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In Bengal, people must speak Bengali, says Mamata Banerjee

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SEBI bars Prannoy Roy, Radhika from being directors of NDTV

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Toronto Raptors clinches its maiden NBA crown

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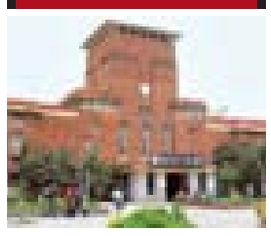


Allow DU admissions on last year's criteria: HC

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday directed Delhi University and the University Grants Commission to allow students to apply for admission to undergraduate courses at the university for the current academic session based on the eligibility criteria of 2018-19. It also extended the deadline from Friday to June 22 for students to apply for admission.

CITY ▸ PAGE 2

Bukhari killed in second attempt within 24 hours

SRINAGAR

Pointing to grave lapses on the part of the security apparatus, the investigation into the assassination of journalist and editor of *Rising Kashmir* Shujaat Bukhari last year has found that the June 14 incident was the second attempt within 24 hours.

NEWS ▸ PAGE 13

Modi, Imran exchange pleasantries at Bishkek

At SCO summit, PM hints at Pak. role in backing terror

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Pakistan counterpart Imran Khan exchanged greetings during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit. The informal exchange came in the backdrop of Mr. Modi's strong pitch for a regional and global drive to eliminate terrorism.

"The Prime Minister exchanged usual pleasantries with the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan in the Leaders' Lounge," said a source.

Warm reception: Kyrgyz President Sooronbai Jeenbekov greets PM Modi before a meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State in Bishkek on Friday. ▪ AFP

'No meeting'

However, the sources said, the interaction did not amount to a meeting or a "pull-aside" and was just an exchange of pleasantries.

Friday's exchange, though brief, is the first since the Pulwama terror attack, which led to a dramatic escalation of tensions.

Earlier, addressing the summit, Mr. Modi hinted at Pakistan's role in supporting terror elements and highlighted the importance of peace in Afghanistan for the overall security situation in the region.

"Last Sunday, during my trip to Sri Lanka, I visited St. Anthony's church. There I was reminded of the hateful nature of terrorism that can destroy innocent lives anywhere in the world. There is a need to hold those countries that support terrorism accountable," he said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12
PM HITS OUT AT TRADE PROTECTIONISM ▸ PAGE 13

India to impose retaliatory tariffs on 29 American goods

Move comes after a year of talks on trade barriers to Indian steel, aluminium

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI

India has decided to impose retaliatory tariffs on 29 goods imported from the U.S. from June 16, a year after it initially decided to do so, officials in the Commerce Ministry told *The Hindu*.

The tariffs will apply to $220-290 million worth of goods and will have about the same impact as the tariffs imposed by Washington on India last year.

The official notification will be issued before June 16 by the Finance Ministry, an official added.

June 16 deadline

"India has decided to go ahead and impose the retaliatory tariffs on U.S. items," the Commerce Ministry official said. "The deadline after which the tariffs would be imposed was supposed to be June 16. The notification to impose the tariffs will be issued by the Finance Ministry before then."

The tariffs on the 29 goods – including walnuts, apples and some pulses – were initially announced in June 2018 in retaliation for U.S. President Donald Trump's decision in March that year to impose higher import tariffs on Indian aluminium and steel. India had repeatedly asked for exemption from these higher tariffs.

However, negotiations continued for about a year, with India repeatedly extending the deadline for retaliatory tariffs. These talks, as well as negotiations on granting India duty-free imports of certain items under the U.S. Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), seem to have fallen through.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

Medical services hit as doctors' agitation spreads

IMA calls nationwide strike for June 17 against assault in Kolkata hospital

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Hospital services were affected in different parts of the country on Friday as a doctors' agitation that began in West Bengal following an assault on medical professionals spread to the national capital, Kerala, Telangana, Chandigarh and even Jammu and Kashmir.

While 300 doctors in West Bengal quit on Friday evening, demanding additional security and assurance of a safe work environment, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) sought to intensify a nationwide protest over the next two days and called for the withdrawal of all non-essential health services on June 17.

"The gruesome incident in NRS Medical College, Kolkata, is of barbaric nature," the IMA said in a statement on Friday.

"The IMA condemns the violence perpetrated on a young doctor," it added.

HARSH VARDHAN ASKS DOCTORS TO CALL OFF PROTESTS ▸ PAGE 12
CRISIS DEEPENS ▸ PAGE 12
SEE ALSO ▸ PAGE 4

Up in arms: A protest at Nair Hospital in Mumbai against the attack on doctors at a hospital in West Bengal. ▪ EMMANUAL YOGINI

Number of children killed by encephalitis in Bihar rises to 57

State govt. announces a new 100-bed ward, six ambulances

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

The number of children who have died of suspected Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) in Muzaffarpur on Friday rose to 57. However, a report from PTI put the toll at 63, quoting a statement issued by the Muzaffarpur district administration.

The Bihar government has said it will open a new 100-bed ward for children, and deploy six additional ambulances for the government-run Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital (SKMCH).

On Wednesday, a team of four doctors, led by Arun Sinha, visited the SKMCH, where children with the symptoms of AES have been admitted and issued guidelines for local medical experts and doctors.

Though the government had previously said the cause of death of the children, mostly of poor families, was hypoglycemia, or low blood sugar levels, experts and private doctors told *The Hindu* that "AES is a broader aspect of hypoglycemia".

Health Minister Mangal Pandey visited the SKMCH on Friday and said 57 children – 47 at the SKMCH and 10 at the Kejriwal Maternity Hospital – had died since the outbreak. He also held meetings with doctors and district officials.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

No plan to bail out Jet Airways, says Minister

India is not a nanny state: Hardeep Puri

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India can't be a nanny state offering bailouts to airlines and real estate companies, said Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, who is in charge of Civil Aviation as well as the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministries.

On the challenge of restoring capacity on international routes vacated by the troubled Jet Airways, he outlined a two-pronged strategy – giving domestic airlines their due share and engaging with international carriers.

"You can't run a private sector organisation, goof it up and then go to the government to say 'bail me out'. That's not doable. Because if we were to go down that road, we would have airlines, builders, infrastructure, everybody coming and, so, you would have a nanny state," Mr. Puri said at a CII event on Friday.

"Now, if the nanny state had a lot of money, then maybe it would want to; if I had anything to do with it, I wouldn't give a cent," he added.

He said the government could help entities restructure and provide them an environment to grow.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

Metro Man against free rides for women

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

Former Delhi Metro chief E. Sreedharan has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking him not to agree to the Delhi government's proposal to make travel free for women commuters.

The Aam Aadmi Party government in Delhi had recently announced its decision to give free travel facility to women passengers on buses and metro trains.

DETAILS ON ▸ PAGE 3

Maharashtra boy tops JEE Advanced-2019

DAMINI NATH
SUYASH KARANGUTKAR
NEW DELHI/ MUMBAI

The results of the Joint Entrance Examination (Advanced)-2019 were declared by the Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee on Friday.

Seventeen-year-old Kartikey Gupta from Ballarpur in Maharashtra emerged the all-India topper scoring 346 marks out of 372. Himanshu Gaurav Singh of Allahabad was second overall, followed by Archit Bubna of Delhi.

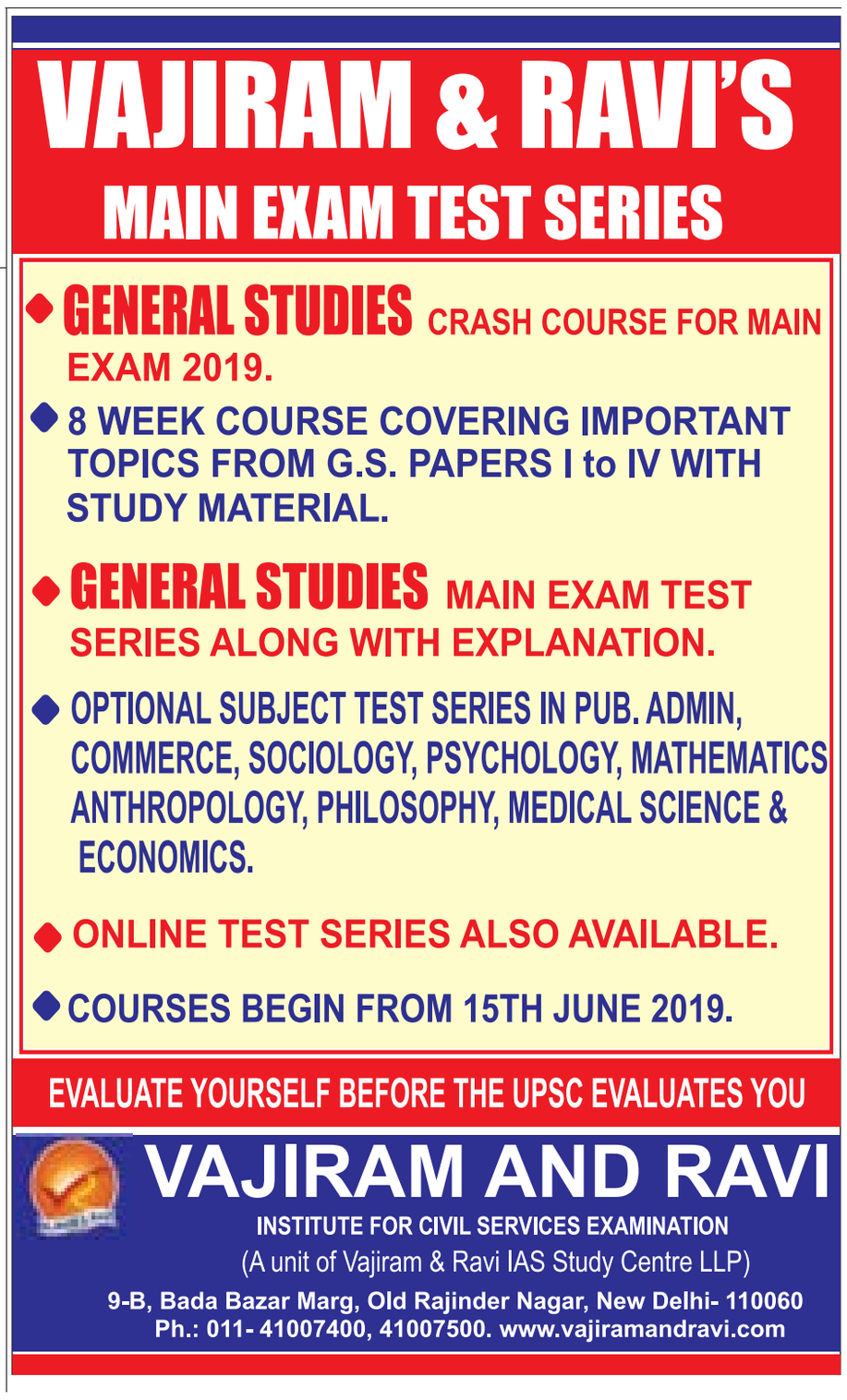
Gillella Karthikeya and Battepati Karthikeya, both from Madhapur, a suburb of Hyderabad, were ranked four and five respectively.

Kartikey Gupta

Among the girls, Shabnam Sahay from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, topped with 308 marks, securing the 10th rank.

For the JEE Advanced, a prerequisite for admission to all IITs, 38,705 candidates qualified, of which 5,356 are girls.

SEE ALSO ▸ PAGE 4



Metro man Sreedharan against free rides for women in Capital

Writes to PM, says AAP govt.'s move sets alarming precedence for all metros in India

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

Former Delhi Metro chief E. Sreedharan, popularly called the Metro man for his contribution towards setting up the Delhi Metro, has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking him not to agree to the Delhi government's proposal to make travel free for women commuters.

The Aam Aadmi Party government in Delhi had recently announced its decision to give free travel facility to women passengers on buses and Metro trains. As the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation is an equal partnership between the Delhi government and the Centre, Mr. Sreedharan, a principal advisor to DMRC, said the Prime Minister's "personal intervention" was required.

E. Sreedharan

"One shareholder cannot take a unilateral decision to give concession to one section of the community and push Delhi Metro into inefficiency and bankruptcy," he wrote in his letter of June 10.

After being an instrumental part of the Delhi Metro since its inception, Mr. Sreedharan stepped down as managing director in 2011. He wrote that he had decided not to intervene in the working of the Delhi Metro after stepping down, but the Delhi government's decision had forced him to come forward.

"Sir, when the first section of the Delhi Metro was to be opened, I had taken a firm and conscious decision that no one would be given any travel concession on Delhi Metro. This stand was taken to maximize revenues so that metro fares could be kept low so as to be affordable to ordinary citizens..." At the same time, Metro would make sufficient operational surpluses to pay back loans taken from JICA, Mr. Sreedharan wrote.

He recalled that the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee bought a ticket for himself when he went to inaugurate the first section of the Metro on December 23, 2002.

"Now, if ladies are to be given free travel concession in Delhi Metro, it would set an alarming precedence for all other metros in the country. The argument of Delhi government that the revenue losses would be reimbursed to DMRC is a poor solace. The amount involved is about ₹1,000 crore per annum today. This will go on increasing as the metro network expands and with further fare hikes on the metro," Mr. Sreedharan wrote.

He said other sections of commuters, including the "more deserving" such as students, the disabled and senior citizens, as well as other metros in the country would raise similar demands if Delhi's proposal for free travel for women becomes a reality.

Sisodia asks former DMRC chief to reconsider his stand

'Sreedharan has misunderstood proposal'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Friday said that former Delhi Metro chief E. Sreedharan's stand on free rides for women in metro trains "appears to be a result of misunderstanding" of the Delhi government's proposal.

Requesting Mr. Sreedharan to "reconsider" his stand, Mr. Sisodia asked him to bless them "to go ahead with the progressive step".

In a letter written to Mr. Sreedharan, the Minister said that he was pained to read Mr. Sreedharan's letter to the Prime Minister, in which the latter allegedly opposed the government's proposal to bear the cost of free ridership for women in Delhi Metro trains.

"You [Mr. Sreedharan] will appreciate that after the completion of Phase-III of the DMRC, its services were designed to have a capacity of daily ridership of four million [40 lakh passengers daily]. However, figures show that the DMRC is catering to an average ridership of less than 25 lakh daily," the letter read. "Even after providing free ridership to women, DMRC's daily ridership will go up by only three lakh on a daily basis, which will still be much less than the designed capacity of 40 lakh," he said.

Manish Sisodia

"We are saying that the Delhi government will buy around a million coupons in bulk from the DMRC on a daily basis and provide these to women commuters," he added.

AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj said that the DMRC would not lose a rupee as the Delhi government would subsidise the plan. He said that Mr. Sreedharan's suggestion of the government giving money to women to travel in metro was not practically possible.

Govt. task force to ensure women's safety aboard public transport

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government, which has proposed to make travel free for women in buses and metro trains, on Friday announced the formation of a task force to ensure the safety of female commuters aboard public transport.

The move comes in the wake of a section of public transport experts claiming that there is no link between the proposed free travel scheme and the safety of women commuters.

"The task force will conduct both off and on-ground review and monitoring of all existing schemes and propose new plans for women safety in the city," said Jasmine Shah vice-chairperson of the Delhi Dialogue and Development Commission.

The task force will comprise all stakeholders of public transport as well as eminent experts from the civil society working in the field of women safety and public transport in Delhi. It will also include two daily female commuters nominated by the Transport Minister, said Ms. Shah.

The AAP government is moving ahead to ensure that its ambitious proposal for providing free commute to women in public buses and metro trains comes before Delhi goes for Assembly polls next year. However, in its report to the city government, the DMRC has sought eight months to implement a short-term scheme of free ride in the metro.

Rapid Metro: Centre forms committee for fare fixation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Over six years after the country's first privately owned metro network, Rapid Metro Rail Gurgaon Limited, started its operations here, the Centre has now constituted a committee for its fare fixation.

The metro network currently has fixed fare slabs of ₹20 and ₹35.

The three-member panel has been constituted under the Metro Railways (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002, for a period of three months. Headed by Justice (Retd.) Bharat Bhushan Parsoon, Punjab and Haryana High Court, the committee has Additional Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, K. Sanjay Murthy and Haryana government Chief Secretary Depinder Singh Dhesi as its members.

A senior official of the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry told *The Hindu* that the panel will look at the need to revise the fares, with both upward and downward revision possible. The official added that the first meeting of the committee was yet to take place.

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Patients stranded at AIIMS, Safdarjung

Many returned without consulting doctor

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

As resident doctors of AIIMS and Safdarjung hospitals joined the nationwide strike on Friday, patients here had a harrowing time.

Those who reached AIIMS in the morning to avoid the crowds were told that the OPD would remain shut till 2 p.m. Isha Kohli, a patient at AIIMS OPD, said she had to wait for around three hours. "After I waited for a long time, they said I would have to take another appointment as the OPD was closed," Ms. Kohli said.

A follow-up patient, Famida Zamaruddin, was unable to consult her doctor. "I came early in the morning but was told to wait till lunchtime," she said.

Many patients claimed that they had to face difficulty even after having their appointments booked.

Poonam Mishra, who travelled all the way from Bihar for her appointment at AIIMS said, she was told that the doctor was not available due to the strike.

"I took an appointment and travelled all the way here. Yet I don't think that I will be able to see the doctor," she said.

Though the OPD at Safdarjung Hospital was kept open, the number of doctors attending the patients were much lower than usual. The lack of doctors made patients wait for longer than usual. Tej Pal, a patient at the Orthopaedics OPD, said, "I have been told that there is only one doctor in this section and so there is a long queue. I am thinking of going back home."

However, emergency services at both AIIMS and Safdarjung Hospital were functional.

Resident doctors boycott work

In support of their colleagues in W.B.; only emergency, ward and inpatient depts. open

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Resident doctors in the Capital on Friday boycotted work in solidarity with their counterparts in West Bengal and condemned the violence against the medical fraternity there. Patients were offered only emergency, ward and inpatient services.

The strike adversely hit outpatient departments and diagnostic services at several big hospitals in the city, including AIIMS, Lok Nayak Hospital, GTB Hospital, Hindu Rao and Ganga Ram Hospital. The hospitals joined the strike call by the Indian Medical Association (IMA), which is now threatening to withdraw non-essential health services on June 17.

Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital and Dr. Baba Sahib Ambedkar Hospital authorities have said that they would be joining the 'pen down' protest from Saturday.

Members of Resident Doctors' Association of AIIMS during a protest on Friday. • R.V. MOORTHY

"The incident at NRS Medical College in Kolkata is of barbaric nature. The IMA condemns the violence perpetrated on a young doctor. The entire medical fraternity expresses solidarity with the resident doctors who are on strike," read a statement issued by the IMA.

The Resident Doctors Association (RDA) said in a statement said, "There is a complete breakdown of law and order with reports of mob attacking doctors with weapons. The government has failed to provide protection and justice to doctors. The AIIMS doctors condemn this in word and in spirit,"

Doctors from various parts of the country, including Kerala, Hyderabad, Bhopal, Raipur, Chandigarh and Patna, have joined the strike with the IMA asking its State branches to stage protests and wear black badges to condemn the incident. The Delhi Medical Association observed 'Black Day' and said that it is ready for strong legislation and strict action against violence at hospitals.

Contingency measures

Meanwhile, hospitals in the Capital put in place measures to ensure that patients do not suffer due to the strike. "The AIIMS administration has already put in place contingency measures to take care of the patients admitted. On Friday, only follow-up patients with prior appointments were registered in OPD. Registration of new patients will be done as per availability of the faculty," said a senior AIIMS official.

"We have asked heads of all clinical departments to make arrangements for round-the-clock availability of doctors of the speciality concerned. Under no circumstances, any inpatient ward will function without doctors," he added.

'BJP to reorganise cadre on demographic lines'

As part of Assembly poll preparations

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI

As part of its ongoing preparations for the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections scheduled early next year, the BJP has decided to reorganise its block and district-level cadre on demographic lines based on public surveys to be carried out across the Capital, sources claimed.

The exercise in "inclusion", according to a party leader, will essentially aim at adding to the party's fold and ensure larger representation of office-bearers from dominant regional, linguistic and caste groups residing in different parts of the city based on their respective population at a given block and district.

According to sources, a decision to this effect was taken at a weekly review meeting at the BJP's State headquarters here on Tuesday. It has been decided that party's State unit president Manoj Tiwari will continue to lead the party's charge in the city during the Assembly elections.

"The exercise is especially expected to fine-tune and ensure better representation of the Poorvanchali community – which currently clubs both people hailing from Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar into the same grouping – in all its varying hues," explained a party leader.

"Now, a block or district with more people from the community hailing from Eastern UP will have an office-bearer from the same community instead of someone from Bihar and vice versa forming a better connect with people and furthering the party's chances among these similar, but not interchangeable, sub-communities," the leader said further.

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Further details are available on Jharkhand Government e-Procurement website and can be seen on the website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Sd/-
General Manager (P&E)
JUIDCO Limited, Ranchi

PR 208767 Urban Development (19-20)_D

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 24 years of age whose name, residence and family is unknown, was found at back side of Nitya hotel Pahar Ganj, Delhi on 04.06.19. In this regard proceeding u/s 174 Cr.P.C vide **DD No: 22A, dated 04.06.19 at P.S. Nabi Karim, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person but no clue has come to light so far.
The description of the UIDB is as under:
Sex: Male, **Age:** About 24 years, **Height:** 5'9", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** White and sky blue colour dharidar shirt and jeans pant.
If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/ Nabi Karim, Delhi.

SHO
P.S. Nabi Karim, Delhi
Ph.: 011- 23521081, 23531734

DP/6354/CD/19

Voices within Delhi Cong. seek Chacko's replacement

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

After failing to win any of the seven seats in the city during the Lok Sabha election, a section of the Delhi Congress has called for the replacement of Delhi AICC in-charge P.C. Chacko.

A few senior Congress leaders said Mr. Chacko was adamant about having a tie-up with AAP and hence the party candidates got less time to campaign. Also, several cadres were demotivated as alliance talks were going on with a party that had brought them down to "zero" in the Delhi Assembly.

"Under the leadership of Mr. Chacko, the party has lost all the elections. If party chief Rahul Gandhi can think of resigning after taking moral responsibility of the defeat then why should Mr. Chacko stay," said party leader Rohit Manchanda.

He alleged that Mr. Chacko "misbehaved" with him at party office on Friday. "I was there to greet him but he lashed out at me and said he will ensure that leaders like me have no right to be there in the party. I demand Mr. Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi to replace him," Mr. Manchanda added. Mr. Chacko denied having knowledge of any such incident.

(With inputs from PTI)

City boy gets AIR 3 in JEE Advanced

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The results of Joint Entrance Examination (Advanced) 2019 were announced by IIT-Roorkee on Friday, with 17-year-old Archit Bubna from Delhi securing the all-India rank 3 in the Common Rank List.

Archit said he had started his preparation for JEE 9Advanced) after Class X.

His hard work paid off as he secured 335 out of 372 marks. The teenager secured 116, 112 and 107 marks in physics, chemistry and mathematics respectively.

A student of Amity International School (Pushp Vihar), Archit had secured 97% in his Class XII exams. He wants to study computer science in IIT-Bombay or IIT-Delhi.

"I never stressed about studies. My preparations were constant right throughout high school," Archit said.

INSTITUTE OF BIORESOURCES & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (IBSD)
Department of Biotechnology, Government of India
O.P.Lalthagzuava Building,A-1,Chawanga Road,
Nursery Veng, Aizawl-796005, Mizoram (India)
Website: www.ibsd.gov.in | Email: ibsd.mizoram@gmail.com
Tele No:03892335333

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed Manufacturers/ Dealers for supply of **Scientific chemicals & consumables**. Details can be obtained from the **Office of** IBSD, O.P.Lalthagzuava Building, A-1,Chawanga Road, Nursery Veng, Aizawl-796005, Mizoram (India), Tel. no. 03892335333 on any working days or can also be downloaded from the **website: http://www.ibsd.gov.in** The tender will be received within 21 days from the date of publication of the tender.

INSTITUTE OF BIORESOURCES & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (IBSD)
Department of Biotechnology, Government of India
Tadong-737102, Gangtok, Sikkim (India)
Website: www.ibsd.gov.in | Email: amitrai.ibsd@gov.in

TENDER NOTICE

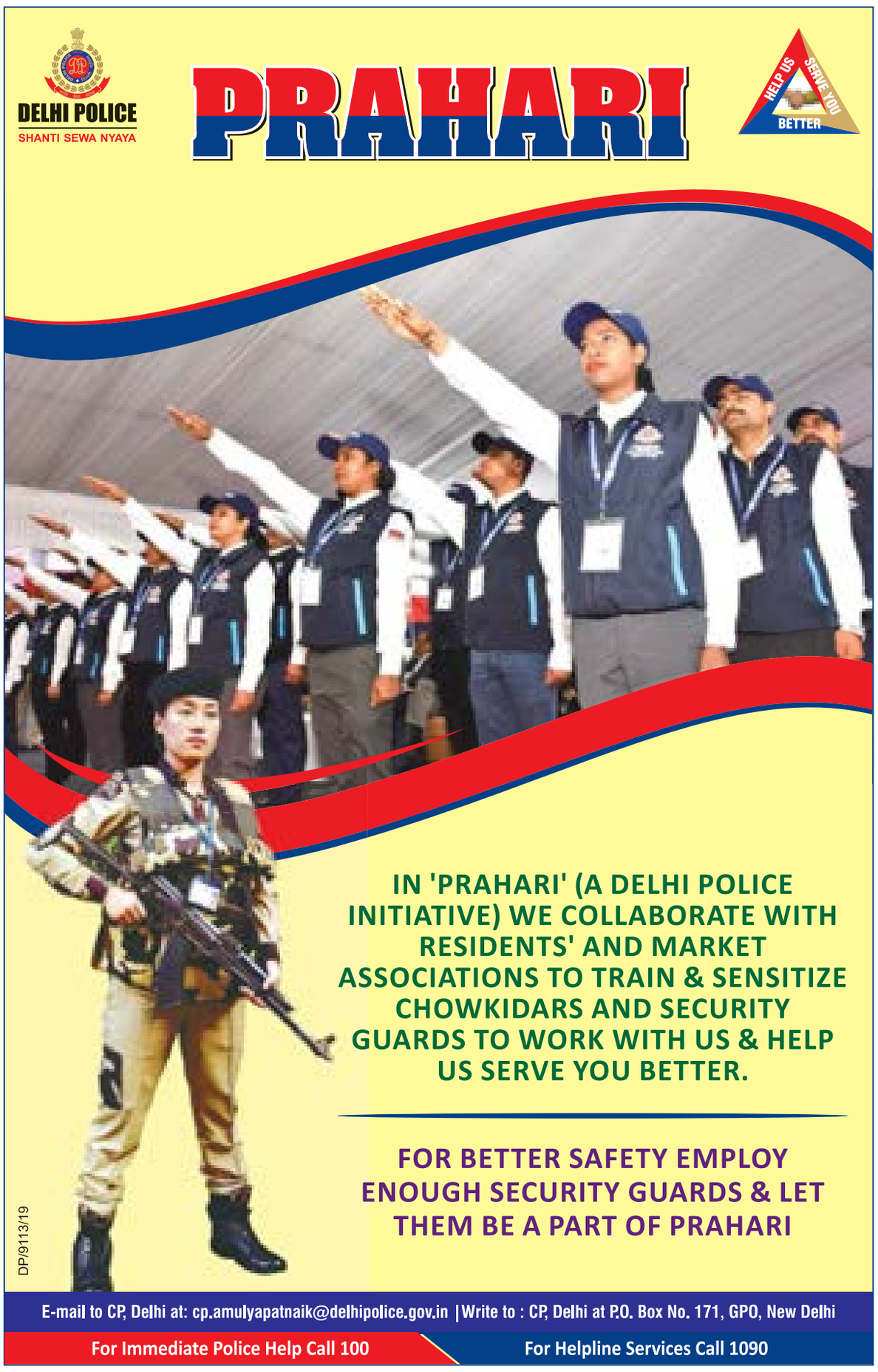
Sealed tenders are invited from reputed Manufacturers/ Dealers for supply of **Scientific chemicals & consumables**. Details can be obtained from the Office of IBSD, Tadong-737102, Gangtok, Sikkim, India, Phone - 9002165460, email: amitrai.ibsd@gov.in on any working days or can also be downloaded from the institute **website: http://www.ibsd.gov.in**

The tender should reach within 21 days from the date of publication of the tender to the address: Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development, Sikkim Centre, Near Metro Point, Tadong - 737102, Sikkim.

INSTITUTE OF BIORESOURCES & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (IBSD)
Department of Biotechnology, Government of India
6th Mile,Upper Shillong, Meghalaya-793009 (India)
Website: www.ibsd.gov.in| Email: ibsd.meghalaya@gmail.com
Tele No:0364-2561600

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed Manufacturers/ Dealers for supply of **Scientific Chemicals & Consumables**. Details can be obtained from the Office of IBSD, 6th Mile, Upper Shillong, Meghalaya-793009, India, Tele. No.0364-2561600 on any working days or can also be downloaded from the **website: http://www.ibsd.gov.in** The tender will be received within 21 days from the date of publication of the tender.



'Desilt drains by June 22'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Satyendar Jain on Friday directed the department to complete desilting of drains under its jurisdiction by June 22.

Mr. Jain instructed the engineers to instal bar screening and steel grills in drains connected to PWD drains to prevent floating material, a statement said.

"The Minister was informed that the progress of desilting of drains as on June 12 was 77% and the same will be completed by June 22," the statement read.

Mr. Jain also directed the officials to ensure that all the permanent pumps installed by the PWD for draining out run-off should be checked and kept in running condition.

Draft rules for green mobility gets DDA nod

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Friday approved the "Draft Regulations for Enhancing Walkability and Green Mobility" in the Capital.

Areas, including ITO, Delhi University's North and South Campus, Chandni Chowk, Uttam Nagar, ISBT, INA, Nehru Place and Karol Bagh, were shortlisted, where the regulations will be rolled out. The policy will now be sent to the housing ministry for approval, said officials.

FIVE SHOT WITHIN 24 HOURS

'Harassed' teen killed in Bhalswa

Family alleges local boys had threatened to kill him just a few weeks ago

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

Vishal Mishra ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A 17-year-old boy was shot in Outer North Delhi's Bhalswa Dairy on Thursday night, the police said on Friday.

A minor has been apprehended in connection with the case, they added.

The victim's family alleged that he was killed because he stopped his twin brother from engaging with antisocial elements, who had threatened to kill him around 20 days ago.

However, DCP (Outer North) Gaurav Sharma said the juvenile has told them that the victim, Vishal Mishra, used to beat him and had done the same two days ago. "He [the juvenile] has revealed the involvement of another person. A manhunt is on for him," the officer said. Vishal was from Shardhanand Colony had taken his Class X exam this year.

He used to live with his brother Gaurav, father Sujinder, mother Roshan and sister Neha (19), who was to get married in six days.

The family said Vishal had left the house at 10.30 p.m. on Thursday saying that he would bring noodles from a nearby market for dinner but did not return. After a while, two neighbours came to their house and informed them that Vishal had been shot in the head.

"Recently, Gaurav had started helping a few boys with their accounts in gambling," said Neha, adding: "Vishal had asked him not to do this. About two months ago, Vishal slapped Gaurav in front of those boys."

Attack with knife

"After this, the boys thrashed Vishal," she said. They continued to harass him over the next few weeks, Neha added.

About a month ago, the boys attacked Vishal with a knife, she said. He was rushed to Babu Jagjivan Ram Hospital.

"My parents had gone to speak to the parents of the accused minor. However, his mother denied her son's involvement," she added.

"The accused boys told him and our parents that he should either be sent out of Delhi or they would not let him attend my wedding," she said, adding that her paternal uncle had gone to speak to the accused but they did not listen.

"I had told my father that we should send him away. I Wish he had taken it seriously. My wedding was scheduled for June 21 and he had to go buy his suit on Friday," she cried.

Property dealer dragged out of his house, shot dead

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

A property dealer was dragged out of his house in west Delhi's Vikaspuri and shot allegedly by a group of men, the police said on Friday.

Amit Kochhar (35), who was hosting a party, had ordered food online for his friends when the incident took place at 10.50 p.m. on Thursday night, they said. His bell rang and thinking that it would be the delivery man, he opened the door. He saw three to four persons standing, who immediately dragged him outside. They put him inside a car that was parked on the opposite side, the police said.

His friends said after 10 minutes, they heard a gunshot and rushed towards the car but the accused threatened to shoot them.

The accused then threw Amit's body out of the car and sped off, the victim's family alleged.

Amit had recently resigned from a BPO in Gurugram and got into a property dealing business.

The police said that Amit was rushed to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital where he was declared brought dead.

Two gunned down at traffic signal; one held

Victims were out on bail: cops

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

In a suspected case of gang rivalry, two men were shot dead at a traffic signal in north-east Delhi's Nand Nagri on Friday afternoon, the police said.

The deceased, Khurvesh (40) and Kanchi (28), were both from Nand Nagari. Khurvesh was named in 41 cases while Kanchi was named in several heinous criminal cases, the police said.

The victims had become friends when they were lodged in Tihar jail. After being released on, they used to commit crimes together, said the police.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North-East) Atul Thakur said a call was received at 12.10 p.m. regarding a shoot-out at a traffic signal in Nand Nagri. A team rushed to the spot and took the injured to Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital where they were declared brought dead.

The locals said two persons travelling in a white car stopped at a red light when three to four people walked towards the vehicle with pistols drawn.

Near police station

They then opened fire at the victims. The incident happened just a few metres away from a police station.

"The assailants fired indiscriminately for a minute and left the place only after ensuring that the occupants in the car had died," said an eyewitness.

Mr. Thakur said they have arrested one man, who had provided logistic support to the criminals.

"We have also procured CCTV footage in which the suspects can be seen walking away after committing the murder.

Man killed over 'land disputes'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 42-year-old man was shot by members of a family in Bhalswa Dairy on Thursday night, the police said on Friday. The accused have been identified, they added.

Chandra Shekhar Singh from Shradhanand Colony used to manage the property dealings of a real estate businessman in the area. DCP (Outer North) Gaurav Sharma said raids are being conducted in Delhi, Haryana and U.P. to nab the accused.

Singh's wife Vandana said that at 9.30 p.m. on Thursday, she called him to ask his whereabouts. "He told me that he was reaching home in 10 minutes," she said.

A few minutes later, Ms. Vandana was informed that her husband had been shot. The family suspects personal enmity over a few land disputes. "He used to work for a big property dealer. About a week ago, someone had told him to instal a CCTV camera because of a possible threat. He had told me that someone was following him but he was confident that no one would kill him," she added.

CM asks L-G, Home Minister to look into law and order situation

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday urged Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to urgently look into the Capital's law and order situation after five people were shot in the "last 24 hours" in separate incidents. "Five murders in Delhi in last 24 hours is an extremely serious situation. I appeal to @LtGovDelhi & @HMOIndia to urgently look into the law and order situation of the national capital [sic]," Mr. Kejriwal tweeted.

Five people were killed in four separate incidents since Thursday night.

'Personal enmity'

Reacting to Mr. Kejriwal's tweet, the police said all the murders were due to personal enmity.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Sonu Singh @ Vijay** S/o **Suresh Singh**, R/o H. No. 9775, Bagh Rao Ji, Kachha Chowk, kishan Ganj, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence **FIR No. 450/2016 u/s 392/411/34 IPC** has been registered at P.S. Prasad Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Sonu Singh @ Vijay** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Sonu Singh @ Vijay** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr. P.C. have been initiated in this case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Sonu Singh @ Vijay** accused of **FIR No. 450/2016 u/s 392/411/34 IPC** is required to appear before this Court to answer said complaint on or before **05.08.2019**

By Order
Sh. Fahad Uddin
Metropolitan Magistrate(Central Distt.),
Room No. 180, 1st Floor, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/6348/CD/19

GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF FIRE SERVICES
TRIPURA: :AGARTALA

Phone: 0381-232-6451, Fax: 0381-2324826, Email: tripurafireservice@gmail.com
Website: www.fireservice.tripura.gov.in
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

PNIT No.F. 2-7(PP)/TFS/2019-20/01 **Dated Agartala, 10th June, 2019**

The undersigned, on behalf of the Governor of Tripura, invites online e-Tender in two-bid system (Technical & Financial) for "Procurement of Portable Fire Pump -275LPM (Petrol)" through e-procurement portal of Government of Tripura https://tripuratenders.gov.in from the experienced, resourceful manufacturers and authorized dealers in India having credential for similar nature of work.

Sr. No.	Particulars	Earnest Money	Tender Fee	Bid submission closing date & time through website
1	Procurement of Portable Fire Pump -275LPM (Petrol)-48 Sets	Rs. 3,00,000/-	RS. 1000/-	09/07/2019, 3.00 pm

This notice is only to provide most preliminary information to the interested bides. The department reserves the right to reject/accept my any tender, not inconformity with relevant DNIeT without assigning any reason.
On behalf of the Governor of Tripura

SD/-
(Uttam Kumar Bhaumik, IPS)
Joint Director, Fire Service,
Nodal Officer (e-Tender),
Tripura, Agartala

ICA/C/290/19

CENTRE FOR NANO AND SOFT MATTER SCIENCES
Autonomous Institute under the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India
P. B. No.1329, Prof. U. R. Rao Road, Jalahalli, Bengaluru – 560 013
Tel : +91-80-2308 4200; Fax : +91-80-2838 2044
E-mail : purchase@cens.res.in
Tender Notice # : CeNS/2019-20/Advt. 004 11 June 2019

TENDER NOTICE

CeNS, Jalahalli, Bengaluru invites sealed tenders from qualified vendors/ manufacturers for the following equipment:

1.	Hyperspectral Darkfield Imaging Microscope	1 No.

The tender documents along with detailed technical specifications can be downloaded from CeNS website: **www.cens.res.in** under 'Tenders' or from the Govt. of India Central Public Procurement Portal at **http://eprocure.gov.in.** Last date for submission of tender: 01.07.2019.

Sd/-
Administration and Finance Officer

Himachal Pradesh
Public Works Department
"NOTICE INVITING TENDER"

Sealed item rate tender on form 6 & 8 are invited by the Executive Engineer, Mandi Division No.II HP:PWD, Mandi for the following works from the approved and eligible contractors enlisted in HP:PWD, so as to reach in his office on or before **4.7.2019** upto 11:30 A.M and will be opened on the same day at 3:30 P.M in the presence of interesting contractors or their authorized representatives who may like to be present. If it happen to be holiday on the tender will be open on next working day. The application for obtaining the tender form will be received up to **1:00 P.M on 03.07.2019** and EMD should be attached during the submission of application for obtaining the tender form, without EMD application will not be accepted and the tender form can be had from this office against cash payment (Non refundable) up to 5:00P.M on **03.07.2019.**

The earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificate/Time deposit accounts/saving account in any of the post office and Banks of Himachal Pradesh duly pledged in favour of the Xen must accompany with each tender conditional tender and the tender received without earnest money will summarily be rejected. The earnest money should be attached with application. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject the tender without assigning any reason.

Sr. No	Name of Work.	Estimated Cost.	EMD	Cost of tender	Eligible class of Contractor	Time limit.
1	C/O 125.00 mtr. Span Foot Bridge over Beas River from Paddal to Purani Mandi, Distt. Mandi (H.P) (SH: Demolition and C/O Mandhole, Pillars, plateform and P/L HDPE 200mm dia pipe)	228890-	4600-	350	"D" to C	Two Months
2	C/O Additional Accommodation of Circuit House Mandi H.P (Site development by providing C/O R/ wall)	439963-	8800-	350	"D" to C	Two Months
3	C/O Additional Accommodation of Circuit house Mandi H.P (Providing and fixing UPVC doors and windows)	359688-	7200-	350	"D" to C	Two Months

GENERAL CONDITIONS:-

- The tender forms will not be issued to those contractors whose performance is not found satisfactory.
- The contractors whose rates are abnormally low may be asked to furnish the full justification of his rate failing which he will be debarred to compete in tendering for four months.
- The contractor will not have more than two works in hand at the time of tender and only up to completion of work satisfactory including adherence to quality parameters further work will be awarded to him. All undertaking that he is not having more than two works in hand must be recorded in the application.

Executive Engineer,
Mandi Division No. II

HP/0480/19-20 **HP:PWD Mandi.**

Office of the Director
Directorate of Technical Education, Vocational and Industrial Training
Sunder Nagar, Mandi, Himachal Pradesh

Invitation for Bids No.: 006/2019 Date: 10/06/2019

Loan/Grant No. and Title: Loan No.: 3573-IND/ Himachal Pradesh Skill Development Project.

Contract Package No. and Title: **HPSDP-DOTE/01**; Supply of **Automobile and related equipment's** for Industrial Training Institutes to enhance Technical and Vocational Skills among the youth of Himachal Pradesh (**Package-01**), comprising of following lots:

Lot-1: Simulators, Working Models & Cut Section Models

Lot-2: Engine, Chassis & engine parts

Lot-3: Machines/ General Installation of Automobile Workshop & tools

Deadline for Submission of Bids **10th July 2019 at 13:30 hrs. (IST)**

India has applied for financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of "Himachal Pradesh Skill Development Project" and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to the payment under the Contract Package named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.

- The "Directorate of Technical Education, Vocational and Industrial Training, Himachal Pradesh", represented by the Director ("The Purchaser") invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply of **Automobile and related equipment's** for Industrial Training Institutes.

Lot-1: Simulators, Working Models & Cut Section Models

Lot-2: Engine, Chassis & engine parts

Lot-3: Machines/ General Installation of Automobile Workshop & tools

- **National Competitive Bidding** will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-stage: Two-envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
- Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:
  - Successful completion as main supplier within the last three (3) years, of at least One (1) contract with nature, and complexity similar to the scope of supply described in Section 6 (Schedule of Supply). The contract value Lot-wise is indicated below:
    INR 209.81 Lakhs for Lot-1 (Simulators, Working Models & Cut Section Models)
    INR 488.19 Lakhs for Lot-2 (Engine, Chassis & engine parts)
    INR 212.32 Lakhs for Lot-3 (Machines/ General Installation of Automobile Workshop & tools)
    Bidder bidding for more than 1 (one) Package has to submit the Work Experience accordingly.
  - Minimum average annual turnover as indicated below calculated as total payments received by the Bidder for contracts completed or under execution over the last three (3) years.
    The Average Annual Turnover Lot-wise is indicated below:
    INR 524.54 Lakhs for Lot-1 (Simulators, Working Models & Cut Section Models)
    INR 1220.5 Lakhs for Lot-2 (Engine, Chassis & engine parts)
    INR 530.80 Lakhs for Lot-3 (Machines/ General Installation of Automobile Workshop & tools)
- However, for complete eligibility and qualification requirements, bid document should be referred.
- To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, Bidders should contact:
  Attention: The Director,
  Directorate of Technical Education, Vocational and Industrial Training
  Circular Road, Lalit Chowk, Sunder Nagar,
  District: Mandi, Himachal Pradesh - ZIP code: 175018
  Country: India
  Telephone & Fax: 01907-266120; 266722
  E-mail address: techedu-hp@nic.in
- To purchase the bidding documents in English language, eligible Bidders should write or visit at the office of the Purchaser at address stated above and pay a non-refundable fee of INR 10,000 in the form of Bank Demand Draft. In case of written request, the document will be sent by post and no liability will be accepted, for loss or late delivery.

The eligible bidders may otherwise download the bidding document for English language from the website http://himachal.nic.in/index1.php?lang=1&dpt_id=2&level=1&lid=1151&sublinkid=1900, such bidders shall be required to submit INR 10,000 with their bid in the form of Bank demand draft in the name of the Director Technical Education, Sundernagar, HP towards cost of bidding document.

- Deliver your bid
  - to the address above
  - On or before the deadline: **10th July 2019 at 13:30 hrs. (IST)**
  - together with a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Document.
- Bids will be opened on **10th July 2019 at 14:30 hrs. (IST)** in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- The Purchaser will not be responsible for any cost or expenses incurred by the bidder in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

-sd-
Director

HP/0490/19-20

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, ART CULTURE, SPORTS AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (TOURISM)
Director Ph. : 0651-2400493, Fax : 2400492, Email : dirjharkhandtourism@gmail.com
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SELECTION OF AN AGENCY FOR PRINTING OF BROCHURE FOR JHARKHAND TOURISM

Ref. No. **Tou./Dir./Plan-23/2018.**- 819../ **Tender Notice** Ranchi, Dated : **13/06/2019**

The Directorate of Tourism (DoT), Govt. of Jharkhand as an endeavor for promotion of tourism and culture of Jharkhand state intends to select an Agency for Printing of Brochure for Jharkhand Tourism.

Interested agencies may download the document from 13/06/2019 onwards from the Department of Tourism website:–www.jharkhandtourism.gov.in/ and submit their Applications. The Application Due Date is on **09/07/2019 at 14:00 hours**.

A pre-application conference will be held on 20/06/2019 by 12:00 Hours at MDI Building, 2nd floor, HEC Campus, Dhurwa, Ranchi–04, Tele Phone: 0651-2400493, e-mail: dirjharkhandtourism@gmail.com.

All subsequent notifications, changes and amendments will be posted only on the website www.jharkhandtourism.gov.in.

Directorate of Tourism reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and annul the selection process at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd/-
Director,Tourism.

PR 208727 (Tourism, Art Culture Sports And Youth Affairs)19-20#D

GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NORTH TRIPURA

No.F.8 (3)-Agri/Engg/N/2019-20/304-06 **Dated, 16/06/2019**

-:CORRIGENDUM:-

Reference PNIT No. 01/EE(Agri)/N/2019-20 dated 01/06/2019, DNIT No e-23/SE/AGRI/EE(NORTH)/2018-19 and e-19/SE/AGRI/EE(NORTH)/2018-19 circulated vide office no F.8(3)-Agri/Engg/N/2019-20/246-49 dated 01/06/2019. Please read the following in format-B.

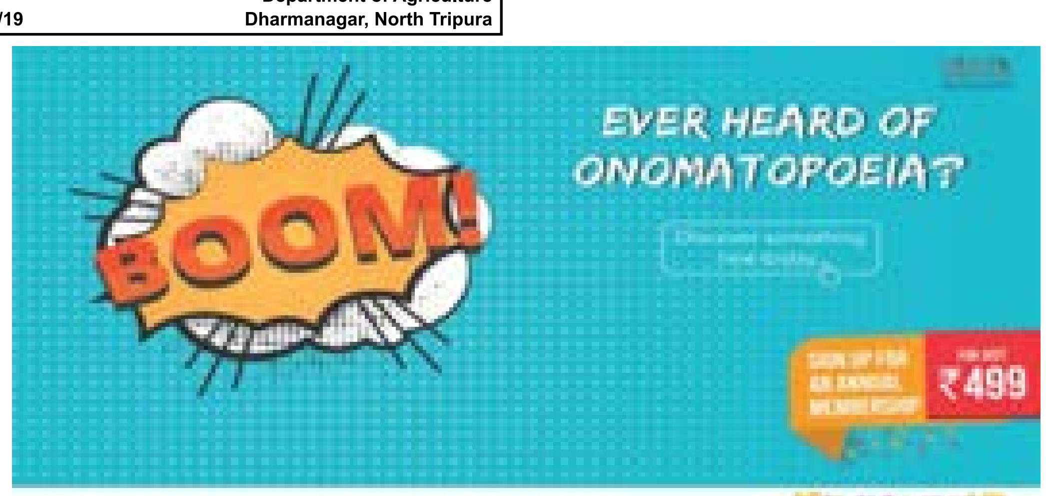
a) Dead line for online bidding will be 21/06/2019 up to 3.00 PM instead of 15/03/2019 upto 3.00 PM

b) Time and date of opening of online bid at 15.30 hrs on 21/06/2019 (if possible) instead of at 15.30 hrs on 15/03/2019 (if possible).

Er. S. C. Das
Executive Engineer
Department of Agriculture
ICA-C-309/19 **Dharmanagar, North Tripura**

North Eastern Railway TENDER NOTICE

[illegible]



Raymond
Summer Collection
SALE
Extra fine Linen, Cotton, Silk & Wool blended
Fabric for Formals, Casual & Party Wear
Shirts, Trousers, Suits & Ethnic Wear
50% off BLAZER•SUIT
SHIRT•TROUSER•T-SHIRTS
PUNCHKUIAN ROAD Garwal Bhawan, Opp. Metro Pillar 44, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkkar.)
WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543. Adj. Umang Palace,
NOIDA Nirula's Sec-2, C-135, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
LAJPAT NAGAR 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand, Crossing, Delhi
Economy Sales: 23539218

Union Steel Minister meets Naveen in Delhi

Discussed many issues, nothing to do with politics: Pradhan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR

Union Petroleum and Steel Minister Dharmendra Pradhan met Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in New Delhi on Thursday and discussed several issues, including development of the steel sector in Odisha.

Describing his meeting with Mr. Patnaik as a courtesy call, Mr. Pradhan told journalists that it had nothing to do with politics. They discussed about creating more employment opportunity for the youth in the State, he added.

Mr. Pradhan, who met Mr. Patnaik at Odisha Bhavan, said they also discussed the Centre's role in relief works in the districts affected by Cyclone Fani last month. Mr. Patnaik is in New Delhi on a week-long visit.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik.

The meeting assumes significance as Mr. Pradhan hails from Odisha and holds the steel portfolio in the second term of the Narendra Modi government, apart from the portfolio of petroleum and natural gas that he held earlier.

In a series of tweets after the meeting, Mr. Pradhan said he discussed with Mr. Patnaik about "ways to work together to usher in economic and industrial development and generate employment opportunities to bring all-round prosperity for the people of Odisha."

'Global steel hub'

"Also discussed enhancing Odisha's footprints further in the steel sector. Steel will have a large influence in rejuvenating the economy in Odisha. The Centre is committed to develop Odisha as a global hub of ancillary industry in the steel sector," he said in a tweet.

"The Chief Minister has assured all cooperation in this regard. I am sure the State government will support Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiatives and work in collaboration for the holistic development of Odisha," he said in another tweet.

Ajay Alok quits as JD(U) spokesman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA

Firebrand Janata Dal (United) leader Ajay Alok has resigned from the post of party spokesperson stating that he does not wish to cause "embarrassment" to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who also heads the party.

Although Mr. Alok, one of the most visible faces of his party, didn't elaborate on what might have "embarrassed" his political mentor, there have been murmurs of Mr. Kumar being upset over his party spokesperson going overboard in his criticism of the Mamata Banerjee government in West Bengal and the illegal immigration problem in that State.

He shared his resignation letter, addressed to the party's State unit chief Bashishtha Narayan Singh, on his Twitter handle late on Thursday night.

After Priyanka, Scindia meets U.P. Cong. leaders

To find out causes for poll debacle

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Following his party's worst-ever drubbing in the Lok Sabha polls in Uttar Pradeh, Congress general secretary Jyotiraditya Scindia on Friday met the party's State leaders to assess what went wrong in the elections.

Mr. Scindia, who was made in-charge of western U.P. and given the responsibility of 38 of the 80 Lok Sabha seats in the State, failed to ensure a single victory.

A Congress leader who attended the meeting said he spoke to the district and city unit chiefs of the organisation to find out the possible causes behind the rout.

Two days ago, party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, entrusted with the task of managing polls in the remaining 42 seats in the eastern U.P., carried out a similar exercise in Raebareli, which was the only seat won by the party this time from the State.

UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi was re-elected from Raebareli, while Congress president Rahul Gandhi, her son, lost his Amethi seat.

Brainstorming session

Ms. Vadra has asked senior U.P. Congress leaders to attend a brainstorming session in Delhi over the weekend to chart out the strategy to contest the 2022 U.P. Assembly polls.

NHRC notice to police over assault on scribe

'Gross violation of the victim's rights'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission on Friday issued a notice to the Uttar Pradesh Police over reports of a Government Railway Police station house officer assaulting a television journalist in Shamli district on Tuesday.

Taking *suo motu* cognisance of media reports, the NHRC said, if true, the reports pointed towards gross violation of the victim's rights.

The scribe was brutally attacked by a SHO of the GRP when he had gone to report on a train derailment in the area, along with other reporters.

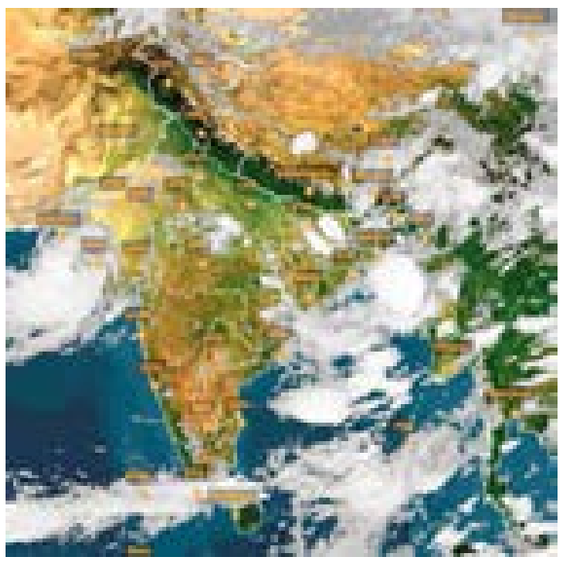
"An argument took place between the journalists and the police personnel. The victim was then thrashed and dragged to the local GRP police station where he was locked up. The victim has claimed that he was stripped and the SHO urinated in his mouth," the NHRC said.

Calling for a report within four weeks from the DGP, the NHRC said: "Going by the reported allegations, this kind of cruel and uncivilised act by a public servant is highly disgraceful and cannot be tolerated in a civilised society. Stern action should be taken against the police personnel, if found guilty, so that such barbaric act is not repeated by any public servant, in future."

After video of the incident went viral on social media, the SHO and a constable were booked and suspended.

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 Saturday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Konkan & Goa and Kerala. Heat wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over west Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Telangana

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	23.2	30.0	25.6	Kozhikode	47.8	31.0	24.4
Ahmedabad	–	37.1	27.1	Kurnool	–	38.5	27.0
Aizawl	34	25.3	20.0	Lucknow	–	43.1	29.6
Allahabad	2.1	44.7	28.4	Madurai	–	40.0	26.4
Bengaluru	–	31.0	22.0	Mangaluru	6.4	30.1	23.5
Bhopal	–	39.2	28.0	Mumbai	17.4	34.2	26.8
Bhubaneswar	–	38.1	25.5	Mysuru	–	30.6	21.3
Chandigarh	–	41.8	27.5	New Delhi	–	43.7	29.6
Chennai	–	40.1	29.6	Patna	–	43.8	31.0
Coimbatore	–	33.3	24.2	Port Blair	72.3	30.2	23.4
Dehradun	–	39.4	25.1	Puducherry	0.7	38.2	25.6
Gangtok	–	25.3	18.9	Pune	1.3	33.3	22.8
Goa	45.5	32.5	23.1	Raipur	–	42.8	30.6
Guwahati	6.5	31.5	25.7	Ranchi	–	38.7	28.5
Hubballi	–	28.0	22.0	Shillong	4.1	25.5	17.9
Hyderabad	–	36.2	25.7	Shimla	–	28.5	17.7
Imphal	5.8	25.5	22.6	Srinagar	–	28.0	12.8
Jaipur	–	40.8	28.5	Trivandrum	5.8	31.6	24.6
Kochi	9.4	32.6	24.4	Tiruchi	–	39.1	28.6
Kohima	–	28.4	17.8	Vijayawada	–	40.9	31.4
Kolkata	–	39.6	29.1	Visakhapatnam	–	35.0	29.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	72	135	.67	47	–	Moderate
Bengaluru	3	.24	.16	80	71	Good
Chennai	6	.54	.52	117	–	Moderate
Delhi	19	.14	.70	110	.247	Poor
Hyderabad	16	.24	.11	32	48	Good
Kolkata	3	.39	.23	122	.121	Moderate
Lucknow	10	.23	.44	234	–	Poor
Mumbai	27	9	101	31	85	Moderate
Pune	61	8	.29	48	48	Good
Visakhapatnam	22	.72	.40	68	.115	Moderate

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Patna, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 274 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Guwahati, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 32

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

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: 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

Man ends life after beating his 3 daughters to death

The man, a daily wage earner, was depressed, say neighbours

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

A man allegedly beat his three minor daughters to death before ending his life in Odisha's Keonjhar district on Friday.

The incident took place around 3.30 p.m. when Durga Sidhu, who belonged to a tribal community, set upon his daughters. The local police later recovered four bodies from his house in Ulibasa village.

"The man lost his wife about four years ago. He was staying with his mother, who was taking care of his three daughters. At the time of the incident, his mother had gone out," said Gagan Biswal, inspector of police at the Anandpur police station.

No clue

"According to neighbours, the man, a daily wage earner, was depressed. On the occasion of the Raja festival, which got under way on Friday, he had bought new dresses for his daughters. However, nobody has any clue why he killed his daughters aged nine, seven and five," Mr. Biswal said.

BJD MP booked for assaulting woman scribe

'His brother was harassing scribe'

CORRESPONDENT
CUTTACK

Newly elected BJD MP from Kendrapara Anubhav Mohanty, his younger brother Anuprash and the MP's actor wife, Barsha Priyadarshini, were booked on Friday for voluntarily hurting, assaulting and harassing a woman journalist.

Written complaint

"A case under Sections 294, 354-A, 323 and 34 of IPC has been registered against all the three," said Purighat police station in-charge Rashmi Ranjan Sahu.

He said the case has been registered on a written complaint of the woman journalist.

The woman in her complaint said the MP's younger brother had been passing lewd comments at her for the past few days. When she visited the MP's house on Wednesday to complain about it, Mr. Mohanty and his wife allegedly assaulted her. The MP was not available for comment.

Mr. Sahu said the statement of the complainant has been recorded under Section 161 of CrPC and the police would soon question those named in the FIR.

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IN BRIEF

'Soften PM's heart' on SCS, Jagan tells Shah

NEW DELHI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy on Friday met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and requested him to "soften the PM's heart" on the issue of granting Special Category status to the ₹2.58 lakh crore debt-ridden State. Mr. Reddy also said he would raise the demand in the first meeting of the governing council of the NITI Aayog, to be chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Saturday. PTI

Woman tied to pole for not repaying loan

BENGALURU

Seven people have been arrested in connection with a case where a woman was allegedly tied to a pole in Kodigehalli, a suburb in Bengaluru, for not repaying a loan, the police said. The matter came to the fore after a video of the incident went viral. The 36-year-old woman, Rajamani, hails from Kollegal in Chamarajanagar district and runs a small hotel and a chit fund business. She owed ₹50,000 to some people who were allegedly forcing her to return the money. ANI

Three killed in blast at chemical factory

VIZIANAGARAM

Three workers were killed and as many critically injured after a boiler exploded at the Balaji Chemicals Factory in the Bobbili Industrial Centre, 60 km from Vizianagaram in A.P. on Friday. The deceased were identified as A. Jagadiswara Rao, 30, K. Suresh, 32, and Gopal Naidu, 35, all of Vizianagaram district. The grievously injured were shifted to the King George Hospital in Visakhapatnam. Thick smoke engulfed the area, sparking panic among residents living in the vicinity of the factory.

Kumaraswamy expands Cabinet

R. Shankar and H. Nagesh inducted into Karnataka Ministry; one berth vacant

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

In an attempt to douse the simmering discontent in the governing coalition and ensure stability of the year-old government, Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy expanded his Cabinet on Friday, inducting Karnataka Pragnyavantha Janata Party (KPJP) MLA for Ranebennur R. Shankar and Independent MLA for Mulbagal H. Nagesh.

With the Ministry size fixed at 34, only one berth is now vacant in the State Cabinet after Friday's expansion. The Congress and the Janata Dal (Secular) have signed a pact to have 22 and 12 Cabinet berths, respectively.

The Congress has filled its quota of 22 Ministers while the JD(S) has filled 11.

Governor Vajubhai R. Vala administered the oath of office to the new Cabinet Ministers in the Glass House in the Raj Bhavan in the presence of Mr. Kumraswamy and Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara.

New faces: H. Nagesh and R. Shankar after taking oath at Raj Bhavan in Bengaluru on Friday. ▪ K. MURALI KUMAR

Both Mr. Shankar and Mr. Nagesh are first-time MLAs. Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah, Cabinet Ministers, and Congress and JD(S) leaders attended the programme.

A large number of relatives and supporters of the newly sworn-in Ministers were also present.

Merges party with Cong.

Before taking oath as Minister, Mr. Shankar gave a letter to Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah stating that he had merged the KPJP with the Congress. Mr. Shankar was inducted into the Cabinet under the Congress quota. He is expected to take primary membership of the party in a day or two.

Mr. Shankar became a Minister in the Kumaraswamy government for the second time in less than seven months while Mr. Nagesh, former KPTCL director and a close associate of Water Resources Minister D.K. Shivakumar, became a Minister for the first time.

Mr. Shankar, who defeated the former Legislative Assembly Speaker K.B. Koliwad of the Congress in Assembly election, was first inducted when Mr. Kumaraswamy formed his Cabinet in June 2018 and was given the Forest portfolio. He was dropped during the Cabinet expansion in December 2018.

Leaving out senior leaders in favour of the two Independents is expected to reignite anger among leaders of both the Congress and the JD(S), source said.

Sabarimala issue contributed to CPI(M) defeat: party report

'There was erosion even in traditional strongholds'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The entry of two women into the Sabarimala temple in the wake of the government-sponsored women's wall programme provided an opportunity for the UDF and the BJP to utilise the issue for electoral gain and contributed to the defeat of the CPI (M) in Kerala, according to an analysis of the party's performance in the Lok Sabha elections.

Red alert: The review report of the CPI(M) central panel says the party failed to understand the mood of the people.

The review report adopted by the CPI(M) central committee said the failure of the party to understand the mood of the people was a matter of serious concern and urged the State committee to rectify the mistakes and shortcomings.

The report published on the party's website expresses concern over the erosion of the CPI(M)'s vote base even in traditional strongholds and the failure of the party's campaign to convince the electorate about the need to strengthen the presence of the Left in Parliament.

It said the Congress-led United Democratic Front and the BJP managed to wean away a section of traditional CPI(M) supporters.

The document called upon the State unit to examine why the hard work of the party had not translated into electoral support.

Cabinet panel to look into JSW land deal

BJP launches a day-and-night protest against the sale of over 3,600 acres of land

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Even as the BJP started a day-and-night protest against the sale of over 3,600 acres of land in Sandur to JSW Steel, the Karnataka Cabinet on Friday decided to set up a Cabinet sub-committee to look into the issue.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, RDPR Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said the Cabinet decided to reconsider the issue following criticism from various quarters.

Karnataka BJP chief B.S. Yeddyurappa, along with party leaders and workers, staging a protest in Bengaluru. ▪ AFP

'Nothing illegal'

"Although there is nothing illegal in the deal, the Cabinet has decided that the issue needs to be re-examined with an elaborate discussion through a sub-committee. The Chief Minister will take a call on the constitution of the committee," the Minister said.

The Minister said Industries Minister K.J. George himself had suggested that the issue be re-examined. "He has also requested the Chief Minister not to include him as a member of the committee," Mr. Krishna Byre Gowda said.

The Cabinet's earlier decision to sell the land to JSW had provided ammunition to the BJP to launch an attack on the government, even though the Chief Minister had promised a re-look into the issue.

The BJP had suspected kickback and started the day-and-night dharna from Friday.

The move had also embarrassed the coalition government as senior Congress leader H.K. Patil and JD(S) State president A.H. Vishwanath opposed it.

On its part, the government had made it clear that the decision to sell the land was only the culmination of an earlier move made when the BJP was part of the government.

Officials pitch in to help student quarantined due to Nipah scare

Officers help relative of patient apply for higher studies

SHYAMA RAJAGOPAL
KOCHI

It was an emergency effort with a difference as health and education authorities in Nipah-epicentre Vadakkekara came together to ensure that a girl could continue her studies.

The family of the sole Nipah patient from the district has been under quarantine since the confirmation of the infection in the 23-year-old. It was only after the immediate threat to his life subsided that a close relative discovered she had only a few days left to submit her application for higher studies but could not leave home.

On June 12, the student shared her concern with the Junior Health Inspector Suresh C., who had been calling on the family twice a day to monitor their condition. The last date for submitting the application was June 15.

Her plea set off a coordinated humanitarian effort across departments.

Mr. Suresh relayed her request to the authorities at the district Nipah control room where WHO representative P.S. Rakesh asked him to check if the certificates required could be procured without the student's presence.

Mr. Suresh then approached the nearest Akshaya e-seva centre which responded positively, providing certificates for income and caste. He then collected the application form from the Akshaya centre, got the student's signature and details of her family ration card and her SSLC book.

Pitching in, her school principal immediately provided the necessary certificates and the Akshaya centre uploaded the details, which were then certified by Vadakkekara panchayat president K.M. Ambrose.

While it takes at least three days to get the certificates ready, they were made available within a day and the student could submit her application on June 13.

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Through this notice, the concerned and general public at large is hereby informed that Rishi Raj Goel S/o Sudhir Kumar Goel with last known address at 35-C, Gautam Nagar New Delhi-110049, who was an employee of Moftware Infotech Pvt Ltd (AMZER) Employee Code MIPL092, has left from our organization. General public is hereby cautioned that he has no authority of whatsoever nature to transact any business or to receive any money on behalf of the company General Public is alerted, not to enter into any transaction with Rishi on behalf of (AMZER) or Moftware Groups, any person dealing with him shall do so at his/her own risk and responsibility. Company shall not be responsible for the unauthorsed and unlawful action of Rishi Raj Goel in any manner.

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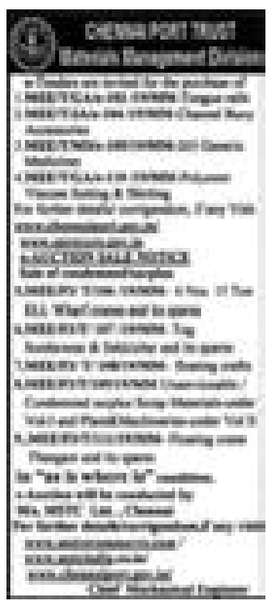

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I SHANTANU Singh have lost my CBSE marksheet an FIR was lodged.

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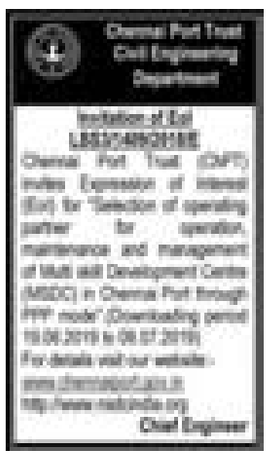

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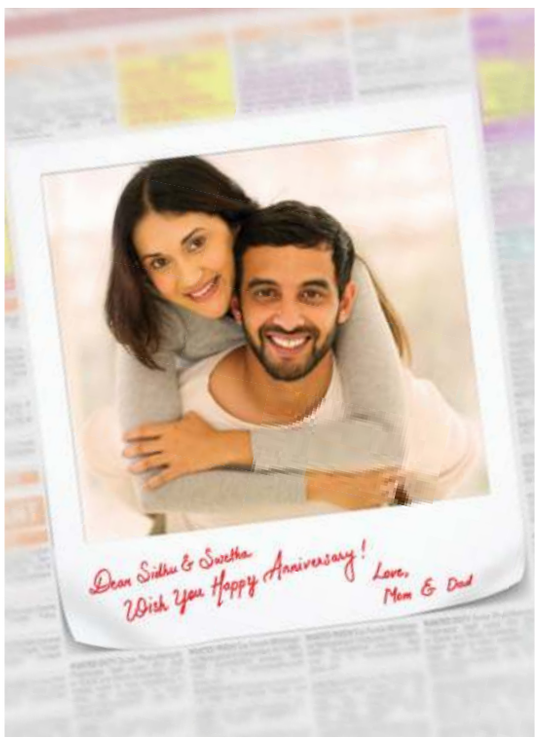

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IN BRIEF

Mobile phone found in Chautala's cell

NEW DELHI

The Tihar jail authorities have recovered a mobile phone and charger hidden beneath the bed sheet and pillow of former Haryana Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala during a surprise check, an officer said on Friday. Mr. Chautala is lodged in a cell with two other prisoners, both murder convicts.Mr. Chautala, 84, his son and ex-MLA Ajay Singh Chautala and three others are serving 10-year jail term in the Haryana Junior Basic Teachers recruitment scam. They were convicted in 2013.

Five policemen shot dead in Jharkhand

KOLKATA

At least five policemen were killed in an attack by unidentified gunmen in south Jharkhand on Friday. The incident took place in the Tiruldih police station area in Saraikela district. One constable is missing. A local journalist said that "eight to ten men on motorcycles" attacked the policemen. The weapons of the security personnel are missing, which indicates that it is the handiwork of either a group of local gangsters or armed Naxal insurgents.

RPF busts illegal railway ticketing racket

BERHAMPUR

As part of its 'operation thunder' against illegal railway e-ticketing rackets, Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel, during a raid, unearthed one such unit operating in Odisha's Berhampur. A person named M.B.Patra, who was running the racket was arrested, said M.Dilip Kumar, inspector of Berhampur RPF.

Probe agencies see similarities in murder of two rationalists

Dabholkar shot dead in Pune in 2013; Pansare killed in a similar way in Kolhapur

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Investigating agencies told the Bombay High Court on Friday that they found some commonalities in the way rationalists Govind Pansare and Narendra Dabholkar were murdered and that they will soon start a countrywide search to look for the pistols used for the murder.

A division bench was hearing a bunch of petitions filed by members of the Pansare and Dabholkar families. The Central Bureau of Investigation's special investigation team (CBI SIT) is investigating the Dabholkar murder and the State Crime Investigation Department (CID) is probing the Pansare murder.

Additional solicitor general and CBI counsel Anil Singh told the court that a countrywide operation will be carried out within a month to search for the four country-made pistols used to kill Dabholkar. It is believed that the pistols were dismantled and thrown in a creek next to Thane.

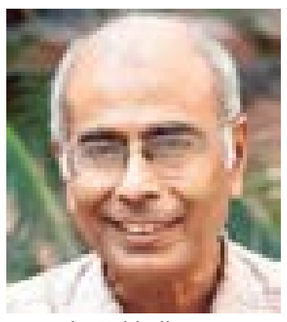
He said the agency is waiting for confirmations and permissions to commence the operation. The court responded to this by saying the operation should not be delayed, and must be carried out before the onset of monsoon.

Senior counsel Ashok Mundargi representing CID reiterated that the main conspirators in Mr. Pansare's murder have been arrested and they will soon get hold of the attackers.

The bench then questioned if there are any commonalities between the two crimes. To this Mr. Mundargi said, "Yes to some extent commonality is established between the two crimes."

The court then remarked, "We feel like there is some spark missing in [the Pansare] case. It is not the case that the shooters will never be arrested. They will be nabbed one day. But it should have been done by now."

Mr. Dabholkar, a well-known anti-superstition activist, was shot dead on August , 2013 in Pune. Mr. Pansare was shot on February, 2015 near his house in Kolhapur in western Maharashtra. He died four days later.



Narendra Dabholkar

Govind Pansare

SC declines to look into students' plea on NEET

'Testing agency has already gone through the questions'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday declined to entertain a students' petition, which alleged that some questions in this year's National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) (UG) were out of NCERT syllabus.

The top court remarked that the National Testing Agency (NTA), which conducted the exam and announced the results on June 5, had already applied its mind to the contentious questions pointed out by four Hyderabad-based students.

"All multiple choice answers (in competitive exams) cannot be scrutinised by this court. We are not experts. We think somewhere some line needs to be drawn," the Bench remarked.

The court observed that the NTA's expert committee had gone through the contentious questions in the NEET (UG) exam, applied their minds and issued revised answer key.

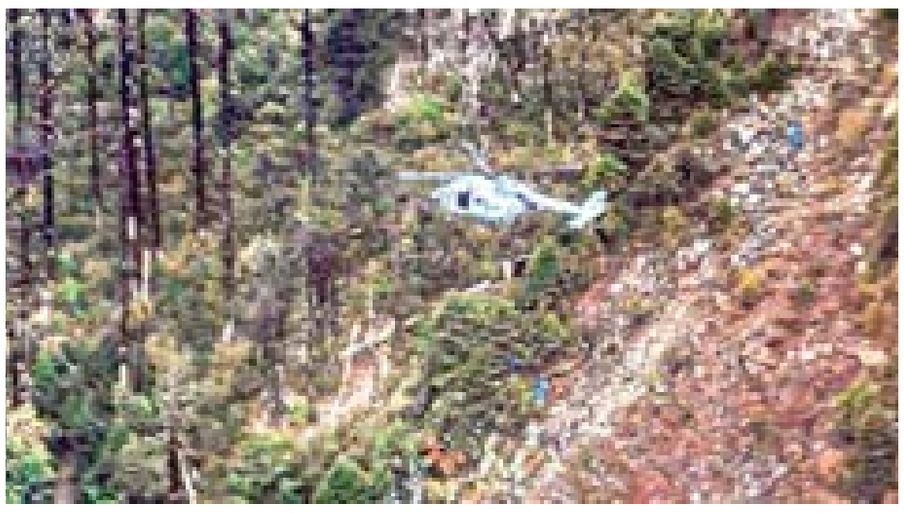
'They can move HC'

The Bench, however, allowed the four medical aspirants to withdraw their plea and granted them liberty to approach the High Court with their grievances.

During the hearing, an advocate appearing for another set of students from Kolkata, said he had filed a similar petition before the Delhi High Court which was slated to come up for hearing on June 17.

No relief: The plea by the students claimed that some of the questions were not in the NCERT syllabus. ▪THULASI KAKKAT

Efforts on to recover bodies of air warriors



Lost and found: The crash site from where the mortal remains and material evidences of the IAF AN-32 carrier aircraft have been picked up. ▪PTI

Recorders in AN-32 retrieved from crash site by mountaineers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder of the ill-fated AN-32 transport aircraft have been recovered from the crash site in Arunachal Pradesh's Siang district, the Indian Air Force said on Friday.

The recorders are expected to provide information on how the aircraft crashed after losing control with ground agencies about 35 minutes after take-off from the IAF's Jorhat air base in Assam on June 3.

"The process of recovering the mortal remains of all the 13 air warriors who were on board the AN-32 is still on. Inclement weather has slowed down the progress of the search and rescue team," an IAF spokesperson said.

A team of 15 mountaineers from the IAF, Army and the Siang civil administration had been air-dropped near the crash site on Wednesday, about 24 hours after an IAF Mi-17 helicopter spotted the wreckage on the western face of the Pari-Adi Mountain in Siang district.

SC stays Bombay HC order to file FIR against Dhananjay Munde

Case pertains to alleged illegal purchase of government land in Beed

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
NEW DELHI/PUNE

The Supreme Court on Friday stayed a Bombay High Court order directing registration of a First Information Report against Maharashtra MLC and NCP leader Dhananjay Munde in an alleged illegal purchase of government land case.

A Vacation Bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and Surya Kant also issued notices to the Maharashtra government and the complainant in the case, Rajabhau Phad.

During the hearing, the Bench queried, "what was the exceptional feature in the case" that led the High Court to order the registration of the FIR.

In his petition, Mr. Munde, sought stay of the High Court order that directed the police to file a case against him for allegedly grabbing land at Pus village, Ambajogai taluk, Beed district belonging to government.

The top court, however, declined to go into the merits of the case as of now.

Case filed

Earlier in the morning, the Beed police lodged a case of cheating and forgery against Mr. Dhananjay Munde and 14 others in the case.

An FIR under Sections 420 (cheating), 465 (forgery), 468 (forgery for the purpose of cheating), 464 (false document) and 471 (using as genuine a forged document) of the IPC was lodged against Mr. Munde and the others at the Bardapur police station.

The police action follows a June 11 order of the Aurangabad Bench of the Bombay High Court, directing an FIR to be registered against Mr. Munde, who is Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Maharashtra Legislative Council (MLC), within four days of the court order.

The court had passed the directive on a petition filed by Mr. Phad, who had accused the NCP leader of illegally purchasing land for his Jagmitra sugar factory in Beed district.

According to Mr. Phad's petition, the disputed plot of land at Pus village in Beed's Ambejogai tehsil belonged to the State government and was given to the Belkhandi Math in Beed as a 'gift' to its chief priest or mahant, Ranit Giri.

In 2012, Mr. Munde had purchased the 17-acre plot from Mr. Giri's heirs by applying for non-agricultural status of the land. The petitioner had challenged the purchase, stating that as the land originally belonged to the government, it could not be sold to anybody.

Dhananjay Munde

Akshaya Patra wins BBC award

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

Akshaya Patra, a non-profit organisation running one of the world's largest school meals project in India, has been awarded the BBC World Service Global Champion Award for the programme.

The award, presented at the BBC Food and Farming Awards in Bristol this week, recognises a person or project that is changing the way the world produces, processes, consumes or thinks about food for the better.

The Bengaluru-based NGO was selected by an international panel of judges from nominations sent in by the World Service audience around the world.

Other projects on the shortlist included UK charity WRAP, and Food 4 Education working in Kenya.

Vayu may recurve to hit Kutch, warns official

NDRF teams to remain along coastline

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AHMEDABAD

A senior official from the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences on Friday said cyclone Vayu is likely to recurve and hit Kutch between June 17 and 18, hours after Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani announced that the storm posed no threat to the State as it had moved westward.

The cyclone earlier changed course on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday, moving along the Gujarat coast, affecting Gir, Somnath, Diu, Junagarh and Porbandar, instead of making landfall at Veraval as predicted.

"Vayu is likely to recurve on June 16 and hit Kutch on June 17-18," M Rajeevan, Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences said.

The intensity of the very severe cyclonic storm is also likely to reduce, Mr. Rajeevan said, adding that it may hit the coast as a cyclonic storm or a deep depression.

He said the Gujarat government has been alerted about the possible recurvature of the cyclonic storm.

Early for predictions

Speaking on the IMD's latest weather report, Ahmedabad Meteorological Centre Additional Director Manorama Mohanty, however, said it was too early to predict if the cyclone will recurve and hit Kutch or Saurashtra or weaken and dissipate.

Gujarat Chief Secretary J N Singh said NDRF teams would continue to be stationed along the coastline for the next 48 hours. The Chief Minister had said schools and colleges would reopen on Saturday.

Chhattisgarh scribe held for 'false news' on power outage

Follows complaint filed by electricity department official

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RAIPUR

A day after a man was arrested and charged with sedition for his social media post on power cuts in Chhattisgarh, a journalist was held on Friday for publishing "false" news over electricity supply in Mahasamund district.

Dilip Sharma, who runs an online news portal, was arrested based on a complaint lodged by Executive Engineer (EE) of electricity department, S.K. Sahu, a police officer said.

In his complaint lodged on Thursday, Mr. Sahu had alleged that Mr. Sharma, in a recently published news, had claimed that there was a blackout in more than 50 villages in Mahasamund for 48 hours which was "false and baseless", Sub Divisional Officer of Police (SDOP), Narad Kumar Suryawanshi said.

Mr. Sharma was booked under IPC section 505 (1) (b) (with intent to cause, or which is likely to cause, fear or alarm to the public), he said.

The journalist was produced in a local court which granted him bail, the police said.

Talking to the media after his release, Mr. Sharma alleged that he was being implicated in a false case.

'Authentic' news

He claimed he had published an "authentic" news about the blackout for 48 hours in villages of Bagbahra area in Mahasamund from June 6 to June 8.

Additional General Manager (Public Relations) of Chhattisgarh State Power Holding Company Vijay Mishra said according to the State government's policy, the power utility has been supplying electricity 24X7 in all cities and villages. Some anti-social elements were trying to defame power company. he alleged.

CM's damage control

Earlier on Thursday, 53-year-old Mangelal Agarwal was arrested in Rajnandgaon district and charged with sedition for allegedly spreading rumours over power cuts on a social media platform.

However, facing criticism over the action, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel directed the police to withdraw charges of sedition.

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CORRIGENDUM -WALK IN INTERVIEW
The WALK-IN INTERVIEW scheduled to be on 18.06.2019 at ESIC Hospital, Peenya, Bengaluru is postponed to 21.06.2019. The details are available on our official website: www.esic.nic.in & www.esichospitals.gov.in
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Medical Superintendent

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Beyond the wall

In defeat, the Gandhi family is looking for scapegoats without owning responsibility

Failure is always an orphan, but the scramble among Congress leaders to stick the genesis of the party's devastating collapse in the Lok Sabha election on someone else is comical. What gives it a dark edge is that this evasiveness is being condoned, even promoted, by the reigning supremos. The Gandhis, Sonia, Rahul and Priyanka, were apparently shocked that the party lost as it did in the election. They would not be, had they been in touch with the political situation on the ground that they keep themselves ferociously insulated from, with the help of self-serving aides. This collapse was long in the making, and on their watch – and the signs were all around. It is true that the party was up against factors that were loaded in favour of its principal opponent, the BJP, such as money power and the partisan conduct of the Election Commission. Cataloguing only this is not, however, an honest route to an objective understanding of the party's degeneration. The lack of maturity, egocentrism, and sense of entitlement underlying Congress president Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's response in the aftermath of the defeat are disheartening for sympathisers and a boon for the BJP. Mr. Gandhi called out senior leaders for not supporting him and resigned as party president – but he should know that in politics, victory and power are commanded, not sought as a favour; Ms. Vadra told a meeting of Congress workers in Uttar Pradesh that they were responsible for the setback – she should know there is hardly any reason why anyone should be working for the party at all in U.P., unless the leadership inspires them to do so.

Blaming subordinates is bad leadership; simply threatening to walk away in the face of a setback is irresponsible brinkmanship. This is why it is revealing that in the midst of all this, the brother-sister duo met Navjot Singh Sidhu, a recent entrant from the BJP to the Congress who is publicly challenging Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, who led the campaign from the front and held the State for the party. Mr. Sidhu's photo-op gave sufficient grounds to assume that even in this moment of existential crisis, the Congress leadership is susceptible to machinations by courtiers who have a history of undermining strong regional leaders. On a more self-reflective note, Mr. Gandhi would realise that his obsession, to the exclusion of almost everything else, with elections in the party's student and youth wings was meaningless and self-indulgent. Good leaders know there is only one way to go when pushed to the wall. For that he needs to hold himself accountable to his party persons, and openly so. The Congress today needs a strong leader; and Indian democracy needs the leader of the largest Opposition party to be mindful of the responsibility that the position carries. Mr. Gandhi must decide whether he can be that leader.

Full disclosure

SEBI's new framework for financial disclosure by credit rating agencies may not be enough

Amidst the rising number of defaults by companies, the chief markets regulator is taking the fight to what it thinks is the enemy: ratings agencies. The Securities and Exchange Board of India has asked credit rating agencies in the country to, among other things, clearly state the "probability of default" of the instruments they rate for the benefit of investors. There have been a record 163 downgrades of debt instruments this year, according to data released by Prime Database this week. This is more than double the number of defaults over the whole of last year. Debt instruments issued by prominent companies including Yes Bank, Essel and Jet Airways have been downgraded this year. This spate of defaults, which may well be a sign of the turning of the credit cycle in the broader economy, may have forced SEBI to crack the whip on credit rating agencies. In a circular released on Thursday, SEBI laid down a new standard framework for financial disclosure by credit rating agencies that it believes will enhance the quality of information made available by these agencies to investors. Notably, the agencies will have to publish information on how their performance in the rating of debt instruments compares with a benchmark created in consultation with SEBI. The regulator believes this will help investors to better gauge the performance of credit rating agencies.

SEBI's aggressive regulatory approach seems to suggest a certain disappointment with credit rating agencies, which may not be unfounded. They have been caught napping on several occasions, including during the recent default by Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services on its debt commitments. They are also seen by many as being more loyal to companies whose instruments they rate rather than to investors who provide precious capital. These concerns need to be addressed. SEBI's attempt seems to be to align ratings methodologies with global best practices. The suggestion to revise the method of computing default rates and the precise definition of terms that raters should use in describing a client's liquidity position – strong, adequate, stretched and poor – are aimed at sharpening disclosure and leaving little room for raters to be ambiguous. What is not clear, though, is how the new framework will effectively resolve the conflict of interest issue that plagues the rating industry. The issuer-pays model where the ratings agency is paid by the issuer of the instrument that it rates is not a healthy one. But the problem is that a viable alternative is yet to be proposed. The bottomline is that the poor track record of credit rating agencies is known to most investors and is appropriately discounted by market participants.

Reversing the scale of priorities

The Chennai-Salem highway case will test the judiciary's assessment of environmental and economic interests

SUHRITH PARTHASARTHY

In the weeks ahead, the Supreme Court will hear arguments on an appeal filed against a judgment of the Madras High Court in *P.V. Krishnamoorthy v. The Government of India*. There, a series of notifications acquiring land for a proposed eight-lane expressway connecting Chennai to Salem were quashed. The Supreme Court has already denied, with good reason, the National Highway Authority of India's urgent request for a stay of the judgment. Such an order would have rendered unavailing the High Court's lucidly reasoned ruling. Indeed, the quality of the High Court's verdict is such that, when the appeal made against it is heard, the Supreme Court could find that the judgment demands a wider, national embracing.

Question of procedure

The eight-lane highway is part of the "Bharatmala Pariyojana", a centrally sponsored highways programme, aimed chiefly as a corridor for more efficient freight movement. The intended highway between Chennai and Salem will cover more than 250 km, and, once constructed, will cut its way through a slew of agricultural and reserve forest lands. Although the High Court framed a series of questions that required answering, the ultimate controversy in the case came down to this: was an environmental impact assessment (EIA) required before efforts were made to acquire land for the highway project? If not, at what stage of the project was such an assessment required?

According to the petitioners, many of them landowners, the state had failed to obtain an environmental clearance for the project before acquiring land and had thereby violated its responsibilities. What is more, in any event, such permission, they argued, could hardly be obtained since it was clear that the project would have a deleterious impact on the forests, the surrounding water bodies and the wildlife of the region.

The government denied this. It argued that its power to acquire land under the National Highways Act, 1956, was unconditional. There was, it said, no law mandating an EIA before efforts are made to acquire private land. In its belief, a notification under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, which required an EIA for the construction of a new highway, did not decree such an assessment for the purposes of securing the land.

Sustainable development

For some time now, it's been evident that the environment is in a state of utter ruin. Recognising this, in 1987, a United Nations-backed committee led by the former Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Brundtland proposed a long-term strategy which called for sustainable development, among other things. This programme, radical at the time, titled "Our Common Future", defined the principle as an endeavour to ensure that any development "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs." Since then, sustainable development has been viewed as something of a mantra in environmental jurisprudence. So much so that in India, even before the principle crystallised into a binding international norm, the Supreme Court in *Vellore Citizens' Welfare Forum* (1996) read the idea as intrinsic to India's constitutional structure.

E. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN

"The traditional concept that development and ecology are opposed to each other is no longer acceptable," wrote Justice Kuldip Singh. "'Sustainable Development' is the answer."

But grand as this statement sounds, in practice it's proved scarcely useful. For the courts have invariably seen sustainable development as demanding a balancing exercise, as requiring a calculation of trade-offs between the environment and the economy. What this has meant, as Nivedita Menon has argued, is that the courts of neoliberal India wound up fashioning a sliding scale of priorities in which the environment, particularly the urban ecosystem, always trumped people, but where eventually development trumped it all. This approach, she showed, was typified in the Supreme Court judgment in a case concerning industrialisation at the Kudremukh National Park (*Godavarman*, 2002). Holding that any development would have an adverse effect on the ecology and the environment, a balance, wrote Justice Arijit Pasayat, had to be struck. "Where the commercial venture or enterprise would bring in results which are far more useful for the people, difficulty of a small number of people has to be bypassed," he wrote. "The comparative hardships have to be balanced and the convenience and benefit to a larger section of the people has to get primacy over comparatively lesser hardship."

Utilitarian reckonings of this kind, perhaps, represent a problem inherent in seeing sustainable development as a virtuous model. It could easily be argued that by its very design the principle calls for a form of calculation that tends to see growth as outplaying all other concerns. As Amartya Sen wrote, while the prominence accorded to sustainable development may be laudable, we must equally ask whether "the conception of human beings implicit in it is sufficiently capacious". A project, for example, which might deny future generations the opportunity to breathe fresh air may well be defended on a simple application of the norm if those future generations are likely to be rich enough to enable them to live comfortably without breathing fresh air. In this illustration, the principle overlooks, as Prof. Sen wrote, "the need for anti-emission policies that could help future generations to have the freedom to enjoy the fresh air that earlier generations enjoyed."

Primacy to the environment

Sustainable development can, therefore, work only if the environment is seen as valuable for its own sake. The Madras High Court does this in its judgment in *Krishnamoorthy*. To argue, as the government did, that an EIA wasn't required before land was acquired for a highway, as the court recognised, was to effectively place the cart before the horse. As the court pointed out, the highway in question here was a greenfield project that was intended as an altogether new road to be constructed on virgin land. In such a case, to eschew an EIA before land was obtained would have created irreversible effects that would have had a bearing not only on the environment, but also on the social and economic life of the landowners.

"The land of an agriculturist," wrote Justice T.S. Sivagnanam, for the court, "is vital to sustain his livelihood... The land provides dignity for the person." The judgment, therefore, not only holds the state accountable for the violation of basic notions of due process, in exercising the power of eminent domain, but also sees the possession of farmlands by farmers as an article of faith. But most importantly, the ruling deepens a commitment to the protection of forests and waterbodies. It places the environment in a position of primacy over unthinking measures of ostensible development.

When a highway passes through a reserve forest would it not, the court asks, "pave way for establishments in the near vicinity"? Would it not "pave way for poaching of endangered species of birds and animals"? Would it not "pave way for illicit felling and transportation of valuable timber"? The rigours of the country's environmental laws, the judgment therefore holds, ought to outweigh those of procedural laws concerning acquisition of land, for "the protection of environment stands in a higher pedestal when placed on scale with that of the economic interest."

By so holding, the Madras High Court has effectively reversed the prevailing scale of priorities. This is especially remarkable since it comes at a time when the government is seeking to further weaken the existing norms for environmental clearance. That such efforts at diluting environmental protections are underway when it has become increasingly apparent that climate change represents an existential threat ought to alarm us into action. One way to act is to compel the state to look beyond exercises of balancing, as the High Court does, and to see nature as intrinsically valuable.

Suhrith Parthasarthy is is an advocate practising at the Madras High Court

Shaky building blocks

The draft National Education Policy reinforces outdated ideas about the goals of a foundational literacy programme

SHAILAJA MENON

Many children in elementary classrooms across India cannot read and write proficiently, as demonstrated on an annual basis by the Annual Status of Education Reports (ASER). This affects other school-based learning, as well as functioning in societies and economies that prize literacy.

Capabilities of young children

It was heartening, therefore, to see a chapter devoted to "Foundational Literacy and Numeracy" in the draft National Education Policy, 2019. The focus it places on the early years is welcome, and the continuity it recommends between the pre-primary and primary years is necessary. Likewise, its emphasis on mother tongue-based education and oral language development are critical. However, the analysis presented on why children fail to learn to read and write largely points to factors surrounding the teaching and learning process – the health and nutritional status of children, high student-teacher ratios, and so on. While each of these factors is undoubtedly important, they do not address with sufficient clarity curricular, pedagogical and teacher education-related issues that plague the teaching and learning of early literacy in many Indian classrooms.

Most classrooms across India view the task of foundational literacy as teaching children to master the script, and being able to read simple words and passages with comprehension. Higher order meaning making, critical thinking, reading and responding to literature, and writing are typically reserved for later years of schooling. This draft reinforces such restrictive and outdated ideas about the goals of a foundational literacy programme.

Research evidence from around the globe demonstrates unequivocally that even very young children are capable of using early forms of reading, writing and drawing to express themselves and to communicate; they are also capable of inferential meaning-making, critical thinking, and so on. This entire body of scholarship, referred to as "emergent literacy", has been ignored in the draft. This has powerful consequences for the recommendations that follow, which propose largely oral activities for the pre-primary grades, reading hours for Grades 1-3, with an additional hour for

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

writing starting only in Grades 4 and 5. It contradicts evidence suggesting that young children be taught listening, speaking, reading and writing simultaneously and not sequentially.

Many pedagogical approaches

Another concern is that the recommendations are based on generic theories of early childhood education, such as multiple age groups learning together in flexible, play- and activity-based ways. They don't draw upon ideas specific to the teaching and learning of early literacy. Early literacy requires a "balance" between helping children to acquire the script, and engaging them with higher order meaning making. It also requires knowledge of a variety of pedagogical approaches, such as reading aloud to children, guiding children in their efforts to read and write, encouraging independent exploration, helping them learn about different genres of texts, and so on. Further, it needs a balance of materials – moving beyond textbooks and workbooks to high quality children's literature, material created by the children themselves, and the like.

Teachers need to know how to differentiate instruction for learners at different levels and how to provide specific help to students who are struggling. This also requires sufficient time – an average of two-three hours per day, as per the recommendations of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). While it may be beyond the scope of a policy document to detail specific curricular and pedagogical approaches, it must provide sufficient direction for a national curriculum framework to pick up from – in this case, it should signal the need for a balanced and comprehensive approach to foundational literacy and knowledgeable teachers for its implementation. Earlier documents addressing this issue (for example, MHRD's Padhe Bharat, Badhe Bharat, 2014, and Ambedkar University's position paper on Early Language and Literacy in India, 2016) have been far more specific in recommending a comprehensive approach with expanded time, and a balance of goals, methods and materials.

Teaching literacy

This brings me to a third concern, which is a lack of discussion about what it takes to prepare teachers to successfully teach foundational literacy in a multilingual country. Instead, the document recommends recruiting volunteers and community members to support the acquisition of early literacy (even remedial instruction!) in the primary grades, albeit under the guidance of teachers. This lends credence to a dangerous and erroneous idea that any literate person can teach literacy, and undercuts sophisticated understandings related to children's development and literacy learning that teachers ideally bring to their jobs. Volunteers can be used, but cannot be a primary mechanism that a national policy relies upon to deliver foundational literacy to students.

In focusing on the limitations of the non-academic nature of anganwadi experiences on the one hand, and the inappropriate curricular and pedagogic practices followed by many private preschools on the other, the authors of the draft appear to have not engaged with the advances made by scholars, practitioners and policymakers in the field of early literacy.

Shailaja Menon is Professor and Programme-in-Charge, Early Literacy Initiative, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad, and Faculty, School of Education, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru

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.

State of the media

Over the years, political parties in power have learned how to influence and even silence the media ("Democracy can die in daylight too", June 14). More than print media, it is mostly TV channels that have lent themselves to easy manipulation. Facts and real issues have been relegated to the margins and only biases are perpetuated. It is sad to see many intelligent people falling for fake news and propaganda. Since 2014, one sees TV channels targeting not the government for its failures but the Opposition. Even the Rafale disclosures in this newspaper were not picked up by much of the media for further analysis.

V. NAGARAJAN,
Chennai

The disdain that some sections in the country have for the judgment of the common people is only too evident in sentences like "the BJP's logic-defying triumph...". The party has the people's support. What other logic is required to understand the BJP's victory?

M.S. SAGAR REDDY,
Hyderabad

The narrative reinforced by the media that there is no alternative, or the TINA factor as it is called, was accepted by most people who wanted a "powerful" Prime Minister and not a performing democratic government.

G.B. SIVANANDAM,
Coimbatore

No free will

One cannot be forced to accept a custom and then call it 'free will' ("Liberals need to think again", June 14). It is an entrenched system of domination that led to the institutionalisation of many regressive social customs. Men at the forefront of society always decided what women must do. Every time we justify such customs by calling them acts of 'free will', we are letting down the women who suffered silently and even gave up their lives because of following these customs and practices.

VRINDA RAJVANSHI,
New Delhi

When a nation is confronted with terror attacks, it adopts strong measures to tighten its national security. We must be unified in our fight against terrorism. If we argue that certain measures being taken hurt for safety hurt our religious sentiments, it will dilute our fight against terrorism.

SNEHA THAKUR,
New Delhi

Take responsibility

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's castigation of party workers for the dismal performance of the Congress in Uttar Pradesh is really unfortunate ("You let party down, Priyanka Gandhi tells Congress workers", June 13). It shows that Congress leaders squarely place the blame on the workers if they lose, but if they win, then all credit goes to the Gandhi family and the leadership.

ARUN MALANKAR,
Mumbai

Water conservation

Singapore is known to conserve water in multiple ways, Israel's water management has made its agriculture less dependent on rain and freshwater resources, and China is making huge investments in water conservation projects. In comparison, policymakers in India have consistently failed to accord due importance to water conservation initiatives ("Rainwater harvesting could have saved city from crisis", June 14). Mindless exploitation of groundwater resources and failure to recharge existing water aquifers are why many parts of Tamil Nadu are facing severe water shortage. It is high time we made this issue a priority.

M. JEYARAM,
Sholavandan

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Ishar Saini prepares his field to sow the season's kharif crop after uprooting and destroying the GM brinjal crop that he had planted on his farm in Nathwan village, Fatehabad district, Haryana. (Below): Seeds of various vegetables are sold in a shop in Dabwali. Ishar's son bought the brinjal saplings from a vendor in the vicinity. ▪ AKHILESH KUMAR

The mysterious case of GM brinjal cultivation

Last month, genetically modified brinjal was found in a farm in Haryana. While the government insists that this is a one-off case, activists wonder how widespread the problem could be. The spotlight is back on an old debate, reports **Vikas Vasudeva**

Braving the stifling June heat, Ishar Saini is busy preparing his half-acre field to sow the season's kharif crop. Ishar has unwittingly been in the limelight in Haryana for over a month, ever since genetically modified brinjal, the cultivation of which is illegal in India, was found planted on his rented farm. Saini was forced to destroy the crop in the presence of local officials and activists in Nathwan village, Fatehabad district. What remains a mystery is the source of the seeds of the transgenic variety.

Ishar asserts that neither he nor his son Jeevan Saini, who bought the saplings of brinjal in December 2017, was aware that the saplings were of a genetically modified variety. The Sainis had procured them from a roadside vendor in Dabwali, a town nearly 100 km from Nathwan.

Samples were collected from Ishar's field by the Haryana horticulture department on April 29 this year, following a complaint by activists. They were then sent to the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) in New Delhi for testing.

In the eye of the storm

"What is our fault? My son bought saplings that were available in the market. If they were of an illegal variety, it's for the government agencies to answer how this variety came to be sold in the market. We are the victims here, not the culprits," says Ishar. After the brinjal crop was uprooted, Ishar sowed Bt cotton in his field. Apart from the half acre that the Sainis have rented, they also own one acre of land.

"First, we had to bear the loss caused by the uprooting of the brinjal crop, which was ready to be plucked. We had spent about ₹25,000 on the crop's maintenance this season. Now we have to spend additional money on sowing the new crop. This will cost us at least another ₹5,000. The government should compensate us for this as farming is the main source of our livelihood," says Ishar.

Jeevan, 33, pleads ignorance. He says he had no idea that sowing this variety of brinjal was illegal: "How could I possibly know whether the saplings were a genetically modified variety or not? The vendor told me that the brinjal plant would be free from insects. The price, though, was high. It cost me seven to eight times more than the regular varieties, but because he assured me of better quality produce and good returns, I decided to cultivate it." Jeevan was a motor mechanic for 20 years. It was only a couple of years ago that he joined his family occupation of farming.

"In April and May last year, I harvested the first produce of the crop," says Jeevan, as he assists his father on the farm. "The quality was good, though I had to spray pesticides. I sold the brinjal in the local markets of Ratia and Tohana

> **My son bought saplings that were available in the market. If they were of an illegal variety, it's for the government agencies to answer how this variety came to be sold in the market. We are the victims, not the culprits.**
>
> ISHAR SAINI
> Farmer

and they fetched good returns. We consumed the same brinjal at home and it seemed fine. One of my friends in the neighbourhood had also procured the saplings along with me, but he destroyed the crop in 2018 after he found that it got infested."

Jeevan says he has not met the vendor from whom he purchased the saplings after that one time. "Most of the vendors come with saplings during the sowing season. They leave after selling the saplings. It's difficult to track them," he says.

Beeru, 60, who has three and a half acres of farmland adjacent to Ishar's land, says: "Though I have not seen anyone else apart from Sainis sowing this variety of brinjal in the village, it can't be ruled out that this variety is not being cultivated elsewhere. I am sure those vendors or dealers must have sold the saplings and seedlings to many other farmers. Government agencies should ensure that such seeds are not sold in the market. They must find out the origin of the seed supply."

'A one-off case'

Samples from Ishar's farm that were sent to the NBPGR in Delhi for testing were shown to be of a genetically modified variety. Soon after, a committee of experts was set up by the Haryana government and chaired by the Vice Chancellor of the Haryana Agricultural University to analyse the NBPGR's findings. They government confirmed the findings and said genetically modified brinjal had been sold in the market.

Ranbir Singh, joint director at Haryana's horticulture department, insists that this is a one-off case, however. "The crop from Ishar's field was destroyed and buried deep inside the earth to avoid any contamination. Growing and selling genetically modified brinjal is a violation under the rules of the Union Environment Ministry. We have also surveyed fields across the State and we have found no trace of genetically modified brinjal anywhere else. A report in this regard has been sent to the Union Agriculture Ministry," he says. R.K. Chauhan, joint director in Haryana's environment department, says an interim report based on the observations of the expert committee has been sent to the Union Environment Ministry.

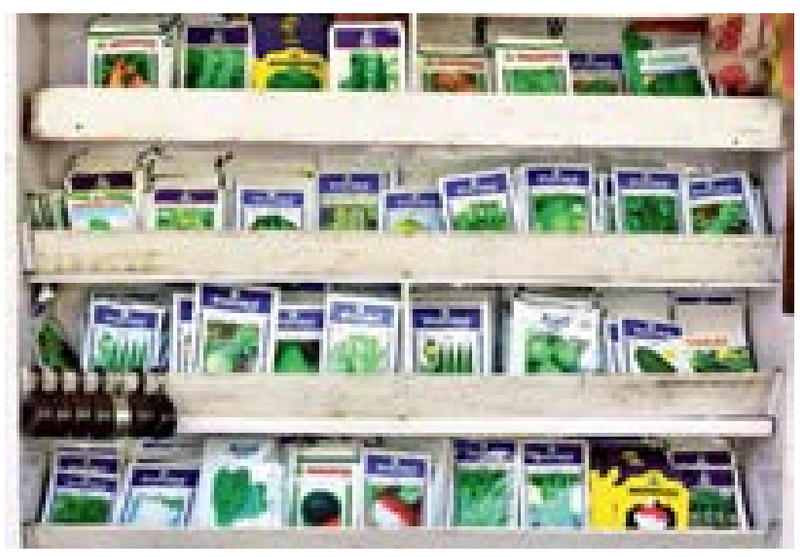
The test results of the sample collected from Ratia's fields establish that genetically modified brinjal did not come from the line that was developed by Mahyco, the Maharashtra-based seed company that developed Bt brinjal. Mahyco's Bt brinjal is commercially grown in Bangladesh. In India, Mahyco's Bt brinjal was cleared in 2009 for commercial cultivation by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee, the apex body that decides on genetically modified organisms in the country. But in 2010, former Union Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh put an indefinite moratorium on Bt brinjal on the grounds that there was scientific and public disagreement on its safety.

The extent of illegal cultivation

While the government insists that this is a one-off case, activists are anxious over the extent of genetically modified crop cultivation in India and blame government agencies for adopting a casual attitude in dealing with the situation. Rajinder Chaudhary, a former professor in the Department of Economics at M.D. University, Rohtak, says: "If the government was really serious about protecting India's biodiversity and consumer health, it should undertake an extensive strip-testing of brinjal and map the extent of genetically modified brinjal cultivation in the country," he says. "It should get further tests done, such as an 'event test'. [Event is a term used to describe the point on a chromosome where a genetic tweaking has happened – an addition or deletion, for instance. By identifying the 'event', scientists can say exactly which line the crop came from.] But neither the State government nor the Central government has done this." Chaudhary is associated with Kudrati Kheti Abhiyan which conducted the preliminary tests, using the 'lateral flow strip method', on the brinjal produced in Ishar's farm.

He cautions that if immediate and stringent steps are not taken, the story of Bt cotton could very well be repeated in the country. "Bt cotton entered Indian fields illegally and then was accorded post-facto approval. Today non-Bt cotton seeds are practically out of the market and can only be procured with great difficulty. Moreover, the adverse impacts of genetically modified food are not evident immediately, they are evident only in the long run. So, the fact that the Sainis have been consuming genetically modified brinjal without any visible adverse effects does not mean it is safe," he says. Chaudhury adds that there is a grave danger of illegal genetically modified brinjal cultivation proliferating if the Central and State governments do not act swiftly. "The seedling supply of this suspected genetically modified brinjal happened last year. It is not clear what the extent of illegal cultivation of this unapproved crop is."

Chaudhary narrates how he was able to trace the field where the suspected cultivation of genetically modified brinjal had taken place. "A resident of Ratia town went to a local nursery to fetch saplings of brinjal. When he was discussing the shoot and fruit borer [the most destructive pest of brinjal], the nursery merchant told him about a local farmer [Saini] who had planted a brinjal variety that is resistant to the shoot and fruit borer. When he tipped us off about the variety, I visited the farm in April this year and bought a few kgs of the suspected brinjal. A lateral flow strip test [a preliminary test conducted using a kit] was conducted and it indicated that the sample was of genetically modified brinjal. The lateral strip method is not a confirmatory test though. So I sent samples to the Ahmedabad-based SGS Private Limited, a laboratory accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories. A report on May 8 by the laboratory confirmed that the brinjal samples were genetically modified."



Unable to differentiate crops

In Dabwali, where Jeevan bought the seeds, seed suppliers and dealers say they do not know about the sale or availability of illegal genetically modified seedlings in regulated markets. Some, however, do not rule out the possibility of such saplings or seedlings being sold in unregulated markets.

"If a genetically modified crop has been found on one farm, it means that saplings or seedlings are being sold. Saplings are sold in nurseries. Many mobile vendors sell seedlings. This means anyone can be involved in selling the banned seeds. We have the example of Bt cotton before us," says Rakesh Garg, a vegetable seed dealer who has been in the business for over 15 years in Dabwali's vegetable market. Garg adds that it is important for government agencies to trace the entire supply chain – from seed developers to intermediaries – to find out the origin of seed and sapling supply.

At Garg's store, Ram Swarup, a farmer from a nearby village called Rajpur Majra, points out that it's difficult to differentiate between saplings of a genetically modified plant and those of a normal variety plant. Hence it's not difficult to sell genetically modified seeds in the market, he says. "Also, when a farmer grows genetically modified brinjal, the harvested crop is similar to any other variety. Even the consumer can't make out the difference," says Swarup, who has 11 acres of farmland.

Umendra Dutt of Kheti Virasat Mission, an organisation promoting organic farming, says the government should take legal action against the suppliers of these seedlings or saplings. "Curbing the supply network of illegal genetically modified brinjal is something that should not be ignored at all. However, it's equally important that no penal action should be taken against farmers who have been duped into cultivating these illegal seeds. Instead, they must be fully compensated for the destruction of their standing crop," he says.

Support for GM brinjal

Meanwhile, others are demanding that the Central government should allow cultivation of genetically modified crops, including of brinjal, across the country as they claim that the crops are absolutely safe for consumption. Also,

> **The crop from Ishar's field was destroyed and buried deep inside the earth to avoid any contamination. We have also surveyed fields across the State and we have found no trace of genetically modified brinjal anywhere else.**
>
> RANBIR SINGH
> Joint director, Haryana horticulture department

they put forth the argument that farmers should be allowed to reap the benefits of modern technology, which would help them boost their income by fetching better returns.

On June 10, a few hundred farmers gathered at Akot village in Maharashtra's Akola district to protest against the ban of cultivation of genetically modified crops. "To show our anguish against the ban we sowed herbicide-tolerant Bt cotton in the field of one of our fellow farmers," says Gun Parkash, Bharatiya Kisan Union's Haryana unit president, who participated in the protest. The protest was spearheaded by Shetkari Sanghatana, a farmer body which has been opposing the government's ban of genetically modified crops.

Stating that a similar kind of protest will be launched in Haryana and Punjab in the days to come, Parkash says, "These genetically modified crops are in use in many parts of the world. Countries like the U.S. and Canada are using this technology. With the use of genetically modified technology, costs are reduced, pest attacks are lower and production is higher. Farmers who are in distress is our country are not able to reap the benefits of genetically modified crops because these crops are banned." He adds that farmers and consumers in Bangladesh have been safely reaping the benefits of Bt brinjal, but in India successive governments have preferred to keep quiet.

"The ban on genetically modified crops is not just restricting farmers from accessing technology but is also promoting an illegal market to flourish. The adverse consequences of an unregulated market are far more dangerous. Even though in our country no genetically modified food crop has been given a nod due to bio-safety issues, genetically modified substances have already entered our food chain," he says.

Therein lies the irony. "Bt cotton cultivation is allowed in India as a non-food crop but then cotton seed oil is extracted from these plants and is being consumed in parts of the country, especially in Gujarat and Maharashtra. Not only this, canola oil and soybean oil are both extracted from imported seeds, which are produced from genetically modified crops abroad. It's high time our government realises that genetically modified crops have already entered the food chain," Parkash says.

The debate is far from settled.

FROM PAGE ONE

Modi, Imran exchange pleasantries at Bishkek

Mr Modi asked the SCO member states to try coordinated action against international terrorism under the SCO-Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS). He also called for an international conference to fight terrorism.

The issue featured prominently in the Bishkek Declaration of the SCO Heads of State Council, which condemned terrorism in all "forms and manifestations".

The SCO summit also called for "prompt solution" for the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan and urged the people and government of Afghanistan to act in favour of peace and dialogue to end the conflict." India maintained its officially stated position on the Belt and Road project of China which received support from other SCO members.

The Bishkek Declaration indicated that India has not reconsidered its policy on the issue though the document laid emphasis on "connectivity and interdependence" in the international arena.

The SCO also declared that the Republic of Uzbekistan is expected to host a Ministerial Meeting of the Eighth Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA VIII) in Tashkent later this year.

India to impose retaliatory tariffs

Last year, the U.S. announced that it would review India's eligibility for the GSP. It announced the withdrawal of benefits earlier this month.

According to the Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI), the impact of the retaliatory tariffs would amount to about $290 million.

While the Federation of Indian Export Organisations estimates the impact to be $220-240 million, the consensus is that the impact is commensurate to the impact on India due to the U.S. tariffs on aluminium and steel imports.

"If the Indian government goes ahead with retaliatory tariffs, 29 items imported from the U.S. will face higher duties, cutting benefits to U.S. exporters," Chairman of TPCI Mohit Singla said.

"The point is that it was something that was long due," Director-General and CEO of FIEO Ajay Sahai said. "We decided to impose the retaliatory tariffs in June last year, but in the spirit of negotiation, we postponed it several times. But unfortunately it has not yielded the desired result. The effect will be matching the amount that will affect India on aluminium and steel exports."

Toll of children with encephalitis rises to 57

He had earlier gone to Delhi to meet Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan to discuss the death of children in Muzaffarpur.

"In the last 20-22 days, 57 children – 47 at SKMCH and ten at the privately-owned Kejriwal Maternity Hospital – have died due to AES...We are monitoring all this and have decided to make people aware of AES," Mr. Pandey told local journalists in Muzaffarpur.

He added, "A team comprising one Professor, three Associate Professors, four Assistant Professors, nine Senior Resident Doctors and 15 Junior Resident Doctors, is monitoring the situation at SKMCH...encephalitis is a viral infection, which causes mild flu-like symptoms such as high fever, convulsions and headaches."

Meanwhile, sick children with symptoms of AES continue to be admitted into the two crammed Pediatric Intensive Care Units (PICU) at SKMCH.

A separate makeshift ward, too, is full with children suffering from AES symptoms.

A statement from district authorities said nine children at SKMCH and five in Kejriwal hospital were in critical condition.

SKMCH Principal Dr. Sunil Kumar Shahi said, "We have an in-patient bed strength of only 610, whereas the number of patients admitted is around 876. But we are managing to provide treatment to all of them."

Minister rules out bailout of Jet Airways

The biggest challenge before Mr Puri in his capacity as the Minister of State for Civil Aviation is to see a resolution to the uncertainty staring Jet Airways. An SBI-led consortium of lenders is currently in talks with potential investors to revive the airline that owes more than ₹8,000 crore to these banks.

Regarding more flights on routes operated by Jet Airways, the Minister said, "We are addressing that issue. We are very confident we can solve that problem also, both in terms of domestic capacity and providing opportunities to domestic carriers and other actions we can take."

While the Minister did not elaborate on the "other actions", his statement is seen as an indication that he is likely to encourage international airlines to deploy planes on some of Jet Airways routes, which include destinations like Doha, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Singapore, Hong Kong, Bangkok, London and Paris.

Mr. Puri's comments came on a day when he met the Ambassador of UAE, Dr. Ahmed Al Banna, and Emirates Airlines' vice-president for India and Nepal Essa Sulaiman Ahmad.

The UAE administration and Qatar Airways are among those who have written to the Ministry of Civil Aviation requesting for seats to India – over and above those permitted under bilateral agreements – to fill the gap left by Jet Airways. The airline had the largest market share on international routes among Indian carriers.

The Minister also made it amply clear that he was mindful of the concerns domestic players have over enhanced engagement with international players.

'Correcting mistakes'

"There are many mistakes in the past, we have to correct those. We have to provide domestic carriers a level playing field. We have to ensure that we reclaim much of the lost space."

On the domestic front though, Mr. Puri argued that there is no capacity deficit as the collective fleet size of various airlines today stands at 580, which is higher than their strength of 540 when Jet Airways was operating.

Bengal crisis deepens as doctors quit en masse

They have sought unconditional apology from CM

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

The crisis in the West Bengal's health sector deepened on Friday, with hundreds of senior doctors from State-run hospitals and medical colleges tendering their resignation en masse in protest against the attack on junior doctors at Nil Ratan Sircar Medical College and Hospital (NRSMCH) earlier this week.

Doctors from other medical colleges and hospitals in the city including SSKM, R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital (RGKMCH) and Calcutta National Medical College and Hospital (CNMCH), as well as those from hospitals in the districts, resigned in protest against the State government's failure to ensure protection to doctors on duty. Senior staff at the NRSMCH too quit, worsening the crisis.

Speaking on behalf of doctors at SSKM, Arpita Roychowdhury, a senior doctor at the State-run super specialty health facility said that "en masse" resignation of doctors had taken place because the administration had failed to provide any assurance on ensuring the safety of doctors on duty.

"We have resigned owing to the indifferent attitude of our Chief Minister," a doctor of the RGKMCH said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "We feel that Chief Minister has made us a scapegoat before the people. We want an unconditional apology from the Chief Minister," the doctor added.

The medical professional claimed that 69 senior doctors of the hospital had resigned. Similarly, almost 100 doctors from NRSMCH, which has emerged as the epicentre of the protests, including its Principal and Hospital Superintendent, quit.

The protests by junior doctors, which started on June 11, over the attack on a few on-duty junior doctors, entered its fourth day on Friday. The situation in hospitals and medical colleges across the State remained dire for patients, with services in most hospitals remaining suspended. The outpatient departments of most of the State-run hospitals remained closed due to protests by junior doctors.

Delegation meets CM

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee had termed the protesting doctors at SSKM Hospital as "outsiders" and "cadres" of political parties, and had given them an ultimatum of four hours to rejoin work or face action. A delegation of five senior doctors that met Ms. Banerjee at the State Secretariat said they were trying to initiate a dialogue between protesting doctors and the government.

"The Chief Minister said that she wants a solution to the issue. We will speak to protesting doctors," Sukumar Mukherjee told reporters, adding that a meeting would be held with the CM and protesting doctors at 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Services affected: A patient arriving for treatment on Friday at Kolkata's Nil Ratan Sircar Medical College and Hospital, which is at the centre of the doctors' protests. ▪ PTI

Mamata's nephew joins protesters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew and children of two top Trinamool Congress leaders are among the protesting doctors in West Bengal. Abesh Banerjee, son of Ms. Banerjee's brother Kartick, and a doctor at KPC Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata was at the protest in his college on Thursday and Friday. Kolkata Mayor and State Urban Development Minister Firhad Hakim's daughter Shabba, also a doctor, criticised the State government on social media for its inaction in the matter.

Health Minister asks doctors to call off strike

Urges Mamata to resolve impasse

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Harsh Vardhan

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Friday urged protesting doctors in West Bengal to return to work to ensure that patients don't suffer.

Mr. Vardhan also assured a delegation of medical professionals who called on him that the Centre would write to all Chief Ministers to ensure that violence against doctors was dealt with zero tolerance.

He said he had also written to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee asking her to personally intervene to resolve the impasse and take steps to provide a secure working environment for doctors. "The entire country is adversely affected due to the developments in West Bengal and therefore ensuring an amicable end to the agitation will be beneficial and strongly warranted," Mr. Vardhan added.

The Minister's intervention comes as doctors in several cities across the country including Delhi and Chandigarh went off work in protest against the assault on junior doctors at the NRS Medical College Hospital in Kolkata on Monday.

Major hospitals in Delhi including the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Safdarjung Hospital offered only ward and in-patient services, with the out-patient department and diagnostic facilities withdrawn for new patients.

A delegation of the Resident Doctors' Association (RDA) from AIIMS said they had urged all RDAs across the country to join the token strike in case "exemplary action" is not taken against the people who attacked doctors in West Bengal.

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has sought safe working conditions for medical professionals following the Kolkata assault. "Unless action is taken, we will join IMA's decision to continue to protest on Saturday and Sunday with black badges and peaceful march and then withdraw services from 6 a.m. for an entire day on June 17," said P. Gopeenathan, an IMA member from Kerala.

Tamil Nadu CM seeks meeting with IPAC team

Assembly poll campaign on agenda

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

After successfully handling the campaign for Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan, the Prashant Kishor-mentored Indian Political Action Committee (IPAC) is finding many takers. Among them is Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and AIADMK leader Edappadi Palaniswamy.

Mr. Palaniswamy is learnt to have asked for a meeting with two directors of the company, Rishiraj Singh and Vinesh Chandel, as early as this weekend.

Mission 2021

Sources in Chennai confirmed that the subject would be the handling of the AIADMK campaign for Assembly polls in the State in 2021. Earlier last week, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had also met with IPAC founder and Janata Dal (U) vice-president Prashant Kishor. Assembly polls in both Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are scheduled to take place in 2021.

Edappadi Palaniswamy

The AIADMK won only one seat in its alliance with the BJP in Tamil Nadu in the recent Lok Sabha polls, but got 9 of the 22 Assembly seats that saw bypolls in the same period, securing the State government's numbers position. Sources in Chennai said that the AIADMK was concerned about the message with regard to the State government led by it and the fallout of its alliance with the BJP.

Meanwhile, reports that IPAC was approached by the Telegu Desam Party (TDP) for strategic help was denied by party leader Nara Lokesh.

2 LeT militants killed in Pulwama

Police said they were part of groups that carried out terror attacks in the area

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Security forces on Friday killed two militants of the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) in an operation in south Kashmir's Pulwama.

The police said the LeT militants, identified as Irfan Ahmad Degu alias Abu Zarar from Pulwama's Naina-Litter and Tasaduk Amin Shah from Pampore's Kadlabal, were encircled by a search party of Army, the police and the CRPF early in the morning at Braw Bandina area of Awantipora in Pulwama.

"In the ensuing encounter, both were killed," police said in a statement. "They were affiliated with LeT and were wanted by law for their complicity in terror crimes including attacks on security establishments."

According to police records, Irfan was a part of groups involved in planning and executing a series of terror attacks in the area. "He was involved in case FIR No. 35 of 2018 pertaining to attack on the security forces in Ellahibagh Pulwama, in which one jawan died," the police said.

Police said incriminating materials, including arms and ammunition, were recovered from the site of encounter.

Meanwhile, four youth were weaned away from joining militancy in north Kashmir. Authorities said the four newly-recruited militants were arrested from Boniyar area of Baramulla district when they were on their way to receive arms training.

The police said the group was on its way to cross the Line of Control (LoC) in Limber area in Boniyar but were apprehended by a joint team of Army, police and CRPF on Thursday night.

The youth were identified as Adil Ahmad Dar (22) from Kulgam, Tahir Shamim Lone (19) from Shopian, Sameer Bhat (18) from Sopore and Naveed Parra (19) from Pattan.

"They are being questioned," the police said.

Fighting fire: A man trying to douse the flames of a house damaged during a gunfight in Banduna village in Pulwama on Friday. ▪ NISSAR AHMAD

Activists and memes push for women's reservation Bill

270 signatories endorse a letter to Law Minister

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

Memes featuring actors from Hindi, English and Tamil cinema have been urging Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad through social media to introduce the women's reservation Bill in the Lok Sabha.

A people's collective called Shakti is using memes to unleash the combined might of actor Rajnikanth and Bollywood characters like Gabbar Singh (aka Amjad Khan in *Sholay*) and Mogambo (aka Amrish Puri in *Mr India*) to appeal to Mr. Prasad to fulfil the promise made by the BJP in its manifesto, which said that the party was committed to "33% reservation in Parliament and State Assemblies through a constitutional amendment".

Even real-life heroes like Rakesh Sharma, the first Indian to land on the moon, and eminent personalities like architect Pradeep Sachdeva, transgender rights activist Madhumita Gomathinayagam and gender rights expert Pam Rajput, have written to the Law Minister to introduce the Bill during the inaugural session of Parliament, which convenes next week. They are among 270 individuals and organisations that have endorsed the letter. "This election has seen more women voters than ever before, equalling the percentages of the male voters, and awarding your party a clear majority. We ask the newly elected government to represent this mandate by giving women a greater voice. While there have been multiple false starts on this Bill, you can make history by seeing it through successfully," reads the letter.

Former astronaut Rakesh Sharma is among those who have offered support.

The effort is part of an ongoing campaign launched by Shakti in December where it urged MPs to support the Women's Reservation Bill and exhorted political parties to give more tickets to women. While the polls were underway, live interviews were conducted with some women candidates to help them reach out to a wider audience.

JD(U) to vote against triple talaq Bill in RS

'It has to be resolved as a social issue'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

As the Union Cabinet prepares to introduce a fresh Bill to ban the practice of instant triple talaq, Bihar's ruling party and BJP's alliance partner Janata Dal (United) has reiterated that it will not support the Bill in the Rajya Sabha.

"JD(U) is opposed to it and we will continue to stand against it," said Shyam Rajak, senior party leader and newly appointed Industry Minister in the Nitish Kumar Cabinet. "Triple talaq is a social issue and it should be resolved at that level," he said.

State JD(U) president Basistha Narayan Singh said the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill should not have been taken up in a hurried manner. "More consultations should have taken place... if it comes up in the Rajya Sabha for passage, we will vote against the government," he said.

Shyam Rajak

Earlier, Chief Minister and JD(U) president Nitish Kumar too had said that his party would oppose the Bill in the Rajya Sabha. "It has been our view that Article 370 should not be removed. Similarly Uniform Civil Code should not be imposed on anyone and the issue of Ram temple in Ayodhya should be either resolved through dialogue or a court order," he had said on the sidelines of his weekly public interactionin Patna.

Shivpal Yadav rules out merger

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

Shivpal Yadav, the estranged uncle of Akhilesh Yadav, on Friday asserted that he would not be merging his party with the Samajwadi Party (SP) or any other outfit, putting to rest speculation over the issue.

Mr. Yadav, who is the younger brother of SP founder Mulayam Singh, also said his party would contest the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections alone and make a bid to form a government in the State.

His assertion puts to rest the possibility of an early patch-up with Akhilesh, the SP president. The two leaders have had a bitter relationship, which culminated in the older Mr. Yadav breaking away from the SP and forming the Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) that contested the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

IN BRIEF

Uddhav, 18 Sena MPs to visit Ayodhya

LUCKNOW

Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray will visit Ayodhya with 18 newly elected party MPs on Sunday, making a fresh pitch for the construction of a Ram temple at the disputed site there. He will offer prayers at the makeshift Ram Lalla temple at the site. This will be Mr. Thackeray's first visit to Ayodhya after the Lok Sabha election results. He had visited Ayodhya last November. PTI

Shabir Shah, Andrabi sent to judicial custody

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Friday sent three separatist leaders of Kashmir, Shabir Shah, Asiya Andrabi and Masarat Alam Bhat, to judicial custody till July 12 in a terror funding case. Special Judge Rakesh Syal sent the accused to judicial custody after the National Investigation Agency submitted that that their custodial interrogation for now was over, therefore, they should be to judicial custody. The NIA filed a chargesheet in the matter in January 2018.

IPS officers transferred in Uttar Pradesh

LUCKNOW

Under fire for a spate of crimes in the State, the Yogi Adityanath-led government in Uttar Pradesh reshuffled its police force on Friday, transferring six IPS officers, including the one in charge of law and order. P.V. Ramasastry, a 1989-cadre IPS officer, is the new ADG, Law and Order. He was serving as ADG of Varanasi zone. He replaces the current ADG, Law and Order, Anand Kumar, who has been shifted to the U.P. Jail Administration and Reform Services as IG.

Read the writing on the wall, Geelani tells Modi

SRINAGAR

Hurriyat chairman Syed Ali Geelani on Friday asked the Centre "to read the writing on the wall and rethink its Kashmir policy". Addressing the executive council of the Hurriyat at Hyderpora in Srinagar, Mr. Geelani described the Centre's approach on Kashmir as "an ostrich gesture". "India needs to read the writing on the wall and stop resorting to the policies of militarism while dealing with the popular voice for the right to self-determination," he said.

Bukhari murder probe reveals grave security lapses

Veteran journalist was killed by gunmen on June 14, a day after being chased by bike-borne assailants while he was heading for an Iftar

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Pointing to grave lapses on the part of the security apparatus, the investigation into the assassination of journalist and editor of *Rising Kashmir* Shujaat Bukhari last year, has found that the June 14 incident was the second attempt within 24 hours.

One year after the crime, the police investigation suggested that Bukhari was chased by six men on two motorcycles around 7.15 p.m. on June 13 from Srinagar's Press Enclave.

The assailants drove very close to the editor's SUV, crossing the Kothi Bagh Police Station and Polo View.

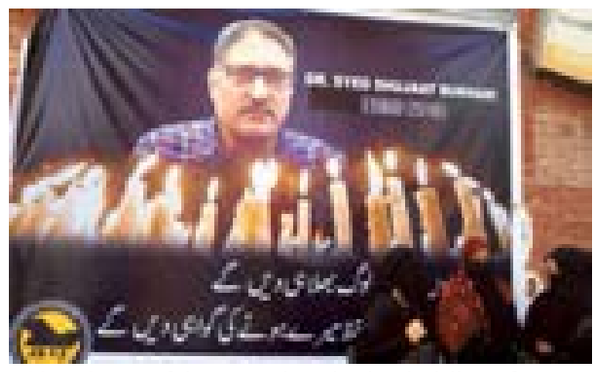
Saved by speed

According to investigators, the aim was to kill the veteran journalist on the wider stretch of road connecting Polo View with Doordarshan Road. However, the gunmen failed to pull out their guns as Bukhari's driver was driving very fast to reach an *Iftar* organised at Hotel Sarovar Portico in Sonawar.

The gunmen gave up and vanished towards the Dalgate area.

Contrary to the belief that three armed men on one motorcycle killed Buhkari, investigations suggest that two motorcycles were again stationed during *Iftar* near the Press Enclave to ensure "the plot does not fail on June 14", around the same time it was attempted 24 hours ago.

The three gunmen on one motorcycle managed to kill Bukhari and his two guards instantly preventing any involvement of the men on the other bike, the police investigation suggests. The probe, however, reflects a complete lapse on the part of the security agencies to spot six armed men on June 13 in Srinagar's commercial hub Lal Chowk and the subsequent failure to thwart the second attempt within 24 hours.



Wide web: One of the accused involved in the killing of Shujaat Bukhari is believed to be in Pakistan. ▪NISSAR AHMAD

No chargesheet

The police have identified the owner of the blue bike used in the attack as a resident of Srinagar, who is reportedly missing since then.

Though no chargesheet has been filed against the three identified militants of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), the police still term them "the main suspects".

Two of the five accused in the conspiracy, including LeT commander Naveed Jatt and Azad Ahmad Malik alias Dada from Anantnag, were killed in two operations last year. Muzaffar Bhat, alias Abu Talha from Kulgam and Sheikh Sajad Gul from Srinagar are on the run. Gul is believed to be in Pakistan.

Zubair Ahmed Bhat, a suspect seen stealing a pistol at the spot on the day of the incident, has been charged for theft and illegal possession of the weapons under Sections 379 RPC and 7/25 Arms Act and is currently out on bail from the trial court.

The J&K police has told the trial court that the final chargesheet is pending against the other accused as details from the United States sought under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) and Red Notice issued against Gul were pending. Besides, forensic reports on the cartridges found at the spot were awaited.

The police special investigation team has told the court that three more persons have been arrested "for their alleged role in arranging the logistics".

Tributes paid on anniversary

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Political leaders and members of civil society in Srinagar paid tributes to editor of *Rising Kashmir* Shujaat Bukhari on his first death anniversary on Friday.

Dr. Tehmina Bukhari, wife of Bukhari, was joined by senior journalists, Siddharth Varadarajan of *The Wire* and Saeed Naqvi, to release a book – *Kashmir's Thin Red Lines* – a compilation of the veteran journalist's articles. "All his life my father was working for and raising awareness on the situation of Kashmir. He didn't treat journalism as his job but adopted it as his lifestyle," said Mr. Bukhari's 16-year-old son, Tamheed Bukhari.

PM hits out at trade protectionism

We need a transparent, anti-discriminatory, all-inclusive system, Modi tells SCO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BISHKEK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday hit out at unilateralism and trade protectionism, and said there is a need for a rules-based, anti-discriminatory and all inclusive WTO-centred multilateral trading system. Mr. Modi's remarks come amidst the raging trade war between the U.S. and China.

Addressing the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit here, Mr. Modi said unilateralism and protectionism had not benefited anyone.

"Economic cooperation is the basis of our people's future... We need a rule-based, transparent, anti-discriminatory, open and all-inclusive WTO-centred multilateral trading system focused so that the interests of every country, specially the developing ones, can be taken care of," he said.

India's stand

India is committed to ensuring a favourable environment for the economic cooperation between the SCO member-countries, the Prime Minister said in the presence of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

President Xi said India and China should uphold free trade, and multilateralism, without directly referring to the ongoing China-U.S. trade war.

The SCO member-states said the situation in global politics and economy remains turbulent and tense, and the process of economic globalisation is being hindered by the growing unilateral protectionist policies and other challenges in international trade, according to the Bishkek Declaration of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Heads of State Council. The declaration stressed the importance of deepening cooperation to build a transparent and stable environment for trade.

Open talk: Prime Minister Narendra Modi attending the delegation-level meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in Bishkek on Friday. ▪PTI

Imran Khan trolled for seating gaffe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BISHKEK

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan broke the diplomatic protocol at the opening ceremony of the SCO Summit here when he sat down even as all other leaders, including his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi, were standing, an embarrassing gaffe for which he was trolled online.

In a video shared on the Twitter handle of his party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Mr. Khan is seen sitting – in a breach of protocol – while the rest of the world leaders stood when head of states of the SCO arrived for the event. "Imran Khan again caused national embarrassment at Bishkek...," a Twitter user wrote. "Must study the decorum of diplomatic visits to make some mark in future Mr. Imran Khan," wrote another.

45 writers to get Sahitya Akademi awards

Bal and Yuva Puraskars announced

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Twenty-two writers across languages were selected for Sahitya Akademi's Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2019, the Union Ministry of Culture said on Friday.

The Akademi also selected 23 writers for the Yuva Puraskar 2019. This award is given to writers aged below 35.

The selection for these awards, which come with a cash prize of ₹50,000 each, was approved by the executive board of the Akademi at a meeting in Agartala on Friday, the Ministry said.

For the Yuva Puraskar, 11 books of poetry, six of short stories, five novels and one literary criticism were selected.

The Bal Sahitya Puraskar was awarded to Swmim Nasrin (Assamese), Nabanita Debsen (Bengali), Lakhminath Brahma (Bodo), Vijay Sharma (Dogri), Devika Cariapa (English), Kumarpal Desai (Gujarati), Govind Sharma (Hindi), Chandrakanth Karadalli (Kannada), Naji Munauwar (Kashmiri), Rajashree Bandodkar Karapurkar (Konkani), Malayath Appunni (Malayalam), R.K. Sanahanbi Chanu (Manipuri), Salim Sardar Mulla (Marathi), Bhabilal Lamichhane (Nepali), Birendra Kumar Samantray (Odia), Pawan Harchandpuri (Punjabi), Sanjay Chaubey (Sanskrit), Lakshman Chandra Saren (Santali), Veena Shringi (Sindhi), Devi Nachiappan (Tamil), Belagam Bheemeswara Rao (Telugu) and Mohammad Khalil (Urdu).

PM to discuss road map for growth, jobs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Budget, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to meet all five departments of the Finance Ministry on June 20 to discuss a road map for boosting country's growth and generating jobs.

The GST Council's meeting scheduled for June 20 has been deferred by a day in view of the Prime Minister's meeting, sources said.

Mr. Modi is likely to discuss the road map for every department and the agenda for increasing revenue mop-up and taking steps to push GDP growth, which has slipped to a 5-year low of 6.8% in 2018-19. The meeting comes at a time when the Ministry is in the process of finalising the 2019-20 Budget.

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (E&M) III
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PRESS N.I.T. NO: 02 (2019-20)

S. No	Particulars	Amount of E.M.D.	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement
1	Supply of Medium Basicity Poly aluminum Chloride (PAC-10) in liquid form "ISI" Marked manufactured from virgin raw material for the treatment of low to high turbidity surface raw water for drinking purposes at various water treatment plant of DJB confirming to IS 15573: 2018./Latest amendment if any as on due date of tender. Tender I.D.NO.: 2019 DJB 174123 1	Rs. 34,65,500/-	13-06-2019	02.07.2019 upto 2.30 PM

All other in this regard can be seen at https://delhi.govtprocurement.com. I.D.NO.: 2019_DJB_174123_1

Issued By P.R.O (Water)
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EE(E&M)III

Those living in Bengal must speak Bengali, says Mamata

CM worried about clout of people from other States: adviser

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Friday that people from other States will have to speak in Bengali in West Bengal.

While the message evoked mixed response in the social media, with many Bengalis opposing the idea, it appeared to be a clear attempt to create space for linguistic and regional nationalism to counter religious nationalism. The idea has been advocated by various language pressure groups in the State for some time.

"We have to take Bangla forward. When we go to Delhi we speak in Hindi, when we go to Punjab we have to speak in Punjabi. I do it. When I go to Tamil Nadu, I don't know the Tamil language, but I know a few words. So in the same way if you are coming to Bengal you have to speak in Bengali," Ms. Banerjee said.

Condemns violence

She further added that "people from outside cannot come to beat up Bengalis." Ms. Banerjee was addressing a rally in Kanchrapara in North 24 Parganas district. Two key leaders of the area, Mukul Roy and Arjun Singh, moved to the BJP from the Trinamool.

"In Naihati, Kakinara, Barrackpore, houses of Bengalis have been ransacked. We will not tolerate this. Our party cadres didn't ransack houses of non-Bengalis here. We are against this sort of violence," she said.

New row: West Bengal CM and Trinamool chief Mamata Banerjee at a meeting in North 24 Parganas on Friday. ▪PTI

A Trinamool Congress adviser told *The Hindu* that the Chief Minister was "concerned" about the "growing political clout of the people who do not speak Bengali and are from other States."

"So long these communities only pushed their economic interest in the State but being affluent now they are also pushing their political interests, contesting elections and influencing agendas, as every party has substantial number of people who have come to the State over last few years. This has bothered the Chief Minister," the adviser said.

Ms. Banerjee, however, said she had "nothing against non-Bengalis living in Bengal." "

But the BJP is trying to create a Bengali and non-Bengali divide. I would urge them not to test our patience. We will never allow Bengalis to become homeless in Bengal," she said.

She alleged that the BJP was trying to turn West Bengal into another Gujarat. The saffron party was attempting to trigger riots in Bengal like it did in Gujarat to retain power, Ms. Banerjee said.

"We have nothing against Gujarat or residents from that State. We are against the politics of riots that the BJP had followed in that State and is trying to replicate here. As long as I am there, I will never allow them to turn Bengal into another Gujarat," she said.

(With PTI inputs)

Show titles in Hindi, regional languages, TV channels told

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has asked all satellite TV channels to display the casting, credits and titles of the Hindi and regional language serials in the respective languages too.

"Today, we are issuing an order to all TV channels that whatever the serials they broadcast or whatever the programmes they conduct, at the end or beginning titles are given, and many times the titles are in English. To promote Indian languages, we have asked the channels to give those titles in the language in which the broadcast is made," Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar has said.

"If they want to give titles in English also, they are free to do so," the Minister added.

In cinema too

"So, we are not restricting anything, we are adding the Indian languages. We are issuing such orders for cinema also," he said.

The order says the credit and title in English alone tends to deprive the people versed in Hindi and regional languages of the valuable information about the casting of serials or programmes.

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APPDCL invites tender for the following work at SDSTPS through APGENCO e-procurement platform.

S.No.	Tender Specification No.	Description
1	610000542	APPDCL-HQ- Replacement of steel cord Pipe conveyor Belt for 101B of ECCS with new belt at SDSTPS Nelatur, Nellore, A.P.

Schedule Available Date & Time : From 19:00 Hrs on 12-06-2019
Bid Submission Closing Date & Time : 13:00 Hrs on 28-06-2019
Technical Bid Opening Date & Time : 15:00 Hrs on 28-06-2019
Price Bid Opening Date & Time : 15:00 Hrs on 05-07-2019
For other details visit APGENCO website, viz., www.apgenco.gov.in
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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
192013 001823	300 GSM Circular Grey Board Disc 93 cm / 95 cm for TNPL Unit-I & Unit-II	26.06.2019
192013 001632	Enlistment of Vendors for Supply of Sulphuric Acid, Sulphur Di-Oxide and Ortho Phosphoric Acid	28.06.2019

Terms & condition, Qty., Tender Fee, EMD are available in tender document at our websites: www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in
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AHMEDABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
S.T.P DEPARTMENT
E-TENDER NO.:- 04/2019-2020

01.	Manufacture, Supply and Delivery of High Flow Super Sucker machine with Roots Blower mounted on suitable EURO IV chassis 4-Nos. (Ashok Leyland/ TATA / Eicher/ MAN) and Dump tank mounted on suitable EURO IV chassis 8-Nos. (Ashok Leyland/ TATA / Eicher/ MAN) with comprehensive Operation & Maintenance for Three (3) Years. Total: 7680 shifts.	
	Last Date of bid Submission (On-Line)	09/07/2019 up to 18.00 Hrs.
	Last Date of bid Submission (Hard copy)	10/07/2019 up to 16.00 Hrs.
	Date of Volume-I (Technical Bid) opening	10/07/2019, 17.00 Hrs.
	Details and Tenders Available on	www.nprocure.com

For Any AMC Complain Please Dial : 155303

MOFPI
IIFPT
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOOD PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY
Ministry of Food Processing Industries
Government of India
Pudukkottai Road, Thanjavur - 613 005. Tamilnadu. Tel. 04362-228155
Email: director@iifpt.edu.in Website: www.iifpt.edu.in
TENDER NOTICE
Date: 15.06.2019
Director IIFPT Thanjavur invites online tender for supply of equipment to IIFPT, Thanjavur and Liaison Office at Bathinda and Guwahati. The list of equipment detailed terms, conditions and last date for online tender submission has been uploaded in CPPP and NIT (Notice Inviting Tender) in the IIFPT website www.iifpt.edu.in. Interested parties may download the tender document from www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app for participating in the tender.
DIRECTOR

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Project - West Division,
Dasappa Hospital Premises, S.J.P. Road, Bengaluru-02
No.: EE(P-W)/PR/716/2019-20 Date : 13.06.2019
CORRIGENDUM
Ref : EE(P-W)/TEND/24/2018-19, Date: 07.03.2019
(Through e-Procurement System)
Tender Notification called vide this Office No. EE(P-W)/TEND/24/2018-19, Dated : 07.03.2019 on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP for the work of (1) Establishment of Dialysis Center and Gym Building at Ward No. 77 (Est. Cost: Rs. 236.00 Lakhs) postponed due to technical reasons.
Changes in Calender of Events are as follows:
(1) Availability of Tender documents : from 18.06.2019 onwards. (2) Last date for uploading the filled proposal : on 28.06.2019 upto 4:00 p.m. (3) Date of opening of Technical proposal : on 02.07.2019 at 4:30 p.m. (if possible). (4) Date of opening of Financial proposal : on 05.07.2019 at 4:30 p.m. (if possible). Further details may be obtained from the above office during hours or website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in
All other terms & condition remains unchanged to the orginal tender notification.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Project (West) Division, BBMP
"Pay Development Charges, Help to Develop Bengaluru"

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(KALINADI HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT)
CIN No: U85110KA1970SGC001919
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through e-procurement portal)
No: KPCL/2019-20/PS/WORK_INDENT8613 Date: 04.06.2019
Name of Work: "Overhauling of generator, turbine, oil pressure unit, intake & draft tube gates and guide vanes of Unit-1&2, Overhauling of gear box of Unit-2 and installation & commissioning of new gear box of Unit-1". Last date & time for submission of completed bids (2 covers) : 09.07.2019 upto 16.00 hrs. Date of opening of cover-1 : 10.07.2019 @ 16.30 hrs. Date of opening of cover-2 (price bids) of qualified bidders: 11.07.2019 @ 17.00 hrs. or at a date which will be intimated later. Further details can be had from the Office of the Executive Engineer (O&M) GDPH, KPCL, Hidkal Dam-591 107, during working hours. Telefax: 08333-263249. e-mail: eeegdphkpcl@gmail.com
Website: www.karnatakapower.com

Iran behind tanker attacks, says Trump

U.S. Central Command releases video footage to support its claim; Tehran denies any role

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump has said Iran was behind the attack on two ships on the Gulf of Oman, while the Central Command (CENTCOM) released a video purportedly showing an Iranian patrol boat removing an unexploded mine from the hull of Japanese owned chemical tanker *Kokuka Courageous*.

The *Kokuka Courageous* and another ship, a Norwegian-owned oil tanker, came under attack on Thursday in the Gulf of Oman.

"Iran did do it and you know they did it because you saw the boat," Mr. Trump said on the TV programme *Fox and Friends* on Friday morning. "I guess one of the mines didn't explode and it's probably got, essentially, Iran written all over it."

The video shows a patrol boat pull up next to the *Kokuka Courageous*. A person, standing at the bow of the boat is seen removing an object from the hull of the tanker. That object in the video was an unexploded limpet mine and the individuals belonged to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, according to the U.S. Central Command.

Earlier on Thursday afternoon, the State Department had called a press briefing with Secretary of State Michael Pompeo, who told reporters that the U.S. believed Iran was to blame for the attacks.

"This assessment is based on intelligence, the weapons used, the level of expertise needed to execute the operation, recent similar Iranian attacks on shipping, and the fact that no proxy group operating in the area has the resources and proficiency to act with such a high degree of sophistication," Mr. Pompeo had said.

This June 13 image released by the U.S. military's Central Command shows damage and a suspected mine on the *Kokuka Courageous* in the Gulf of Oman. ▪AP

"On April 22, Iran promised the world that it would interrupt the flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz. It is now working to execute on that promise," Mr. Pompeo said, listing a number of attacks over the last few weeks, that the U.S. believes Iran orchestrated. The list included an attack on four ships in the Strait of Hormuz on May 12.

'Japan insulted'

Mr. Pompeo said the Iranians had insulted Japan by attacking a Japanese tanker as Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was in Tehran to convince the Iranians to enter into talks.

However, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif presented a different picture on Twitter on Thursday. "Suspicious doesn't begin to describe what likely transpired this morning," Mr. Zarif wrote, pointing out that the "reported attacks" happened while Japanese Prime Minsiter Abe was meeting Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei "for extensive and friendly" talks.

Mr. Pompeo reacted to the tweet at the press briefing. "Foreign Minister Zarif may think this is funny, but no one else in the world does. Iran is lashing out because the regime wants our successful maximum pressure campaign lifted."

The U.S. imposed sanctions on Iran last November after U.S. President Trump withdrew the U.S from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), an international deal aimed at preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

While in Tehran, Mr. Abe had called for Iran to play a constructive role in maintaining peace in West Asia.

President Trump said that both sides were not ready for a new deal. "While I very much appreciate PM Abe going to Iran to meet with Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, I personally feel that it is too soon to even think about making a deal. They are not ready, and neither are we!" Mr. Trump tweeted on Thursday.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani called the U.S. a "serious threat to global stability" as he attended an international forum in Kyrgyzstan. "Over the last two years... using its economic, financial and military resources (it) has taken an aggressive approach."

Iran said its Navy rescued several dozen crew members from the two vessels, while the U.S. Navy said it had picked up 21 from the *Kokuka Courageous*.

Iran's English-language Press TV aired footage of rescued crewmen from the *Front Altair*, saying they are all in "full health."

"Everything is OK," said one of the vessel's "chief officers", presenting himself as Russian and thanking Iran for its "hospitality." Press TV said 11 of the crew were Russian, 11 Filipino and one Georgian.

'Flying object'

The crew of the *Kokuka Courageous* saw a "flying object" before a second blast on board, the operator's head said on Friday.

"The crew members are saying that they were hit by a flying object. They saw it with their own eyes," Yutaka Katada, head of Kokuka Sangyo shipping company, told reporters.

Washington has dispatched the destroyer, *USS Mason*, to the scene "to provide assistance," CENTCOM said in a statement while Oman said it sent two navy vessels to assist.

The U.S. has also accused Iran over May 12 attacks on four tankers anchored in the Gulf of Oman off the UAE port of Fujairah. The preliminary findings of a five-nation investigation indicated a state actor was responsible but stopped short of naming Iran.

The U.S. called on Thursday for the UNSC to confront the "clear threat" posed by Iran.

Oil prices jumped at the threat of an open conflict around the Strait of Hormuz, the choke point through which some 15 million barrels of crude pass daily.

(With AFP inputs)

Russia warns against 'hasty conclusions'

MOSCOW

Russia warned on Friday against jumping to conclusions over the attacks on the oil tankers, after U.S. President Donald Trump blamed them on Iran. "We consider it necessary to refrain from hasty conclusions," the Russian Foreign Ministry said, calling for a thorough international investigation. AFP

UAE says tanker attacks a 'dangerous escalation'

ABU DHABI

The UAE said on Friday that the attacks on the tankers just weeks after four ships were damaged off the UAE marked a "dangerous escalation". "The attack against the tankers in the Gulf of Oman is a worrying development and a dangerous escalation," Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash tweeted. AFP

Nobody wants war, China urges restraint

BEIJING

Nobody wants war in the Gulf of Oman, China's Foreign Ministry said on Friday, calling on all sides to exercise restraint and urging dialogue to resolve differences. Earlier, the Ministry cited President Xi Jinping as telling Iran's President Hassan Rouhani in Kyrgyzstan that China would promote steady development of ties with Iran, no matter how the international situation changed. REUTERS

UN chief pushes for probe into attacks

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday pressed for a probe into the attacks on oil tankers. "It's very important to know the truth," he said. "Obviously that can only be done if there is an independent entity that verifies those facts." AFP

Assange: 175 years of my life is effectively at stake

U.K. court sets U.S. extradition hearing for February 2020

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's full extradition hearing to face espionage charges in the United States will begin in February, an English judge ruled on Friday.

The whistleblower is accused by Washington of violating the Espionage Act after releasing classified military and diplomatic files in 2010 about U.S. bombing campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In his first appearance since being transferred to Britain's top-security Belmarsh prison in April after police sensationally dragged him out of the Ecuadoran embassy in London, Mr. Assange told the court: "175 years of my life is effectively at stake."

Julian Assange

Speaking at Westminster Magistrates Court in London via video-link from jail, and sporting a scraggly white beard, he added: "WikiLeaks is nothing but a publisher." The 47-year-old Australian could be sentenced to 175 years in prison if convicted on all charges.

The U.S. Justice Department, which submitted the formal extradition request after Ecuador terminated Mr. Assange's seven-year asylum stay, has filed 18 counts against him.

He is currently serving a 50-week prison sentence for violating bail conditions by fleeing to the embassy in 2012 when he was wanted on accusations of sexual assault in Sweden.

England's Chief Magistrate Emma Arbuthnot said the full hearing, expected to last for five days, would start on February 25.

Mr. Assange's lawyer Jennifer Robinson called the U.S. charges "a direct attack on free speech and a direct attack on journalism" and said her team would be "raising a large number of objections" to his extradition.

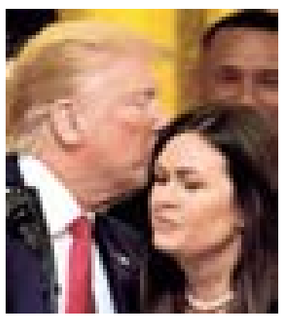
Trump's trusted aide Sarah Sanders quits White House job

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders, whose tenure was marked by a breakdown in regular press briefings and questions about the administration's credibility, as well as her own, will leave her post at the end of the month, President Donald Trump announced.

Mr. Trump said on Thursday he's encouraging her to run for Governor when she returns home to Arkansas, where her father once held the job.

Ms. Sanders is one of Mr. Trump's closest and most trusted White House aides and one of the few remaining who worked on his campaign, taking on the job of advocating for and defending a President who had his own unconventional ideas about how to conduct the people's business.



Donald Trump with Press Secretary Sarah Sanders on Thursday. ▪REUTERS

At an unrelated White House event, Mr. Trump described Sanders as a "warrior" as he called her to the stage. Ms. Sanders, appearing emotional, said serving Mr. Trump had been "the honor of a lifetime" and pledged to remain one of his "most outspoken and loyal supporters."

Ms. Sanders, who is married and has three young children, later told reporters she wanted to spend more time with her family, but she did not rule out running for public office.

"I learned a long time ago never to rule anything out," said Ms. Sanders, 36.

IN BRIEF

Christchurch attacker pleads not guilty

CHRISTCHURCH

Brenton Tarrant, the man accused of shooting dead 51 Muslim worshippers in the Christchurch mosque attacks in March, smiled on Friday as his lawyers entered not guilty pleas to multiple murder and terrorism charges. AFP

'Probe under way into Sudan sit-in crackdown'

KHARTOUM

Sudan's ruling military has acknowledged that security forces committed violations when they moved in to disperse protesters at a sit-in camp outside the military headquarters in Khartoum last week. Spokesman for the military council General Shams Eddin Kabashi said a probe was under way. AP

Riyadh repatriates Sri Lankans linked to Easter attacks

The suspects were arrested in the Saudi city of Jeddah

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

Five Sri Lankans wanted in connection with the Easter bombings that killed 258 people were arrested in Saudi Arabia and repatriated on Friday, the police said.

Correcting his earlier statement that the men were seized in Dubai, police spokesman Ruwan Gunasekera said the suspects were taken into custody in the Saudi city of Jeddah.

Among them was Mohamed Milhan, a senior leader of the National Thowheeth Jama'ath (NTJ) group, which was held responsible for the April 21 bombings, Mr. Gunasekera said. Milhan was also wanted in connection with the November killing of two police constables in the east of the island where NTJ leader Zahran Hashim had his base.

"A team of Criminal Investigations Department officers brought the suspects back to Sri Lanka this morning," Mr. Gunasekera said. No further details were immediately available.

Second such arrests

This is the second time suspects have been arrested abroad in connection with the attacks against three churches and three luxury hotels in the country, which were claimed by the Islamic State group.

Last month, Army chief Mahesh Senanayake said two suspects were arrested in Qatar and Saudi Arabia. He did not disclose the nationalities of the suspects, but official sources said they were Sri Lankans.

Sri Lankan authorities have arrested just over 100 people who had links with the NTJ and its leader Hashim, who was one of two suicide bombers who attacked the Shangri-La hotel in Colombo.

The island nation has been under a state of emergency since the attacks, which also left 45 foreign nationals dead and wounded nearly 500 people. There have been recriminations over the failure on the part of police and security forces to act on advance warnings of the impending attacks.

China lodges protest against U.S. comments on Hong Kong

Asks Washington to respect the city's legislative process

REUTERS
BEIJING

China summoned a senior U.S. diplomat on Friday to lodge a formal complaint about U.S. comments on Hong Kong, after proposed U.S. legislation that would require the government to justify the continuation of special treatment for the territory.

The bipartisan Senate legislation would require the U.S. Secretary of State to issue an annual certification of Hong Kong's autonomy to justify special treatment under the U.S. Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992.

The proposed law would also require the U.S. President to identify those responsible for the abduction of booksellers and other individuals from Hong Kong and subject them to U.S. sanctions.

A woman protesting against the extradition law in Hong Kong on Friday. ▪AP

The planned legislation comes amid a political crisis in the former British colony, where protests have boiled over against a proposed law that would allow extraditions to mainland China.

Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Le Yucheng summoned Robert Forden, the U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission in Beijing, to lodge stern representations over recent U.S. comments and actions on Hong Kong and the extradition law and urged Washington to stop interfering in the city's affairs immediately.

Mr. Le urged Washington not to not take any actions that harm Hong Kong's prosperity and stability, the Ministry said in a statement. "We urge the U.S. side to treat the Hong Kong government objectively and fairly and respect its normal legislative process," the statement cited Mr. Le as saying.

'Russia sources targeted EU elections'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRUSSELS

EU officials said on Friday that "Russian sources" stepped up a long-running disinformation campaign against the European Union in a bid to undermine the bloc's elections last month.

The sources used fake social media accounts, bots and news sites to amplify existing divisive content by targeting particular groups of voters and countries, Security Commissioner Julian King said.

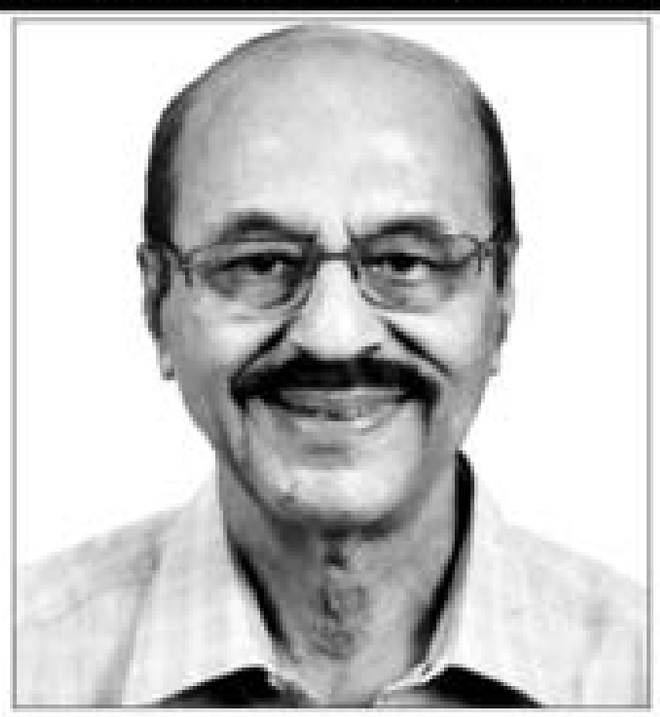
"The number of disinformation cases attributed to Russian sources ... doubled as compared to the same period a year ago," Mr. King said, highlighting a report by European Commission investigators.

"So almost 1,000, as compared with over 400."

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

4th ANNIVERSARY



Mr.C.N.RAMDAS IAS (R)
(03.10.1937 to 15.06.2015)
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MARKET WATCH

	14-06-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	39,452	-0.73
US Dollar	69.80	-0.43
Gold	33,870	0.89
Brent oil	62.08	1.48

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	426.40	1.45
Asian Paints	1412.75	-16.70
Axis Bank	801.20	-18.95
Bajaj Auto	2872.55	-50.10
Bajaj Finserv	8235.15	-57.20
Bajaj Finance	3518.40	-26.10
Bharti Airtel	353.30	-10.45
BPCL	386.50	-2.30
Britannia Ind	2964.10	-20.45
Cipla	555.60	-9.00
Coal India	255.15	-0.45
Dr Reddys Lab	2565.15	-23.10
Eicher Motors	19767.05	-395.00
GAIL (India)	308.50	0.40
Grasim Ind	899.00	-5.60
HCL Tech	1087.00	-13.90
HDFC	2185.85	-11.65
HDFC Bank	2435.10	-9.60
Hero MotoCorp	2670.30	-34.80
Hindalco	198.25	-1.40
Hind Unilever	1822.95	-22.55
Indiabulls HFL	672.25	-22.05
ICICI Bank	417.75	-1.85
IndusInd Bank	1426.80	-62.05
Bharti Infratel	275.05	3.70
Infosys	740.45	-2.20
Indian OilCorp	159.80	-0.90
ITC	278.05	-2.55
JSW Steel	271.25	-3.10
Kotak Bank	1473.85	-30.15
L&T	1526.30	8.75
M&M	637.25	-3.80
Maruti Suzuki	6747.40	-37.30
NTPC	132.75	-2.15
ONGC	169.30	0.35
PowerGrid Corp	194.60	0.75
Reliance Ind	1317.55	-9.70
State Bank	343.80	-2.70
Sun Pharma	392.55	2.80
Tata Motors	164.20	-3.20
Tata Steel	501.80	-0.75
TCS	2254.50	0.40
Tech Mahindra	740.25	-3.85
Titan	1281.90	-13.55
UltraTech Cement	4501.75	-68.45
UPL	1006.00	1.00
Vedanta	169.55	1.10
Wipro	298.80	0.40
YES Bank	115.05	-2.05
Zee Entertainment	336.50	-16.10

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 14

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	69.60	69.92
Euro	78.41	78.77
British Pound	88.00	88.44
Japanese Yen (100)	64.32	64.62
Chinese Yuan	10.05	10.10
Swiss Franc	69.94	70.26
Singapore Dollar	50.91	51.14
Canadian Dollar	52.20	52.45
Malaysian Ringitt	16.71	16.78

Source:Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

June 14 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	40.4	(39.5)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3161	(3097)

SEBI bars Prannoy, Radhika Roy from NDTV board

They allegedly concealed material info from shareholders while entering into loan agreements between 2008 and 2010

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has barred Prannoy Roy and his wife Radhika Roy from holding any directorship in New Delhi Television Ltd. (NDTV) for a period of two years.

Mrs. and Mr. Roy, along with their holding firm RRPR Holdings, have also been barred from accessing the securities' market for two years for allegedly concealing material information from shareholders while entering into loan agreements between 2008 and 2010.

Mr. Roy and his wife have also been restrained from being directors in any listed entity for an year.

As per information available on the BSE, Mr. Roy is currently the executive director – chairperson of the listed media entity while Ms. Roy is an executive director.

In the dock: Prannoy Roy and his wife were also barred from accessing the securities' market for two years. • PTI

"... the Noticee no. 2 (Mr. Roy) and 3 (Ms. Roy) had this avowed duty to act in a fair and transparent manner to protect the interest of their minority shareholders and not to indulge in any fraudulent activity or any activity detrimental to the interest of the shareholders of NDTV," stated the SEBI order by whole-time member S.K. Mohanty.

"However, contrary to the same, in the present case, the Noticees i.e. the promoters and directors of NDTV have been found to have indulged in fraudulent acts wherein they have bartered away the interests of NDTV...," it added.

Starts probe

SEBI initiated an investigation after receiving a complaint in 2017 wherein it was alleged that the three entities concealed material information from shareholders while entering into loan agreements with first, ICICI Bank and thereafter, Vishvapradhan Commercial Pvt. Ltd. (VCPL). The SEBI probe found that in August 2009, RRPR Holdings entered into a amended loan agreement with ICICI Bank to prepay a loan taken from the bank in October 2008. Under the loan agreement, the firm had undertaken not to permit any restructuring of the listed entity without the approval of the bank.

While the binding clauses of the agreement were not disclosed to the stock exchanges, Mr. Roy and Ms. Roy transferred their shares to the holding entity in off-market transactions.

Thereafter, another loan agreement for ₹350 crore was entered into with VCPL in July 2009 to repay the loan taken from ICICI Bank. The agreement with VCPL required RRPR Holdings to issue warrants, which were convertible into equity shares totalling 99.99% of the share capital of RRPR Holdings.

In January 2010, another loan worth ₹53.85 crore was taken from VCPL wherein apart from the earlier terms, it was stipulated that the NDTV promoters would allow VCPL to indirectly acquire 30% shares of NDTV through conversion of warrants into equity shares of RRPR Holdings.

According to the SEBI order, none of these loan agreements and their clauses was disclosed to the stock exchanges, leading to investors not being able to take an informed decision while dealing in shares of NDTV.

"The loan agreements were unmistakably structured as a scheme to defraud the investors by camouflaging the information about the adversarial terms and conditions impinging upon the interest of NDTV's shareholders, thereby inducing innocent investors to continue to trade in the shares of NDTV oblivious to such adversarial developments in the shareholding of NDTV," stated the SEBI order.

While Mr. Roy holds a stake of 15.94% in the company, Ms. Roy's stake is pegged at 16.32%. RRPR Holding has a stake of 29.18% in the listed entity.

HDFC sells over 4.22% stake in Gruh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Mortgage lender HDFC on Friday said it had sold more than 4.22% stake in subsidiary Gruh Finance Ltd. (Gruh), which is proposed to be amalgamated with Bandhan Bank, for ₹899.43 crore.

The sale of 3,10,00,000 equity shares representing 4.22% of the issued and paid-up share capital of Gruh was carried out through stock exchanges at the prevailing market price, HDFC said in a regulatory filing.

The average price was ₹290.14 a share, it added. "Post the completion of the aforesaid sale of shares, Gruh would cease to be a subsidiary of the Corporation (HDFC)," HDFC said.

HDFC had sold 6.1% stake in Gruh earlier in May for ₹1,327.89 crore.

Flipkart, Indian start-up settle dispute over sharp discounting

GOQii claimed its devices were discounted by about 70%

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

Walmart unit Flipkart has settled a legal dispute with an Indian start-up that alleged it suffered losses because its products were sharply discounted on the global retailer's website.

GOQii, a seller of smartwatch-type health devices, sued Flipkart last month in a Mumbai court, alleging its devices were discounted by around 70% to the retail price, much more than the two sides had agreed. The court had, as an interim measure, ordered device sales to be halted on Flipkart.

In a joint statement on Friday, the companies said the dispute had been resolved and GOQii health devices would again be available on Flipkart. They didn't say how the settlement was reached.

Vishal Gondal, CEO of GOQii, told *Reuters* the company would withdraw the case against Flipkart. The e-commerce retailer's "team worked on a resolution benefitting the brand and the customers," Mr. Gondal said in the statement.

Test case

The legal spat was seen as a test case of the giant retailer's operating strategy in the country.

GOQii said it signed an agreement last year with a Flipkart unit to sell two of its devices at a price not below ₹1,999 ($28.63) and ₹1,499. It later found the devices were being sold for ₹999 and ₹699, calling it "unauthorised" discounting.

In response, Flipkart said it reserved "the right to institute actions for defamation, both civil and criminal," arguing it wasn't responsible for any discounts which are determined by third-party firms which sell via its website. The two companies struck a friendlier tone in their joint statement on Friday as they brought the legal battle to an end.

Trade deficit widens to $15.36 bn in May

Imports grow faster than exports; electronics, chemicals see good export growth

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's trade deficit widened in May 2019 to $15.36 billion, with imports growing faster that exports during the period, official data released on Friday showed.

Exports grew 3.93% in May to $30 billion compared with $28.86 billion worth of exports in the same month last year.

The industries that saw a major growth in exports include electronic goods (50.97%), organic and inorganic chemicals (20.64%), and readymade goods of all textiles (14.15%).

'Sub-optimal level'

"Export growth for May remains at sub-optimal level requiring immediate government intervention," Engineering Export Promotion Council India chairman Ravi Sehgal said.

"For engineering sector, exporters need crucial raw material like steel at international prices. Exporters are looking forward to Budget for fiscal relief," he said.

"Such a growth in exports is a reflection of extremely modest growth in global trade and increasing protectionism," said Ganesh Kumar Gupta, president, Federation of Indian Export Organisations.

Liquidity concerns

"MSME sectors are still facing the problem of liquidity besides various other challenges, including uncertainties owing to tariff war, volatility in commodities/currencies, rapid rise in trade restrictive measures and constraints on the domestic front," he added. Imports into India grew 4.31% in May 2019 to $45.35 billion, up from $43.48 billion worth of imports in May of last year.

The segments that saw strong growth in exports include pulses (84.2%) and gold (37.4%).

Cause for concern

Merchandise	April-May 2019-20	Growth %
Exports ($ Billion)	56.07	2.37
Imports ($ billion)	86.75	4.39
Trade deficit ($ billion)	30.69	

Services (estimated)	April-May 2019-20	Growth %
Exports ($ Billion)	36.26	7.49
Imports ($ billion)	23	8.88
Net of services ($ billion)	13.26	

The latest data for services sector released by RBI is for April 2019. The data for May 2019 is an estimation, which will be revised based on RBI's subsequent release.

SOURCE: MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

INTERVIEW| ANIL KUMAR JHA

'Coal will remain the dominant source'

We are chasing a 600-million tonne target this fiscal, says Coal India chairman

INDRANI DUTTA

A year after taking charge as chairman at Coal India Ltd., **Anil Kumar Jha** *looks back at the year gone by with a degree of satisfaction. CIL's subsidiaries, spread across India, operate round-the-clock in temperatures that vary between 0 degrees celsius in winter and about 50 in summer. "Our men work round the clock in areas where the police fear to go after dark," he said in an interaction with The Hindu. The company's bugbears remain the same.. land acquisition, delayed forest clearances and law and order issues. Yet, coal is here to stay for the foreseeable future. CIL also has overseas ambitions. Edited excerpts:*

Tell us about your journey since May last year.. To what extent could you fulfil your agenda?

■ It has been challenging, yet amply satisfying. My aim was to take the production to higher level and increase supplies to consuming segments, especially power sector. The 2018-19 figures bear testimony to our success achieved through a unified, concerted team effort.

Coal India for the first time breached the 600 Million Tonne (MT) production and offset mark, clocking growths of 7% and 4.8% respectively. Coal production was 607 MTs against MoU target of 610 MTs.

We have been able to script a new high in coal-supplies to thermal power plants. Most importantly, as of April 1, 2019, there was not a single coal-fired power plant in critical or supercritical list for want of coal.

What are the main challenges before CIL now?

■ Primarily land acquisition, environmental and forestry clearances, law and order situation and R&R issues are major challenges to ramp up our production. We are also beset with evacuation issues.

What are your views on CIL achieving its production target this fiscal. Are last year's growth levels sustainable?

■ Production will pick up gradually. We are chasing a 660-million tonne MoU target. Many of our companies have taken measures to keep production during the monsoon months on an even keel. We face some problems in Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL) and in Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL). Efforts are on to tackle them.

Some subsidiaries like BCCL are not doing too well. Could you elaborate a little on this? Also, is the OBR satisfactory?

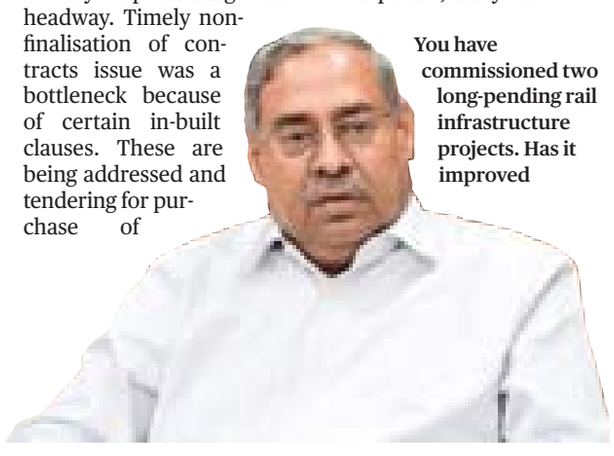
■ BCCL is besieged with land acquisition, R&R, law and order and certain encroachment issues that impeded its production. We are dealing the issues with the appropriate authorities to iron them out. There have been some bottlenecks regarding over burden removal (OBR). Land acquisition is one issue for which we have taken necessary steps making some headway. Timely non-finalisation of contracts issue was a bottleneck because of certain in-built clauses. These are being addressed and tendering for purchase of high capacity. Heavy earth moving machinery has been fast-tracked. Once inducted, things would improve. MCL faces law and order problems.

How did you manage the good numbers for CIL last fiscal?

■ Yes, it was a phenomenal performance by CIL. The bottomline was good for the fourth quarter and the year. Better average realisation in both FSA and e-auction sales, coupled with operational cost-control, propelled CIL to its best-ever financial performance. Importantly, coal quality variance was under control and we have been able to arrest the grade slippage largely.

Bottomline improvement was also due to the major provisioning that you had to make in 2017-18 on account of the enhancement of the gratuity ceiling..

■ Yes. Over 40% of the cost of production is on account of salaries. As of April 2019, CIL's workforce stood at 2.85 lakh, but this is reducing by around 16,000 annually through natural attrition. Induction is around 3,000 on account of employment for land-losers and for statutory jobs. We do expect to protect our profits, this year.



You have commissioned two long-pending rail infrastructure projects. Has it improved evacuation and what more needs to be done?

■ As far as rail logistics is concerned, rake supply has considerably improved. We are refurbishing our sidings for increased loading. Tori-Shivpur rail line (Jharkhand) is already operational. Once road infrastructure linking the pit-head to loading point is further intensified and sidings'capacity is optimised, evacuation will improve. At Jharsuguda-Sardega line (Odisha),rake-loading will increase. The East Corridor in Chhattisgarh linking Kharsia-Dhananjaygarh is expected to become operational soon. All these measures will bring net addition to our loading. We are setting up new sidings and Rapid Loading Systems also.

Going forward, what will be coal's position in India, especially with govt. stress on renewables?

Presently, as base fuel for power generation, coal is the ready answer in India. Around 73% of the power generated is coal-based. Till alternative renewable energy sources come up in a big way, coal-fired power generation will continue to meet India's electricity demand. Amid fast-expanding energy needs, the nation is exploring shift from being a largely fossil-driven energy economy to one that is powered by clean and renewable energy especially solar. This is a welcome step. I feel renewable energy sources, at this juncture, have a supplementary role and cannot substitute coal as energy contributors. Renewables and coal have to co-exist for some time before renewable can significantly contribute to a larger share of India's energy basket. At some point of time in future, this is bound to happen but till such time coal remains the dominant source.

birac Ignite Innovate Incubate
Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

INVITES PROPOSALS
for
SUPPORTING AFFORDABLE PRODUCT/ TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT
(Discovery to pre-Commercialization)
under

Promoting Academic Research Conversion to Enterprise (PACE)
Supports academia to develop technologies/products (up to PoC stage) and their subsequent validation towards commercialization through: Academic Innovation Research (AIR) and Contract Research Scheme (CRS)

Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI)
Supports industry for development of proof-of-concept and early stage validation of products/ technologies

Biotechnology Industry Partnership Programme (BIPP)
Supports industry for high risk, transformational technology/product development from early to late stage validation leading to product commercialization

WHO CAN APPLY ?

For PACE
Academic institute, University, NGO, or Research Foundation, registered/accredited by a government body is eligible to apply either alone, or in partnership with academia or industry (while involvement of industry is optional for AIR scheme, it is mandatory to have an industrial partner for CRS).

For SBIRI & BIPP
A single or consortia of Indian company (ies) registered under "The Indian Companies Act 2013" with minimum 51% Indian ownership, and in-house R&D unit, are eligible to apply either alone, or in collaboration with another Company/ Institute/University.

HOW TO APPLY ?
Proposals for all the Schemes are required to be submitted online only. For scheme details and submission of proposal, please log on to BIRAC website (www.birac.nic.in)

Last date for submission of proposals
31st July, 2019

For queries, please contact: Head - Investment, BIRAC. Email: investment.birac@gov.in

IN BRIEF

Crude steel output grows 5% in May

NEW DELHI

India's crude steel output grew 5.2% to 9.235 million tonnes (MT) in May 2019, according to official data. The country had produced 8.779 MT crude steel in the same month in 2018, a Steel Ministry report said. During April-May 2019-20, the production stood at 18.020 MT, up 3.4% from 17.432 MT in the same period of the previous fiscal. Production of finished steel in May 2019 rose 1.6% to 10.848 MT. PTI

Apollo unveils tyres for pick-up trucks

CHENNAI

Apollo Tyres has unveiled Endumaxx brand of tyres for the pick-up trucks. According to company estimates, the light truck radial category has a potential of 1.12 lakh tyres per month in India and growing at a much faster pace than any other segment. The tyres were designed and developed at the company's global R&D centre, near here. It would be produced at Vadodara plant, the company said.

Laurus Labs units get USFDA observations

HYDERABAD

Pharma firm Laurus Labs on Friday said the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) had made two observations following inspection of the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) facilities in Visakhapatnam. The observations were procedural in nature and issued by the U.S. health regulator on completion of inspection of the API facilities in Units 1 and 3, the company said in a statement.

WPI inflation at 2-year low in May

Inflation in food articles basket was at 6.99%, down from 7.37% in April

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Wholesale price-based inflation hit a 22-month low of 2.45% in May on falling prices of food articles, fuel and power items.

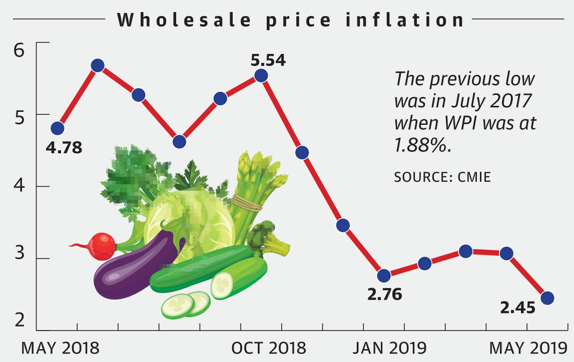
The Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation was at 3.07% in April this year. It was 4.78% in May 2018.

Inflation in the food articles basket was 6.99% in May 2019, down from 7.37% in April, official data released on Friday said.

However, onion prices spiked during the month with inflation at 15.89%, as against (-) 3.43% in April. Inflation in pulses continued in double digit for the fourth consecutive month at 18.36% in May, up from 14.32% in the previous month.

Downward course

Wholesale price inflation fell to a two-year low on falling prices of food articles, fuel and power items.



WPI inflation in May is the lowest in 22 months, since July 2017, when it was at 1.88%. India Ratings & Research principal economist Sunil Kumar Sinha said the core inflation at 1.2% is 29 months' low in May 2019.

"This is clearly an indication of weakening of demand impulse in the economy. Dwindling auto and FMCG sales growth has been pointing towards this for past several months."

The delayed and less than normal monsoon could aggravate the food inflation further in the coming months lest the government monitors the situation proactively, checks speculative activities, and intervenes in the market to stabilise prices, he added.

Vegetables inflation eased to 33.15% in May, down from 40.65% in the previous month. Inflation in potato was (-) 23.36%, against (-) 17.15% in April.

Inflation in 'fuel and power' category cooled to 0.98% from 3.84% last month on account of softening global crude oil prices.

Manufactured items too saw decline in prices with inflation at 1.28% in May, against 1.72% in April.

Dr. Reddy's to sell 2 neuro products to Upsher-Smith for $110 million

Drug maker to get sales-based royalties on quarterly basis

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has entered into a definitive agreement with Upsher-Smith Laboratories to sell the U.S. and select territory rights of two neurology products, a deal that will fetch the Hyderabad-headquartered drug maker over $110 million.

Under the agreement, announced on Friday, Dr. Reddy's will receive $70 million as upfront consideration and $40.5 million more in near term milestones and additional financial considerations including, existing contractual obligation and inventory.

Subsequently, Dr. Reddy's will receive sales based royalties on a quarterly basis. Zembrace Symtouch (sumatriptan injection) 3 mg and Tosymra (sumatriptan nasal spray) 10 mg, both used in the treatment of acute migraine, are products whose U.S. and select territory rights Dr. Reddy's has decided to sell.

> The two products were developed to address unmet needs of patients suffering from episodic migraine

It had commercialised the two products through wholly owned U.S. subsidiary Promius Pharma.

The transaction is subject to various customary closing conditions, including anti-trust review under Hart-Scott-Rodino Act.

Migraine specialty

Co-chairman and CEO G.V. Prasad said Dr. Reddy's, in a short time, had created a well-recognised migraine specialty business in the U.S.

The two products were designed and developed with the goal of addressing unmet needs of large, but discrete segments of patients suffering from episodic migraine, who need options other than their current therapies, Promius Pharma Head Anil Namboodiripad said in a statement on the sale.

This is the second such deal by Dr. Reddy's in recent months.

Mahindra to pick up 11.5% stake in Swiss agri firm

To invest 4.3 mn CHF in Gamaya

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Mahindra & Mahindra's Farm Equipment Sector (FES) has announced an investment of CHF (Swiss Franc) 4.3 million (U.S. $4.3 million) for an 11.25% stake in Switzerland-based agri technology firm Gamaya SA.

This investment will be through a subscription to 300 common shares and 30,469 Series B preferred shares of Gamaya SA.

ICOS Capital, VI Partners and some existing investors also participated in the CHF 7.5 mn Series B funding round.

Through this investment, Mahindra will make superior farming solutions easily accessible to the global farming community, in line with the company's Farming 3.0 strategy.

Rajesh Jejurikar, president, Farm Equipment Sector, Mahindra & Mahindra said, "With agriculture increasingly becoming technology-intensive, we are investing in future ready technologies to provide complete solutions to the global farming community."

Yosef Akhtman, co-founder and CEO of Gamaya, said Mahindra, as an investor and strategic partner, would help Gamaya bring the benefits of advanced technology, including hyperspectral imaging and machine learning, to both industrial farmers and small holders around the world.

Piaggio to invest ₹300 crore in three years in India

The company will launch an electric three-wheeler in the last quarter of 2019

AJEET MAHALE
MUMBAI

Piaggio Vehicles will invest about ₹300 crore in next three years in India on product and technology development, which includes the key transition to the Bharat Stage VI (BS-VI) by the end of the year.

The company, a leader in the diesel three-wheeler segment, will also launch an electric three-wheeler in the last quarter of 2019.

Diego Graffi, CEO and MD, Piaggio Vehicles, said the bulk of the investment would be towards diesel and alternative fuels such as CNG and LPG with the priority being converting their range of two-wheelers and commercial vehicles to comply with BS-VI norms. "I think diesel will continue to be the most convenient solution in Bharat-VI as well and hence we have decided to invest heavily in diesel notwithstanding the cost hike that is naturally coming," he said.

Diego Graffi, MD & CEO, Piaggio Vehicles, at the launch of Ape City+ in Mumbai on Friday. ▪PAUL NORONHA

Automobile manufacturers are racing against time to meet the deadline of April 1, 2020 to transition to BS-VI norms. However, a recent NITI Aayog proposal has asked auto manufacturers to make a complete transition to electric mobility in the three-wheeler segment by 2023 and two-wheeler segment by 2025.

Mr. Graffi said that only a small part of the ₹300 crore would be invested in electric mobility, but it was a space Piaggio was looking at quite carefully and seriously. "The future of mobility is electric, be it in India or across the world. I don't think it is a matter of technology but a matter of entire ecosystem that needs to be created to render electric mobility to be a winning solution for customer needs," he said.

Battery swap technology

The electric three-wheeler, that Piaggio will be launching, will be modelled along a battery swap technology. "We decided to adopt that solution because we thought that from a customer perspective it can at least remove anxiety of waiting for five hours to recharge before restarting operations. You go to the swapping station, you leave the discharged battery and you take a charged one," he said. Piaggio will be teaming up with Bengaluru-based Sun Mobility and are in talks with other partners before launching the product.

Mr. Graffi said that the three-wheeler would not come with a battery attached and would be priced along similar lines as CNG three-wheelers.

On Wednesday, the company launched a new line of three-wheelers called Ape City+. They will be available in four fuel options –LPG, CNG, petrol and diesel – and priced between ₹1.74 lakh and ₹1.9 lakh.

OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, J&K HOUSING BOARD
State Nodal Agency Housing For All (Urban) Mission
AD Block, Green Belt Park, Gandhi Nagar,Jammu/ Habitat Centre,Bemina Bypass,Srinagar
Email-jkhousingboard@gmail.com

KASHMIR & LADAKH DIVISION

J&K Housing Board invites proposals from eligible consultancy agency/firms for the appointment as Third Party Quality Monitoring Agency (TPQMA) with respect to the guidelines of TPQM-2017 issued by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Govt. of India under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana -Housing For All (Urban) Mission for 13 cities/towns of Kashmir Division and Ladakh Division (Anantnag, Bijbhera, Pulwama, Shopian, Budgam, Srinagar, Ganderbal, Baramulla, Sopore, Kupwara, Handwara, Leh & Kargil).

The interested agency/firm should be registered as legal entity and operational in India for at least 5 years with experience of TPQM in civil works in the last three years and a sound technical capacity.

The agency/firm should have strong financial capability demonstrated through a turnover of Rs 50 Lakhs each for the last three financial years. The firm must be having a valid PAN & GST Number. Interested agencies/firms may download the complete RFP document from the website www.jkhousingbboard.jk.gov.in. The eligible bidders may submit their proposals along with a non refundable demand draft of Rs 5000/- in favor of Director Finance, J&K Housing Board, Habitat Centre, Bemina Bypass, Srinagar payable at Srinagar. Pre-bid meeting shall be held in the office of Managing Director (State Nodal Officer, HFA) J&K Housing Board, Habitat Centre,Bemina Bypass,Srinagar on 24-06-2019 at 2.00 pm.

Hardcopy of the EOI document complete in all respect should reach the Office of Managing Director, J&K Housing Board,Habitat Centre, Bemina Bypass, Srinagar on or before 02-07-2019 at 4.00 pm by registered post/speed post/courier.

Interested consultancy firms may submit their duly filled proposals in the prescribed format available on www.jktenders.gov.in not later than 01-07-2019 at 6.00 pm. Amendments to RFP if any would be published on the jkhousingboard.jk.gov.in website only, and not in newspaper. The Managing Director J&K Housing Board reserves all rights to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons. For any clarification you may contact on 0194-2490421/ 9796024393 I 9419183592.

Note: The TPQMA will be responsible for undertaking desk review of documents and make site visits to each project as mentioned in the RFP document and according to TPQM reference guide of MoHUA, Govt. of India.

(Tasadug Jeelani) KAS
Managing Director,
(State Nodal Officer - HFA)
J&K Housing Board, Jammu

DIP/J/1087

हरियाणा सरकार

TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HSVP PANCHKULA	A/MTC OF L/S WORK IN ATAL PARK IN SECTOR-8 AND 9-II KARNAL, (MTC OF ALL HORT. WORKS, CLEANING, SANITATION, PROVIDING MALI CUM CHOWKIDAR WATCH AND WARD DURING DAY AND NIGHT	CLOSING 22.06.2019	APPROX 22.33 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	[illegible]
2	HSVP HISAR	DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, SUPPLY, ERECTION, TESTING OF COMMISSIONING OF 1.5 MLD CAPACITY MPSB 5 MLD COMMON EFFLUENT TREATMENT PLANT COMPRISING OF EQUALIZATION TANK	OPENING 04.07.2019	27 LACS	[illegible]	[illegible]
3	HSIIDC	DEVELOPMENT OF HORTICULTURE AND LANDSCAPE WORKS IN GREEN BELTS/PARKS OF R&R POCKETS AT IMT FARIDABAD	13.06.2019 27.06.2019	45.01 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	[illegible]
4	HSIIDC	P/L INFRA, FACILITIES I.E ROAD WORKS, PHE WORKS, ELECTRIFICATION & ALL OTHER ALLIED WORKS CONTIGENT THERETO INCLUDING DLP OF 36 MONTHS ON TURNKEY BASIS AT IMT SOHNA	13.06.2019 27.06.2019	271.28 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	[illegible]
5	HSIIDC	CONSTRUCTION OF CC ROADS, PROVIDING STREET LIGHTING, PHE WORKS & ALL OTHER CONTINGENT WORKS THERETO IN IE SECTOR-59 FARIDABAD	13.06.2019 27.06.2019	452.57 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	[illegible]
6	HSIIDC	ANNUAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE (O&M) OF 8 MLD CAPACITY WATER TREATMENT PLANT (WTP) AND 4 NOS. OF BOOSTING STATION R1, R2, R3 & R4 AT IMT ROHTAK	13.06.2019 27.06.2019	66.82 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	[illegible]
7	HSIIDC	CONSTRUCTION OF FIRE STATION BUILDING (2 BAYS) AND ALL OTHER ALLIED WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO AT INDUSTRIAL GROWTH CENTRE SAHA, DISTT. AMBALA	13.06.2019 27.06.2019	177.38 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	[illegible]
8	HSIIDC	UP-GRADATION OF CIVIL INFRASTRUCTURE I.E ROADS, WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE, STORM WATER DRAINAGE IN SECTOR-31 AT IE FARIDABAD	13.06.2019 27.06.2019	416.25 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	[illegible]
9	HSIIDC	SUPPLYING & LAYING OF FRESH EARTH IN VARIOUS R&R ZONES AT IMT FARIDABAD	13.06.2019 27.06.2019	98.52 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	[illegible]
10	MDU ROHTAK	CONSTRUCTION OF CRICKET PAVILION AT MDU, ROHTAK (RE-INVITE) + 2 OTHER WORKS	11.06.2019 04.07.2019	5.37 CRORE	[illegible]	[illegible]
11	BPSMV KHANPUR KALAN	CONSTRUCTION OF CONNECTIVITY ROAD FOR STUDENT ACTIVITY CENTRE (RE-INVITED) + 3 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING 04.07.2019	39.59 LACS	[illegible]	[illegible]

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

PRDH-76861

HIMACHAL PRADESH
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
INVITATION FOR BID(IFB)
Annexure-"A"

The Executive Engineer, (B&R) Division, HPPWD, Baijnath on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HP.PWD for the works as detailed in the table.

S. No: 1, **Name of work:** Construction of rod from Banuri to Sornu via Nain Km. 0/0 to 1/540 i/c 30.00 Mtr. Span RCC Box Girder Bridge over Awa Khad at RD. 0/630 (Under NABARD RIDF-XXIV). (SH:- Removal of formation ,passing, places, R/Walls. C.D. works, GSB, WBM-II,WBM-III, Tarring work, CC Pavement side drain & parapets and construction of 30.00 Mtr. Span Box Girder over Awa Khad at RD. 0/630). **Estimated Cost Rs.:** 1,60,70,360/, **Starting Date for downloading :** 06.06.2019, **Earnest Money:** 1,93,200/, **Time limit:** Eighteen Months, **Deadline for submission of bid:** 25.06.2019, Cost of Tender form: 5000/-

The bidders are advised to note others details of tenders from the department Website **www.hptenders.gov.in**

Executive Engineer,
Baijnath Division
HPPWD Baijnath
Pin.176125
on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

HP/0468/19-20

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

EMPANELMENT OF ADVERTISING AGENCIES"

No.-JA/573/0/1/Part-III Date 14.06.2019

Applications are invited from INS fully accredited advertising agencies for empanelment with North Eastern Railway for Public Relations works. Which has been cancelled due to inevitable administrative reasons.

This information is available on North Eastern Railway website ***https://ner.indianrailways.gov.in***.

CPRO/Misc.-30 ***Chief Public Relations Officer, Gorakhpur***

About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955

Do not travel with inflammable article in train.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
(e TENDER NOTICE)
STATE FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY
5-CIVIL LINES SAGAR (M.P)

No. FSL /STORE/NF/2019 **Dated 20/06/2019**

"ONLINE TENDER NOTICE"

Online tender are invited by Director State Forensic Science Laboratory, Sagar on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following on website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

S. No.	Name of Item(s)	Qty.	Tender Fees (Rs.)	EMD Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in
1	Genotyping Kit for Autosomal STR Markers	5000 Reactions	5000.00	80000.00
2	Genotyping Kit for Y chromosome Markers	3000 Reactions	5000.00	80000.00
3	DNA Quantification kit	5000 Reactions	2000.00	16000.00
4	DNA Extraction Kit	5000 Sample	5000.00	50000.00

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.
2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in)
3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

4. Critical Date Sheet:

Published Date	20-06-2019 (11.00 am)
Bid Document Download Start Date	20-06-2019 (11.00 am)
Pre bid meeting	02-07-2019 (11.00 am)
Bid Submission Start Date	20-06-2019 (11.00 am)
Bid Submission End Date	10-07-2019 (05.30 pm)
Bid Opening Date	12-07-2019 (11.00 am)

G- 12308

Director
F. S. L. Sagar

CAPEX
KERALA STATE CASHEW WORKERS APEX INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.
P.B No. 262, Industrial Development Plot, H & C Compound, Mundakkal West, Kollam 691001. Reg. No. IND (ST)12. Phone: 0474-2742499, 2765644, Fax: 0474-2747153, email: cashewcapex@rediffmail.com, Website: www.cashewcapex.com

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR SALE OF EXPORT QUALITY CASHEW KERNELS

Tender No: 2/19-20 **Dated 14.06:19**

Competitive sealed tenders are invited from reputed firms for sale of above, tenders along with EMD to reach our office on or before 12 noon on 19.06.19 and the same will be opened at 12.30 pm on same day. Please check our web site and Capex HO for quantity and other details.

Kollam **Sd/-**
14.06.2019 **Managing Director**

Quadrennial event's spicy sub-plot brewing

Come Sunday, there will be no dearth of drama when India and Pakistan face off

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
MANCHESTER

In an industrial metropolis where the local football derby pits two teams with the town's name as the common prefix (Manchester) and their respective different secondary names – United and City – the stage is set for another gladiatorial clash. But this time, it pertains to cricket as the World Cup's most-awaited match featuring India and Pakistan, will dish out some Sunday spice here at the Old Trafford.

The previous games involving India witnessed a sea of blue sweep across the stands, be it at Southampton's Hampshire Bowl, the Oval or Nottingham's rain-swept Trent Bridge.

The raucous presence validated what tennis star Sania Mirza once said while referring to the emphatic support that the Indian athletes get across the globe – "There are so many of us." But this time around, there could be a strong counter-punch too as Manchester is also home to people from either side of the Wagah border.

Maestro at his marauding best: Sachin Tendulkar's assault on the Pakistan bowlers, especially Shoaib Akhtar, in the 2003 World Cup league encounter is still being spoken about. ▪AFP

Largely sunny day

And for those curious about the fickle English weather, Friday turned out to be a largely sunny affair, though a few showers have been forecast for the weekend. Pakistan trained at the venue, while it was a travel-day for Virat Kohli's men.

The build-up has been marked by a refreshingly measured approach by the two squads, keen to pipe-down the chatter on the sidelines. But off the field, marketing managers have dipped into needless war-symbolism and excess hype.

Just as it is tempting to peer into the crystal-ball and figure out what the future holds, it is also time for the retrospective gaze because the India-Pakistan rivalry has been an astonishing sub-plot in the World Cup's matrix.

The two have clashed six times, starting with the 1992 edition, and in all the encounters, India prevailed. Even in the 2015 championship, the script remained unchanged as Kohli's 107 and Mohammed Shami's four for 35 unhinged Misbah-ul-Haq's men at Adelaide.

Contrarian narrative

It was a contrarian narrative to the one seen in the desert sands of Sharjah where Pakistan had a vice-like grip with the most soul-numbing blow being the last-ball six that Javed Miandad hammered off Chetan Sharma in the Australasia Cup final during a hot April day in 1986. There was an equally disruptive innings, a 36-ball 72 that Salim Malik bludgeoned in an ODI at Kolkata's Eden Gardens in 1987.

Magnificent assault

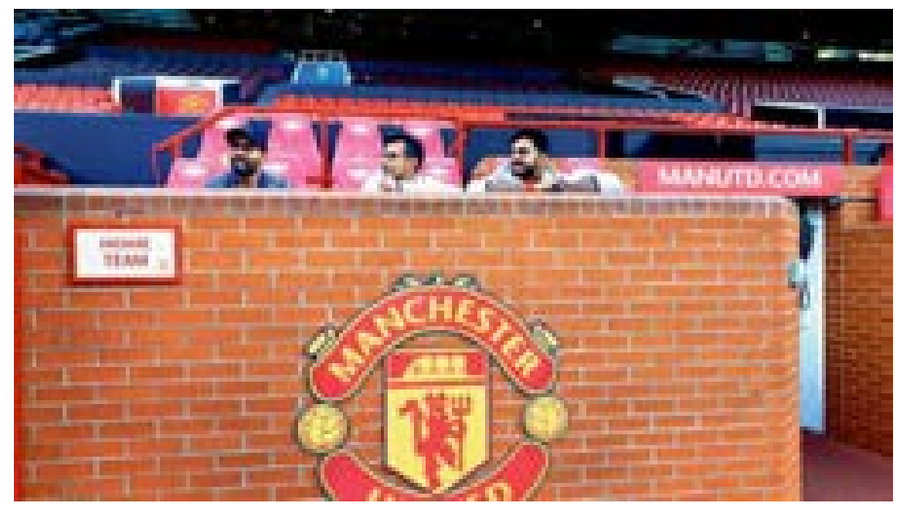
India's retaliation, much to the delight of its fans, happened in World Cup tussles. Miandad's strike to the solar-plexus was gradually forgotten as there was Ajay Jadeja's magnificent assault on Waqar Younis in the 1996 quarter-final at Bangalore's Chinnaswamy Stadium. And the acme was the upper-cut six that Sachin Tendulkar launched off Shoaib Akhtar at Centurion in the 2003 event in South Africa. The stroke blended audacity and mayhem, and deflated Pakistan. The dominance spilled over into the 2011 and 2015 events too and India has stayed ahead. The results may seem skewed but there is no denying the combative fires that flare up when India and Pakistan face off on the turf. None will forget the showdown between Aamer Sohail and Venkatesh Prasad in 1996.

Comical underpinning

At times, this fierce focus had its share of comical underpinnings too. And it was evident when Miandad mimicked wicketkeeper Kiran More's mannerisms with a series of exaggerated jumps in the 1992 skirmish at Sydney. The Pakistani legend drew censure from an angry Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin and all these vignettes are part of YouTube's popular videos.

Come Sunday, there will be no dearth of drama and if the weather stays dry, this World Cup might get a welcome shot of adrenaline.

The Red Devils



Theatre of dreams: Dinesh Karthik, Yuzvendra Chahal and Vijay Shankar soak in the atmosphere at the home of Premier League's most successful team. ▪COURTESY: TWITTER.COM/BCCI

Champions Trophy win an inspiration: Babar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANCHESTER

It is adulation that spills across the border. Babar Azam, Pakistan's talented batsman, draws inspiration from India captain Virat Kohli.

"I watch his batting and the way he bats in various conditions and try to learn. His [Kohli's] winning ratio is higher [for India] so I am trying to achieve that as well," Babar told the media at Old Trafford here on Friday.

But on Sunday, when Pakistan takes on India in a World Cup game, Babar and his teammates would remember their ICC Champions Trophy final victory over India at the Oval in 2017. Pakistan had won that match by a whopping 180 runs.

"The Champions Trophy win gave us confidence and will help here as well because the team is mostly the same and that win is always an inspiration," Babar said.

Babar Azam. ▪AFP

Positive

Looking ahead at Sunday's clash, Babar said: "The whole team is positive so we are looking forward to the match. Not only me, but all the players want to finish on a high.

"No doubt, India has a good bowling attack but we have played well against England, which also has a very good pace attack so all of us are confident."

'Chacha Chicago' sure Dhoni will give him a ticket

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The bond between M.S. Dhoni and Karachi-born Mohammad Bashir aka 'Chacha Chicago' blossomed during the 2011 World Cup semifinal between India and Pakistan and it has only grown stronger since then.

Bashir has flown in from Chicago for Sunday's India-Pakistan contest without a ticket. He knows that Dhoni will ensure that he is it at Old Trafford when the first ball is bowled. "I arrived here yesterday and saw that people are ready to pay as much as £800-900 for a ticket. A return ticket from Chicago costs the same. Thanks to Dhoni, I don't have to struggle for a match ticket," the 63-year-old told PTI.

Bowlers and Root help England rout West Indies

The hosts restrict the Caribbeans to 212 before crossing the finish line in the 34th over

No ordinary Joe! Root's second hundred of the tournament took England home with plenty to spare. ▪REUTERS

Where they stand

Team	Mat	Won	Lost	NR	PTS	NRR
New Zealand	4	3	0	1	7	2.163
England	4	3	1	0	6	1.557
Australia	4	3	1	0	6	0.570
India	3	2	0	1	5	0.539
Sri Lanka	4	1	1	2	4	-1.517
West Indies	4	1	2	1	3	-0.311
Bangladesh	4	1	2	1	3	-0.714
Pakistan	4	1	2	1	3	-1.796
South Africa	4	0	3	1	1	-0.952
Afghanistan	3	0	3	0	0	-1.493

*till the England-West Indies match on June 14

SHAYAN ACHARYA
SOUTHAMPTON

After days of incessant rain, the Hampshire Bowl witnessed a bright and sunny Friday with England registering an eight-wicket win over the West Indies.

The host, which opted to bowl, restricted the formidable West Indies batting line-up to a below-par 212, thanks to three-wicket hauls by Jofra Archer and Mark Wood.

England comfortably chased down the total in just 33.1 overs, with Joe Root slamming his second century of this edition. The 28-year-old remained unbeaten on 100 off 94 balls to emerge as the top-scorer (279).

The victory helped England climb to the second spot, but the day was marred by injuries to skipper Eoin Morgan (back spasm) and opener Jason Roy (hamstring).

With the rules suggesting that Roy could only bat at No. 7, England had to rejig its batting order, with Root joining Johnny Bairstow at the top. The new pair, however, had no difficulty in adjusting to the conditions as it accumulated 95. After Bairstow was caught by Carlos Brathwaite at third man off Shannon Gabriel for 45, Root stitched a 104-run partnership with Chris Woakes (40 off 54 balls) that sealed the issue. Root, who had made 105 against Pakistan in Nottingham last week, played a flawless knock.

Earlier in the day, West Indies suffered a batting collapse, losing three wickets for 55 runs. Woakes dismissed Lewis for two before Wood dropped opener Chris Gayle. The batsman, however, failed to make the most of his fortune, falling for 36.

Some sensible batting by Nicholas Pooran, who played a gritty knock of 63, and Shimron Hetmyer (39 off 48) helped Windies cross 200.

Fitness issues

Roy's World Cup future could be determined on Saturday when the England batsman undergoes a scan. Morgan, clearly in discomfort, addressed the post-match media interaction standing up and admitted it was not clear whether he would be able to play against Afghanistan.

Next assignment

WEST INDIES
June 17 vs **Bangladesh**, *Taunton, 3 p.m.*

ENGLAND
June 18 vs **Afghanistan**, *Old Tafford, 3 p.m.*

SCOREBOARD ENGLAND VS WEST INDIES

WEST INDIES

Chris Gayle c Bairstow b Plunkett 36 *(41b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Evin Lewis b Woakes 2 *(8b)*, Shai Hope lbw b Wood 11 *(30b, 1x4)*, Nicholas Pooran c Buttler b Archer 63 *(78b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Shimron Hetmyer c & b Root 39 *(48b, 4x4)*, Jason Holder c & b Root 9 *(10b, 1x6)*, Andre Russell c Woakes b Wood 21 *(16b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Carlos Brathwaite c Buttler b Archer 14 *(22b, 1x6)*, Sheldon Cottrell lbw b Archer 0 *(1b)*, Oshane Thomas (not out) 0 *(11b)*, Shannon Gabriel b Wood 0 *(3b)*; Extras (lb-5, w-12): 17; Total (in 44.4 overs): 212.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-4 (Lewis, 2.6 overs), 2-54 (Gayle, 12.6), 3-55 (Hope, 13.2), 4-144 (Hetmyer, 29.5), 5-156 (Holder, 31.6), 6-188 (Russell, 36.2), 7-202 (Pooran, 39.4), 8-202 (Cottrell, 39.5), 9-211 (Brathwaite, 43.4).

ENGLAND BOWLING

Woakes 5-2-16-1, Archer 9-1-30-3, Plunkett 5-0-30-1, Wood 6.4-0-18-3, Stokes 4-0-25-0, Rashid 10-0-61-0, Root 5-0-27-2.

ENGLAND

Jonny Bairstow c Brathwaite b Gabriel 45 *(46b, 7x4)*, Joe Root (not out) 100 *(94b, 11x4)*, Chris Woakes c sub b Gabriel 40 *(54b, 4x4)*; Ben Stokes (not out) 10 *(6b, 2x4)*; Extras (lb-2, nb-1, w-15): 18; Total (for two wkts. in 33.1 overs): 213.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-95 (Bairstow (14.4), 2-199 (Woakes, 31.5).

WEST INDIES BOWLING

Cottrell 3-0-17-0, Thomas 6-0-43-0, Gabriel 7-0-49-2, Russell 2-0-14-0, Holder 5.1-0-31-0, Brathwaite 5-0-35-0, Gayle 5-0-22-0.

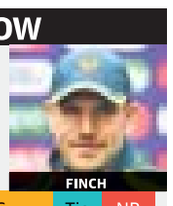
Toss: England.
Man-of-the-Match: Root.
England won by eight wickets with 101 balls remaining.

THE SATURDAY SHOW

THE FACE-OFF

SRI LANKA vs AUSTRALIA
THE OVAL

KARUNARATNE



FINCH

HEAD-TO-HEAD

	Matches	SA	AUS	Tie	NR
Overall	9	1	7	0	1
World Cup	96	32	60	0	4

LIVE ON Star Sports 1, 2 (SD & HD), 3 p.m.

FAF DU PLESSIS

SOUTH AFRICA vs AFGHANISTAN
CARDIFF
FIRST EVER ODI MEETING
STAR SPORTS 3, 6 P.M.

GULBADIN NAIB

Sri Lanka cries foul

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

Complaining of a step-motherly treatment, Sri Lanka has expressed dissatisfaction at the types of pitches provided, inadequate training and transport facilities.

Sri Lanka team manager Ashantha de Mel has written to the ICC, stating that Sri Lanka was made to play on two green decks in Cardiff whereas other teams which played at the same venue were provided high-scoring pitches.

"This is a World Cup where the top 10 countries are taking part and I feel that all the participants should be treated equally," De Mel told Sri Lankan newspaper *Daily News*.

He also complained that the team bus was small with less-seating capacity and the practice facilities provided at Cardiff were unsatisfactory, with only two nets instead of three, and there was no swimming pool at its Bristol hotel.

The ICC has given an official response saying that the pitches were overseen by an independent advisor.

Did not expect Bumrah to be this good: Kapil

Says the Indian team has reached the top because of the bowlers

S. DIPAK RAGAV
CHENNAI

The rise of Jasprit Bumrah to the top of the world rankings (he leads the ODI charts) has been meteoric and surprised many. And India's first World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev was no exception to this view.

Speaking here at an event got up to unveil the world's largest cricket bat, Kapil said, "When I saw him for the first time, I never thought he would have that much ability. I change my word and god, man, he is really fantastic.

"With such a short run-up, to generate pace with an awkward action is not very easy. I just want him to be fit for the next few years."

Kapil added, "When you don't have something and you get it, you feel proud about that. That's what has happened to the Indian team.

Kapil Dev. ▪DIPAK RAGAV

"We always depended on batsman to win. But in the last 15 years, bowlers have started coming.

"It is always said bowlers win matches. The Indian team has reached the top because we not only have good batsman but also [good] bowlers."

With the biggest clash of the World Cup upon us on Sunday when India takes on Pakistan, Kapil said that India would start as favourite to win the tie and keep its unbeaten record against its arch-rival in the quadrennial event.

"I would like to keep my fingers crossed and hope they keep on playing like they have been doing so far. The current Indian team is far better.

"When I was playing, they [Pakistan] were better than us but today I can say India will win seven out of 10 times.

"What happens on that day god knows, but I hope if the players play to the best of their potential, we can't lose."

Defends Dhoni

The 60-year-old also came in defence of M.S. Dhoni for his decision to wear an army insignia on his wicketkeeping gloves that created a furore.

Kapil was the first Indian cricketer to be made an honorary officer with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the territorial army, before Dhoni was made one.

"I respect Dhoni. He just showed his passion and love for his country and army people. There is nothing wrong in that. But at the same time, we have to follow the system and the rules set by the ICC. He must have not realised it was going to be such a big thing because the next day he said he will remove it."

India-Pakistan match is always the biggest: Asif Iqbal

'Current players are remarkable because they handle immense pressure'

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
HYDERABAD

For Asif Iqbal, an India-Pakistan contest may not be just another match, and he would not miss a ball because of the intensity it generates.

As he looks forward to the Sunday meeting between the two sides, Iqbal pleads: "treat it as a cricket match. One team will lose and let not the players from the losing team be unreasonably berated."

Makings of a classic

Speaking to *The Hindu* from his home in London, Iqbal, former Pakistan captain and one of the finest allrounders to have represented Kent, said, "an India-Pakistan cricket match always has the makings of a classic. It can be exhilarating stuff for the fans even though it does put the players under tremendous pressure."

Asif Iqbal. ▪FILE PHOTO

Iqbal played four Ranji Trophy matches for Hyderabad before migrating to Pakistan in 1961. In fact, he played for South Zone against the visiting Pakistan in early 1961 and by the year-end, made his debut for Karachi.

> **Cricket is more than a sport now but the players are human. They can make mistakes**

"The pressure of performance is always there because the expectations from all stake-holders involved are huge. To me, it is always the biggest match of international cricket.

"Cricket is more than a sport now but the players are human. They can make mistakes. So let us not just shower them with adulation only when they win. Treat them as sportsmen."

Iqbal observed: "Some former cricketers may be better than the present lot but they must understand that the game has evolved.

Not qualified

"A total of 250 is not a winning score now because of T20. I don't give views on T20 because I am not qualified to do so. The current players have a different mindset and they are a remarkable lot because they handle immense pressure."

Ahead of the Manchester match of the World Cup, Iqbal said, "I am sure it will be an excellent contest. I only hope it doesn't rain. The scheduling of the World Cup has been poor."

He will support "Pakistan" when it plays India. "But I support India when it plays another team."

Raptors rupture Warriors' hopes

Become the first team from outside the United States to clinch the honours

Making history: The Toronto Raptors players are on cloud nine after their maiden triumph. ▪ AP

NBA FINALS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
OAKLAND

Toronto Raptors dethroned defending champion Golden State on Thursday, defeating Warriors 114-110 to win the NBA Finals and capture the first crown by a club from outside the United States.

Kyle Lowry and Pascal Siakam each scored 26 points while Kawhi Leonard and reserve Fred VanVleet both had 22 as Toronto won the best-of-seven series four games to two.

Leonard was named the NBA Finals Most Valuable Player for the second time in his career after the first in 2014 with San Antonio, which traded him to Toronto last July.

Raptors became the first Canadian club to win a major North American sports title since the 1993 Toronto Blue Jays captured Major League Baseball's World Series.

Raptors spoiled Warriors' farewell appearance at Oracle Arena. Golden State's home since 1971 will be replaced by a new $1 billion venue in San Francisco next season.

Klay Thompson scored 30 points to lead the Warriors but left the game with a left knee injury late in the third quarter after landing awkwardly on his left leg.

Latest setback

It was the latest setback for an injury-hit Golden State team that was already without two-time Kevin Durant, who returned in game five on Monday after being sidelined for a month only to suffer a ruptured right Achilles tendon.

Andre Iguodala added 22 points for the Warriors, Stephen Curry had 21 and Draymond Green contributed 11 points, 18 rebounds and 13 assists.

Golden State had a final shot to win trailing 111-110 but Curry missed a 3-pointer and Green called a timeout when the team had none, setting up three final free throws by Leonard to seal the victory.

Warriors failed in their bid for a third consecutive title and to become the first team in 50 years to win four titles in five seasons.

Toronto's triumph made this the first NBA Finals where road teams won five consecutive games.

The result: Toronto Raptors 114 (Pascal Siakam 26, Kyle Lowry 26, Kawhi Leonard 22) bt Golden State Warriors 110 (Klay Thompson 30, Andre Iguodala 22, Stephen Curry 21). *Raptors win series 4-2.*

Three keys that opened the door for Toronto

SRINIVASAN RAMANI

Containing Curry: The Warriors sharpshooter was effectively contained by the Raptors throughout the series, who tried to trap, double-team and harass him at every step of the way.

Defenders Fred Van Vleet, Kyle Lowry, Danny Green and sometimes Pascal Siakam and Leonard always kept at his hip, giving him less time and space to shoot.

The Raptors also tried unconventional defensive tactics such as the "box-and-one" – a ploy generally used in high school basketball in the U.S – where an active defender played man-to-man against Curry even as other players formed a zone within the arc.

The box-and-one dared other Warriors players to shoot and was most effective when Curry's Splash Brother Klay Thompson was not on court.

Injuries: Kevin Durant's calf tear and the devastating Achilles heel injury that took him out reduced the Warriors' super team into a more manageable machine for the Raptors to handle.

Klay Thompson, who missed a game with a hamstring injury, was brilliant in Game 6 with 30 points in 32 minutes before an untimely ACL tear took him off the game and that proved to be the final straw for the short-handed Warriors.

Curry became more of a non-factor without Thompson to relieve him of scoring responsibilities.

Kawhi's malleability: Leonard has been the Raptors' leading scorer this post-season, and his record this year ranks among the best ever.

The Warriors tried to limit his effectiveness in offence by double-teaming and trapping him early at the top of the arc and limiting his forays into the paint.

The Raptors managed to circumvent this by using Leonard as a secondary option on offence and routing the plays through two point guards on the floor – Kyle Lowry and Fred Van Vleet, who both rose to the occasion in vital moments in Game 6 and other games.

The plural nature of the offence and Kawhi's ability to spot up or score off second chance points allowed the Raptors to keep the strong Warriors defence at bay.

At the other end, Leonard played stellar defence, grabbing contested rebounds and stifling passing lanes along with Pascal Siakam and Marc Gasol.

Hoop high

1 Maiden title for the Raptors, a franchise that joined the NBA in 1995. Like his Warriors counterpart Steve Kerr and former Cavaliers coach Tyron Lue, Toronto Nick Nurse won the championship in his very first season as coach

1 Center Marc Gasol joins his brother Pau in becoming the only set of brothers to win NBA titles

3 Kawhi Leonard is only the third player to win Finals MVP with two different teams (San Antonio, Toronto) after Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (Milwaukee, Los Angeles) and LeBron James (Miami, Cleveland). Kawhi is the only player to win the MVP honours representing two different Conferences

3 Leonard is the third highest scorer in the post-season ever - his 732 points in 24 games is next only to Michael Jordan's 759 (in 1992) and LeBron James' 748 in 2018

6 Number of Raptors players who averaged double digit scores in the NBA Finals. The last time this happened was in 1987 when the Showtime Lakers matched that tally

11 After Toronto's triumph, only 11 active teams in the NBA are yet to win the title - Phoenix, Indiana, Minnesota, Brooklyn, Utah, Orlando, Denver, Memphis, Los Angeles Clippers, Charlotte and New Orleans

17 Raptors might have lost two games en route to the championship, but they dominated the Warriors, leading in 17 of the 24 quarters in the six games

Sachin sues Australian bat maker

REUTERS
SYDNEY

Sachin Tendulkar has filed a civil lawsuit against an Australian bat manufacturer, accusing it of using his name and image to promote products and then failing to pay him $2 million in royalties.

In Federal Court papers filed this month, Tendulkar said the Sydney-based Spartan Sports International agreed in 2016 to pay him at least $1 million a year to use his image, logo and promotional services to sell *"Sachin by Spartan"* sporting goods and clothing, but did not pay him.

Semenya can compete

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GENEVA

Switzerland's top court rejected an IAAF request to re-impose rules obliging double Olympic champion Caster Semenya to lower her testosterone before competing in certain events, her legal team said on Thursday.

The court, which could not be immediately reached for confirmation, had issued the order on Wednesday, adding that "this means that Caster remains permitted to compete without restriction in the female category."

Nagal stuns the top seed

SPORTS BUREAU
LYON

Sumit Nagal shocked top seed Albert Ramos-Vinolas of Spain 7-5, 7-6(2) in the quarterfinals of the €92,040 Challenger on Friday.

In the $25,000 ITF event in Hong Kong, Sidharth Rawat rallied from the brink of defeat to beat fourth seed Nam Hoang Ly of Vietnam 4-6, 7-6(0), 6-1 in the quarterfinals.

Other results: €137,560 Challenger, Nottingham, England: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Ken Skupski (GBR) & John-Patrick Smith (Aus) bt Rameez Junaid (Aus) & Leander Paes 6-4, 7-6(4).

$25,000 ITF men, Shenzhen, China: Doubles (semifinals): Rhett Purcell (Nzl) & Aoran Wang (Chn) bt Luca Castelnuovo (Sui) & Karunuday Singh 6-3, 6-0.

$15,000 ITF men, Singapore: Quarterfinals: Manish Sureshkumar bt Alec Adamson (US) 4-6, 6-3, 6-1.

Doubles (semifinals): Congsup Congcar (Tha) & Kazuki Nishiwaki (Jpn) bt Siddhant Banthia & Manish Sureshkumar 4-6, 6-1, [10-8].

$100,000 ITF women, Manchester, England: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Quinn Gleason & Ingrid Neel (US) bt Tereza Smitkova (Cze) & Prarthana Thombare 6-4, 6-3.

India turns on the style

Wallops Japan, meets South Africa in final

Fantastic finish: Ramandeep Singh comes up with a spectacular effort for one of his two goals in India's thumping win over Japan in the semifinals on Friday. ▪ BISWARANJAN ROUT

HSF

UTHRA GANESAN
BHUBANESWAR

The Indian team that everyone wanted to see finally stepped up, partially, in the semifinals of the Hockey Series Finals here against Japan on Friday, storming to a 7-2 victory and setting up a final clash against South Africa.

Despite the scoreline, it was not a 100 percent performance from the host. When in flow, the Indians can be a delight to watch, and they showed glimpses of it in the second half.

The margin could have been bigger if the forwards, specially Mandeep Singh, had managed to avoid a bit of show-boating and got their positioning correct early on.

Credit, though, must also go to Japan goalkeeper Takashi Yoshikawa, who brought off some impressive saves. Despite the difference in rankings, it wasn't expected to be an easy outing for India and it wasn't made any easier when Kenji Kitazato slammed in the opening goal in the second minute itself.

It took the Indians by surprise and saw them hit back with desperation, getting an equaliser five minutes later through Harmanpreet Singh's penalty corner.

For the first 20 minutes, it was an even battle before Ramandeep Singh tapped in in the 23rd minute and Hardik Singh, unmarked at the top of the circle, got in a rebound two minutes later.

The second half was completely different. The lethargy was replaced by aggression and it looked like the players had been given a free hand.

The team spread out, the flanks became important in creating openings, the holding time reduced and suddenly, the Indians were all over the Japanese half.

The team kept trying to earn penalty corners – it got 10 in all – while also putting pressure on the Japanese defence through short passes inside their circle.

It worked, as in the 37th minute Ramandeep Singh slotted home a rebound from India's eighth PC.

In the other semifinal, South Africa completed its spectacular recovery in the tournament by entering the final with a 2-1 win against USA.

The results: 5-6 place: Russia 3 (Marat Khairullin, Pavel Golubev, Sergey Lepeshkin) bt Poland 2 (Mikolaj Gumny, Michal Kaspryzk).

Semifinals: India 7 (Ramandeep Singh 2, Gursahibjit Singh, Vivek Prasad, Varun Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh, Hardik Singh) bt Japan 2 (Kenji Kitazato, Kota Watanabe); South Africa 2 (Austin Smith, Nicholas Spooner) bt USA 1 (Aki Kaeppeler).

Japan pips Scotland

Li strikes as China beats South Africa

WOMEN'S WC

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
RENNES (FRANCE)

Mana Iwabuchi set Japan on its way to a 2-1 win over Scotland here on Friday as the 2011 winner gave its women's World Cup campaign a shot in the arm.

Yuika Sugasawa also converted a penalty as the Nadeshiko closed in on qualifying for the last 16, just four days after a disappointing display in a goalless draw against outsiders Argentina.

Asako Takakura's team, ranked World No. 7, will now go into its final Group-D game against England next week with a chance of topping the section, which would ensure a far more favourable draw in the last 16. Scotland got a goal back through substitute Lana Clelland.

Earlier, Li Ying's first-half strike gave China a 1-0 victory over South Africa.

The results: Group D: Japan 2 (Iwabuchi 23, Sugasawa 37-pen) bt Scotland 1 (Clelland 88).

Group B: South Africa 0 lost to China 1 (Li Ying 40).

Saturday's matches: Netherlands vs Cameroon (6.30 p.m.); Canada vs New Zealand (00.30 a.m., Sunday).

The toast: Iwabuchi is congratulated by teammates. ▪ AFP

Anand beats Grischuk; Carlsen triumphs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
STAVANGER (NORWAY)

Viswanathan Anand defeated an out of sorts Alexander Grischuk while Magnus Carlsen sealed the title at the Altibox Norway chess tournament with a round to spare.

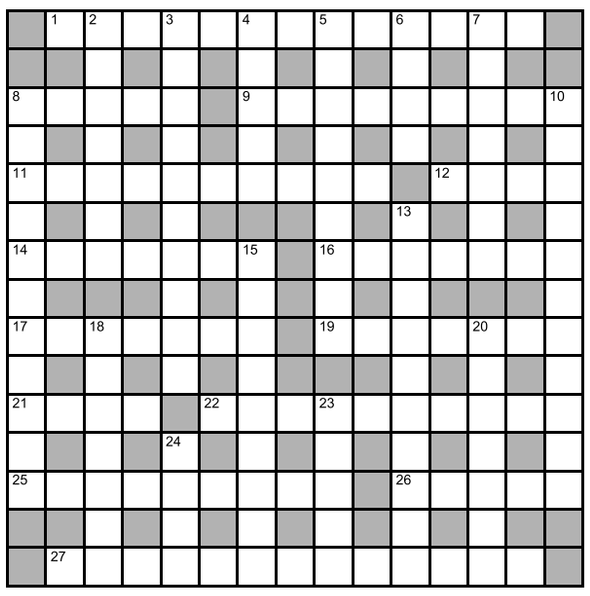
Anand's chances to be in top three had ended after he lost to American Fabiano Caruana in the previous round.

Carlsen won his sixth title of the year, defeating Yu Yangyi of China in the Classical game itself. While it was only his second Classical win here, Carlsen also won all the six matches in the Armageddon stage.

The results (eighth round): Alexander Grischuk (Rus, 3.5) lost to Viswanathan Anand (Ind, 7.5); Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 13) bt Yu Yangyi (Chn, 8.5); Fabiano Caruana (USA, 8.5) bt Levon Aronian (Arm, 9); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 7.5) bt Ding Liren (Chn, 8); Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze, 5) lost to Wesley So (USA, 8.5).

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12653

(set by Dr. X)



ACROSS

1 Skeleton over small mound! Go ballistic (4,4,5)

8 One in bathroom is somewhat blotto, we learn (5)

9 Leaves listeners enthralled by hit (6,3)

11 Stunning bird approaches old chaps entertained by lap dance (10)

12 Best to take pawn for knight (4)

14 Italian violinist's heart problem returns (7)

16 Scrap in bar over a little remark (7)

17 Almost killed, receiving knock in fight (7)

19 All are high on ecstasy and drink (4,3)

21 Wicket lost in fine game played by children (1-3)

22 Move to arrest atheist essentially spreading disinformation (10)

25 Clumsy girl! Don't be in such a rush? (9)

26 Lives to bring charges against heirs (5)

27 Be in a very precarious state with illogical instruction to executioner? (4,2,1,6)

DOWN

2 Cheap attire that's essential for climbing hills (3,4)

3 Gangster troubling folk captured by partner in pursuit (4,2,4)

4 Good to keep husband in place (5)

5 Cry when boyfriend gets overwhelmed by strain (4,1,4)

6 Weary couple taking a bit of rest (4)

7 Staff is more congenial after receiving a little raise (7)

8 What actors dislike in print – bad acting reviews ultimately (11)

10 Be the most outrageous man in attack! Keep battling to remove President (4,3,4)

13 English girls lost over cliff getting more dishevelled (10)

15 Intoxication from one tiny beer! Strange (9)

18 Ebullient friend hugging son accepted in Scandinavian University (7)

20 Partly reviewed data is on gait in sensory disorder (7)

23 Very upset in Gulf state (5)

24 Request to catch glimpse of renowned Austrian composer (4)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12652

D	O	M	I	C	I	L	E		A	G	H	A	S	T
E		A		O		E		K		O		R		A
C	A	I	R	O		F	I	R	E	W	O	R	K	S
E		N		L		T		A		I		A		T
I	N	T	H	E	D	O	C	K		T	H	Y	M	I
T		A		D		U		E		H				E
	P	I	G	O	U	T		N	O	O	D	L	E	S
P		N		N						U		O		T
E	A	S	I	E	S	T		A	N	T	O	N	Y	
D				S		U		P		S		G		A
A	W	A	S	H		R	E	H	E	A	R	S	A	L
N		V		E		G		A		Y		H		L
T	R	A	G	E	D	I	E	S		I	N	O	N	E
I		I		L		D		I		N		T		G
C	A	L	A	S	H		L	A	R	G	E	S	S	E

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

The guru illumines

In days of yore, study of Vedas followed the oral tradition and this fostered a bond between Guru and sishya. The role of the Guru in enabling the disciple to imbibe the Eternal Truth with clarity is the most salient feature in this tradition, pointed out Sri R. Krishnamurthy Sastrigal in a discourse. In this regard, Adi Sankara is hailed as a guru par excellence by his direct disciples who acknowledge their indebtedness to him for conferring on them not only intellectual proficiency but also spiritual enlightenment.

Adi Sankara is the earliest acharya in terms of history and the lineage of acharyas preceding him is traced back through Govinda, Gaudapada, Suka, Vyasa, and the rishis in the Puranas to the Lord Himself who is the primordial guru. Believed to be an incarnation of Siva, Adi Sankara has been responsible for bringing about spiritual awareness in people at a time when much confusion prevailed owing to the prevalence of many cults, dogmas and beliefs. The acharya has firmly established the authority of the Vedas and his contributions by way of explaining the difficult and esoteric thought in the Upanishads, the Brahma Sutra and the Bhagavad Gita continue to be a source of reference in philosophical discussions and debates. He has propagated the Advaita Siddhanta from which other philosophical systems of thought, such as Visishtadvaita, Dvaita, Suddhadvaita, etc have branched out.

Adi Sankara's Stotra granthas are exceptional in the way they carry the essence of the Vedas to the common man in practical terms. These hymns sensitise one to the fleeting and short life of all beings and to the subtle awareness of God who alone matters when it comes to crossing the cycle of birth.

TV PICKS

ICC World Cup: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 3 p.m.; Star Sports 3, 6 p.m.
Hockey Series Final: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 5 p.m.
World Archery Championship: Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 5.30 p.m.
FIFA Women's World Cup: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 6.30 p.m., 9.30 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Sunday)

IN BRIEF

Gilchrist denies Kothari a double

MELBOURNE

Reigning World champion Sourav Kothari was denied a back-to-back title when veteran Peter Gilchrist won the 2019 Pacific international billiards championship with a commanding display here Friday. In the final, the former multiple times world billiards champion from Singapore was at his best to tame the Indian cueist 1500-706. PTI

Rain and no play on second day

HUBBALLI

Rain forced play to be abandoned for the second successive day in the one-day series between India-A and Sri Lanka-A here. Following Thursday 's rain, the fourth one-day was pushed to Friday (reserve day) but only 3.3 overs of action was possible. The series will end with the last match on Saturday.

Aditi lies T33 in LPGA classic

GRAND RAPIDS (USA)

Aditi Ashok saw all her scoring action in the five holes as she shot one-under 71 to lie tied-33rd after the first round of rain-delayed Meijer LPGA Classic. Katherine Perry and Jenny Shin were in a share of the lead at 6-under 66. PTI

Delhi team for National Crossminton

NEW DELHI:

Vikram Datt Sharma and Yashika Bhayana will lead the Delhi men's and women's teams respectively in the National Crossminton championship, scheduled to be held from June 27 to 29. **The team: Men:** Vikram Datt Sharma (Capt.), Kashif Ali, Arun Soni, Mohd. Amir, Mohd. Salman, Sarthak Nigam. **Women:** Yashika Bhayana, Ruqaiya Masood, Maryam Masood, Kashish Ali, Adhishree Sharma, Vrinda Sharma. **Coach:** Bilal Ahmad; **Manager:** Rahul Sharma.

Suraj reigns

SPORTS BUREAU
LUDHIANA

Second seed Suraj Prabodh beat top seed Dalwinder Singh 6-3, 6-4 in the final of the ₹100,000 AITA men's ranking tennis tournament at the Harvest Tennis Academy, Jassowal, here on Friday.

Incidentally both the players train at the Academy under Serbian coaches. Dalwinder had beaten Suraj in the final of the Fenesta National championship two years ago.

The results (final): Suraj Prabodh bt Dalwinder Singh 6-3, 6-4.

Bhavya bags title

SPORTS BUREAU
KARNAL

Bhavya Singhmar won the under-14 boys' title, beating Parag Jain 6-2, 6-1 in the AITA Super series junior tennis tournament here on Friday.

Chandni Srinivasan defeated Samiksha Dabas 7-5, 6-3 for the girls' under-14 title.

Krish Ajay Tyagi asserted himself as the top seed in the boys' under-12 section to take the honours.

The results (finals):
Boys: Under-14: Bhavya Singhmar bt Parag Jain 6-2, 6-1. **Under-12:** Krish Ajay Tyagi bt Ekamjeet Singh Cheema 6-4, 7-5.
Girls: Under-14: Chandni Srinivasan bt Samiksha Dabas 7-5, 6-3. **Under-12:** Sanjana Devineni bt Samiksha Dabas 6-3, 6-3.

Surging ahead: Justin Rose, playing alongside Tiger Woods, led a scoring onslaught to be in the van after the opening round on Thursday. ▪AFP

Rose fires in a record 65

Englishman leads by a stroke in perfect conditions

US OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PEBBLE BEACH

Justin Rose roared home with three straight birdies to match Tiger Woods' record for the lowest U.S. Open round ever shot at Pebble Beach, a six-under par 65 that gave him a one-shot lead after the first round on Thursday.

England's Rose, who won the 2013 Open at Merion, vaulted over a quartet of players sharing second on five-under-par 66 as Pebble Beach showed a welcoming face in cool, overcast conditions with little wind.

Americans Rickie Fowler and Xander Schauffele and South Africans Louis Oosthuizen and Aaron Wise were in the clubhouse on 66 when Rose stormed home.

"It was amazing," said Rose, who rolled in a 10-footer for birdie at the 16th and drained a 26-footer for birdie at the par-three 17th.

- Defending champion Koepka tied-16, Woods in joint 28th place
- Lahiri struggles to be placed T-98
- Sabbatini aces par-three 12th hole

Tight bunch

Reigning British Open champion Francesco Molinari and four-time Major winner Rory McIlroy were among a group of eight players on three-under 68.

Woods produced an outstanding performance on the greens as he scrambled to a one-under par 70 to lie tied-28.

Two-time defending champion Brooks Koepka headed a group that was on 16th on two-under 69. "You know this golf course you're going to struggle on when you miss it," said Koepka, bidding to become the first golfer in more than a century to win three consecutive U.S. Opens. "I would have liked to have shot a couple more.

On Thursday, however, 39 players were under par, and 17 eagles were the most in a US Open in 50 years.

Meanwhile, South African-born Slovakian Rory Sabbatini grabbed the 45th hole-in-one in US Open history, after his tee shot at the 202-yard 12th hole bounced twice and landed in the cup.

Anirban Lahiri carded a disappointing three-over 74 to lie Tied-98th.

Leading scores: 65: Justin Rose; **66:** Louis Oosthuizen, Rickie Fowler, Xander Schauffele, Aaron Wise; **67:** Scott Piercy, Nate Lashley; **68:** Emiliano Grillo, Sepp Straka, Francesco Molinari, Henrik Stenson, Gary Woodland, Chez Reavie, Chesson Hadley, Rory McIlroy.

Ryder impressed with juniors

British coach is here to train the under-13, 15, 17 and 19 age groups

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
GREATER NOIDA

British squash coach Chris Ryder was impressed with the enthusiasm and attitude of the Indian juniors as he trained them diligently at the High Performance camp here on Thursday.

In India for a two-week camp, aimed at preparing the best 32 juniors of the country in the under-13, 15, 17 and 19 age groups for the Asian junior championship and later the World juniors, Ryder said that he was able to give some new ideas so that the players could pick up the best points from different methods.

Constantly interacting with the players in four courts in a four-hour spell in the morning session, divided into two groups of eight players each, Ryder stressed the theory of "create, capitalise and convert." It was all about the art of setting up a point and attacking at the right time.

"Unlike badminton or tennis, squash is a complicated game. It is important to put things in a simple way, but understand the complexity," said Ryder, as he explained his methods to *The Hindu*.

To the players, he highlighted the importance of blending defence and attack. "They are already good players. The Indian juniors have been world class for the last so many years.

"Our aim is to prepare for the Asian and World championships, and also give them long-term ideas about different styles of coaching," he said.

After the first week of the camp in which the best four boys and girls in the under-13 and 15 age groups have been training, the under-17 and 19 age group players will undergo training in the second week.

The camp was planned in such a way so as to benefit everyone, with scientific study of their physical traits and efficient utilisation of the expertise of the British coach.

"It is important to prevent injuries. The experts study the core strength of each individual and the specific requirements of the different parts of the body for the sport. The dietician is taking care of the food requirements," said Rajat Chandolia, head of operations for branding and marketing in HCL, who is looking after the HCL Podium program for squash.

Ryder, who works for the national junior team back home apart from running his club, said that he was focused on strategy, movement and technique of the players, leaving the fitness aspect to the experts.

A professional player who had competed against Saurav Ghosal among other Indians, Ryder took up coaching from 2014.

Giving inputs: British squash coach Chris Ryder at the training camp on Friday. ▪KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Arabia primed for a repeat

BENGALURU: Arabia, who is in fine nick, may score an encore in the Winner's Circle Trophy (1,200m), the main event of the races to be held here on Saturday (June 15). False rails (width about 5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 **EVERYNSKY PLATE** (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only (terms), 2-00 p.m.: 1. Debonair (6) A. Imran 56, 2. Indian Star (8) Darshan 56, 3. Sun Splash (3) Suraj 56, 4. Adela (1) M. Prabhakaran 54.5, 5. Antheia (7) Antony 54.5, 6. Port Of Beauty (5) Trevor 54.5, 7. Silver Swift (2) P.S. Chouhan 54.5 and 8. Touchwood (4) P. Mani 54.5.
1. PORT OF BEAUTY, 2. DEBONAIR, 3. SUN SPLASH

2 **KRANJI PLATE (DIV. II)**, (1,400m), rated 00 to 20, 4-y-o & over, 2-30: 1. Able Master (9) N.B. Kuldeep 60, 2. Shivalik Show (4) Suraj 60, 3. Irish Prince (7) Raghuveer Singh 59, 4. Glorious Days (2) P.S. Chouhan 58.5, 5. Good Word (10) S. Shareef 58.5, 6. Dallas (5) A. Imran 57, 7. Miming (8) M. Ravi 56.5, 8. Purity (3) Antony 56.5, 9. Turf Prospector (6) Dhebe 56.5 and 10. One To Note (1) Jagadeesh 53.
1. SHIVALIK SHOW, 2. GLORIOUS DAYS, 3. DALLAS

3 **DIABLO PLATE (DIV. II)**, (1,200m), rated 15 to 35, 4-y-o & over, 3-00: 1. Areca Angel (10) Rajesh K 60, 2. Galvarino (3) Nazerul 57.5, 3. Anakin (1) A. Ramu 56.5, 4. Desert Gold (4) S. Mubarak 56.5, 5. Lovely Sierra (7) A. Merchant 56, 6. Princess Pride (6) Shobhan 56, 7. Shaktiman (5) P.S. Chouhan 56, 8. So Quick (8) P. Mani 55.5, 9. Unbroken (2) Dhebe 55.5 and 10. Depth Charge (9) Dhanu Singh 55.
1. ANAKIN, 2. DEPTH CHARGE, 3. SHAKITMAN

4 **K.N. CHENNABASAPPA MEMORIAL TROPHY** (1,200m), rated 45 to 65, 3-30: 1. Alpha (8) Nikhil Naidu 60, 2. Castaway (1) A. Imran 59, 3. Spiritous (6) Antony 58.5, 4. Cadillac (9) Sandesh 58, 5. Teodoro (10) Zervan 58, 6. Attorney General (7) P.S. Chouhan 57, 7. Siyouni (5) A. Vikrant 57, 8. Harley Quinn (12) A. Merchant 56, 9. Treasure Delight (11) Suraj 56, 10. Victory Parade (2) Trevor 55.5, 11. War Hero (3) Dhebe 55.5 and 12. Angels Kiss (4) Mudassar 53.5.
1. VICTORY PARADE, 2. CASTAWAY, 3. TREASURE DELIGHT

5 **WINNER'S CIRCLE TROPHY** (1,200m), rated 75 & above, 4-00: 1. The Champ (6) Raghuveer Singh 64.5, 2. Kambaku (2) Antony 62.5, 3. Brainstorm (8) John 60.5, 4. Exclusivenorthwind (9) Trevor 59.5, 5. Star Carnation (5) Darshan 59, 6. Arabia (7) Neeraj 56.5, 7. Courage (1) Yash 53.5, 8. Lady Legend (4) Sandesh 53.5 and 9. Auriga (3) A. Merchant 50.5.
1. ARABIA, 2. LADY LEGEND, 3. EXCLUSIVENORTHWIND

6 **LUMBINI STUD PLATE** (1,600m), rated 30 to 50, 5-y-o & over, 4-30: 1. Australis (10) Zervan 60, 2. Masada (1) John 60, 3. Nitromax (9) Arshad 57.5, 4. Quick Action (5) Vivek 57.5, 5. Rare Rhythm (4) T.S. Jodha 57.5, 6. Lycurgus (11) P.S. Chouhan 57, 7. Amazing Skill (7) Yash 56.5, 8. Back Of Beyond (3) Koushik 55, 9. Wild Wild Angels (2) Dhanu Singh 54.5, 10. Casey (8) Antony 54 and 11. Flirting Eyes (6) Nazerul 50.5.
1. NITROMAX, 2. AUSTRALIS, 3. MASADA

7 **KRANJI PLATE (DIV. I)**, (1,400m), rated 00 to 20, 4-y-o & over, 5-00: 1. Find (5) John 60, 2. Sadaqat (7) Trevor 60, 3. Scarlet Princess (6) Irvan 60, 4. Shivalik Kiss (2) Shobhan 60, 5. Great Celebration (4) A. Merchant 59, 6. Above The Rest (9) Afroz Khan 58.5, 7. Hunters Moon (1) Abhay Singh 58, 8. Silent Ruler (8) Darshan 57.5, 9. El Matador (3) N.B. Kuldeep 57 and 10. South Bell (–) (–) 52.
1. SCARLET PRINCESS, 2. FIND, 3. SADAQAT

8 **DIABLO PLATE (DIV. I)**, (1,200m), rated 15 to 35, 4-y-o & over, 5-30: 1. Revan Star (6) Chetan K 60, 2. Princess Holly (3) Rajesh K 58, 3. Aine (4) P.S. Chouhan 57.5, 4. Don Dela Vega (10) S. Mubarak 56.5, 5. Habanero (2) Raja Rao 56.5, 6. Grecian Light (5) S. Shareef 56, 7. Ido What I Do (8) Trevor 56, 8. Annalease (1) Yash 55, 9. Tokyo Rose (7) Dhanu Singh 55 and 10. Candlelightqueen (9) Darshan 54.5.
1. AINE, 2. IDO WHAT I DO, 3. TOKYO ROSE

Day's best: **ARABIA**
Double: **PORT OF BEAUTY – AINE**
Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; Tr (i): 3, 4 and 5; (i): 6, 7 and 8.

Rijiju tries his hand at javelin

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Sports Minister Kiran Rijiju had an unscheduled breakfast meeting with the athletes and coaches at the Nehru Stadium here on Friday.

After a jog with the athletes and coaches, the Sports Minister tried his hand at javelin with encouraging results. The minister interacted with the athletes and officials to know the requirements for improvement of facilities, infrastructure, training methods etc., and got good response from the sporting fraternity.

He also interacted with the gymnasts during breakfast and enquired about the camp underway at the Indira Gandhi Stadium.

Archer and coach Limba Ram and Olympian hockey player and former administrator M.P. Ganes were also present, and shared many stories from their playing time.

On-field review: Union Sports Minister Kiran Rijiju at an interaction with athletes and officials in New Delhi on Friday. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tamil Nadu outshoots Eastern Railway

BASKETBALL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GREATER NOIDA

Tamil Nadu emphasised its strike power while shocking defending champion Eastern Railway 84-79 and topping Group-A in the women's section of the 33rd Federation Cup basketball tournament at the Gautam Buddha University here on Friday.

Dharshini top-scored with 24 points for Tamil Nadu which dominated the third quarter after leading 43-42 at half-time before Eastern Railway bridged the gap in the last quarter.

In the semifinals, Tamil Nadu will play Maharashtra while Eastern Railway will face the topper from the other group, Kerala.

In the men's category, Punjab Police finished on top, followed by defending champion Income Tax (Chennai). In the semifinals, Punjab Police will play Shri Guru Gobind Singh College (Chandigarh) while Income Tax will clash with Indian Army.

The results: Men: Group-A: Income Tax 67 (Raghuram 23, Ramkumar 12) bt RDSO (Lucknow) 43 (Vijay Parmar 10); Punjab Police 85 (Harshpreet Singh Bhullar 21, Rajveer Singh 14) bt BSF (Jodhpur) 39 (Syed Modh 12); Punjab Police 92 (Rajveer Singh 23, Harshpreet Singh Bhullar 18, Amritpal Singh 10, Amrithpal Singh jr 10) bt ASC Centre (Bengaluru) 70; ASC Centre 59 (Rinku Hooda 14, Balwan 14) bt BSF 43 (Krishna Pradeep Kumar Sankhala 14, Swarnakar 10).

Income Tax 71 (Sivabalan 15, Akhilan 15, Ramkumar 14) bt ASC Centre 61 (Prabhu 13, Vivekananda 10).

Group-B: Indian Army 101 (Sunil 26, Suresh Kumar Bijarnia 23) bt Guru Gobind Singh College (Chandigarh) 77 (Ravi Bhardwaj 32, S. Jatin 17).

Women: Group-A: Tamil Nadu 84 (Dharshini 24, Sri Vidhya 18, Iswarya 14) bt Eastern Railway79 (Poonam Chaturvedi 33, Madhukumari 13, Sitamani Tudu 13); Karnataka 67 (Lopamudra 34, Sanjana Ramesh 18) bt Delhi 55 (M. Anisha 16, Tavleen Kaur 14).

Group-B: Kerala 88 (P.G. Anjana 23, Rojamol 20, K.S. Poojamol 13, Stephy Nixon10) bt Chhattisgarh 44 (Deepa 11); Maharashtra 69 (Sruthi Aravind 25) bt Uttar Pradesh 41 (Vrinda Garg 11).

Thrilling win for Tvesa

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Tvesa Malik clinched a thrilling one-shot victory over Millie Saroha in the eighth leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour.

Malik, who trailed Saroha by a single shot overnight, fired a two-under-par-70 in the third round at Prestige Golfshire on Friday, picking up three strokes on the back nine. She finished with a final card of 213, just edging Saroha (214), who shot an even-par 72 on the day.

Gaurika Bishnoi finished third (222).

The scores (top seven after final round): 213: Tvesa Malik (72, 71, 70); **214:** Millie Saroha (73, 69, 72); **222:** Gaurika Bishnoi (77, 74, 71); **223:** Neha Tripathi (80, 74, 69); **227:** Khushi Khanijau (75, 77, 75), Astha Madan (78, 72, 77), Ridhima Dilawari (74, 75, 78).

East Bengal signs Ralte

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

East Bengal on Friday announced the signing of Mizoram-born goalkeeper Lalthuammawia Ralte from FC Goa on a one year loan.

Having joined Bengaluru FC from Shillong Lajong, the 26-year-old played a crucial role in the team winning the I-League and also featured in the AFC Cup final in 2016.

Tanvi downs Sunita, enters semifinals

NATL. SQUASH

SPORTS BUREAU
PUNE

Delhi's Tanvi Khanna defeated Maharashtra's Sunita Patel 11-4, 11-6, 11-6 in the women's quarterfinals of the MSRA 76th Senior National squash here on Friday.

The results: Quarterfinals: Men: Veer Chotrani (Mah) bt Sandeep Jangra (Ser) 11-9, 6-11, 11-6, 11-5; Abhishek Agarwal (Mah) bt Ranjit Singh (Ser) 11-9, 11-5, 9-11, 11-9; Mahesh Mangaonkar (Mah)bt Gaurav Nandrajog(Del) 11-4, 11-4, 11-5; Abhishek Pradhan (Mah)bt Jamal Sakib(Ser)11-6, 11-8, 11-5.

Over 40: Saurabh Nayar (Ch) bt Sudhakar Gaikwad (Mah) 11-5, 11-4, 11-5; John Jimmy Vellanikaran (Ker) bt Kabir Subedar (Mah) 11-9, 10-12, 9-11, 11-7, 11-4; Amit Chinai (Guj) bt Abhishek Thapar (Del) 11-4, 11-3, 11-7; Sachin Jadhav (Mah) bt Benjamin Nedararpalli (Mah) 11-9, 11-6, 12-10; Hemant Nadkarni (Mah) bt Sumit Kumar (Har) 11-9, 11-1, 11-4.

Over 45: Dalip Tripathi (WB) bt Anoop Kabadwal (Kar) 11-2, 11-8, 11-1; Ashutosh Pednekar (Mah) bt Sanjay Gupta (Mah) 12-10, 11-7, 11-6; Vikas Nayar (Ch) bt Navin Shenoy (Kar) 11-5, 11-9, 11-9; Anil Bhagat (Del) bt Sanjay Rajpal (Kar) 11-3, 9-11, 11-5, 11-2.

Women (quarterfinals): Tanvi Khanna (Del) bt Sunita Patel (Mah) 11-4, 11-6, 11-6; Joshna Chinappa (TN) bt Sanika Choudhari(Mah) 11-3, 11-5, 11-2.

Sunayna Kuruvilla (TN) bt Aparajitha Balamurukan(TN) 11-8, 9-11, 11-4, 9-11, 11-7; Sanya Vats(Del)bt Urwashi Joshi (Mah) 11-9, 11-2,11-7.

Tokas stops Aditya's run

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Garry Tokas stopped the fine run of lucky loser Aditya Tiwari, but not before the latter stretched the contest to three sets in the quarterfinals of the Col. K.K. Uppal memorial $3,000 Asian tennis tournament at the VAN Sports Club in Baliawas, here on Friday.

Garry broke the resistance of the left-hander in hot and humid conditions. In the semifinals, Garry will challenge Lakshit Sood, who was compensating for the disappointing first-round loss of his top-seeded twin brother Chandril Sood, with a fine march.

Lakshit was able to overcome the strong allround game of Vilasier Khate.

The results (quarterfinals): Lakshya Gupta w.o. Parth Aggarwal; Paras Dahiya bt Kunj Kotak 6-4, 6-1; Garry Tokas bt Aditya Tiwari 6-3, 5-7, 6-2; Lakshit Sood bt Vilasier Khate 7-5, 6-3.

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY
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Fax: 080-23461576 e-mail:keauthority-ka@nic.in Website: http://kea.kar.nic.in

No: ED/KEA/ADMN/CR-42/2018-19 **Date: 13-06-2019**

NOTIFICATION

Combined Centralised Counselling for Admission to MBBS and BDS courses for the year 2019-20 in the state of Karnataka and AYUSH seat admission to Karnataka Candidates.

1. Government in their letter No. HFW 124 RGU Bangalore, dated 28-06-2017, have directed KEA to conduct Common Counselling for admission to UG Medical and Dental courses for all Government, Private (Including Minority), NRI and Others seats in the state of Karnataka.
2. Accordingly, KEA is inviting applications online from the eligible, qualified in NEET-2019 candidates from all over India, for admission to UG Medical and Dental courses for the year 2019-20 in the state of Karnataka and from Karnataka Candidates for Government share of AYUSH seats. The candidates who have scored more than or equal to the prescribed minimum score in NEET-2019 only are eligible to register for UG Admissions. Please note that SC/ST/OBC eligibility criteria are applicable to SC/ST/OBC Karnataka candidates only.
3. Non-Karnataka candidates will not be eligible for reservation. Hence, in the UG NEET-2019 examination, if they have scored the required minimum marks or above fixed for others category as per the qualifying criteria i.e., 50th Percentile, then only they are eligible to register for admissions through KEA or for any other seats in the state of Karnataka. Please note that SC/ST/OBC eligibility criteria are applicable to Karnataka SC/ST/OBC candidates only. (Non-Karnataka candidates are not eligible for AYUSH admissions through KEA)
4. Centralised and Combined Counseling for the seats to be notified by the Karnataka State Government, in Government, COMED-K, KRLMPCA, AMPCK institutions, the admissions will be as per the Karnataka Selection of Candidates for Admission to Government Seats in Professional Educational Institutions Rules, 2006 (in short Rules) as amended from time to time and as per the guidelines of MCI / DCI / Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOI / Government of India / Medical Education, Karnataka / Director Medical Education, Karnataka / Entrance Test Committee.
5. Before registering through online for admission to Medical and Dental courses in the state of Karnataka, applicants are hereby informed to read the Information Bulletin UGNEET-2019 and understand the eligibility conditions, classification of seats (different types of category of seats) and eligibility to claim such seats which are hosted on the KEA Website http://kea.kar.nic.in for the information of the candidates.
6. **The interested eligible candidates have to register online from 1.00 pm on 15-06-2019 to 19-06-2019 up to 5.30 pm by visiting KEA Website. Last date to pay the registration fees is 20-06-2019 before 5.30 pm.**

INSTRUCTIONS TO KARNATAKA CANDIDATES WHO HAVE ALREADY VERIFIED THEIR DOCUMENTS

Candidates who have already registered with KEA for CET-2019 and verified their documents or attending the UGCET-2019 document verification should compulsorily register for UGNEET-2019 by entering / citing their CET-2019 admission ticket number.

Candidates who have completed or completing their document verification as per their CET-2019 rank, as per CET-2006 Admission Rules (who are holding verification slip) need not come for verification of documents for Medical / Dental / AYUSH courses once again. However, if any such candidate is eligible to claim Linguistic Minority or Religious Minority or NRI ward seats or candidates eligible to claim category-2 to category-8 in St. John Medical College, Bangalore, then they have to submit such relevant certificates / documents on the day of their turn as per the NEET document verification schedule.

7. Registration Fee, Schedule for verification of documents / procedure, original documents to be submitted for verification and other details are hosted on the KEA Website. Interested and eligible candidates can register through online by selecting the appropriate link on the KEA Website and appear for document verification.
8. Mere qualifying in UG-NEET-2019 does not confer any right on the candidate unless the candidate fulfils eligibility conditions / submission of certificates. Further, only the candidates who complete the registration process including document verification are eligible for Medical / Dental seats in Government / Private Colleges in Karnataka. Registered but not verified / Unregistered candidates will not be allowed for any admission either through KEA or by the College, as after the mop-up round, the list of registered and verified but un-allotted candidates will be sent by KEA to colleges to fill-up vacant seats, if any. (As per GOI instructions)

   NOTE: All the candidates who have qualified in NEET-UG 2019 are hereby advised to register and complete the document verification process to become eligible for admission to Medical / Dental Courses in the State of Karnataka.
9. Schedule for verification of documents will be hosted on the KEA Website on **19-06-2019 after 6.00 p.m.** For more details regarding academic eligibility / updates, please visit KEA Website **http://kea.kar.nic.in**

Sd/-
(R. GIRISH IAS)
Executive Director.

DIPR/DDU/418/2019-20

What can Real Madrid expect from its newest Galactico?

After a difficult season, the club has spent big on Eden Hazard in the hope that the Belgian winger can spark a turnaround. A look at what the 28-year-old will bring to the Bernabeu

By its high standards, Real Madrid had a wretched 2018-19, described in some circles as one of the club's worst seasons in the modern century.

Real was knocked out of the Copa del Rey by Barcelona and the Champions League by Ajax during a disastrous period from late February to early March. Sandwiched between those exits was another Clasico defeat, this time in La Liga, where it didn't once look like a title contender. It eventually finished third in the league, managing just 63 goals in 38 games.

Real couldn't seem to recover from the losses of Zinedine Zidane, who stepped down as manager following the Champions League triumph in 2018, and Cristiano Ronaldo, who moved to Juventus. Two manager sackings were further confirmation that all was not well within the club.

So, after persuading Zidane to return, Real fell back on a ploy that has served it well in the past: it bought itself a Galactico.

A deal worth £89 million up front – it could exceed £150 million in add-ons – brought Eden Hazard to the Bernabeu. The Belgian winger is the second-most expensive signing in the club's history after Gareth Bale; he is also president Florentino Perez's first Galactico-level acquisition since James Rodriguez in 2014.

It's a statement signing – but also one that Real hopes will provide the side a much-needed cutting edge. So just what can Madridistas expect from their latest big-money superstar? And can he prove a point of difference in the attacking third?

To answer both these questions, we looked at the last five seasons of the top four European leagues – Premier League, La Liga, Serie A and Bundesliga – to see how Hazard compared with the best in the business.

For the purposes of comparison, we used two metrics: goal involvement and dribbling activity. These are two of the most telling measurements of an attacking player's output – the ability to contribute to a goal and the ability to break a line of pressure by beating an opponent one on one.

Goal involvement measures how often a footballer is directly involved in the scoring of a goal – how many goals and assists (final passes leading to goals) a player contributes over 90 minutes. Dribbling activity measures the number of times a footballer successfully dribbles past an opponent in 90 minutes. In both cases, the bigger the figure, the better the quality of the attacker.

FOR CLUB

Games **547**

Goals **160**

Assists **145**

FOR COUNTRY

Games **101**

Goals **30**

Assists **27**

The Hazard file

Born: January 7, 1991
Height: 1.73m
Position: Winger/attacking midfielder

Trophies won
Ligue 1 | Coupe de France | Premier League (2) | Europa League (2) | FA Cup | League Cup

Goal involvement

Over the last five seasons, Hazard has delivered 0.63 goals plus assists every 90 minutes (G+A/90). Of all those who have played at least 5,000 minutes, he ranks 52nd.

The top 15 are listed in **Table 1**. Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo, Luis Suarez, Sergio Aguero and Robert Lewandowski have a goal involvement of more than 1 per 90 minutes, which is an incredible return.

Hazard does have a better goal involvement than Coutinho (0.6), Riyad Mahrez (0.56), David Silva (0.56), Christian Eriksen (0.55), and Mesut Ozil (0.54).

When we plot all players in a scatter graph, with goals per 90 and assists per 90 as the axes, we get a more visual sense of where Hazard ranks (*See: Attackers' universe*). He is well above average in both parameters, but within the group of excellent footballers, he is in the middle of the range.

So, Madrid isn't getting an elite player in goal involvement terms, but there are two points of encouragement for the club's fans.

One is that his 2018-19 goal involvement was elite: 1 G+A/90, his best season at Chelsea on this metric. And two, his shots per game and key passes per game (which lead to goals and assists respectively) have steadily trended upwards during his time at Chelsea – from 1.9 shots per game and 1.9 key passes per game in 2012-13 to 2.5 and 2.6 respectively in 2018-19.

Dribbling activity

It's here that the Belgian is exceptional. No one has completed more dribbles per 90 minutes in the last five seasons (min: 5,000 minutes played), as **Table 2** shows.

What's more, Hazard's 6.2 dribbles per 90 in 2017-18 are the best-ever by any player in a single season (min: 1,000 minutes). Hazard's 2018-19 dribble-success rate of 61.61% is another high-water mark; Messi, in comparison, won 56.78% of his take-ons.

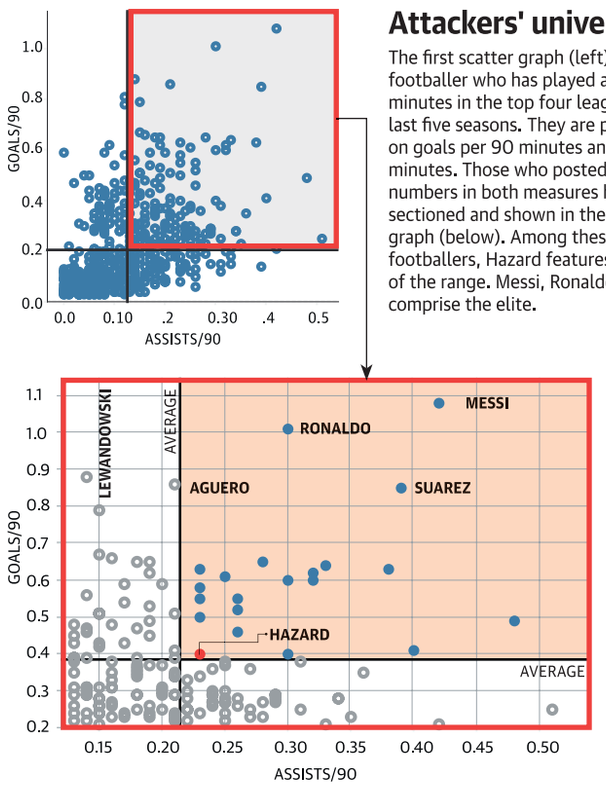
Pertinently, Real has struggled in this aspect. Only two players last season (Isco and Marco Asensio) completed more than 2 dribbles per 90; no player crossed 3. Hazard dribbled past an opponent 4.2 times per 90 in 2018-19, in the more physical, tougher-tackling Premier League.

Last word

Real has bought one of the best dribblers in modern-day football, albeit one whose goal involvement is solid not sensational. But if he builds on last season's fine form as a provider and scorer, Real will have something special on its hands.

Table 1: Highest goal involvement in the last five seasons (top four leagues)

Player	Minutes played	Goals (G)	Assists (A)	G+A/90 min
Lionel Messi	14,645	176	68	1.5
Cristiano Ronaldo	13,810	155	46	1.31
Luis Suarez	13,927	131	61	1.24
Sergio Aguero	11,771	112	27	1.06
Robert Lewandowski	13,046	128	21	1.03
Neymar	8,282	59	30	0.97
Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang	13,188	117	25	0.97
James Rodriguez	7,758	42	41	0.96
Dries Mertens	10,598	73	38	0.94
Mohamed Salah	12,352	89	38	0.93
Harry Kane	13,998	122	18	0.9
Karim Benzema	11,340	76	38	0.9
Arjen Robben	6,692	43	22	0.87
Gareth Bale	9,345	63	26	0.86
Olivier Giroud	7,315	51	17	0.84



Attackers' universe

The first scatter graph (left) charts every footballer who has played at least 5,000 minutes in the top four leagues over the last five seasons. They are plotted based on goals per 90 minutes and assists per 90 minutes. Those who posted above-average numbers in both measures have been sectioned and shown in the second scatter graph (below). Among these excellent footballers, Hazard features in the middle of the range. Messi, Ronaldo and Suarez comprise the elite.

DATA SCRAPING & VISUALISATION: **SRINIVASAN RAMANI**
SOURCE: whoscored.com, transfermarkt.com

Table 2: Most dribbles in the last five seasons (top four leagues)

Player	Minutes played	Dribbles completed	Dribbles/90 min
Eden Hazard	13,937	720	4.65
Neymar	8,282	417	4.53
Lionel Messi	14,645	734	4.51
Douglas Costa	5,140	252	4.41
Wilfried Zaha	13,096	592	4.07
Kingsley Coman	5,146	230	4.02
Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain	5,468	223	3.67
Felipe Anderson	11,294	446	3.55
Karim Bellarabi	7,537	286	3.42
Diego Perotti	5,659	214	3.40

WORD PLAY

Graining

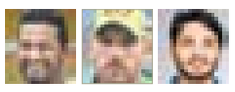
● **What is it?** It's the formation of a grainy texture on the surface of a Formula One car tyre. A type of degradation, 'graining' can warp the tyre's surface and affect its grip. More common with softer rubber compounds, it's something no driver likes dealing with.

● **What causes it?** Overly aggressive driving on tyres that are too soft and grippy for the conditions – and this without first getting the tyre temperature up adequately. So rather than grip the track, the uneven tyres slide across it, making braking and cornering difficult.

● **How does it happen?** It's a complex process, involving heat cycles. A precise account is best left to the experts. In inexact language, it happens when the tyre's body is cold and its surface hot; this causes rubber to chunk off, stick to the surface, and make it uneven.

● **Can it be fixed?** It can be reduced to a large degree, even in colder conditions, by driving judiciously and 'getting heat into the tyres' before pushing them to the limit. But 'graining' often sorts itself out once the tyre wears and the rubber surface becomes uniform again.

ON THE BOX



■ **World Cup:** SAT: Sri Lanka v Australia, 3 P.M.; STAR SPORTS 2, 1 & HD. South Africa v Afghanistan, 6 P.M.; STAR SPORTS 2 HD & 3. SUN: India v Pakistan, 3 P.M.; STAR SPORTS 1, 2, SELECT 1 & HD.

■ **FIFA U-20 WC:** SAT: Final, Ukraine v South Korea, 9.30 P.M.; SONY TEN 2 & HD.

■ **FIFA Women's World Cup:** SAT: Netherlands v Cameroon, 6.30 P.M.; SONY TEN 2 & HD. SUN: Canada v New Zealand, 12.30 A.M., Sweden v Thailand, 6.30 P.M., United States v Chile, 9.30 P.M.; SONY TEN 2 & HD.

STACKING UP

ICC Test Rankings

#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	India	32	3,631	113
2	New Zealand	23	2,547	111
3	South Africa	27	2,917	108
4	England	35	3,663	105
5	Australia	27	2,640	98
6	Sri Lanka	37	3,462	94
7	Pakistan	27	2,263	84
8	West Indies	29	2,381	82
9	Bangladesh	22	1,438	65
10	Zimbabwe	9	140	16

ODI Rankings

#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	England	43	5,372	125
2	India	47	5,669	121
3	South Africa	39	4,488	115
4	New Zealand	33	3,729	113
5	Australia	40	4,342	109
6	Pakistan	41	3,846	94
7	Bangladesh	35	3,155	90
8	West Indies	39	3,022	77
9	Sri Lanka	43	3,266	76
10	Afghanistan	30	1,864	62

T20I Rankings

#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	Pakistan	26	7,365	283
2	England	16	4,253	266
3	South Africa	16	4,196	262
4	Australia	21	5,471	261
5	India	28	7,273	260
6	New Zealand	16	4,056	254
7	Afghanistan	16	3,849	241
8	Sri Lanka	18	4,093	227
9	West Indies	21	4,747	226
10	Bangladesh	16	3,525	220

Men's Top Five

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Kento Momota	24	111,118	18
2	Shi Yuqi	23	90,661	17
3	Viktor Axelsen	25	79,438	15
4	Chou Tien Chen	29	79,118	20
5	Chen Long	30	75,840	17

Top Indians ▶ K. Srikanth Rank 9 Sameer Verma Rank 12

Women's Top Five

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Tai Tzu Ying	24	96,225	15
2	Chen Yufei	21	90,365	16
3	Nozomi Okuhara	24	90,336	21
4	Akane Yamaguchi	21	86,730	21
5	P.V. Sindhu	23	78,784	19

India's next best ▶ Saina Nehwal Rank 9 Mugdha Agrey Rank 67

F1 Standings

#	DRIVER	TEAM	POINTS
1	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	162
2	Valtteri Bottas	Mercedes	133
3	Sebastian Vettel	Ferrari	100
4	Max Verstappen	Red Bull	88
5	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	72
6	Pierre Gasly	Red Bull	36
7	Carlos Sainz	McLaren	18
8	Daniel Ricciardo	Renault	16
9	Kevin Magnussen	Haas	14
10	Sergio Perez	Racing Point	13
11	Kimi Raikkonen	Alfa Romeo	13
12	Lando Norris	McLaren	12
13	Nico Hulkenberg	Renault	12
14	Daniil Kvyat	Toro Rosso	10
15	Alexander Albon	Toro Rosso	7
16	Lance Stroll	Racing Point	6
17	Romain Grosjean	Haas	2
18	Antonio Giovinazzi	Alfa Romeo	0
19	George Russell	Williams	0
20	Robert Kubica	Williams	0

Men's Top Five

#	PLAYER	EVENTS	POINTS	AVG. PTS.
1	Brooks Koepka	42	454.08	10.81
2	Dustin Johnson	46	484.73	10.54
3	Rory McIlroy	49	414.89	8.47
4	Justin Rose	49	405.33	8.27
5	Tiger Woods	40	296.25	7.41

Top Indians ▶ Gaganjeet Bhullar Rank 171 Shubhankar Sharma Rank 178

Women's Top Five

#	PLAYER	EVENTS	POINTS	AVG. PTS.
1	Jin-Young Ko	52	398.46	7.66
2	Minjee Lee	56	378.91	6.77
3	Sung Hyun Park	49	312.26	6.37
4	Lexi Thompson	41	260.11	6.34
5	Jeongeun Lee	53	316.64	5.97

Top Indians ▶ Aditi Ashok Rank 132 Diksha Dagar Rank 330

Top Indians

ATP
Prajnesh Gunneswaran
Rank 91

WTA
Ankita Raina
Rank 173

ATP Rankings

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Novak Djokovic	32	12,715	17
2	Rafael Nadal	33	7,945	16
3	Roger Federer	37	6,670	17
4	Dominic Thiem	25	4,685	23
5	Alexander Zverev	22	4,360	23
6	Stefanos Tsitsipas	20	4,215	28
7	Kei Nishikori	29	4,040	23
8	Kevin Anderson	33	3,565	16
9	Karen Khachanov	23	2,980	25
10	Fabio Fognini	32	2,785	24
11	John Isner	34	2,715	19
12	Juan Martin del Potro	30	2,695	14
13	Daniil Medvedev	23	2,625	27
14	Borna Coric	22	2,525	21
15	Marin Cilic	30	2,395	19
16	Gael Monfils	32	2,055	20
17	Nikoloz Basilashvili	27	1,970	28
18	Milos Raonic	28	1,960	20
19	Stan Wawrinka	34	1,715	22
20	Roberto Bautista Agut	31	1,690	23

WTA Rankings

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Naomi Osaka	21	6,486	19
2	Ashleigh Barty	23	6,350	18
3	Karolina Pliskova	27	5,685	22
4	Kiki Bertens	27	5,345	25
5	Petra Kvitova	29	4,925	21
6	Angelique Kerber	31	4,675	20
7	Elina Svitolina	24	3,967	18
8	Simona Halep	27	3,963	16
9	Sloane Stephens	26	3,682	20
10	Aryna Sabalenka	21	3,565	26
11	Serena Williams	37	3,411	12
12	Anastasija Sevastova	29	3,366	25
13	Belinda Bencic	22	2,953	27
14	Caroline Wozniacki	28	2,833	18
15	Qiang Wang	27	2,752	22
16	Marketa Vondrousova	19	2,747	16
17	Madison Keys	24	2,615	14
18	Johanna Konta	28	2,555	23
19	Julia Goerges	30	2,400	25
20	Anett Kontaveit	23	2,335	23

Ajay Ratra doesn't tire of hitting catches to his wards in practice. In his playing days, Ratra had a reputation of being a solid wicketkeeper. His finest moment, however, came with the bat: a Test hundred against the West Indies in Antigua. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT, GETTY IMAGES, AFP

Keeper of the flame

Ajay Ratra is helping further the craft that sustained his career — the former India glovesman is now one of the country's few specialist wicketkeeping coaches

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

There was blood on the pitch when Ajay Ratra took guard in the first innings of the Antigua Test in 2002. Anil Kumble's jaw had been broken by a Mervyn Dillon bouncer. India's greatest match-winner would come out to bowl, his face bandaged. Viv Richards called it one of the bravest acts he had seen.

That Test is unforgettable for Ratra for another, more personal, reason, too. He scored a hundred, the youngest wicketkeeper to achieve the feat, and was named the Man of the Match in only his third Test.

At 20, it looked as if India's 'keeping gloves would be in his possession for a while. But he played only three more Tests. After his last First Class game in 2013, he turned to coaching; he is one of India's few specialist wicketkeeping coaches now.

He spoke to The Hindu *in Jaipur, where he trained some of the country's most promising stumpers at an under-19 BCCI camp. Excerpts:*

What made you take up coaching at a young age?

■ I started it even before I stopped playing. I wanted to share my knowledge. And I had done a Level-1 coaching course.

Do you think there should be an increased focus on coaching 'keepers?

■ Absolutely. Shortly after I started out as a coach, I found that there were very few coaches who specialised in 'keeping. You won't find any at the local level.

Specialist coaches can produce impressive results, as Bruce French has shown with the England side...

■ Yes, a 'keeper can gain a lot from working under a good coach who has played at the highest level. I can vouch for that, having trained under great 'keepers like Rodney Marsh, Syed Kirmani and Kiran More.

I worked with Marsh and Kirmani at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru. They had different styles, and you had to pick the points that you needed.

From Marsh, I learnt how to keep to the pacers and from Kirmani about standing up to the spinners. Then I had a senior Indian camp with More just before a Challengers Trophy tournament. I was a different keeper after that.

How do you find working with 'keepers in camps like the one you had here?

■ I am very happy that I have got this opportunity. And it is a good step the BCCI has taken. Last year I had worked with the under-16 batch at the NCA. And just a few weeks ago, I had organised a coaching camp exclusively for 'keepers at Faridabad, my hometown. I would like to do more camps like that in other parts of the country if I can get some sponsors.

I also recently had sessions with Wriddhiman Saha after his injury. I believe Saha is still the best choice for India in Tests.

Dhoni has his own technique. He has a sixth sense. Whenever he leaves the ball, it hits the stumps. His reverse flick, without looking, is amazing

I recently had sessions with Wriddhiman Saha after his injury. I believe Saha is still the best choice for India in Tests

Pant has done well in Tests. In England, he was struggling a bit, but it is not an easy place to tour for a 'keeper. He did well in Australia. He is improving

It was horrible seeing blood on the pitch — you watch one guy [Anil Kumble] get hit and you are next in. I remember Chris Gayle saying, "Kill that boy"

What do you think about the man who replaced him, Rishabh Pant?

■ He has done well in Tests. In England, he was struggling a bit, but it is not an easy place to tour for a 'keeper. He did well in Australia. He is improving, but he could get better if he works on a few areas. He tends to go towards his left; that is his initial movement, from habit. And he has to improve his balance. Against spinners, he has to work on the bounce of the ball.

Who is the best 'keeper in the world?

■ M.S. Dhoni, without a doubt. He has his own technique. He has a sixth sense. Whenever he leaves the ball, it hits the stumps. His reverse flick, without looking, is amazing.

Dhoni is a contemporary of yours. Did you think he would become this good?

■ Honestly, no. But the best part about him is that he improved consistently. Maybe the success with the bat made him more confident as a 'keeper. He is very intelligent. His mind is sharp. If you look at DRS too, you will find that he gets it right often. If Dhoni is doubtful, the results show.

Looking back at your career, the high point must be that Antigua hundred.

■ Yes. Scoring a hundred in the West Indies was a dream. They were playing four pace bowlers. It was horrible seeing blood on the pitch — you watch one guy get hit on the jaw and you are next in. I had never faced bowling like that. I remember Chris Gayle saying, "Kill that boy."

Initially, it was about survival and supporting V.V.S. Laxman, who kept encouraging me. I took many balls to settle down, but once I got set, and Laxman got dismissed [after a partnership of 217], I started scoring faster.

But your international career ended later that year.

■ I have no regrets now; I gave everything I could. I was privileged to be part of a team that had all those legends like Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid.

Idamelys Moreno dreams of winning Olympic gold. Below: Yuria Pascual, Ana Gasquez and Moreno train at a boxing gym in Havana. ▪ AFP

Striking a blow for equality

Women boxers in Cuba are fighting for their right to compete in tournaments

In the musty funk of a Havana boxing gym, Idamelys Moreno smacks a series of whomping right hooks into a heavy punching bag.

For the past four years, she has ripped it up in training, driven by the dream of winning Olympic gold.

But she and other big-hitting women are punching not so much a glass ceiling as a glass wall: in Cuba, only men are allowed to compete in boxing tournaments.

"They haven't given us our chance," fumes Moreno, a 27-year-old with burning ambition and a simmering frustration.

Ducking and feinting, she works her way around the swinging bag, the room resounding with her heavy blows.

"She's a boxer with a lot of enthusiasm and enormous physical capacities, but she is nowhere near her full potential yet," says her coach Emilio Correa, who won Olympic silver in 2008.

Cubans are rightly proud of their unique boxing tradition which has brought a haul of 37 Olympic gold and 76 World Championship winner's medals — all by men.

But featherweight Moreno — whose haymaking right fist has been honed by sparring with men — pleads: "If they'd give us the opportunity, we can also build on the medal collection that the men have won."

Moreno is not the only woman working the bags. Taking turns to spar with her are Yuria Pascual, a 26-year-old biologist, and Ana Gasquez, a French woman who says she was drawn to Cuba by the mystique of its boxing tradition.

Ever ambitious, Moreno has set her sights on "a world and Olympic medal".

Pascual says: "If men can do it, why can't we?"

Ugly paradox

It's an ugly paradox for these women that since 2006 Cuba has been represented in the female programmes in all Olympic sports, including weightlifting and wrestling — but not in that last bastion of Cuban machismo, inside the ropes of a boxing ring.

It is generally accepted here that boxing is a man's sport, far too dangerous to accommodate women. Elsewhere, gender equality in sports has evolved and boxing joined the ranks of women's Olympic events at the London Games in 2012.

Moreno dismisses the views of Cuban men that boxing is too dangerous for her, insisting body protection is more than adequate. "All combat sports are dangerous. But we have protection for the chest, the head and mouth."

The official reluctance to recognise female boxing "will end up discouraging" young women who want to climb into the ring, says Moreno.

Ironically, women are welcome to train in boxing gyms across Cuba. "Boys help us, they don't discriminate against us," Gasquez says. It's the officials in suits that draw their ire.

For these young boxers, it's impossible not to think of Namibia Flores, held up as an example to women boxers but who reached the age of 40 — the age ceiling for competition — without ever realising her dream of bringing a women's gold medal to Cuba.

"I don't want the same thing happening to us," vows Moreno.

Correa, the coach, says that if women's boxing is eventually sanctioned by Cuban authorities, the potential for the sport is "massive — because this is the island of boxing."

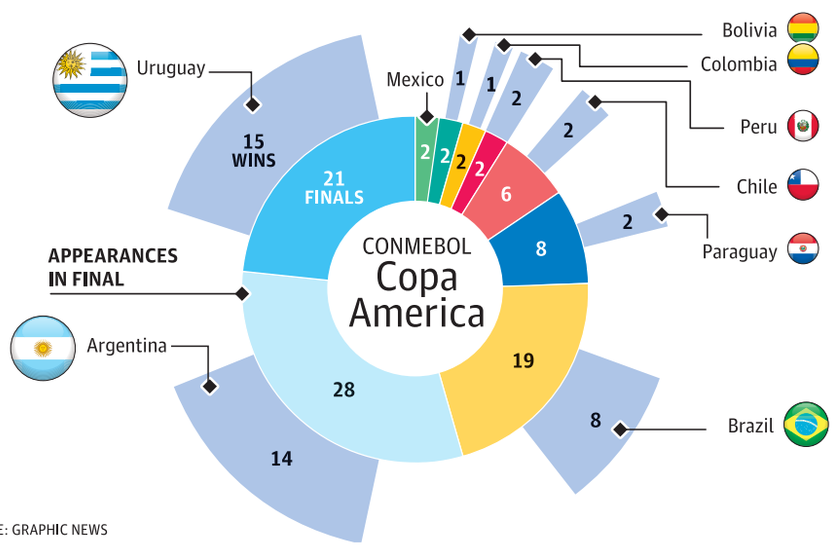
Women seemed primed for a breakthrough in 2016, when Cuban Boxing Federation president Alberto Puig announced the possibility of opening competition to females. But three years on, nothing has changed.

They continue to train, however, fuelled by optimism that the Cuban Sports Institute may eventually green-light women's boxing ahead of the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

GAME THEORY

South America's finest

The 2019 Copa America, which will be played in Brazil over the next three weeks, is the 46th edition of the competition which began in 1916 as the South American Championship. Uruguay, Argentina and Brazil have, among them, claimed all but eight trophies over the tournament's history. But Chile, which has won the last two editions, could become the first nation to win three successive titles since Argentina managed that feat in 1947

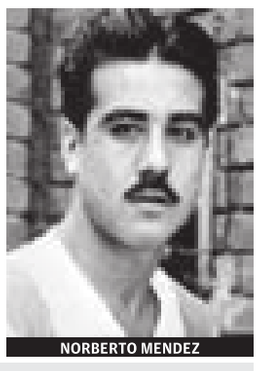


SOURCE: GRAPHIC NEWS

ZIZINHO

TOP SCORERS

Player	Country	Goals
Zizinho	Brazil	17
Norberto Mendez	Argentina	
Severino Varela	Uruguay	15
Lolo Fernandez	Peru	
Ademir	Brazil	13
Gabriel Batistuta	Argentina	
Jair	Brazil	
Jose Manuel Moreno	Argentina	
Hector Scarone	Uruguay	



NORBERTO MENDEZ

Active players with the most goals: 11 Eduardo Vargas (Chile) and Paolo Guerrero (Peru)

PICTURE THIS

ALAN CROWHURST/GETTY IMAGES

One for the record books

Trainer Aiden O'Brien won his first Derby through Galileo way back in 2001. He now has three more Epsom wins through Galileo's sons, the most recent of them coming earlier this month, Anthony Van Dyck the victorious horse.

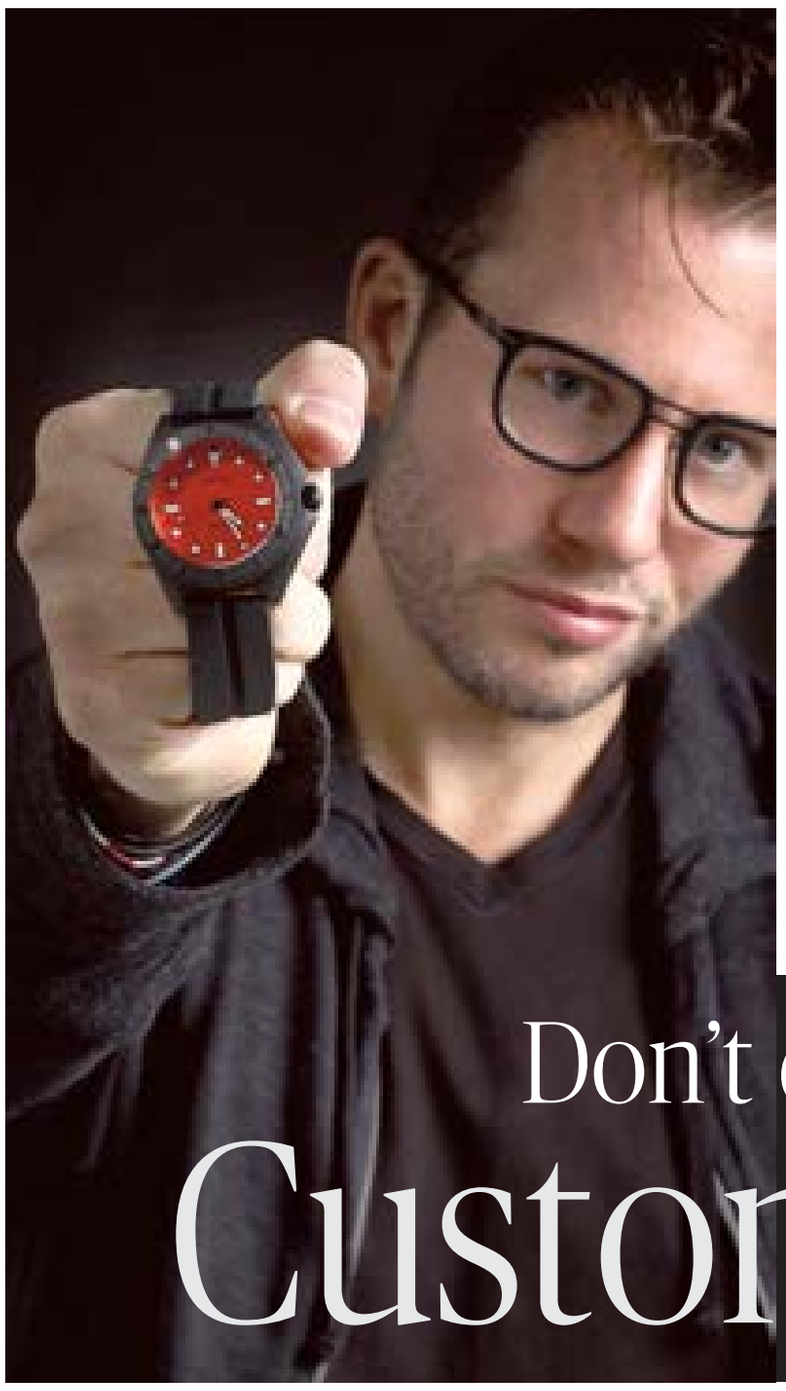
At the 240th Epsom Derby, O'Brien had seven runners in search of his seventh triumph. The Irish trainer is now just one win away from (solely) holding the record for the most Derby wins.

Van Dyck is unlikely to be regarded as one of the best Derby winners, at this stage at least. He wasn't even among the best horses going into this race. Sir Dragonet, also trained by O'Brien, was the favourite.

At one point, Van Dyck had only four (definitely defeated) horses behind him. But luck, resoluteness and a request from his jockey, Seamie Heffernan, for some more effort did it at Britain's richest race.

This victory, at the most prestigious of the five Classics, is the biggest of Van Dyck's four major race wins.

Don't conform. Customise



Impossible is nothing

George Bamford on standing out

How has customisation evolved?
We're all striving to find that true luxury item in a mass-market, and I feel that personalisation is one way to find the same. Clients approach us through our website where they can design their ultimate watch using our customiser tool or they book an appointment at our Hive office in London or visit one of our dealers around the world. Sometimes the simplest designs are the best, such as changes on date wheels or matching colours from racing silks to car colours.

What brands are you actively working with?
We are working with TAG Heuer, Zenith and Bvlgari and we are in discussions with more. It is really exciting and shows how the watch industry is embracing customisation.

Who are your customers?
I can't reveal that, but we are lucky to have clients who ask us to push the boundaries, and put our 'if you can imagine it, we can create it' motto to the test. We get requests from all over the world, and that is why I'm constantly travelling.

MITRAJIT BHATTACHARYA

I met the effervescent George Bamford, who runs Bamford Watch Department, at Baselworld a couple of years ago. The London-based company was not a familiar one. But considering he was sharing the stage with Jean-Claude Biver, then president of Louis Vuitton's watchmaking division and CEO of TAG Heuer, to announce a new partnership, it had to be important.

As Bamford explained to finance website, *This is Money*, "Everyone has their own personal style now. People walk through this door [at BWD] with killer trainers or Berluti shoes – why doesn't the watch world do that? Do you want to conform or be your own person?" The 37-year-old scion of multinational corporation JCB (JC Bamford Excavators Limited, the leading manufacturers of heavy construction machines) first got the idea when he noticed that many of the men he bumped into at social events wore the same watch as him, a Rolex Cosmograph Daytona. So he went to JCB's R&D department and used a black coating intended for drill bits on his watch. It has since become a signature of his company.

At BWD, you can customise pretty much any timepiece. A fan of Steve McQueen in *Le Mans*? Amp up your TAG Heuer Monaco with multiple colour options for the dial, logo, minute-markers, batons, even the coating. Most recently, Sir Elton John customised 10 Franck Muller watches with a swirl design and an Elton second hand.

Imagination is the limit

Across the English Channel, MAD Paris personalises pre-owned prestige timepieces – from Rolex Date-Justs to Audemars Piguet Royal Oaks – reworking dials, designs and coatings. Reportedly, they 'blacked out' fashion designer Virgil Abloh's Patek Philippe Nautilus 5726 recently, disassembling it, coating every inch in diamond-like carbon and adding quotation marks around the brand's name. Their network across cities like Beijing, Singapore, Dubai and New York, see a lot of traffic.

Then there is Artisans de Genève in Switzerland. They undertake modifications on demand, creating limited editions of renowned brands. Earlier this year, they brought out their 15-piece 'Tribute to 6240 Tropical', an homage to the Rolex Daytona 6240. Using an oxidation process they perfected over several years, they not only gave the watches a uniform amber patina, but also sent it to the Bahamas to 'mature' in the tropical weather.

Money matters

While a few brands like Bulgari, Jaeger-LeCoultre and Baume are tapping the trend, offering customisable options for certain lines, there's plenty of room for outsiders like Artisans de Genève, Blaken. However, customisation is not for everyone.

"Though there is a growing market for customised high-end timepieces, the fact that the same Rolex costs double after customisation hurts," says Raja Venkatraman, a businessman and watch enthusiast from Coimbatore. For instance, MAD Paris' modified Rolex Sapphire Rainbow Daytona can set you back an extra ₹58,74,000.

He continues: "Also the fact that a customised piece loses its worldwide warranty (of the original company) puts a collector in a difficult spot, particularly in a country like India. Even if they don't have a service centre here, they should have a collection centre, in case a need arises."

about time

From designer Virgil Abloh's 'blacked out' Patek Philippe to experimental tropical patinas — personalisation is how watch connoisseurs are staying unique

Timepiece art George Bamford and on top Artisans de Genève's Tribute to 6240 Tropical ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Wrist action

Changing the watch strap is an easy way to customise. While some high-end brands like Vacheron Constantin offer options for a few models, Atelier du Bracelet Parisien goes a step further. They offer handmade straps for brands like Rolex, Cartier, Panerai, Omega, and even connected watches like Apple. Customers can choose from leather (alligator, ostrich), fabric (nylon, cordura), rubber or modern finish (nato, perlon), besides customising the colour, stitching and buckle options. From ₹12,000 onwards.

MUSIC

Gurgaon static

Nivid, an industrial rock musician from Gurugram, just dropped a single off his upcoming concept album

When was the last time you heard a full music album, just the way it was intended to be heard? With how Spotify, Apple Music, Gaana, and all other streaming services have spread, our listening patterns have vastly altered, dependent now on algorithms or trusted playlists.

This all-pervasive millennial consumption pattern however isn't enough to deter Aditya Virmani, aka Nivid, from working on a concept album, called *The World Around Me (Infinite Support)*. The Ludhiana-born, Gurugram-based sound engineer and musician has just released the first single off this upcoming album.

Called Sanskaari, its music video has Nivid as the protagonist. Aditya's own studio set-up, Barren Sounds, "a services-oriented studio," he says, which takes up commissioned projects for sound production and design, produced this video.

Sanskaari has a distinct anthem-like feel to it. Its steady rhyming lines are in pace with the character, as he walks through stretches of the mural-filled Clarion Alley in San Francisco. The choice of location, given the Hindi lyrics, words like dharam, the song's very title, is unclear and obvious in its dissonance.

"After watching Nine Inch Nails live in Bangkok last year, I locked myself up in the studio for three straight months to write," recalls Aditya. He didn't know what he was going to write, or what the theme would be, but he knew there was something simmering.

Sanksaari's jarring opening notes and its static-filled sliced-up video, all point to an unmistakable industrial aesthetic, the same genre of the same 1988-formed American band that inspired him. Through Aditya's video, you can see snatches of posters on racism and sexism. As with the intent of most industrial rock therefore, Sanskaari too tries to address socio-political concerns.

"The song right now is about the dangers of extreme control, when the state becomes too powerful," he says, adding that "you don't have to align with my political belief systems to understand or relate to the song."

Nivid intends for this to be the fourth song in an eight-track, which he will release in September. By the time Sanskaari comes on in the album, its protagonist has found a following of those who want to subscribe to his ideology. But the character is alone through the video; he wakes up from a spot on the sidewalk, goes marching out through the city and its lanes to spread his agenda, only to reset and wake up at the same spot, to do it all over again. Just like in a video game.

Listen to the single on Nivid's Youtube channel, NividVEVO

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA, JUNE 21

Deep state of JOIS

With a Mumbai workshop under way, the Mysuru-based Ashtanga guru highlights the importance of a teacher in the age of YouTube tutorials

All in the mind Jois conducting group sessions ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

DHARA VORA SABHNANI

In the era of social media tutorials, yoga guru R Sharath Jois's voice is a sage one. He says that while social media is a great tool to encourage people to exercise, one needs a guru to guide you in yoga. "Yoga is not a general exercise where you don't deal with emotions. Yoga is different as there are many things happening in your mind, and it's not just for physical fitness, but mental as well. For your complete well-being, it's very important that you follow the instructions of a teacher," says the author of *Ageless: A Yogi's Secrets to a Long and Healthy Life*, now hosting his first workshop in Mumbai.

The third generation of the Jois family, Sharath is a teacher, practitioner, author and the subject of several documentaries, best known for his expertise in Ashtanga Yoga. When asked how to define Ashtanga Yoga to a beginner, his reply is a humble one. "It's a traditional practice based on Patanjali Yogasutra that has been there since generations. It's not that my grandfather or I have created it," says the director of the K Pattabhi Jois Ashtanga Yoga Institute, Mysuru.

Mind and body

Sharath spearheads the legacy of his grandfather K Pattabhi Jois, who is credited with popularising the vinyasa style of Ashtanga Yoga across the world, long before sweating it out in the yoga studio was considered cool.

It's a popular form of fitness and counts several Hollywood A-listers like Natalie Portman, Gwyneth Paltrow, Jennifer Aniston, Willem Dafoe, and musicians Madonna and Sting as followers. American yoga teacher Eddie Stern, who taught Hillary Clinton, Ashtanga Yoga-based breathing techniques to help her calm her mind during elections, has also been a student of Jois.

Everyone can practise Ashtanga Yoga, says Sharath. The starting point though is based on *yama*, which stands for moral codes, and *niyama*, or introspect and study. So practising Ashtanga Yoga also means that one has to follow the path of *ahimsa*, and lead a principled life. "What differentiates Ashtanga Yoga is synchronising the breathing with the posture. There is a strong emphasis on breath, *atma* and the [gaze]," he says, explaining how Ashtanga is ideal for city dwellers, working professionals to help cope with stress, and children (to make their minds sharper).

Evolving method

Sharath has introduced chanting in the practice, while focusing on how and what should one eat, and when one should practise the *asanas*. "Yoga should happen all the time, [with] only the *asanas* happening on the mat. You need to change your routine, and be mindful of what and how you speak. Just to keep up with everyone else, people shouldn't get carried away with their social media interactions," he recommends.

According to him, one of the reasons why Ashtanga Yoga is popular in the West especially with the stars, is owing to the stamina it helps build up in practitioners while simultaneously teaching tolerance. "People work extra hard to make a career and keep up with the work. In that process, many get stressed and lack of sleeping and eating becomes an issue. Ashtanga Yoga gives you the internal strength to keep up with everything and manage yourself, so you can manage all else," he explains.

Visit truebayindia.com for further details

INDULGENCE

Instapick

Legendary Golconda diamonds, Art Deco brooches by Cartier and emerald hookah mouthpieces — the Christie's Instagram feed (@christiesjewels) is chock full of these treasures, which will go under the hammer in New York on June 19, as a part of the Maharajas & Mughal Magnificence collection. You'll also find interesting nuggets of information from experts like David Warren and Francois Curiel.

For a listing or to be featured here, email us at *delhimetro@thehindu.co.in*

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE

EVENT

Ttribute to Girish Karnad
As a tribute to the late playwright, the India International Centre, SAHMAT, Raza Foundation, and Indian Writers Forum will be hosting, "Paying tribute to Girish Karnad: A life of Cultural Resistance" this Monday. Speakers include M.K. Raina, Anuradha Kapur and Ashok Vajpeyi. There will be readings by Jana Natya Manch
VENUE: Seminar Rooms 1,2,3, IIC,
TIME: 6:30 p.m.

BEVERAGE

Yuvi shots
For the India versus Pakistan match this Sunday, Pier 38 Indo-Arabic Kitchen & Cocktail Bar is offering a 'Yuvi Shot' on sixes by Indian players, and each time Pakistan loses a wicket. Named after Yuvraj Singh, it's a tribute to his talent and a token to say goodbye.
VENUE: Shop 106-107, Cyber Hub, DLF Cyber City, Gurugram
TIME: 3 p.m. onwards

DANCE

Brahmputra Borgeet
Pratishruti Foundation' presents a Story on Brahmputra Borgeet and Sattriya. A classical dance exponent, Prateesha Suresh, along with her troop will perform the classical musical tradition of Assam. Borgeet is considered the oldest music tradition alive today.
VENUE: Sathya Sai Auditorium, Pragati Vihar, Lodhi Road
TIME: 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

FILM

Japanese animation
Crayon Shin Chan – Bravo! Samurai Battle that has English subtitles, shows Shinnosuke, his parents, and his dog, Shiro, having similar dreams. While Shin Chan becomes entranced with a pretty lady from that dream, see what happens to his parents and his pet.
VENUE: The Japan Foundation, 5A Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar IV
TIME: 2 p.m.

FOOD

Sunday brunch
Celebrate Father's Day with a brunch at Seasonal Tastes. Try the gourmet salads, Yorkshire puddings, Burrito bar, Tandoori taka tak, and other foods from around the world. Along with the vast spread is an entertaining live band, cocktails, and mocktails. Special crafts for dads and fun activities for kids have been organised.
VENUE: Seasonal Tastes, The Westin Gurgaon
TIME: 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

FILM REVIEWS

Licensed to frill

Frenetic, frantic action can't rescue this lame sequel to *The Secret Life of Pets*

MINI ANTHIKAD CHHIBBER

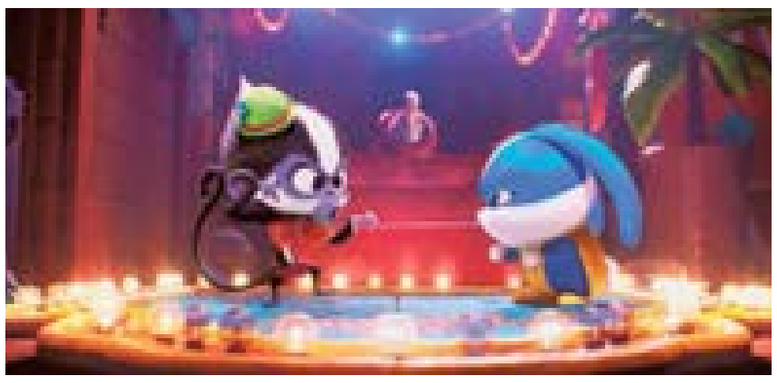
The Secret Life of Pets in 2016 was a harmless piece of fluff. As most pet owners believe their beloved animals have a secret life (I know for sure that Muddu, my Labrador golden retriever, watches nature documentaries on the telly when I am away) the film was a fun way of giving shape to our not-so-secret imaginings.

So there was Max, a terrier who lives in New York with his human Katie. When Katie brings home Duke, a shaggy brown dog, at first Max is upset but then they get along. Other pets in the apartment block include Gidget, a pomeranian, who has a crush on Max, Chloe, a fat, grey tabby cat, a pug, a dachshund, a budgie parakeet and a lost hamster.

A rabbit named Snowball is leading a revolution against humans who ill-treat their pets. There is a basset hound, a falcon and many other pets and also a ride through a sausage factory. Whenever the plot showed signs of flagging, the dog catchers were thrown into the mix.

The sequel was a given considering how well the movie did – despite similarities to *Toy Story*. And now a week before *Toy Story 4* comes out, there is *The Secret Life of Pets 2*. Cast and crew reprise their roles except for Patton Oswalt as Max (he replaced Louis C.K.). Newcomers include Harrison Ford as the tough sheepdog Rooster who has all the funny lines.

The movie breathlessly zips from point A to point B, without pause, with train chases, fights and high-pitched squeals and shrieks. The best thing about the movie is its length. At 86 minutes, you do not feel you have wasted a considerable portion of your life watching a toy-ready film. That and Harrison Ford.



Rushing through Even for pet-lovers, the characters don't come alive ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Secret Life of Pets 2

DIRECTOR: Chris Renaud
CO DIRECTOR: Jonathan del Val
VOICE CAST: Patton Oswalt, Eric Stonestreet, Kevin Hart, Jenny Slate, Ellie Kemper, Tiffany Haddish, Lake Bell, Nick Kroll, Dana Carvey, Hannibal Buress, Bobby Moynihan, Harrison Ford
RUN TIME: 86 minutes
STORYLINE: Max and Duke go to a farm, Captain Snowball has to rescue a tiger from an abusive circus owner and Gidget has to become a cat to get back Busy Bee

Low voltage with good CGI

Men in Black: International lacks the original franchise's punch, but still garners a few laughs

DEBORAH CORNELIOUS

There are some seriously heavy-duty names attached to *Men in Black: International*: Chris Hemsworth, Tessa Thompson, Liam Neeson, Emma Thompson and Kumail Nanjiani. It's been directed by F. Gary Gray (*The Fate of the Furious*) and executive produced by king of sci-fi Steven Spielberg.

Naturally then, expectations were high and mighty. It's also yet another reboot, remake or spin-off that Hollywood seems to be so fond of these days.

So it's disappointing really, that the film firmly sticks to a tried and tested plan. Smart visual effects, saving the world from destruction, a few sassy lines between the protagonists, a predictable twist, and of course, a wise-cracking sidekick. At the crux of the film is a weapon of such power, it could destroy planets. The Men in Black (MIB) must protect it from the Hive, an evil alien race. M (Tessa) is a rookie over-eager MIB agent perfectly complementing H (Hemsworth), a cynical and talented senior agent who is cocky and equally reckless. Sounds familiar? Only every other film seems to work this trope into its story.

If there was a subversive manoeuvre in having a woman be part of well, Men in Black, Gray's intention never comes forth. What does come forward, are a couple of subtle jokes about gender equality that perhaps sounded better on paper instead of on screen.

It's almost as if *International* is afraid of failing. Gray has entirely refused to colour out of the lines in the slightest. Eschewing the original franchise's ruthless and smarmy humour, the spin-off is uptight with most of its jokes. So much so it affects H and M's chemistry. Their relationship becomes less about learning to work with each other and more about the sincerity of their intentions. It's shame because the duo was hilarious in their earlier pairing in *Thor: Ragnarok* (2017).

Art Marcum and Matt Holloway's screenplay isn't strong enough to keep viewers hooked, with an all-too-familiar premise. The predictability factor, thankfully, isn't repulsive enough to vacate seats. Especially when Pawny, a pint-sized green alien voiced by Nanjiani makes an appearance. In spite of knowing fully well, his is a clever distraction tactic nothing to do with the film's real storyline, Pawny's ugly-cute mug and cheeky lines are a real thrill. In the end, *International* is a mildly fun ride with satisfying special effects and an adequate number of chuckles.

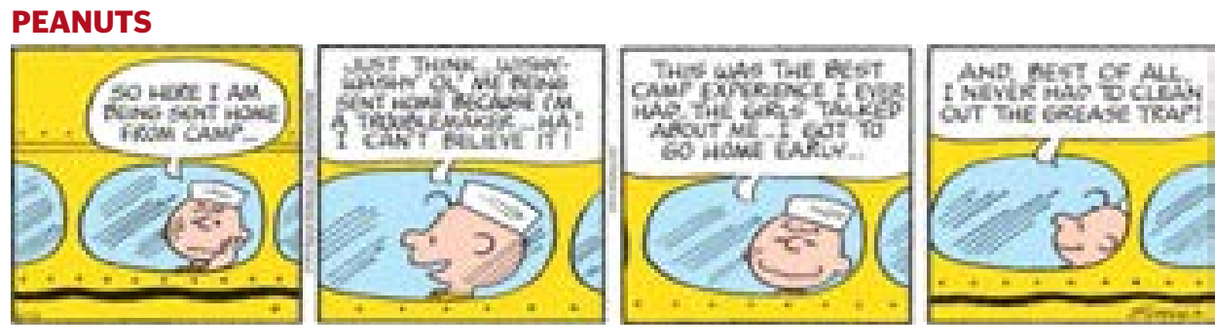
All too familiar *MIB: International* has entirely refused to colour out of the lines in the slightest ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Men in Black: International

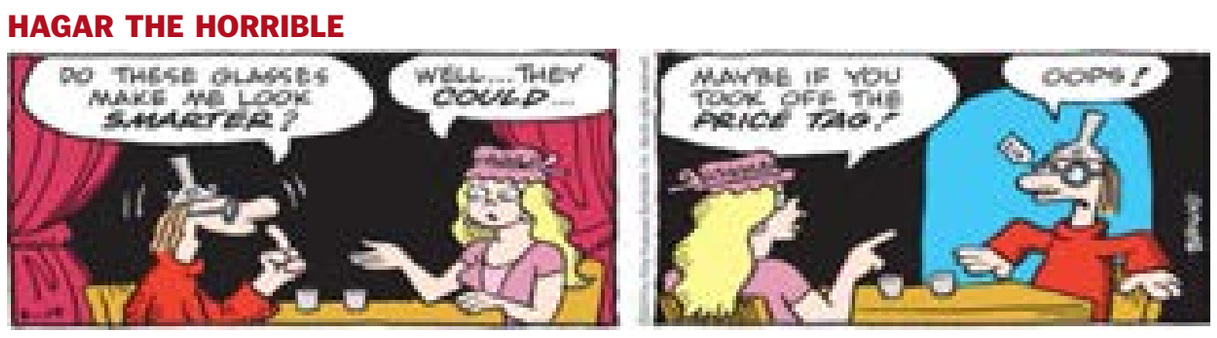
DIRECTOR: F. Gary Gray
CAST: Chris Hemsworth, Tessa Thompson, Liam Neeson, Emma Thompson and Kumail Nanjiani
STORYLINE: M, a rookie agent joins H to protect a powerful weapon from getting into the wrong hands

POOCH CAFE

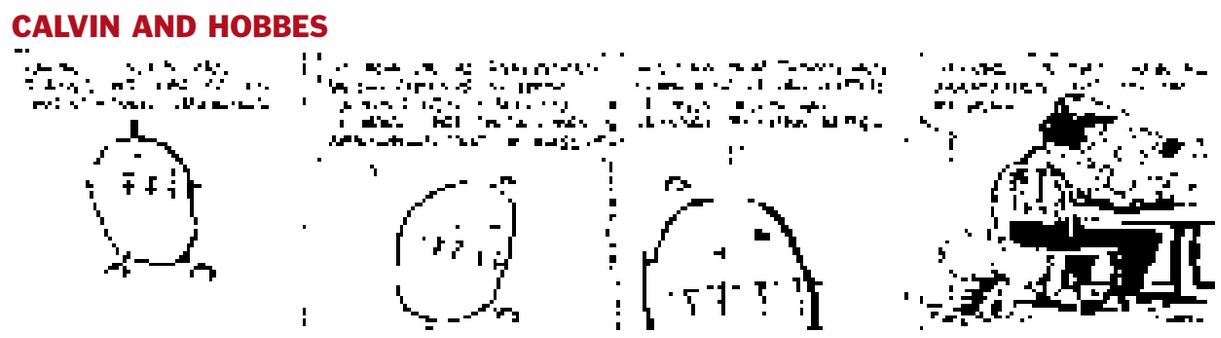
PEANUTS



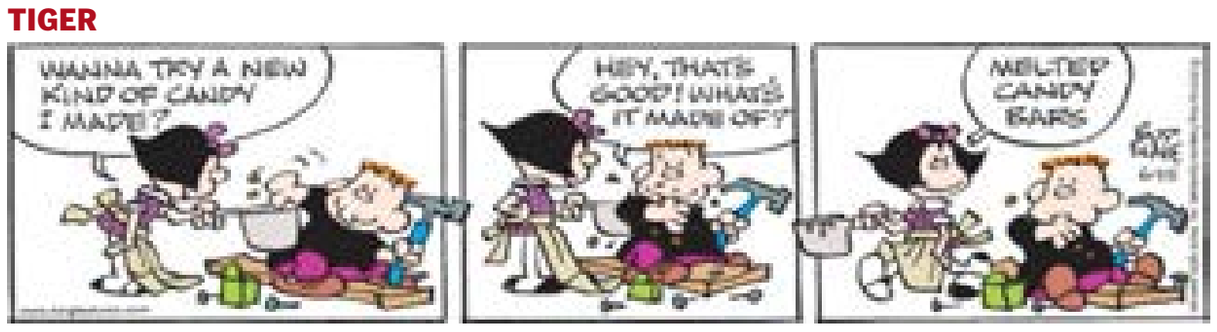
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



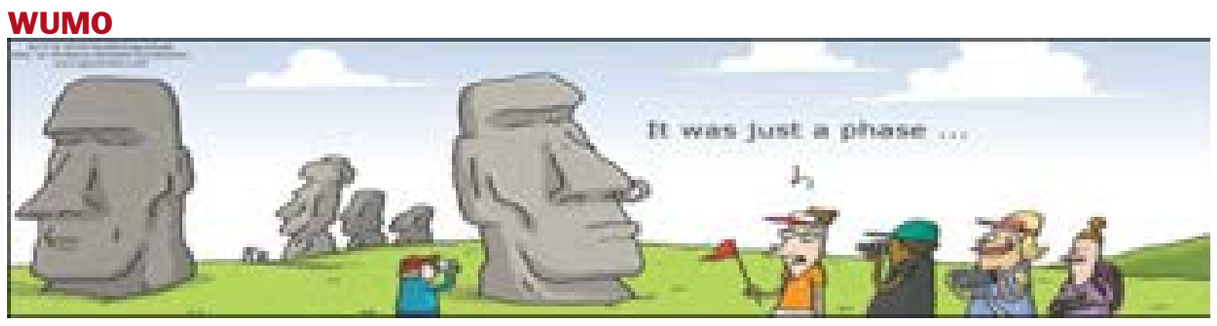
CALVIN AND HOBBES



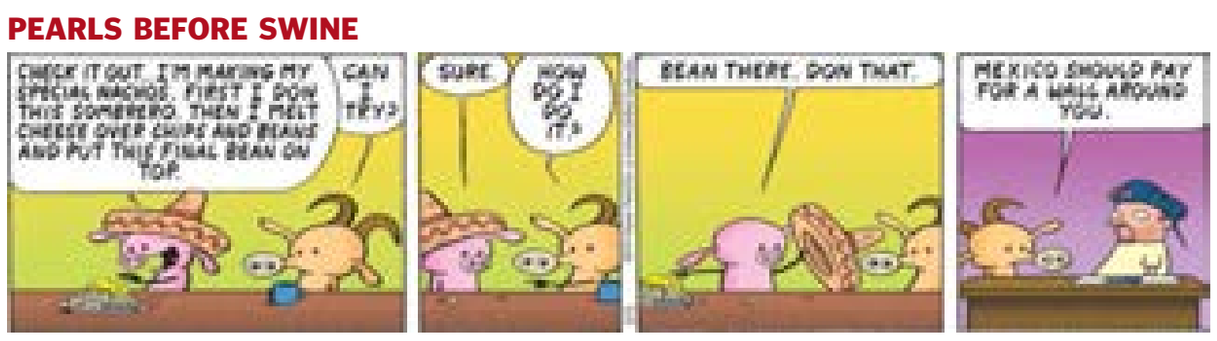
TIGER

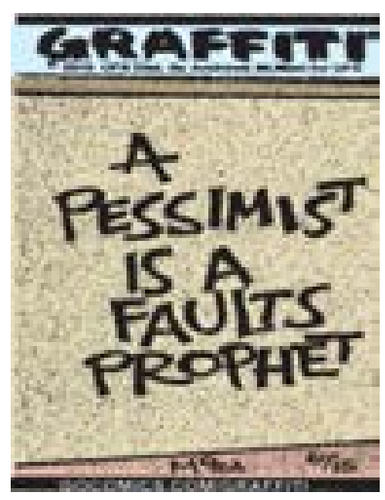


WUMO



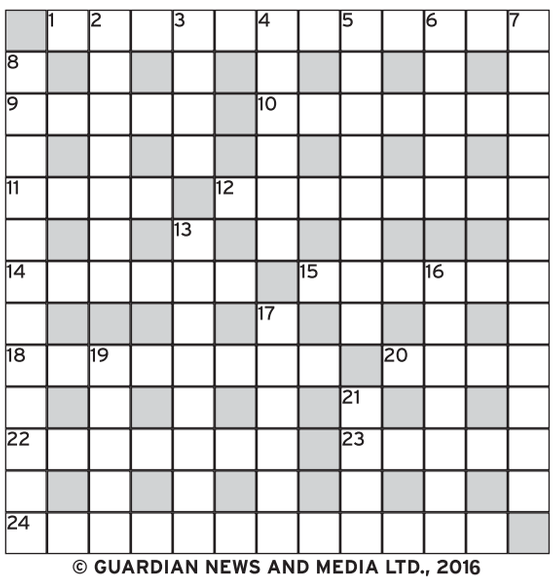
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE





HEALTH CAPSULES

THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13097



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Across
1 Controversial issue attracting public attention (5,7)
9 Granny Smith, for one (5)
10 Type of lettuce (7)
11 Lie to get something (4)
12 Building divided into small let units (8)
14 Playing a part (6)
15 Sheep from Spain with a heavy quality fleece (6)
18 Latest time for completion (8)
20 Flower – girl (4)
22 Florida resort – Virginia Woolf novel (7)
23 Heavy iron-bound stick used for crowd control by police in India (5)
24 Canadian province (3,9)

Down
2 Road-surfacing material (7)
3 Outhouse – cast (4)
4 Bird with a long curved bill (6)
5 Palm tree (anag) – south Wales university town (8)
6 Groom's partner (5)
7 Method for removing unwanted hair (12)
8 Devoted old married couple (5,3,4)
13 Quick joke (3-5)
16 Crackbrained (7)
17 In utero (6)
19 Acknowledge – concede (5)
21 Defect (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated June 17, 2019.

Solution No. 13096

Head of 32,000-year-old wolf found in the Russian Arctic

The animal is believed to have been between two and four years old when it died

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

A first intact head of a gigantic adult wolf which died about 32,000 years ago and was preserved in permafrost has been found in the Russian Arctic, scientists said on Friday.

Covered with thick fur, the head was found by a local on the banks of the Tirekhtyakh River in Russia's remote Arctic region of Yakutia last summer.

Well-preserved brain

It features a well-preserved brain, soft tissue and a set of powerful teeth and measures 41.5 cm in length.

The head of an Ice Age wolf, which is covered with thick fur. ▪ AP

By comparison, the torso of a modern-day wolf is between 66 and 86 centimetres long.

The head was handed to local palaeontologists who teamed up with scientists from the Jikei University School of Medicine in Tokyo to study it.

"It is the first ever such find," Albert Protopopov, head of mammoth fauna studies at the Yakutia Academy of Sciences, said on Friday.

"Only cubs have been discovered before."

Pleistocene epoch

Research shows the animal died about 32,000 years ago in the Pleistocene epoch, when the most recent Ice Age occurred.

The wolf is believed to have been between two and four years old when it died.

The Pleistocene epoch was the time when megafauna such as woolly mammoths roamed the Earth.

Protopopov said the scientists from Russia, Japan and Sweden would continue to study the head.

"We are hoping to understand whether this was a separate subspecies," he added.

Several species of ancient wolf lived during the Ice Age, including now-extinct dire wolf that featured in the popular TV series *Game of Thrones*.

Women across Switzerland rise up for equal pay

On average, they earn 20% less than men

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GENEVA

Purple-clad protesters blowing whistles, banging pots and pans and brandishing feminist slogans filled the streets of Swiss towns and cities Friday, as women across the country went on strike for equal pay.

"I love badass women" and "Eliminate the patriarchy" figured among the messages on posters and banners, as women poured into the streets to vent their frustration with persistent gender discrimination and wage gaps in the wealthy Alpine nation.

The strike comes nearly three decades after women held the country's first nationwide strike for equal pay.

Purple to the fore: Women taking part in nation-wide strike for wage parity in Bern, on Friday. ▪ AFP

"Wage equality has not been achieved. That is a good reason to go on strike," Ruth Dreyfuss, who in 1998 became Switzerland's first female president, said.

Women in Switzerland on average still earn 20 percent less than men. And for men and women with equal qualifications, the wage gap remains nearly eight percent, according to the National Statistics Office.

"We are here to make noise, because if we're not seen, we don't exist," said Socialist MP Ada Marra.

Lost recording of Frida Kahlo released

REUTERS
MEXICO CITY

Few Mexican icons have enjoyed greater recognition than the painter, Frida Kahlo. Only her voice seemed doomed to oblivion. Until Wednesday, that is, when the National Music Library of Mexico released a radio recording, apparently capturing the artist as she was reciting "Portrait of Diego", a text she wrote in 1949 about her husband, the painter Diego Rivera.

The Mexican government said that studies suggest the recording is of Kahlo but they were not able to confirm it. "It's a finding that has many elements that can be identified as the probable voice of Kahlo, but it isn't 100% certain," said Secretary of Culture Alejandra Frausto.