Uzbekistan in its last Pool A match of the Hockey Series Finals (HSF) here on Monday.

The fifth-ranked India plays the 43rd ranked minnows but while coach Graham Reid will have little to worry about in terms of the result per se, it is the various sub-plots and plans that he will be concerned about.

In the two games India has played so far, the team has swung between brilliant and below par with Reid trying to come to terms with the extremes.

Area of concern

This switching-on, switching-off of players, especially the strikers, through a game has



Lot of work to do: What has been worrying for India is the inability of the forwards to score despite creating chances galore. *BISWARANJAN ROUT

been an area of concern for Reid. What has also been worrying is the inability of the forwards to score despite creating chances galore.

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3 FLIRTING VISION PLATE (1,600m), rated 15 to 35, 4-y-o & over: NATALMA (Zervan) 1, Another Rainbow (Darshan) 2, Proudprince (P.S. Chouhan) 3 and Three Wishes (Ashok K) 4. Snk, 3/4 and 1. Im, 39.52s. ₹22 (w), 13, 19 and 13 (p), SHP: 47, THP: 34, FP: 184, Q: 95, Trinella: 585 and 284, Exacta: 2,991 and 1,479. Favourite: King Creole. Owners: Mr. Rienznie M.K. Edwards & Mrs. P.P.M. Edwards. Trainer: Darius.

4 Y.S. SURENDER MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 45 to 65, 5-y-o & over: SET TO WIN (Zervan) 1, Good Time Indeed (Trevor) 2, Piper Regina (Ivan) 3 and Standout (Antony) 4. 1-1/2, 2 and 3/4. Im, 25.83s. ₹61 (w), 13, 19 and 54 (p), SHP: 37, THP: 95, FP: 273, Q: 173, Trinella: 7,440 and 1,417, Exacta: 31,745 and 13,605. Favourite: Striking Grey. Owners: Mr. Rezinzie M.K. Edwards & Mrs. P.P.M. Edwards. Trainer: Darius.

5 SHAPOORJI PALLONJI MILLION (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms): KNOTTY ASH (Antony) 1, Mauritania (Sandesh) 2, Accolade (Suraj) 3 and Tutankhamun (Trevor) 4. 2-1/4, 3/4 and 1-1/2. Im, 11.28s. ₹71 (w), 20, 14 and 15 (p), SHP: 38, THP: 35, FP: 246, Q: 76, Trinella: 828 and 351, Exacta: 1,667 and 496. Favourite: Mauritania. Owners: Mr. K. Kamesh & Mr. K. Manoj Kumar. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

Ahamed, Jagan star for TVS Racing



Banking hard: TVS Racing's K.Y. Ahamed in action in the premium Pro-Stock 301-400cc category. *S. SIVA SARAVANAN

TVS Racing, who was in total command the first four laps before an 'oil spill' forced him to slow down. He was not happy as was the team but Ahamed, who was caught in the traffic early, inched his way up slowly and steadily to take the flag.

"It was tough but made easy as Jagan had some engine issue," said Ahamed. Jagan, on the other hand, managed to sign off on a winning note finishing on top in the Pro-Stock 165cc second race.

Ramkumar finishes runner-up in doubles

Manoj Kumar rejoins national camp

India (SAI), I have managed to recover fully and have got the clearance to rejoin the national camp," Manoj said.

Boxing

Three-time Commonwealth Games boxing medalist Manoj Kumar, who was laid low by a groin injury after the Asian Games, has rejoined the national camp in Patiala after regaining fitness.

The 31-year-old, who is also an Asian Championships bronze winner, underwent a surgery in Mumbai earlier this year. As a result, he was ruled out of the Asian Championships during April-May.

"By the grace of god and the support of my coaches, the Boxing Federation of India and Sports Authority of India (SAI), I have managed to recover fully and have got the clearance to rejoin the national camp," Manoj said.

Vettel ends Mercedes' stranglehold

Outpaces championship leader Hamilton by two-tenths of a second

CANADIAN GP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MONTREAL

Sebastian Vettel ended Mercedes' run of early-season qualifying supremacy on Saturday when he claimed a dramatic late pole position for Ferrari in a crash-hit showdown at the Canadian Grand Prix. Mercedes had been fastest in qualifying in all six races since the start of the year.

The four-time champion repeated his 2018 success, when he won from pole, by outpacing championship leader Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes by two-tenths of a second at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve.

It was Vettel's first pole position triumph of the season, his first pole in 17 races since last year's German GP and a signal that Ferrari's superior straight-line speed was well-suited to the track.



Finally... Sebastian Vettel seems to be telling Lewis Hamilton after topping the qualification on Saturday. *AFP

Vettel clocked a best lap of one minute and 10.240 seconds to beat Hamilton's lap in 1:10.446. "He's bloody good in qualifying," said Vettel, pointing to Hamilton. "Hard to crack... I really enjoyed it."

Para athletes create world record

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India's Sandeep Chaudhary and Sumit shattered two world records in men's F40-46/61-64 javelin throw category at the World Para Athletics GP in Grosseto, Italy, on Saturday.

Sandeep won the gold with 65.80m in F44 category. He had also won the gold in this combined event in 2018 Asian Para Games.

Sumit finished second in the combined event with a throw of 60.45m, which is also a world record in F64 category.

Sundar Singh Gurjar, finished third in F46 with a throw of 58.99m.

The F40-46/61-64 category relates to limb deficiency, leg length difference, impaired muscle power or impaired range of movement. The athletes in this category compete with or without prosthesis.

Shahan and Mihir in sizzling form



Juniors' day out: Mihir Avalakki, centre, with the other podium finishers. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

KARTING

BENGALURU: Shahan Ali Mohsin and Mihir Avalakki stole the limelight in Round 1 of the Rotax Class of the JK Tyre-FMSCI National Karting Championship at Meco Kartopia here on Sunday.

Agra driver Shahan of MSport won both his races in the Senior Max category to accumulate 89 points and surge to the lead. Local boy Mihir topped the Junior Max category.

Provisional results (leaders): Micro category: Ishaan Madesh (Peregrine Racing), 89 points; Juniors: Mihir Avalakki (Birel Art), 89 points; Seniors: Shahan Ali Mohsin (MSport), 89 points.

Dalwinder Singh gets top billing

TENNIS

SPORTS BUREAU
LUDHIANA

National champion Dalwinder Singh, and the man he beat in the National championship final two years ago, Suraj Prabodh, have been seeded No. 1 and 2 in the ₹100,00 AITA ranking tennis tournament, organised by the Harvest Tennis Academy, in Jassowal from Monday.

Owing to the paucity of international events at home, except for the Asian ranking events recently, the competition-starved players are ready to capitalise on any tournament played at home.

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Munda and Rao elected in two separate elections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

Defying World Archery's suspension threats, the two factions of Archery Association of India on Sunday unanimously elected two presidents – union minister Arjun Munda and B.V.P. 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.

It, however, remains to be seen which of the two elections is declared constitutional. After issuing a suspension threat, World Archery had tried to have a unified election but all talks to bring the two factions together failed.

Priyam Garg to skipper India under-19

Uttar Pradesh batsman Priyam Garg has been named captain of the India under-19 team for the one-day tri-series in England, starting July 21. India will play against England and Bangladesh.

The squad: Priyam Garg (Capt.), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Thakur Tilak Verma, Divyansh Saxena, Shaswat Rawat, Dhruv Chand Jurel (wk), Shubhang Hegde, Ravi Bishnoi, Vidyadhar Patil, Sushant Mishra, Rasik Salam, Sameer Rizvi, Pragadesh Kanpillewar, Kamran Iqbal, Priyesh Patel (wk), Karan Lal, Purnank Tyagi and Anshul Khamboj.

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ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP ONLINE

Chasing the action

VRINDA VENU AND SUSANNA MYRTLE LAZARUS



Edges & Sledges

Coordinating between Singapore, London and Cincinnati to create a podcast is a challenge that Dhananjaya Chak, Varun Garg and Ashwin Garg have risen to. The team behind the 1 Tip 1 Hand cricketing blog recently previewed the World Cup with former Zimbabwe captain Tatenda Taibu. "Our latest episode had Andrew Mencil (of the Cricket Unfiltered podcast) from Australia and Tim Dale Lace (A View From The Stands blog) from South Africa. We've got a few more special guests lined up, but don't want to reveal too much," writes Chak. He adds that the Virat Kohli-led Indian team is their favourite, since he "combines class with the ability to handle pressure". Listen on IVM Podcasts.

IF A WORLD CUP HAPPENS, AND NO-ONE HEARS US CHATTER ABOUT IT, DID IT REALLY HAPPEN?



MIHIR BALANTRAPU



cricAnandha

One of the first independent RJs in Tamil, Anand first ventured into cricket-based content in 2017. Starting with IPL matches on the Smile Settai YouTube channel, he set out on his own a year ago as cricAnandha. Since then, he has garnered over 60,000 followers for his reviews, analyses and predictions. "I've been doing my research for the past two months to give a more nuanced take for the previews, post-match discussions, controversies, weather, field sets and more," he says. For more people to follow this cricket season, visit weekend.thehindu.com.



Aakash Chopra

For the former Indian cricketer (he played for the national team from 2003 to 2004), becoming a major YouTube presence was not a planned move. "From one video a day to live shows once a week, it quickly turned from a fun exercise to a serious one. We even have sponsors (like the Rooter sports app) on board," he says. His channel currently has about 7.87 lakh subscribers. A pro at Twitter, he most recently trolled Herschelle Gibbs during the India vs South Africa match. Chopra also has a user-driven segment called #AapKiVani, where he answers followers' questions. Follow on YouTube and @cricketaakash on Twitter.

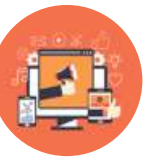


Love backing up your World Cup winner predictions with statistics? Head to Kartikeya Date's Cricketing View blog for data, accompanied by in-depth analysis.



Follow @cricledges on Instagram or join the World of Cricket Trolls Facebook group for the latest in cricket comedy.

If you're looking for specialised cricket reporting in six regional languages, the team behind the Broken Cricket website has you covered.



Hasan Minhaj continues to put the spotlight on India with his Netflix show, *Patriot Act*. A recent episode before the start of the World Cup, has him speaking about corruption in the game, and how the BCCI plays a role in it. Also available on YouTube.



Pick your fantasy league on the Dream11 site or the Rooter app's Super Selector option.



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DOWN MEMORY LANE



The Opera House that eluded Delhi

In Bengaluru now, the structure has been leased out to Samsung



R. V. SMITH

Delhi nearly got an Opera House in the late 1930s. The first Vice Chancellor of Delhi University, Sir Maurice Gwyer, was a great lover of Shakespeare's plays. He named his daughter and a college, after Miranda, from *The Tempest*. He had wanted the Dance Hall of the Old Viceregal Lodge, built during the visit of the Prince of Wales in 1922, to be converted into an Opera house.

Here, Lord Mountbatten had proposed to Lady Edwina in the same year. But the dream remained unfulfilled and Bengaluru got this distinction.

The Samsung Opera House there, has now been adopted by the South Korean multinational on a 10-year lease from the family of K. Ramakrishnan on condition that the house, spread over 33,000 sq. ft, be preserved in its originality, complete with the mud-tiled roof.

This Opera House is a business hub but with recreational and other facilities. Incidentally, it came up some 40 years after the departure of Winston Churchill from the city where he was posted as a gentleman cadet before moving on to Allahabad and then South Africa during the Boer War.

According to gossip heard in the 1960s in the Civil Lines, an American friend had suggested that Sir Maurice Gwyer stage the musical version of the famous

story, *The Devil and Daniel Webster* as a starter to the proposed opera house.

This masterpiece of American folklore has the legendary lawyer Webster fight a case with the Devil himself. A poor farmer, who had suffered huge losses in natural disasters, exclaimed loudly one desolate evening that he would gladly sell his soul to the Devil himself if his fortunes turned for the better.

Later that evening a man in a black suit visited the farmer's house and got a deed signed for seven years of good luck, after which his soul would go to the Devil. The man in black was Satan himself. When that period ended, the farmer was greatly perturbed and persuaded Daniel Webster to take up his case, which he did. After an all-night trial, in which the spirits of some of the most notorious characters of American history acted as judge and jury, Webster wins the case.

Sir Maurice was enthused by the story which reminded him of the one written on the same lines by J. F. Fanthome about a Madrasa teacher of Shahjahanpur, on whose behalf some dead luminaries of the town acted as judge and jury. The teacher, Mahfouz, accused of expelling a suspected jinn boy, eventually won the case after a night-long trial in a deserted cemetery.

Unfortunately the opera could not be staged for lack of musicians, though Louis of Bombay House had managed to get some actors, including three girls, Dolly Inglis, Helen Roy and Margaret Hamilton, as the female cast. The Devil's part was to be played by Henry Brown, an alcoholic, and Peter Pereira, a lawyer, was to act as Daniel Webster.

Past-present Inside Samsung Opera House in Bengaluru; (below) customers trying on virtual reality devices
K MURALI KUMAR

The Opera originated in Italy towards the close of the 16th century when Akbar was hosting the Jesuit missionaries at Fatehpur Sikri.

They probably told the emperor about the classical *Dafne*, produced in Florence by Jacop Peri. Akbar was familiar with the Christmas plays staged by the Italian and Portuguese merchants at his court, but a musical opera was something beyond his ken.

However it was during the time of his successors that Henrich Schutz, Jean-Baptiste Lully, and Henry Purcell made their mark as proponents of Opera. This was followed by George Frideric Handel and later Wolfgang Mozart, who had staged his Italian comic operas in the late 18th century.

It is this tradition that was the inspiration for the Bangalore Opera House, some 50 years later. The landmark on Brigade Road was in bad shape and plagued by legal cases that were filed by encroachers who had set up multiple shops inside it. It was then that Samsung stepped in.

The multinational is not averse (like the Aga Khan Trust) to the idea of sponsoring a historical building in Delhi on the same lines. A likely project could be the preservation of Arab Sarai, near Humayun's Tomb.

The writer is a veteran chronicler of Delhi

Taking Devnagri to the world

At an ongoing international meet on calligraphy in San Francisco, a special focus on Indian lettering, especially Devnagri

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

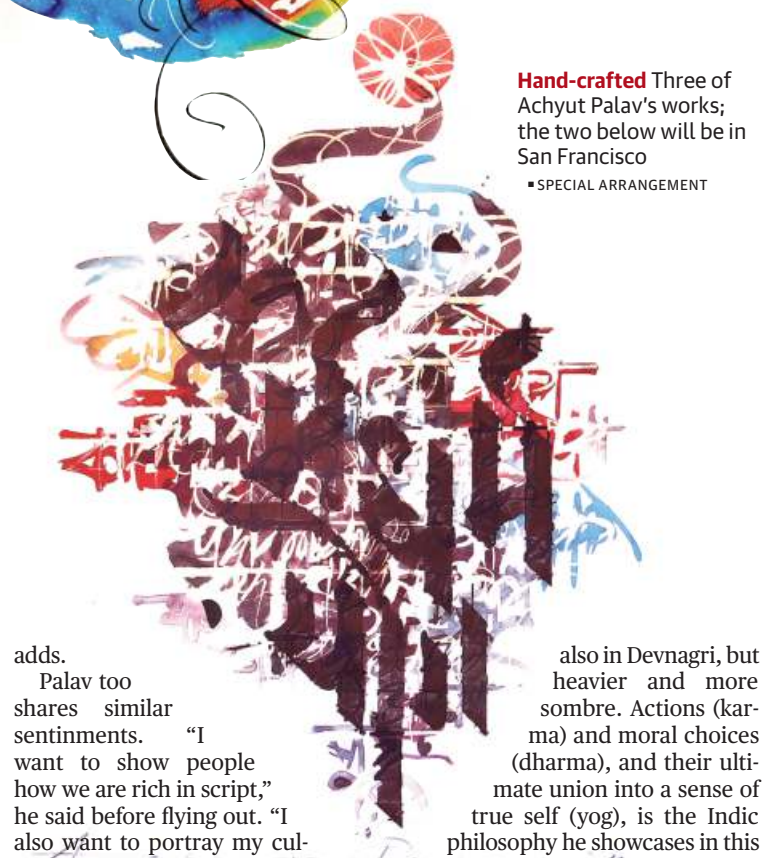
In November last year, Delhi-based calligrapher Rajeev Kumar was in California on the invitation of the Society for Calligraphy. A picture on Instagram, with him and Joan Bechtel, the society's president, details how Kumar talked about 11 different Indian calligraphy forms. The artist, who works primarily with Devnagri lettering, had even done a demo to showcase "broad edge Indian calligraphy", he said.

Just over half a year later, three more Indian calligraphers, Achyut Palav, Amol Saraf, and Gori Yusuf Husen, are in California again, this time in San Francisco; on 8th June, the organisers of a two-month-long exhibit called Calligraphies in Conversation, invited them to do demonstrations at the event's opening ceremony, at the San Francisco Center for the Book.

Specifically, Palav will stay on to hold a special master class on the fundamentals of Devnagri script here on the evening of June 12th. In its sixth edition currently, the exhibit is an annual multicultural gathering of calligraphers. The aim, says their website, is to explore "connections between calligraphy traditions and practices from different cultures and languages through the world."

At the opening ceremony, each artist highlighted their distinct style of practice - Husen, with traditional Islamic calligraphic art, and Palav and Saraf, both with Devnagri. Palav, who is based in Mumbai, and Saraf, who splits his time between India and the United States, had both studied at the J.J. School of Applied Arts in Mumbai in the 1980s.

This heightened international interest in Indian lettering forms doesn't surprise Kumar, whose work was displayed with Palav's at a group show earlier this year, at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in Delhi. "All 11 scripts of India are perfect in every way," he says. "The Latin or Roman English script isn't, because it's not fully phonetic. You can't write it properly unless you know a certain word's specific spelling. That's not the case with Devnagri. Also, Devnagri caters to 20 languages around the globe - Sindhi, Tibetan, Kashmiri, Gujarati, Punjabi, they're all variations of it," he



Hand-crafted Three of Achyut Palav's works; the two below will be in San Francisco
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

adds.

Palav too shares similar sentiments. "I want to show people how we are rich in script," he said before flying out. "I also want to portray my culture." To this effect, he will show two of his works at Calligraphies in Conversation, which will be on display through August. He says these works try to vially illustrate the feeling and meaning of the phrases he's used; this will make the literary and cultural heritage they carry accessible, and perhaps also universal.

For the first, he has chosen a line from a Marathi abhanga by Sant Tukaram. 'Anandache dohi ananda taranga', denotes a sense of elevated, peaceful joy that comes from experiencing life. He shows this on cartridge paper, with splashes of bright primary colours, along with light, playful Devnagri strokes in brush and steel pen. The second carries the words 'Karma - Dharma - Yog',

also in Devnagri, but heavier and more sombre. Actions (karma) and moral choices (dharma), and their ultimate union into a sense of true self (yog), is the Indic philosophy he showcases in this frame.

In the meantime, Palav has already picked the messages he wants to carry to the 11th World Calligraphy Biennale that's scheduled to take place in Joellabuk-du, Korea, in September this year.

The first, is 'vaisudhaiva kutumbakam', the Sanskrit line for 'the world is one family'; and the second, 'jyotite tejachi aarati', is the Marathi phrase for 'a flame that worships brilliance (like the sun's)'.

"Calligraphy isn't just about beautiful writing, it's so much more...about emotions conveyed on paper," Palav says. For him, words as language can only say and evoke so much. Words as art though, that's a whole other level.



Fit for future VR could be the new gym, if our market allows it
• GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

try, still requires some patience. Some point out that bottom-line gym etiquette needs to evolve progressively for this technology to even be considered, from people not wiping the gym equipment after a workout in a shared gym to hogging the equipment. So imagine sharing a VR ensemble with someone else's sweat on it.

Not without its drawbacks
But we have to be fairly sceptical of Virtual Reality and fitness. While VR itself seems to be an effective tool in pain management, it's worth noting the considerable amount of time required to maintain and clean the equipment – something which needs expert technicians. So how do trainers feel about this potential entrant to the fitness market?

Even in the UK, where the age of boutique gyms is dying out, VR fitness is yet to make itself known, according to Tamsa Madzimbamuto-Ray, health and well-being physiologist at Nuffield Health in London. "There are so many factors to consider; the health and safety implications being the most important ones, plus the regulation and moderation of the VR usage by gyms."

Fitness trainer Bilon Aristotle, based in Hyderabad, explains why the market may not be ready for it. "We live in a place where we can easily go engage in adventure sports and the satisfaction of such a workout is more real. As a trainer, I love to go to the gym, smell the iron, work up a sweat and see the workouts around me. See, it's like in *The Matrix* in which Morpheus eats a steak. He knows full well it's not real. We'll always go back to the classics." Plus, we've got to admit, there's nothing quite like having a real-life trainer know your history of strengths, weaknesses and limitations; your workout journey is essentially amplified by the interpersonal experience you'd miss out having an AI-driven session.

Our next worry as potential consumers: is it actually addictive? After all, the immersive nature of the equipment for VR workouts needs to be standardised by local industries and there don't seem to be any bodies in India dedicated to such psychological analyses just yet. In the meantime, be happy with a gaming session with your Oculus or a hike in the – ew – real hills.

GAMES for gains

There's a new fitness phenomenon thanks to Virtual Reality – and it's letting us exercise in our own world, powering through tsunamis and becoming the superheroes we've always wanted to be

DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

Playing tennis on your Wii is so five seasons ago! It's not a satisfying workout to simply swing your arm forward and backward dressed in pyjamas in your living room, knowing full well you'll be back on the couch diving into some *biryani*.

Enter Virtual Reality to take your gaming and your workout to a whole new level.

Pioneering the space

One of the biggest players in this fitness subculture is Black Box VR, the first VR gym. Located in San Francisco, they won 'best startup' at 2018's Consumer Electronics Show.

So how does it work? Forget standing in an airy, brightly-lit gym with other people sweating it out – at Black Box VR, much like the name, you stand in a dark space. But you're not just wearing the headgear you'd wear for a video game. While in a totally private room, your body is strapped with ergonomic sensors and controllers, so your focus is on the task at hand, working out using the equipment around you.

So what's the actual experience like? Virtually placed in visceral environments, fight your way through a tsunami and exercise those glutes, calves and hamstrings, brave tough blizzards with dead-lift equipment working your pectorals, back and biceps, con-

quer the earth and fiery environments using your chest and shoulder muscles... you can embody Bear Grylls without going anywhere near a mound of dirt!

Black Box VR claims Virtual Reality fitness can be tailored to any scale of fitness level, whether you're just taking up that New Year's resolution or you have the stamina of a gladiator.

The Artificial Intelligence in the system learns your workout pat-

tern and, with real-time resistance, ups the ante for you by adjusting the machines and the simulations accordingly. Plus, the AI, easy to use by even the tech-illiterate, will inform you if your form needs to shift.

For the Indian market

Google 'Virtual Reality fitness India,' and you sadly won't get satisfying results. Some gyms state they are a VR fitness zone, but ac-

tually just have a widescreen television set up opposite a treadmill. (Be sure to look out for these spaces by calling ahead and finding out if they have the genuine equipment.) Virtual Reality workouts haven't really made a home in India, but some have plenty of hope.

Abhinav Shankar, a software engineer, shares, "I am at my desk for about 10 hours a day, so the gym is important to my mental and physical well-being. I work out everyday – Sunday included. I have dabbled in VR gaming and have also heard of VR fitness. While I don't know what the requirements are in India for a Virtual Reality gym (because I am sure there may be a regulations worry), it sounds like an exciting venture. But I don't know how ready the market is for it."

It's worth noting that a space needs to be VR-ready, totally separate from a mainstream gym; no sound or light interferences which may interrupt the flow of a session. There's also the massive amounts of data required to run an AI programme with VR.

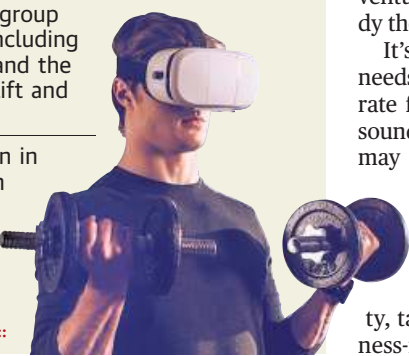
Ultimately, Virtual Reality, tapping into some already fitness-fanatic societies in the coun-

FEEDBACK IS EVERYTHING

We can look to a June 2017 study by University of Kent's School of Engineering and Digital Arts research team led by Maria Matsangidou in which isometric bicep curl sets were done at 20% of the maximum weight test subjects could lift, which they were then asked to hold for as they could.

In the same room, a VR-equipped group who saw the same environment, including a visual representation of an arm and the weight, and carried out the same lift and hold as the non-VR group.

The study showed a clear reduction in perception of pain and effort when using VR tech, explaining, "Altered visual feedback may increase or decrease the pain perception based on the visual proprioceptive feedback."



POOCH CAFE



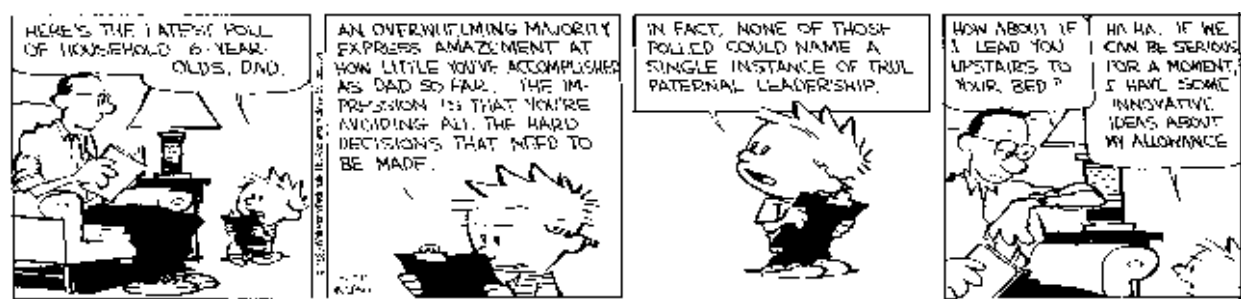
PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



TIGER



WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



HEALTH CAPSULES
by Bron Smith

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF HYPOTHYROIDISM?

I'M EXHAUSTED, AND MY MEMORY IS SHAY. DID I MENTION MY MEMORY IS SHAY?

THE SYMPTOMS OF HYPOTHYROIDISM, OR UNDERACTIVE THYROID GLAND, ARE: FREQUENT, HEAVY MENSTRUATION; FORGETFULNESS; WEIGHT GAIN; DRY, COARSE SKIN AND HAIR; HOARSE VOICE AND AN INTOLERANCE TO COLD.

Teeth: Capri - res. intended to be for a good night.

THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13092

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© GUARDIAN NEWS AND MEDIA LTD., 2016

Across

- 5 Clothes for casual activities (11)
- 7 Outlay (4)
- 8 Artificially high singing voice (8)
- 9 Judge to be probable (5,2)
- 11 Ruffle (5)
- 13 Fawn (5)
- 14 Thief (slang) (3,4)
- 16 Abuse (8)

Down

- 1 Highland dress (4)
- 2 Clown (7)
- 3 Answer (5)
- 4 Intellectual (8)
- 5 Appear as old as one is (4,4,3)
- 6 Vengeance (11)
- 10 Drink before bedtime (8)
- 12 Supporting male actor at a wedding (4,3)
- 15 Moderately warm (5)
- 17 Metal currency (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated June 11, 2019.
Solution No. 13091

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IN BRIEF



An early Tintin cover auctioned for \$1.1 million

WASHINGTON
An original drawing used for the first published Tintin cover was sold at an auction in U.S. for \$1.12 million. The illustration, by Tintin creator Herge (the pseudonym of Belgian cartoonist Georges Remi), shows the reporter sitting on a tree stump carving a makeshift propeller for his plane after the original was damaged. AFP



Watch NASA making its Mars 2020 rover live

WASHINGTON
NASA has installed a webcam that allows the public to get a live, bird's-eye view of its Mars 2020 rover as it takes shape, the U.S. space agency said. The move will allow people to watch as engineers and technicians assemble at and test the rover the NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in the U.S. before it embarks next year. PTI



Meals taste better when you are seated: study

WASHINGTON
Food tastes better when you are seated, say scientists. Holding a standing posture for even a few minutes causes physical stress, muting taste buds. The research looked at how the vestibular sense, which is responsible for posture, interacts with the gustatory sense, which impacts taste. PTI

Aviation sector faces heat over warming

Climate activists are calling for a boycott of air travel and 'green tax' on the industry is being mooted

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Under pressure from frequent flyers alarmed over climate change, the airline industry says it is "hellbent" on reducing emissions – but the technology needed to drastically reduce its carbon footprint is still out of reach.

In recent months, climate activists have stepped up efforts to convince travellers to boycott air travel, with Swedish schoolgirl and campaigner Greta Thunberg spearheading the trains-over-planes movement and making "fly-skam", or flight shame, a buzzword in the Scandinavian country.

"The sector is under considerable pressure," admitted



Rough air: Companies are eyeing a new generation of less polluting planes and aerodynamic modifications.

Alexandre de Juniac, Chief Executive of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), whose members met this week in Seoul.

The industry has been under fire over its carbon emissions, which at 285 g of CO₂ emitted per km travelled by a passenger far exceed all

other modes of transport. Road transportation follows at 158 and rail travel is at 14, according to European Environment Agency figures.

Mr. De Juniac said the industry was "hellbent" on lowering emissions but the sector is also accused of underestimating its environ-

mental impact, with the IATA chief lobbying heavily against a "green tax" on aviation backed by several countries including the Netherlands.

The International Civil Aviation Organization estimates that air transport is responsible for 2% of global CO₂ emissions – roughly equivalent to the overall emissions of Germany, according to consulting firm Sia Partners.

But aircraft also emit particles such as nitrogen oxides, which can trap heat at high altitude, meaning the industry is responsible for 5% of warming, according to the Climate Action Network.

The industry has committed to improving fuel effi-

ciency by 1.5% per year from 2009 to 2020 and stabilising its CO₂ emissions in preparation for a 50% reduction by 2050 compared to 2005.

Companies are banking on a new generation of less polluting planes with updated engines, aerodynamic modifications and fittings that weigh less.

However, Shukor Yusof, analyst with Malaysia-based Endau Analytics, said the industry had made progress but "that all these technological advances to cut emissions are tough to implement quickly due to the nature of the industry hemmed by high costs and the fact that planes typically take decades before they are replaced".

Internet may alter brain functions, says study

It can affect specific areas of cognition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MELBOURNE

The Internet can alter specific brain regions and affect our attention capacity, memory processes and social interaction, a study has found. The research, published in the journal *World Psychiatry*, showed that the Internet can produce both acute and sustained alterations in specific areas of cognition.

Researchers, including those from Oxford University in the U.K. and Harvard University in the U.S., investigated hypotheses on how the Internet may alter cognitive processes.

"The key findings of this report are that high-levels of

Internet use could indeed have an impact on many functions of the brain," said Joseph Firth, Senior Research Fellow at the Western Sydney University in Australia. The limitless stream of prompts and notifications from the Internet divides attention, which, in turn, may decrease the capacity to concentrate on a single task, said Mr. Firth, who led the study.

"Given we now have most of the world's factual information literally at our fingertips, this appears to have the potential to begin changing the ways in which we store, and even value, facts and knowledge in society, and in the brain," he added.

Seeking blessings



Nepal's Living Goddess, also known as 'Kumari', being taken to an event to mark the Rato Machindranath chariot festival in Kathmandu. The festival, celebrated by both Buddhists and Hindus, is organised to pray for a good monsoon. AFP

When it's time for a cuppa

Novel web-based tool to optimise caffeine intake

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON

Scientists have developed a web-based tool that optimises your caffeine intake, designing effective strategies to maximise alertness while avoiding excessive tea or coffee consumption.

Using multiple sleep-deprivation and shift-work scenarios, they generated caffeine-consumption guidance using the open-access tool 2B-Alert Web 2.0, and then they compared the results with the U.S. Army guidelines.

The research, published in the journal *Sleep*, found that the solutions suggested by the quantitative caffeine optimisation tool either required on average 40% less caffeine or enhanced alertness by an additional 40%.

Caffeine is the most widely consumed stimulant to counter the effects of sleep deprivation on alertness.



The tool enables users to automatically obtain optimal caffeine timing. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

However, to be safe and most effective, the right amount must be consumed at the right time.

The automated caffeine-guidance algorithm lets users input several factors: the desirable peak-alertness periods within a sleep/wake schedule, the minimum desirable level of alertness, and the maximum tolerable daily caffeine intake.

The 2B-Alert Web 2.0 tool

allows users to predict the alertness of an "average" individual as a function of his or her sleep/wake schedule and caffeine schedule. It also enables users to automatically obtain optimal caffeine timing and doses.

This freely available tool will have applications that extend beyond the realms of the military and the research lab, said Jaques Reifman, a research scientist.

A film tracks Russia's Internet saga

Documentary looks back at an era when 'Internet developed completely freely'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

In the early days of Russia's Internet, hippies founded the first telecoms venture with Americans, an astrophysicist ran the country's most visited website and providers punished hackers by kneecapping them with baseball bats.

The heady time, which coincided with the 1991 break up of the Soviet Union, is the subject of a new documentary that looks back at a very different era as the Kremlin clamps down on Internet freedom in present-day Russia.

Setting the tone, footage from 1990 shows American Joel Shatz and his Soviet partner Joseph Goldin – the duo behind the first Soviet-American telecoms venture – driving a ballistic missile transporter carrying clowns to Red Square after convincing the traffic police that the performance had been approved "by the highest



Hippies to hackers: Filmmaker Andrei Loshak. AFP

authorities".

Andrei Loshak, a former television reporter, tracks the main personalities behind the Russia-based Internet, known as Runet, for the documentary *Holy War. The history of Runet*, to be screened on Sunday at Moscow's Beat Film Festival.

His travels take him back and forth across the Atlantic to film the current lives of early Internet savants, website editors and trolls, who are now Silicon Valley entrepreneurs, cannabis investors and pro-Kremlin politicians.

Although Russia now dominates headlines with ever-tougher legislation restricting Internet use, in the 1990s "the Internet developed completely freely," said Mr. Loshak.

Russia has benefited enormously: Internet access is cheap and home-grown platforms are more popular than U.S.-based corporations like Google and Facebook.

In one clip, Russian President Vladimir Putin is shown meeting Internet entrepreneurs in 1999 and telling them that the Internet is a

"promising initiative" that he would not touch.

"And in fact, he did not touch the Internet for 15 years," Mr. Loshak said, adding: "Thanks for that, curiously."

New regulations

However, a raft of new laws clamping down on Internet use were passed following mass anti-government demonstrations in 2011-12 and Moscow's rift with the West after its annexation of Crimea in 2014.

New restrictions on online content are proposed weekly, while Internet firms are required to store personal data in Russia and comply with security services.

Many websites and services deemed dangerous for law and order are blocked, from professional social network LinkedIn to the Telegram messaging app – though the blocks are easily circumvented for the moment.

Vienna bids adieu to iconic Life Ball AIDS fundraiser

The 26th edition would be the last due to a lack of funding

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
VIENNA

The Austrian capital of Vienna bade farewell to the iconic Life Ball AIDS charity fundraiser on Saturday, as its extravagant costumes and celebrity guests took over the city's town hall for the last time.

Launched by former makeup artist Gery Keszler, among others, the ball has raised around €30 million (\$34 million) for anti-AIDS causes within Austria and abroad since its first edition in 1993, organisers said.

Mr. Keszler announced last month that this year's edition of the ball would be the last due to a lack of funding. Organisers say the ball is no longer viable as, paradoxically, advances in treatment and prognosis for people with HIV and AIDS have meant fewer donors are will-



Starry farewell: Participants performing during the opening ceremony of the Life Ball in Vienna. REUTERS

ing to contribute to such causes.

This year's ball began with a spectacular opening ceremony inspired by the worlds of magic and the circus, as well as the classic film *The Wizard Of Oz*.

Austrian Eurovision winner and drag star Conchita

Wurst was one of the "ringmasters" of the evening and kicked off the ceremony with a procession of acrobats, stilt-walkers and – in a nod to Viennese ball tradition – 200 "debutantes" of all ages. The ceremony also paid homage to the history of LGBT activism.

Protected areas failing to save wildlife: study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MELBOURNE

The world's protected areas are experiencing major shortfalls in staffing and resources and are therefore failing on a massive scale to safeguard wildlife, a study has found.

The analysis looked at more than 2,100 protected areas around the world and found that less than a quarter report having adequate resources in terms of staffing and budget.

The study, published in the journal *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, looked at nearly 12,000 species of terrestrial amphibians, birds, and mammals whose ranges include protected areas and found only 4 to 9% are represented within the borders of the adequately resourced protected areas.

The findings also show that protected areas are grossly under-funded.

Underworld and sexuality in the spotlight at Tony awards

While Anais Mitchell's dark folk opera *Hadestown* vies for best musical prize, the frontrunner for best play is *The Ferryman*

REUTERS
NEW YORK

Race, sexual politics and a trip to the underworld are poised to take center stage on Sunday in New York at the annual Tony awards honouring the best of Broadway theatre.

Hosted by late night television personality James Corden, the Tonys cap a record season for Broadway, both in ticket sales and box office receipts, which exceeded \$1.8 billion.

"We're more in sync with the cross currents of the times," said Heather Hitchens, president of the American Theatre Wing which pre-



Musical odyssey: A file photo of Caitlin Kinnunen, center left, and Brooks Ashmanskas in the musical *The Prom*. NYT

sents the Tonys with *The Broadway League*. "You can see it in the themes of almost

every show," she said, adding, "It's hard to think of a show that doesn't touch on a

relevant or current issue."

League President Charlotte St. Martin said that topical issues and average ticket prices under \$100 are drawing in younger fans.

Anais Mitchell's *Hadestown*, a dark folk opera about young lovers trapped in the underworld, is poised to collect the prize for best musical, after receiving a leading 14 nominations.

But *The Prom*, a musical about a group of egocentric Broadway actors invading a Midwestern town to support a lesbian who wants to bring her girlfriend to her prom, has its cheerleaders, as does *Tootsie*, a hit show based on

the 1982 film about a struggling actor who finds stardom by passing himself off as a woman.

Tootsie is expected to bring a Tony for lead actor Santino Fontana, while Bryan Cranston, favoured as the unhinged TV news anchor in the play *Network*, faces competition from Jeff Daniels as noble white lawyer Atticus Finch in the racial drama *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Sexuality is at the centre of best play revival nominees *Torch Song* and *Boys in the Band*, but Arthur Miller's *All My Sons* or *The Waverly Gallery* may prevail.

Award watchers say Elaine

May, the veteran writer and director, is expected to win best actress in a play for her moving turn in *The Waverly Gallery* as an Alzheimer's patient. Best play frontrunner is British playwright Jez Butterworth's *The Ferryman*, a wrenching examination of a family during the sectarian violence in Northern Ireland in the 1980s that garnered nine nods.

Sexual politics get an airing in Heidi Schreck's one-woman show *What the Constitution Means to Me*, while Hillary Clinton's unsuccessful bid for the White House in 2008 is revisited in *Hillary and Clinton*.

First gene-edited babies at early death risk: study

21% increase in mortality in later life

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LOS ANGELES

The first babies whose genes were reportedly altered to help them fend off HIV infection are more likely to die younger, says a study.

According to an analysis by scientists from the University of California, Berkeley, the genetic mutation that a Chinese scientist attempted to create in twin babies born last year is associated with a 21% increase in mortality in later life. The researchers scanned more than 4,000,000 genomes and associated health records contained in a British

database, U.K. Biobank, and found that people who had two mutated copies of the gene had a significantly higher death rate between ages 41 and 78, than those with one or no copies.

Previous studies associated two mutated copies of the gene, CCR5, with a four-fold increase in the death rate after influenza infection, and the higher mortality rate to susceptibility to death from the flu. But the researchers said there could be any number of explanations, since the protein that CCR5 codes for is involved in many functions.