



Mamata unveils bust of Vidyasagar, urges unity to save Bengal culture

page 12



U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to visit Delhi this month-end

page 13

PLAYING TODAY

ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP 2019

Australia vs Pakistan

VENUE: Taunton

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Injured Dhawan to stay back, to be under observation

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NEARBY



City may get relief from heat today

NEW DELHI
The Capital continued to reel under heatwave conditions on Tuesday with the maximum temperature settling at 45.5 degrees Celsius, up five notches. However, relief might be in store with the Met department forecasting a cloudy sky with chances of light rain on Wednesday.

CITY PAGE 3

GEOGRAPHY
OPTIONAL
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OPPORTUNITIES PAGE 2

SC orders release on bail of journalist arrested in U.P.

Cannot watch a citizen deprived of liberty for social media posts, says court

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the immediate release of journalist Prashant Kanojia on bail, saying it had no intention to sit back and watch a citizen deprived of his personal liberty for his social media posts.

Mr. Kanojia's family claims he was picked up from his home on June 8 by plainclothesmen and taken to an undisclosed location for allegedly sharing a video on social media of a woman claiming she has sent a marriage proposal to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

"Arrest? Arrest? A citizen's right to liberty has been infringed. We have gone through the records... Yes,

Yes, these sort of tweets should not be made... But to arrest him? Liberty guaranteed under fundamental rights is sacrosanct. Whatever it is, he [Kanojia] has to be released on bail immediately



We are not appreciative of the manner of his tweets, but we are bothered about his arrest and incarceration... We live in a country where there is a Constitution. Proceed against him in accordance with law, but should he be behind bars?

JUSTICE INDIRA BANERJEE
Supreme Court judge

these sort of tweets should not be made... But to arrest him? Liberty guaranteed under fundamental rights is sacrosanct. Whatever it is, he [Mr. Kanojia] has to be released on bail immediately,"

Justice Indira Banerjee addressed Additional Solicitor-General (ASG) Vikramjit Banerjee, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government.

The court called the action taken by the Uttar Pra-

desh government a "glaring case of deprivation of liberty", in which a citizen had been sent to custody for 13-14 days.

'Not endorsing tweets'
When the ASG said Mr. Kanojia's release would be construed by the public as an endorsement of his social media posts, Justice Banerjee shot back, "Why should it? It will be treated as an endorsement of his right to personal liberty." "We are not appreciative of the manner of his tweets, but we are bothered about his arrest and incarceration," she said.

FREE SPEECH CANNOT BE CHOKED BY ARREST, SAYS SC PAGE 12
THIN-SKINNED MASTERS EDITORIAL

Wreckage of missing AN-32 spotted in Arunachal: IAF

Team sent to Siang to verify the sighting

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI/NEW DELHI

The wreckage of the Indian Air Force's AN-32 transport aircraft that went missing eight days ago with 13 personnel on board in Arunachal Pradesh was located on Tuesday.

"The wreckage was spotted today 16 km north of Lipo, northeast of Tato, at an approximate elevation of 12,000 feet by the IAF Mi-17 helicopter undertaking search in the expanded search zone," the IAF said in a statement.

Tato is the headquarters of Shi-Yomi district, bordering China.

Different site?

However, Shi-Yomi Deputy Commissioner Mito Dirchi said local officials, engaged in coordinating the search



The AN-32 that crashed in Arunachal Pradesh.

which contact with the AN-32 was lost 35 minutes after it took off from Jorhat in Assam in the afternoon of June 3.

Siang Deputy Commissioner Rajiv Takuk also said locals claimed to have spotted the wreckage on the left bank of the river Siyom near Gatte. "A team has been sent to verify," he added.

on the ground for the missing aircraft with local hunters and villagers, reported the sighting of the wreckage near Gatte village in Siang district, adjoining Shi-Yomi. Gatte is in Payum circle over

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Stronger together



A ceremony was held at Chennai port on Tuesday to seal affiliation ties between the Coast Guard and the 3rd (Naga Hills) battalion of Assam Rifles on ICGS Shaurya, left. A battalion of the Assam Rifles will train on the ship. *R. RAGU

Two ISJK militants killed in Shopian

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Two Islamic State-J&K (ISJK) militants were killed in a pre-dawn operation in south Kashmir's Shopian on Tuesday. A police spokesman said the militants, Sayar Ahmad Bhat from Kulgam's Yaripora and Shkir Ahmad Wagay from Shopian's Awneera, were surrounded at Awneera in an early morning operation.

"During the search operation, the hiding militants fired on the search party. In the ensuing encounter, the two militants were killed and the bodies were retrieved," said the police.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

GDP growth overestimated during 2011-17: Arvind Subramanian

Actual growth only 4.5%, says ex-Chief Economic Adviser

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI

Former Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) Arvind Subramanian has said India's GDP growth in the period 2011-12 to 2016-17 is likely to have been over-estimated, and the tag of the fastest-growing major economy may not hold.

In a research paper, 'India's GDP Mis-estimation: Likelihood, Magnitudes, Mechanisms, and Implications', published by Harvard University, Mr. Subramanian has argued that GDP growth during that period was actually 4.5% rather than the 7% presented by



Arvind Subramanian

official data.

"Official estimates place annual average GDP growth between 2011-12 and 2016-17 at 7%. We estimate that actual growth may have been about 4.5%, with a 95% confidence interval of 3.5-5.5%."

Mr. Subramanian, whose term as CEA from October 2014 to June 2018 coincided in part with this period of "overestimation", has stressed that his paper deals with the technical origins of the overestimation and not the political aspects.

Responding to Mr. Subramanian's paper, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation late on Tuesday reiterated its stance that the methodology adopted was in line with international standards as set by the United Nations and was as such robust.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Life term to man for hijack threat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In a first, a special NIA court in Ahmedabad sentenced Birju Salla, a businessman, to life imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹5 crore for placing a 'hoax' hijack note on a Jet Airways plane in October 2017.

Of the fine deposited by Salla, the pilots on the aircraft would get a compensation of ₹1 lakh each, each air hostess ₹50,000 and each passenger ₹25,000 for the "misery undergone by them," the court of special NIA judge K.M. Dave said.

DETAILS ON PAGE 13

Four pilgrims from T.N. die in train near Jhansi

Senior citizens were on religious tour

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Four senior citizens from Tamil Nadu, travelling on a train from Agra to Coimbatore, died on Monday near the Jhansi railway station in Uttar Pradesh. The deceased were part of a group undertaking a religious tour of north India.

The deceased were identified as Pachaiappan, 80, Balakrishnan, 67, Dhana-lakshmi, 74, and Subbarayan, 87.

Three of them are from Coimbatore and one from Coonoor.

A fifth member from the group, Kaladevi, 58, passed away before the group boarded the Kerala Express bound for Thiruvananthapuram at Agra.

Heat wave conditions

According to co-passengers, the four elderly victims were unable to bear the intense heat wave conditions prevailing in north India.

According to officials of Jhansi Division of the North Central Railway, an emergency call was made to the Jhansi Junction that four persons had "fainted" in the S8 and S9 coaches. Immediately, a railway medical specialist was kept in readiness.

When the train reached the station, the doctor examined the four persons, and found Pachaiappan, Balakrishnan and Dhana-lakshmi had already died while Subbarayan was in a serious

condition.

He was rushed to the nearby Jhansi District Civil Hospital, where he died later.

Case filed

The authorities passed on information to Government Railway Police, who filed a case and completed the post mortem examination at the Jhansi Civil Hospital.

The bodies were handed over to the group members and sent to Coimbatore in a separate coach on Tuesday. Jhansi Divisional Railway Manager Neeraj Ambisht visited the station and instructed the officials to provide all necessary help to the victims.

According to the Jhansi Division Public Relations Officer, the train left New Delhi at 11.25 a.m. on Monday and reached Agra Cantonment at 2.05 p.m.

However, on hearing that the passengers were having health problems, the train, which had a travel time of 210 minutes and should have reached Jhansi at 5.40 p.m., reached almost an hour ahead. Regarding the cause of death, the PRO said the post mortem report is yet to be released.

One of the tour organisers, who did not want to be named, said that every year a large group from Coimbatore visited various places in north India in May. This year, the group of more than 100 persons had gone on a trip to Agra and Varanasi.

When a job loses its fizz

Corporates should be proactive in how they deal with work-related burnouts

LIFFY THOMAS

Job-related 'burnout' now figures in World Health Organisation's International Classification of Diseases. WHO's classification of 'burnout' as a medical condition should hopefully encourage the corporate world to be more proactive in dealing with it.

To be proactive, employees, especially line managers, should be able to identify signs of a burnout in their colleagues. There should be an employee assistance programme specifically targeting this problem, with the emphasis on creating awareness about the various ways in which it can show up.



Representational picture. PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Frequent absenteeism due to health-related issues or other reasons should be investigated

Aarti Shyamsunder, an organisational psychologist and founder of Psymantics Consulting, says a manager needs to be on the lookout for "systematic" signs.

"Frequent absenteeism due to health-related issues or other reasons should be investigated," she says. Some companies engage in employee engagement survey, which must be studied for tell-tale patterns. "For all of this to be done effectively,

the manager has to be trained and empowered," she adds.

Lack of clarity

Often, a burnout can result from lack of clarity about a role. When key performance areas are not clearly defined, there is the possibility of engaged and enterprising employees overdoing it, and ending up in a burnout.

Aarti says, "The line manager plays an important role by setting clear goals and responsibilities."

There is no end to how creatively you can address this issue. Debleena Majumdar, director, Gray Matters Capital and co-founder Kahanayah, believes storytelling

can help deal with burnout-related problems at the workplace. At the workshops that she conducts for corporates, she uses anti-stories, which she says are specially helpful in today's context when companies are going through organisational restructuring and downsizing their workforce as a result of it. She says "fear of irrelevance" is a cause of stress and burnout. Debleena says that they conduct multiple levels of this exercise where people are encouraged to come up with versions of a story that is doing the rounds at their company, and help them create a positive attitude towards the development.

'We will pay you to quit smoking'

A Hyderabad-based firm launches a novel programme that offers help and a monetary reward to those of its employees who are fighting a battle with the cigarette

LIFFY THOMAS

For employees of a Hyderabad-based company who smoke, there is now a strong incentive to kick the habit. SmartDrive Systems, a firm working on video-based safety and transportation intelligence, launched what it calls 'Withdrawal Policy' on World No Tobacco Day (May 31) that will encourage smokers among its employees to quit smoking. They have to do so in a challenge lasting three months. A monetary reward will be waiting for those who succeed in the challenge.

Employees who sign up for Withdrawal Policy will receive support from a few partner organisations that discourage tobacco use, in-



PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

cluding Hope Trust. These organisations will provide counselling, nicotine replacement therapies, smoke control activities and medication. The company will pay for these in-

tervention programmes. The highlight of Withdrawal Policy is the cash reward. "The idea is to discourage employees from smoking, and also reward those individuals who give

up the cigarette during the period, with a cash award of ₹20,000," says Pradeep Bangalore, director, people operations, SmartDrive Systems.

The challenge is open only to those addicted to smoking. Social smokers and, of course, non-smokers can't enrol for it. Tests will be conducted on enrolled employees to check their nicotine levels, before, during and after the challenge.

Employee 'buddies' will help smokers quit the habit. "We are also encouraging the family and colleagues of an employee to be part of the programme as they can play an important role in helping the person fight the addiction," says Pradeep. The larger goal behind this pro-

We want to showcase stories of employees who have fought the habit successfully

gramme is to promote a healthy work culture, which includes reaching out to employees who are stressed at work and recognising and creating role models for employees who trying to give up smoking.

"We want to showcase stories of employees who have fought the habit successfully," says Pradeep. SmartDrive Systems, which has a strength of 600 employees, plans to extend this challenge to six and 12 months.

'Raise leaders, don't hire them'

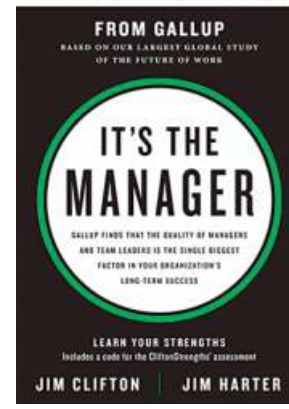
PTI

Absence of an internal succession pipeline can be a huge drain on resources, especially time, as an organisation will be forced to hire from outside every time a leadership vacancy has to be filled, according to a report.

Over 34% of global organisations have listed absence of an internal succession pipeline as a major challenge in leadership acquisition, according to Mercer-Mettl 'Leadership Hiring Trends 2019' report.

For large organisations, the biggest challenge encountered while finding the right leadership talent is 'long hiring lead time'. For small companies, 'lack of an internal succession pipeline' is the biggest challenge. The BFSI sector has emerged as the leading industry with 78% of the organisations having an effective leadership competency framework.

FROM THE BOOKSHELF



It's the manager
Publisher: Simon & Schuster

Author: Jim Clifton and Jim Harter

With 52 findings from Gallup's largest study on the future of work, *It's the Manager* shows leaders how to adapt their organisations to rapid changes. Some of them include managing remote employees, a diverse workforce, gig workers, and retaining best employees.

Gallup's research reveals that it's the manager who can maximise the potential of every team member.

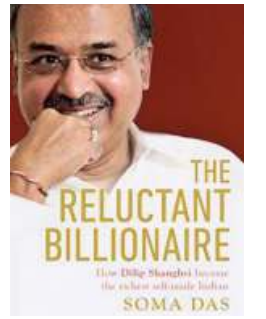
Talk to me
Publisher: Penguin

Author: James Vlahos

In *Talk to Me*, tech journalist James Vlahos meets the researchers at Google, Amazon and Apple who are leading the way to a voice computing revolution. He explores how voice technology can hand untold new powers to businesses, upend traditional notions of privacy, revolutionise access to information, and fundamentally alter the way we understand human consciousness. And he even tries to understand the significance of the revolution firsthand - by building a chatbot version of his terminally-ill father.

The Reluctant Billionaire

Publisher: Penguin
Author: Soma Das

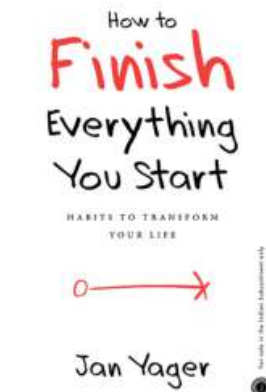


How Dilip Shanghvi became the "richest self-made Indian" is a story of the fiercely-intense personality that lies beneath his calm demeanour. Based on interviews with over 150 friends, family members, rivals, former aides and Shanghvi himself, it traces his transformation from a quiet, curious child working in his father's small shop to an astute strategist, who built India's largest pharma company, Sun Pharma, despite being untrained in science.

The author, a business journalist, throws light on Shanghvi's contrarian and controversial bets that made Sun a global force.

How to Finish Everything You Start
Publisher: Jaico
Author: Jan Yager

This book aims to help one understand the causes of "the unfinished" epidemic, its cures, and when choosing not to finish something is okay.



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City may get relief from heat today

Met Dept. forecasts partly cloudy sky

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Capital continued to reel under a heatwave on Tuesday with the maximum temperature settling five degrees above normal at 45.5 degrees Celsius.

However, relief might be in store with the Meteorological Department predicting a cloudy sky with chance of light rain on Wednesday.

Tuesday's day temperature saw a drop after the city witnessed highest-ever June temperature on Monday with the mercury soaring to 48 degrees Celsius in Palam.

The minimum temperature on Tuesday was 30.4 degrees Celsius. Although some areas in the city saw heavy cloud build-up in the early hours of Tuesday, none of the weather stations recorded any rainfall. The Air Quality Index of

Delhi on Tuesday was in the "poor" category with a reading of 300, according to the Central Pollution Control Board.

Dust storm

There was heavy localised dust lifting due to high temperature and strong winds, but it reduced by late afternoon.

"A severe dust storm originated from Sistan basin in Afghanistan, which travelled to Karachi [Pakistan]. A diluted plume is likely to hit north India, including Delhi, in two days," a forecast by CPCB read.

The weatherman has forecast a partly cloudy sky on Wednesday with dust storm/thunderstorm accompanied by light rain and gusty winds. Maximum temperature is likely to fall to 41 degrees Celsius. The minimum is expected to be 31 degrees Celsius.



c e s c e c e e s



Women enjoy ice cream as the Capital continues to reel under a heatwave. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

BJP gheraos office of DJB CEO over water crisis

Will leave only after issue is resolved: Goel

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A BJP delegation, led by Vijay Goel, staged a protest at the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) office here on Tuesday demanding immediate solution to the city's water woes. The team had come to meet DJB CEO Nikhil Kumar but went on to stage a protest, saying they would not leave till the problem is resolved.

"They [DJB] have no clue as to how many complaints they have received. They don't have any knowledge about the areas where people have been getting contaminated water or no water at all. They have no plans to resolve the crisis. We have gheraoed the CEO office and will not let

him leave tonight," Mr. Goel said. In a late night tweet, he indicated that the delegation planned to stay overnight.

The protesters also raised slogans against CM Arvind Kejriwal, who is the DJB chief.

In a statement, the Delhi Jal Board CEO said, "I have heard the issues of the residents of Delhi gathered at the office. The officials have been given strict instructions to resolve the grievances in various areas."

"Around 35 people along with Mr. Goel entered Mr. Kumar's office at 5.30 p.m. and have refused to leave until the issue is resolved," an official who was inside the CEO's room told *The Hindu* over the phone.

Sheila to meet CM over power, water problems

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress chief Sheila Dikshit is scheduled to meet Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday to discuss power and water woes being faced by people in the city.

The Delhi Congress said that a delegation would meet the Chief Minister at his Flagstaff Road residence.

Government sources said that the CM's Office has prepared a presentation for the Delhi Congress team to show comparative data on power policy during Ms. Dikshit's te-

nure and the present regime.

"We have prepared a presentation on how power tariff situation would have been worse if the policies in place during the Dikshit tenure continued today," a government source said.

On June 8, Ms. Dikshit had alleged that the Aam Aadmi Party government coaxed tenants to instal separate power meters, following which the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission increased fixed charges benefiting discoms.

BJP slams govt. for 'no summer action plan'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday questioned the absence of a summer action plan to deal with "acute power and water crises" being faced by the residents of the Capital.

Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari claimed that more than two crore people were suffering due to the ongoing heatwave even as the summer action plan, which used to be routinely prepared by the Delhi government in the month of February itself, was non-existent this year.

Mr. Tiwari accused the Chief Minister of being responsible for the lack of adequate water supply affecting 37 lakh citizens.

"Today, the Delhi BJP announces that just after coming to power we will supply drinking water to every house through taps... Mr. Kejriwal is misleading the people by making promises for freebies, which has already been rejected by the people," he added.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR	
Delhi	300
Gurgaon	241
Ghaziabad	274
Faridabad	241
Noida	319
Greater Noida	353

IN BRIEF

Patrol your areas, L-G urges senior policemen

Senior officers should personally patrol areas under their jurisdiction at different times of the day, L-G Anil Baijal advised the Delhi Police on Tuesday during a review meeting over preventive strategies to curb street crimes. "The L-G directed that visibility of the police on the streets should be enhanced and be further extended inside residential colonies, especially during the night... more personnel on motorbikes should also be deployed," the statement read.

DELHI TODAY

Exhibition: Spirituality, a solo painting exhibition by Sujata Agrawal at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Exhibition: Bahaar-e-Dilli, a solo exhibition by Bahaar Jain and calligraphy in Urdu by Dr. Touseef Sheikh at Delhi 'o' Delhi Foyer, IHC, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditordelhi@thehindu.co.in)

IN BRIEF

**'Over 40% vacancy in Social Welfare Dept.'**

NEW DELHI
Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam on Tuesday inspected his department office in Geeta Colony and slammed L-G Anil Bajjal for 40% vacancy. The Minister said multiple letters had been sent to the L-G about the matter but there had been no action from him.

State poll: Cong. starts process to pick candidates

NEW DELHI
The Congress on Tuesday held a meeting on how to select candidates for the upcoming Delhi Assembly poll. It was decided that the District and Block Congress Committee presidents should suggest names of three candidates from their Assembly areas by June 22. This would then be submitted to the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee office.

School of Football Excellence in CR Park

NEW DELHI
Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, during an inspection of SPM Sarvodaya Vidyalaya in CR Park, announced the construction of a state-of-the-art football ground on the school premises. He also inspected a pilot project to install terrace solar panels in Delhi government schools.

'Universities need to reimagine identity'

NEW DELHI
At a forum in Hamburg held to initiate a dialogue among global university leaders on the challenges that national higher education systems are confronted with, O.P. Jindal Global University's Founding V-C C. Raj Kumar said universities need to reimagine their institutional identity on the basis of a shared understanding of the common good.

12 government-funded DU colleges face money crunch

Institutions caught in DU-AAP govt. tussle over formation of governing bodies

SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI

The deadlock between Delhi University and the AAP government over the formation of governing bodies has left 12 colleges in the lurch.

The colleges are fully funded by the government, which has not released the first installment of funds.

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College principal Hemchand Jain said salaries of the staff were being paid from previous year's grant and students' fees. However, these internal resources have been exhausted, he added.

Without funds, the college will not be able to pay utility charges or salaries to contractual staff among others from the next month, he added.

A similar situation persists at Bhaskaracharya College of Applied Sciences, where the



The AAP government has not released the first installment of funds for 12 DU colleges.

principal, Baram Pani, said funds are not available for lab equipment. The college is not prepared for admissions season, where ₹40,000 worth of stationery will be employed, he said, adding that the salaries of ad hoc teachers were not paid this month. At Indira Gandhi Institute of Physical Education & Sports Sciences, the college authorities said they were able to pay salaries for May but will find it difficult to meet liabilities in June.

One of the DU principal, on the condition of anonymity, said the government was seeking to interfere in the day-to-day functioning of the colleges.

The current issue is over finalisation of nominees to the governing bodies of these colleges.

Another principal said in the fight between the university and the government, it is unfortunate that the colleges are suffering.

'Proposal at final stage'

A university official said the proposal for governing body nominees was at a final stage of the government and is expected to be passed before the end of this month.

Meanwhile, during admission season, expenses at colleges tend to rise with the need to employ extra security guards to help handle the

crowd, increased stationery expenses and other preparations for new students. These expenses will be higher this year with the university expected to take in close to 63,000 students in order to account for 10% EWS reservations.

The 12 colleges, which are fully funded by the Delhi government include Acharya Narendra Dev College, Aditi Mahavidyalaya, Bhagini Nivedita College, Bhaskaracharya College of Applied Sciences, Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar College, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College, Indira Gandhi Institute of Physical Education & Sports Sciences, Keshav Mahavidyalaya, Maharshi Valmiki College of Education, Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Science, Maharaja Agrasen College and Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies.

Students protest against DU's 'faulty admission process'

Raise objections against fee sought from OBC, EWS aspirants

PALLAVI KESWANI
NEW DELHI

Around 50 people from 10 different student organisations gathered in front of Delhi University's Arts Faculty on Tuesday to protest against "faulty admission process".

The protest focused on the discrepancy in registration fee being demanded for entrance-based courses from OBC, and EWS category students. They also protested against the recent fee hike in institutions such as Ramjas College and Bharti College.

"The All India Students' Association [AISA] and Students' Federation of India had submitted a memorandum listing out all the demands. We were told that it will be forwarded to the Examination Committee but we have not received any response. Hence, we have gathered here," said Prasenjeet from AISA.



Students protest against the admission process in Delhi University on Tuesday. •SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Speaking on the recent decision of DU to club OBC category and the Unreserved category students in charging registration fees, Amarjeet, a member of AISA, said: "They have equated OBC with the general category and refuse to provide any answer or logic behind this. They are charging ₹750 from both while charging ₹300 from SC, ST and EWS students. A Vice-Chancellor, who cannot differentiate between OBC and general category, does not deserve to be a one and should apologise publicly."

At the end of the protest, members from the student organisations met the Dean of Students' Welfare Association and gave him their memorandums. "He didn't give us any assurance. We have given them a three-day deadline to take action, failing which we will continue our protest," said Amarjeet.

2 chargesheets against DDCA secretary

For alleged role in fudging date of birth of aspiring cricketers

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has filed two chargesheets against Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) secretary Vinod Tihara in a court here for his alleged role in fudging the date of birth of aspiring cricketers and making older players play in lower age groups.

The police said Mr. Tihara, who was earlier the convener of Sports Working Committee of the DDCA, misused his position with the aid of two institutions that he owned or managed — Vidya Jain Public School

and Lal Bahadur Shastri Cricket Club.

Manipulation and fraud

It said he provided an institutional platform for age manipulation and fraud which was made use of by certain unscrupulous parents to ensure that their children could play in the desired age group. These parents got the age of their children changed in municipal records by fraud and got them admitted to Vidya Jain Public School to create proof of a fictitious date of birth which would be "easily" accepted in DDCA.

"On the basis of the investigation, Delhi Police has booked Vinod Tihara, the principal of Vidya Jain Public School, Naresh Jain, along with parents of players for offences under Sections 420, 468, 471, 120B and 34 of IPC," the police said.

The investigation began after FIRs were registered in 2014/2015 on the basis of complaints made by Kirti Azad, ex-member of Parliament and former international cricketer alleging age fraud committed by the parents of certain players, in connivance with Mr. Tihara.

Centre told to give pay revision benefits to prosecutors

High Court asks govt. to accept recommendations made by AAP dispensation

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has directed the Centre to extend all the benefits to the prosecutors in the matter of granting revision of their pay scales as recommended by the city government.

'Implement the same'

A Bench of Chief Justice Ranendra Menon (since retired) and Justice Brijesh Sethi asked the Centre to accept the recommendations made by the government on the service conditions pertaining to

prosecutors and service benefit to be extended to them "in its totality and implement the same".

The Bench remarked that the orders passed by it on September 3, 2015 and February 1, 2019, in the matter of granting revision of pay scales to the prosecutors as recommended by the Delhi government have not been implemented yet.

It pointed out that the Supreme Court had already considered as to who would have authority for dealing with the service conditions and other issues relating to

public prosecutors and special public prosecutors in the city.

The top court had ruled that, "Lieutenant-Governor, while appointing the Special Public Prosecutor, is to act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers".

"In the light of aforesaid categorical direction of the Supreme Court, the Union of India [UOI] has no other option but to accept the recommendations made by the Government of NCT of Delhi in its totality and implement the same," the

High Court said.

"Accordingly, we direct the UOI to do so and issue an appropriate notification within one month from today. Needless to mention that the UOI shall extend all the benefits to the prosecutors as recommended by the Government of NCT of Delhi," the court's May 30 order stated.

The High Court was hearing two petitions seeking upward revision in the pay scales of prosecutors and for equipping them with facilities and infrastructure needed to do their job.

Four cops among 15 held for extorting money from drivers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA

Fifteen people, including four policemen, have been arrested for allegedly extorting money from car drivers after threatening them with rape charges, the police said on Tuesday.

A Sub-Inspector, three constables and three private drivers of a PCR van were also held in connection with the case, they said. Two women were caught red-handed while "settling a matter" with a victim for ₹50,000 on Monday night near Sector 44 police outpost, said officers.

A few days ago, the police got information about the gang, said SSP (Gautam Buddh Nagar) Vaibhav Krishna. "A woman from the gang would hitchhike a car ride on some pretext and ask the driver to stop the vehicle near Sector 44 police outpost. She would then approach the PCR van stationed nearby and complain to fake cops of rape by the driver," he said.

Then they would threaten the driver with legalese and he would eventually offer to settle the matter in lieu of some money, Mr. Krishna said.

Key member of fake currency racket arrested

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

An alleged key member of an international fake currency racket has been arrested, the police said on Tuesday.

DCP (Special Cell) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said Santosh Kumar Singh from Bihar was nabbed from Kashmere Gate on June 6.

"Fake Indian currency with a face value of ₹5 lakh in denominations of ₹2,000 notes was seized from the 32-year-old's possession," Mr. Yadav said.

During interrogation, it was revealed that fake currency was being pumped into India through Bangladesh and Nepal and later circulated across the country through West Bengal.

"The accused also disclosed that he procured the fake notes from one Nawal to supply in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana," the DCP said.

Santosh was pumping fake currency for the past year and used to pay Nawal ₹40 per ₹100 fake note. He supplied these to his parties for ₹50-60. "Efforts are being made to nab other accused, who have been identified," the officer added.



Former AAP trade wing leader joins BJP
NEW DELHI
Former Aam Aadmi Party Trade Wing general secretary Vijender Yadav joined the BJP here on Tuesday. "I had joined AAP to work for the society but Arvind Kejriwal put pressure on me to collect money... those who don't collect money are publicly insulted," said Mr. Yadav.

Three die in car crash on Yamuna Expressway
NOIDA
Three persons, who were returning home after attending a wedding in Aligarh, died when their speeding car crashed into a truck on the Yamuna Expressway in Greater Noida. The deceased were identified as Gaurav (30), Pankaj (32) and Praveen (28), all residents of Ghaziabad.

Jain inaugurates 'smart public charging station'
NEW DELHI
Power Minister Satyendra Jain inaugurated a 'smart public charging station' in South Extension-2 market, set up by electricity discom BSES, here on Tuesday. BSES in statement said that it had entered into a partnership with multiple organisations to develop 150 such stations.

Female foetus found dumped in drain
NOIDA
A female foetus, around five-months-old, was found inside a watermelon rind dumped in a drain in Gejha village in Sector 93, the police said on Tuesday.

History-sheeter nabbed after gunfight
GHAZIABAD
A history-sheeter, identified as Phool Mia alias Rijwan, was nabbed after a gunfight near the Mahamaya stadium flyover here, the police said on Tuesday.

Ex-karate player, student arrested for stealing cars from rental firm

Duo hired vehicles online using fake documents; one SUV recovered

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI
A former karate player and an electrical engineering student have been arrested by the Delhi Police for allegedly stealing luxury vehicles after hiring them on fake documents from a portal of a car rental company.

The duo has been identified as Sahil Shokeen, a resident of Haryana who quit karate after falling off a train and damaging his foot while on his way to participate in the 2014 National Games, and Sachin Parasar from Rohini, Delhi, who is pursuing a diploma in electrical engineering from a college in Sonapat, Haryana. The duo used to disable the GPS of the vehicle before fleeing with it, said the police.

The company – Zoomcar India – approached the police after it was unable to locate an SUV it had rented out to the duo recently. The police have recovered the stolen car from their possession.

DCP (New Delhi) Madhur



The accused in police custody. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Verma said a case was registered after Prashant Sharma, an authorised representative of Zoomcar India, submitted a complaint at the Connaught Place police station against a man named Dushyant Chauhan who had booked an SUV and not returned it after the booking period got over.

Police team formed
A team was formed under the supervision of Additional DCP Shobhit Saxena to trace the accused persons. "The team scanned CCTV footages, questioned carjackers

out on bail and found some important clues. We also scrutinised dossiers of criminals, zeroed in on a few and checked their possible hide-outs. Except one, most of them were found at their addresses," said Mr. Verma.

On June 10, the police got an input that the suspect had been spotted in Rohtak, Haryana and Bahadurgarh in Haryana.

"With the help of technical surveillance Shokeen was nabbed. During questioning, he admitted to his involvement in the car theft. Shokeen also revealed Sachin's

involvement in the case and the latter was picked up from a location in Delhi. They were formally arrested and on their disclosure the SUV was recovered," said Mr. Verma.

Aware of loopholes
During interrogation, the accused revealed that they had been customers of Zoomcar for the last four-five years and were aware of the loopholes in the website that could be exploited to steal a car. After hiring the car, they disabled its GPS near the Kundli border in Sonapat and threw it into a moving truck to mislead the investigators.

They said they had used the same modus operandi earlier too to book four luxury vehicles from Zoomcar and not returned them, said the police.

"They would modify the vehicles suitably and supply them to persons involved in bootlegging in Haryana and U.P. The case is under investigation," said Mr. Verma.

Man swindles ₹58 lakh on pretext of providing MBBS admission, held

Accused used fake IDs, opened a firm to convince people

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A 30-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly cheating people on the pretext of providing their wards admission in medical colleges, the police said on Tuesday.

Additional DCP (South) Parvinder Singh said that the accused has been identified as Anubhav Marwah, a resident of Malkaganj, who is a tourism graduate.

According to the police, they received a complaint on May 27 claiming that the accused had cheated the complainant of ₹58 lakh. The complainant said that he received a call from a number and was told that the caller would be able to help his ward get admission for an MBBS course.

Demanded ₹70 lakh
"The accused introduced themselves as brothers -- Simranjeet Singh Gill and Karandeep Singh. Simranjeet showed his ID card and said he is the son of Hardeep Singh Gill, who is a member of the National

The accused showed his ID card and said he is the son of Hardeep Singh Gill, who is a member of the National Testing Agency

PARVINDER SINGH
Additional DCP

Testing Agency," the officer said adding that the accused asked them to pay ₹70 lakh in four instalments.

As the complainant wanted admission for his ward, he along with his friends paid ₹58 lakh to the accused. But after receiving the money, they switched off their mobile phones. It was at this point that the complainant realised that he was cheated.

During the course of investigation, it was found that the accused used fake identities.

"CCTV footage of various places was scanned and technical surveillance was mounted on the mobile phone numbers which led

the police to the accused. He was arrested from Malkaganj on June 8," Mr. Parvinder said.

During interrogation, the accused allegedly told the police that he, along with his accomplice, cheated people using fake identity cards. They got fake Aadhaar cards made after which they opened bank accounts. "He analysed the demand for job and medical admission and concluded that he could lure people by offering them to get MBBS admission for their wards. Subsequently, he obtained the data of MBBS aspirants from internet," Mr. Parvinder said.

The accused then allegedly opened a firm by the name "Anchor Logistics and Marketing" in Shahpur Jat and also rented a place in Navjivan Vihar to convince people, the police said, adding that ₹2 lakh, ATM cards, mobile phones and a laptop have been recovered from him. The police said that they are on the lookout for his accomplice.

One arrested in ex-CJI duping case

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI
A man has been arrested for allegedly duping former Chief Justice of India R.M. Lodha of ₹1 lakh after hacking the e-mail account of his colleague, the police said on Tuesday.

The accused, Dinesh Mali, was nabbed from Udaipur on June 7.

An ATM card through which he withdrew the amount has also been recovered, they said.

Efforts are on to arrest his accomplice Mukesh, the police added.

The incident came to light on May 30 after Mr. Lodha, a resident of Panchsheel Park, received an e-mail from a retired Supreme Court Judge B.P. Singh which stated that his account was hacked by some unknown person.

A case was registered on the basis of Mr. Lodha's complaint wherein he alleged that he transferred ₹1 lakh through RTGS from his account after receiving message from the hacked e-mail id, Additional DCP (South), Parvinder Singh, said.

A police team was sent to Udaipur to verify details of the alleged account holder from SBI bank in which the amount was transferred. Besides this, a request was sent to Gmail to provide details of the person who created the alleged fake account, the officer added.

Mali deals in selling water purifiers. On analysing Mali's bank account, it was found that transactions of ₹4.5 lakh were done from across the country, the officer said and added that the cheated amount is yet to be recovered.

23-year-old held for operating fake websites

Offered free laptops, solar panels in the name of Central government schemes

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Cyber Crime unit of the Delhi Police arrested a 23-year-old aspiring Chartered Accountant for operating fake websites by capitalising on 'Make in India Campaign' and misleading people by offering them free laptops and solar panels, the police said on Tuesday.

The accused has been identified as Rohit Soni, a B.Com graduate and a resident of Churu in Rajasthan,



The accused in police custody. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

said the police.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Cyber Crime) Anyesh Roy said that Soni started a blog in 2016 and it

became popular. Later, he decided to earn money through the blog.

"Soni created fake websites in the name of new schemes under Modi-government and offered free laptops and solar panels. The accused lured the visitors to click on a link for confirming their application for the freebies," Mr. Roy said.

However, the link actually made the visitor to download an App "4Fun" and for

every download, he got ₹6, Mr. Roy said. But, Soni shut down the website as he got scared after an IIT graduate was arrested in a similar cheating case. That also didn't help Soni from evading the police.

"Soni was arrested from Churu district after the police received a tip-off that someone had created fake websites in the name of Central government's flagship schemes," Mr. Roy added.

DELHI ☀️ Timings

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

☀️ RISE 05:23 SET 19:19
🌙 RISE 14:23 SET 01:52

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

☀️ RISE 05:23 SET 19:20
🌙 RISE 15:25 SET 02:29

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

☀️ RISE 05:23 SET 19:20
🌙 RISE 16:26 SET 03:07

Delhi Weather max min

Delhi City	44	30
Safdarjang	44	30
Palam	45	33

Delhi Palam Today
41°C Heat wave likely to abate. Day will be dusty, windy. Spell of duststorm, thunder-shower with strong winds to occur.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
42°C A dusty and windy day with partly cloudy sky. Chances of duststorm and thunderstorm over parts of the city.

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'Congress culture of keeping alive dissidence not dead'

Analysts read more into Rahul-Sidhu meet

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

As the suspense continues over Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu taking charge of his new Ministry amid the ongoing tussle with Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, the rift between the two leaders seems to be growing wider with the former cricketer visiting New Delhi to meet Congress president Rahul Gandhi.



Navjot Singh Sidhu with Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Vadra. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

As part of the post-poll Cabinet reshuffle last week, Capt. Amarinder divested Mr. Sidhu of the key Local Government portfolio and allocated him Power and New and Renewable Energy Sources.

Mr. Sidhu, who met Mr. Gandhi, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and veteran leader Ahmed Patel on Monday, is learnt to have appraised the "high command" of being "singled out unfairly" in the Cabinet rejig on the pretext of the party's "poor performance" in urban areas of the State in the general election.

Mr. Gandhi's meeting with Mr. Sidhu has drawn criticism from political analysts. "Mr. Sidhu's audience with the high command hints that Congress's culture of keeping alive dissidence at the State level against the State leadership is not dead," said Ashutosh Kumar, professor of political science at Panjab University.

"Capt. Amarinder, after the Assembly and Lok Sabha polls, has emerged as a strong leader and, on the other hand, the Congress high command looks weak after its performance in the Lok Sabha polls," he said.

"Any effort to push for

reinstatement of Mr. Sidhu as the Local Government Minister in an attempt to resolve the ongoing tussle in the State unit risks undermining the Chief Minister's authority and further worsening the rift within the party in Punjab," he added.

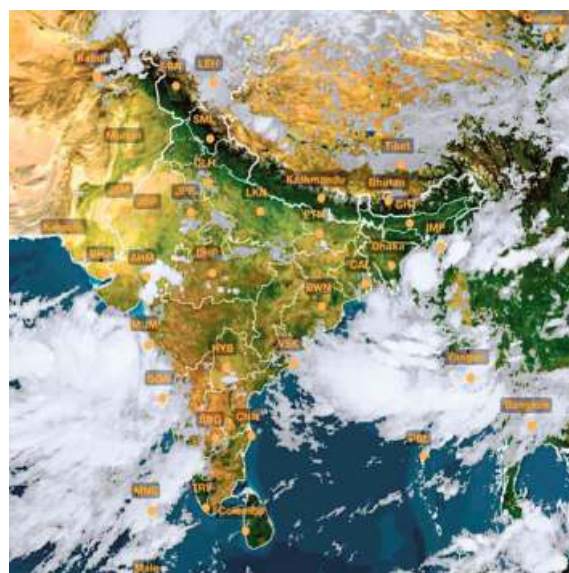
Cong. downplays rift

The State Congress, however, downplayed the significance of Mr. Sidhu's meeting, with Asha Kumari, the AICC in-charge of Punjab affairs, asserting that every Congressman was "entitled" to meet the party president. "As far as his [Mr. Sidhu's] taking charge of the new portfolio is concerned, if Mr. Sidhu does not desire, it's entirely his wish. He [Mr. Sidhu] is a Minister of Capt. Amarinder's Cabinet and it's for the Chief Minister to decide who will hold which portfolio," she said.

Ronki Ram, Dean at the Department of Social Science at Panjab University, said Mr. Sidhu's meeting with the party's central leadership appeared like an attempt at capturing a "power stronghold". "If the CM has to take decision on the dictation of the party high command, it's not in good taste. This shows the party is highly centralised," he said.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Konkan & Goa, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Jammu & Kashmir, coastal Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...	36.0	27.4	Kozhikode	60	30.2	25.0
Ahmedabad	...	43.0	30.5	Kurnool	...	40.0	29.2
Aizawl	...	29.7	20.9	Lucknow	...	42.1	28.6
Allahabad	...	46.0	30.4	Madurai	...	38.8	26.5
Bengaluru	...	30.0	21.0	Mangaluru	10	31.2	22.5
Bhopal	...	45.0	31.5	Mumbai	40.2	34.6	23.0
Bhubaneswar	...	40.3	26.6	Mysuru	...	29.4	21.6
Chandigarh	...	44.1	28.0	New Delhi	...	44.5	30.4
Chennai	...	40.9	31.4	Patna	...	38.8	28.0
Coimbatore	1.4	32.4	24.9	Port Blair	47.4	30.2	23.2
Dehradun	...	39.8	24.4	Puducherry	...	40.0	29.2
Gangtok	38	23.1	15.5	Pune	...	36.5	23.3
Goa	6.4	32.3	24.2	Raipur	...	44.3	33.6
Guwahati	5.6	34.0	26.2	Ranchi	...	40.5	25.4
Hubballi	...	34.0	31.0	Shillong	16.1	24.6	16.1
Hyderabad	...	38.4	28.6	Shimla	...	30.5	21.5
Imphal	...	32.5	21.4	Srinagar	0.8	21.8	13.7
Jaipur	...	43.8	33.5	Trivandrum	23.8	30.0	22.9
Kochi	24.6	29.0	25.2	Tiruchi	...	40.3	27.6
Kohima	29.6	32.7	17.8	Vijayawada	...	42.3	29.0
Kolkata	...	36.6	29.0	Visakhapatnam	...	33.5	29.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad	96	145	43	54	
Bengaluru	6	38	46	18	In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Baghat, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 373 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Eloor, Kerala recorded a healthy AQI score of 37
Chennai	5	52	52	84	
Delhi	13	121	108	245	301	...	
Hyderabad	9	32	18	25	55	...	
Kolkata	3	15	8	63	82	...	
Lucknow	2	35	52	285	
Mumbai	28	25	88	28	54	...	
Pune	52	17	29	37	33	...	
Visakhapatnam	17	58	44	...	105	...	

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.
NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.
CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.
PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

IN BRIEF



NH issues to be resolved soon, says Gadkari

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has assured Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday that the issues related to the four/six laning of the National Highway corridors passing through the State would be resolved soon. During the meeting with the Chief Minister, Mr. Gadkari said the Centre would allocate funds needed for the development of NH that had been dragging on for several years.

Kerala Opposition walks out of Assembly

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
The Opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) legislators staged a walkout in the Assembly on Tuesday in protest against the government's improper handling of the attack on C.O.T. Naseer, a former CPI(M) worker who had contested as an Independent from the Vadakara Lok Sabha constituency. IUML legislator Parakkal Abdulla said the CCTV visuals of the attack clearly showed the role of CPI(M) and DYFI local leaders.

Junior doctors in Kerala to go on strike on Friday

KOZHIKODE
Close to 3,500 junior doctors and house surgeons in government medical colleges in Kerala will go on strike on Friday seeking a hike in their monthly stipend. Representatives of the Kerala Medical Postgraduates Association said on Tuesday that labour rooms, casualty, emergency operation theatres and intensive care units would be excluded from it. Strike notices had been served on college principals, heads of departments and Health Minister.

Monsoon fury



Hungry sea: With the Southwest monsoon becoming active, rain lashed several places across Kerala, uprooting trees and destroying houses. A view of the houses eaten up by the sea at Valiyathura in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday. *S. MAHINSHA

Roshan Baig calls on BJP leaders, fuels speculation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

After brushing aside the show cause notice sent to him by the Congress following his revolt against the Karnataka leadership, former Minister and Congress MLA Roshan Baig on Tuesday called on Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and M.J. Akbar in Delhi.

It is being speculated in Congress circles that Mr. Baig might take a decision on quitting the party after consultations with BJP leaders in the national capital.

Mr. Baig has distanced himself from Congress leaders after hitting out at form-



Coming together: Karnataka MLA Roshan Baig, right, with BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi in Delhi. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

er Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, KPCC president Dinesh Gundu Rao and AICC general secretary K.C.

Venugopal for what he called the party's "flop show" in the Lok Sabha election.

Kerala priests get bail in forgery case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOCHI

The Ernakulam District Sessions Court on Tuesday granted anticipatory bail to Father Paul Thelakkat, first accused and Father Antony Kallookaran, fourth accused, in the case relating to forging documents in connection with the controversial land deal in the Syro-Malabar Church.

The allegation against the priests was that they had forged certain documents and placed them before the synod of Syro-Malabar Church with an intention to defame the Cardinal, the church and its institutions.

Jagan government may not accept Naidu's plea

Permission sought for use of auditorium on Krishna bank

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA

There is little chance of Leader of Opposition in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly N. Chandrababu Naidu being given permission to use the government building Praja Vedika auditorium, near his current residence, according to YSRCP senior leader Ummareddy Venkateswarlu.

Addressing the media here on Tuesday, Mr. Venkateswarlu said that the former Chief Minister, who claimed that he had 40 years experience in politics, should have known better than to spend ₹4.3 crore of public money to construct a building on the banks of the Krishna.

Mr. Naidu in a letter wrote to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy recently requested that the government grant him permission to use the audi-



Ummareddy Venkateswarlu addressing the media on Tuesday. *V. RAJU

torium and also permit him to continue living in his present residence near the Praja Vedika. The Praja Vedika and the former Chief Minister's residence, a guest house converted into house, are within the left flood bank of river Krishna.

Unauthorised structures

An order has been issued by the A.P. CRDA regularising the house being occupied by

Mr. Naidu and 21 other such structures along the river. But, Mr. Venkateswarlu alleged that all the buildings within the flood bank were unauthorised. Even the house Mr. Naidu was currently residing was unauthorised according to the River Conservancy Act, 1884. While no construction was allowed on the river bank under the Act, the TDP government tried to regularise 21 unauthorised constructions during its rule, the YSRCP leader charged.

The TDP even made a proposal to 'shift' the bank of the river to exclude all this unauthorised constructions, he charged.

Asked if the YSRCP government was going to grant permission to Mr. Naidu, the senior leader said there was little chance of that. He said the government would soon take a decision on these unauthorised constructions.

Loan waiver: audit finds money was credited into wrong accounts

Karnataka government asks banks to return the amount

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

A sample audit conducted over three months – on the money paid into accounts in the first phase of Karnataka government's loan waiver scheme – found that 13,988 ineligible accounts across the State had been credited with a whopping ₹59 crore. Following the detection, the government has asked banks to return the money.

Sources in the government said, based on the in-

formation provided by the banks, detailed and multiple audits will be conducted to ensure that the money reaches the rightful beneficiaries. "To prevent a repeat of this embarrassing situation, the government will also ask banks to audit their accounts thoroughly," sources said.

BJP State president B.S. Yeddyurappa accused the government of giving money to farmers before the elections, and then taking it

back. "Several thousands of accounts in Yadgir had received money before the elections, but have been taken back after elections. The Chief Minister has to apologise," he said.

However, clarifying that the issue had no relation to elections, Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy said, "Confusion has been caused due to the failure of the banks to segregate farmers' loans. We have sought an explanation from the banks."

HC notice to Telangana Speaker over Congress MLAs joining TRS

Division Bench also issues notice to Council Chairman

MARRI RAMU HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court on Tuesday issued notices to the Telangana Speaker and the Council Chairman following writ petitions over four Congress MLAs and 10 MLAs joining the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS). Also, notices would be served on the Legislature Secretariat, the Election Commission of India, the four MLAs and 10 MLAs who have been notified as TRS legislators.

A Division Bench comprising acting Chief Justice Raghendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Shameem Akther directed the respondents to file counter and posted the petitions for hearing after four weeks.

The directions were

passed when the two petitions came up for hearing.

Petitions filed

The first petition was filed by Congress leader and former MLC Shabbir Ali in December 2018, challenging the merger of the Telangana Congress Council Legislature Party with the TRS Council Legislature Party.

The second writ petition was filed less than two months ago by Congress MLA Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and MP N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, seeking a direction to the Speaker to disqualify 10 MLAs who joined the treasury benches.

The petitioners wanted the Speaker to disqualify the MLAs before taking a call on their merger with the TRS.

The 10 MLAs were D. Sud-

heer Reddy, Ch. Lingaiah, Hari Priya Banoth, K. Uppender Reddy, P. Sabitha Indra Reddy, R. Kantha Rao, Athram Sakku, B. Harshavardhan Reddy, V. Venkateshwar Rao and J. Surinder.

While the hearing on the petition was pending, two more Congress MLAs, G. Venkataramana Reddy and Rohit Reddy, joined the TRS.

The Speaker on Thursday last recognised 12 MLAs of Congress as members of TRS, hours after they moved him, seeking merger of their group with the ruling party.

The Speaker acceded to their request, considering the fact that they constituted two-thirds of the Congress Legislature Party, a requirement for merger under the anti-defection law.

(With PTI inputs)

Special teams to track finance firm chief

Karnataka police receive 9,000 complaints from panicked investors, government forms SIT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

A massive manhunt has been launched for the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of IMA Group of Companies, Mohammed Mansoor Khan, who is on the run along with his family members since last week.

Special teams were formed soon after complaints started pouring in at the Commercial Street police station from depositors. The police, who set up a special desk to deal with complaints about the case, received 9,000 petitions since Monday, when an audio clip, stated to be of Khan claiming to end his life owing to financial troubles, started doing the rounds.

Sources said the police teams were analysing the Call Detail Records of the family members as well as



Sea of complaints: Investors gathering at A.S. Convention Centre, which was converted into a temporary police station, in Bengaluru, on Tuesday. *V. SREENIVASA MURTHY

CCTV camera footage from in and around the area before the family fled. The police were also on the lookout for the directors and senior executives of the group companies.

The police sounded alerts at airports, bus stands, railway stations and entry and exit points to look out for the family members. Relatives and friends of Mr. Khan were also being questioned in this

regard, a senior police officer supervising the probe, said, adding that it was a planned move and the company executives knew what was going to happen.

The police provided tight

security at the IMA office to ensure law and order as hundreds of investors from across Karnataka, as well as Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, have been rushing to the office. They had been promised high returns.

"Investigations are on and our main concern is to track down Mr. Khan to ascertain the veracity of the audio clips which are circulating in his name," Rahul Kumar Shahpurwad, DCP East, said.

Delegation meets CM

On Tuesday, a delegation led by Muslim leaders met Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and Home Minister M.B. Patil, seeking their intervention, and a thorough probe. Mr. Patil held a meeting with senior police officials and announced that the case would be handed over to a Special Investigation team.

A CAPSULE to fight quacks in Kerala

Forum opposes illegal advertisements of unauthorised medical practitioners

A.S. JAYANTH KOZHIKODE

Kerala Agriculture Minister V.S. Sunil Kumar was scheduled to open a hospital in Thrissur on June 6 that offered a mix of "traditional Indian medicine," Homoeopathy, "traditional native medicine", Naturopathy, and German, Korean and Chinese treatment methods. The hospital owner claimed he had a "doctorate" in "plansopathy."

The Minister decided to keep off the event after widespread criticism online and offline. In the forefront of the protests were activists of CAPSULE (Campaign Against Pseudo Science Using Law and Ethics), an initiative of the Kerala Sasthra Sahitya Parishad (KSSP).

The idea of CAPSULE was raised after a group of social

activists launched a legal battle against a doctor in Thiruvananthapuram who gave advertisements in major newspapers claiming to cure diabetes, cancer and thyroid diseases.

Both the State Drugs Control Department and the Kerala State Human Rights Commission issued orders against the doctor later.

"Threat to public health"

Activists of the forum claim to oppose illegal advertisements of medical treatment methods and unauthorised medical practitioners which pose a threat to the public health system.

M.P. Anil Kumar, convenor, CAPSULE, told *The Hindu* that the Supreme Court had banned traditional or native medical practices in an order on April 3, 2018.

"Only those registered under the Travancore-Cochin Medical Council can be Ayurveda practitioners. Sections 3 and 4 of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954, also prevent advertisements of medical treatment or medicine that claim to cure a particular disease," he said.

When a survey of advertisements published in 22 major newspapers from Thiruvananthapuram between October 1 and 7 last year was taken, both legal and illegal medical practitioners were found involved in giving illegal information.

"Sixteen newspapers were found carrying 80 such advertisements on a single day. There were 74 people or firms who gave those advertisements," he said.

Most of those advertisements dealt with diseases that many people might not wish to discuss in public. "This ensures that even if the treatment is a failure, the patients may not complain against it," he said.

Joining hands

CAPSULE is working in association with organisations such as the Indian Medical Association and the Ayurveda Medical Association of India. K. Radhan, general secretary, KSSP, said the forum, functioning under the health committee of the organisation, would continue to bring to the attention of government departments and the judiciary about such practices. "We will also circulate messages about the issue through social media platforms," he added.

A.P. kidney racket probe takes a new turn

SIT is focussing on the role of authorisation panel handling organ transplants

SUMIT BHATTACHARJEE VISAKHAPATNAM

The investigation into the alleged kidney racket in the city took a twist with the SIT (Special Investigation Team) formed by the city police now training its guns on the Kidney Transplant Committee or Authorisation Committee.

So far the SIT has booked two cases of gross violation against the managing director of Sraddha Hospital, Pradeep Kumar, and a few others, under the A.P. Transplantation of Human Organ Act.

As per the initial investigation by the SIT and the three-member committee formed by the then District Collector, Sraddha Hospital had so far performed about 68 kidney transplants of which 29 were done by violating the rules and regulations. But



A file photo of the panel members conducting their inquiry at Sraddha Hospital in Visakhapatnam.

out of the 29 cases, in two cases the investigating officers have found incriminating documents suggesting that the donors were forged to show them as relatives of the patients.

According to the Commissioner of Police Mahesh Chandra Laddha, "In both the cases, approval was given by the Kidney Tran-

splant Committee. And this is where we have our doubts".

"What is the role of the committee? Was it not the duty of the committee to check the veracity of the documents and how can a donor, who is not a relative of the patient, pass off as a relative. In one case, the documents of a woman from a

Vambay in Visakhapatnam, was forged to showcase as wife of one Sivakumar, a patient from Bengaluru," said Mr. Laddha.

As per the Transplantation of Human Organ Act, organs cannot be sold and can only be donated by the relatives of the patient. And the relationship is to be established through documents and consent of relatives and certified by the Authorisation Committee, said Vice-Chancellor of Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences Dr. C.V. Rao.

The SIT is of the opinion that the three-member committee constituted by the then District Collector K. Bhaskar to investigate into the Sraddha Hospital cases and six other hospitals in the city, which are involved in the racket, needs to be changed.

IN BRIEF



Kailash Mansarovar Yatra commences
NEW DELHI
External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Tuesday announced the start of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra for the Lipulekh route, asserting that the pilgrimage was an "important step" towards strengthening the friendship between India and China. He was speaking at an event here. **PTI**

Medical tech firms seek rationalisation of taxes

NEW DELHI
Medical technology companies have urged the Centre to cut taxes and duties on the industry in the coming Union Budget, to ensure a continuous supply of quality medical devices. "We are seeking a reduction of custom duties to 2.5% including all surcharges," said Mr. Sanjay Bhutani, director at the Medical Technology Association of India.

Centre takes steps to curb arhar dal price rise

NEW DELHI
In a bid to curb the rising prices of arhar or tur dal, the Centre has taken steps to increase imports and also release lentils from its buffer stock into the open market. Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan called a meeting with secretaries from the Agriculture, Commerce, Food and Consumer Affairs on Tuesday evening to discuss the concerns over a "temporary rise in price," he said.

Tamil Nadu Ministers call on Amit Shah

CHENNAI
Tamil Nadu Ministers P. Thangamani and S.P. Velumani, who met Railway Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday, called on Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday over issues unrelated to Union Home Ministry. In a memorandum, Mr. Velumani requested the Home Minister to release the performance grant of ₹560.15 crore for 2017-18 and the second instalment of the grant of ₹1,608.03 crore for 2018-19.

Gujarat put on high alert as cyclonic storm 'Vayu' inches towards coast

Around 3 lakh people to be shifted: schools ordered closed for three days in coastal districts

MAHESH LANGA
AHMEDABAD
Cyclonic storm 'Vayu' has intensified into a severe cyclonic storm, forcing authorities to put Gujarat on high alert.

The State authorities have swung into action, ordering closure of schools for three days in coastal districts and asked fishermen to return to the coast from high seas.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday said the speed of 'Vayu' had increased to 17 km per hour and was located in the Arabian Sea, about 350 km west-northwest of Goa, 410 km south-southwest of Mumbai and 530 km nearly south of Veraval (Gujarat).

"It is very likely to move nearly northwards and cross Gujarat coast between Porbandar and Mahuva around Veraval and the Diu region as a severe cyclonic storm, with a wind speed of 135 kmph during early morning of June 13," the IMD said.

The cyclone will make a landfall near Veraval in Gir Somnath district on June 13 but it will be preceded by heavy rainfall in isolated places.

"June 13 and 14 are crucial for us. We have roped in the Army, the NDRF, the Coast Guard and other agencies for rescue and relief work. We will start shifting people living in coastal areas to safer locations," Chief Minister Vijay Rupani told media persons on Tuesday.



Ready for action: NDRF personnel in Chiloda town being briefed about the cyclone 'Vayu' heading towards Gujarat. **AFP**

After a review meet with District Collectors and officials, Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) Pankaj Kumar said schools, colleges and anganwadis in coastal districts would remain shut on June 12 and 13.

"We have roped in Army, Navy, Coast Guard and BSF units. If needed, we will also take the help of the Air Force. We have ordered schools, colleges and anganwadis in the districts which are likely to be hit by the cyclone to remain shut on June 12 and 13," Mr. Kumar said.

The government has postponed the State-wide school enrolment drive scheduled for June 13-14 during which all Ministers, legislators and top bureaucrats would visit schools in their areas to enrol children.

Shah, crisis management committee review situation

Home Minister directs officials to ensure safety of people

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday reviewed the preparations for cyclone 'Vayu,' which is expected to make a landfall in Gujarat, and directed officials to ensure safety of people.

The National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC), chaired by Cabinet Secretary P.K. Sinha, also met to discuss preparedness.

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has deployed 26 teams, comprising about 45 personnel each, and the rescuers are equipped with boats, tree-cutters and telecom equipment. The NDRF is also sending another 10 teams as requested by the Gujarat government.

Ms. Shah has asked officials to ensure maintenance of all essential services such as power, telecommunica-

tions, health, drinking water and their immediate restoration in the event of disruption.

The Ministry is in continuous touch with the governments of neighbouring states which may be affected due to the cyclone.

Units from the Indian Coast Guard, and the armed forces have been put on standby and aerial surveillance is being carried out, an official said.

Police arrest Dhabolkar shooter in Govind Pansare murder case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

A local court in Kolhapur on Tuesday directed Sharad Kalaskar - named by Central Bureau of Investigation as one of the killers of rationalist Dr. Narendra Dabholkar - to be remanded in seven-day police custody till June 18 in connection with the 2015

murder of senior Communist leader and writer Govind Pansare.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing Pansare's murder got Mr. Kalaskar's custody from Mumbai unit of Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) on Tuesday and produced him before the Kolhapur court.

The SIT, through Mr. Kalaskar's custody hopes to shed more light on the murder. The police said investigations had established that he manufactured firearms in Kolhapur and Belagavi and they needed to further probe his role in the meetings hatched to plot Pansare's murder.

The SIT further submitted that they needed to interrogate Mr. Kalaskar to determine whether he had indeed helped destroy the murder weapon after the crime.

The Mumbai ATS had first arrested Mr. Kalaskar along with fringe right-wing activist Vaibhav Raut in Mumbai on August 10 last year for al-

legedly planning disruptive activities in several parts across the State.

Investigating agencies have alleged that Mr. Kalaskar was an expert in arms manufacturing and was part of the wider conspiracy that links the murders of Pansare and journalist Gauri Lankesh in September 2017.

28 children die of 'brain fever' in Bihar

Experts monitoring situation: Nitish

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

At least 28 children have died in the past one month in Muzaffarpur district of north Bihar, allegedly due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES), which is locally known as *Chamki bukhar* (brain fever).

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, has expressed concern over the rising deaths of children in Muzaffarpur. He said, "A team of doctors and medical experts have been sent to Muzaffarpur to monitor the situation and also speed up the awareness drive about complexities and preventive measures about AES".

"Till last night, 28 children have lost their lives...we've started two separate Intensive Care Units (ICU) along with other makeshift wards in the government hospital", Muzaffarpur civil surgeon Dr. Shailendra Prasad Singh told *The Hindu* over phone.

Earlier on Monday, Principal Secretary of the Health Department Sanjay Kumar said the deaths were caused by Hypoglycemia (deficiency of glucose or sugar in the blood stream), and not by the fever. He, however, added that "48 suspected AES cases have been recorded so far in the district".

On Tuesday, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Ashwani Kumar Choubey said in Patna that "since State government officials were engaged in election-related works in the recent past months they

could not make the awareness drive as it should have been...we're careful and taking all measures to tackle the situation of death of children in Muzaffarpur".

Meanwhile, unofficial records said that 130 cases of suspected AES had come in at the Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital (SKMCH) and private Kejriwal hospital in Muzaffarpur in the last nine days. "Totally, 81 children with suspected AES are admitted in these two hospitals and over three dozen have already died", said a doctor of the SKMCH on the condition of anonymity.

Every year during summer time, especially in the season of luscious fruit litchi, AES outbreak gets reported and takes the lives of children in the district, which is India's largest litchi cultivation region.

Mr. Nitish Kumar had said, "It generally hits those children who go to sleep empty stomach at night and eat litchis fallen on the ground. Earlier, three different teams of doctors had reached three different conclusions about the reason of children's deaths in summer season in Muzaffarpur."

According to doctors, high temperatures along with excessive humidity is considered to be an ideal situation for the outbreak of AES, which has symptoms of high fever, vomiting, nausea and unconsciousness.

Since 2010, 398 children have died in Muzaffarpur due to suspected AES.



Rising toll: Children with symptoms of AES being treated at a hospital in Muzaffarpur on Tuesday. **PTI**

Toddler pulled out dead from borewell in Punjab

Amarinder orders closure of all open borewells

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

After the tragic death of two-year-old Fatehveer, who did not survive his 108-hour ordeal in a borewell at Bhagwanpura village in Sangrur, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Tuesday ordered closure of all open borewells across the State.

Capt. Amarinder has also sought reports from the Deputy Commissioners on all existing open borewells.

Fatehveer, who was rushed to the Postgraduate

Institute of Medical Education and Research here, according to an official spokesperson, "had no pulse, no respiration and no cardiac activity, hence the child was declared brought dead".

The Chief Minister has also asked the Disaster Management Group headed by the Chief Secretary to finalise a set of standard operating procedures to check and prevent such incidents.

Capt. Amarinder said the rescue operations were handed over to the NDRF soon after the district administration received information of the child falling into the 125-foot-deep borewell at 4.15 p.m. on June 6.

Mirwaiz holds talks with Pandits on return

'Kashmiri Muslims want them back'

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Tuesday held a dialogue with a group of visiting Pandits and discussed the process to start their return and re-assimilation in the Valley.

"I assured the visiting Pandits that all Kashmiri Muslims want them to come back and live together as before. Kashmir belongs to them as much as it does to those who did not leave," said the Mirwaiz.

The delegation of Pandits was led by Satish Kumar and Nathil Razdan. Hundreds of migrant Pandits are in the

Valley in connection with Mela Kheer Bhawani which concluded on Monday.

The Mirwaiz said he will help in "building consensus among all segments of people and try to bring others on board too".

The visiting Pandits expressed their desire "to live in all-community colonies and opposed segregated enclosures". "Each district of the Valley should allocate land for affordable flats. Members of other communities should be allowed to buy flats there. We do not want segregation but want to live together," the delegation told the Mirwaiz.

Centre to work with States on water access

Cooperation is vital, says Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Given that water is a State subject, it will take the exercise of "cooperative federalism" to achieve the Modi government's big-ticket agenda of providing piped drinking water to all households by the end of its second term, Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said on Tuesday.

He was speaking to journalists during a conference with State-level ministers and secretaries of water and sanitation departments, where he assured them that the new 'Nal se Jal' scheme will be flexible enough to

take local issues and concerns into account.

Currently, only 18% of rural households get piped water, and State performances range widely from 99% in Sikkim to less than 5% in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha.

Integrated approach

"We need to work together with an integrated approach to the problem," said Mr. Shekhawat, urging States to work on the issue out of conviction.

"If conviction is ignored, then we will have to do it out of compulsion," he warned.

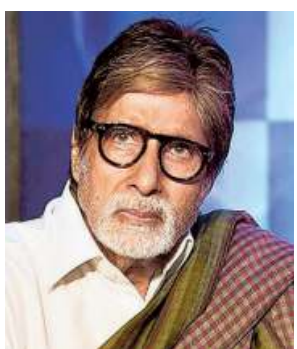
Amitabh's Twitter data put on dark web

Hacker believed to have taken over Pakistani singer Adnan Sami's account too

GAUTAM S. MENGLE
MUMBAI

Hours after the Twitter account of actor Amitabh Bachchan was hacked on Monday, Indian cybercrime agencies came across chatter on the dark web claiming responsibility for the act. On Tuesday, the same hackers allegedly hacked the Twitter account of singer Adnan Sami.

Mr. Bachchan's account, @SrBachchan, was hacked late on Monday and his display picture was replaced with that of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan. A tweet on the account said, "This is an important call to the whole world! We do condemn the irrespective behaviors of Iceland republic towards Turkish footballers. We speak softly but carry a



Amitabh Bachchan



Adnan Sami

big stick and inform you about the big Cyber attack here. As Ayyildiz Tim Turkish Cyber Army +++."

Probe launched

The cyberpolice in Mumbai and the Maharashtra Cyber Crime Cell had initiated investigation into the matter.

Sources confirmed to *The*

Hindu that a couple of hours after the account was hacked, chatter on the dark web attributed the act to a Middle Eastern hacker, who was widely lauded on the dark web through the night.

"We observed certain elements boasting about the hack on the dark web. Sensitive details about the hacked

account were also shared," Special Inspector General of Police Brijesh Singh (Maharashtra Cyber), told *The Hindu*.

Working in collaboration with Twitter authorities, the police restored Mr. Bachchan's account on Tuesday morning.

Same culprit

Meanwhile, on Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Sami's account was hacked supposedly by the same culprit.

Mr. Sami's display picture was also replaced with Mr. Khan's, and a tweet was posted which said, "Who ever shows courage to betrayal our brother country Pakistan know that you will see Pakistan's prime ministers photo and pakistan flag as profile picture [sic]."



Thin-skinned masters

Arbitrary arrest for a social media post reflects a disregard for law and liberty

The Supreme Court order granting immediate bail to journalist Prashant Kanojia, arrested by the Uttar Pradesh Police for sharing on Twitter a video pertaining to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, was not unexpected. It was obvious that the arrest was arbitrary, unwarranted and without any basis in law. The State government's attempt to justify its action smacked of perversity and malice. The vacation Bench, comprising Justices Indira Banerjee and Ajay Rastogi, made the right call in ignoring technical objections by counsel for the State government that the apex court should not intervene as only a regular bail petition could secure relief to someone remanded by the jurisdictional magistrate. The Bench did not consider the controversial tweets as sufficient grounds for abridging personal liberty. In observing that the order of release would not amount to an endorsement of Mr. Kanojia's tweets, the court was only making a minor concession to the police claim that he was making inflammatory comments on social media. It is difficult to believe that at a time when social media networks are full of rampant abuse and distasteful material, the police can be allowed to choose one or two that appear to target political functionaries and incarcerate those airing such views, disregarding well-established norms for arrest and remand. In Mr. Kanojia's case, defamation, a non-cognisable offence, and Section 66 of the Information Technology Act were cited initially. The latter relates to damaging computer systems, and is inapplicable to a social media post. It was quite clear that there was no case for remand.

There was a more flagrant illegality when Mr. Kanojia was taken out of Delhi without a transit remand from a local magistrate, mandatory when an accused is taken from one State to another. Faced with criticism, the U.P. Police added a section dealing with the offence of causing public mischief and disturbing public tranquillity, besides Section 67 of the IT Act, which relates to sharing of obscene or prurient material, with the motive of obtaining a remand order. A few other journalists have been arrested for discussing the content of the video clip, in which a woman is seen expressing her wish to marry the Chief Minister. What is disquieting, but unsurprising, is the perfunctory attitude of civil servants towards the personal liberty of citizens. It is one thing to pursue violations through legal action, but quite another to lock up people for posts they deem offensive to their political masters and conjure up justifications for their arrest. It is time magistrates who pass mechanical orders without application of mind and officers who carry out illegal instructions from the political leadership are made to face exemplary disciplinary action.

A welcome verdict

The Kathua case represents a triumph of justice over communal propaganda

The trial court verdict finding three men guilty of the horrific gang-rape and murder of an eight-year-old girl in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district last year must be seen as the victory of justice over communal propaganda. It is the answer that due process has given to sectarian interlopers who sought to derail the investigation and trial by projecting the heinous crime against a girl belonging to the nomadic Bakewell tribe as a plot to implicate Hindus. It is also a triumph for the justice system, as the Pathankot district and sessions court has lived up to the faith reposed in it by the Supreme Court last year, when the case was transferred from J&K to Punjab for a fair trial. The apex court had taken note of the hindrances to a fair trial in the jurisdictional court, especially the hostile atmosphere against the prosecution. The formation of a group called the Hindu Ekta Manch in support of those arrested and the role played by members of the Bharatiya Janata Party, including two Ministers in the then J&K government, had whipped up communal frenzy. It is commendable that the Crime Branch of the J&K Police and the prosecutors have brought home the guilt of Sanji Ram, Parvesh Kumar and Deepak Khajuria, who have been sentenced to life for murder and 25 years in prison for gang-rape. Further, the role of some police personnel in trying to destroy evidence has also been exposed. Sub Inspector Anand Dutta, Special Police Officer Surrender Verma and Head Constable Tilak Raj get a five-year term for washing some blood-stained clothes, concealing the victim's necklace and hair band, and misleading the investigating police team about the place of occurrence of the crime.

The investigation had been fairly quick, and the charge-sheet was prepared in two months. The trial lasted a year, and the verdict has been delivered within 17 months of the occurrence. Appeals by the convicts are only to be expected, and the Judge Tejwinder Singh's approach and the manner in which he appreciated the evidence would be determined by higher courts. Even the prosecution may appeal against the acquittal of one of the accused, whose alibi that he was appearing in an examination in Uttar Pradesh at the time of the incident has been accepted. Some may question the verdict for not imposing the death penalty in what was presented as a crime aimed at dislodging the Bakewell community from the territory. However, it is a needless cavil, as what matters is that criminal liability has been established and a life term, which ought to mean the remainder of the convicts' natural life, has been awarded. The larger takeaway is that efficient investigation, diligent prosecution and judicial sensitivity can ensure speedy justice in all cases, and more particularly in cases of ghastly crimes that cause widespread revulsion and outrage. It is indeed a judgment that will inspire confidence in the justice system.

Squandering the gender dividend

It is a national tragedy that women unable to find work are dropping out of the labour force



SONALDE DESAI

If labour force survey data are to be believed, rural India is in the midst of a gender revolution in which nearly half the women who were in the workforce in 2004-5 had dropped out in 2017-18. The 61st round of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) recorded 48.5% rural women above the age of 15 as being employed either as their major activity or as their subsidiary activity – but this number dropped to 23.7% in the recently released report of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS). Is this part of a massive transformation of rural lifestyles or are our surveys presenting a skewed picture? If this change is real, does it offer a cause for worry?

Incremental decline

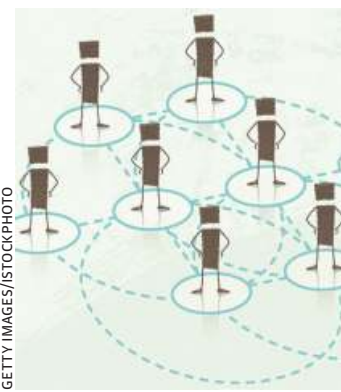
Before we turn to examining these changes, it is important to note that the drop in work participation by rural women is not sudden. The latest data from the PLFS simply continue a trend that was well in place by 2011-12. Worker to population ratio (WPR) for rural women aged 15 and above had dropped from 48.5% in 2004-5 to 35.2% in 2011-12, and then to 23.7% in 2017-18. In contrast, the WPR for urban women aged 15 and above declined only mildly, changing from 22.7% in 2004-5 to 19.5% in 2011-12, and to 18.2% in 2017-18.

One can view this drop in the rural female WPR both positively and negatively. If rising incomes lead households to decide that women's time is better spent caring for home and children, that is

their choice. However, if women are unable to find work in a crowded labour market, reflecting disguised unemployment, that is a national tragedy.

If the WPR is declining due to rising incomes, we would expect it to be located in richer households – households with higher monthly per capita expenditure and among women with higher education. A comparison of rural female WPRs between 2004-5 and 2017-18 does not suggest that the decline is located primarily among the privileged sections of the rural population. Between 2004-5 and 2017-18, women's WPR declined from 30.6% to 16.5% for the poorest expenditure decile, and from 31.8% to 19.7% for the richest expenditure decile. More importantly, most of the decline in the WPR has taken place among women with low levels of education. For illiterate women, the WPR fell from 55% to 29.1% while that for women with secondary education fell from 30.5% to 15.6%.

This broad-based decline with somewhat higher concentration among the least educated and the poorest is consistent with the industries and occupations in which it has occurred. Decomposing the 24.8 percentage point decline in women's WPR between 2004-5 and 2011-12, the decline in work on family farms and allied activities contributed the most (4.8 percentage points), followed by casual wage labour (8.9 percentage points) and in work on family enterprises in other industries (2.4 percentage points). These were counter-balanced by a 0.7 percentage point increase in regular salaried work and a 0.5 percentage point increase in engagement in public works programmes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act



(MGNREGA). Most of the decline – 23.1 percentage points out of 24.8 – came from reduced participation in agriculture and allied activities.

Men's participation in agriculture has also declined. Among men aged 15 and above, 56.1% participated in agriculture in 2004-5, while only 39.6% did so in 2017-18. However, men were able to pick up work in other industries whereas women reduced their participation in other industries as well as agriculture – resulting in a lower WPR. Therein lies the conundrum for rural women. Mechanisation and land fragmentation have reduced agricultural work opportunities for both men and women. Other work opportunities, except for work in public works programmes, are not easily open to women. This challenge is particularly severe for rural women with moderate levels of education. A man with class 10 education can be a postal carrier, a truck driver or a mechanic; these opportunities are not open to women. Hence, it is not surprising that education is associated with a lower WPR for women; in 2016-17, 29.1% illiterate women were employed, compared to only 16% women with at least secondary education.

Another clue to the decline in women's work opportunities rather than women's desire to work is reflected in the fact that women who are counted as being out of labour force are not simply content to be homemakers but often engage in whatever economic activities they find. Women's work and family responsibilities rarely fit in neat compartments but household responsibilities do not prevent women from working. Many rural women raise chickens as well as children; husk paddy for sale while daal simmers; and sell vegetables in a market while caring for babies.

The NSSO and PLFS survey design relies on two questions. First, interviewers assess the primary activity in which respondents spent a majority of their prior year. Then they note down the subsidiary activity in which individuals spent at least 30 days. If individuals are defined as working by either primary or subsidiary criteria, they are counted among workers.

This is a categorisation that serves well in cases where agriculture is the primary activity and various agriculture-related tasks can be grouped together to comprise the 30-day threshold. But as demand for agricultural work declines and women engage in diverse activities, their work tends to become fragmented. A woman who spends 15 days on her own field during the sowing period, 10 days as a construction labourer and 15 days in MGNREGA work should be counted as a worker using the subsidiary status criteria, but since none of the activities exceeded the 30 days threshold, it is quite possible that interviewers do not mark her as being employed. On-going experimental research at the National Council of Applied

Economic Research's National Data Innovation Centre (NCAER-NDIC) suggests a tremendous undercount of women's work using standard labour force questions, particularly in rural areas.

This is not to suggest that fixing the problem of undercount in surveys is the solution to declining WPRs. The undercount is a symptom of the unfulfilled demand for work. Although women try to find whatever work they can, they are unable to gain employment at an intensive level that rises above our labour force survey thresholds. This suggests an enormous untapped pool of female workers that should not be ignored.

Possible solutions

Establishment of the Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development is a welcome move by the new government. It is to be hoped that this committee will take the issue of declining female employment as seriously as it does the issue of rising unemployment among the youth. Not all policies need to be gender focussed. One of the most powerful ways in which public policies affect rural women's participation in non-agricultural work is via development of transportation infrastructure that allows rural women to seek work as sales clerks, nurses and factory workers in nearby towns. If the cabinet committee were to focus on multi-sectoral reforms that have a positive impact on women's work opportunities, the potential gender dividend could be far greater than the much celebrated demographic dividend.

Sonalde Desai is Professor of Sociology, University of Maryland, U.S., and Professor and Centre Director, NCAER-National Data Innovation Centre. The views expressed are personal

The playwright against the Right

Girish Karnad's commitment to democratic values meant that he often took a vocal stand on issues



SUDHANVA DESHPANDE

It is both apt and reductive that two images dominate others as Girish Karnad is remembered on social media: one, with Gauri Lankesh, protesting the killing of Karnad's fellow Dharwadian, Prof. M.M. Kalburgi; the other, wearing the #MeTooUrbanNaxal placard, at the memorial to mark the first anniversary of Lankesh's own killing. Over the past few years, Karnad was seen as one of the most consistent, fearless and principled defenders of freedom of speech, cultural diversity and democracy. In the face of death threats, he remained unfazed, and even in his frail health, he made it a point to attend protest gatherings.

Even though Karnad, unlike his older contemporary and fellow-Jnanpith awardee U.R. Ananthamurthy, did not belong to a particular political tendency (Ananthamurthy was an avowed socialist, inspired by Lohia), his commitment to democratic values meant that he often took vocal stands on issues. While many tributes to Karnad have noted that he was Director of the Film and Television Institute of India in 1974-75, not

everyone noted that he resigned after the Emergency was imposed. And his taking vocal stands against the Hindu Right didn't start in the last few years; he spoke up at least from the early 1990s onwards.

Remarkable pre-eminence

Karnad was perhaps India's most pre-eminent playwright. He was certainly something of a prodigy. It is a truism that Mohan Rakesh, Badal Sircar, Vijay Tendulkar and Karnad form the quartet that shaped India's post-Independence theatrical canon. Karnad was the youngest by a decade. Rakesh's first great play, *Ashadh Ka Ek Din*, appeared in 1958, Sircar's *Ebong Indrajit* in 1962, and Tendulkar's *Shantata! Court Chalu Aahe* in 1967. Karnad's *Yayati* dates to 1961, when he was a mere lad of 22. Generally, playwrights take a little longer to mature as compared to other writers. Good dramatic writing is almost impossible to achieve without the experience of working in, or writing for, a real, active theatre. Having a director take your text apart and reassemble it, hearing actors speak your lines, observing scenographers imagine the setting, having a live audience respond to your text, all teach you as much, if not more, about playwrighting as watching or reading plays.

That he wrote *Yayati* without virtually any previous theatre experience is remarkable enough, but that he wrote it in Kannada



FILE PHOTO/SREENIVASA MURTHY

makes it doubly remarkable. As Karnad recalled, when he set sail on a Rhodes Scholarship to England, he had fancied himself a poet who had 'trained myself to write in English, in preparation for the conquest of the West'. Karnad knew at least five languages – Konkani, Kannada, Marathi, Hindi and English – but in a sense it did take some 'unlearning' for him to rediscover the language of his childhood. But clearly the ambition to conquer the West never quite left him – he not only translated his own plays into English, he also wrote original plays in English and translated them into Kannada.

And yet, for most of his playwrighting career, Kannada purists scoffed at Karnad's writing, considering it, and the author, too Anglicised. It was only when he wrote *Talé-Danda*, about the medieval poet revolutionary Basavanna, in a north Karnataka dialect, that finally the murmurs went down.

Karnad's playwrighting oeuvre is

so substantial and varied, both in form and content, that it is impossible to reduce it to neat generalisations. For instance, he is generally thought of as someone who worked with material drawn from mythology and folklore, as well as history, initially, and only turned to an entirely different style with contemporary urban settings in his late work. However, he wrote *Anju Mallige*, set in England and about an incestuous relationship between a brother and sister, in an entirely naturalistic style, early in his career.

Many of Karnad's plays are acknowledged as masterpieces. *Yayati* is the story of a king who pleads with his son to take on a curse given to him, the curse of old age. The son, then, for no fault of his, becomes an old man, older than his own father. *Tughlaq* is a study of a king so far ahead of his time that he is considered mad, and who ends his reign in bloodshed and chaos. In a sense, the play reflected the confusion that Karnad's generation felt a decade or so after Independence, and in some ways it also presaged the Emergency. *Hayavadana* is the tale of a woman with a jealous husband who beheads himself, his friend who also beheads himself fearing that he will be suspected of murder, and the woman preparing to behead herself when the goddess takes pity on her and grants her a boon. She can get both men

back to life if she only attaches the heads to the bodies. In her confusion, she mixes up the heads, attaching them to the wrong bodies. Which of the two is her husband, now? The man with the head, or the man with the body? *Nagamandala* is a story of a woman with an uncaring husband, who is visited by a cobra at night, who takes her husband's form. The woman is surprised to find her husband loving, tender and erotic at night, but brutish and apathetic in the day. She has to prove her fidelity to the husband, and the cobra again comes to her rescue.

Student of power play

Two overarching themes stand out in Girish Karnad's playwrighting career. One is power – how it opens possibilities but also corrupts, how men fail to use it for the greater good, how it leads to brutality. The other is female desire, women's aspirations, and the inability of men to come to terms with it. Both are political themes, and today more charged than ever.

Girish Karnad stood up and spoke out against the Hindu Right. It would only be fitting if his plays are now re-interpreted with contemporary sensibilities by younger theatre makers to fight the good fight.

Sudhanva Deshpande is an actor and director with *Jana Natya Manch, Delhi*, and an editor with *LeftWord Books*

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.

Girish Karnad

Jnanpith and Padma awardee Girish Karnad, who was also one of India's finest playwrights, was a multifaceted personality (Inside pages - "Girish Karnad - actor with a conscience", "Unapologetic critic of the rightwing" and Editorial page - "The script writer of culture", all June 11). He had a modern mind yet was rooted. Karnad was an intellectual giant who always had the courage to speak his mind and wear his heart on his sleeve. He was unconventionally conventional, classy and original. India will miss him deeply as he was a rarity.

C.G. KURIKOSE,
Kothamangalam, Kerala

India has lost a strong voice in support of social causes and the freedom of expression. He was known to many, being a versatile writer, actor and an

intellectual, and on account of the serial 'Malgudi Days' and the science magazine programme on Doordarshan, 'Turning Point'. He stood for his convictions, inspired by our rich cultural values and heritage.

As an artist with a conscience, he synthesised India and Bharat as a whole. The best way to keep his memory alive is to keep our institutions alive.

R.D. SINGH,
Ambala Cantt, Haryana

Karnad's passing has brought down the curtain on a glittering career and a life that was dedicated to art and literature. In a way, he was a rebel both in cinema and life. His was a prominent social voice, and there was rarely a social cause or a burning issue of the day that he had not commented on. It is a great loss for India.

J.S. ACHARYA,
Hyderabad

The country has lost an extraordinary playwright who never shied away from embracing progressive ideas besides speaking out boldly against the pernicious trend of stifling dissent and the climate of intolerance. He always took care to ensure that Indian theatre organically linked itself to its performative traditions. The void he has left will be difficult to fill.

M. JEYARAM,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

Many of us feel his passing as a personal loss. He belongs to every one of us as he was connected to the pan-Indian audience through literature. An era of ethical and intellectual inspiration has ended, which is painful.

ANANTHI SANTHAIYAN,
Pune

Kathua verdict

The verdict in the Kathua case, of life imprisonment, is

grossly inadequate considering the gravity of the offence (Page 1, "Three get life sentence for rape, murder of 8-year-old in Kathua", June 11). A child was abducted, raped and killed. There was also attempt to destroy the evidence. All these ingredients speak about the *mens rea* of the perpetrators. The State government should appeal against the verdict. The punishment seems too lenient.

T. ANAND RAJ,
Chennai

Justice has finally been served. Yet it is a travesty of justice that those who should have been preventing it were themselves involved in the crime. Another point is that the images of rallies organised to shield the perpetrators will scar our conscience for a long time. Clearly, we are not an ideal civil society as yet. The case

held a mirror to us exposing the ugly truth of society.

MEGHANA A.,
Shell Cove, NSW, Australia

Great humorist

The passing, in Chennai, of 'Crazy' Mohan, prominent Tamil theatre artiste and playwright for Tamil films, is shocking (Page 1, "Crazy Mohan is no more", June 11). An excellent stage actor, prolific story writer, and a humorist par-excellence, he ensured without fail that his audience burst into peals of innocent laughter in every scene. His mastery over the art of communication in an astonishingly humorous way also had messages for society.

N. VISVESWARAN,
Chennai

His special bonding with actor Kamal Haasan resulted in absolute rib-ticklers. Mr. Haasan's comic timing and Mohan's impeccable word

play have produced a body of work that still has amazing recall value.

R. SIVAKUMAR,
Chennai

Kohli's gesture

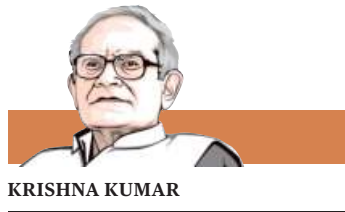
Virat Kohli's special gesture ('Sport' page, "Don't boo, cheer Smith", June 10) – to be there for the underdog, more so one with a player he has clashed with and whose star is on the ascendant – is a special gesture, which perhaps represents the kind of Indian our founding fathers had in mind. Kohli has shown that his heart beats for the other India – the one where, in lore, gods, kings and the commoner arrayed themselves on the side of what is right. He has shown the sporting world an inspiring, transformative vision.

B.G. KRISHNAN,
Chennai

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Truth, technology and the teacher

Remembering Vijaya Mulay means admitting how wrong India has gone on the issue of technology



KRISHNA KUMAR

Vijaya Mulay, who died last month at the age of 98, was an icon of educational technology. She was a pioneer of animated films for children. Her short film, 'Ek, Anek Aur Ekta', continues to be an Internet hit many decades after it was made in National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)'s newly set up unit on educational technology, which she led for many years. She chaired the National Focus Group which drafted the policy on technology included in the National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005.

Some members were unhappy that a filmmaker was leading a group that covered the use of computers in education. Mulay's own vision of educational technology offered no exception to the general rule that technology must promote plurality of use and creative endeavour. That is not the direction that educational technology took in India. She often warned against schools and colleges becoming graveyards of equipment. In an age when schools are perceived as hostage markets, remembering Mulay means admitting how terribly and expensively wrong our system has gone on the issue of technology – and not just technology.

Teachers at the margins

That admission, however, is hardly a tribute to her. Nor is it a tribute to the India that she, like many others of her generation, symbolised. India was an ongoing invention, and you were part of it. The India she signified and carried with her everywhere told you to find new ways to relate to old problems. Togetherness meant that you will not dominate, no matter how much you know. Technology was supposed to enable people to solve their own problems and feel that they could manage the machine on their own. For Mulay, the danger of educational technology leading to centralised decision-making was as great as the attraction that it would bring life into classrooms. How to avoid the risk of making the teacher feel marginal and dependent was the



MEGARA GOPAL

key challenge for policy.

The fight between the machine and the teacher is an unequal one. Instead of being together, they have been placed in a state of conflict. At the moment, teachers are at the losing end. They are told to use a range of new gadgets and material to improve teaching. Smart classes are equipped with industrially manufactured lessons and tests. All that the teacher has to do is to facilitate the delivery of these pre-planned lessons. To add to this loss of intellectual autonomy and dignity, surveillance gadgetry is being applied to monitor teachers, to assess what they are doing in the classroom.

From the other end too, namely that of children and their parents, the teacher faces impossible challenges on a daily basis. At a recent conference I met several teachers discussing the difficulties they face when children bring information they have accessed through the Internet or through an app. A teacher from Haryana talked about a child bringing an image with a well-written description of a nuclear test India conducted 3,000 years ago. The teacher asked, how should I explain to this Class VI child that this information cannot be true? She was aware, she said, that information of this kind has political value as it conveys, and also enhances, a certain kind of patriotism. She said many children in her class were convinced that the information was correct. Moreover, they believed that many of the things she told them during her lessons were doubtful although they were aware that for passing the monthly tests, they should write whatever the teacher had told them.

At a young age, these children had developed the capacity to maintain two separate repertoires of knowledge: one for personal conviction and the other for doing well at school.

A double-edged sword

In this new technological environment, it is easy to forget everything Mulay said and ignore her warnings. The dominant tendency today is to perceive technology as a source of all solutions, not as an aid. The biggest hurdle to reforms in education today is the marginalisation of teachers. They have been at the receiving end of one move after another. They had no choice but to follow whatever they were told to do. Regimented and compliant they always were; being repeatedly told to shift gears has made them cynical. This is a far cry from how Mulay defined the purpose of using educational technology. The National Focus Group paper written under her leadership explained how the latest communication technology was a double-edged sword. While it had the potential to enable common causes to create new communities, it also enabled globally dominant corporate power to discourage intellectual autonomy. To survive with sanity in the new technological environment, our children "must know that nothing is value-free (not even Donald Duck)." Learning at school must promote "a sense of discernment", and this is no easy aim to pursue in the prevailing technological environment.

Mulay lived for nearly a century, yet her passing away makes one feel as if we have lost a robust, young voice we urgently need. To keep her

memory alive, we must ask why our system of education has failed to benefit from new technologies of storage and communication of knowledge. Many people may not agree with my assessment and insist that our record of using technology – radio, television, computer, Internet – for improving education is not bad. I might have agreed if I were not a frequent listener of Gyan Vani. The programmes it offers to students enrolled in distance education courses are mostly just as wooden as the lectures they would have heard at a college or university. Mulay had warned against precisely this tendency of using technology for replicating and magnifying entrenched systemic weaknesses.

What knowledge means

Mulay was neither revolutionary nor radical. She worked inside systems and softened people committed to hard lines and tough remedies. One of her extraordinary attempts at persuasion was to join French film director Louis Malle in writing to Indira Gandhi to convince her that she must watch his films. They were banned in India because they were critical and hurt national pride.

As a bridge between the world of films and education, Mulay set a silent example of persistence in her belief that schools could be softened. Had she been directly asked how, she would have said, by working with teachers, giving them status and the experience of taking decisions. Few people today might agree with her. Contempt for school teachers and suspicion in their competence are widespread, and not merely in the bureaucracy. The so-called aspirational middle class has little patience for the teacher. Its demands from children are as ruthless as the parents' determination to hound the principal and her staff. They perceive themselves as consumers, and they will go to any length to get the best value. They trust the drill master at the coaching institute because he delivers what he promises. Knowledge brought to life through technology is irrelevant in this scenario. So is its value as truth. What matters is its instrumental value, to let you get on to the next stage of the entrance process.

Krishna Kumar is a former director of the NCERT

The importance of being neighbourly

India is subtly adding four new elements in the policy matrix



RAJIV BHATIA

The Modi government has acted swiftly to pursue its foreign policy priorities. Focused on strengthening India's place in the world, it has begun by shoring up the country's position in the immediate neighbourhood. This message emanated from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visits to the Maldives and Sri Lanka, and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's trip to Bhutan.

Ties with South Asian neighbours were a priority even earlier, as seen in the invitation extended to SAARC leaders to attend Mr. Modi's swearing-in ceremony in 2014. After that there were some difficulties. India's relations with Pakistan soured, while China continued to expand its footprint in Nepal, the Maldives, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. However, India's cooperation with Bangladesh, Bhutan, Afghanistan and Myanmar showed tangible progress. As a result, attention was consciously shifted from SAARC to BIMSTEC, thereby giving an eastward shift to India's neighbourhood policy. In 2016, BIMSTEC leaders were invited to the BRICS summit in Goa. BIMSTEC leaders also attended Mr. Modi's swearing-in last month.

Three visits

A week thereafter, Mr. Jaishankar was in Bhutan holding comprehensive discussions with his counterpart and the Prime Minister. He also met King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. The visit was perhaps meant to assess the current thinking in Thimphu about Chinese overtures to open diplomatic relations and the border issue before Mr. Modi's meeting with President Xi Jinping at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit.

Mr. Modi's visit to the Maldives was astutely designed to showcase that a dramatic turnaround has taken place in India-Maldives relations. Former Maldivian President Abdulla Yameen gave a blatantly pro-China tilt to his foreign policy. The result was that Mr. Modi had to wait until Mr. Yameen's ouster before he could visit the Maldives in November 2018. Working in concert, the two governments have succeeded in deepening mutual understanding. While visiting India in December 2018, President Ibrahim Solih was still somewhat cautious as he spoke of balancing friends, old and new. But by the time Mr. Modi landed in the Maldives last

week, Male had become more receptive. The President and the Majlis speaker reiterated the Maldives' commitment to its 'India first policy'. The Majlis invited Mr. Modi to deliver a special address. The President conferred the nation's highest honour on Mr. Modi.

This visit demonstrated how India has begun to implement recent decisions to extend ample financial assistance, move ahead with projects to be funded through a new \$800 million Line of Credit, and focus on people-centric welfare measures in accordance with the priorities of the Maldives. This is in sharp contrast with China's approach of extending massive loans for mega infrastructure projects that end up in debt traps. Mr. Modi hit all the right buttons, highlighting India's resolve to assist the Maldives in every possible manner. He identified countering terrorism, addressing climate change, and promoting an integrated and balanced Indo-Pacific as the key challenges for the region.

Mr. Modi's visit to Colombo was prudent. It conveyed India's solidarity with Sri Lanka as the latter struggles to overcome the overwhelming effects of the Easter Sunday attacks. Mr. Modi held discussions with all the main actors: the President, the Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition, and Tamil leaders. President Maithripala Sirisena reflected the nation's wish as he publicly thanked Mr. Modi for a productive visit.

Policy essence

New Delhi has clearly indicated that the neighbourhood will continue to be a priority, but four subtle elements are being introduced in the policy matrix. First, without always insisting on reciprocity, India may get into a proactive mode and adopt measures "to incentivise cooperation in the neighbourhood", as Mr. Jaishankar put it. Second, India will prefer to work on quick impact projects that bring socio-economic benefits to the people. Third, recognising its "limited capabilities", as Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale disclosed, New Delhi would have no objection in forging a trilateral development partnership, involving India and Japan in a neighbouring country. Fourth, SAARC's drawbacks have caused India's conscious shift to BIMSTEC. Mr. Jaishankar explained that India sees a mix of "energy, mindset and possibility" in the latter grouping. The government is moving in the right direction. It could also consider bringing the Maldives into BIMSTEC, at least as an observer. Finally, Mr. Jaishankar should visit other neighbours soon, particularly Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Rajiv Bhatia is Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House, and a former Ambassador

SINGLE FILE

Saving childhoods

Steps India could take to eliminate child labour

DAGMAR WALTER



S. R. RAGHUNATHAN

On World Day Against Child Labour (June 12) in 2017, India ratified two core conventions of the International Labour Organization on child labour. It now has to double its efforts to ensure that the benefit of those conventions reach the most vulnerable children.

Although comprehensive data on child labour are not available for India, as per the 2011 Census, in the age group 5-14 years, 10.1 million of 259.6 million constituted working children. Even though there was a decline in the number of working children to 3.9% in 2011 from 5% in 2001, the decline rate is grossly insufficient to meet target 8.7 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which is to end child labour in all forms by 2025. India therefore needs to embark on new and innovative approaches in its fight against child labour.

The ratification of the core conventions on child labour gives rise to a range of priorities such as strengthening policy and legislative enforcement, and building the capacities of government, workers' and employers' organisations as well as other partners at national, State and community levels. It is worthy of mention that India had taken important steps to eliminate child labour even before ratifying these conventions. In addition, there are a few more important steps that the country can take in this direction.

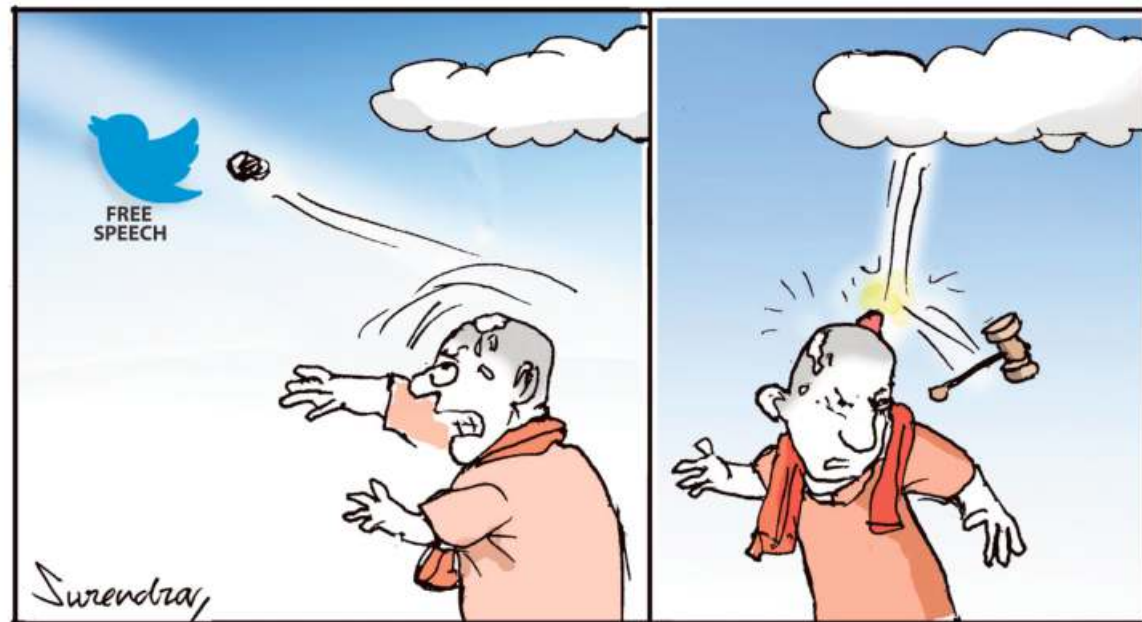
India should invest in enhancing its body of knowledge on child labour, emphasising quantitative information. While there are many common factors across the spectrum, each sector and each demographical segment will have its own set of factors and drivers that push children into the labour market. These have to be addressed. Such factors and drivers can only be identified and analysed through proper research, surveys and assessments.

Eliminating child labour is firmly placed within Goal 8 of the SDGs. A stronger nexus between the discourse on SDGs and the discourse on eliminating child labour can take the advantage of complementarities and synergies of a wide range of actors engaged in both areas of work.

The growing interest of the private sector is a great opportunity that has to be further utilised, particularly to leverage key influencers in domestic and multinational supply chains. It is also a matter of competitive advantage for multinationals to ensure that child labour is effectively eliminated in their supply chains. A sector-wide culture of child labour-free businesses has to be nurtured.

As the world of work is transforming and new actors are emerging, one cannot underestimate the importance of creating a sound and vibrant platform to bring together these actors. The fight against child labour is not just the responsibility of one, it is the responsibility of all.

Dagmar Walter is Director, ILO Decent Work Technical Support Team for South Asia and Country Office for India



DATA POINT

Women's work woes

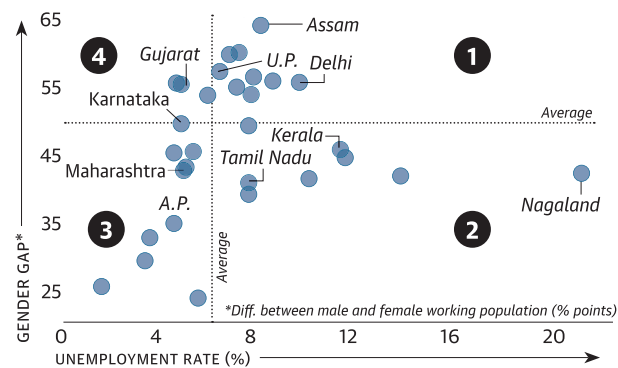
There are far fewer women than men in the workforce across States. Data show that only 22% of the country's female population is part of the workforce, as opposed to 71.2% of the male population. Women earn far less than men do.

By Sravya C. and Varun B. Krishnan

Fewer women on the job

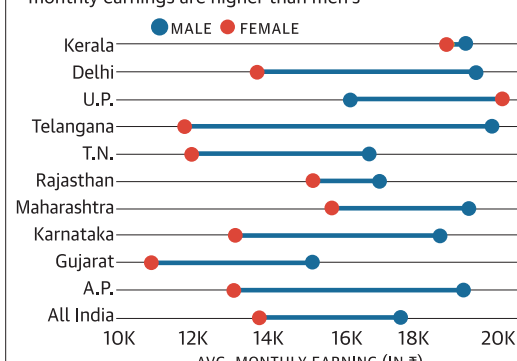
The gap between the number of men and women at work is highest in Assam and Bihar and lowest in Himachal Pradesh, followed by Meghalaya and Chhattisgarh. In the chart on the right, the numbers represent the following:

1. In these States (Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Delhi), the unemployment rate and the gender gap are higher than average
2. Here, the unemployment rate is high and the gender gap is lower than average (T.N., Kerala)
3. Unemployment and gender gap are low (A.P.)
4. Unemployment is low, gender gap is high (Gujarat)



Wage gap

In most States, salaried women earn far less than men. Uttar Pradesh is an exception where women's monthly earnings are higher than men's



Across jobs

Whether it is a salaried job or casual labour, women earn less than men. In casual labour, the difference is more pronounced – men earn 1.5 times more than women do

Period	Salaried male	Salaried female	Casual work (M)	Casual work (F)
July-Sept 2017	16,602.39	13,208.56	264.52	169.08
Oct-Dec 2017	17,230.89	14,192.37	273.87	173.42
Jan-Mar 2018	17,663.49	13,976.27	280.09	176.88
Apr-June 2018	17,697.78	13,890.27	290.99	181.65

Average earnings (in ₹)

Source: PLFS report 2017-18

FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 12, 1969

Centre against hasty decision on Telengana

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, had consultations with her Cabinet colleagues this evening [June 11, New Delhi] on the Telengana issue. No definite line of action seems to have emerged from these consultations at which Ministers of State from Andhra – Mr. K. Raghuramaiah, Mr. B. S. Murthy and Dr. K. L. Rao – participated by special invitation. The only indication available after the meeting of the Cabinet was that the Centre would not take any hasty decision. There is a feeling that no decision may be taken until after the return of the Prime Minister from her Japanese tour in the third week of this month. At to-day's meeting, Mr. Y. B. Chavan, Home Minister, is reported to have given the impressions he had gained from his fact-finding mission to Hyderabad last week-end. The consensus is understood to be in favour of finding a solution within the framework of a united Andhra Pradesh with the concrete assurance that the people of Telengana would have voice in the administration and all other walks of life.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 12, 1919.

Mysore Economic Conference.

Since last year the question of making the Mysore Economic Conference permanent received great attention both from the officials and non-officials and opinions varied considerably on the question. At the birthday session last year the matter was discussed but His Highness the Maharaja announced that it would be made permanent in one form or another, the details of the constitution being left to the conference itself. Since then at various committee meetings the matter was discussed but arrived at no decision. The Government instead of committing to any scheme formulated certain proposals as basis for reorganisation of the constitution of the conference. These proposals were discussed the whole of to-day [June 11].

CONCEPTUAL

Budget-maximising model

ECONOMICS

This refers to an economic model which tries to depict the typical behaviour of bureaucrats who work for the government. A government bureaucrat, according to this model, will constantly try to expand the amount of money and other resources that are under his control. The greater the amount of resources under his control, the greater the chances of him wielding power over people who are dependent on these resources. The budget-maximising model of bureaucratic behaviour was first proposed by American economist William Niskanen in the 1968 paper, "The peculiar economics of bureaucracy".

MORE ON THE WEB

Tamil Isai Sangam museum in Chennai

<http://bit.ly/chenmaimuseum>

FROM PAGE ONE

Wreckage of AN-32 spotted in Arunachal

IAF spokesperson Wing Commander Ratnakar Singh from the Eastern Air Command headquarters in Shillong, said, "Mountaineering teams of IAF, Army and civil administration are being formed. They will be inducted on Wednesday by means of helicopters to look for survivors and other things," Shiyomi Deputy Commissioner Mito Dirchi said it could take a week to reach the spot identified by the IAF. "The

terrain is steep, covered with dense jungles, and the nearest road is far away. We will have to create tracks through trees and vegetation," he said.

IAF had deployed Sukhoi SU-30 fighters, one C-130J transport aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles, Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) and Mi-17 helicopters while the Navy deployed a P-8I long-range maritime surveillance aircraft.

2 ISJK militants killed in Shopian shootout

"The terrorists were inspired by IS ideology. They were wanted for their complicity in terror crimes, including attacks on security establishments," the police added. Arms and ammuni-

tion were recovered, the police added.

Wagay, according to police records, was involved in the killing of civilian Irfan Hameed Sheikh of Zainapora.

'GDP growth was overestimated in 2011-17'

One of the problems highlighted by the former CEA was that growth numbers no longer correlated with other indicators of economic growth such as electricity consumption, two-wheeler sales, airline passenger traffic, index of industrial production, and export figures, to name a few.

In total, Mr. Subramanian looked at 17 such indicators and found that "the correlations between most indicators and GDP growth broke down in the post-2011 period".

Methodological issues

Former Chief Statistician of India and expert on India's GDP calculations Pronab Sen countered Mr. Subramanian's thesis, arguing that it is the result largely of the methodology.

"If you think about GDP growth, it can come from three distinct factors," Dr. Sen explained. "One is growth in volumes, the amount that is produced. The second is growth in productivity, and the third is improvement in product quality. What Arvind has done is that the indicators he has used are all volume indicators, and having done that, he has said they were very strongly correlated prior to 2011 but not after that period."

The reason for this breakdown in correlation, Dr. Sen explained, is precisely because the shift in methodology in 2011 meant that the value of goods and services were now considered to estimate growth and not their volume.

"In estimating the growth of the high-frequency indicators pre-2011, he has in a sense replicated the method in which the GDP growth was calculated during that period, and then said that there is a correlation between these indicators and GDP growth," Dr. Sen said. "Post 2011, when we moved to value indicators from volume indicators, the relationship is weaker because the other two drivers would start getting picked up by the values."

"If he had made the statement that in the post-2011 growth, only 4.5% came from volumes and the remaining 2.5% came from other factors which we don't know, then that would have been correct," Dr. Sen added.

Mr. Subramanian also argued that the shift in 2011 to using values rather than volumes meant that price changes, especially in important inputs such as oil, would have started to have a big impact on the final growth number.

"Under the old, establishment-based GDP estimates, price changes mattered less because real growth numbers were largely based on volumes not values," Mr. Subramanian says. "Under the new system, however,

values had to be deflated by prices to get real magnitudes. And this mattered crucially for the manufacturing sector where the often-dramatic changes in oil prices can heavily influence input costs"

Dr Sen also acknowledged that this problem with the new methodology should be addressed. However, he pointed out that while price changes did have an effect now, the direction of that impact was not evident. So, to say that there was only an over-estimation of GDP growth would not be correct. Gauging the effect of price changes on GDP growth using the new methodology would be a different exercise, separate from the one Mr. Subramanian has conducted, Dr. Sen said.

"Earlier, prices didn't matter, as he said," Dr. Sen said. "But it's not obvious that the direction of error is constant. When oil prices are falling, then you would be over-stating GDP, but when they are rising, you would be under-stating GDP."

Mr. Subramanian's paper also points towards the fact that the way the informal sector in India was measured was using formal sector proxies, which was an increasingly inaccurate approach. This, too, is a correct assessment, according to Dr. Sen, who said this problem has become even more acute post-demonetisation, when the informal sector's growth fell away.

"But remember that the period Arvind is talking about is pre-demonetisation, so this argument I don't think applies with as much force then," Dr. Sen said.

Implications

Mr. Subramanian derives several implications from the findings of his paper. The first is that growth needed to be restored to high levels. The second that the quality and integrity of data in India needs to be improved, something called for by several other economists. And the third is that "India must restore the reputational damage suffered to data generation across the board".

He also called for the creation of a taskforce to revisit the entire methodology and implementation of GDP estimation. The Finance Ministry spokespeople were not available for comment on whether this will be taken up or not.

"It is understandable when policy makers favour the status quo if that status quo is apparently delivering the fastest growth rate of any major economy in the world," Mr. Subramanian writes.

"But if growth is actually 4.5% instead of 7%, attitudes to policy action should and would be very different."

Free speech cannot be choked by arrest: SC

Release of journalist no endorsement of his views, clarifies order

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Ordering the immediate release on bail of arrested journalist Prashant Kanojia, the Supreme Court on Tuesday said, "We are not appreciative of the manner of his tweets, but we are bothered about his arrest and incarceration..."

Addressing Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Vikramjit Banerjee, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government, Justice Indira Banerjee said, "We live in a country where there is a Constitution. Proceed against him in accordance with law, but should he be behind bars?"

'Not absolute right'

Mr. Banerjee countered that free speech is not "absolute" and another's right cannot be trampled upon. "With great liberty comes great responsibility," he said.

To this, Justice Banerjee said free speech and criti-

cism on social media cannot be choked by incarceration. "Even we take in a lot from social media, but does that mean incarceration? Show your magnanimity," she told the State.

To this, the ASG said, "This order of release should not be seen as an endorsement of his tweets."

Justice Banerjee responded, "It is very wrong to think whatever uploaded will be swallowed by the public. People are educated."

However, the court later clarified in its order that the journalist's release should not be construed as an "endorsement" of his tweets, but as a firm stand taken by the highest court to protect personal liberty.

The court said fundamental rights of free speech and personal liberty were "non-negotiable."

"We need not comment on the nature of the posts/tweets for which the action has been taken. The ques-



Jagisha Arora, wife of journalist Prashant Kanojia, speaking to reporters outside the Supreme Court. ■PTI

tion is whether Prashant Kanojia ought to have been deprived of his liberty for the offence alleged. The answer to that question is *prima facie* in the negative," it recorded in the order.

The court said the State would follow procedure as per law in Kanojia's case. "We direct that the petitioner's husband [Kanojia] be immediately released on bail on conditions to the satisfaction of the jurisdictional Chief Judicial Magistrate," it said.

The U.P. government then referred to how the court, in another case on May 14,

asked BJP Yuva Morcha leader Priyanka Sharma to apologise on her release from custody for posting a morphed image of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on social media.

Justice Banerjee was heading that Bench too. "That was on entirely different facts. It was a photo," Justice Banerjee replied.

The hearing on Tuesday was based on *habeas corpus* petition moved by Mr. Kanojia's wife, Jagisha Arora, under Article 32 of the Constitution to know the whereabouts of her 26-year-old husband.

Congress core group to focus on leadership crisis

Will meet to deliberate on 'collective decision making'

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

Amidst continuing uncertainty over Congress leadership, the Congress Core Group is meeting in New Delhi on Wednesday to deliberate on an institutional mechanism for "collective decision making."

A member of the Core Committee told *The Hindu* the party could look at a body of 11-15 members that could be made in charge of collective decision making along with the party president.

"Let's see what comes out of it but the Congress cannot be in suspended animation," he said.

Earlier, a nine-member

Parliamentary Board used to perform such a role but it was discontinued in the early 1990s.

The Parliamentary Board was constituted from among the members of the Congress Working Committee (CWC), the highest decision making body, to regulate the parliamentary activities of the party in legislatures.

"If a new body is set up, it will also come out of the CWC," the senior leader said.

On May 25, Congress president Rahul Gandhi had informed the CWC that he would step down as the party chief and his position was non-negotiable.

Even though the CWC had

rejected the resignation, Mr. Gandhi was firm and wanted a collective decision making body.

The senior leader said the party's core group would once again urge Mr. Gandhi to continue in his post once they finalised an 'institutional mechanism for decision making'.

Earlier the Core Group comprising senior leaders like A.K. Antony, P. Chidambaram, Ahmed Patel, Mallikarjun Kharge, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, K.C. Venugopal, Ashok Gehlot and Randeep Surjewala had decided to seek written reports on the reasons behind the Congress's poll debacle by June 11.

Election review meeting on western U.P. raises heat

Disagreement over fielding of outsiders, manifesto pops up

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

An election review meeting to analyse the Congress' performance in the 10 Lok Sabha seats of western Uttar Pradesh saw a heated exchange among party leaders and workers.

Congress sources said party functionaries raised several key issues — the fielding of outsiders, the lack of funds and criticism of the Congress manifesto's promises such as the removal of sedition laws and the dilution of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act — before general secretary Jyotiraditya Scindia and U.P. Congress chief Raj Babbar.

A video clip tweeted by ANI, the news agency,



Jyotiraditya Scindia

Candidates, district Congress presidents and former MPs from the 10 Lok Sabha seats, including Noida, Ghaziabad, Saharanpur, Moradabad, Amroha, Meerut, Bijnore and Nagina, were called for the review meeting.

"As long as I was there, I did not see any heated exchange. Every Lok Sabha seat was called separately and everyone put across their view very well. This is a natural course of action after the poll defeat," said former MP Meem Afzal.

While Mr. Scindia took a review of U.P. West on Tuesday, Ms. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will be meeting party workers on Wednesday at Rae Bareilly.

Shah to meet top BJP functionaries

Calendar for organisational polls likely to be drawn up on June 13

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

BJP president Amit Shah will hold a high level meeting of all national office bearers of the party as well as State presidents, *prabharis* (or in charges) of all States in New Delhi, to finalise the calendar for organisational polls in the party on June 13.

Top sources in the party said the calendar will kick off the process of internal elections, from booth to mandal, district and State level polls for party positions, but did not confirm whether this would usher in a new party



Amit Shah

president. "There are two ways that a national president of the BJP is elected, one is after 50% of all State polls (including 50% booth, mandal and district polls) are concluded, and the other by a decision of the parliamentary board of the party of which Prime Minister Na-

rendra Modi is also a member. In the latter process, the decision has to be ratified by the National Council of the party, within six months of the Board resolution," said the source.

The meeting on Thursday will finalise a new membership drive, appoint people to conduct the exercise and to verify the memberships, after which the electoral process would get underway. "This process will likely conclude only by December," said the source.

The BJP will also hold a meeting of party general se-

cretaries on June 18 to finalise programmes to be conducted by the party in various States.

"Basically, this will be a re-booting exercise after the Lok Sabha polls, and preparations for the upcoming Assembly polls in Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Haryana," added the source.

The exercise assumes significance after Mr. Shah joined the Union Cabinet as Home Minister with a question mark now over whether he will continue to hold both posts — in the party and in the government.

Unite to save Bengal's culture: Mamata

Trinamool chief says she won't allow BJP's plan to 'change Bengal into Gujarat'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Nearly a month after the bust of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar was vandalised during the road show of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Amit Shah at Vidyasagar College here, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday installed a new bust at the same venue.

Ms. Banerjee unveiled the statue near Hare School in College Street and then led a rally till Vidyasagar College on Bidhan Sarani where the fibreglass statue was finally installed.

Addressing a gathering at Hare School, Ms. Banerjee urged people from different walks of life to unite to save "Bengal's culture".

"For saving culture of Bengal, let us all unite," she



In full glory: Mamata Banerjee garlanding the new bust of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar in Kolkata on Tuesday. ■PTI

said. The Chief Minister repeatedly targeted the BJP for the vandalism of the Vidyasagar bust on May 14 and said the culprits had shown little regret or remorse.

Ms. Banerjee said that the BJP was "planning to change

Bengal into Gujarat", which she would not allow.

Three killed

Commenting on the cycle of political violence in the State, Ms. Banerjee said two Trinamool supporters were

killed at Bhatpara on Monday night and one person at Galsi on Tuesday morning.

"So far 10 people have been killed in post poll violence of which eight are Trinamool workers and two are BJP supporters," she said. Ms. Banerjee directed the State's Chief Secretary to offer compensation to families of all the ten deceased. The Chief Minister expressed displeasure over comments made by Governor K.N. Tripathi, wherein he had reportedly said that 12 people have had died in post poll violence. "I respect him, but I don't support what he has said," she said.

Meanwhile, State BJP leadership blamed the Chief Minister for the violence at in Sandeshkhali in which two BJP supporters were killed on June 8.

Wife hails court order

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The wife of journalist Prashant Kanojia, who was arrested for allegedly making objectionable comments against Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Tuesday said the Supreme Court decision to grant him bail has reaffirmed her belief in the Constitution.

Jagisha Arora said that

the Uttar Pradesh police had acted in an "unconstitutional" manner in arresting her husband.

She told reporters that the judges too have remarked that it was an over-the-top step taken by the state police for a tweet made by her husband and that it should not have been done.

"I stand by what he has tweeted," she said.

Rahul chides U.P. govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday chided Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for behaving "foolishly" and demanded the release of the two journalists and a channel head arrested by the U.P. police for allegedly posting 'objectionable' content about Mr. Adityanath.

"If every journalist who files a false report or peddles fake, vicious RSS/BJP sponsored propaganda about me is put in jail, most newspapers/news channels would face a severe staff shortage," Mr. Gandhi tweeted.

"The UPE CM is behaving foolishly & needs to release the arrested journalists," he added in the post on his Twitter handle.

Virendra Kumar is Pro-tem Speaker

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

BJP MP from Madhya Pradesh Virendra Kumar will be the Pro-tem Speaker of the Lok Sabha, official sources said on Tuesday.

The first all-party meeting will be convened on June 16, before the first session of the 17th Lok Sabha to be held from June 17 to July 26. Mr. Kumar, 65, is a seven-term Member of Parliament. He won the Lok Sabha election from Tikamgarh.

As Pro-tem Speaker, he will preside over the first sitting of the Lok Sabha, admi-

nister the oath of office to the newly elected MPs, and oversee the election of the Speaker. He was a Minister of State in the previous Narendra Modi government.

In the first week of the session, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker will be elected.

Leader of Rajya Sabha Union Minister Thawarchand Gehlot was appointed on Tuesday the Leader of the Rajya Sabha, a position occupied in the previous Narendra Modi-led government by senior BJP leader Arun Jaitley.

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IN BRIEF



Fresh chargesheets against Gautam Khaitan
NEW DELHI
The Income Tax Department has filed four fresh chargesheets against lawyer Gautam Khaitan, an accused in the multi-crore VVIP chopper deal scam, on charges of "tax evasion and possession of undisclosed bank accounts in Singapore", official sources said on Tuesday.

ED interrogates Praful Patel again

NEW DELHI
The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday questioned former Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel further in connection with the alleged irregularities in the purchase of 43 Airbus aircraft and sharing of Air India's profitable routes with international airlines during the UPA regime.

New agency to develop space warfare weapon systems

It will work in close coordination with the tri-services

ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL
NEW DELHI

To enhance the capabilities of the armed forces to fight wars in space, the government has approved the setting up of a new agency which will develop sophisticated weapon systems and technologies.

"The Cabinet Committee on Security headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has cleared the setting up of the Defence Space Research Agency (DSRO) which has been entrusted with the task of creating space warfare weapon systems and technologies," sources in the Defence Ministry told ANI.

The decision was taken at the topmost level some time ago and the agency has started taking shape under a



India conducted its ASAT missile test in March 2019.

Joint Secretary-level scientist.

The agency would be provided with a team of scientists which would be working in close coordination with the tri-services integrated Defence staff officers.

It would be providing the research and development support to the Defence

Space Agency (DSA) which comprises members of the three services. The DSA has been created "to help the country fight wars in the space".

In March, India had carried out the Anti Satellite Test (ASAT) which demonstrated its capability to shoot down satellites and joined an elite club of four nations with similar capability. The test also helped the country develop deterrence capability against adversaries who may want to attack Indian satellites to cripple systems in times of war.

The Defence Space Agency is being set up in Bengaluru under an Air Vice Marshal-rank officer and will gradually take over the space-related capabilities of the three forces.

Trump again points to high Indian tariffs on Harley bikes

Other targets of U.S. President include France, China and the European Union

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

India's high import tariff on the iconic Harley Davidson motorcycles has come in for criticism from U.S. President Donald Trump yet again.

In an interview with CNBC, focussed on international trade, Mr. Trump took shots at India and a number of other countries.

"You look at India, a very good friend of mine, Prime Minister Modi, you take a look at what they have done, 100% tax on a motorcycle. We charge them nothing. So, when Harley sends it over there, they have 100% tax. When they send it, they make a tremendous number of motorcycles. When they send them, no tax," Mr. Trump said.

"I called him [Mr. Modi]. I said it's unacceptable. He reduced it by 50% with one phone call. I said it's still unacceptable because it is 50% versus nothing. It's still unacceptable. And they're working on it," he added.

Mr. Trump had first described this call days after it had happened in February 2018 and has repeatedly made references to the Harley issue and Indian tariffs. The President has also called India "tariff king".

"But we're the bank that everybody wants to rob. And that's what they've been doing for a long period of time. \$800 billion we have in trade deficits with other countries," Mr. Trump said.

Mr. Trump is known to look at trade balances as a profit and loss statement - and has indicated that he sees U.S. bilateral trade deficits as a sign of there being an unfair trade relationship.

Indian Ambassador to the U.S. Harsh Shringla, like his predecessor, has stressed the efforts to bring down the trade surplus India has with the U.S., at speeches at events, highlighting defence



Full throttle: U.S. President Donald Trump examining Harley Davidson motorcycles at the White House in Washington DC in 2017. •REUTERS

Pompeo to visit this month as part of Trump's strategy

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON

U.S. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo has said he will visit New Delhi at the end of the month as he previewed comments that he is expected to make at an India Ideas U.S. India Business Council event, 'the India Ideas Summit' to be held on Wednesday and Thursday this week.

"I will be visiting India, an important part of President Donald Trump's strategy in the Indo-Pacific," Mr. Pompeo told reporters at a State Department briefing on Monday.

"I am looking forward to the opportunity both to give the set of remarks [at the India Ideas event] about how it is our relationship is so closely tied economically,

but also importantly the things that the United States and India can continue to do to build out what is an incredibly important relationship for both countries," he said.

Mr. Pompeo's Asia trip will take place between June 24 and 30, and he will first visit New Delhi, State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortogus said.

Muslim leaders seek CBMs from Modi

Letter from community heads to PM welcomes focus on winning trust

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's exhortation at the NDA parliamentary party meet last month that his new government would strive to win the trust of all sections of society has prompted prominent leaders of the Muslim community to ask for an active engagement on issues facing the community - education, jobs and what they term Confidence Building Measures (CBM) in the face of "hooliganism".

The letter addressed to Prime Minister Modi, comes from at least 20 leaders of various community bodies, including Maulana Mahmood Madani of the Jamat Ulama-i-Hind, Kamal Faruqi, former head of the Delhi Minorities Commission, Dr Fakruddin Mohammad of the



Narendra Modi at a recent meeting in New Delhi.

MESCO group of institutions of Hyderabad, Qaiser Shamin, former Income Tax Commissioner for Delhi and advisor to the Union Public Service Commission.

Sabka Vishwas

The letter commends Mr. Modi for the sentiments expressed by him of winning

"Sabka Vishwas" (everyone's trust) and specifically the mention of the first war of independence of 1857 as a movement that encapsulated the spirit of a united India.

The two page letter further says the community leaders were anxious to push forward their concern on issues related to education and health care, skill development and CBMs.

"Confidence building measures by ensuring adequate protection under the Constitution and the law of the land. A reassurance to the innocent to ensure that hooligans would not be allowed a free run and would certainly be punished," states the letter.

Process of dialogue
Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr

Faruqi, one of signatories, said the spirit of the letter was to offer a process of dialogue and to move ahead on the basis of Mr. Modi's stated aim for his new government. "All the issues flagged by us are germane to the concerns of the community," he said.

Specifically on the CBMs, Mr. Faruqi said the safety of citizens was important in the endeavour of "Sabka Vishwas".

During Mr. Modi's last tenure, there had been several incidents of violence related to cow protection where members of the minority community were targeted and had resulted in death by lynching in States like Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. The request for CBMs is with regard to prevention of such incidents in Mr Modi's new term at the helm.

Role of social media in polls hyped: CSDS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The role of social media as a key influencer of voting choices in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections may have been exaggerated, according to a Lokniti-CSDS survey. It found that the BJP's vote share lead over the Congress among social media users was actually lower than in 2014.

Survey data did establish a relationship between the social media usage and the BJP voters, showing that voters with a high exposure were most likely to have voted for it, with the ruling party's vote share dropping among those with low or no exposure. Thus, 43% of those with high exposure voted for the BJP, dropping to 39% among those with moderate exposure, 37% of those with low exposure and 36% of those with no exposure.

However, given that voters with high exposure account for only a tenth of the electorate, while those with no exposure make up 64%, the study notes that the BJP would have won the election even if the social media was taken out of the equation.

It notes that the BJP's social media advantage over its principal rival, the Congress, actually declined between 2014 and 2019. "When we compare the performance of the BJP and the Congress among Twitter and Facebook users in 2019 with their performance among the users of these platforms in 2014, we notice that the greatest gains made by the BJP were among those who did not use these two platforms at all compared to those who did," it says.

Quad one way to fix regional issues: Australian envoy

Stresses need for all forms of dialogue

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

There is need for flexibility, agility and speed in solving regional problems and the Quad is "one of many such small groupings" in solving them, asserted Harinder Sidhu, Australia's High Commissioner in India. Ms. Sidhu also identified strengthening of the economic order in the Indo-Pacific as a focus area for future cooperation.

"Quad is developing into a substantive forum for discussing a wide range of issues," Ms. Sidhu observed at a talk organised by the Indian Association of Foreign Affairs Correspondents on Tuesday. "It is now accepted as one part of a strategic landscape that involves many different forms of dialogues. This is what it should be. Quad should be important but not particularly remarkable as part of that landscape," she added.

'Pursue substance'

Stating that she was very positive about the Quad, Ms. Sidhu said individual statements were being issued by member states as a "practical measure" instead of a joint statement. "I would keep the Quad at an official level and pursue substance and genuine working level cooperation... may be raised to ministerial level at some point. I am not sure we are at that point yet," she added.

The quadrilateral grouping comprising India, Australia, Japan and the U.S. was revived in 2017 but the grouping has so far shied



Harinder Sidhu

away from adding a military aspect to it. The latest meeting was held last month in Bangkok.

'RCEP is vital'

On trade and investment in the region, Ms. Sidhu stressed the importance of concluding the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) between ASEAN and six Asia-Pacific countries. A successful conclusion to negotiations on RCEP would help shape the "regional rules and norms governing trade, investment and the broader economy," she said, adding "very importantly, it deals India into regional economic integration."

While India has not responded positively to Australia's request to join the Malabar exercises, the two countries have expanded bilateral military cooperation over the last few years. The latest edition of the bilateral naval exercise AUSINDEX in April saw the largest deployment of Australian military assets to India in peacetime, Ms. Sidhu noted. There had been a fourfold increase in defence engagement from 2014.

NIA court hands life term to man for hijack threat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In a first, a special NIA court in Ahmedabad sentenced Birju Salla, a businessman, to life imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹5 crore for placing a 'hoax' hijack note on a Jet Airways plane in October 2017.

Of the fine deposited by Salla, the pilots on the aircraft would get a compensation of ₹1 lakh each, each air hostess ₹50,000 and each passenger ₹25,000 for the "misery undergone by them," the court of special NIA judge K M Dave said.

During interrogation, Salla said he committed the crime to force the airline shut its Delhi operation which would lead his girlfriend, who worked there, to come back to Mumbai.

Salla was accused of creating a hijack scare by planting the threat note written in English and Urdu in the tissue paper box of the toilet near the business class of the Mumbai-Delhi flight on October 30, thereby jeopardising the safety of the passengers and the crew.

He was arrested after the plane made an emergency landing at the Ahmedabad airport.

Dubious distinction

Salla will spend the remainder of his life in prison, an NIA official said. He was also the first person to be put on the no-fly list, constituted in 2017, and also the first to be tried under the stringent Anti-Hijacking Act, 2016, which had replaced the earlier 1982 Act.

'China getting decimated by tariff war'

President Trump vows to slap more tariffs on Beijing if it does not accede to America's trade demands

ANA SWANSON
JEANNA SMIALEK
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump has concluded that his tariff threat worked and forced Mexico to stop the flow of migrants. On Monday, he pivoted back to his trade fight with China and vowed to hit Beijing with more tariffs if it did not accede to America's trade demands.

"The China deal's going to work out," Mr. Trump said in an interview on CNBC. "You know why? Because of tariffs. Because right now, China is getting absolutely decimated by companies that are leaving China, going to other countries, including our own, because they don't want to pay the tariffs."

The President has long favoured tariffs as an immediate and unilateral policy tool. But his increasing confidence that the levies have helped accomplish his goals without harming the U.S. sets up an even more tumultuous period ahead for businesses, consumers and foreign countries.

Mr. Trump on Monday continued to attack the Federal Reserve for raising rates last year, saying it had put



Ties resume: In this June 7 photo, products are being transported to the United States from Mexico, which recently faced a tariff threat from President Donald Trump. •NYT

the U.S. at a competitive disadvantage to China, which has a fairly subservient central bank. "They devalue their currency. They have for years," he said. "It's put them at a tremendous competitive advantage, and we don't have that advantage because we have a Fed that doesn't lower interest rates."

The President insisted his tariffs were having their intended effect — pressuring other countries to make deals, prompting companies

to move factories back to the U.S. and generating an enormous amount of money, all without costing American consumers.

Immediate threat

He said he was prepared to place 25% tariffs on another \$300 billion worth of Chinese goods and would do so immediately if a planned meeting with President Xi Jinping of China did not happen this month during the G-20 summit in Japan.

"We are scheduled to talk and meet," Mr. Trump said during remarks to reporters at the White House. "We always have the option to raise it another \$300 billion to 25%."

Mr. Trump has blamed China for "renegeing" on a trade deal with the U.S., and last month he raised tariffs on \$200 billion worth of goods as punishment. China has retaliated by raising tariffs on about \$60 billion worth of American products.

We are not afraid: Beijing

REUTERS
BEIJING

China will "resolutely respond" if the U.S. insists on escalating trade tensions, an official said. Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said he would not be drawn into confirming a Xi-Trump meeting, saying information would be released once it was available to the Ministry. "China does not want to fight a trade war, but we are not afraid of fighting a trade war."

Mr. Trump said Monday that he saw no downside to taxing nearly everything China sends into the U.S. "We've never gotten 10 cents from China. Now we're getting a lot of money from China, and I think that's one of the reasons the GDP was so high in the first quarter because of the tariffs that we're taking in from China," he said, referring to the gross domestic product, which grew about 3.1% in the first three months of the year. •NY TIMES

Zardari handed over to anti-graft body for 10 days

Charges politically motivated, says Pakistan People's Party

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ISLAMABAD

A Pakistani court handed over the country's former President to a national anti-graft body on Tuesday for questions regarding a multi-million dollar money laundering case.

Asif Ali Zardari will be held for 10 days pending investigation on corruption charges. He will appear in court again on June 21, when the anti-graft body is expected to press or drop charges.

The court order came a day after Mr. Zardari was arrested after the rejection of his and his sister's bail applications. However, authorities did not arrest Faryal Talpur; no explanation was given.

Both the former President, currently a member in the lower house of Parliament, and his sister had been accused by the National Accountability Bureau of holding dozens of bogus bank accounts. They have denied any wrongdoing.

Mr. Zardari's Opposition Pakistan People's Party



Supporters protesting against the arrest of Asif Ali Zardari in Peshawar. •REUTERS

claims the charges against him were politically motivated, which the government denies.

Several prominent politicians and businessmen have been swept up on corruption charges since Prime Minister Imran Khan took office last year. Mr. Khan campaigned heavily on promises to root out graft among the country's elite.

Hamza arrested

Also on Tuesday, the anti-graft body arrested Hamza Shahbaz, a politician who is the son of Opposition leader Shahbaz Sharif, after the re-

jection of his bail in a corruption case.

He is also the nephew of the former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who is currently serving a jail term over corruption charges.

Mr. Sharif and Mr. Zardari are longtime political rivals but their parties recently joined together, vowing to launch a protest campaign against Mr. Khan's government over increasing inflation and a spike in prices of essential food items.

MQM leader held

Meanwhile, the police in London on Tuesday arrested Altaf Hussain, the self-exiled leader of the ethnic-based Muttahida Qaumi Movement. Pakistan has sought his arrest since a televised speech in August 2016 condemning the country's politically influential army, state-run media reported.

It was not immediately clear why British authorities had detained Mr. Hussain. The London police said in a statement that the investigation was ongoing.

Sri Lanka MPs defy President to resume Easter attack probe

Sirisena opposed public questioning of officials

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's Parliament on Tuesday defied President Maithripala Sirisena and resumed investigations into security lapses surrounding the Easter suicide bombings that killed 258 people, officials said, as a political crisis in the country deepened.

The Parliamentary Select Committee (PSC) began hearing testimony from Muslim leaders who claimed they repeatedly alerted the authorities to dangerous radicalisation, a parliament-



Maithripala Sirisena

Wickremesinghe's party, meant the government was at a standstill.

"The current standoff effectively means that there is no government in Sri Lanka from today," Sri Lanka Freedom Party leader Gamini Lakshman Peiris told reporters in Colombo.

There was no immediate word either from the President or the Prime Minister on why the scheduled Cabinet meeting was not held.

Mr. Sirisena had opposed public questioning of military, police and intelligence officials, saying it would compromise national security. The PSC maintains that witnesses were free to give evidence in camera.

Kim's brother was a CIA informant, says report

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SEOUL

Kim Jong-nam, the estranged half brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un who was killed in Malaysia in 2017, was a CIA informant, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on Tuesday.

Citing "a person knowledgeable about the matter", the paper said Kim Jong-nam had met with CIA operatives several times.

Kim Jong-nam, who was once seen as heir apparent to the North's leadership, died after having his face smeared with the outlawed VX nerve agent as he waited at Kuala Lumpur airport.

According to the *Journal's* source there was a



Kim Jong-nam

"nexus" between Kim Jong-nam and the CIA, but the paper said many details of his connection with the intelligence agency were unclear.

The source said Kim Jong-nam travelled to Malaysia in February 2017 to meet his CIA contact, but that may not have been the only purpose of his trip.

'UAE paid businessman to spy on Trump administration'

Report says Rashid al-Malik reported to UAE intelligence

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

A UAE businessman linked to a probe of illegal donations to Donald Trump's political campaign was paid by his country's intelligence agency to spy on the U.S. President's administration, *The Intercept* reported on Monday.

Rashid al-Malik received tens of thousands of dollars a month for gleaning information on Trump administration policy toward West Asia in 2017, the website said, citing a former U.S. official and documents.

He reported back to the

UAE's National Intelligence Service on topics of interest to the oil-producing Gulf state — including U.S. efforts to mediate a Gulf feud involving Qatar — as well as meetings between U.S. officials and Saudi Arabia's powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, *The Intercept* said.

Late last year, *The New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* reported that U.S. federal prosecutors were investigating whether foreigners illegally funnelled donations to Mr. Trump's inaugural committee and a pro-Trump fundraising sup-

er PAC. Mr. Al-Malik, chairman of the investment firm Hayah Holdings, was interviewed by special counsel Robert Mueller's office as part of the probe, according to the *New York Times*.

The *Times* cited people familiar with the inquiry as saying it focussed on whether people from Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE used straw donors to make contributions in the hope of buying influence over U.S. policy. The report was denied by Mr. al-Malik's lawyer, who told *The Intercept* that his client was "not an intelligence operative."

IN BRIEF



U.S. submits extradition request for Assange

WASHINGTON
The U.S. government has formally submitted an extradition request to the U.K. for WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, an official said on Tuesday. Mr. Assange faces an 18-count indictment that accuses him of soliciting and publishing classified information. •AP

France smashes neo-Nazi cell over plot against Jews, Muslims

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

The French police have smashed a neo-Nazi cell accused of plotting attacks on Jewish or Muslim places of worship, legal sources said on Tuesday.

Five members of the group, who were "close in ideology to the neo-Nazi movement", were charged between September and May over the alleged plot, a

source close to the investigation said.

"The investigation suggested they were developing an ill-defined plot to carry out an attack, likely to target a place of worship," the judicial source said. The sources gave no details of specific targets or motives.

The police in the southeastern city of Grenoble first arrested a man on weapons

charges in September 2018.

The investigation led them to the four other suspects, two of them minors.

Anti-terrorism investigators took over the investigation in January and charged the suspects with terror offences, including making and transporting explosive devices and being part of a terrorist conspiracy.

Fresh wave of protests against Hong Kong bill

REUTERS
HONG KONG

Thousands braved thunderstorms in Hong Kong on Tuesday for a fresh wave of protests against a proposed extradition bill that would allow people to be sent to mainland China for trial.

However, the Chinese-ruled city's leader, Chief Executive Carrie Lam, said she would press ahead with the bill despite deep concerns across vast swathes of the Asian financial hub.

In a rare move, prominent business leaders warned that pushing through the extradition law could undermine investor confidence in Hong Kong and erode its competitive advantages.

Pak. army tightens grip on tribal belt

Military cracks down on protesters in the northwestern tribal region

GRIP BEN FARMER
PESHAWAR

With the Pakistani military's crackdown on protesters in the northwestern tribal belt in recent days, the security forces have asserted themselves as the true masters of justice in the region.

Commanders have said an alternative anti-terrorism court system will be used to prosecute leaders of an ethnic Pashtun protest movement that witnesses insist has stayed peaceful. Roads have been closed, and a curfew imposed.

But this is the year things were supposed to be different in the tribal belt, which has waited for something other than summary justice for decades and was promised it would finally happen.

Pakistan voted last year to merge those bor-



Manzoor Pashteen says the campaign by the forces had made a lie of the abolition of the colonial justice code.

derlands, once known as the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), into the country's political and legal mainstream.

Frontier code

At a stroke, the move assigned the region's 5 million residents — the vast majority of them from the ethnic Pashtun minority — the same constitutional rights as other

Pakistanis, including access to the national civilian justice system.

Before, it had been run under a harsh frontier code set up long ago by British colonial masters, who put each tribal region under the near-complete power of a single Governor.

Residents were denied basic rights like access to lawyers or normal trials, and collective punish-

ment for the crimes of an individual was common. Manzoor Pashteen, leader of the Pashtun civil rights movement, known as PTM, said the recent campaign by the security forces had made a lie of last year's abolition of the colonial justice code.

"It is very obvious now that FATA and its administrative strings are still in the hands of the army," he said. Hopes for change were dashed over the past two weeks, when the army began moving more aggressively against the PTM. The PTM has for the past year been a thorn in the side of the military, accusing the security forces of extrajudicial killings, of whisking away dissidents to secret jails and of various other abuses. •NY TIMES

MARKET WATCH

	11-06-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	39,950	0.42
US Dollar	69.44	0.31
Gold	33,370	-1.07
Brent oil	62.22	-1.93

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	426.30	0.55
Asian Paints	1425.50	2.90
Axis Bank	814.80	0.65
Bajaj Auto	2987.15	-2.65
Bajaj Finserv	8270.65	-33.80
Bajaj Finance	3551.85	32.25
Bharti Airtel	363.25	-0.20
BPCL	387.00	-2.65
Britannia Ind	2980.30	-14.00
Cipla	559.85	5.30
Coal India	258.75	-0.55
Dr Reddys Lab	2605.85	-23.40
Eicher Motors	20132.00	0.55
GAIL (India)	306.05	-1.20
Grasim Ind	890.10	9.15
HCL Tech	1107.90	16.70
HDFC	2189.85	-4.20
HDFC Bank	2448.40	8.20
Hero MotoCorp	2776.15	31.15
Hindalco	199.60	1.35
Hind Unilever	1839.80	-12.70
Indiabulls NPL	674.55	-58.80
ICICI Bank	421.35	5.25
IndusInd Bank	1590.60	38.95
Bharti Infratel	283.15	1.20
Infosys	754.90	1.40
Indian Oil Corp	162.50	1.85
ITC	279.85	0.45
JSW Steel	273.35	6.50
Kotak Bank	1507.70	5.10
L&T	1524.30	-7.80
M&M	636.85	-10.10
Mauriti Suzuki	6978.30	8.35
NTPC	135.30	0.30
ONGC	169.25	4.60
PowerGrid Corp	193.65	-0.65
Reliance Ind	1329.15	10.00
State Bank	347.10	2.80
Sun Pharma	389.95	-12.10
Tata Motors	170.75	4.55
Tata Steel	492.50	6.45
TCS	2252.80	21.30
Tech Mahindra	762.10	-6.10
Titan	1284.95	7.95
UltraTech Cement	4584.75	-13.10
UPL	1034.50	18.10
Vedanta	169.35	4.15
Wipro	297.70	0.60
YES Bank	139.55	3.65
Zee Entertainment	346.20	10.85

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 11

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	69.24	69.56
Euro	78.29	78.67
British Pound	87.90	88.33
Japanese Yen (100)	63.66	63.97
Chinese Yuan	10.02	10.06
Swiss Franc	69.76	70.10
Singapore Dollar	50.72	50.96
Canadian Dollar	52.22	52.47
Malaysian Ringgit	16.63	16.72

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

June 11 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	39.5	(39.9)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3097	(3111)

Anil Ambani allays investor concerns

Reliance Group has repaid more than ₹35,000 crore in 14 months, he says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Anil Ambani, chairman of the debt-laden Reliance Group, on Tuesday tried to allay investor concerns regarding the debt servicing ability of the group.

The reassurance came after the collective market capitalisation of its firms fell to a historic low of ₹20,691 crore on Monday with five of the listed group entities touching their 52-week low.

“Since April 1, 2018, lenders from all categories have provided zero net additional liquidity or debt to any entity of the Reliance Group, still the group has made aggregate debt servicing payments of over ₹35,000 crore in the 14-month period,” said Mr. Ambani adding that Reliance Group was fully committed



Time-bound: Reliance Group is committed to meet all debt obligations in a timely manner, says Anil Ambani. •PTI

to meeting all future debt servicing obligations in a timely manner, through further asset monetisation plans that are already at various stages of implementation. The payments comprise

principal repayments of ₹24,800 crore and interest payments of ₹10,600 crore.

Mr. Ambani said unwarranted rumour-mongering, speculation and bear hammering of all Reliance Group companies shares over the

last few weeks “has caused grave damage to all our stakeholders.”

Shares rise

On Tuesday, after the conference call, most of Reliance Group shares ended in the green except Reliance Communications and Reliance Naval and Engineering. However, the companies could not fully recover the losses made on Monday.

“These payments have been made in the face of insurmountable odds and the most challenging financial environment witnessed in the country in decades. To compound matters, the regulatory bodies and courts have not passed any final adjudication orders on claims aggregating to over ₹30,000 crore that are due for more

than 5-10 years to various group companies, especially Reliance Infrastructure Ltd., Reliance Power Ltd. and their affiliates. Final decisions have only been inordinately and repeatedly delayed for one reason or the other,” said Mr. Ambani.

When asked for comments, Sanjiv Bhasin, EVP markets and corporate affairs, IIFL Securities, told *The Hindu*, “I think it’s far too late for [Mr.] Anil Ambani. He has fallen into a debt trap. He has no money or assets proportionate to cover Reliance Group’s debt. Markets punish anyone who is closer to default. He couldn’t get out of bad assets in time. Banks have become very strong and there is no mushrooming and ever-greening of loans.”

ITC exploring opportunity in Nepal, says Sanjiv Puri

‘Sri Lanka hotel project on schedule’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

ITC is exploring the possibility of setting up a hotel in Nepal through its subsidiary ITC Surya Nepal, chairman Sanjiv Puri said in his maiden press conference.

Expanding footprint

Mr. Puri said that this was part of ITC’s strategy to expand its footprint in the hotel segment in neighbouring countries. “Ideally, these would be countries where there is a tourist inflow from India,” he said in the media interaction after the inauguration of ITC’s second luxury hotel ITC Royal, here on Tuesday by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

To a question on the upcoming Sri Lanka project, he said that there was no change in the schedule (despite the recent disturbances there).

“We have to go ahead. In between there has been a change in the operating environment and gestation is large, but we are hoping that tourism there would look up soon,” he said.

The project is set to be completed by the end of 2020, and this is ITC’s own hotel. Pointing out that ITC was now pursuing a strategy of “asset-right” in its hotel business, he said that it was focussing more on leveraging its experience in helping others manage their hotel properties.

AAI cancels ground handling tender

Move follows concerns over some short-listed bidders offering steep royalties

JAGRITI CHANDRA NEW DELHI

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has cancelled its tender for ground handling services at 76 airports following concerns over some short-listed bidders offering steep royalties.

“A decision was taken on Monday to cancel the tender. We will now have to start a fresh bidding procedure,” AAI Chairman Guruprasad Mohapatra told *The Hindu*.

Several delays

The tender procedure was initiated last year in May, but faced several delays. In January, AAI short-listed bidders and asked other players to match the bids when objections were raised about royalties as high as 226% quoted by some entities and



Terra incognita: Objections were raised about royalties as high as 226% quoted by some entities. •A.MURALITHARAN

how that would make ground handling business unviable in the country.

“The bidding and selection should be based on technical capability-related qualification and financial strength of bidders,” a senior executive at a leading ground handling company

DHFL avoids default, pays interest on NCDs

Uses revenue from Aadhar stake sale

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL) made the entire interest payment of ₹961 crore to its non-convertible debenture (NCD) holders on Monday.

The mortgage lender avoided defaulting on the payment which was due on June 4, as according to the trust deed, there was a ‘cure period’ of seven working days within which the payment could be made.

On Monday last, DHFL said it would make the payment within seven working days.

“DHFL today confirms that the company has made full payment towards interest payable on Secured Redeemable NCDs issued by

way of public issue within the cure period of seven working days,” the company said.

The payment comes after DHFL completed the stake sale in Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd. to an entity backed by Blackstone Group LP on Monday.

DHFL exited Aadhar Housing Finance for ₹2,200 crore, of which the lender used ₹500 crore to pay NCD holders.

Following the delay in payment to NCD holders, ICRA downgraded commercial papers of the lender to ‘junk’ grade.

“With this tranche, the company confirms full payment and will seek rating upgrades from agencies,” DHFL said.

RIL, BP okay project in KG basin

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and BP Plc. have sanctioned the development of MJ project, known as D55, in Block KG D6, offshore east coast of India.

MJ is the third of the three new projects in the Block KG D6 integrated development plan and its approval follows sanctions for the development of ‘R-Series’ deep-water gas field in June 2017 and for the satellites’ cluster in April 2018.

Mukesh Ambani, CMD, RIL, said, “The gas will satiate the increasing demand for clean fuel in the country, save foreign exchange and reduce dependency on imported gas.”

Hero MotoCorp for caution on EVs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Hero MotoCorp. on Tuesday sought “more cautious, clear and realistic” roadmap for transition to electric vehicles (EVs).

“This move (towards EVs) will be very critical though because it impacts an industry that is a significant contributor to the country’s GDP and is a large jobs’ creator,” said Hero MotoCorp Chairman Pawan Munjal.

Coming close on the heels of the implementation of BS-VI norms in 2020, this move could have serious implications on the industry and the millions who are dependent on it.

“Therefore, we propose a more cautious, clear and realistic roadmap towards adoption of EVs,” Mr. Munjal said.

Indiabulls Housing shares tank 8%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Shares of Indiabulls Housing Finance tanked 8% on Tuesday following a writ petition filed in the Supreme Court against its promoter Sameer Gehlaut for siphoning off ₹98,000 crore, which, the company has denied.

“The total loans on the books of Indiabulls Housing are approximately ₹90,000 crore. The allegation of siphoning off ₹98,000 crore is bizarre,” the company said.

Further, the company claimed that a racket of blackmailers had been trying to extort money from Indiabulls over last two months.

Indiabulls Housing Finance stock fell 7.97% on Tuesday to close the day at ₹674.65 on the BSE.

INTERVIEW | VIKRAM KIRLOSKAR

‘More banking reforms needed to spur pvt. sector investment’

This includes lowering govt. stake in PSBs, says CII president

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN

Private investment can be boosted by increasing bank credit for capital creation and resolving issues to do with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) President Vikram Kirloskar said in an interview. The upcoming Budget should be aimed at reviving consumer demand as well, he added. Excerpts:

How can private investment be spurred to boost the economy, given that even the last two drivers of growth – government expenditure and consumption expenditure – have started lagging?

■ A key issue is undertaking banking sector reforms to ensure that capital is available for capacity creation. This will also include lowering government stake in public sector banks. Further, capital stuck in delayed projects or arbitration needs to be unlocked. There are several issues in the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code that should be taken up for more efficient resolution of distressed assets such as group insolvency, MSME issues, and cross-border insolvency.

CII has recommended expanding investment allowance to capital investments in all sectors such as infrastructure and services. This would greatly boost investments. A key area that we have taken up is a value-chain based approach to unlocking investments. We believe that roadblocks in the entire chain should be taken up holistically.

What are the immediate issues that should be addressed in the Budget?

■ Given the slowdown, the Budget must aim at quick revival of consumer demand and private investments,

and continue on the path of public expenditure for infrastructure. The direct tax structure will be crucial to this endeavour. In indirect taxes, CII has suggested maintaining the peak customs duty at 10% rates and addressing anomalies in the duty regime where inputs are subject to higher rates than final goods.

Some key areas that the Budget needs to take up are investments in agriculture and the rural economy, spending on education quality, and widening healthcare with better facilities, especially to address malnutrition. Export credit availability can be enhanced to enable India to benefit from shifting global supply chains.

On the fiscal deficit, the government should continue on the laudable fiscal rectitude path it has adhered to over the last five years which builds macroeconomic stability.

What is the impact of the removal of GSP benefits by the U.S.?

■ The withdrawal of GSP benefits by the U.S. has impacted some of our small businesses. However, as the Government of India has pointed out, in aggregate terms the impact is not substantial. However, this is also a reminder that we need to build our manufacturing competitiveness in line with our status as an economy with higher per capita income. This can be done by lowering the cost of doing business in areas such as cost of capital, transport and logistics, ease of doing business, taxation and skill development.

Will it be in Indian industry’s favour if

India joins the RCEP trade pact?

■ The RCEP will bring together 16 economies and integrate several of the fastest growing large economies of the region. India cannot remain out of this mega trading arrangement and must be a part of the market access that it will bring. We are aware of our huge trade deficit with China, which Indian industry believes that it [joining RCEP] may further accentuate. We would like this to be addressed appropriately in RCEP negotiations.

Why is GST revenue still lagging behind estimates though the collections are slowly rising? Does Indian industry still have some reservations about GST?

■ Indian industry sees GST as a game changer for the economy and is keen to make it work for competitiveness in terms of wider tax base and better compliance. From industry, we are looking at a comprehensive tax to include real estate, fuels and alcohol. Further, compression of rates to a standard rate with only a few items in the higher rate category will be beneficial. Some procedural issues for simplification are also required.



IN BRIEF

**NEFT/ RTGS charges waived from July 1**

MUMBAI
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to waive the charges levied on banks for Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS) and the National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) transactions from July 1. Banks were advised to pass on the benefits to their customers. Separately, the RBI has formed a committee to review the entire gamut of automated teller machines' (ATMs) charges and fees.

Thyssenkrupp, Tata Steel can't merge, says EU

BRUSSELS
The EU's powerful anti-trust authority on Tuesday blocked the merger of German industrial conglomerate Thyssenkrupp with Indian steel giant Tata, an expected veto that kills the deal. "We prohibited the merger to avoid serious harm to European industrial customers and consumers," EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager said in a statement.

RBI to pump in ₹15,000 crore tomorrow

MUMBAI
The RBI said it will infuse ₹15,000 crore into the financial system on Thursday. "Based on an assessment of prevailing liquidity conditions and also of the durable liquidity needs going forward, the RBI has decided to conduct purchase of (six) government securities under OMOs for ₹150 billion on June 13 through multi-security auction using the multiple price method," the central bank said in a statement.

PV sales at new low, sector seeks govt. help

Fall in wholesale numbers due to weak demand; producers forced to undertake inventory correction

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

In the steepest fall in nearly 18 years, the domestic passenger vehicle sales declined by 20.55% in May 2019, prompting the industry to seek government support.

The decline in wholesale auto numbers continued mainly due to weak consumer demand, forcing manufacturers to undertake inventory correction.

The passenger vehicle sales declined to 2.39 lakh units last month against 3.01 lakh units in May 2018, according to the data released by industry body Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) on Tuesday.

The data also showed that this was the steepest decline in passenger vehicle sales since September 2001, when

Domestic sales and exports of PVs for May

Segment	Domestic sales*	Y-o-Y % growth	Exports*	Y-o-Y % growth
Passenger cars	1,47,546	-26.03	48,447	7.89
Utility vehicles	77,453	-5.64	10,970	-24.3
Vans	14,348	-27.07	121	-51.98
Total passenger vehicles (PVs)	2,39,347	-20.55	59,538	-0.18

*(no. of units); Source CMIE

the sales were down by 21.91%.

All-round decline

The sales across all vehicle segments, including two-wheelers, three-wheelers and commercial vehicles, were down in May, dragging the total vehicle sales down by 8.62% to 20.86 lakh units, from 22.83 lakh units in the year-ago month.

In the passenger vehicle segment, cars sales were down 26% to 1.47 lakh units, while those of utility vehicles and vans fell 5.64% to 77,453 units and 27% to 14,348 units, respectively.

Two-wheeler sales were down 6.73% to 17.26 lakh units, with motorcycles sales declining 4.89% to 11.62 lakh units and those of scooters down 7.87% to 5.11 lakh units.

Sales of commercial vehicles were down 10% to 68,847 units. "We have been seeing a decline across all segments of the industry in the last few months. The industry has not been able to recover since the floods in Kerala... there were factors such as high fuel prices, high insurance costs, and the NBFC issue... consumer sentiment is still low... The industry is still trying to correct inventory levels," SIAM director general Vishnu Mathur said.

Seeks GST cut

Pointing out that the government had previously helped the industry in 2008-09 and 2011-12 with policy measures such as cut in excise duty, Mr. Mathur said amid such a market situation, it was time

for the Centre to introduce steps to stimulate growth.

SIAM deputy director general Sugato Sen said that the industry body had asked the government to reduce GST on all categories of vehicles from 28% to 18%.

"The government should also come up with a vehicle scrappage policy. It would help create market for new vehicles... Time has come for serious intervention by the government for stimulating demand. We thought that post the elections, we will see some revival, but that has not happened," he said.

Mr. Mathur, however, added that the industry was hoping that the situation might improve in the second half as a result of pre-buying before the change to BS-VI norms.

Premji's pay package rose 95% in FY19

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU**

Wipro, in a stock exchange filing, said its chairman Azim Premji's salary rose 95% to \$262,054 (about ₹2 crore) in FY19. Chief strategy officer Rishad Premj received a pay package of \$987,652. CEO Abidali Neemuchwala's salary grew 41% to \$3.9 million.

Mr. Premji received \$62,322 in salary and allowances, \$131,231 as commission/variable pay, \$55,705 (others) and \$12,796 in long-term compensation. Mr. Neemuchwala got over \$1 million in salary and allowances, \$891,760 as commission and variable pay, over \$2 million (others) and rest in long-term compensation.

Epson India eyes SMEs to boost monochrome ecotank printer sales

Targets 25% market share in three years from 8% now

**N. ANAND
CHENNAI**

Epson India is betting on home office, small and medium enterprises and the government sectors to scale up its market share in monochrome ecotank printers in the sub-20 pages per minute segment in three years.

"Currently, we have 8% market share in monochrome ecotank printers. Our aim is to achieve 25% in three years," said K. Siva Kumar, senior general manager- IJP, Epson India Pvt. Ltd.

"We stopped making mono laser printers since FY13, as it was not eco-friendly, harmful to humans, consumed more power and had high total cost of ownership

Monochrome ecotank printers are economical and eco-friendly

compared with monochrome ecotank printers. That's why we shifted to monochrome ecotank printers," he said.

New launch

Epson, in the meanwhile, announced the launch of seven new monochrome ecotank printers. The new models are targeted at the office printing market, small, medium and large enterprises, government offices and the retail segment.

"With this, Epson has 14

models in the monochrome ecotank printers. These are economical and environmentally-friendly printers and are equipped with a host of features that will find appeal with mono laser printer users. This is a growing segment. The total cost of production is low compared to mono laser printers and it can print more pages per minute. The replacement cost of inkjet refills are lower compared to cartridges," he said.

Last fiscal, Epson India reported revenue of ₹1,896 crore, of which inkjet printers accounted for ₹850 crore followed by projector, consumables, robots and wearables, he said.

Yes Bank rating placed on watch

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI**

Rating agency Moody's Investors Service has placed Yes Bank's various debt instruments under review for downgrade.

"The review for downgrade takes into account Moody's expectation that the ongoing liquidity pressures on Indian finance companies will negatively impact the credit profile of Yes Bank, given the bank's sizeable exposure to weaker companies in the sector," Moody's said.

According to Moody's, at the end of March 2019, Yes Bank's exposure to Indian housing finance companies and non-bank finance companies represented 6.4% of its total exposure.

'Merger of Tata Chem's consumer business is to scale up TGBL's portfolio'

To kick-start growth momentum

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA**

Tata Global Beverages Ltd. (TGBL) chairman N. Chandrasekaran said the proposed demerger of the consumer products business of Tata Chemicals Ltd. into TGBL was to build a premium, high-class consumer products company.

Speaking at the annual general meeting of TGBL, he said the merger announcement was aimed at creating a broader consumer products company that would kick-start growth.

"We need to kick start the growth momentum," he said. The core challenge ahead of the company was in leveraging its strong assets, including brands.

"We also need to scale up and create a large portfolio. Tea, water cannot give scale," he said.

'Larger canvas'

"TGBL's financial metrics were not adequate. We need to address this," he said. It would not be a mere food products company and the canvas might be larger, he added.

Later, responding to shareholders queries, he said that TGBL would not like to be in any marginal business. "We want to select particular opportunities and scale them up," he said. "TGBL's performance has been muted for years, profit has been stagnant," he said.

He indicated that the company might take a relook at the number of its subsidiaries and may consolidate, if need be. "We will be in areas where we can scale up," Mr. Chandrasekaran said. TGBL managing director and CEO Ajay Misra



N. Chandrasekaran

said the company had seen improved topline from its India business, but profits had been impacted in FY19 due to rising costs and the Kerala floods.

In international business, Tetley's cold infusion launch is now the "hottest news". However, most of the businesses were small in scale, he said. The water business had seen degrowth with distribution losses, he said.

On the potential acquisition of Dhunseri's tea brands in Rajasthan, he said that due diligence was on and it would enable significant penetration into the large, but fragmented tea consumption market in Rajasthan.

57% share

Commenting on the move to bring TGBL and the consumer products business of TCL on a single platform, he said that tea would contribute to 57% share of the business, followed by 18% of salt, 13% coffee and 12% of others.

Mr. Chandrasekaran said that while the probability of including the detergents business was now being piloted, spices and pulses would be retailed under the Sampann brand.

India sweats over Dhawan's fitness

The opener injured his left thumb in the game against Australia



K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
NOTTINGHAM

It rained all night here and as Tuesday dawned moist and cold, the water dripped off tiled roofs, window panes, park benches, garden roses, branches and leaves. Rivulets slithered on the roads while denizens of this town famous for its Robin Hood tales, clutched their all-weather jackets and walked. There was an acoustic symphony to the pitter-patter and the temperature wavered between seven and 10 degree Celsius.

With India and New Zealand scheduled to clash in a World Cup game at Trent Bridge here on Thursday, the damp climate affected the practice stints of both squads. India cancelled its session, while New Zealand retreated into the indoor facility for a hit. And as room heaters in the adjoining apartments went on over-drive, news began to trickle in from sources stating that Shikhar Dhawan had suffered a suspected hair-line fracture of his left thumb.

Under observation

Speculation raged around whether a replacement would be sought and Rishabh Pant's name was propped up. But there was no clarification from the team-management until much later in the evening when the media manager Moulin Parikh texted a message in the BCCI's media WhatsApp group: "Shikhar Dhawan will be under observation."

After a while, he added that "the team-management has decided that Mr. Dhawan will continue to be in England and his progress will be monitored. Mr. Dhawan sustained an injury on the back of his left hand in the region between the index



Painful blow: Shikhar Dhawan has injured the back of his left hand in the region between the index finger and thumb, according to a BCCI message. •HENRY BROWNE/GETTY IMAGES

finger and thumb." It may be recalled that the opener was struck on his hand by a delivery from Pat Cummins, during the early part of his 117 in the World Cup game against Australia at the Oval on Sunday. The southpaw, however, swallowed a pill, applied some pain-relief spray and soldiered on till he was dismissed in the 37th over.

Subsequently, he did not turn up to field while Aaron Finch's men launched their chase. Television cameras showed Dhawan sitting inside the dressing room, with an ice-pack around his bruised thumb.

Later Virat Kohli was asked about Dhawan's injury and the skipper replied: "I

am not too sure at the moment. Patrick [Farhat, the physio] is in control of the situation. He will give us an update."

Tweaking the eleven

If Dhawan's injury is indeed of a grave nature, Kohli and the management will have to tweak the playing eleven. A straight-forward swap would be for K.L. Rahul, traditionally an opener, to be promoted up the order.

But the solidity and weight of accumulated runs (4,681 at an average of 45.89), that Dhawan and Rohit Sharma bring to the table, would be missed. Add to it their left-right combination which forces bowlers to constantly alter their lines.

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well, M.S. [Dhoni] played his role perfectly, K.L. [Rahul] struck the ball so beautifully. So from that point of view, I think we played a really good one-day game, something that any team would want to do," Kohli had said after the 36-run triumph over the Aussies.

Eyes on weather

Meanwhile, eyes will be peering at the skies as wet weather has affected three contests so far in these early days of the World Cup. The forecast for Thursday states: "Light rain showers and a moderate breeze." However, more than the atmospheric patterns, Dhawan's fitness or the lack of it will be the bigger worry for Kohli & Co.

Another game abandoned

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRISTOL

Sri Lanka's World Cup match against Bangladesh was abandoned without a ball being bowled due to rain here on Tuesday.

The umpires' decision left tournament organisers with the unwanted record for the most number of abandoned games at a World Cup, surpassing the two each at the 1992 tournament in Australia and New Zealand and the 2003 edition in southern Africa.

It was the second successive World Cup match at Bristol that had fallen victim to bad weather, with Sri Lanka's group game against Pakistan at southwest county Gloucestershire's headquarters on Friday also a no-result washout.

Only one of three World Cup matches scheduled to take place in Bristol produced any play.

Heavy overnight and early morning rain delayed the scheduled start of Tuesday's match.

And with rain continuing to fall, the umpires – after several inspections – bowed to the inevitable by calling off the game off at 1:57 p.m. local time.

Both sides received a point for the washout.

It was the second World Cup no-result in as many days after rain cut short South Africa's match against the West Indies in Southampton on Monday.

Next assignment

SRI LANKA: June 15 vs Australia, The Oval, 3 p.m.
BANGLADESH: June 17 vs West Indies, Taunton, 3 p.m.

Zings stands by its bails

No review of use for now, says ICC

AYAN ACHARYA

Five times in 13 games of Cricket World Cup 2019 the ball has hit the stumps only for the electronic 'zing' bails to light up but stay firmly in place.

The latest incident of the bails not being dislodged came when Australia opener David Warner edged India seamer Jasprit Bumrah onto his leg-stump at the Oval on Sunday.

Zings International director David Ligertwood says the company is monitoring the situation. "The Zing wicket system has operated in well over a thousand

games. The recent cluster (of incidents) has us stumped," said Ligertwood.



The bails have been in use since 2012. They were used at the 2015 World Cup and have been regular fixtures in the Indian Premier League and Australia's Big Bash League. Zing was looking at

whether practical modifications were possible, said Ligertwood, co-developer of the wicket system.

"The issue isn't about the weight of the bails, as a complicated interdependent range of factors come into play.

The bails, stumps, stump grooves, pitch conditions, stump cam, etc," he said.

The ICC, meanwhile, has made it clear it will not review the use of the zing bails. These perform exactly as regular ones and, in fact, are lighter than those used by umpires when it is windy," a spokesperson said.

Waugh heaps praise on Pandya

Says he's reminded of Klusener's fireworks in the 1999 edition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

Former Australia captain Steve Waugh foresees Hardik Pandya dominating the ongoing World Cup the way South African Lance Klusener did in the 1999 edition as he feels the Indian all-rounder's clean-hitting is something that no opposing skipper can deal with.

Pandya stroked his way to a 27-ball 48 at The Oval.

"...it's the innings of Pandya that will send shivers down opposition spines. This guy might just be the equivalent of Klusener at the 1999 World Cup.

"He has the ability to begin his innings like most finish, with clean hitting that no opposing captain can protect," Waugh wrote in his



Hardik Pandya... packing a punch. •AP

column for the ICC's official website.

The damaging stroke-play by Pandya reminded Waugh

of Klusener's fireworks in the 1999 World Cup.

Klusener was player of the tournament 20 years ago in England for his destructive lower-order hitting that netted 281 runs at a strike rate of 122.17.

The left-hander's exploits powered South Africa to within one run of making the final at Lord's, but a frantic run out in the semifinal at Edgbaston resulted in Waugh's Australia securing a famous tie.

Australia went on to win the World Cup outclassing Pakistan in the final.

"When they (India) get off to a solid opening partnership they then have the luxury of seeing Virat Kohli orchestrate the remainder of the innings," Waugh wrote.

Malinga bereaved

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BRISTOL

Sri Lanka fast bowler Lasith Malinga will leave for home after Tuesday's World Cup match against Bangladesh, following the death of his mother-in-law, but will return in time for Friday's game against Australia.

"Malinga will leave the team following Sri Lanka's World Cup game against Bangladesh as his mother-in-law has passed away," Sri Lanka Cricket Board said on its official Twitter handle. He is expected to join the team, before the team's next #WC19 game against Australia on 15th."

'I am always looking to improve'

Ferguson has had a dream start to his WC campaign

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NOTTINGHAM

Lockie Ferguson has had a dream start to his World Cup campaign. The New Zealand speedster's returns so far have been three for 22, one for 40 and four for 37 against Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan respectively. Ferguson spoke to the media at Trent Bridge here on Tuesday. Excerpts.

Perfect launch: A very good start from the whole bowling group and we have taken 30 wickets in three games.

Pleasing to contribute in each game and getting bounce off the wicket has been pretty nice. I am working on a few areas on how to put batsmen under pressure.

The process: I am always looking to improve. Fortunately I have a very experienced bowling group around me and we always talk a lot, particularly when we are playing in the middle. It's a big positive environment to be playing in.

Bounce and pace: I don't



On the ball: Lockie Ferguson is working on how to put pressure on the batsmen. •DAVID ROGERS/GETTY IMAGES

swing the ball upfront, so I tend to bowl in the middle overs, create chances and wickets. In the last game, James Neesham came in and bowled the way we knew he could bowl.

He is a big lad and can bowl quick and get bounce. It's important we focus on what we do best. It's exciting for Trent Bridge to have some bounce, hopefully it plays in our favour.

Countering India: India is an exceptional side with

world class players. In Trent Bridge, there's pressure on batters to score runs. If they get out, we get early wickets. The pressure accumulates and we have done that in the first few games.

Weather woes: That's part of the game. In New Zealand we often get games rained out. It's really hard to make a call on that now.

Hopefully we will get a full day's game. We will adjust our game plans according to the pitch and weather.

Reserve days logistically impossible: Richardson

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NOTTINGHAM

Damp weather has played spoilsport and three World Cup games have concluded with a no-result. There have been whispers about the need for reserve days even for the round-robin league fixtures but the International Cricket Council's chief executive Dave Richardson, through a statement, clarified that logistically it is impossible.

"Factoring in a reserve day for every match at the ICC men's cricket World Cup would significantly increase the length of the tournament and practically would be extremely complex to deliver. It would impact pitch preparation, team recovery and travel days, accommo-



Dave Richardson. •AFP

dation and venue availability, tournament staffing, volunteer and match officials' availability, broadcast logistics and very importantly the spectators who in some instances have travelled

hours to be at the game. There is also no guarantee that the reserve day would be free from rain either," Richardson wrote.

Unexpected rains

He explained that there are reserve days for the knockout games and blamed unexpected rains as the cause of the tournament's current predicament: "This is extremely unseasonable weather.

"In the last couple of days we have experienced more than twice the average monthly rainfall for June which is usually the third driest month in the UK.

"In 2018 there was just 2mm of rain in June but the last 24 hours alone has seen around 100mm."

Gym time



Getting ready: Members of Team India after a training session on Tuesday. •COURTESY: TWITTER.COM/JASPRITBUMRAH93

Rain plays on captains' minds

Luck with the weather may play a role in teams' progress

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TAUNTON

Australia captain Aaron Finch hopes the holder doesn't become the latest World Cup team to be derailed by bad weather.

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	4	1	1	2	4	-1.517
West Indies	3	1	1	1	3	2.054
Bangladesh	4	1	2	1	3	-0.714
Pakistan	3	1	1	1	3	-2.412
South Africa	4	0	3	1	1	-0.952
Afghanistan	3	0	3	0	0	-1.493

*till the Bangladesh-Sri Lanka match on June 11

Heavy rain has impacted three matches in the World Cup so far.

And Finch has been anxiously eyeing the forecast to see if Australia could be the next victim when it faces Pa-

kistan here on Wednesday.

Rain is predicted in the area on Wednesday and Finch conceded luck with the weather could play a role in who makes the semifinals.

Finch expects unpredictable Pakistan to provide a stern test. "I think Pakistan are a very dangerous side," Finch said.

"They've some world-class players. Babar (Azam)

is in great touch at No. 3 and holding their batting together," Finn said. "(Mohammad) Amir coming back and he looks to be back to his best. Wahab (Riaz) has been fast and aggressive," said Finch.

Captain Sarfaraz Ahmed, meanwhile, vowed Pakistan would put the 5-0 whitewash by Australia in March behind. "Our morale is high and we will do our best."

THE FACE-OFF
Australia vs Pakistan
TAUNTON

	Matches	Aus	Pak	Tied	NR
Overall	103	67	32	1	3
World Cup	9	5	4	0	0

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 (SD & HD), 3 P.M.

Warriors hang on for dear life

Durant injured; Curry and Thompson step up to the plate

NBA FINALS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TORONTO
Clutch 3-pointers by Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson enabled defending champion Golden State Warriors edge Toronto 106-105 on Monday and sustain hopes of winning a third consecutive NBA Finals.

But any joy from the victory was dimmed by a right Achilles injury to Kevin Durant only 12 minutes into his first game after being sidelined for a month by a right calf injury.

Curry scored 31 points while Thompson added 26 as Warriors pulled to 3-2 in the best-of-seven championship series, forcing a sixth game on Thursday at Oakland, with game seven if needed in Toronto on Sunday.

Do-or-die

"Do or die," Curry said. "It wasn't pretty in the second half, but we just made the shots."

Durant's long-awaited return ended with the All-Star forward being helped off the court. "You could kind of just feel the life just go right out of us," Warriors forward Draymond Green said. "But to Steph's credit, he rallied the troops."

"You could kind of feel the life just go right out of us," Warriors forward Draymond Green said. "But to Steph's credit, he rallied the troops."

"He talked to everybody, went around the huddle and just told everybody to stay locked in and do this for Kevin. And I think we did a good job of coming together."

Durant, Golden State's top playoff scorer with 34.2 points a game, will have an MRI on Tuesday.

Warriors seek their fourth title in five seasons while



Cut above: Stephen Curry was at his best, helping Golden State Warriors hold off Toronto Raptors by the narrowest of margins. *AP

Raptors suffered an agonising near-miss in their bid for the first title in their 24-season history.

History remains on Raptors' side.

Only once in 34 prior situations has a team led the NBA Finals 3-1 and lost the title, that being in 2016 when LeBron James-led Cleveland Cavaliers rallied to defeat Warriors.

Kawhi Leonard, who led Raptors with 26 points, sank a back-to-back 3-pointer and jumper to give Raptors, who trailed by 14 points in the third quarter, their largest lead at 103-97 with 3:28 remaining.

"In this day and age, to go six with three minutes to go,

doesn't mean a whole lot," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said. "I felt good at that point. Just needed to make a couple more plays."

Warriors answered with Thompson and Curry sinking 3-pointers and Thompson nailing another that put his team ahead at 106-103 with 57 seconds to play.

Tense moments

Kyle Lowry cut the lead to the final margin with 30 seconds remaining and, after Warriors' DeMarcus Cousins was whistled for a foul trying to set a screen, Raptors had one last chance to swipe the title.

But Warriors double-teamed Leonard and Green

blocked a Lowry corner 3-point shot at the buzzer.

"It has got to be the greatest," Green said when asked to compare the win to others in Golden State's history.

"Down six with a couple minutes to go in an elimination for these guys to win a championship, we could have thrown in the towel. We could have folded, but we didn't."

The result: Toronto Raptors 105 (Kawhi Leonard 26, Pascal Siakam 12, Marc Gasol 17, Kyle Lowry 18, Fred VanVleet 11, Serge Ibaka 15) lost to Golden State Warriors 106 (Kevin Durant 11, Draymond Green 10, Klay Thompson 26, Stephen Curry 31, DeMarcus Cousins 14). **Raptors leads 3-2.**

Yuvraj's batting was an expression of his inner self

His game was about heart and a spirit that took flight in the field of dreams

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

Yuvraj Singh's batting was an expression of his inner self. It was visceral, brutal yet beautiful.

The power was accompanied by the lazy elegance of a left-hander. And when he hit the ball straight, he often did so in a manner that was classical with a high right elbow.

Importantly, he had the 'time' to play the ball.

The trick lay in Yuvraj picking the length early and resultantly making subtle adjustment in his footwork and getting into the right position.

His response to a delivery was spontaneous. Yuvraj was a natural riding on his skill and two of this three Test hundreds, in Pakistan at Lahore and Karachi, were made in testing conditions when the ball seamed and bunched.

During times when he was



Game-changer: Yuvraj Singh's greatest moment came during India's triumphant march in the 2011 World Cup. *FILE PHOTO

out of form, his footwork was a mess. Yuvraj was a confidence player.

Full of belief

And Yuvraj was full of belief during the ICC 2011 World Cup.

The southpaw was in full flight, the bat coming down straight from the high backlift as he met the ball with

the sweet portion of his willow.

Yuvraj was a lovely timer of the ball who could ease the ball through the gaps. On view was grace and flow.

In the early phase of his career, he was a destructive puller. Later, there were periods when he struggled against the short ball from the quicks due to an indeci-

siveness on his part whether to pull, or duck or sway away. For most part of his journey, Yuvraj remained strong off his back foot; his back-footed cover and square-drives and punches scorched the turf.

Playing with passion

And he played with passion. Yuvraj's roar as he sank on his knees on the pitch and celebrated the World Cup 2011 quarterfinal conquest of Australia at Motera after an explosive unbeaten 57 encapsulated his desire.

His effort in India's triumphant campaign was heroic; all through the competition he was battling cancer.

It was a tournament where his under-rated left-arm spin came to the fore.

This game-changer's cricket transcended numbers. A lot of it was about heart and a spirit that took flight in the field of dreams.

The Dutch leave it late against New Zealand

Argentina finally gets off the mark

WOMEN'S WC

REUTERS
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LE HAVRE

Substitute Jill Roord headed home a stoppage time winner as the Netherlands finally broke down New Zealand's defence to emerge with a 1-0 triumph as both countries began their women's World Cup finals campaign at Stade Oceano on Tuesday.

The European champion had numerous attempts at goal in a match marked by a myriad of missed chances before Roord headed in at the back post. The double attacking threat of Lieke Martens and Vivianne Miedema failed to deliver despite periods of sustained pressure.

New Zealand looked on course for a well-earned, but unexpected, point before conceding two minutes into stoppage time.

Argentina collected a first-ever Women's World Cup point with a determined defensive display against Japan in Group D on Monday, while Canada edged Cameroon 1-0 in Montpellier.

Facing a team that was a finalist in the last two World Cups, Argentina barely managed a shot on goal as it forced in the first goalless draw of the competition and only the seventh in the competition's history.

The results: New Zealand 0 lost to the Netherlands 1 (Jill Roord 90+2); Canada 1 (Buchanan 45) bt Cameroon 0; Argentina 0 drew with Japan 0.



Over the moon: Jill Roord's stoppage-time header earned the Netherlands a hard-fought win. *REUTERS

Of nationalism, soil discrimination and bails that refuse to fall

In its opening fortnight, the World Cup has been interesting rather than spectacular



BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

World Cups aren't crazy, but they often bring out the crazy in players and fans.

Or why would Mahendra Singh Dhoni, one of the most experienced cricketers in the world wear *that* logo on his gloves? Either he didn't know the ICC rules - which is not very smart - or no one in the Indian camp bothered to explain it to him.

That is dereliction of duty, the Indian dread of telling a senior player what to do. Or maybe Dhoni deliberately set out to have some fun, knowing how little it

takes to get a nation arguing about nationalism and patriotism.

Like some other holy cows, Indian cricket too seems to have become a marker of nationalism. I mentioned recently that it would be good for the game if either New Zealand or the West Indies won the World Cup, and was quickly moved to the top of the list of Those Who Ought to Be Asked To Recant.

To be fair, after the Australia match, India did have the look of winners; there was little gap between planning and execution. But I suspect you could still be blackballed if you a) didn't give a hoot about the World Cup or b) gave a hoot but didn't think it mattered whether India won or not.

Craziness

But seriously, the more thoughtful the Indian players get on the field, the greater the craziness around them. The ge-

nius who thought up the idea of sending a bit of the soil from Kohli's school "to bless him" must feel he can claim credit should India win. 'Mud in your eye' is a generic toast (like "Cheers!"), but I am not sure it was meant to be taken literally.

How will that make the soil from K L Rahul's school feel? Or Jasprit Bumrah's? Soil discrimination cannot be healthy for the Indian team. Perhaps in future Indian players will be asked to carry their own soil, so to speak, when they embark on a tour.

And why stop at that? Perhaps someone can send the team a tooth that was saved in Rohit Sharma's childhood or a piece of the glass that Shikhar Dhawan broke when he was playing in his back garden. Nothing must be left to chance. All blessings welcome and to be delivered by overnight courier.

In its opening fortnight, the World Cup has been interesting rather than

spectacular. Two events have stood out. One, Kohli's gesture in asking the Indian supporters at the Oval to cheer for, rather than jeer at Australia's Steve Smith. That was extraordinary.

Kohli's gesture to the crowd

Kohli revealed later that he had apologised to Smith on the crowd's behalf, but just how remarkable it was can be gauged from the fact that a couple of years ago Kohli had accused Smith of underhand tactics in a Test match during the Australian's infamous "brain fade".

At the press conference then he had stopped just short of calling Smith a cheat. The Indian captain's empathy for a fellow professional who had been banned for a brain fade in South Africa, was revealing.

The second event is actually a series of mini-events: the 'zing' bail that refused to fall. It happened five times, and

it could happen another five times if nothing is done.

Whatever the reason - and there are only conjectures so far - it is once again the bowlers who have suffered.

To beat a batsman and hit the stumps is the essence of their craft. And then to watch and wait and pray while the ball remains in place must count as more than merely frustrating.

It is criminal denial of the fruits of labour.

Technology is meant to enhance the sporting experience. It tells us when a batsman has edged the ball or the bowler has overstepped or if the fielder has taken a clean catch.

A ball hitting the stumps - as happened most recently when David Warner's defensive prod against Bumrah rolled back - and not dislodging the bails is a failure of technology. The ICC has indicated it will not do anything since that would be altering the condi-

tions in the middle of a tournament.

There are two schools of thought here. One is the ICC's position.

The other is the damage caused by something that is not working well. Common sense dictates that it is better to break the rule in order to fix the problem. But that's something no one has accused the ICC of having loads of.

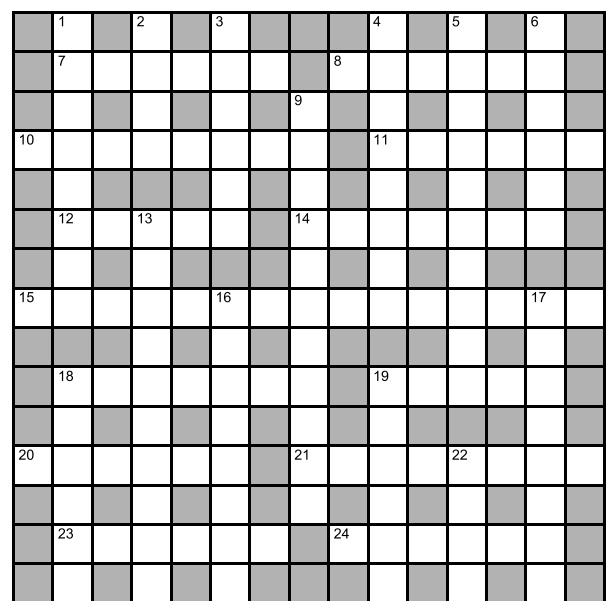
Another possibility is to do away with the bails altogether and rely only on the flashing lights.

Perhaps a sound can be added for the excessively cautious. Bails are done away with in windy conditions, and surely they can be in this situation as well.

Bumrah apart, Mitchell Starc and Trent Boult too have suffered at the hands of the unmoving bail. And these are fast bowlers, some of the quickest around.

Perhaps World Cups bring out the crazy in the organisers too.

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- (set by xChequer)
- 12 Racing boat out of yard and harbour in operation (5)
 - 14 Alert when explosive fuel trails vehicle (7)
 - 15 Novel to follow the timeless touch, entirely from fantasy (3,2,5,5)
 - 18 Merciful chapter before sanction to quarter soldiers (7)
 - 19 Month to live perhaps (5)
 - 20 Mica so used in tile pattern (6)
 - 21 Kept away from top due to imbecile (5,3)
 - 23 King wearing an allowed ornament (6)
 - 24 About to consider buy back (6)
 - 4 Left in charge, independent say, to act as one may wish (4,4)
 - 5 Extremities associated with once the greatest fundamental weakness? (4,2,4)
 - 6 Wives selectively employing craft (6)
 - 9 Executive remuneration showing high cost, then over to pink slips? (5,6)
 - 13 Shut up before nasty son comes to show solidarity (5,5)
 - 16 Poor women gagged (8)
 - 17 Myth demolished about basis of entertainment with 'Silent Movie' (3,5)
 - 18 Church getting vocal about group singing (6)
 - 19 Protection for hand, but struck head off (6)
 - 22 Deserts line in battle (4)

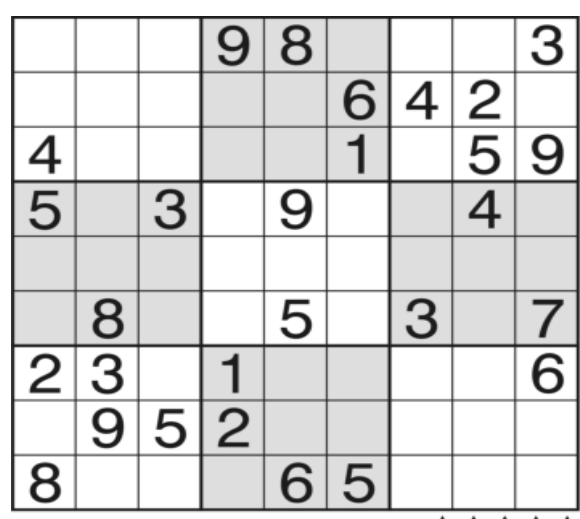
ACROSS

- 7 Appearance on behalf of mother ending in fight (6)
- 8 Biting, cut close to bone (6)
- 10 Male needing place to retire with suitable companion (8)
- 11 Musician's appeal reflected in burning passion (6)

DOWN

- 1 Expression of deference unfortunately true of anybody without guts (5,3)
- 2 Good to have rent control (4)
- 3 Overdue book lying hidden (6)

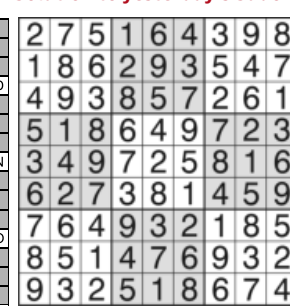
SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12649



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



FAITH

Experience of bliss

The Upanishads speak of the ineffable experience of the Supreme Brahman. It is known as Brahma Jnana or the state of Realisation and it is gained through constant enquiry and meditation. They reiterate that this search itself is a penance in the form of meditation and is the only path for every seeker, the preceptor and disciple alike, pointed out Sri V. Abhiramaswami in a discourse.

The terms Jnana, Vijnana and Prajnana refer to the stages by which the individual seeker gains realisation. Jnana is the ability to see any object or being pertaining to this creation. Vijnana is the ability to identify the object by its nature and characteristics. Prajnana is the awareness that the atma swaroopa itself is the jnana and this transcendental experience is revealed in one's inner being with no ambiguity. No words can describe this. The disciple Brighu is asked to practise meditation and penance to search for what is unchanging in creation. He introspects on the gross and subtle aspects that constitute the individual, that is, pancha kosas enveloping the atma, the annamaya, the pranamaya, the vijnanamaya, the mano maya and finally the ananda maya kosas. When the truth of the atma is intuitively grasped, he is immersed in the fullness of this experience and does not get back to the Guru. There are many instances in devotional literature and poetry that indicate this ecstatic experience of bliss when the devout soul is graced by the Lord and the vision is revealed. For instance, in the Kandar Anubhuti, Arunagirinathar tries to convey the overwhelming experience of being blessed directly by Muruga. The all encompassing revelation granted to him through the Lord's love and grace, makes him speechless. Unable to describe it in words, he merely calls this experience 'Pesa Anubhuti.'

TV PICKS

ICC World Cup: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 3 p.m.
Hockey Series Final: Star Sports 3, 5 & 7 p.m.
FIFA women's World Cup: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 6.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



NBA star Tony Parker hangs up his boots

PARIS
Veteran point guard Tony Parker has confirmed he is officially retiring from basketball after 18 seasons in the NBA. "It's with a lot of emotion that I retire from basketball, it was an incredible journey..." Parker tweeted on Monday. The 37-year-old played for San Antonio Spurs until his 2018-2019 season with Charlotte Hornets. The Frenchman averaged 15.5 points, 5.6 assists and 2.7 rebounds. He won four NBA championships with Spurs. IANS

India colts lose penalty shootout

TURBOSTROITEL (ST. PETERSBURG)
The Indian under-19 football team suffered a 3-1 loss to Kyrgyzstan in penalty shootout in the 9-12th place play-off of the Granatkin Memorial Tournament here on Tuesday. The teams were 1-1 at regulation time with Akash Mishra netting for India in 74th minute before Kyrgyz midfielder Emir Sigaybaev produced a late equaliser in the 88th minute. PTI



Neymar wants transfer trial in Barcelona

MADRID
Brazil forward Neymar Jr. and his parents on Monday requested his trial for alleged fraud and corruption over his 2013 Santos-Barcelona transfer deal be moved to the Spanish city. Lawyers for Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu, former Santos president Sandro Rosell, and Neymar's family company N&N have joined the call made during a hearing at Spain's National Court. IANS



Pogba remedy to tackle racial abuse

LONDON
Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba says the best way to quell racist spectators is to perform well on the pitch and not, as some suggest, walk off if there is racial abuse. Pogba played 90 minutes in a loss in Turkey on Saturday when home fans caused outrage in France by jeering him. Pogba said he had once handed his Juventus shirt to a fan who had been making monkey noises at him. "Leave the pitch? You want to play, you want to score for your team," said Pogba. "And at the end they (racist abusers) will come and ask for a picture." AFP



Schalke signs Everton's Kenny on loan

BERLIN
Everton defender Jonjoe Kenny has signed a one-year loan deal with Bundesliga outfit Schalke, the club announced on Monday. The 22-year-old full-back is the latest young British player to try his luck in Germany after struggling to hold down a first team place in the Premier League, and follows in the footsteps of Jadon Sancho, Reiss Nelson and fellow Schalke player Rabbi Matondo. Kenny made just nine league appearances for Everton under Marco Silva last season. AFP

ABTP Centre provides overwhelming experience

On course to create the greatest impact on the biggest stage

SPORTS FACILITY

UTHRA GANESAN
BHUBANESWAR

The first reaction when you walk into the Abhinav Bindra Targeting Performance Centre at the Kalinga Stadium complex is disbelief.

It's overwhelming when you walk out of it almost two hours later.

A brainchild of the only Indian to win an individual Olympic gold, the five centres – here and at Pune, Delhi, Mohali and Bengaluru – come as an eye-opener to the kind of preparations that go into making a world-class athlete. The one here, though, is the biggest and most advanced.

The centre currently caters to young residents of the State hostels and national athletes – free of cost – with a proposal to open it up to non-athletes in future.

Impressive range

The range of facilities and equipment available is im-



State of the art: An official demonstrates the modern fitness training machines at the Abhinav Bindra Targeting Performance Centre. ■ BISWARANJAN ROY

pressive, to say the least. The machines have names alien to many – Walker View, D-Wall, Iso Move, Static and Dynamic Pro Kin and Ba-

lance Trunk MF. "Most people and even experts tend to go straight into strengthening as part of recovery process.

But stability is the most important and undervalued element of fitness. Unless you are stable, your efforts at strengthening will not just be

wasted but also affect your performances on field. That's why we put a premium on stability before moving to advanced training," Dr. Kartik Doshi, the man in charge of the centre, explained.

The centre works on an assessment-training-assessment system with both aspects working together. With the machines giving instant visual feedback to the athlete, the process of rectifying errors is much faster.

The D-Wall, only the second centre in India to have one, acts like a digital mirror with floor sensors, providing real-time visible feedback to help perfect motor movements.

The pride of place is for Electrical Muscular Stimulation (EMS) with vests fitted with mechanisms that condense two hours in a gym seven days a week into 20 minutes of intense training twice a week.

But the real favourite has been CryoSpace, which as-

sists muscle recovery after training or competition.

"Having been to the best performance and sports medicine and injury centres across the world I wanted to bring the same to India.

Work at the grassroots

"My real desire is to work at the grassroots and expose them to the best of science and technology as that is the only way we will change the ecosystem of sport in India," Bindra told The Hindu.

The Bhubaneswar centre has, till date, worked with more than 350 athletes at all levels and performed more than 600 tests. There are proposals to do more. More centres, more equipments, more experts to try and explain the importance of the smallest of things that go on to together make the greatest impact on the biggest sports stage.

SPORTS BUREAU

STUTTGART
Divij Sharan and Marcelo Demoliner of Brazil missed 10 matchpoints, only one on their serve, as they lost 5-7, 7-6(14), [11-9] to Denys Molchanov & Artem Sitak in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the €754,540 ATP tennis here.

The results: € 754,540 ATP, Stuttgart: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Denys Molchanov (Ukr) & Artem Sitak (Nzl) bt Marcelo Demoliner (Bra) & Divij Sharan 5-7, 7-6(14), [11-9].

\$25,000 ITF men, Shenzhen: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Luca Castellnuovo (Sui) & Karunuday Singh bt Haitong Xia & Weiqiang Zheng (Chn) 6-2, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF men, Singapore: First round: Manish Sureshkumar bt Jatin Dahiya 6-3, 6-1; Alec Adamson (US) bt Kunal Anand 6-1, 6-3; Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam bt Aaron Addison (Aus) 6-4, 6-4.

Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Siddhant Banthia & Manish Sureshkumar bt Sai Saran Reddy & Arjun Mahadevan 6-1, 7-5; Thanajet Chanta & Kasidit Samrjet (Tha) bt Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam & Gokul Suresh 7-6(3), 6-4.

Sood given top billing

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GURUGRAM

Chandril Sood has got the No.1 seeding in the Col. KK Uppal Memorial \$3,000 ATT men's tennis tournament being organised by VAN Sports Club in Baliawas.

In the final qualifying round, top seed Yugal Bansal cruised past Yashvardhan Goel for the loss of one game, and earned eighth seeding in the main draw.

The seedings: 1. Chandril Sood, 2. Vijayant Malik, 3. Paras Dahiya, 4. Apuroop Reddy, 5. Lakshit Sood, 6. Babji Siva Atturu, 7. Ansu Bhuyan, 8. Yugal Bansal.

The results: Qualifying singles (third and final round): Yugal Bansal bt Yashvardhan Goel 6-0, 6-1; Shubham Malhotra bt Dharmil Shah 6-4, 6-2; Kunj Kotak bt Ashutosh Tiwari 6-4, 0-6, [10-3]; Aakash Ahlawat bt Tanik Gupta 6-2, 6-0.

Anas earns a recall

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Defender Anas Ehadhodika earned a recall to the India set-up as coach Igor Stimac named 35 probables for the national team's preparatory camp for the Hero Intercontinental Cup. India will be camping at the Mumbai Football Arena from June 25.

Anas, who had announced his retirement from international football after the 2019 AFC Asian Cup, revealed that Stimac had urged him to return.

"Honestly, I was taken aback. He has shown his faith in me, and it's my turn to repay him. At the moment, I'm just focusing on the camp," said Anas.

Indians one win away from Olympic berths

ARCHERY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DEN BOSCH (THE NETHERLANDS)

Indian men's recurve team on Tuesday stormed into the pre-quarterfinals of the World Archery Championships with a commanding 5-1 victory over Norway and are now just one win away from securing an Olympic quota.

The trio of Tarundeep Rai, Pravin Jadhav and Atanu Das will next face Canada's Eric Peters, Crispin Duenas and Brian Maxwell on Wednesday in a bid to secure the three-athlete quotas for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

The women's recurve team also remained in the fray by qualifying sixth from a field of 55 nations for one of the eight Olympic quota spots. The top-eight seeding in the team event meant that the Indian women

avoided the first round match on Tuesday and went straight into a decider for the Olympic places, where they face 11th seed Belarus Wednesday.

Laishram Bombayla Devi shot 664 to top the leaderboards among the Indians to secure 15th place overall in the qualifications, while Deepika Kumari was next best at 22th spot with a score of 660. Komalika Bari shot 650 to be ranked 40th in a field of 152 competitors.

"We are so excited and happy. Looking at our ranking in the qualification, we are confident to shoot well and secure Olympic berths," Deepika said.

The quarterfinalists in the recurve men's and women's team events at this World Championships will receive three-athlete quotas for the 2020 Olympics. They will be decided on Wednesday.

'Selection meetings are never simple affairs'

Paranjpe rejects notion that the captain and coach dictate terms

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA BELAGAVI

A selector's job, says Jatin Paranjpe, is much like a wicket-keeper's. "You are expected to catch everything because you've got gloves. When you catch one, nobody says thank you because you are expected to catch it. But if you drop one, then they ask, 'How the hell can you drop it?' You just need to focus on what you need to do."

Last season, Paranjpe watched, by his own count, one first-class game every week for 28 continuous weeks. For anybody, that is long time to be living out of a suitcase.

"Just the sheer volume of cricket, the travel – it's crazy," he says during the third one-day match between India-A and Sri Lanka-A here.

"We get a couple of months off, during the IPL, but otherwise it's five days a week on the road, because we

make sure that we watch every game that needs to be watched."

Exhausting
It may be a largely thankless job and an exhausting one, but Paranjpe, one of the All India Senior Selection Committee's five members, will not trade it for anything else. "When you get the opportunity to be a selector, that is a big honour. When in some small way you are helping people to succeed – what greater thrill can you experience?"

Paranjpe keeps a keen eye on proceedings at the KSCA Stadium here, sometimes watching the action from the boundary's edge. "I watch a guy not just when he's at the crease," he says.

"I see him in the field, in the nets, and during moments of celebration when probably he's not done anything but somebody else



Jatin Paranjpe. ■ SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA.

from the team has. There are a lot of bits which help you nuance and chisel your opinion on a player."

Mandate
Selection-committee meetings are never simple affairs, Paranjpe insists, rejecting the notion that the captain and coach dictate terms. "The selection committee has the mandate to pick the 15," he says.

Spain gets the better of Sweden

Ireland tops Group D after a labourious win over Gibraltar

EURO QUALIFYING

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE PARIS

Sergio Ramos and Alvaro Morata both scored penalties as Spain got the better of Sweden, while the Republic of Ireland and Poland continued their strong starts in qualifying for Euro 2020.

Three-time European champion Spain ran out 3-0 winner in its Group F encounter with the Swedes at the Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid, recovering from the early frustration of seeing a Rodrigo Moreno effort wrongly disallowed for off-side.

Ireland is top of Group D with 10 points from four



Goal scorers: Alvaro Morata and Sergio Ramos' penalty strikes ensured Spain's win. ■ REUTERS

games after again doing the minimum to get the better of minnows Gibraltar.

The results: Group A: Czech Republic 3 (Jankto 18, Kopitovic 49-og, Schick 82-pen) bt

Montenegro 0; Bulgaria 2 (Popov 43, Dimitrov 55) lost to Kosovo 3 (Rashica 14, Muriqi 64, Rashani 90+3).

Group B: Ukraine 1 (Yaremchuk 6) bt Luxembourg 0; Serbia 4

(Mitrovic 20, 34, Jovic 35, Ljajic 90+2) bt Lithuania 1 (Novikovas 71-pen).

Group D: Republic of Ireland 2 (Joseph Chipolina 29-og, Brady 90+3) bt Gibraltar 0; Denmark 5 (Dolberg 13, 63, Eriksen 30-pen, Yussuf Poulsen 73, Braithwaite 90+3) bt Georgia 1 (Lobzhanidze 25).

Group F: Spain 3 (Ramos 64-pen, Morata 85-pen, Oyarzabal 87) bt Sweden 0; Malta 0 lost to Romania 4 (Puscas 7, 29, Chipciu 34, Man 90+1); Faroe Islands 0 lost to Norway 2 (Johnsen 49, 83).

Group G: Poland 4 (Piatek 35, Lewandowski 56-pen, Grosicki 59, Kadzior 84) bt Israel 0; Latvia 0 lost to Slovenia 5 (Crnigoj 24, 27, Ilicic 29-pen, 44, Zajc 47); North Macedonia 1 (Hinteregger 18-og) lost to Austria 4 (Lazaro 39, Arnautovic 62-pen, 82, Bejtulali 86-og).

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

A seven-member Indian team will compete in the fifth Crossminton World Championship to be staged in Budapest from July 4 to 7.

Originally, eight men and six women were selected, but the entire women's team, including former women's national runner-up in tennis Shweta Rana, withdrew owing to various reasons. The secretary general of the All India Crossminton Organisation, Bilal Ahmad, said that more than 600 players would be competing from 30 countries in the world championship.

The game, a combination of tennis, badminton and squash, does not require a

Crossminton team for World Championship

net, and can be played both indoors and outdoors.

The racquets are similar to the ones used in squash, and the heavy shuttle is called "speeder". It can be played on tennis courts, indoor halls, beaches etc.

Competition is held over two boxes of 18'x 18' with a gap of 42' between them. The duo of Ashish Choudhary and Piyush Kumar Singh had won three bronze medals in the Mauritius Open last year in under-18 and men's singles and doubles.

The team: Vikram Datt Sharma (captain), Kashif Ali, Piyush Kumar Singh, Ashish Choudhary, Abhinav Kumar. **Coach:** Bilal Ahmad, Junior coach: Arvind Anand.

India juniors lose to Netherlands

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MADRID

The India's junior men's hockey team lost a hard-fought game 3-2 to the Netherlands at the 8-Nations U-21 Invitational campaign here on Tuesday.

The Netherlands went ahead with Jim van de Venne scoring in the 5th minute before Vishnukant Singh equalised in the 23rd. Netherlands restored the lead as van de Venne converted a PC.

The Netherlands managed to score through Derck de Vilder in the 32nd before Sudeep Chirmako reduced the margin in the 37th minute.

Deepinder puts it past Mandeep

SPORTS BUREAU LUDHIANA

Seventh seed Deepinder Singh Bains recovered from a slow start to beat lucky loser Mandeep Yadav 2-6, 6-1, 6-3 in the pre-quarterfinals of the ₹100,000 AITA men's ranking tournament, organised by the Harvest Tennis Academy, in Jassowal on Tuesday.

In the quarterfinals, Deepinder will play fifth-seeded Digvijay Singh Mehta who also endured a three-set to beat Alok Aradhyia.

Six other seeded players, led by Dalwinder Singh and Suraj Prabodh, sailed into the quarterfinals.

The results: Singles (pre-quarterfinals):

Dalwinder Singh bt Amit Bzad 6-4, 6-1; Drona Walia bt Sawan Malik 6-3, 6-1; Hardeep Singh Sandhu bt Harshit Yadav 6-2, 6-2; Deepinder Singh Bains bt Mandeep Yadav 2-6, 6-1, 6-3;

Digvijay Singh Mehta bt Alok Aradhyia 6-3, 2-6, 6-4; LR Balaji bt Praveen Kumar 6-3, 6-0; Anuj Malik bt Kshitij Kamal 6-4, 6-4; Suraj Prabodh bt Aaryan Pandit 7-5, 6-1.

Doubles (quarterfinals): Alok Aradhyia & Naesar Jewoor bt Kaivalya Raval & Ayush Sharma 6-1, 6-7(5), [12-10]; Dalwinder Singh & Hardeep Singh Sandhu bt Sukhraj Singh & Gurnoor Singh Kular 6-2, 6-2.

Amit Bzad & Kshitij Kamal bt Sawan Malik & Gajraj Sangwan 6-1, 7-5; Suraj Prabodh & Anuj Malik bt Deepinder Singh Bains & Mandeep Yadav 6-3, 6-3.

Indian squash team for Asian meet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GREATER NOIDA

The following players will represent India in the Asian junior squash championship to be staged in Macau from June 26 to 30.

The under-19 players will also compete in the World junior squash championship to be held in Malaysia in August.

The selection trials were held at the Shiv Nadar University in May, and the players are training in the preparatory camp under British coach Chris Ryder at the same facility.

The team: Boys: Under-19: Tushar Shahani, Vee Chotrani, Rahul Baitha, Yash Fadte.

Under-17: Arnav Sareen, Neel Joshi, S. Navaneeth Prabhu, Shreemann Raghavan.

Under-15: Paarth Ambani, Rutva Samant, Krishna Mishra, Jai-vir Singh Dhillon.

Under-13: Tavneet Singh Munda, K.S. Arihant., Avalokit Singh, Ekambar Singh.

Girls: Under-19: Sanya Vats, Amira Singh, Avani Nagar, Janina Singh.

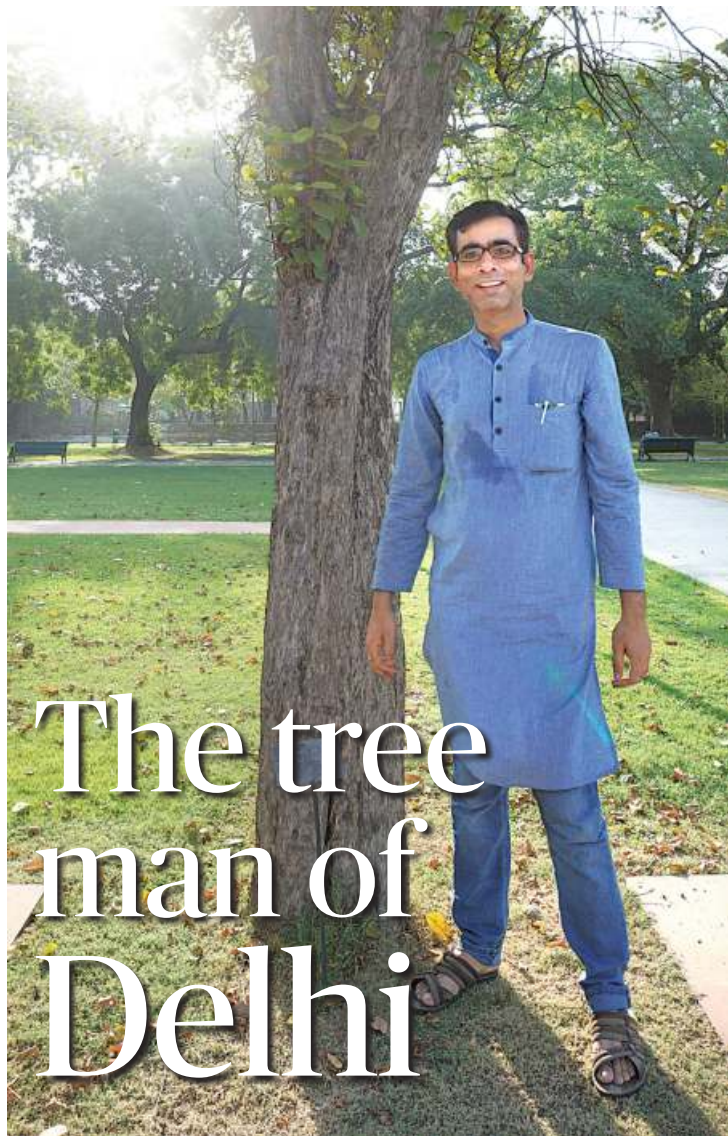
Under-17: Yoshna Singh, Aishwarya Khubchandani, Ananya Dabke, Megha Bhatia.

Under-15: Yuvna Gupta, Kaavya Bansal, S. Akshaya Sri, R. Pooja Arthi.

Under-13: Anahat Singh, Nannata Taneja, Nandini Jain, Nynati Tripathi.

Invitation of bids for disposal of ROMDAS Equipment
Sealed online bids are invited by Joint Secretary, PRDB, SCF 61-62, Phase-2, Mohali for disposal of Road Measurement and Data Acquisition System (ROMDAS), a class-I laser road profilometer on "As-is where-is" basis. The details of the equipment alongwith other information pertaining to invitation of bids can be seen at www.eproc.punjab.gov.in, www.prdb.gov.in. The on-line bids will be received on the portal from 11th June, 2019 to 15th July, 2019 (3:00 PM).
Addenda/ Corridenda, if any, will be published only on the websites.
Joint Secretary PRDB
DPR PB 5683

NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT, C-IV DIVISION,
VIDYUT BHAWAN, DR. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM ROAD, NEW DELHI-110011
e-procurement Tender Notice
Name of Work: Replacement of conventional HPSV street light fittings with energy efficient LED warm light (2700K-3000K) fittings having intelligent control system including poles, cables, flood light etc.
Sub-Head: Replacement of conventional street light poles & fittings with octagonal poles & LED street light fittings and cabling under phase-III/III work.
Estimated cost : ₹24,98,97,888/-
Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution : 11.06.2019
Last date/time for receipt of tender through e-procurement solution : 25.06.2019 up to 3:00 PM
Date & time of pre-bid meeting in the chamber of CE(E-I) (offline) : 14.06.2019 at 11:30 AM
Date/Time for opening of Bid through e-procurement solution : 25.06.2019 at 3:30 PM
Further details can be seen at site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
Note: To participate in e-tender in NDMC, registration with application services provider (ASP) of N.I.C. is mandatory. Sd/-
Tender ID No. 2019_NDMC_173935_1 Executive Engineer (E) C-IV
To be The Global Benchmark for a Capital City



The tree man of Delhi

Six months ago, a legal officer in Delhi found a whole new world through the city's trees

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

"Have you ever tried this?" says 40-year-old Chandan Tiwary, plucking a berry off a shrub and popping it in his mouth. We are in Sunder Nursery, Delhi's arboretum, hours before the Sunday morning organic market has opened, before the sun can direct its 45°C glare at the city. But already, there is sweat streaming down his temples; his faded light blue kurta has found some of its old colour in patches of perspiration.

The berry, he says, is Gangeti (*Grewia Tenax*), a small, orange coloured fruit whose tartness is balanced when you bite into its woody, prominent seed. A few minutes pass, and he walks by a tree, heavy with little fruit. "Lasoda," he says, tearing one to reveal its gluey in-

sides. "Its pickle is amazing!"

I ask how he knows what to pick without breaking out in a rash, considering he's only been hanging out with trees for six months; he cackles loudly. Chandan remembers attending a walk by environmentalist Pradip Krishen a few years ago, but found a knowledge vacuum since. It was only late last year that he stumbled upon the #50trees challenge on Twitter. Through this, users would discover flora of their city and document their finds on social media.

"Why only 50? Delhi can do more!" thought Chandan, the man who once ran away from home, to explore the world and everything



An arboreal life (clockwise from left) Apple blossom flowers; cardamom flowers, palasha tree; plucked gangeti berry; and Chandan Tiwary • VANGMAYI PARAKALA AND CHANDAN TIWARY



he'd read about it. For as long as he can remember, he was consumed by the idea of knowing everything about everything. In December 2018, he started an Instagram account called @DelhiTrees, before getting onto Twitter in April this year. The account reveals no human name or face. "Delhitrees is an attempt to learn and share the knowledge of greens in and around Delhi," reads the bio. The display photo is a close-up image of a Himchampa (*Magnolia grandiflora*) that he found at Lodhi Garden.

A world of its own

By day, Chandan is a deputy manager of law at the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, a government telecom provider. The moment he gets off work, the resident of New Friends Colony rides the metro train back – but only until Nehru Place. Here, he gets off, choosing to walk the

rest of the way, about 4-5 kilometres through Astha Kunj, a large patch of green cover not too far away from the stop.

He moved to Delhi in 2006 for work, after a bachelor's degree in commerce, and another in law from the Banaras Hindu University. Now, he can't really think of living elsewhere – given just the sheer diversity of trees in the capital.

"Have you seen: the road to the Supreme Court is lined with Kadamba," he says as he plucks a mini tennis-ball-like flower that the god Krishna is supposed to have worn as headgear. This shorter variety of the Kadamba tree, with its round ochre-ish flowers and their pungently sweet smell, is the 'original'. The taller Kadamba has brighter yellow flowers, he says. "How else would Krishna have climbed it?!"

Just as he is familiar with the gods and their relationship with the trees of India, Chandan rattles off popular tree-related idioms in Hindi. When he encounters a Palasha

(*Butea monosperma*, also known as Flame of the Forest or Dhaak), he says: "Dhaak ke teen paat," pausing to explain the saying's allusion to the obvious fate of something – just like how leaves on the dhaak always grow in threes. He knows the more contemporary, fun ones too. "Balam kheera bana dega aapke pet ko heera," he says with another cackle when he spots an African *Kigelia* (*Kigelia africana*) tree with its blood red-flowers. Its sausage-shaped fruit-pods, when ground to fine powder and ingested, are supposed to cure a bad tummy.

Of Delhi's ecological history and future

Chandan is also acutely aware of the more sombre tales of the tree-world. As he crushes a few *Eucalyptus* leaves to breathe in their fresh-yet-blamy fragrance, he mentions the British, as well as later, in the 1970s, the Indian Government's social forestry programme that had foreign trees spread through the city. Of these, it is the Kikar (*Prosopis juliflora*) that really get his goat: he doesn't hesitate to call ugly.

"Kikar was a lazy idea," he says referring how the planters were unmindful of how the species might adapt to terrior change. "We have churail padi (*Holoptelea integrifolia*), desi babool (*Vachellia nilotica*), tamarind, fig, and mango that can easily replace them." An activity already started by the Delhi Government in 2017, replacing Kikar and restoring Delhi-native trees has seen some success in the Yamuna Biodiversity Park and Aravalli Biodiversity Park.

These two projects, as well as the likes of Sanjay Van are the way forward for Delhi, he says. "Lodhi Garden, Nehru Park, Shalimar Bagh...I've walked through all these places. Parks are great, but what we really need is to rebuild our forests and make them self-sustaining." That's how this city's abundant greenery can stay on.

Chandan can't have Delhi any other way. After all, it is the trees here that taught him to appreciate slowing down – their many families and variations eased him into accepting that it wasn't necessary to know everything about the world after all. But more importantly, it is Delhi's trees that got Chandan to break the ice in an arranged marriage he reluctantly agreed to two years ago. Now, Mrs. Tiwary, fascinated by her husband's bond with trees, will take long walks with him, often punctuating her steps with "What's this one called?"

The new Sunday brunch at Tres takes some of the 31 botanicals from The Botanist Islay Dry Gin, to create a lazy family-style afternoon

SUNALINI MATHEW

Zomato calls Tres a fine-dining European restaurant, but that's the sort of seemingly stiff image that the three chefs here hope to dispel. The promise is of food that's generous (large portions for the mains and the option of 'one-by-two'), complex (each dish has multiple elements and many ingredients), informal (you can come in your shorts), and personal (the chef will attend to preferences and allergies). Tres delivers on all that's bready and meaty. Plus, there's the gin. The menu is a collaboration with The Botanist Islay Dry Gin, with Tres using about 10 ingredients from 31 of the beverage.

The vibe: Grey and green upholstered dining chairs against a white marble floor with brass grouting, and black wall art; it's an intimate space you bring loved ones to. It's hard to imagine an office party here. On the Sunday I went, there were couples, extended families with children (yes, there are high chairs), women doing lunch. Everyone stayed for at least two hours.

Do try: The breads, in all their avatars. If you skip these, it's like going to Paris and avoiding a croissant because you're on a diet. They'll give you a bread basket, with burnt butter and a vegetable chutney. Everything is



baked fresh (they do two rounds a day), and there's a gluten-free option as well (just ask). If there's one must-eat, it's the croissant, flaky and buttery, followed by the crispy-on-top, light, airy ciabatta.

Absolutely do the Chicken Liver Ice Cream, Caramelised Shallot Tart Tatin, Preserved Walnut Apple Dressing. Created accidentally when someone put the liver pate into the freezer, the team freshly churns it to make this creamy savoury ice cream, offset by sweet onions.

The eggs too. I tried Iberico Ham Benedict

with Whisky Pancetta Jam, Rocket, Pickled Mustard, Poached Eggs, and Hollandaise. All this on Hokaido Milk Bread (that uses a roux in its dough). It's just the right balance of runny and crisp, sweet and salty.

And the desserts. The Black Forest Brioche Toast (Hokaido bread is repeated, with a coating of almond flour, regular flour, sugar and butter, and baked) with Chocolate Ganache, Homemade Cherry Compote, Mascarpone Cremeaux and smoked vanilla ice cream, is familiar and sweet; but what really stood out with its tart-sweet flavours, and crunchy-soft



Relaxed dining (top) Black Forest brioche toast; and (left) Chicken liver ice cream; •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

textures, was the Mango and Cream Cheese Bavaroise, Mango-Lime Jelly, Toasted Coconut Ice Cream and charred Fresh Mango.

Skip: The Salad of Lump Crab, Green Apple, Fish Roe, Sweet Peppers, Tender Coconut Veil and Kokum Gel. There could have been just a drizzle more of kokum; the coconut could have been a little more tender, and there was really enough bite from the apple salad. It's pretty, though.

I'm not sure whether vegetarians will have a good time here, though the chef assures me that several people will just go for the artichoke hearts or lightly-done veg.

Go with: Family or close friends – preferably a group of four (no more), so you can split everything and try more. The music is low enough for conversation, and there's barely a mobile phone signal.

Space bar: 48 covers over 1,000 sq ft
How much? ₹4,000 for two (sans alcohol)
Reach: Block 13, Lodi Colony, Delhi; noon to 4 p.m. There's ample parking, and public transport is scarce

POP-UP

Emerald in the rough

The city's Diacolor has acquired a landmark stone, mined in Zambia



Diacolor, the single-boutique jewellery brand in Delhi, has acquired a 5655-carat, 1,133-gram Zambian emerald, one of the largest in the world, called the Inkalamu (Lion, in Tonga). With a heart of the darkest green, it was mined by Gemfields at the 35-year-old Kagem, the world's largest emerald mine, and then auctioned in Singapore in November last year.

"The emerald is rare not just because of its size, but also because of its golden-green hue, its brilliance and lustre," says Rishabh Tongya, the third-generation jeweller, who with his father, Rajkumar Tongya, was responsible for the company's entry into retail eight years ago. Rishabh says while diamonds have been commodified (there are the clear Cs: carat, colour, clarity, cut) "coloured stones are more about art and nature. There's a big difference in how we look at diamonds and coloured stones. These must appeal to you."

This makes it less technical to select, but also means that only someone with a lifetime of experience may be able to make an educated choice. "A gemstone is a stone at the end of the day, but the basic difference is that it has to have an RDB: rarity, durability, beauty," says Rishabh. Anything, he says, can be turned into art – he cites the three-foot-high stainless steel Rabbit by Jeff Koons that sold at Christie's for \$91,075,000. "And here we're talking about Mother Nature. There are millions and billions (of dollars) that go into mining, but just one or two (prized) pieces come out of it," he says. The green rock is therefore "precious and priceless," he adds, not disclosing its value.

Now, Diacolor hopes to work with a museum in India, to loan it out for display and create an awareness beyond diamonds; rubies are getting very rare, but there's both availability and production of emeralds. For now, emeralds constitute about 5% to 10% of stones that Diacolor sells.

Rishabh's ultimate aim is to make Diacolor an international design brand that works with art (rather than as a local jeweller who works with commodities), with an Indian heart and soul. "We're in no rush, but over the next two or three years, we should be a five-store brand," he says. The company holds a single-digit stake in Gemfields, held through the Dubai entity.

On view through today, at Diacolor, Second floor, DLF Emporio, Vasant Kunj; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

SUNALINI MATHEW

PLACES

Rediscovering a hidden gem



For those who want to be but sans loud music and incessant chatter, Book Talk, The Book Café in Dwarka is ideal. Though the café opened two years ago, it is only now finding popularity. Started by an educationalist, Vinita Pandey, 48, the idea was to have an established space to engage with language and books. Just over 10 days ago, they started their Instagram account; to keep their young audiences up to date with the strictly bimonthly live music gatherings, or open-mic sessions where you can recite poetry, sing or talk. The café's warm ambience also comes with through minimalist furniture and a vast collection of books, making it a comforting space. Here, you can find R.L. Stine's Goosebumps, or J.K. Rowling's Harry Potters, and even all the romances of Nicholas Sparks. Pandey keeps the casual and relaxed vibe of the café also through their menu, which has old-school classics like Maggie, cold coffee, brownies, and sandwiches. Book Talk also stocks board games to kick back with: chess and Jenga for starters.

Closed on Fridays; ₹400 for two; closest metro: Dwarka Sector 1
RHEA MEHROTRA

For listing to be featured here, email us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE

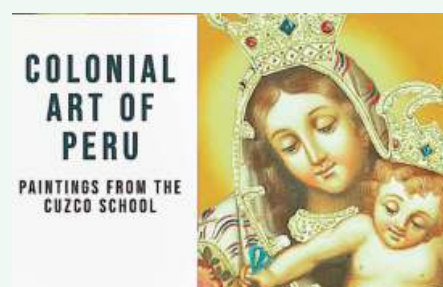


CEREMONY

Jnanpith Award

Former diplomat Gopalkrishna Gandhi will present the Jnanpith Award to author Amitav Ghosh, this evening. Ghosh, one of the most prominent contemporary Indian writers, will receive the 54th Jnanpith Award (for 2018). The honour recognises outstanding contribution towards literature.

VENUE: Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre
TIME: 7 p.m.



EXHIBIT

Colonial art of Peru

Contemporary reproductions of the art from the Cuzco School of Painting will be on view till June 18th. The Cuzco School was a major art tradition practiced in Peru from 16th-18th century. Here, Indian and Mestizo artists have transformed its formal and iconographical types, to create a uniquely American style of religious painting.

VENUE: Art Gallery, IIC Annexe
TIME: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



FOOD

Vegetarian special

Swad - Desh Videsh Ka, a multi-cuisine vegetarian restaurant has introduced a new menu. Noteworthy dishes in this new menu include, bedmi poori with aloo sabji, dilkhush pizza dosa, grilled Mexican paneer burger, and other such dishes. There is also a special section for kids, offering garlic bread and French fries.

VENUE: 43, Chiranjivi Tower, Nehru Place
TIME: 12 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.



FILM

Sant Tukaram

The 1936 film, Sant Tukaram will be screened this evening. Directed by V. Damle and S. Fattal, it is considered one of the greatest Indian films, and is based on the 19th century saint poet of Maharashtra. The film delves into the different phases of Tukaram's life and eventual journey towards sainthood.

VENUE: C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC
TIME: 6:30 p.m.



TALK

China's culture

Dr. Sharon Condon, a Senior Lecturer at the Peking University HSBC Business School, China will deliver talk titled *Challenging China's Culture*. The presentation will focus on understanding the forces shaping Chinese thinking and behaviour, and the opportunities for the foreigners in China's future.

VENUE: Institute of Chinese Studies
TIME: 3 p.m.

The most hardcore version of the Compass is here. But there's a lot more to it than just off-road capability

NIKHIL BHATIA

Forget the bespoke dual-tone wheels, reshaped bumpers and black decal on the bonnet. The details that really help tell a Compass Trailhawk from the everyday versions of the SUV are the 'Trail Rated' badges at the sides. They are no less than badges of honour from Jeep, affirming this version's off-road ability. The Trailhawk sits 27mm higher off the ground, its 4x4 system includes low range, and the off-road mode selector sees the addition of a dedicated 'Rock' mode – all to keep you covered for any off-road eventuality. And boy, does it deliver. Jeep's chosen trail for the media drive was serious off-road fare, with rutted tracks, steep ascents and descents, a mild water crossing and rocky paths. To the Trailhawk's credit, the course didn't feel as threatening as it looked. While the Compass' relatively small size, fair articulation and impressive approach and departure angles were a boon in the wild, we were also deeply impressed by how far the Selec-Terrain system's Auto mode could take us. On the real tricky stuff though, 4-Low was summoned. Low range engaged, the Compass Trailhawk seemed unstoppable and even chugged up, down and around a rock-laden incline with surprising ease. Sorry for the cliché but



Full speed ahead Jeep has also recalibrated throttle responses to quicken low-speed response
* GAURAV THOMBRE

BLAZING A TRAIL

SPECIFICATIONS:

ENGINE: 1956cc, 4 cyls, turbo-diesel

MAX POWER (HP @ RPM): 173hp at 3750rpm

MAX TORQUE (NM @ RPM): 350Nm at 1750rpm

DRIVE LAYOUT: Four-wheel-drive

GEARBOX: 9-speed automatic

TYRES (F/R): 225/60 R17 / 225/60 R17

FRONT: MacPherson strut with coil-over shock absorbers

REAR: Chapman strut with coil-over shock absorbers

GROUND CLEARANCE (MM): 205mm

the 20:1 crawl ratio really does give the Trailhawk the abilities of a mountain goat.

However, the Trailhawk has some other pertinent firsts to its name. It's the first Compass in India to get a BS-VI emission norms-compliant version of the 2.0-litre Multijet II diesel engine, and also the first to come in the covered diesel-automatic spec. The automatic transmission in question is a 9-speed torque converter unit.

Jeep engineers have used the emissions upgrade as an opportunity to also fine-tune other aspects of the powertrain, and the very first point of note is how much quieter the engine is. The harsh clatter at idle has been muffled, the whistle from the turbo is gone and there's less boom in the mid-range too. The characteristic Multijet drone is still present, but you hear much

less from the engine bay.

Also different is how the engine delivers its power. The BS-VI version of the engine makes the same 173hp at 3,750rpm and 350Nm of torque at 1,750-2,500rpm, but the power comes in in a milder and more linear manner. Low-speed drivability has improved, and the engine stays likeable higher up the rev band too, but what's missing is the older BS-IV-spec engine's rush of power at 2,000rpm. Jeep has also recalibrated throttle responses to quicken low-speed response, and you can feel the difference in city driving.

Undoubtedly, what makes the biggest difference to the driving experience is the 9-speed automatic transmission.

If not for outright performance, you'll like the Trailhawk for its ride quality. Gentler re-

bound has addressed much of the standard Compass' low-speed firmness, and even at higher speeds, the Trailhawk feels better damped. The Trailhawk is also nice to steer. Of the other things, the Compass Trailhawk's interior is a straight carry-over from the standard version.

Interestingly, while the Trailhawk sits at the top of the Compass range, it isn't the best-equipped version of the SUV on sale. It misses out on a powered driver's seat, as well as auto headlights and wipers, features that are part of the package on the Compass Limited Plus. The latter's massive panoramic sunroof is also a paid option on the Trailhawk.

The Trailhawk does come with standard-fit bi-xenon headlights, keyless go, cruise control and an 8.4-inch touchscreen infotainment system with on-board navigation, Android Auto and Apple CarPlay.

Off-roading buffs will find a great match in the Trailhawk. It's a hardcore Jeep through and through, and one you'd confidently take to explore the expanse of our country in.



AUTO SNIPPETS



Toyota Glanza launched

Toyota has launched its premium hatchback, the Glanza, with prices ranging from ₹7.22 lakh to ₹8.90 lakh (ex-showroom, Delhi). Essentially, a rebadged Maruti Suzuki Baleno, the Glanza comes in two trim levels – G and V – and with three engine-gearbox combinations. The Glanza is powered by two BS-VI-compliant Maruti-sourced petrol engine options – the 1.2-litre, K12B that makes 83hp and 113Nm of torque, and the 1.2-litre, K12C DualJet engine with a mild-hybrid system producing 90hp and 113Nm of torque.



Piaggio Vespa Urban Club 125 launched

Piaggio has launched the new Vespa Urban Club 125 at ₹72,190 (ex-showroom, Pune). Positioned as one of Vespa's most affordable models, the Urban Club is available in a choice of four colours, but also misses out on more than a few chrome detailing bits. Unlike the more expensive models, the Urban Club uses blacked-out components instead of being finished in chrome or silver colour. The mirrors, grab rails and 10-inch wheels are black on this variant. Powering the Urban Club is a 125cc, air-cooled engine that produces 9.6hp and 9.9Nm of torque.

POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



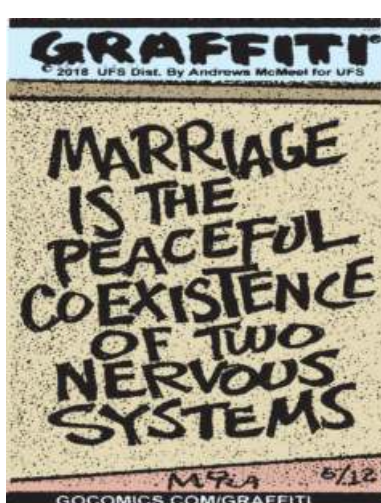
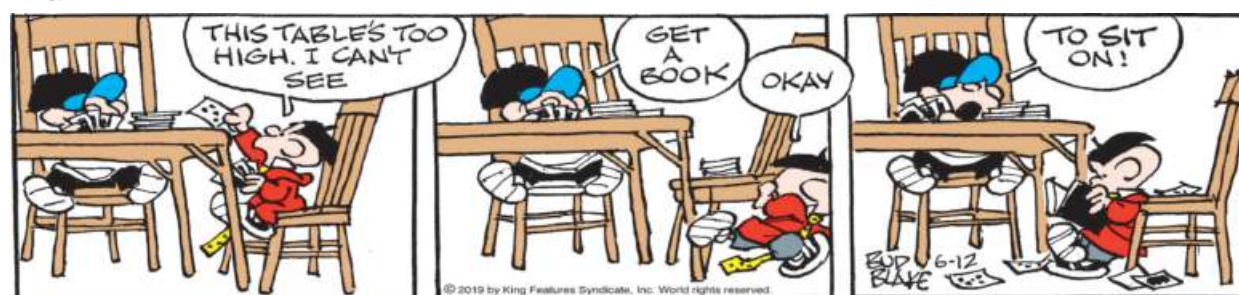
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



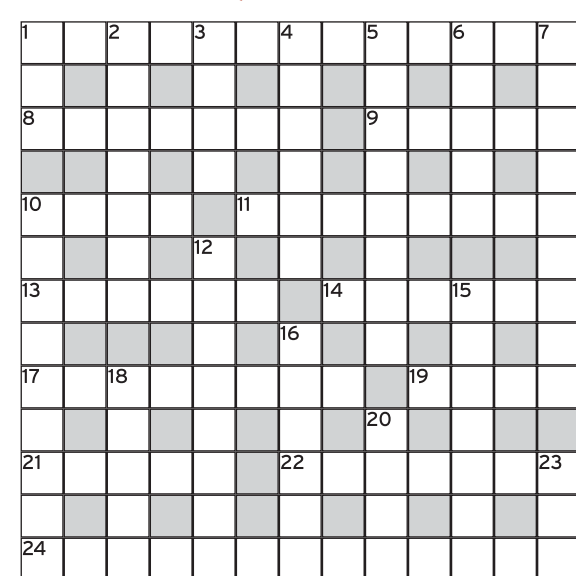
CALVIN AND HOBBS



TIGER



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13094

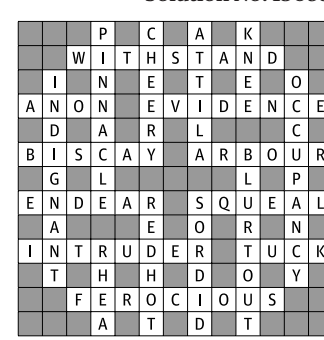


- 10 Liver disease (9)
- 12 Imaginary line round the Earth (8)
- 15 Robber – darn big (anag) (7)
- 16 Large oceanic sport fish (6)
- 18 Seabird excrement, once prized as fertiliser (5)
- 20 Circular pyramid (4)
- 23 Broken (3)

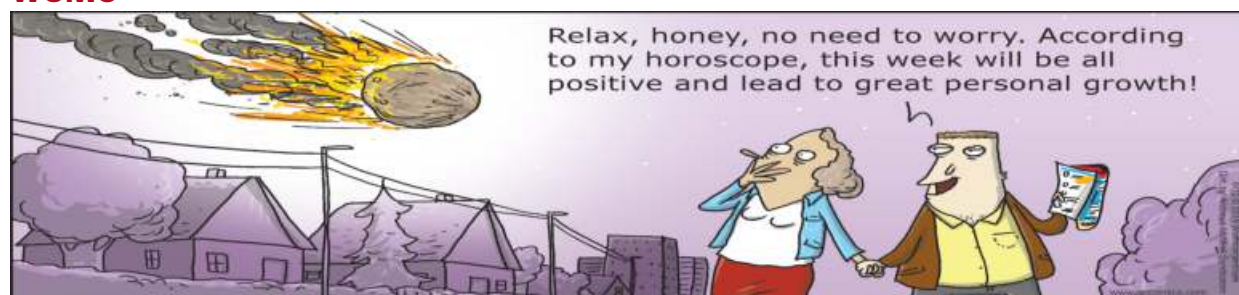
Solution will appear in The Hindu dated June 13, 2019.

Solution No. 13093

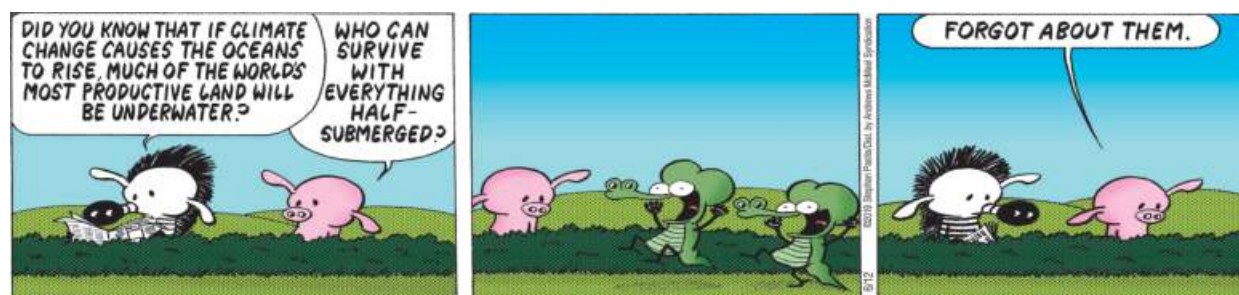
- Across
- 1 One who fails to hold a catch (13)
- 8 Gods (7)
- 9 Make fun of (5)
- 10 Fuel (4)
- 11 Infatuated (8)
- 13 Prescribed ceremony (6)
- 14 Very weak (6)
- 17 New Year's Eve for Scots (8)
- 19 Gold-coloured (4)
- 21 Growl viciously (5)
- 22 Panther (7)
- 24 Conceited (7-6)
- Down
- 1 Offer a price (3)
- 2 Dense shrubbery (7)
- 3 Morally wrong (4)
- 4 Decay (6)
- 5 Main element of air (8)
- 6 Perform (5)
- 7 Best-balanced – it's sedate (anag) (9)



WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



HEALTH CAPSULES
by Bran Smith

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF HONEY?

WHEN HONEY IS PASTEURIZED, THE NUTRITIONAL VALUE IS COMPROMISED.

A BONA FIDE SUPERFOOD, HONEY HAS BEEN USED THROUGH THE CENTURIES AS BOTH A FOOD AND A MEDICINE. HONEY, IN ITS RAW ORGANIC FORM, CONTAINS MANY NUTRIENTS, INCLUDING VITAMINS B1, B2, B3, B6 AND C. IT'S ALSO MINERAL RICH, CONTAINING CALCIUM, COPPER, IRON, PHOSPHORUS, POTASSIUM, SODIUM AND ZINC.

Health Capsules is a trademark to be used in the future.

IN BRIEF



Amazon dethrones Google as top brand

LONDON
U.S. retail giant Amazon has moved past Apple and Google to become the world's most valuable brand, a survey showed. The brand value of Amazon surged by 52% to \$315 billion, market research agency Kantar said. Amazon jumped from third to first place to eclipse Google while Apple holds on to the second spot. AFP



Samoa bans Rocketman over gay sex scenes

WELLINGTON
Samoa has banned the blockbuster Elton John biopic *Rocketman* from cinemas over depictions of gay sex, which remains illegal in the Pacific island nation. Samoa's Principal Censor Leiataua Niupu confirmed the ban to local media this week, saying the film contained too many scenes that were "not good for public viewing". AFP



Botswana decriminalises gay sex in landmark case

JOHANNESBURG
Botswana on Tuesday decriminalised gay sex in a landmark case for Africa. The High Court rejected as unconstitutional sections of the penal code punishing same-sex relations with up to seven years in prison. AFP

DNA-based personalised diet advice in the offing?

Comprehensive study looks at individual responses to food

CYNTHIA GRABER
NICOLA TWILLEY

A decade ago, spurred by the success of the Human Genome Project and the affordability of genetic sequencing, scientists began to explore the promise of "nutrigenomics." Could personalised nutrition, informed by knowledge of an individual's DNA, help prevent and even treat diet-related diseases?

The results of early studies from Harvard, Stanford and elsewhere were compelling: genetic differences seemed to predispose individuals to lose different amounts of weight on different types of diets. A multi-million-dollar industry soon sprang up, premised on marketing DNA-based diets. But subsequent research has failed to show any statistically significant difference in weight loss between overweight people who "eat right for their genotype" and those who do not.

Individual metabolism

In fact, the effect of genes on obesity has been hard to tease out; various studies put the figure at anywhere from 35% to 85%. Nutritionists have long observed that no one weight-loss strategy works for everyone, and that individuals show striking differences in their responses to different diets. What, then, explains the large variation in individual metabolism?

Last year, Tim Spector and Sarah Berry, epidemiologists at King's College, London, and Dr. Andrew Chan, of Harvard Medical School, began an ambitious new search for the answer. Their



The study is trying to find out if personalised nutrition can treat diet-related diseases.

new study, called Predict, is the world's largest and most comprehensive experiment to look at individual responses to food.

Their preliminary results, presented on Monday at the American Society for Nutrition's annual conference, documented, for the first time, substantial and surprising variations in how well participants processed fats and carbohydrates, even among identical twins. How efficiently a person metabolised one macronutrient was no predictor of how that person might respond to another.

"We are getting closer to being able to provide guidance for each person for what their ideal diet should be," said Dr. Eric Topol, a geneticist at the Scripps Research Translational Institute in La Jolla, California, who was not affiliated with the study.

"We're not there yet, but the new study is another major milestone to get us there."

Risk of obesity

For decades Dr. Spector has been exploring the causes of individual variation in disease risk, including diet-related ailments. In 1992, he

set up TwinsUK, a research registry that now includes more than 13,000 identical and fraternal twins. Based on the twins, he concluded that genes contributed 70% of an individual's risk for obesity, on average.

Intrigued, he began a series of studies to tease out which factors influenced the remaining 30%.

Dr. Spector then started Predict to explore how variations in individual responses to fats and carbohydrates might contribute to obesity. Eating foods that contain fats and carbohydrates causes glucose, insulin and triglyceride levels in the blood to rise and fall; spikes that are too high, too prolonged and too frequent are associated with inflammation, weight gain, heart disease and diabetes.

The study included 700 identical twins, 300 individual British volunteers and 100 subjects from the U.S.

The team concluded that genes play a limited role in how a person processes fats and carbohydrates. Among identical twins, only about half of the amount and duration of an individual's post-meal blood glucose level could be attributed to genetic influence – and less than 30% with regard to insulin and triglyceride response. The more important factors in how our bodies metabolise food, it seems, are environmental: sleep, stress, exercise and the diversity and population of our individual gut microbiome.

"That is really exciting for scientists," Dr. Berry said. "It has shown us how much is not genetic and therefore modifiable." NY TIMES

Dazzling sky



Earth sparkles: Lightning flashing through the sky over Dresden city in Germany during a thunderstorm on Monday. AFP

NYT to stop using political cartoons

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

The *New York Times* has announced that it will no longer include daily political cartoons in its international edition, weeks after apologising for publishing a caricature of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu deemed anti-Semitic.

The cartoon, published in April, depicted Mr. Netanyahu as a guide dog wearing a Star of David collar and leading a blind U.S. President Donald Trump – who was wearing a Jewish skullcap, prompting an uproar among Jews.

CO₂ emissions rose by 2% in 2018: study

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Global carbon emissions grew by 2.0% last year, the highest rate since 2010-2011, a review by energy giant BP said on Tuesday, calling the trend "unsustainable".

"There is a growing mismatch between societal demands for action on climate change and the actual pace of progress," said BP chief executive Bob Dudley.

The BP Statistical Review of World Energy is viewed as an energy industry standard. It also found that global energy demand grew by 2.9%.

World's costliest painting on Saudi Prince's yacht: report

Salvator Mundi was sold for a record \$450 mn in 2017

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Since its sale for a record \$450 million, the whereabouts of the *Salvator Mundi*, said to be painted by Leonardo da Vinci, has become one of the art world's greatest mysteries.

On Monday, London-based art dealer Kenny Schachter, writing for the website Artnews, offered answers: the painting now resides on Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's yacht.

Since its in 2017, the painting, in which Jesus Christ is



Salvator Mundi by Leonardo da Vinci. AFP/FILE

depicted emerging from darkness blessing the world with one hand while holding a transparent globe in the other, has never been exhibited in public, triggering doubts about its ownership

and authenticity.

Many art experts are split over whether the painting is genuine, saying it was not painted by the Italian master personally but instead by his workshop.

Indian girl in UAE honoured for green efforts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

An eight-year-old Indian-origin student here has collected nearly 15,000 kg of paper waste in the Gulf emirate as part of a nationwide recycling campaign, according to

a media report.

Nia Tony has been honoured for her efforts in keeping the environment clean by collecting the paper waste, the *Khaleej Times* reported.

"I was campaigning

around my area to collect paper, so that it can be recycled. Every week, I would go out to collect newspapers, magazines, and other paper that people were throwing away or didn't want to keep," she said.

She was honoured on Monday during the 22nd edition of the Emirates Recycling Awards in Dubai.

Ms. Tony won the paper section in the individual category for collecting a total of 14,914 kg of paper waste.