



INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878



Number of deaths
related to AES rises
to 104 in Muzaffarpur
page 9; editorial: page 10



Egypt's former President
Morsi collapses during
court session and dies
page 14



Shakib and Liton power
Bangladesh past West Indies
in high-scoring match
page 17



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NEARBY



Cross FIRs registered in tempo driver assault case

NEW DELHI
A day after video clips showing a group of policemen thrashing a tempo driver who had pulled out a sword and attacked them went viral on social media, the Delhi police on Monday registered cross FIRs against the driver and the policemen involved in the incident. Three police personnel have been placed under suspension, the police said.

CITY ► PAGE 3

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Two workers die after falling off 10th floor

NEW DELHI
Two workers died after falling from the 10th floor of Videocon Tower in central Delhi's Jhandewalan while cleaning windows on Monday afternoon. DCP (Central) Mandeep Singh Randhawa said Raju and Ishtar Khan, both in their mid-20s, used to live with their families in JJ cluster of Vasant Kunj.

CITY ► PAGE 3

Congress leader seeks Dikshit's removal

NEW DELHI
Former chairman of the Delhi Metropolitan Council Purushottam Goyal on Monday wrote to Congress president Rahul Gandhi calling for the removal of DPCC chief Sheila Dikshit and replacing her with a 'fresh face'. "An exercise must be undertaken to find a new face for Congress CM candidate if the party does not want to lose further in Delhi," he said.

CITY ► PAGE 3

West Bengal doctors withdraw strike

In unprecedented televised meeting, CM Mamata Banerjee assures them of increased security

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA/NEW DELHI

Junior doctors in West Bengal called off their strike on Monday evening ending the seven-day standoff between them and the State government over lack of security at the workplace.

The truce was achieved following a two-hour meeting with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who assured them of improved security.

Doctors in the State have been protesting since Tuesday last against the assault on two junior doctors at NRS Hospital in Kolkata by the relatives of a patient who died at the hospital.

Representatives from medical colleges held a meeting with Ms. Banerjee at the State Secretariat, with the Chief Minister agreeing to live coverage of the talks.

Visits injured doctor

"We are satisfied with the meeting," said representatives of the doctors. Later at night, Ms. Banerjee visited the injured junior doctor, Paribaha Mukherjee, at a private hospital.



Long agony: Saraswati had to wait for one day at the Gandhi Hospital in Hyderabad for stitches to be removed as out-patient services were closed on Monday. ■ NAGARA GOPAL

The Chief Minister has asked the police to appoint nodal officers for security of doctors at all government hospitals and said no doctor has been booked by the government.

"Also the entry and exit gates [of hospitals] will be manned properly; CCTV cameras will be made functional. The police will be stationed in good numbers at the hospitals. A nodal officer will have all the information and coordinate with the doctors when they approach him with queries," Ms. Banerjee said.

She added that every hospital should have a functional grievance cell that should be properly visible and manned round the clock.

"But it is important too to educate the people that the doctors who are under pressure cannot be attacked. We need to trigger mass awareness programmes and [I] would ask the [Health] Department to look into this," the Chief Minister said.

The representatives of the joint forum of junior doctors also sought exemplary punishment for those involved in the assault on doctors at the NRS Medical College and Hospital on June 11.

SC to hear plea on doctors' safety

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear a petition for deputing government-appointed uniformed security men to all government hospitals all over the country for ensuring the safety and security of doctors. A Vacation Bench of Justices Deepak Gupta and Surya Kant posted the hearing for Tuesday. Advocate Alakh Alok Srivastava filed the petition following the nationwide protest by doctors against violence against them. ► PAGE 13

ishment for those involved in the assault on doctors at the NRS Medical College and Hospital on June 11.

Ms. Banerjee instructed the officials present to give "priority" to the safety issues of the doctors.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12
AIIMS RESIDENT DOCTOR
MANHANDLED ► PAGE 13

10 injured as militants trigger IED blast again in Pulwama



Out of action: The bullet-and-mine-proof vehicle that came under IED attack in Pulwama on Monday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Army personnel travelling in mine-proof vehicle targeted

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Eight Army personnel and two civilians were injured when militants triggered an improvised explosive device (IED) fitted in a vehicle near an Army patrol in the militancy-hit Pulwama district of south Kashmir on Monday, officials said.

They said the multi-vehicle patrol of the 44 Rashtriya Rifles was moving on the Aihal-Pulwama road when the IED was detonated, injuring the personnel travelling in a

bullet-and-mine-proof Casper vehicle.

The site of the IED blast is 27 km from the area where a convoy of vehicles carrying security personnel on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was attacked by a suicide bomber on February 14 in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed.

Major killed
In another incident, an Army officer and a militant were killed during an encounter in Anantnag.

A Srinagar-based police spokesman said Major Ketan Sharma, 32, from Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, was injured when a search party of the security forces encircled hiding militants and came under "heavy fire" at Badoora village in Anantnag's Achabal area in the morning.

"Sharma was evacuated to a hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries," said the police.

(With PTI inputs)

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

J.P. Nadda appointed BJP's working president

Will oversee organisational elections

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The BJP's parliamentary board, in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Monday declared former Union Minister J.P. Nadda the party's working president, after the incumbent Amit Shah joined the Union Cabinet.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh made the announcement after a meeting of the board here.

"The BJP has won in several elections under the leadership of Shri Amit Shah. After Mr. Modi appointed him the Home Minister, Amitiji himself said the responsibility of



J.P. Nadda

party president should be given to someone else. The parliamentary board met today [on Monday] and it has selected Shri J.P. Nadda as the working president. He will remain the working president till the membership drive and organisational elections are over," he said.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

Jet Airways to be taken to bankruptcy court

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

As six months of efforts to save one of the country's leading airlines, Jet Airways, failed, the lenders have now decided to take it to the bankruptcy court, which will decide the future course of action.

The lenders met on Monday in a last-ditch effort to save the Nareish Goyal-owned airline, but after much discussions they decided to seek a resolution under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). "A meeting of lenders was held to consider the way forward in respect of Jet Airways. After due deliberations, lenders have decided to seek resolution under IBC since only a conditional bid was received and requirement of the investor for SEBI exemptions and resolution of all creditors is possible under IBC," the lenders, led by SBI, said in a statement.

Jet Airways' total dues to the banks are about ₹8,000 crore. "Lenders have been taking efforts to find a resolution for Jet Airways outside the IBC, but in view of the above, they have decided to seek a resolution within the IBC process," the statement said.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

INDIGO SEALS DEAL ► PAGE 15

Iran to breach uranium stockpile limit

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Iran said on Monday that it would surpass from June 27 its uranium stockpile limit set under the nuclear deal with world powers, turning up the pressure after the

U.S. walked away from the pact last year.

"Today, the countdown to pass the 300-kg reserve of enriched uranium has started and in 10 days time..., we will pass this limit," atomic energy organisation spokes-

man Behrouz Kamalvandi said.

The decision "will be reversed once other parties live up to their commitments," he said.

IRAN WARNED ► PAGE 14

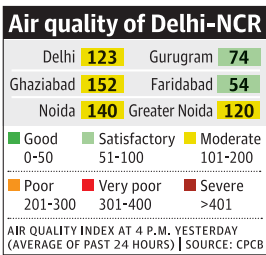
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Glitch hits Metro services on Blue Line
NEW DELHI
Services on the Delhi Metro's Blue Line were affected for nearly an hour on Monday due to a technical glitch, said a spokesperson of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation. The Blue Line connects Dwarka to Vaishali and Noida Electronic City. The DMRC had alerted commuters via Twitter about delayed services.

Five new cases of malaria reported in city
NEW DELHI
At least five new cases of malaria were reported in the city last week, the SDMC said on Monday. With this, the total number of malaria cases this year has gone up to 18. While three cases were reported in South Delhi, one case was reported from Delhi Cantonment and one case was "untraced after investigation".



DELHI TODAY

Exhibition: Inner Hues, a solo exhibition by Anujalka at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

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

Talk: A lecture and demonstration on Kalari Vyayam (Art of Dynamic Breathing) for International Yoga Day in collaboration with Nithya Chaitanya Kalari, at The Stein Auditorium, IHC, 7 p.m. onwards

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

Eligibility criteria for 32 UG courses revised

Registrations open till June 22, says Delhi University

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI
Revised eligibility criteria for 32 undergraduate course of Delhi University were notified on its website on Monday. The university said that registrations to all, including postgraduate courses, will remain open till June 22. The announcement comes following a High Court order on June 14, directing DU to revert the eligibility criteria of its UG courses to last year's criteria and extend the last date for registrations.

The revised notification will effect the eligibility criteria of BA (Hons.) English, BA (Hons.) Economics, BA (Prog.), BCom (Hons.), BCom, BSc and BSc (Hons.) in multiple subjects, music courses and others. The changes in the eligibility criteria had been made after consultation with various stakeholders, including staff councils of colleges and different departments of the university. While the High Court upheld the right of the university to make such changes, it said that at least a six-month notice should be given before making the same.

With the change in the last date of registration, dates for the release of cut-offs and trials for extracurricular activities and sports quota will also be effected. While the university had earlier said that the first cut-off would be released on June 20, Dean of Students' Welfare Rajeev Gupta said that the new cut-off dates would be announced later this week. In light of the HC judgment, Rasal Singh, member



The changes in the eligibility criteria had been made after consultation with various stakeholders. *FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHAKAR

‘Extend registration date for EWS candidates by 15 days’

BJP leader seeks DU V-C's intervention

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI
The BJP on Monday demanded that the Delhi University administration extend the date of registrations for admission under the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) category by 15 days. Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijendra Gupta argued the extension was essential to enable students falling under this category to apply for admission and urged the varsity's

Vice-Chancellor to intervene. "The date may be extended further if the procedure for admissions is not completed by this date. Those who have applied in the general category but fall in the EWS category as per notification should also get the reservation," Mr. Gupta argued. "I have discussed the matter with V-C Yogesh Tyagi who assured me that he would take up the matter with the Dean," he said.

of the Standing Committee on admissions, said that the process of policy framing and implementation involved discussions with multiple stakeholders which was time consuming. In this light, he argued, DU required a full-fledged 'Admissions Branch' which could work round the year. The All India Students' Association also petitioned un-

iversity administration over 100% weightage given to VI-VA in the entrance to MPhil and PhD courses. In a letter to the DSW, the students' representatives pointed to a High Court judgment which held 100% viva as arbitrary. While the AISA claimed that officials had agreed to put out a new PG prospectus, the DSW denied the claim.

JNUSU wants probe into ‘irregularities’ in exam

Students' body claims questions were copied from websites, other sources

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union on Monday wrote to the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), seeking a judicial inquiry into the alleged irregularities in the online entrance examinations. The university had outsourced the conduct of the examination to the National Testing Agency (NTA) this year. The JNUSU in the letter alleged that questions were copied from websites and other sources and that the

entrance examination paper of BA first year Cluster 1 of Russian, Spanish, French and German held on May 28 were allegedly found to be circulating on WhatsApp. The students' body also raised questions about why answer keys of the multiple-choice question format paper were demanded months before the exam and given to the NTA. "For the first time in JNU's 50 years, the university outsourced the evaluation of result to a private agency at a higher price. This has raised suspicions about the intentions of the JNU administra-



tion over the shift to online mode and the cost of examination that increased by 300%. This cost escalation and financial mismanage-

ment are costing students' research, seminars and academic engagement internally," the JNUSU said.

Previous model
The students' body asked the MHRD to direct JNU to immediately restore the previous model of offline examination, which had a suitable mix of subjective and objective questions, as it is an academically superior model designed to assess students on various parameters of comprehension, writing and analytical skills and hence, better suited for a research-oriented university like JNU.

Submit fire NOC or face music, govt. tells clubs

Issues order acting on direction of DFS

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Excise Department has ordered all clubs and restobars, with over 90 square metres of gross floor area, to submit their fire NOC by September 30, failing which their licence would be cancelled. The Department has issued an order in this regard acting on the direction of the Delhi Fire Service in light of a fire in Arpit Hotel in Karol Bagh that killed 17 people.

cause, earlier, restobars or clubs which had a seating area of less than 50 did not require a fire NOC. But after the Arpit Hotel incident, the DFS reviewed its rules and now all restobars or clubs which are over 90 square metres of gross floor area needs a fire NOC. "All existing licensees, having a gross floor area of 90 sqm or more are directed to submit a copy of Fire Safety Certificate issued by the Delhi Fire Services latest by 30.09.2019., failing which action as deemed fit under the Delhi Excise Act, 2009, and Rules shall be taken, including suspension or cancellation of the licence," an order issued by the Excise Department read.

Reviewed rules
"There are around 1,100 licence holders in the city, of which around 450 do not have the fire NOC," an Excise Department official told *The Hindu*. He said this is be-

Renuka Viswanathan pens open letter to PM

Backs free ride scheme for women

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Renuka Viswanathan, former principal adviser to the erstwhile Planning Commission, has written an open letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi advocating the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government's proposed scheme of free rides on public transport, including the Delhi Metro, for women. Ms. Vishwanathan's letter came days after former Delhi Metro Rail Corporation chief E. Sreedharan wrote to the Prime Minister, requesting him not to agree to the proposal as it would set an "alarming precedent". In her letter, Ms. Viswanathan, who is also the former Secretary to the

Centre in the Cabinet Secretariat and had contested the 2018 Karnataka Assembly election on an AAP ticket, said she was impressed by the Delhi government's free ride proposal for its simplicity and administrative efficiency. "Little scope for misuse" "No additional paper work or energy needs to be spent to identify women beneficiaries and there is very little scope for misuse of the scheme by ineligible persons... I trust that the Central Government will recognise and appreciate the many merits of this proposal and support it in all respects," she stated in the letter.

Sisodia felicitates principals, teachers and students

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Monday felicitated principals, teachers and 29 students who have performed well in the North East district. The government, in a statement, said: "The Education Minister awarded 46 principals/heads of schools


who achieved 95% pass percentage or above in their respective Delhi government schools. Seventy-two teachers who achieved a pass percentage of 95% in maths, science and English were felicitated by the Minister too. Twenty-nine students who topped in their zones in each stream were felicitated by Mr. Sisodia at the school."

Mr. Sisodia also announced a new cultural fest for teachers to showcase their talents at a prime venue in Delhi.

Stigma removed
Speaking at the event, Mr. Sisodia said, "There was a time when there was a stigma attached with government schools... it was the last

choice... whereas today, I get requests for admissions in Delhi government schools everyday." He said that over 450 students from Delhi government schools cleared IIT JEE this year. "I want to tell the teachers that you are not just teaching, you are changing people's lives, most of whom are first-generation learners," he added.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION


General public is hereby informed that an **unidentified body of a male namely Md. Sharif, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, was admitted in RML Hospital due to illness on 05.06.2019 vide MLC No. E/124757/19. During the treatment doctor declared him dead on 10.06.2019.** In this regard proceeding DD No. 16A, dated 10.06.2019 has been lodged at Police Station, Connaught Place, New Delhi. Dead body of the deceased kept in RML Hospital Mortuary for identification. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:
Name: Md. Sharif, Age: 40 Years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Built: Thin, Hair: Small Grey and Beared, Wearing: Dark Check Shirt and Dark Half Pant.
If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.
SHO Police Station, Connaught Place, New Delhi DP/2021/NDD/19 Ph.: 011-23364139, 23747100, 8750870525

**GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
GANGA PUMP CANAL DIVISION, SAHIBGANJ**

Very Short Tender Notice
e-Tender Reference no.- WRD/GPCDIV/SBG/SBD/01/2019-20
Dated : 10.06.2019

1	Name of Department	WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, GOV T. OF JHARKHAND
2	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, Ganga Pump Canal Division, Sahibganj
3	Name of Work	Construction of 12 nos B-Type Quarter under Ganga Pump Canal Division Sahibganj.
4	Estimated Cost (Rs)	Rs. 272.99 Lakh
5	Time of Completion	15 (Fifteen) Months
6	Date of Publication of Tender on website	17/06/2019 at 02:30 PM
7	Date of Download BOQ	18.06.2019 (11:00 AM) to 26/06/2019 (05:00 PM)
8	Last date / Time for receipt of bids	26/06/2019 at 05:00 PM
9	Date and Time of Opening of Tender	28/06/2019 at 02:30 PM
10	Last Date of Deposit of Earnest money and place	27/06/2019 upto 05:00 PM Executive Engineer, Ganga Pump Canal Division, Sahibganj
11	Contact no. of Procurement officer	9334010195

Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>
**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Ganga Pump Canal Division
SAHIBGANJ**
PR 209004 (District)19-20#D

IN THE HONOURABLE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
Ministry of Finance, Government of India
31-31-21, Narayana Bhavan, Saibaba Street
Dabagardens, Visakhapatnam (AP) - 530 020
SA No. 176 of 2019

Between
Sri Devineni Bhaskara Rao, Flat No. 201, Isha Towers, D.No. 32-13-3, Boyapati Vari Street, Mogalrajapuram, Vijayawada & Others
Vs
Authorized Officer, Corporation Bank, Benz Circle Branch, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 520 010 & Others
... Respondents

To
M/s. JKM Infra Projects Ltd.,
Represented by its Managing Director, A-14, Sector -7, Noida, Uttar Pradesh - 201 301.
... Respondent No.4

NOTICE
(IA 1076 of 2019 in SA 176 of 2019)
Please take notice that my clients Sri D Bhakar Rao & Others have filed an application under Section 17(1) of The Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 for the action initiated by the Respondent Bank i.e. Corporation Bank. You are hereby required to appear before The Debts Recovery Tribunal, Visakhapatnam at 11:00 a.m. on 18.06.2019 either in person or by pleader / Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayer for should not be granted. Take notice, in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Hence, this notice.
Jakka Kondala Rao, B.A., B.L.,
Advocate & Notary
Flat No. 204, D.No. 31-33-32/12, Progressive Towers, Dabagardens, Visakhapatnam (A.P.)
Visakhapatnam
Dt: 17.06.2019

**NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
(through e-tendering)**

S N	Name of work with its location	App. Cost of the work (In Rs.)	Tender Inviting Officer Address	Tender Document Fee (In Rs.)	Earnest Money to be deposited (In Rs.)	Date & Time for Closed of tender	Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.
1	Comprehensive Annual maintenance contract (AMC) of SSDAC 71 Set of G.G. Tronics Make of Delhi Division for three years.	Rs 1,72,09,179/- only	Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM office, New Delhi 110055.	Rs 5,900 only	Rs 2,36,100.00 only	Tender uploaded date & time 10.07.2019 up to 15:00 hrs.	See the N.Rly, website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry road, New Delhi 110055

Tender No.: 558-Sig/16/M/Tender/AMC/039/2019-20 Dated : 17.06.2019
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Department of Biotechnology, Government of India
6th Mile, Upper Shillong, Meghalaya-793009
Website: www.ibsd.gov.in
Email id: ibsd.meghalaya@gmail.com

RECRUITMENT NOTICE
Sealed applications are invited for the contractual posts of Scientist Fellows under Natural Product Chemistry, Microbiology and Food Technology with a monthly remuneration of Rs.50,000/-p.m. (consolidated). The last date for submission is 8th July 2019 and should reach the Director, IBSD, 6th Mile, Upper Shillong, Meghalaya. 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>

‘Cooperative banks sack staff arbitrarily’

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam on Monday said that there were no checks and balances in the appointment of staff of cooperative banks and many were removed "arbitrarily". The Minister wants a new recruitment system to be developed. "In the case of Cooperative Banks and Thrift & Credit Societies, it was observed that the banks recruit staff at their own and there are no checks and balances. Subsequently, the staff are removed from service arbitrarily," he said in a statement.

Plea seeks to quash NEET result, NTA told to reply

'Right options of answers not marked'

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday sought the response of the Centre and National Testing Agency (NTA) on pleas seeking to quash the result of National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (UG) 2019 declared on June 6. Justice Jayant Nath also asked the Medical Council of India, the Dental Council of India and the Directorate General of Health Services to file reply on the plea and listed the matter for July 4. The High Court was hearing various petitions filed by students, who had ap-

peared in the all-India entrance exam for admission to MBBS and BDS courses, claiming that the NTA has not marked the correct options of answers in the answer key issued by them. The petition further alleged that "three questions had two correct options which is against the information memorandum issued by NTA wherein it was mentioned that single option will be correct out of four options". It sought direction to NTA to declare the revised and corrected result of petitioners as per the correct answer marked by them.

SC seeks Centre's stand on petition by trainee IAS and IPS officers

Petitioners want another chance to exercise cadre preference

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday sought the Centre's stand on petitions moved by a group of trainee IAS and IPS officers of the 2018 batch seeking another chance to exercise cadre preference in parity with 20 other colleagues who were granted the relief by the apex court last month. The apex court had on May 17 asked the Centre to accommodate 20 trainee IAS and IPS officers, who had challenged the government's cadre allocation process for the 2018 batch, by increasing one post each in the State cadres of their preference this year.



A Vacation Bench of Justice Deepak Gupta and Justice Surya Kant asked Additional Solicitor General Vikramjeet Banerjee to file the Centre's affidavit in the matter. Senior advocate Sanjay Hegde, appearing for a group of petitioners, argued

that the Centre could not give concession to select candidates. On May 6, the Delhi High Court had directed the Centre to undertake the exercise of the cadre allocation of IAS and IPS officers of the 2017 batch, after quashing its latest cadre allocation policy. The High Court's decision had come on plea by some successful IAS and IPS candidates contending that the Centre had not allocated the cadres to them as per their declared policy of merit-cum-preference. The Centre had then moved the top court challenging the High Court's decision.

BJP begins reorganisation of frontal bodies

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The BJP has begun the reorganisation of ground-level frontal organisations affiliated to it here in the Capital. The Akhil Bharatiya Sa-fai Majdoor Sangh announced new office-bearers, including Manoj Chandel, who was appointed the organisation's national youth president by its national president and former AAP leader Karam Singh Karma, at an event organised at the Constitution Club here.



IN BRIEF
Monty Chadha gets bail in cheating case
NEW DELHI
A Delhi court on Monday granted bail to late liquor baron Ponty Chadha's son Manpreet Singh Chadha alias Monty Chadha in a real estate cheating case as the complainants and the accused informed it that the disputes had been settled amicably.

Hike in autorickshaw fares from today
NEW DELHI
The State Transport Authority issued a notification on Monday effecting a 18.75% hike in rates. The new fares will come into force from Tuesday. The revised fare will be ₹25 for first 1.5 km and thereafter ₹9.50 per km. Night charges, will be 25% extra.

Cong. leader seeks Dikshit's removal

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI
Former chairman of the Delhi Metropolitan Council Purushottam Goyal on Monday wrote to Congress president Rahul Gandhi calling for the removal of party's Delhi chief Sheila Dikshit and replacing her with a "fresh face".

Accusing Ms. Dikshit of not being able to put up a good show in the Lok Sabha election, Mr. Goyal said: "Delhi will require new leadership, a new face to fight the coming Assembly poll. If Ms. Dikshit continues as Delhi Congress president, and is projected as the CM face in Delhi, it shall be a decisive disaster."

Giving Mr. Gandhi options for a "fresh face", Mr. Goyal said Congress leaders Yoganand Shastri, Prabhat Raman or Kapil Sibal could be considered Chief Minister candidates. "An exercise must be undertaken to find a new face for Congress CM candidate if the party does not want to lose further in Delhi," Mr. Goyal said. Infighting within the Delhi Congress has grown after it lost all seven seats in Lok Sabha election. In the run-up to the Lok Sabha election, top leaders were divided over the issue of an alliance with AAP. However, several leaders said the party was able to push AAP to third place owing to Ms. Dikshit's leadership.

Phase 4 of DDA e-auction to start from June 25

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI
The fourth phase of DDA's e-auction for the disposal of over 200 residential, commercial and industrial plots is set to start from June 25. Under this phase, 80 residential, 50 industrial, 32 commercial and 50 institutional plots are on offer. In a first, around 100 locations suitable for the installation of mobile towers have also been identified. The online registration process, which started on

Surprise from police for victims of phone theft

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GURUGRAM
Sangeeta from Arjun Nagar, who had lost her mobile phone four months ago, was in for a pleasant surprise when she got a call from the police. She was told that her phone has been recovered. Ms. Sangeeta was among 65 people who were handed over their lost mobile phones by Police Commissioner Muhammad Akil on Monday at a small function in his office. Mr. Akil had recently directed the police to immediately lodge non-cognisable

Mukherjee Nagar violence: cross FIRs lodged; 3 cops suspended

ACP attacked by protesters; case transferred to Crime Branch for detailed probe

SAURABH TRIVEDI NEW DELHI

A day after video clips showing a group of policemen thrashing a tempo driver who had pulled out a sword and attacked them went viral on social media, the Delhi police on Monday registered cross FIRs against the driver and the policemen involved in the incident. Three policemen have been suspended in the case.

A group of protesters gathered outside the Mukherjee Nagar police station on Sunday evening and attacked Assistant Commissioner of Police K.G. Tyagi who was requesting them to calm down and let traffic move through the area. Reserve policemen and paramilitary force had to be deployed to control the situation, said a police officer.



Delhi Police Public Relations Officer Madhur Verma said after going through the initial findings in the case, FIRs have been registered against both the parties involved in the scuffle. "Both the cases are registered at Mukherjee Nagar police station and have been transferred to the Crime Branch

for detailed investigation," said Mr. Verma.

Medical report
He added that based on the investigation and the medical reports of the driver, Sarbjeet Singh, and the policemen, more IPC Sections would be added if required. The police are also collecting video clips

of the incident to establish the sequence of events and also Sarabjeet's role in the incident. Mr. Verma said Joint Commissioner of Police (Northern Range) Manish Kumar Agrawal is separately conducting a fact-finding inquiry into the matter. On the basis of his preliminary findings, three police personnel, including two assistant sub-inspectors and a constable, have been placed under suspension for their unprofessional conduct in handling the situation. Further, necessary action will be taken on the basis of the inquiry.

Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik said, "The Delhi Police follows a policy of zero tolerance towards any unprofessional conduct while performing official duties or handling a crowd control situation."

Punjab CM seeks Shah's intervention

Home Ministry urges Delhi Police to take immediate action

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Monday sought Union Home Minister Amit Shah's intervention in the incident where a tempo driver and his minor son were allegedly assaulted by police in Delhi's Mukherjee Nagar on Sunday.

Capt. Amarinder tweeted: "Shameful incident of @DelhiPolice ruthlessly beating up Sarabjeet Singh & Balwant Singh over a petty issue. Request HM @AmitShah to ensure justice [sic]."

AAP in Punjab has also criticised the Delhi police's act of beating the Sikh auto

driver and his son and termed it as an "act of sacrilege".

In a joint statement, party MLA's, including Kultar Singh Sandhwan, Baljinder Kaur, Kulwant Singh Pandori, Jai Kishan Rori and Manjit Singh Bilaspur have demanded a judicial probe into the incident.

Ministry of Home Affairs sought a report from Delhi Police on the Mukherjee Nagar incident. Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy said on Twitter that he spoke to Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik regarding the incident, sought a detailed report and "instructed for

immediate action."

The video of the incident is doing the rounds. "We are taking up the issue of police brutality against innocent Sikhs in Delhi on Sunday at the highest level. This is a disgraceful and unforgivable act. We will ensure that the guilty are brought to book," Mr. Badal said.

Later in the day, a BJP delegation led by R.P. Singh met Mr. Reddy at the latter's North Block office regarding the incident.

AAP legislators said the Centre government should immediately intervene in the matter and secure justice for the victims.

CM seeks strict action against 'mobster' cops

Congress demands thorough probe

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday demanded "strict punishment for mobster" policemen involved in what he termed was a "brutal" attack on a tempo driver in north Delhi's Mukherjee Nagar.

L-GAnil Bajjal and Union Home Minister Amit Shah need to take "strict measures" to stop rising crime in Delhi, Mr. Kejriwal said.

He added that the "shameful incident" had brought the Delhi Police's "highly objectionable behaviour" into question.

Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari condemned the incident and termed it "very sad" while the Delhi Congress demanded a thorough probe into it.

"The manner in which the driver was beaten was most brutal and barbaric. I condemn this assault by Delhi

Police personnel in the strongest possible words. I appeal to the L-G, DCP, Police Commissioner, that the policemen responsible for the attack be punished severely. No citizen should have to go through this at the hands of the police," he said after meeting the driver, Sarabjeet Singh.

"The L-G and the Home Minister will have to be very strict about the rising rate of crime in Delhi. This needs to stop. What has happened is highly condemnable and those responsible should not be spared," Mr. Kejriwal said. His Deputy Manish Sisodia questioned the "silence" of the BJP's recently-elected seven MPs on the issue. "Will any MP say anything or are they all busy in making money through commentary till the next election?" Mr. Sisodia tweeted.

'Charge cops with attempt to murder'

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to take strict action against policemen responsible for the "brutal attack on innocent Sikhs".

He urged Mr. Shah to dismiss the policemen, involved in the Mukherjee Nagar incident, from service and register an attempt to murder case against them.

Meanwhile, a delegation led by SAD-BJP Rajouri Garden MLA and Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee president Manjinder Singh Sirsa called on the Delhi Police Commissioner demanding that a criminal case be registered against the policemen.

"This has been assured by Commissioner of Police Delhi to the DSGMC-led delegation," Mr. Sirsa said.

Workers die after falling off 10th floor

Police say the two men were not wearing any safety gear

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Two workers died after falling from the 10th floor of Videocon Tower in central Delhi's Jhandewalan while cleaning windows on Monday afternoon.

DCP (Central) Mandeep Singh Randhawa said Raju and Ishtar Khan, both in their mid-20s, used to live with their families in JJ cluster of Vasant Kunj.

A senior officer said that

a PCR call was received at 3 p.m. stating that two labourers had fallen from the 10th floor of a building.

"On reaching the spot, the police were told that the victims were in a lift panel attached to a crane and were cleaning windows when the panel broke. They died on the spot," the officer said.

The two victims were employed by a private firm, MS Enterprises, and

were not wearing any safety gears, the police added.

"Videocon had given the contract of window cleaning to this firm. The police did not find any helmet on the workers. They had identity cards with them," the officer said.

A case has been lodged under Sections of the IPC. "There is clear negligence on the part of the firm and arrests will be made soon," the officer said.

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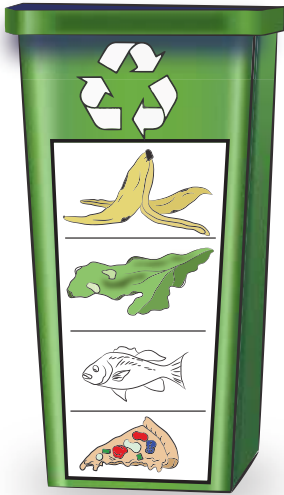
What goes into green

KITCHEN WASTE

- Vegetable/fruit peels
- Cooked food/leftovers
- Egg shells
- Chicken/fish bones
- Rotten fruits/vegetables
- Tea bags/coffee grinds
- Leaf plates

GARDEN WASTE

- Fallen leaves/twigs
- Puja flowers/garlands
- Weeds



Know what is in your garbage bag: A garbage collector segregating wet and dry waste in Janakpuri. ■ V.V. KRISHNAN

What goes into blue

PLASTIC (must be rinsed if soiled)

- Plastic covers/bottles/boxes
- Chips/toffee wrappers

- Plastic cups
- Milk, curd packets

PAPER (must be rinsed if soiled)

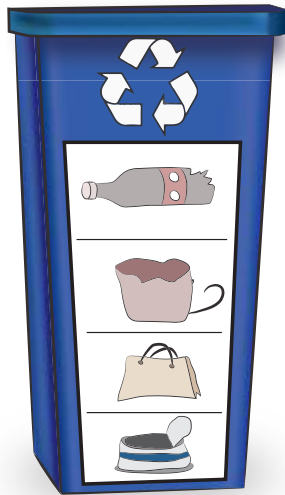
- Newspaper/magazines
- Cardboard cartons
- Pizza boxes
- Tetrapacks
- Paper cups and plates

METAL

- Foil containers
- Metal cans

OTHER DRY WASTE

- Rubber/thermocool
- Hair



Walking the trash talk

With a one-year deadline set by NGT in March to ensure full compliance, civic bodies are running against time to streamline waste segregation and disposal in the ‘model wards’. **Sidharth Ravi** and **Shinjini Ghosh** take stock of the measures under way, from awareness campaigns to training of waste pickers, updating databases of households to plans for penalties

At a time when the national capital is reeling under increasing load of solid waste and struggling with its scientific disposal, the civic bodies have initiated a fresh drive to tackle the issue head-on. The East, South and North Municipal Corporations have undertaken several steps by converting certain wards under their jurisdiction into “model wards”.

Janakpuri South, which was declared a model ward by the SDMC in early May, witnessed mixed compliance from residents. While people *The Hindu* spoke to acknowledged that civic body officials had visited their homes and urged them to segregate garbage, total compliance was a long way off.

Akash, who collects garbage from about 70 houses, said people still don’t segregate the waste despite the awareness drive.

“They are supposed to sort the waste, but they don’t. If I tell them to separate degradable and bio-degradable waste, they say it is my job. I end up segregating the garbage myself. Though most of the garbage gets segregated, a few wrappers or pieces of paper might be sometimes left behind,” he said.

Amit Sharma, a resident, had a different take. He said for the last two months, his household has been only giving dry waste to the garbage collector. Wet waste, on the other hand, is sent to a compost plant in the locality once or twice a week, depending on the amount generated that week.

However, Sunita Nakul, an RWA member in one of the blocks, claimed no real initiative has been taken on waste disposal. “While the residents were told to segregate the garbage, the person who comes to collect it throws it in a single dustbin where it gets mixed,” she said.

According to officials, in Trilokpuri, which falls under EDMC jurisdiction, work is in progress to ensure compliance. Even as a handful of residents said that waste segregation at source takes place, others were caught unawares regarding the provision.

Surya Bhanj, residing in lane number 13 at Trilokpuri, attested that officials had visited her house a few months ago and demonstrated how to separate waste. “Around three to four

months ago, we got designated bins. Officials who came to distribute the bins demonstrated how to segregate dry and wet waste. Since then, we have been doing it ourselves and when the garbage truck comes, we empty the waste in designated bags.”

However, for Heena and Aarti Devi, living a few lanes away, the concept of segregating the waste at home is a new one. “We are not aware of it. We either empty our household waste directly into the garbage trucks or keep it on the roadside. The garbage collector picks it up from there directly,” they said.

NGT order

The model ward initiative emerged after the National Green Tribunal passed an order in March this year directing the civic bodies to notify at least three wards or zones in their jurisdiction as model wards where complete compliance with solid waste management rules is expected.

Following a report furnished by the Delhi government, a Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel had observed: “From the status report furnished by the Chief Secretary, a huge gap is noticed in the steps taken and the steps required to be taken in terms of [relevant] rules and for ensuring sustainable development. Unless such steps are taken, the unsatisfactory state of the environment in the country in general and in the State in particular may not improve.”

Directing the Chief Secretary to monitor compliance, the NGT had said that the “model wards” are required to be compliant within six months while the remaining wards or zones have to be made “fully compliant in respect of environmental norms within one year.”

In pursuance of the orders of the green tribunal, the three municipal corporations have undertaken different approaches to convert the notified wards into ‘model wards’ based on their location. All three, however, are focusing on ensuring source segregation of waste at the household and commercial level in their attempt to fully comply with municipal solid waste management by-laws.

An intensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign has been launched. It involves distribution of pamphlets carrying information on how to go about source segregation, said senior officials of all three corporations. Additionally, through *nukkad natak*s or street plays, an attempt has been made to take the message to all households.

Targets set

While the NGT ordered that notified wards should be declared as ‘model wards’ in six months, all three corporations are at different stages of achieving the target.

In EDMC, a spokesperson said that in three wards the corporation has targeted source segregation in up to 60,000 households. So far, the corporation records state that it is taking place in over 13,500 households.

“We realised that people didn’t understand what is wet and dry waste. So we are distributing stickers which carry pictures to educate people. Most people don’t know what they are even supposed to do,” the official said.

To find a solution and achieve the target, the EDMC has roped in waste pickers and issued identification cards to 70 of them. They will be trained in source segregation and tasked with communicating it to the household waste generators.

Earlier, attempts were made by the corporation to train waste pickers with the help of NGOs, the official said. However, the trainees were dispersed to different wards and the move went futile.

“This time, the training will be concentrated in the model wards. So it is expected to yield dividends. Wet waste from the selected wards is to be kept in a separate section of the garbage dumps and will be transferred to compost pits. Dry waste will go to waste-to-energy plants,” he explained.

The official added that while mixed waste was still being generated and taken to the Ghazipur landfill, a database of households would help ensure identification of generators and separation of garbage.

In SDMC, a senior official explained that surveys were undertaken to collect basic data such as the num-

ber of households and types. This was combined with data from the property tax department. The information will be used to commence user charges, following the enlisting of a new concessionaire, he said. The official claimed that a tie-up with the area electricity discom is also under way to issue user charges along with electricity bills.

According to the municipal solid waste by-laws, violation of source segregation attracts penalties, which the official said the corporation plans to implement soon. Different penalty structures apply to different types of waste generators. In SDMC, the corporation is also attempting to go beyond the NGT’s mandate. The short-term mandate is to ensure the civil bodies have three model wards ready by six months, which the corporations are focusing on now.

Additionally, the SDMC is also prepping three model wards each in their six zones right now, the official said.

In North Delhi Municipal Corporation, intensive IEC exercises are being undertaken. In Rohini-G, a senior official said that the campaign has seen modest success with the amount of wet garbage increasing steadily. The garbage dumps in the area are also being regularly monitored. Here, training is also being imparted to household helps with regard to source segregation.

While the green panel expects the first quarterly report by June 30, the Chief Secretary is also expected to meet all the District Magistrates once a month to monitor the progress.

Uphill task

Chitra Mukherjee, the head of programmes at NGO Chintan, said, “The proposal for model wards is a smart initiative even though it is an uphill task, as citizens need to be a part of the system. Sometimes they are reluctant as they are not aware of the importance of segregation of waste at source. We are in the process of training RWAs but it is important that more IEC programmes are conducted to raise awareness. Many stakeholders, including citizens, RWAs and waste pickers, need to be trained. We have already started work in Sadiq Nagar after being approached by the local councillor.”

Waste segregation at source is the key

Implementation of law can be achieved if residents and authorities work in tandem

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, states it is the responsibility of generators to segregate waste into three categories – wet, dry and hazardous waste – and hand over the segregated waste to authorised waste collectors or local bodies.

Wet waste is biodegradable; dry waste includes plastic, paper, metal, wood among others; and domestic hazardous waste includes napkins, empty containers of cleaning agents, mosquito repellents, etc. This was reiterated in Delhi’s Solid Waste Management By-Laws notified in January 2018. However, a majority of Delhi is yet to implement segregation of waste at source, be it households, hotels, restaurants or other waste generators.

The Supreme Court had last year, while hearing a case initiated by it to curb dengue deaths in the city, opined that “the problem of solid waste management in Delhi will certainly require the active cooperation and assistance of the residents considering the fact that their position is very critical”. It had then ordered setting up of an expert panel to go “in-depth into all aspects of solid waste management”.

The committee, which submitted its report to the top court in January this year, stated that three of the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) – East Delhi Municipal Corporation, South Delhi Municipal Corporation and North Delhi Municipal Corporation – had “negligible” segregation at source.

At the time of submission, the report said that the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and Delhi Cantonment Board had 70% and 50% segregation respectively. In the report, the East civic body said it was aiming to achieve 80% segregation by September 2020, while the South and North bodies said they would aim to achieve 80% segregation by September 2021.

The committee recognised that segregation of municipal solid waste involved major behavioural changes

Solid waste management

TARGET FOR SEGREGATION AT SOURCE

Name of Urban Local Body (ULB)	% of segregation as on date	% of segregation aimed at	Date by which to be achieved
New Delhi Municipal Council	70 %	100%	31/03/2019
Delhi Cantonment Board	50 %	90%	31/05/2019
East DMC	Negligible	80%	31/03/2020
South DMC	Negligible	80%	30/09/2021
North DMC	Negligible	80%	30/09/2021

SOURCE: SUPREME COURT COMMITTEE REPORT

ULB-WISE STATUS OF WASTE DIRECTLY GOING TO DUMPSITES

Name of Urban Local Body	Waste (per day) (MT)	(MT) Waste processed at waste-to-energy plant	Waste being processed in compost plants (MT)	Waste being processed in decentralised plants/parks (MT)	Waste going to landfill sites unprocessed (average) (MT)
SDMC	3,600	1,800	200	-	1,600
North DMC	4,000	1,300	700	-	2,000 at Bhalswa, 400 at Narela
EDMC	2,500	1,500	-	-	1,800
New Delhi Municipal Council	350	300	30	20	-
Delhi Cantonment board	62	28.83	2	6.5	24.67

SOURCE: SUPREME COURT COMMITTEE’S JANUARY 2019 REPORT

both in the public and within the ULBs. It suggested that all Residents’ Welfare Associations registered under the Societies Registration Act, cooperative societies registered with the Registrar of Cooperative Societies/Delhi Development Authority and with government bodies be considered for the purpose of engagement with the ULBs.

To speed up the implementation, the ULBs have said they would make use of WhatsApp groups and social media to reward good practices and success stories in segregation.

Home composting

The report also said that the NDMC, with the help of residents and NGOs in the area, is promoting home composting from the segregated biodegradable waste and utilising the same either in the house or its vicinity.

Currently, about 550 houses

have started doing home composting by installing home composters, which cost ₹500 and are easily operable. This year, the NDMC has targeted 3,000 houses, the committee said, adding that other ULBs should promote the same.

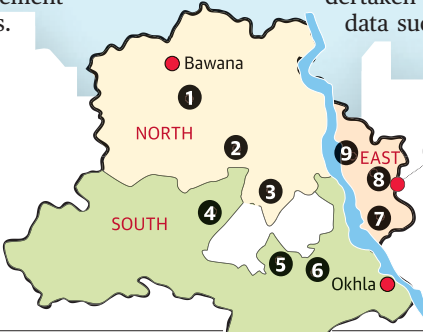
The committee said that all the ULBs have been asked to locate parks owned by DDA and also CPWD/PWD residential colonies and initiate an exercise to promote neighbourhood composting by using segregated biodegradable waste in such parks through decentralised processing.

The committee stated that the best way to minimise dumping of waste at landfill sites is by formulating a plan of action through RWAs/market associations, involvement of informal sector, constitution of Safai Nigrahi Samitis to monitor progress and media campaigns, among others.

MAKING OF MODEL WARDS

Waste generation
9,620 TPD

Waste processing plants
Compost
200 MT



Waste-to-energy
Okhla plant
16 MW



Bawana
12 MW

Ghazipur
14 MW

NGT order

- At least three wards in each zone/circle to be made “model wards” within six months
- Compliance in model wards to be replicated in remaining areas within one year

Steps taken for source segregation

- Survey and mapping of buildings
- Distribution of multi-coloured dustbins
- User charges (to be implemented)
- Penalty for not segregating



Information, Education and Communication campaign

- Instruction to households
- Street plays
- Roping in RWAs
- Use of pictorial stickers for wet and dry waste
- Training waste pickers

Problems faced

- Last mile collection results in mixing up of waste
- Public unaware of importance of source segregation



EXPERT COMMENT

Chitra Mukherjee, the head of programmes at NGO Chintan said, “It is a very good move even though it’s an uphill task as citizens need to be a part of the system. Sometimes they are reluctant as they are not aware of the importance of segregation at source. We are in the process of training RWAs but it is important that more IEC programmes are conducted to raise awareness. Many stakeholders, including citizens, RWAs and waste pickers, need to be trained for this purpose. We have already started work in the Sadiq Nagar area after being approached by the local councillor.”

DELHI Timings

TUESDAY, JUNE 18

RISE

05:24

SET

19:21

RISE

20:19

SET

06:04

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

RISE

05:24

SET

19:22

RISE

21:09

SET

06:56

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

RISE

05:24

SET

19:22

RISE

21:54

SET

07:50

Delhi Weather

	max	min
Delhi City	33	28
Safdarjang	33	28
Palam	32	28

Delhi Palam Today
37°C A comfortable morning is likely. A warm day is likely with a partly cloudy sky. One or two spells of duststorm may occur.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
37°C Drop in night temperatures is likely. A spell of rain and thundershowers are likely in some parts.

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Heavy rain in Sikkim

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GANGTOK

Several areas of north Sikkim experienced heavy rain on Monday following a cloudburst in the upper reaches of the Teesta river. The Teesta III hydro power project authorities have released 600 cusecs of water from the Chungathang dam following inundation of the area.

Diarrhoea outbreak in Punjab village

Two patients have died, 100 fallen ill in the past three days

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

At least two people have died and over a 100 fallen ill in the past three days after a reported outbreak of diarrhoea at Bathonian Khurd village in Patiala district. Two patients, suffering from acute stomach illness on account of contaminated water, have died at the Rajpura civil hospital. Eighteen-

Rajasthan govt. wants canal project fast-tracked

ERCP would supply drinking water in 13 districts of the State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The proposed Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) has come to the centre stage of demands raised by the State after the formation of the new government at the Centre, with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot reminding Prime Minister Narendra Modi of the promises made in his election rallies for declaring it a national project.

The previous BJP government in the State had also lobbied for the Centre's approval for the ambitious project with an estimated budget of ₹40,000 crore as a major initiative for interlinking of rivers. The project proposes to transfer excess waters from the Chambal river basin to 13 districts facing water scarcity.

In-principle approval
The Central Water Commission has already given in-principle approval to the project's feasibility report, while the Union Ministry of Water Resources had reportedly finalised a Cabinet note



Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.

on it last year. Besides supplying drinking water in 13 districts, the mega project will also provide water for rrigation to an additional 2 lakh hectares. At the 5th Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog held in New Delhi on Saturday, Mr. Gehlot said that national project status to ERCP would facilitate solution to the water scarcity issue in eastern and south-eastern districts of the State, at least till 2051. It will also supply water to the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and take care of the flood and drought situation in the area. The project, link-

ing Parvati, Kalisindh and Chambal rivers, is expected to benefit 40% of the State's population with the supply of drinking and irrigation water, as the quality of water is a big issue here. The ERCP will ensure availability of water in Jhalawar, Baran, Kota, Bundi, Sawai Madhopur, Ajmer, Tonk, Jaipur, Dausa, Karauli, Alwar, Bharatpur and Dholpur districts and create an additional command area of 2 lakh hectares for irrigation. It will also facilitate restoration of dependable yield of the existing 26 major and medium irrigation projects en route – reduced to 30% – to their original status.

Mr. Gehlot also raised the issues of rainwater harvesting and drought management at the NITI Aayog meeting and asked the Centre to release the first instalment of ₹370 crore to the State for the current year under the National Drinking Water Project as well as a review of the Centre-State sharing ratio for the Integrated Watershed Management Project.

Heat, rain delay leave rice growers worried

Farmers seek more than 8 hours of uninterrupted power supply to sustain crops

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

With the advent of the paddy transplantation season in Punjab and Haryana, an expected delay in monsoon and the ongoing heatwave have left farmers worried.

Monsoon is likely to hit the two States by the first week of July, five-six days later than its usual onset, according to the India Meteorological Department.

Water-guzzling crop
“Paddy is a water-guzzling crop and hence a delay in the rains would mean an increase in the cost of cultivation for the farmers. Dependency on the groundwater would also rise,” said Surinder Pal,

director, IMD-Chandigarh.

“Also, this year the temperatures have been slightly higher than previous year. On an average, between mid-April and mid-June, the region has seen a 0.5 degree Celsius rise in temperature against last year. Besides, the summer has been abrupt. The water levels in the dams are good, which could ease the situation,” he added.

Fearing adverse impact of the changes in the climatic conditions on the crops, farmers’ unions in Punjab are now demanding an uninterrupted supply of electricity beyond eight hours that the State government has assured to provide.

“The eight-hour power supply to run tube wells for paddy won't help farmers this year. The government needs to provide electricity beyond that. With temperatures on the rise and a delay in the rains, the cost to sustain the crop is all set to go up for the farmers,” said Harmeet Singh of Bharatiya Kisan Union (Kadian). “A minimum of 10 hours of uninterrupted water supply is required, only then would the farmers be able to sustain their crops. In the absence of power supply, the farmers will have to irrigate their fields with diesel-operated generators, which would raise the cost of inputs,” he said.

The State government has made arrangements for 14,000 MW, with the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited anticipating the demand to be around 13,500 MW.

BKU demand
Bharatiya Kisan Union (Rajewal) president Balbir Singh said, “First of all, the government needs to develop a mechanism to provide uninterrupted power supply. There have been instances when as soon as the power demand peaks, the system trips. The government should ensure 10 hours of electricity for the paddy crop otherwise the farmers would suffer losses this season.”

Muzaffarnagar riots: key hearing on July 1

Sessions court to take up murder case against six accused

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUZAFFARNAGAR (U.P.)

A court here on Monday sent the murder case of an eyewitness in a Muzaffarnagar riots case to the sessions case for hearing on July 1. Chief Judicial Magistrate Rakesh Kumar Gautam sent the murder case against six accused to the sessions court

for hearing and asked them to appear before it on July 1.

Shot dead in Khatauli
Ashfaq, who was an eyewitness in the murder case of his two brothers, was shot dead in Khatauli town of Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar district in March this year. Ashfaq's brothers, Nawab

and Shahid, were shot dead during the 2013 riots, in which more than 60 lives were lost and over 40,000 people were displaced.

Case registered
Police registered a case and arrested all the six accused, including gangster Sushil Munch's son.

Six Maoists surrender

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUMKA

Six Maoists, with cash rewards on their heads, gave up arms here on Monday in the presence of senior police officers.

The surrendered rebels, would be accommodated at Hazaribagh Open Jail, DSP Y.S. Ramesh said.

11 policemen dismissed in Punjab

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATIALA (PUNJAB)

The Patiala Police on Monday dismissed 11 of its personnel, including six Station House Officers (SHO), from service for their alleged involvement in corruption and drug-related cases.

The action came days after Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh directed the State police chief to deal strictly with police personnel assisting drug traffickers in the State.

Patiala Senior Superintendent of Police Mandeep Singh Sidhu said a detailed probe conducted by the department found that the personnel, including a woman SHO, were either involved in cases of drug trafficking or corruption.

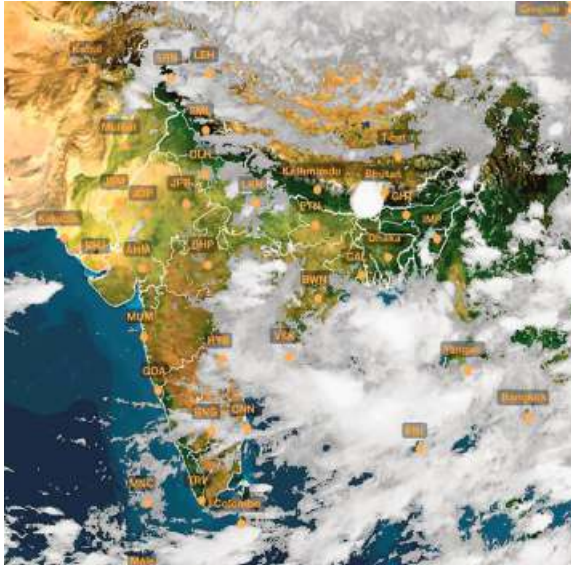
Cops arrested
Following their dismissal, they were arrested, Mr. Sidhu added.

According to the SSP, Assistant Sub-Inspectors Shivdev Singh, Sahib Singh, Tehal Singh, Jangir Singh, Gurmeet Singh, Sukhwinder Kaur (all SHOs) and two head constables – Harjinder Singh and Baljinder Singh – were dismissed for their alleged involvement in corruption cases.

Head constable Amarjit Singh and two constables – Narinderpal Singh and Gurtarpal Singh – were dismissed for being allegedly involved in cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, he added.

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 Tuesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, east Rajasthan, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Sikkim. Heat wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over east Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gangetic West Bengal, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala.....	—	35.5	28.0	Kozhikode.....	0.5	33.5	26.5
Ahmedabad.....	17.8	35.5	27.0	Kurnool.....	1	39.3	28.0
Aizawl.....	—	31.1	21.0	Lucknow.....	—	40.9	27.0
Allahabad.....	—	42.8	28.5	Madurai.....	0.9	41.0	27.2
Bengaluru.....	—	32.4	21.6	Mangaluru.....	0.5	33.8	25.4
Bhopal.....	1	37.8	27.1	Mumbai.....	5.6	33.7	27.5
Bhubaneswar.....	—	36.2	25.9	Mysuru.....	—	32.0	19.7
Chandigarh.....	—	39.6	27.6	New Delhi.....	0.6	33.3	28.0
Chennai.....	—	40.6	31.0	Patna.....	—	42.4	32.0
Coimbatore.....	—	35.0	24.0	Port Blair.....	28.2	30.2	22.7
Dehradun.....	—	37.0	22.7	Puducherry.....	—	40.9	29.2
Gangtok.....	22.4	20.3	17.7	Pune.....	—	32.7	23.9
Goa.....	3.3	33.5	26.6	Raipur.....	—	38.4	27.4
Guwahati.....	5.4	34.0	24.8	Ranchi.....	—	37.3	25.7
Hubballi.....	—	31.0	23.0	Shillong.....	1	26.2	18.0
Hyderabad.....	—	37.5	25.0	Shimla.....	—	26.5	16.7
Imphal.....	7.4	30.9	20.5	Srinagar.....	6.6	28.6	13.6
Jaipur.....	9.2	37.4	27.7	Trivandrum.....	—	33.1	26.2
Kochi.....	1.1	31.2	27.0	Tiruchi.....	—	39.7	29.0
Kohima.....	—	32.7	18.7	Vijayawada.....	—	37.8	30.2
Kolkata.....	—	34.6	29.2	Visakhapatnam.....	4.2	38.0	27.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad.....	44	140	64	....51	....	■
Bengaluru.....	11	48	71	....39	....75	■
Chennai.....	11	32	28	....92	....	■
Delhi.....	20	77	40	....72	....154	■
Hyderabad.....	11	26	16	....58	....88	■
Kolkata.....	5	26	30	....76	....86	■
Lucknow.....	2	35	50	....126	....	■
Mumbai.....	26	21	94	....24	....65	■
Pune.....	61	9	29	....46	....46	■
Visakhapatnam	10	63	40	....53	....94	■

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



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ALOK	41	119	455	

FROM 24th JUNE, TIME: 5-7.45 PM

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EEE: Ananthanarayan, Jagannarayanan A, Mayilvahanan, Sathyanarayanan D, Thirunavukkarasu Thomas George, Navaratnam
MECHANICAL: Harjit Singh Chahal, Irudayanathan, Uma Maheswaran, Venkateswaran
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Doctors' strike: 3,000 elective surgeries postponed in Mumbai

Protesters demand Central legislation for their protection

JYOTI SHELAR
MUMBAI

An estimated 3,000 major and minor elective surgeries were postponed in Mumbai on Monday due to the nationwide doctors' strike in protest of the recent assault on doctors in West Bengal.

Most private Out Patient Departments (OPDs) remained shut, but emergency, casualty and in-patient services functioned across the city. Public hospitals also remained fully functional.

"We have received unprecedented support this time and many top corporate hospitals too joined in," said Dr. Lalit Kapoor, a senior member of the Association of Medical Consultants (AMC), a body of 11,600 doctors from Maharashtra and Karnataka. "We want the law to become stringent so that such incidents are not repeated," he said.

Mumbai's top private hospitals like Lilavati, Asian Heart Institute, Jupiter and Fortis, and charitable hospitals like Holy Spirit also supported the strike. "We were fully operational for emergency and in-patient services," said Sister Sneha, executive director of Holy Spirit Hospital in Andheri. OPDs, where the hospital gets nearly 600 patients, were shut. "The hospital deferred 10 elective surgeries," she said.

All OPDs at Bandra's Lilavati Hospital, which tends to nearly 1,000 patients, remained shut too. "We did not postpone any surgeries as they would have overlapped with the procedures planned for the next day," Ajaykumar Pande, vice president of the hospital, said. "Many patients come to the



Duty and solidarity: (Clockwise from top left) Patients queue up at the OPD section of the State-run JJ Hospital in Mumbai on Monday, after private hospitals shut their OPDs in support of the doctors' strike; doctors at Maditrina Hospital in Nagpur wear black bands to support the protest; patients struggle at the Thane Civil Hospital; and a resident doctor administers polio drops to a child at KEM Hospital in Lower Parel.

OPDs from outside Mumbai. They were inconvenienced, but we had to be in solidarity with our medical staff," he said.

The protesting doctors

are demanding Central legislation for protection against violence. "If doctors become paranoid thinking that every other patient or relative may assault them, they cannot

function with a calm mind. The self-respect of a doctor is thrashed with that one slap. How can the doctor gather himself up to work again?" Dr. Suhas Pingle,

honorary secretary of Indian Medical Association, Maharashtra, asked. "The government has to prioritise the security of doctors," he said.

Dr. Mukesh Gupta, presi-

dent of AMC, said there are always three victims who suffer in such assaults: the doctor, the other health care workers and all patients admitted to the hospital.

Major Pune hospitals function normally

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE
JANICE SAJI
PUNE

While most doctors were on duty in government hospitals and medical colleges in Pune, residents of the suburbs were inconvenienced as local doctors and private practitioners joined the strike called by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) on Monday.

While resident doctors in the city affiliated to the Medical Association of Resident Doctors (MARD) did not participate in the strike, more than 1,000 of them wore black bands to work to condemn the violence on junior doctors in West Bengal.

Dr. Abhishek Jain of the Central MARD told *The Hindu*, "We have issued an ultimatum to the Central government, which includes, among other demands, the implementation of the Central Doctor Protection Act for all resident doctors. We have also demanded the tightening of security in all medical colleges and control over the privatisation of medical education. If these demands are not fulfilled within a week, we will resume our strike on June 24."

Junior doctors at the State-run Sassoon General Hospital said they supported the strike, but refrained from participating owing to the sheer number of patients seeking attention. "There are over 1,000 patients here, so we cannot participate in the strike as we would be forced to work overtime after the demonstration was over," Dr. Ajinkya Vede, an intern, said.

While authorities at Sassoon and the Yashwantrao Chavan Memorial Hospital in Pimpri-Chinchwad said the hospitals were functioning without incident, doctors struck work in prominent private hospitals like Ruby Hall Clinic.

In areas where private practitioners supported the strike, patients had to travel to bigger hospitals with functioning OPDs. "I had to go to Sassoon Hospital from Lohegaon since the practitioner in my area was on strike. While I understand that the West Bengal incident was appalling, why must innocent patients be made to suffer as a result?" Roshni Tayade, a homemaker, asked.

Others, who travelled from distant parts of the city, claimed they were inconvenienced by the one-pass security system at Sassoon, which has been set up to deter assaults on resident doctors. "I accompanied my father, who is suffering from severe pain in his leg, and was not allowed in as the security is rather stringent in light of the West Bengal incident," said Sunita Bhingardevi.

The strike evoked a somewhat mixed response in western Maharashtra. While doctors in Satara responded well to it, it was lukewarm in Sangli, where major hospitals functioned normally.

Maharashtra's industrial sector shrank in 2016-17

Finance Minister defends numbers, blames it on global slowdown



ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Maharashtra's industrial performance took a hit in 2016-17, the second consecutive year of decline as per the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) data.

While the State retained its top position in the country in terms of gross value added to the economy, it ranks second in the number of factories, workers and wages of workers. But its once-hefty share in the country's industrial sector output is shrinking, even as the State government said this was driven by successive droughts and a global economic slowdown.

According to the State Economic Survey, tabled in the Assembly on the opening day of monsoon session on Monday, the number of industrial firms in the State constituted 11.5% of the country's industrial activity, down from 12.4% in 2014-15 and 12.1% the year after that.

Finance Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar, when asked about the declining numbers in industrial sector, said, "The industry cannot be seen in an isolated manner. There are many factors which are working. The successive droughts have damaged agriculture sector which also impacts the industry."

"Similarly, slowdown at the global level has harmed the industry sector to a certain level. That is the reason why you are seeing these numbers," he emphasised.

Maharashtra's industrial sector generated 12.9% of the



Finishing touches: Finance Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar and MoS Deepak Kesarkar work on the State Budget, to be presented on Tuesday, at Mantralaya on Monday.

total employment in 2016-17, down from 13.9% in the previous year. The profit of industries in the State too has been consistently declining and has touched 20.9% in 2016-17, representing a significant fall from 25.5% in 2014-15 and 23% in 2015-16.

The ASI results cover various particulars such as fixed capital, working capital, total output, total input, gross value added and net value added. (See graphic)

A comparison of Economic Survey 2016-17 and 2018-19 shows that the exact number of commissioned projects under the industry sector stands at 434 and with an investment of ₹37,011 crore. These were commissioned between Dec 2016 and February 2019.

Major industries in terms of total value of output during 2016-17 were food products & beverages (15.1%), coke & refined petroleum products (12.1%), basic metals (11.5%), chemicals and chemical products (8%) motor vehicles, trailers (7.7%).

Mumbai gets 9.9% more private vehicles

SHARAD VYAS
MUMBAI

There is alarming news for advocates of public transport and the reduction of private vehicles on the road. Mumbai and its surrounding regions have added 9.9% vehicles on the road in 2019, while Maharashtra has added 27 lakh private vehicles, a near 8.4% over last year.

As per the Economic Survey of Maharashtra 2018-19, the vehicle density is at 28,380 vehicles per lakh population and 115 vehicles per kilometre road length. The number of vehicles on the road as on January 1, 2019, is 3.49 crore, of which 35.75 lakh vehicles or 10.2% are in Mumbai and its surrounding townships. The maximum increase was reported in autorickshaws, which saw a jump of 19.7%, while ambulances increased

by 5.3% alongside an 8.7% increase in two-wheelers and a 7.5% increase in light motor vehicles (cars, jeeps, station wagons and taxis).

The survey also pointed to an increased fatality count in road accidents. Maharashtra reported 35,955 deaths in road accidents in 2018 over 35,853 deaths in the previous year. The count in the corresponding year in Mumbai region was 3,139 as opposed to 3,160 in 2017. "Every year, we organise plays and lectures on road safety. As a result, the number of accidents per thousand vehicles in Maharashtra during 2018 was only 10," the report said.

The report also pointed to an improvement in public transport, with the Maharashtra State Road Transportation Corporation (MSRTC) carrying an average of 66.98 lakh passengers per day.

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IN BRIEF



KC(M) faction gets stay against Jose K. Mani
KOTTAYAM
A day after a parallel meeting of the Kerala Congress (M) State committee members anointed Jose K. Mani as their chairman, the opposing faction of the party secured a court order preventing him from officiating as the chairman. The Munsiff Court, Thodupuzha, passed a temporary prohibitory injunction on Monday on a plea by Philip Stephen and Manohar Naduviladath, two KC(M) members.

Forest watcher trampled to death by elephant
KALPETTA
A 46-year-old forest watcher was trampled to death by a wild elephant near the Punjavayal anti-poaching camp inside the Bavali forest section under the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary on Sunday night. The deceased has been identified as Kenjan, son of Basavan of the Thurambur tribal hamlet, near Bavali, in the district. The incident occurred around 7.30 p.m. when Kenjan, his wife Seetha, and another watcher Soman were going to the camp inside the Punjavayal forest.



Fire service and NDRF personnel search the accident site at Hebbal in Bengaluru on Monday. •SAMPATH KUMAR G.P.

3 killed after scaffolding collapses

Victims were part of a team constructing a water tank for a treatment plant

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU
Three persons were killed and 16 others were injured when the scaffolding of an under-construction water tank for a sewage treatment plant (STP) collapsed on them at Jogappa Layout near Lumbini Garden at Hebbal here on Monday morning. The deceased are Prabhu Rao, 29, Krishna Yadav, 26, both site engineers; and Sumanthkar, 22, site supervisor. They died even before they could be shifted to a hospital. They were employees of SMC Infrastructure Company, which has taken a sub-contract to build the STP tank. The incident occurred at an 110 MLD water treatment tank. Around 40 workers were at the site. According to the police, around 11.30 a.m., a pole supporting the centering structure cracked. The structure crumbled and caved in on the workers. Sixteen workers, who were trapped under the debris, were rescued. The police said the lack of supervision while putting up the scaffolding led to the accident. The Amruthalli police will file a case of criminal negligence and book the private company for death due to negligence, a senior police officer said. The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has given the contract to build STP tanks at Hebbal at a cost of ₹360.77 crore to the Surat-based private company, Enviro Control Associates. The work started in July 2017 and is scheduled to be completed on January 30, 2020. Enviro had engaged SMC Infrastructures as a sub-contractor for civil works. The work is supervised by NJS Engineers India Pvt.Ltd.

Jagan, KCR to settle disputes ‘amicably’

A.P. CM invited for inauguration of Kaleshwaram project

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and his Telangana counterpart K. Chandrasekhara Rao met on Monday to resolve the pending bifurcation issues “amicably.” This is the second time that Mr. Rao is visiting Andhra Pradesh in just 20 days. The division of public sector organisations and their employees listed under Schedule IX and X, division of electricity employees, power dues, etc, which are to be resolved yet, were discussed. There is no headway on the issues though many committees were constituted to resolve them as both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh stuck to their stands. Both Chief Ministers have “decided to look at the issues with a positive approach.”

River water issues
They discussed the water issues in the wake of Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan’s plans to organise a meeting of irrigation officials of both States on June 24. They would meet again after the meeting to take a final decision. A.P. and Telangana are ar-



Looking ahead: Telangana CM K. Chandrasekhara Rao with his A.P. counterpart Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Monday •V_RAJU

guing before the Brajesh Kumar Tribunal with regard to the Krishna waters. Telangana has been demanding 45 tmcft of the total 80 tmcft of water, which is being diverted from river Godavari through the Pattiseema project. The A.P. government did not agree to it. In addition, A.P. has been demanding that Telangana give a share in the 240 tmcft, which it is diverting from the Godavari to the Krishna. Both States have lodged complaints with the Centre, Krishna and Godavari Boards umpteen times in this regard. Monday’s meeting assumes significance in this backdrop. Mr. Rao reportedly believes that the environment is conducive for resolving all the outstanding issues. Mr. Reddy too responded in a similar fashion. The duo met a day ahead of the fifth anniversary of the bifurcation of A.P., to discuss the transfer of buildings housing A.P. government offices in Hyderabad. Mr. Reddy agreed to hand over the buildings belonging to A.P. to Telangana. The Governor then issued orders. Explaining the features of the Kaleshwaram project on the Godavari, Mr. Rao invited Mr. Reddy to attend the inauguration ceremony on June 21. It is learnt that Mr. Reddy responded positively to the invitation. Mr. Reddy, while he was Leader of the Opposition, had opposed the Kaleshwarm project.

Won’t revoke cartoon award: Lalithakala Akademi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRISSUR

The Kerala Lalithakala Akademi has refused to withdraw the award conferred on a controversial cartoon. The State government had earlier asked the Akademi to reconsider the award given to a cartoon by K.K. Subhash, which allegedly portrayed bishop Franco Mulakkal, accused in a sexual assault case, in a bad light. But the general council

and executive committee meetings held here on Monday decided not to reconsider the award. “The committee endorses the decision of the jury,” said Akademi chairman Nemam Pushpalaraj. “The jury has taken an independent decision on the award. Three senior cartoonists had selected the work for the award,” he added. The cartoon, published in *Hasya Kairali* magazine, had drawn protest from the

Church. It alleged that the cartoon insulted religious symbols. Minister for Cultural Affairs A.K. Balan had earlier said that “the government is not against freedom of expression. But it is against insulting religious symbols.” Meanwhile, the Catholic Congress, under the Thirissur Archdiocese, took a march to the Akademi here on Monday in protest against the cartoon award.



Auxiliary Bishop Tony Neelankavil addressing a protest march to the Lalithakala Akademi, Thirissur. •K.K. NAJEEB

Leopard scare on Tirumala ghat roads

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
TIRUMALA

Fear of leopard attacks continues to haunt motorists who shuttle daily on the Tirumala ghat roads. Even though the big cats were spotted several times in the past, seldom did they attack the commuters. In the recent episode, the leopard attacked two motorcyclists on the second ghat road leading to the sacred town on Sunday night. Both incidents took place at the same spot about two kilometres from the town in a gap of a few minutes. **Two injured** Those who suffered injuries on their legs were identified as Pavani, 12, and Yamini,

20, and were immediately rushed to TTD-run Aswini hospital from where they were shifted down to Tirupati. The movement of the big cat was repeatedly felt during the last couple of weeks and was reported to forest officials who had launched an operation to capture the animal, but in vain.

Forum orders two doctors to pay ₹6 lakh to patient

Woman developed complications after hysterectomy

STAFF REPORTER
SHIVAMOGGA

The Shivamogga District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum has ordered two doctors to pay ₹6 lakh as compensation to a woman for their “negligence” during a hysterectomy procedure. Dr. M. Muralidhara Rao and Dr. Vijayalakshmi Raveesh, with the Raghavendra Nursing Home in Shivamogga city, Karnataka, performed hysterectomy on K.A. Geetha on October 5, 2012. Following this, the patient developed hydronephrosis and urinary retention problems. In the medical tests conducted at another hospital, it emerged that the damage done to the ureter while performing hysterectomy had



resulted in these complications. The victim had to undergo another surgery in Bengaluru later to get the post-hysterectomy complications resolved. **Negligence proved** Ms. Geetha approached the Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum, alleging that she had to suffer physical as well as mental agony owing to the negligence during hysterectomy. After examining the documents related to the treat-

ment that Ms. Geetha had taken, the forum held the doctors guilty of medical negligence. **Ureter damaged** In a press release, the Assistant Administrative Officer of the forum said it had ordered payment of ₹6 lakh as compensation to the victim towards the expenses she had incurred for the treatment of the post-hysterectomy complications and to compensate the mental agony she had undergone. The forum also ordered payment of ₹30,000 to the victim towards litigation expenses. The payment should be made by six weeks failing which 10 per cent annual interest would be charged on the compensation amount, the forum said.

Row over transfer of IPS officers

Karnataka Chief Minister’s writ prevails as 16 out of 19 officers are shifted

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The transfer of 19 IPS officers in Karnataka, including the promotion and appointment of Alok Kumar as Bengaluru Police Commissioner, allegedly without bringing it to the notice of the Congress that holds the Home Department, has turned into a bone of contention in the JD(S)-Congress coalition government. As Home Minister M.B. Patil and the Congress took objection to the transfers, high drama ensued on Monday. Movement orders, to be issued by the DG&IGP, on the sequence of implementation of the government orders essential for the officers to take charge of their new postings, were held back. This, as hectic parleys were held between the coalition partners through the day. Eventually, Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy pre-



H.D. Kumaraswamy

vailed and 16 officers received movement orders as per the transfer orders issued on Sunday midnight in two batches. Mr. Alok Kumar, promoted as ADGP and posted as city Commissioner the same day, and Ravikanth Gowda, posted as DIG, Crime, Bengaluru – both perceived to be close to the Chief Minister – were given movement orders by evening and the former took charge as well. Sources said the Chief Minister was insistent on these two postings. Allotting a coveted post to Mr. Alok Kumar, who is the juniormost ADGP, has caused much heartburn within the police force. His promotion as ADGP has also turned controversial as two of his batchmates of the 1994 batch – Pronab Mohanty and B. Dayanand – were not promoted. In a second instalment, all except three officers transferred on Sunday midnight were given movement orders, indicating the Chief Minister steamrolling opposition from the coalition partner. Raghvendra Sunhasa, IGP, Belagavi Range – the home range of Home Minister Patil – was transferred as IGP, Mysuru, without posting any officer to replace him in Belagavi. His movement order is yet to be issued. Kala Krishnaswamy, DCP

(North East) was transferred and replaced by Bhimashankar Guled. Both their movement orders have been withheld. **Alleges interference** It is not the first time that the Chief Minister has effected transfers without consulting the Home Minister. In January 2019 too, Mr. Patil was angry over transfer of four IPS officers by the Chief Minister without his consent. Though it is the Chief Minister’s prerogative to transfer IPS officers, sources said transferring officials without the consent of the department concerned was not a good precedent in a coalition government. The Congress has repeatedly alleged interference of the JD(S) in transfers and postings of officials and this issue has also figured in the Congress Legislature Party meetings in the past.

Yeddyurappa took ₹20 cr. from JSW: CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANDYA

Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Monday launched a counter attack on former CM B.S. Yeddyurappa for protesting against the sale of over 3,600 acres of government land to JSW Steel, by alleging that the BJP State chief had taken ₹20 crore in cheque from the Jindal company. Speaking to presspersons at Channapatna in Ramnagar district, Mr. Kumaraswamy said he was ready to discuss the issue with the Opposition party leaders but they did not accept his invitation. The Chief Minister inspected the Iggalur barrage and laid foundation stones for many development works at Channapatna, besides conducting Janata Darshan at Kodamballi and Akkur.

Kovalam-Mahe boat service to be operational by 2020

The launch, a key election promise, will coincide with the fourth anniversary of the Left Democratic Front govt. in Kerala

S. ANIL RADHAKRISHNAN
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Boat services will operate from Kovalam here to Mahe by May 2020 as part of making the 633-km West Coast Canal (WCC), the arterial waterway through 11 districts of Kerala, navigable. With the success of the trial runs using the six-seater speed boat procured by CIAL in the Kottapuram-Chettuvam and Vallakadavu-Akkulam corridors of the waterway, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has given the nod to launch the service by May 2020 up to Mahe. Trial runs will be carried out using the same speed boat in March 2020. The launch will coincide with the fourth anniversary of the Left Democratic Front go-

vernment. The development of the National Waterway was one of the key promises of the LDF during the elections. The Chief Minister has also mandated the shifting of at least 5% of the cargo that move by roads now, to the waterway, in five years. **Solar boats** Indigenously developed solar boats that can ferry 25 to 30 persons at a time will be launched. The Chief Minister has given the go-ahead to throw open the waterway for operating boats without waiting for the construction of the artificial canals in three uncut portions along the 57-km Mahe-Valapattanam stretch. The government has also given administrative sanc-



Water link: A recent trial run on the Vallakadavu-Akkulam stretch of Parvathy Puthanar, set to be a National Waterway.

tion to acquire 178.95 acres spread over six villages and another 246.5 acres between the Ancharakandy and Valapattanam rivers, to create artificial canals. But, this work is expected to take time as preliminary land acquisition proceedings has just started by the district administration. A meeting chaired by the Chief Minister here recently took stock of the progress and the constraints before the Coastal Shipping and In-

land Navigation Department and the newly-formed Special Purpose Vehicle, Kerala Waterways and Infrastructures Ltd (KWIL), for development of the waterways and operating boats. **Tunnels a constraint** Besides, the creation of the artificial canals in three uncut portions along the 57-km Mahe-Valapattanam stretch, the tunnels in Varkala and the replacement of the regulator at Kottai are the main constraints. The 305-metre and 720-metre-long tunnels in Varkala has a diameter of 4.5 metres and steps have commenced to remove the silt and to make it navigable for operating boats. The work of desilting and cleaning the Akkulam-Kol-

lam stretch is progressing and the Kollam-Chettuvam corridor, part of the National Waterway III, is navigable. Bridges will have to be constructed at Perunelly and Vallakadavu in the capital district by Public Works Department along the 18.5-km stretch of the waterway from Kovalam to Akkulam, that includes the Parvathy Puthanar. Of the 81-km waterway stretch from Valapattanam to Bekal in Kasargod district, 71 km is the Neelavaram and Valapattanam rivers. A seven kilometre uncut portion to link Bekal and Azhikkal port is the hurdle. Demarcation of land to be acquired has commenced. Work is expected to be completed by May.

HC stays Khader report on educational reforms

Says Kerala failed to implement them

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The High Court has stayed for two months the implementation of the Khader Committee report on educational reforms. It was while considering the writ petitions filed by the Nair Service Society and the Aided Higher Secondary School Teachers Association that the single judge of the High Court stayed the implementation of the report. Issuing the stay order, the court noted that the State government failed to amend the Kerala Education Rules for bringing into force the reforms suggested by the committee. The State had earlier submitted that the committee

was asked to furnish recommendations for the exhaustive and full-scale implementation of the Right of Education Act in the State after reviewing the structural and academic aspects of the present system. The committee, submitted the government, had undertaken discussions with educationists, academicians and eminent personalities in various fields and also held discussions with service and students’ organisations. The State argued that it had addressed issues in school education like access to schools, enrolment and lowering the drop-out rates, and ensured the best infrastructure.



IN BRIEF
Two private banks cut rates on deposits
MUMBAI
Top private sector lenders have cut interest rates on deposits by up to 0.25% over the last week. An interest rate cut in deposits is seen as a precursor to a lending rate cut. The move by ICICI Bank and Axis Bank comes amid easing liquidity conditions and also within days of a rate cut by the Reserve Bank. **PTI**

Police retrieve ₹15 lakh jewellery left in cab
NOIDA
The Noida Police came to the rescue of a woman who forgot her bag containing jewellery worth ₹15 lakh in a cab, by tracking down the driver and recovering the valuables from the DND flyover on Sunday, officials said. Co-ordinating with the Uber officials, the police got in touch with the cab driver and recovered the items. **PTI**

Fire at RIL plant near Mumbai; none hurt
MUMBAI
A fire broke out at a plant owned by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) in Raigad district of Maharashtra on Sunday. No casualty or damage was reported, said police. The blaze erupted at the plant at Patalganga Rasayani on Sunday night, when one of its units was activated after a month-long halt, a police official said. **PTI**

MP claims power lines affect humans
ERODE
Erode MP and MDMK leader A. Ganeshamurthi has claimed that electromagnetic fields produced by high tension power lines are affecting humans. He stood under a high tension 400 KV transmission line, holding two tube lights in his hands, and demonstrated that the lights began to glow without an electricity connection.



Health crisis: Children showing symptoms of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome undergoing treatment at Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital in Muzaffarpur on Monday. **■PTI**

AES toll in Muzaffarpur hits 104

Bihar schools to remain shut till June 24 as heatwaves, separately, claim 90 lives

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA
The number of children who have succumbed to suspected Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) in Bihar's Muzaffarpur rose to 104 on Monday even as the National Human Rights Commission issued notices to the Union Health ministry and the State government over the increasing number of deaths due to encephalitis. Separately, the State government ordered the closure of all schools till June 24 as it tries to minimise the toll from a heatwave that has claimed as many as 90 lives till Monday. In Gaya, the district administration enforced Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure to ensure people stay indoors and are not exposed to the blistering heat. Chief Minister Nitish Ku-

NHRC notice to Centre, Bihar
The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Monday issued notices to the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry and the Bihar government over the increasing number of encephalitis deaths in Muzaffarpur. Taking *suo motu* cognizance of media reports, the NHRC issued the notice to Bihar Chief Secretary and the Health Ministry Secretary, seeking detailed reports. mar held meeting with top State and health department officials to take stock of the situation soon after his return from New Delhi. Earlier, Mr. Kumar had announced

Centre sends high-level team
The Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has directed for another high-level multi-disciplinary team to be sent to Bihar immediately following the rise in the number of deaths of children in Muzaffarpur. The minister added that five virological labs will be set up in different districts in the State. The location of the district can be decided in consultation with the State government. ical Sciences (AIIMS) is likely to visit Muzaffarpur on Tuesday to monitor the treatment of children hospitalised with AES. Meanwhile, the death toll due to heat stroke in the districts of the State's Magadh region including Aurangabad, Nawada, Gaya, Jehanabad, Rohtas and Arrah climbed to almost 90. "Though there is no official figure, but, yes not less than 90 people have died in last four days due to intense heatwave," said a health department official, speaking on condition of anonymity. Aurangabad and Gaya have been worst hit. State health minister Mangal Pandey visited the government hospital in Gaya and met patients suffering from heat stroke. More than two dozen people have died in Gaya district alone due to the heatwave.

Vayu no longer a cyclone, to cross as low pressure

However, the system is expected to bring in rains and wind

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Cyclone Vayu has dissipated earlier than anticipated and will not make a landfall over Gujarat, a senior weather department official confirmed to *The Hindu*. 'Vayu' was expected to make cross over by Monday midnight, according to an India Meteorological Department's (IMD) assessment late Sunday. "It has already become a 'depression' and by midnight will cross over the Gujarat coast as a well marked low pressure," said Madhavan Rajeevan, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences. While this would still bring rains and winds – and fishermen have been warned to stay away – it effectively means that 'Vayu' no longer poses a threat to Gujarat. A 'well marked low pressure' refers to a state when a tropical storm has lost its strength and no longer possesses an 'eye' or a centre, which is the hallmark of a cyclone. "For a landfall, it has



Mighty tides: Waves crashing on to the shore of the Veraval coast in Gujarat last week. **■AP**

to be atleast a depression," Mr. Rajeevan said. 'Tricky process' "Forecasting the track of this cyclone was tricky because there were complications posed by the monsoon pressure systems," he said. Now that 'Vayu was over, the monsoon could continue its journey along India's Western coast. The branch of the monsoon that gives rain along India's western coast reached Kerala nearly a week later than its scheduled date of June 8. Currently, India has got only about 60% of the monsoon rain that it normally gets in the first fortnight of June. As of Monday afternoon, 'Vayu' was "stationary" in the Arabian sea, according to an IMD communiqué, and it lay about 295 km away from Bhuj. 'Likely to weaken' "The system is very likely to weaken into a depression during the next 3-6 hours and further weaken into a well marked low pressure area subsequently," the IMD said.

Rain adds to misery of Odisha's cyclone-hit

Restoration works post-Fani not over

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR
With pre-monsoon showers lashing the coastal districts of Odisha, thousands of families, who lost their houses in cyclone Fani, are in deep distress. Although the Odisha government has started releasing housing building assistance to the affected families, repair of houses is unlikely to be completed before monsoon in many parts of the Puri district, which was the worst affected in the cyclone that hit the State on May 3. As per the damage assessment and enumeration conducted by the Puri district administration, houses and huts of as many as 2,87,762 families were damaged in the cyclone. "While 9,059 pucca and kutcha houses have been fully damaged, 1,04,715 houses have suffered severe damage. Similarly, 1,13,221 pucca houses and 49,529 kutcha houses have been partially damaged," the assessment report says. The State government, as per the norms of the State Disaster Response Fund and the National Disaster Response Fund, announced ₹95,100 for a person whose house (pucca or kutcha) has been fully or severely dam-

aged. Similarly, ₹5,200 is to be paid for partial damage of pucca house, ₹3,200 for partial damage of kutcha house and ₹4,100 for damage to hut. **First instalment given** The first instalment of the house building assistance has already been disbursed. The State government had released ₹197.59 crore to the Puri district administration on June 10. Subsequently, ₹10.21 crore was released. "Prior to the disbursement of house building assistance, we had asked suppliers of roofing sheets to make the material available at the panchayat level so that people don't face difficulties in getting them," said Puri District Collector Balwant Singh. According to villagers, the magnitude of the damage is such that roofing material alone would not suffice. "We are facing difficulties in mobilising building materials, masons, carpenters and labourers," said Sudarshn Behera of Bhagabatipur under Nimpara block of Puri district. Farmers were facing a twin challenge - protecting their family members and household articles from rain and taking up farming in the rainy season, Mr. Behera said.



Court rejects plea against Salman Khan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JODHPUR
The Chief Judicial Magistrate court here on Monday rejected two applications filed by the Rajasthan government against actor Salman Khan alleging that he had submitted false affidavit about his arms licence during his trial in an Arms Act case lodged along with the 1998 blackbuck poaching case. Mr. Khan's counsel told that the licence was not available when the court had asked his client to deposit it during the trial. The court accepted his plea.

Death of sanitation workers triggers demand for machines

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD
The tragic deaths of seven persons including four sanitation workers after inhaling toxic fumes while cleaning a septic tank in a hotel in Vadodra district on June 15 have triggered demand for machines instead of manual cleaning of sewer lines and septic tanks. An anguished Anand Mahindra of the Mahindra Group offered financial help to procure them. Responding to him, Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan said he had gifted 25 machines to the sanitation workers and a truck to the Bombay Municipal Cor-

poration. Though the Gujarat government has offered a compensation of ₹4 lakh each to the families of the deceased and the police filed a case of causing death due to negligence and culpable homicide not amounting to murder against hotel owner Hasan Abbas, who is on the run, the administration remains silent on why the sewer lines are cleaned manually in the State. In Gujarat, 86 workers died of suffocation while working in manholes over the last five years, as per the details shared by the State government in the Assembly in February.

Gang-rape victim commits suicide in UP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BADAUN
A 24-year-old gang-rape victim is reported to have committed suicide in a village under Dataganj police station in the district, blaming the police for not registering her complaint, officials said on Monday. The SHO of Dataganj police station Amrit Lal has been suspended on charges of dereliction of duty, they said. Since the woman was reportedly raped in Secunderabad in Telangana, the case could not be lodged here, said SSP Ashok Kumar Tripathi. But she insisted that the case be lodged there as she lived in that area.

CM acts after boys escape from Meerut facility

Caretaker, staff member suspended
OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW
Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday suspended the caretaker of a government child correction home and another staff after four boys escaped from the facility in Meerut. The caretaker of the Rajkiya Bal Grah (Balak) – or the State child home (boys) – and a staff were suspended with immediate effect after a preliminary probe of the incident. A clarification was also sought from the district probation officer and deputy director probation, said a government spokesperson. The child home is situated in the Surajkund area of Meerut and is run by the child care unit. According to Additional District Magistrate Mahesh Chandra Sharma, the boys escaped from the home on the intervening night of June 14-15 at around 1 a.m. The boys took the support of pipes to climb down from the back portion of the building, he said. A case has been registered and a search is on for them. The CM has instructed the department secretary to carry out an inspection of all child correction homes in the State and give directions to maintain security. ed in the Surajkund area of Meerut and is run by the child care unit.

AI bids adieu to A320 Classic

The 25-year-old aircraft will give way for the Airbus 320 Neo

ADITYA ANAND
MUMBAI
Air India's Delhi-Mumbai flight, AI 865 on Sunday was the last flight by a Airbus 320 Classic aircraft, which will make way for the advanced and fuel-efficient Airbus 320 Neo. Having flown 61,600 hours and carried out 38,000 landings, VT-ESL was the last of Air India's A320 Classic fleet having been delivered to Air India 25 years back in 1994. Pilots who have flown this type of airplane, said that unlike modern aircraft, this had a set of bogey wheels. Bogey wheels are a set of four tyres making up one wheel. "Air India is the only carrier with that kind of landing gear in the A320 due to India's low pavement classification number back when those A320s were ordered. In other words, more tyres distribute the load over a larger area," a pilot attached to the Indian



Last of its kind: A file photo of the Airbus 320 aircraft of the Air India which will soon be grounded. **■V. SUDERSHAN**

Commercial Pilots Association (ICPA) said. On Sunday, after the aircraft took off from Delhi on its final flight, Air India tweeted from its official handle thanking the engineers for keeping it fit till its last operational schedule. The first A320 Classic was rolled out of the final assembly line on February 14, 1987 and made its maiden flight on February 22. The ICPA while terming the planes as 'lethal and

snag-prone' had in 2016-17 urged the aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to ground these planes and ensure passenger safety. In order to facilitate replacement of its old fleet, the national carrier commenced induction of A320 Neo planes. Upon its retirement, engineering staff took to social media to bid the aircraft goodbye. It offered more leg space to passengers. It was a work horse," said an employee.

Karan Oberoi 'rape' case: woman held

YUKTI JOSHI
MUMBAI
The Oshiwara police on Monday arrested the 34-year old woman who had accused actor Karan Oberoi of rape, for allegedly orchestrating an attack on herself earlier this year. Mr. Oberoi was arrested on May 6 this year after the woman, an astrologer by profession, registered a complaint against him with the Oshiwara police. On May 25, she registered a separate complaint alleging that she had been assaulted and threatened by unidentified bikers while on a morning walk. However, upon investigation, the police found the attack to be staged and arrested her lawyer Kashif Ali in this connection. Police sources said Mr. Ali, during interrogation, said the woman too was part of the plan to stage the attack, and added that she had been under the police scanner since then.

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Gloves off on trade

As India finally imposes retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods, flexibility should inform policy

The government's decision to finally go ahead and impose retaliatory tariffs on 29 U.S. goods with effect from June 16, almost a year after it first announced them, unambiguously signals that on trade India has decided to join issue with President Donald Trump's protectionist administration. Clearly, the trigger for the move was the U.S. withdrawal of duty-free access to Indian exporters under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) from June 5. Mr. Trump chose to go ahead and proclaim on May 31 that he was terminating India's designation as a beneficiary developing country over Delhi's failure to assure the U.S. of "equitable and reasonable access to its markets", notwithstanding the fact that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his new Council of Ministers had just been sworn in the previous day. This reflects an unwillingness to meet India halfway on trade. Not that there had been no warning lights flashing. On a visit to New Delhi in early May, U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross had made no bones about the administration's perception of India being a "tariff king" that adopted "overly restrictive market access barriers". Mr. Ross had also threatened India with "consequences" were it to impose the retaliatory tariffs. Now, the government led by Mr. Modi and his key interlocutors on trade, including the new External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, have sent a strong message that India is not going to be compelled to negotiate under duress.

The change in tack on India's part also indicates that it is done, at least for now, with a more conciliatory stance after it had kept delaying the imposition of retaliatory tariffs over the past 12 months. During that period India had not only to contend with the withdrawal of GSP status but also had to, under a U.S. ultimatum, terminate its imports of vital crude oil from Iran, with which it has had a long-standing and strategic relationship. To be sure, India has much at stake in ensuring that economic ties with its largest trading partner do not end up foundering on the rocky shoals of the current U.S. administration's approach to trade and tariffs, one that China has referred to as "naked economic terrorism". Trade is not, and must not be viewed as, a zero-sum game. To that end, the government ought to review with flexibility some of its decisions such as the data localisation requirements and the new e-commerce regulations that have become a sore point with the U.S. side, including business investors. Indian trade negotiators also need to impress upon their American counterparts the importance of ensuring that market access for Indian services exporters remains free of new, restrictive visa curbs. The counter-tariffs have now lent the Indian side a bargaining chip that the U.S. Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, will have to grapple with during his visit later this month.

The litchi link?

In Bihar, authorities failed at several levels in preventing deaths due to encephalopathy

The death of over 90 children in about a month in Muzaffarpur district of north Bihar due to low blood sugar level could have easily been prevented with some foresight and early care. Six years ago, a two-member team invited by the State government suspected that a toxin (methylenecyclopropylglycine, MCPG, also known as hypoglycin A) naturally present in litchi fruit was responsible for the mysterious deaths; a large Indo-U.S. team confirmed it in 2017. The two-member team found that undernourished children who ate the fruit during the day and went to bed on an empty stomach presented with serious illness early the next morning. In 2014, the team saved 74% of sick children through a simple intervention – infusing 10% dextrose within four hours of the onset of illness. The recommended prevention strategy – making sure that no child goes to bed without eating a meal – adopted from 2015 ensured a sharp drop in the number of children falling sick. It is appalling that this year the government failed to raise awareness on this strategy. Worse, some doctors came up with alternative explanations for the illness and even pointed to the heat wave.

While the most common causes of acute encephalitis syndrome are traced to a bacteria or a virus and it takes at least a few days before presenting serious symptoms and deaths, the toxin in litchi causes serious problems overnight. While well-nourished children who eat the fruit remain unaffected even if they go to bed on an empty stomach, the under-nourished ones are at grave risk. Blood glucose falls sharply causing severe brain malfunction (encephalopathy), leading to seizures and coma, and death in many cases. This is because undernourished children lack sufficient glucose reserve in the form of glycogen and the production of glucose from non-carbohydrate source is blocked midway leading to low blood sugar level. This causes serious brain function derangement and seizures. While 5% dextrose infusion serves the purpose in cases of general low blood sugar, children suffering from acute hypoglycaemic encephalopathy can be saved only by infusing 10% dextrose within four hours of illness onset. Recovery is rapid and complete if 10% dextrose is infused within the golden hours. Infusing a higher concentration of dextrose is necessary to completely stop the attempt by the body to produce glucose from non-carbohydrate source. If encephalopathy was indeed the cause of death, this simple medical intervention could have saved many lives. Dextrose infusion could have been done even as children were being transported to hospitals in ambulances. The failures were at the stages of both prevention and care.

A blinkered understanding of migration

The draft emigration Bill is more about managing the export of human resources than being a humanitarian framework



S. IRUDAYA RAJAN & VARUN AGGARWAL

India has been home to one of the longest and largest episodes of emigration in the world, from the Second Century BC, when Alexander the Great took back Indians to Central Asia and Europe, to the present times where Indians, moving out on their own volition, form one of the world's largest populations of emigrants. This population is also diverse in every aspect, from its geographical presence and skill sets to their purposes for migration and migration strategies.

A large emigrant population has many benefits for India: the much-discussed international remittances (which touched \$80 billion in 2018), and also a positive impact on foreign direct investments, trade and foreign relations. The Indian diaspora also provides much needed philanthropic activities in health and education to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Of course, they do fund political parties of their choice during the elections.

There is another side to the Indian emigration story, which is characterised by information and power asymmetries in the global labour markets to include exploitation, inhuman living conditions, violence and human rights violations.

Lost focus

Since Independence, a steadily increasing number of low-skilled emigrants moved to destinations in West Asia. In order to safeguard their rights and welfare, the government enacted the Emigration Act, 1983. Perhaps it was an Act

that was 'formulated with the mindset of the 19th century, enacted in the 20th century and implemented in the 21st century'.

In the last 35 years, to cite the government, "the nature, pattern, directions, and volume of migration have undergone a paradigm shift". So, in an effort to update and upgrade this framework, a draft Emigration Bill, 2019 was released. Almost a decade in the making, it aims to move from the regulation of emigration to its management.

Unfortunately, its provisions fail to match the ambitions of its objectives. They continue the post-1983 ad hoc approach towards emigration, relying on the regulation of recruiting agents/employers and the discretion of the government. In fact, the bulk of it focusses on establishing new statutory bodies and giving them broad and vaguely defined duties.

Crucial exclusions

What is most positive about the draft Bill is the inclusion of all students and migrant workers within its purview and the abolishment of the two passports (emigration clearance required and emigration clearance not required, or ECR and ECNR) regime based on a person's educational qualifications. This will significantly improve the collection of migration flow data when compared to the current system, which excludes most migrants leaving India. Despite these developments, most trajectories of migration from India continue to be excluded.

For instance, Indians reuniting with family members abroad (who can be Indian emigrants, non-resident Indians and/or foreign nationals) constitute a major chunk of out-migration from India. Studies show that each member of emigrant families often contributes towards remittances sent back home. Many family migrants often convert their immigration



status and become workers, which is a factor not given thought in the 2019 draft Bill.

In an increasingly hostile political environment for migrants globally, these "dependent migrants" have increasingly little economic or political freedom at their destinations, an example being the recent attempt by the Trump administration in the U.S. to repeal the employment eligibility of spouses of high-skilled H1B immigrants (a majority are from India). Also alarming are numerous instances of Indian spouses being 'lured' abroad in marriage and then stranded or exploited. Between January 2015 and November 2017, the government received 3,328 such complaints.

Another excluded category is that of undocumented migrants. The perception is that undocumented migrants are those persons who leave India through informal channels, but most migrants become irregular on account of expired visas/permits. In West Asia, when migrant workers flee their employers to escape exploitation, a single police complaint can make them 'undocumented' for no fault of theirs. Data from the U.S. and Europe reveal a dramatic rise in the number of Indians being apprehended for immigration-related crimes. These migrants live in incredibly precarious situations, with many living in poverty.

Family migrants and irregular migrants abroad are as vulnerable,

if not more, as workers and students and warrant at least equivalent protection and promotion of their welfare.

Regulation of intermediaries

The draft Bill incorporates many already established ad hoc regulations and obligations for recruiting agents. It also includes subagents (often a relative or friend of the potential migrant) and student enrolment agencies into its regulatory purview. These intermediaries play an instrumental role in minimising information asymmetries and migration costs. Thus, any regulatory framework needs to balance strong disincentives for migrant welfare-destroying practices with the efficient supply of affordable intermediary services for prospective workers and students.

However, in the past decade, while emigration from India to West Asia has been decreasing, emigration from Bangladesh to this region has increased in the same period, which is attributed to a more liberal emigration policy. This suggests that the prescribed regulatory process in India has inadvertently created barriers to migration – for instance, nurses can be recruited only through government recruitment agencies – and increased the cost of emigration.

Further, given that student enrolment agencies have a different business model and a completely different customer base, i.e. students applying overseas, it is unclear why they are prescribed the same regulations as recruitment agents.

What about return migrants? To effectively ensure their welfare, any emigration policy framework needs to be considerate of the complete migration cycle: the pre-departure, journey, destination and return. The 2019 draft Bill addresses only the first three parts of the cycle while completely ignoring return migration. Globally, one

in four migrants today is a return migrant. In fact, most Indian migrants in West Asia return home – the current estimate of return migration in Kerala alone ranges between 1.2 and 1.5 million according to the Kerala Migration Surveys conducted by the Centre for Development Studies since 1998.

Rights-based approach for all

Many of the oversights in the draft Bill reiterate the government's restricted understanding of migration from India; there is no complete database number of Indian migrants abroad. There is also an erroneous assumption that Indian migrants in a developed destination country have sufficient protection and welfare. The draft Bill personifies the government's primary view of emigration policy as a means for managing the export of human resources rather than a humanitarian framework to safeguard Indian migrants overseas.

Migration is a complex and highly dynamic process with constantly evolving profiles of migrants and their destinations. Only an ex ante-migrant rights-based approach that is inclusive of all Indian migrants abroad can be considerate of this and provide them adequate security and welfare. There are a whole host of multilateral migration-related treaties and conventions which can provide the necessary guidance for a truly visionary and future-proof Indian emigration policy framework.

Without drastic changes to the draft Bill's approach, we will miss the opportunity to fulfil the hard-fought shared objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

S. Irudaya Rajan, a Professor at the Centre for Development Studies, Kerala, is the lead author of the Kerala Migration Survey 2018. Varun Aggarwal is the founder of India Migration Now, a migration research agency in Mumbai



ANIKET AGA

A month ago, Bt brinjal genetically modified (GM) to resist the brinjal fruit and shoot borer (an insect), was found growing illegally in Haryana. This was a different Bt brinjal from the one developed by the Indian company, Mahyco, in which Monsanto has a 26% stake. Mahyco's Bt brinjal has been under a moratorium since 2010. Even as the government clamped down on the illegal GM crop, some farmer groups have demanded the release of Mahyco's Bt brinjal and other GM crops in the regulatory pipeline. It is true that the moratorium was imposed by the then Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh, despite being cleared by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), the apex regulatory body for GM crops. But is Bt brinjal actually ready for release?

The impacts

Before imposing the moratorium, Mr. Ramesh had sought comments from a range of experts and concerned groups on environmental impacts and implications for consumers and farmers. Despite demands from activists and social scientists, the Ministry of Agriculture has not offered evidence that

Bt brinjal will benefit farmers. Ironically, the National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research anticipates that if Bt brinjal performs as Mahyco proposes, brinjal output will increase and retail prices will fall, benefiting consumers far more than farmers. The report ignores the scenario that companies might charge premium prices for Bt brinjal seeds, in which case farmers may not benefit at all.

On biosafety issues, scientific opinion is divided down the middle. While some scientists such as Deepak Pental of Delhi University were in favour of releasing Bt brinjal, others such as the late Pushpa Bhargava, entomologist David Andow of the U.S., and the then Vice-Chancellors of the Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University and the Dr. Y.S.R. Horticultural University highlighted crucial deficiencies in the characterisation of Bt brinjal, and in the environmental impacts assessment. The ecologist, Madhav Gadgil, warned of contamination of India's diverse brinjal varieties. Biodiversity is critical for nutrition and sustainability, and the government's own task force on biotechnology (2004) had recommended that no GM crop be allowed in biodiversity-rich areas.

Further, a majority of the technical expert committee appointed by the Supreme Court (in the public interest litigations over GM crops), recommended a ban on genetically modifying those crops for which India is a centre of origin



or diversity. Brinjal happens to be such a crop.

Nutrition issues

In terms of nutrition, there seem to be some significant differences between Bt and ordinary brinjal. Many health researchers and professionals, and scientists such as immunologist David Schubert of the Salk Institute, U.S. and Suman Sahai of Gene Campaign have argued that Bt brinjal poses risks to human health. M.S. Swaminathan and V.M. Katoch, then the Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research, asked for long-term (chronic) toxicity studies, before taking any decision on Bt brinjal. Further, they asked that these be conducted independently, instead of relying exclusively on Mahyco for data.

Bt brinjal found no support from State governments. Kerala and Uttarakhand asked for a ban on GM crops. States with substantial brinjal cultivation, i.e. West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar opposed the release pending rigorous, extensive testing. As did Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, and undivided Andhra Pradesh. These States were ruled by parties across the political spec-

trum. In 2012 and 2017, respectively, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Science & Technology, Environment and Forests assessed the GM controversy. Both committees expressed grave concerns about lapses in the regulatory system. In fact, the Committee on Agriculture was so alarmed by the irregularities in the assessment of Bt brinjal, that it recommended "a thorough probe by a team of eminent independent scientists and environmentalists", which never happened. Further, both committees endorsed labelling GM foods to protect a consumer's right to know. However, since retailing is largely unorganised, enforcing truthful labelling is a logistical nightmare, and the Ministry of Agriculture believes it is impractical. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has only recently begun putting labelling rules into place.

No scientific consensus

In sum, there is a moratorium on Bt brinjal because there is no scientific consensus on its safety and efficacy, and because the States and Parliament have profound misgivings about the regulatory system. In recent years, pests have developed resistance to Bt cotton, forcing farmers to spray lethal pesticides. This led to over 50 deaths by pesticide-poisoning in Vidarbha in 2017. A GM-based strategy of pest control is unsustainable, all the more so since farmers, already pressed for land,

ignore the government's recommendation to plant refuge crops.

We cannot wish all these concerns away simply because some farmers want to try Bt brinjal, or farmers in Bangladesh have been cultivating Bt brinjal since 2013. Farmers do not and cannot assess long-term impacts on ecology and health, which needs more rigorous and sensitive studies than those conducted so far. Yet, in the nine years since the moratorium, there has hardly been any progress toward addressing these issues. If anything, the problem of sustainable, remunerative farming has become more acute, and alternative strategies such as organic and zero budget natural farming, which do not allow GM seeds, are gaining ground.

At the very least, the government must detail the steps it has taken since 2010 to address the scientific lacunae, clarify precisely how Bt brinjal will benefit farmers, put the infrastructure to ensure labelling into place, and demonstrate how Bt brinjal fits in with sustainable farming and biodiversity conservation. As things stand, Bt brinjal runs counter to the framework for agricultural development and farmers' well-being devised by parliamentary panels and the government's own task forces and expert committees.

Aniket Aga teaches environmental studies at Ashoka University and is writing a book on the science and politics of GM food crops in India. E-mail: aniket.aga.2016@gmail.com

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.

Dispel the war clouds

When there is scant evidence to prove that Iran is involved in the attacks on tankers in the Gulf of Oman, it is clear that the U.S. will use anything as an excuse to attack Iran ('World', "U.S. does not want war with Iran", June 17). If, indeed, the U.S. does not want war with Iran, then its aircraft carriers already deployed in the region should be sufficient to oversee the free passage of oil tankers through the Strait of Hormuz. There is no need for America to threaten Iran by saying that it will send additional strike forces with bombers and missiles to the region. For its part, Iran must declare

that it will not bottle up oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz.

As war clouds loom large over the region, the leading powers of the world, including India, must urge the U.S. and Iran to sit at the diplomatic high table and scale down tensions.

KANGAYAM R. NARASIMHAN, Chennai

The 2019 outcome

A number of opinion page writers assume that the entire population in the country cast their votes, especially in the 2019 election, purely based on religion or caste (Editorial page, "The Gujarat model, nationally", June 17). What a biased assumption. There

is hardly a word about schemes benefiting the poor and the downtrodden such as gas connections, bank accounts, provision of toilets, a decisive leadership and, most importantly, a corruption-free government. The Opposition is always portraying the ruling party as having the sole aim of creating a majoritarian nation where the minorities have to suffer. An objective article will show otherwise.

S. NATARAJAN, Bengaluru

ICC World Cup

After India's 336, Pakistan's innings began on a disastrous note, at Manchester. But for a

century stand between Fakhar Zaman (62) and Babar Azam (48) there was nothing to write home about. Kuldeep Yadav ensured Pakistan's misery. It was an emphatic win for India in the end ('Sport' page, June 17).

ANANDAMBAL SUBBU, Navi Mumbai

■ The ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 is turning out to be a sham, getting decided more on point sharing than a proper game because of rain-affected matches. One can understand a game or two getting washed out but what is happening seems to be the order of the day. Teams sharing points with known weaker teams will

lose out while the ones with very few wins might enter the semi-finals. The ICC's point that reserve days or alternate venues cannot be arranged needs a critical review. We live in modern times and solutions must be got to ensure 50 overs to each side. The winner should feel that the World Cup was earned and not gained as a lottery.

GOPAL SUTAR, Bengaluru

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

A front-page report, "Indian battering juggernaut crushes Pakistan by 89 runs" (June 17, 2019), erroneously said that Fakhar Zaman and Babar Azam added 114 for the second wicket. Actually, the duo had added 104 for the second wicket. The same mistake was found in the Sports page story headlined "Rohit leads the charge as India asserts superiority over Pakistan."

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The danger of territorial nationalism

The Opposition has not done enough to defend India's inclusive and plural ethos



MANASH FIRAQ BHATTACHARJEE

Talking to the American political journalist, Norman Cousins, in 1961, Jawaharlal Nehru shared his idea of democracy: “I would say that democracy is not only political, not only economic, but something of the mind.” Nehru emphasised democracy as “a certain tolerance of others and even of others’ opinions... a certain contemplative tendency and a certain inquisitive search for truth.” Democracy for Nehru was akin to a political culture where a hundred opinions could bloom.

Since the Narendra Modi government took power in 2014, the mind of democracy is under attack. There is intolerance towards differences. Democracy is facing political authoritarianism. The return of the Modi government at the Centre has tightened Hindutva’s grip on the political narrative. Despite the agrarian crisis, job unrest, and the hardships of demonetisation, the electoral outcome was in the BJP’s favour. Making political capital out of the air strikes on Balakot, playing up the threat to the nation’s security over real issues, and using divisive language worked for the BJP.

Ideology of the state

Hindutva is no longer a political ideology of a political party. It is now an ideology of the Indian state. In 2015, when about 40 writers and artists returned their Sahitya Akademi awards in protest against the silence on the killing of writers by Hindu right-wing organisations, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley called it a “manufactured paper rebellion” by writers of “Left or [with] Nehruvian leaning.” The murder of writers was sidelined by an ideological allegation. The political tactic was to turn an issue of public morality into a friend-enemy discourse.

Since the JNU incident of 2016, we witnessed the mainstreaming of the term “anti-national” by BJP members. Anyone who raised concerns on violence against Kashmiris, spoke against war, supported writers and



“Territorial nationalism is a predatory idea that hunts for enemies.” People wait to check their names on the draft list of the National Register of Citizens centre in a village in Nagaon district, Assam. • REUTERS

journalists facing threats, welcomed the idea of Pakistani artists in India, spoke up for Muslims attacked for allegations of cow slaughter or beef consumption, or simply questioned the government faced the epithet. The BJP became the sole custodian of national pride and security.

Defending Nehru’s idea of India

Nehru’s idea of India was defended by sections of India’s civil society rather than the Congress or other secular parties. A section of mainstream media dropped its ethics and peddled the government’s line. A handful of journalists braved legal, physical and verbal threats in order to ask the truth. When journalist Ravish Kumar asked Congress president Rahul Gandhi why he did not defend “Nehru’s legacy”, Mr. Gandhi skirted the question. Mr. Gandhi also spoke against hate, and for love, in his election campaign. But he was iffy in naming the real victims of hate politics. This weakened the counternarrative, and failed to bolster confidence in the electorate.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee took the BJP’s anti-minoritarian agenda head-on. She risked public mood to oppose the National Register of Citizens (NRC) being implemented in Assam, and welcomed the refugees in her State.

Earlier, she sided with the United Nations in support of granting asylum to the Rohingya, against the position of the Central government. She managed a thin victory – the BJP made big inroads into West Bengal with an unprecedented 40% vote share. The general secretary of the CPI(M), Sitaram Yechury, admitted that Left supporters shifted allegiance to the BJP. The instrumental aim of the Left parties was to dislodge the local rival, not the BJP, and this helped the BJP’s cause. Improvising on Lord Acton, the conservative writer, Nirad C. Chaudhuri, had warned in *Thy Hand, Great Anarch!* that “loss of power corrupts, and absolute loss of power corrupts absolutely.”

Has “the mind of India” (to borrow Nehru’s phrase) shifted to the right? If the mind has abandoned the spirit of democracy and fallen for territorial paranoia, then yes. In *We Or Our Nationhood Defined*, the ideological guru of the Hindu right, M.S. Golwalkar, defined the nation as “hereditary territory”. Hindutva is a territorial project. Thinking is reduced to marking territory, an act of self-preservation. It promotes exclusionary laws, as seen in the move to implement the NRC nationwide. This will throw the lives of poor migrants into a legal quagmire. The detection, detention and deportation of “fo-

reigners” will make people turn into stateless populations without rights.

According to Golwalkar, “Hindu religion, Hindu culture and Hindu language (the natural family of Sanskrit and her off-springs) complete the Nation concept.” India is imagined as mono-religious, mono-cultural and mono-lingual. Golwalkar’s options for minorities were either to “adopt” the majority culture “or to live at its mercy”. When the Hindu vigilantes force Muslims to chant “Jai Shri Ram!” and “Bharat Mata ki Jai!”, it isn’t just perverse cultural pride that is involved, but the surplus pleasure of humiliating others.

Since 2014, India in the nationalist narrative is being imagined as a fortress being guarded against imagined enemies and hated political opponents and minorities. Ideological opponents are forced to fear every word and act of nonconformity. Muslims are killed or harmed on mere allegations of beef eating and cow slaughter. Territorial nationalism is a predatory idea that hunts for enemies.

Cultural heterogeneity

Nehru wrote in *The Discovery of India*, “A Buddhist or Jain in India is a hundred per cent product of Indian thought and culture, yet neither is a Hindu by faith. It is, therefore, entirely misleading to refer to Indian culture as Hindu culture.” Nehru’s idea of India is not reducible to a single faith. “In later ages”, Nehru wrote, “this culture was greatly influenced by the impact of Islam, and yet it remained... distinctively Indian.” Cultural transformation of religions in India is the basis of its heterogeneity, and a historical fact. In Nehru’s enlightened view, India is not a Hindu idea, or a Hindu nation.

The poet-critic, Octavio Paz, in his book *In Light of India*, wrote: “India, as a country and as a history, is much greater than Hinduism.” Despite being an admirer of Hindu thought and architecture, Paz was aware of the immense contributions made by other cultures.

Humility is a desirable ethic for civilisations to live by. If India lives in territorial paranoia and exclusion, it will lose its mind.

Manash Firaq Bhattacharjee is the author of *‘Looking for the Nation: Towards Another Idea of India’*

Unleashing the potential of urban India

India could learn from the U.K.’s model of City Deals



V.R. VACHANA

The Global Metro Monitor 2018 reports that 36% of employment growth and 67% of GDP growth were contributed by the 300 largest global metros, with those in emerging economies outperforming those in advanced economies. Metropolitan areas concentrate and accelerate wealth as these are agglomerations of scale that concentrate higher-level economic functions. Nine Indian metros feature in the top 150 ranks of the economic performance index. By 2030, India will have 71 metropolitan cities, of which seven would have a population of more than 10 million. Clearly metropolises are going to be a key feature of India’s urbanisation and will play a crucial role in fuelling growth.

A fragmented architecture

Article 243P(c) of the Constitution defines ‘metropolitan areas’ as those having “population of ten lakhs [a million] or more, comprised in one or more districts and consisting of two or more municipalities/panchayats/ other contiguous areas, specified by the governor through public notification to be a metropolitan area”. It recognises metropolitan areas as multi-municipal and multi-district entities. It mandates the formation of a Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPC) for preparing draft development plans, considering common interests between local authorities, objectives and priorities set by Central and State governments, and investments likely to be made in the area by various agencies. To ensure the democratic character of the MPC, it is mandated that at least two-thirds of the members of the committee must be elected by and from among the elected members of the municipalities and chairpersons of the panchayats in the metropolitan area, proportionate to the ratio of their respective populations. The size and manner of filling such seats are left to the State’s discretion.

MPCs were expected to lay frameworks for metropolitan governance, but on the ground they do not exist in most cases. Janaagraha’s Annual Survey of India’s City-Systems (ASICS) 2018 found that only nine out of 18 cities mandated to form MPCs have constituted them. Where constituted, their functionality is questionable, with the limited

role of local elected representatives raising further questions on democratic decentralisation. Thus, the provision for an MPC has not introduced robust governance of metropolises, as the metropolises continue to be a collection of parastatals and local bodies in an entirely fragmented architecture.

The U.K. has rolled out ‘City Deals’, an agreement between the Union government and a city economic region, modelled on a ‘competition policy style’ approach. The city economic region is represented by a ‘combined authority’. This is a statutory body set up through national legislation that enables a group of two or more councils to collaborate decisions, and which is steered by a directly elected Mayor. This is to further democratise and incentivise local authorities to collaborate and reduce fragmented governance, drive economic prosperity, job growth, etc. ‘City Deals’ move from budget silos and promote ‘economic growth budget’ across regions. The U.K. has established nine such combined authorities. Australia adopted a regional governance model along these lines in 2016 and has signed four City Deals till date. Meanwhile, China is envisioning 19 seamlessly connected super city clusters.

India, however, is yet to begin the discourse on a governance framework for the future of its metropolises. It is yet to recognise that disaster management, mobility, housing, climate change, etc. transcend municipal boundaries and require regional-level solutions. The World Bank notes that despite the emergence of smaller towns, the underlying character of India’s urbanisation is “metropolitan”, with towns emerging within the proximity of existing cities.

Way forward

It is time India envisions the opportunities and challenges from a ‘city’ level to ‘city-region’ level. The Central government must create a platform to build consensus among State governments. Perhaps, the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2018, drafted by the Expert Committee for Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Restructuring, could offer direction. It proposes for a Greater Bengaluru Authority headed by a directly elected Mayor, responsible for the overall planning of Greater Bengaluru with powers for inter-agency coordination and administration of major infrastructural projects across the urban local bodies within the area. However, this Bill is yet to see the light of day.

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SINGLE FILE

Across sectors, over time

Policies should be directed towards longer-term Sustainable Development Goals rather than short-term growth

VINOD THOMAS & NAMRATA CHINDARKAR



The re-elected government has a unique chance to change India’s policy direction from a drive for short-term GDP growth at any cost to confronting the vast social and environmental gaps. A way forward is to make the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) the policy guide rather than short-term GDP growth. SDGs target human, social and governance improvements, and their linkages. Studies in Asia document the impact of corruption in aggravating illegal logging and deforestation. And environmental destruction and climate change hurt the poor the most. Other crises resulting from a short-term focus at the expense of the long term also harm the poor the most. The 1997 Asian financial crisis and the 2007-08 global financial crisis are examples. Even when policy assessments show the merit of looking at lasting welfare, there is political pressure to only show immediate growth. To overcome this conundrum, we need to bring together three approaches in evaluation: impact evaluation, cost-benefit analysis, and objectives-based evaluation.

Impact evaluation can serve as a valuable way to gauge the causal effects of a programme – for example, providing vaccination to the population. An example is an impact evaluation of 24x7 rural electrification in Gujarat, showing that benefits of reliable electricity go beyond having lighting and have positive spillovers on maternal and child health.

Cost-benefit analysis too has a growing role to play in enlarging the focus of evaluation. For example, growth analysis could give special attention to the time frame when impacts are assessed to ensure that sustainability is rewarded. Cost-benefit analysis could also apply distributional weights to address income disparities.

Extensions of objectives-based evaluation can show the importance of considering growth plus equity and the impacts of natural disasters. Odisha is an example in 2019 of ensuring early warning and evacuation. But budget allocations for preventing calamities remain woefully inadequate.

India is ranked 130th out of 189 countries in the UN’s human development index, and 114th among 142 countries in gender gap. Of the world’s 30 cities that are ranked worst in air pollution, 22 are in India. India needs to vastly increase spending on education, health and the environment, and build smart components into projects. An example of incorporating social inclusion is that of the JICA-funded Delhi Metro, which included gender elements.

The new administration can direct policy towards longer-term SDGs rather than short-term growth. To support this effort, policy assessments that only have a myopic focus on one sector and election cycles need to give way to ones that span across sectors and over time.

The authors are Visiting Professor and Assistant Professor respectively at Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore



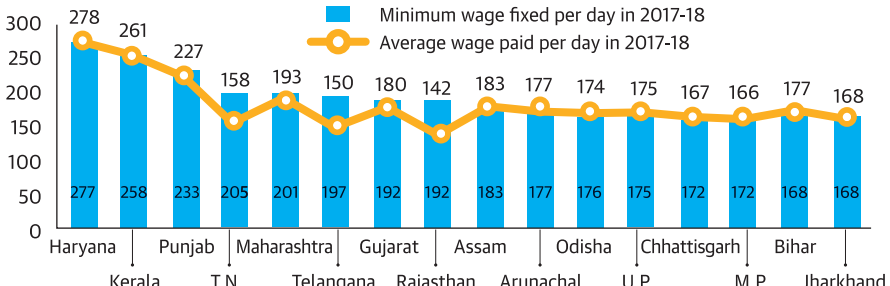
DATA POINT

Promise & delivery

The gap between the number of households that demanded jobs and the number met in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) widened marginally in the financial year 2018-19. In at least nine States the wage rates paid were below the minimum assured in FY18, according to a report published by the Centre for Policy Research. By **Srravya C**

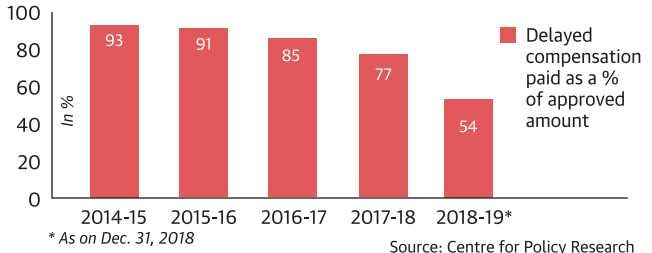
Falling below the minimum

In Rajasthan, the average wage rate for workers was ₹192 in FY18 – ₹50 less than the minimum fixed by the Central government. In at least eight other major States, the rate was less than the minimum guaranteed



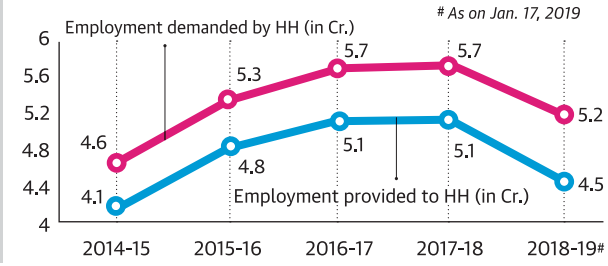
Delayed pay checks

In FY19, only 54% of the amount approved to compensate the delays in wage payments have reached the aggrieved workers. MGNREGS workers are entitled to receive a compensation, if there are delays in wage payments. The compensation amount is based on the duration of delay. The proportion of delay compensation paid to workers has been decreasing in the last five years



Demand-supply gap

In FY19, only 4.5 crore households (HH) were provided with jobs through the scheme – 70 lakhs less than the demand.



FROM The Hindu. ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 18, 1969

Work permits for non-citizens in Malaysia

About 3 lakhs non-citizens in Malaysia will have to register themselves for work permits beginning next month, the Minister for Labour, Mr. V. Manickavasagam, said in Kuala Lumpur today [June 17]. All non-citizens over the age of 12 would have to register themselves for work permits whether they were working temporarily or on permanent basis. Self-employed people also would have to register though they may not have to take work permit. The Minister said the permits would not be issued automatically but it was not the intention of the Government to cause hardship to those who gave loyal service to Malaysia. He assured the investors that the relevant Act would be applied as liberally as possible so as not to affect industrialisation. Mr. Manickavasagam said the Ministry of Home Affairs will also keep a complete record of non-citizens employed in the country.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 18, 1919.

Calcutta Improvement Trust.

The Government of Bengal has issued a resolution reviewing the progress made by the Calcutta Improvement Trust during the last three years. The resolution says that in spite of the difficulties arising out of war-time conditions and the litigation in which the Trust was involved in regard to the acquisition of surplus lands, much has been done in the transformation of congested areas and insanitary slums and the planning of new streets. Of the sixteen improvement schemes submitted to the Government during the last three years, twelve have received sanction and one is under consideration while three have been abandoned or modified. Of these the most costly scheme is central avenue, a wide thoroughfare passing through from north to south, the acquisition of land for which will cost two hundred lakhs gross and fifty lakhs net.

CONCEPTUAL Cyberchondria

PSYCHOLOGY

This refers to severe anxiety that is fuelled by medical information found on the Internet. People who try to self-diagnose their health condition by searching their symptoms on search engines usually suffer from cyberchondria as they often misdiagnose their condition. They may, for instance, experience the unfounded fear that they suffer from serious diseases like cancer even though the symptoms they experience may be better explained by a medical condition that is far less serious. While cyberchondriacs may be searching the Internet to feel better, the information they find on the Internet might, in fact, increase their anxiety.

MORE ON THE WEB

Multilingualism on display in 17th Lok Sabha

<http://bit.ly/MultilingualismLS>

FROM PAGE ONE

West Bengal doctors withdraw strike

At the meeting doctors highlighted that “the political leaders often build up pressure” to admit patients which escalates the crisis. To which the Chief Minister said that “proper action has to be initiated to restrict such activities by the political leaders.”

“There has to be a system and such requests cannot be entertained,” she said.

Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan said on Monday that the Centre has decided to study the possibility

ty of a new law on doctors’ security. “I have written to all Chief Ministers including Mamata Banerjee about the security of medical staff at the workplace. We will also look at bringing in fresh law at the Centre.”

Earlier in the day doctors across India observed a one-day strike in solidarity with their West Bengal colleagues, withdrawing non-essential medical services, including outpatient department services, for 24 hours starting 6 am on Monday.

PM asks Opposition to speak out on issues

And moments before his oath, he tweeted, “representing Wayanad, Kerala, I begin my new innings in Parliament by taking my oath this afternoon, affirming that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India.”

The oath-taking of Lok Sabha members was not without its share of drama and controversy, with pro tem Speaker Dr. Virendra Kumar having to step in to ask members to stick to a prescribed format after Bhopal MP Pragya Thakur added the name of her spiritual guru, Swami Purna Chetnanand Avdheshanand Giri, as suffix to her name and ending the oath (which she took in Sanskrit) with a call of ‘Bharat Mata ki Jai’.

It immediately evoked sharp responses from the Opposition members who asked Dr. Kumar to follow the standard format.

Amid loud protests and slogans, the Bhopal MP explained that it was her full name. The pro tem Speaker then asked Lok Sabha Secretary General to stick to the name mentioned in the winning certificate.

Earlier in the day, President Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath of office to Dr. Kumar, BJP MP from Tikamgarh, as the pro tem Speaker.

Dr. Kumar will, along with a panel of pro tem Speakers, Bhadrurahi Mahatab, K. Suresh and Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, be responsible for administering the oath to new MPs. The session, from June 17 to July 26, is expected to be busy, with the election of Speaker to the Lok Sabha scheduled for June 19, an address to the joint Houses of Parliament by President Kovind on June 20 and the Union Budget on July 5.

10 injured as militants trigger IED blast

Two other Army officials, including Major Rahul Verma, suffered injuries in the day-long exchange of fire between the militants and the security forces in Anantnag. “One militant was killed in the ongoing operation. His body was retrieved and his identity and affiliation are being ascertained,” said the police.

Referring to the IED blast, Army spokesman Colonel Rajesh Kalia said it was “a failed attempt” to attack the mobile vehicle patrol of the 44 Rashtriya Rifles. “Alertness of the patrol party

helped to minimise the damage,” said the spokesman.

The police spokesman confirmed that six soldiers were injured in the IED blast, which inflicted severe damage on the Army vehicle.

The attack on the Army vehicle comes days after Pakistan intelligence agencies reportedly shared information on the Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind’s plans to carry out a major attack using a vehicle to “avenge” its chief Zakir Musa in Pulwama on May 24.

Jet Airways to be taken to bankruptcy court

According to bankers, the idea behind attempts to resolve the issue outside the bankruptcy court after the airline defaulted, was to preserve the value. Banks had prepared a resolution plan and invited bids from prospective buyers for the troubled airline but had not received any binding offer. Only one conditional bid was received from Etihad – the national carrier of UAE which owns 24% in Jet.

Intention questioned

However, civil aviation industry experts questioned the genuine intention of banks to save the airline and alleged they were more interested in recovering the money.

“The decision is too late

to recover anything from Jet Airways. The lenders have followed the bureaucratic procedure so that nobody can question their decisions and the losses they would incur. They showed no urgency to revive Jet Airways and were more interested in recovering their money rather than salvaging the airline. Finally it were the lenders who in fact pushed Jet Airways into oblivion,” said Jitender Bhargava, former executive director, Air India.

SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar said the bank had taken ‘disproportionate steps’ to keep Jet flying as the lender had just ₹1,600 crore exposure which translates into 7 bps in terms of gross non-performing assets.

J.P. Nadda appointed BJP’s working president

The organisational elections are expected to stretch over the next few months into December. This is the first time the BJP has appointed a working president.

Party sources said that with important Assembly elections due in Maharash-

tra, Haryana and Jharkhand towards year-end, Mr. Nadda was required for the day-to-day functioning and decision-making, with Mr. Shah continuing as president, till the election for the national president was held after the membership drive.

Who will lead Opposition ranks?

Despite PM’s olive branch, Congress may not get Leader of the Opposition post

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi may have reached out to the Opposition parties on Monday asking them not to bother about their numbers in the Lok Sabha, but it would certainly matter when it comes to deciding the Leader of the Opposition.

Sources told *The Hindu* that the second term of the Modi government would follow its own precedent and would not offer the official post to the Congress since it has only 52 members as against the requirement of 55.

“Unlike last time, when the shortfall was by 11 MPs, this time it is only three MPs. So there were some suggestions that the government should consider. But now the government has decided it will not accord the status to the Congress leader,” a source said.

Crucial role

As a member of the selection panel, the Leader of the Opposition has a crucial role in deciding key appointments such as CBI Director, Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) and the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal.

While the previous Modi government made changes



Fresh start: Congress president Rahul Gandhi taking oath as MP in the Lok Sabha on Monday. •PTI

to the CBI (Delhi Special Police Establishment Act) and the CVC Act to include the leader of the single largest Opposition party as a member of the panel, it did not amend the Lokpal Act.

‘Special invitee’

Former Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge was invited to be part of the Lokpal selection meetings as a “special invitee” but Mr. Kharge refused to attend many times with the argument that the status of an invitee did not bestow any “right” on the Opposition member in the decision

making. Whoever the Congress now chooses as its leader in the Lok Sabha to replace Mr. Kharge, the government would continue with the same arrangement.

Though amid the continuing uncertainty over the continuance of Rahul Gandhi as the Congress chief, the party is yet to choose its leader and deputy leader in the House.

The front-runners

Kodikunnil Suresh, seven-time MP from Kerala, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, five-time MP from West Bengal, and Shashi Tharoor, third-

time MP from Kerala, are being talked about as front-runners but there has been no official announcement.

Brute majority

The Congress, though, officially reacted to Mr. Modi’s earlier statement: “We should forget *paksh* [treasury] and *vipaksh* [Opposition]. We should think about issues with a *nishpaksh* [impartial] spirit and work in the larger interest of the nation.”

Deputy leader of the Congress in the Rajya Sabha Anand Sharma alleged that in the previous term, the government had pushed through most of the Bills without proper debates or through the ordinance route.

“We will now wait for the Prime Minister’s assurance in this regard and whether the practice that was followed in the past five years is reversed. In the last five years, what we have seen is disrespect to Parliament, where the Bills were brought by the government and because of its brute majority in the Lok Sabha, Parliament was treated as a rubber stamp,” Mr. Sharma said. “Legislation through ordinance is a very unhealthy practice in a democracy.”



First-day scenes: (From left) Union Home Minister Amit Shah taking oath as MP on Monday; Union Minister and Lok Janshakti Party president Ram Vilas Paswan, son Chirag Paswan and family members outside the House; and newly elected MP from Mandya, Karnataka, and actor Sumalatha Ambarish arriving for the opening session of the Lok Sabha. •PTI



No five-star luxury for new MPs

They have been provided interim accommodation in government buildings



Seniors handhold freshers in the House

Ahead of the commencement of the session, senior members took the newly elected MPs to various benches, introducing them around. Nationalist Congress Party leader Supriya Sule, now a four-time MP, was especially conscientious in this regard, hauling around her party MP Amol Kohle, who has the additional fame of acting in a Marathi serial on the life of Sambhaji Maharaj. Party loyalities did not come in the way of warm greetings, with former Union Ministers S. S. Ahluwalia of the BJP and A. Raja of the DMK exchanging a warm hug.



Hindi no bar for this Kerala MP

Kodikunnil Suresh, a Congress MP from Kerala, created ripples by taking oath in Hindi. This led to speculation that Mr. Suresh would probably be made the Congress Legislative Party leader in the Lok Sabha. His name was earlier discounted because of a perceived lack of facility in Hindi.



When chants of Jai Shri Ram filled the air

The BJP’s performance in West Bengal was one of the big stories of the election, and so when Ministers from the State Babul Supriyo and Debashree Chaudhary came forward to take oath, chants of Jai Shri Ram arose.



Political space: The Western Court annexe has 88 rooms, of which 78 have been booked for MPs. •V.V. KRISHNAN

MPs, a Central Public Works Department official said. In the historic old building at Western Court, 30 of the 74 rooms have been kept aside for the Lok Sabha members, the official said.

The hostel complex also has a canteen run by the ITDC.

As of Monday evening, 70 of the rooms for MPs had been taken up, the official said, adding that the annexe

was being used to house MPs for the first time.

Making headlines

At the inauguration of the annexe, the Prime Minister said that newly elected MPs had to stay in hotels “and this makes headlines”.

“However, he said that what is often missed is that previous occupants overstay beyond the designated time,” a government statement about the inauguration had said.

With outgoing MPs taking time to vacate their official residences, the homes take time to be readied for the new occupants. In 2014, first-time MPs were accommodated in hotels as they waited to be given their official residences, leading to a huge bill for the exchequer.



After alliance trouble, bonhomie in the aisles

The Samajwadi Party-Bahujan Samaj Party combine may have come a cropper in the election and the parties may have decided to fight the Assembly bypolls separately. But within the Lok Sabha, BSP chief whip Kunwar Danish Ali provided a supporting shoulder to SP patriarch Mulayam Singh. The 79-year-old leader was having trouble navigating the aisles when Mr. Ali, Amroha MP, provided him support to make his way to his seat in the front row of the Opposition benches.



India’s linguistic diversity on show

Sanskrit turned out to be a popular language, with Ministers Dr. Harshvardhan, Shripad Naik, Pratap Sarangi, Ashwini Choubey and controversial MP Pragya Thakur taking oath in that language. Union Minister Jitendra Singh took oath in Dogri, while D.V. Sadananda Gowda and Pralhad Joshi took oath in Kannada.



Sunny takes oath, Nusrat and Mimi skip

While film actor Sunny Deol, television stars Navneet Rana and Anmol Kohle took oath on Monday, missing in action were Trinamool Congress MPs and popular Bengal film stars Nusrat Jehan and Mimi Chakraborty. Both will take oath on June 25, as Ms. Jehan is getting married on Tuesday.

IN BRIEF



Bhagwat slams Mamata over violence in Bengal
RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat targeted West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over the political violence, attributing the happenings in the State to her "desperation" for power.

Moily for referendum on use of EVMs
NEW DELHI
Asserting that there are "serious doubts" over electronic voting machines (EVMs), senior Congress leader M. Veerappa Moily has sought a referendum on whether it should be used in the electoral process or ballot papers be brought back.

ED questions Praful Patel for the third time
NEW DELHI
Former Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel on Monday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate for the third round of questioning over alleged irregularities in the purchase of 43 Airbus aircraft and sharing of Air India's profitable routes with foreign airlines.

SC to hear plea on doctors' safety

Petition seeks uniformed security personnel in all government hospitals

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear a plea seeking to depute government-appointed uniformed security personnel in all government hospitals across the country for ensuring the safety and security of doctors.



The OPD wing of a Mumbai hospital. • ARUNANGSU ROY CHOWDHURY

Mr. Srivastava stated that the strike was called by West Bengal doctors in protest against the assault on a junior doctor at NRS Hospital in Kolkata by relatives of a

of doctors," the plea said. He said that as per a study conducted by the IMA, more than 75% of doctors across the country had faced some form of violence. "This study concluded that 50% violent incidents took place in the intensive care units of hospitals and in 70% of the cases, the relatives of the patients were involved," he said.

AIIMS doctors on strike after attack

A resident doctor was abused and manhandled by a patient's attendants

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI
A resident doctor was allegedly abused and manhandled by a patient's attendants at the AIIMS Trauma Centre in the early hours of Monday, following which his colleagues at the institute went on a strike.



Seeking safety: Doctors protesting in New Delhi on Monday. • SANDEEP SAXENA

Narrating the incident, Rajeev Ranjan, general secretary of the AIIMS Resident Doctors' Association (RDA), said that around 1.30 a.m., Roshan Lal, a doctor on duty, was abused and manhandled by the attendants of a patient who had a come with a leg injury.

with by a few people. Three of them were first put under preventive arrest and were then formally arrested," the police officer said, adding that though the attendants had come with an accident victim, the accident had not been reported.

Conrad Sangma wants Shillong to be Presidential retreat

"The facility will send out a message of inclusiveness"

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI
The President has two places of stay other than the Rashtrapati Bhavan - the 1895 Retreat Building at Mashorba, Shilma, and the Rashtrapati Nilayam at Bolaram, Hyderabad.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a recent meeting with Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma in New Delhi. • PTI

two weeks annually," he said. The President's stay, he said, would send out a strong message of inclusiveness and assure the region of the importance the Union government accords to it.

through Meghalaya, for promoting exports. "The northeastern region accounts for 1% of India's exports because of geographical constraints. The nearest port, in Kolkata, is more than 1,000 km from Guwahati. About 600 km of a highway to Chittagong would benefit the region," he said.

Ex-soldier case: fourth FIR filed against cop in Assam

Ex-SI used my name fraudulently as a witness: complainant

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI
A fourth person has lodged a complaint of forgery against a retired investigating officer of the Assam Police's border wing who had marked Kargil War veteran Mohammed Sanaullah as a forger.

"One Md. Abdul Malik filed an FIR a couple of days ago against retired sub-inspector Chandramal Das under Sections 466 and 471 of the Indian Penal Code. He has alleged that the ex-SI had used his name fraudulently as a witness," said Jagendra Barman, officer-in-charge of the Boko police station, about 60 km west of Guwahati.

lently or dishonestly using a forged document or electronic record as genuine. Mr. Das had in 2008 prepared the case against Mr. Sanaullah claiming in his dossier that he was a 'labour' who came to India from Bangladesh "through a secret route".

KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
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No. PCB/CL/I & E/2019 Re-Tender Notice Date: 17.06.2019
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NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
Only through E-Tendering Mode
REF: SRLDC/ET28/C&M/I-512 DATE: 17-06-2019
Tenders are invited through e-tendering by ED, SRLDC for Providing Labourers for Up-keep and Maintenance Services at SRLDC, POSOCO, Bangalore.

V.O. CHIDAMBARANAR PORT TRUST
TUTICORIN - 628 004.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
Only through E-Tendering Mode
VOCPT E-Tendering Website: www.tenderwizard.com/VOCPT
NIT No & Dated: 02/MTCT/2019-2020.1392 Date: 17/06/2019
Name of work: Cleaning the office building roads and wharf surrounding area inside Green Gate in V.O.Chidambaranar Port Trust.

Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Limited (KUIDFC)
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
22, 17th 'F' Cross, Nagarabhiruddhi Bhavan, Old Madras Road, Near BMTC Bus Depot, Indiranagar 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560 038.
Phone: 91-80-25196100, 25196124/25/26
Website: www.kuidfc.com
No. KUIDFC/W2E/01/2018-19 Date: 17.06.2019
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (2nd Call)
KUIDFC invites eligible consultancy firms to indicate their interest for providing "Transaction Advisory Consultancy Services for Preparation of Feasibility Report, Request for Proposal and Draft Concessionaire Agreement for regional Waste to Energy facilities for Mangaluru, Kalaburagi and Belagavi under PPP mode".

India to host UN meet on land degradation in September

5,000 delegates from nearly 197 countries to take part

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

India for the first time will host the 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP-14) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in September.

It will see participation from at least 5,000 delegates from nearly 197 countries and will be held between September 2 and 14 in Delhi, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said.

Ahead of the COP-14, Mr. Javadekar launched a flagship project, part of a larger international initiative called the Bonn Challenge, to enhance India's capacity for forest landscape restoration (FLR).

Building capacity
It will be implemented during a pilot phase of three-and-a-half years in Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland and Karnataka. The project will aim to develop and adapt the best practices and monitoring protocols for the country, and build capacity within the five pilot States.



Lost cover: A view of rampant deforestation in the Karbi Anglong district of Assam. • RITU RAJ KONWAR

tr, Saibal Dasgupta, a senior official in the Forest Division of the Union Environment Ministry, told The Hindu. India faces a severe problem of land degradation, or soil becoming unfit for cultivation. A 2016 report by the Indian Space Research Organisation found that about 29% of India's land (in 2011-13) was degraded, this being a 0.57% increase from 2003-05.

Left India for medical care, will return when fit: Choksi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUMBAI

Diamantaire Mehul Choksi, a key accused in the multi-crore PNB scam case, on Monday told the Bombay High Court that he left India for medical treatment abroad and not to avoid prosecution in the case.

ically fit to travel. The Enforcement Directorate, which has moved a special PMLA court here to get Mr. Choksi declared a fugitive economic offender, has accused the jeweller of fleeing India to avoid arrest. Mr. Choksi filed an affidavit through his advocate Vijay Aggarwal stating that he had left the country in January 2018 for his medical check-up and treatment. Mr. Choksi claimed he left

DELHI JAL BOARD
GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C)DR-II
DELHI GATE STP PHASE-II, OPPOSITE DELHI SECRETARIAT IP
ESTATE, NEW DELHI-110002
E-mail - eecdr2@gmail.com
NIT No. 01 (Re - invited) (2019-2020)EE(C)Dr II
(Tender ID:- 2019_DJB_174220_1)
S. No Name of Work Amount put to tender (in Rs) Earnest Money (in Rs) Tender Fees (in Rs) Date of release of tender in re-procurement solution Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE,
सतीश धवन अंतरिक्ष केंद्र शार, SATISH DHAWAN SPACE CENTRE SHAR
श्रीहरिकोटा - 524 124 श्री पोट्टी श्रीरामलू नेल्लूर जिला, (आंध्र प्रदेश)
Sriharikota - 524 124, Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore Dist., (A.P)
निविदा सूचना संदर्भ सं. शार/वरि.एचपीएस/पीटी/08/2019-20
Tender Notice Ref.No.SHAR/SHR/SP/PT/08/2019-20
भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, वरिष्ठ प्रधान, क्रय एवं भंडार, सतीश धवन, अंतरिक्ष केंद्र शार, श्रीहरिकोटा से ऑनलाइन कोटेशन आमंत्रित है / On behalf of President of India, Sr. Head, Purchase & Stores, Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, SRIHARIKOTA invites online quotations.
क्र. सं. Sl.No. फाइल सं. File No. मद का विवरण Item Description
1 शार एसएमडी/SHAR CMD 2018 0 10058 ई-प्रापण (दो भाग के आधार पर) e-procurement [Two part basis] इंडोर एवं आउटडोर वीसीवी पैनालों की आपूर्ति, संस्थापन, जांच एवं कमीशनिंग। Providing Staff, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Indoor & Outdoor VCB Panels.

ELSEWHERE

Duterte plays down sinking of fishing boat

MANILA

The sinking of a Filipino fishing boat by a Chinese vessel in the disputed South China Sea was "just a collision", Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said on Monday as he moved to soothe anger over the crash. "That is just a collision or worse," he said, as he addressed the Philippine Navy, reiterating that the country was not ready to go to war against China. AFP

Pak. blogger, who was critical of military, killed

ISLAMABAD

Muhammad Bilal Khan, 22 a Pakistani blogger known for criticising the country's powerful military and spy agency ISI, was hacked to death by an unidentified men here, police said on Monday. Mr. Khan was with his uncle Ehtesham, when he received a phone call after which a man took him to the nearby forest on Sunday night, Dawn News quoted police as saying. PTI

Xi Jinping to visit North Korea ahead of G20 summit in Japan

It will be the first such trip by a Chinese President since 2005

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING

Xi Jinping will make the first trip to North Korea by a Chinese President in 14 years this week, state media said on Monday, as Beijing tightens relations with Pyongyang amid tensions with the United States.

Mr. Xi will visit Pyongyang on Thursday and Friday at the invitation of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, said Chinese broadcaster CCTV.

The timing is likely to raise eyebrows at the White House as it comes one week before the G20 summit in Ja-

China reaffirms backing for Carrie Lam

Protests seeking Hong Kong leader's ouster have continued despite suspension of a controversial Bill

REUTERS
HONG KONG

Beijing won't let Hong Kong's leader, Carrie Lam, step down even if she wanted to, a senior city government official close to her said on Monday, adding that a divisive extradition law she delayed on the weekend was effectively withdrawn.

Opposition to the proposed law allowing extradition to mainland China has sparked the city's biggest and most violent street protests in decades over the past week.

Withdrawal of Bill

Beijing-backed Chief Executive Ms. Lam indefinitely delayed the legislation on Saturday. But her gesture failed to mollify the protesters who have become increasingly outraged over the prospect of legislation that lawyers and judges say risks exposing people to the mercy of a mainland justice system.

The Bill, which will cover Hong Kong residents and foreign and Chinese nationals living or travelling through the city, has also sparked concern that it would threaten the rule of law that un-



No let-up: Protesters calling for Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam's ouster near the city's Legislative Council on Monday. ■ AP

derpins Hong Kong's international financial status.

A crowd of what organisers said was more than two million protesters, many dressed in black, swarmed over swathes of Hong Kong island on Sunday, chanting for Ms. Lam to quit.

But despite the anger, she was unlikely to go, said the government official, who declined to be identified given

the sensitivity of the matter. "It's not going to happen," said the official, who has been involved in meetings on the political crisis. "She's appointed by the central government, so for her to step down requires a very high level of considered discussion and deliberation at the mainland level," the official said.

Ms. Lam was voted in by an electoral college of Beij-

ing-approved delegates, after Beijing rejected demands for universal suffrage in the city. Her resignation now, even if Beijing thought it was time, and the search for a new leader, would likely rekindle the debate about democracy.

"It would create more sorts of problems than it solves, at all sorts of levels," the source said of the prospect of Ms. Lam quitting.

30 killed in northeast Nigeria suicide attack

3 bombers took part in the incident

REUTERS
MAIDUGURI

At least 30 people have been killed in a triple suicide attack in northeast Nigerian State of Borno, state emergency officials said on Monday, in the biggest mass killing this year by suicide bombers. No group has yet claimed responsibility.

The Boko Haram group and its Islamic State (IS) splinter group have often carried out attacks targeting civilians and the military in Borno State.

"Yesterday around 8 p.m. (1900 GMT) it was reported that there was a very loud

explosion in (the village of) Konduga. On reaching the scene of the incident, we found there was a lot of casualties. In fact, the death toll was over 30 and the injured over 42," said an emergency service official.

Earlier, the village head, Bulama Kalli, said three suicide bombers had taken part in the attack, targeting a place where villagers had gathered to watch a soccer match on a large screen.

Boko Haram regards soccer as 'un-Islamic'. Konduga is located some 25 km from Maiduguri, the State capital of Borno State.

Germany, U.K. warn Iran against reneging on deal

EU dismisses threats by Tehran

REUTERS
DUBAI/LONDON

Germany and Britain on Monday warned Tehran not to breach uranium stockpile limits set by the 2015 nuclear deal, as the EU's diplomatic chief dismissed Iranian threats as "political dialectics".

Iran set a 10-day countdown on Monday to exceed the 300-kg limit set on its enriched uranium stocks, dealing another blow to the crumbling nuclear accord signed by Tehran and six international powers.

Saving the agreement

The EU has battled to save the agreement since U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew and reimposed sanctions, but Iran said it would step back from exceeding the 300-kg limit on June 27 only if "other parties live up to their commitments".

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas rejected the Iranian ultimatum and insisted Tehran must stick to its commitments under the deal. "We have already said in the past that we will not



German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas. ■ AFP

accept less for less. It is up to Iran to stick to its obligations," Mr. Maas said after talks with EU Foreign Ministers in Luxembourg.

A spokesman for the British government echoed the call, saying the E3 – the European signatories to the deal – has "consistently made clear that there can be no reduction in compliance".

The EU's diplomatic chief Federica Mogherini said the bloc would not act on the basis of Iranian rhetoric but wait for reports by the UN's nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Egypt's ex-President Morsi dies after fainting during court hearing

He was in prison since his ouster in 2013 over many cases

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
CAIRO

Former Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi died on Monday in a Cairo hospital after fainting during a session in court, judicial and security sources said. "He was speaking before the judge for 20 minutes then became very animated and fainted. He was quickly rushed to the hospital where he later died," a judicial source said.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, a strong ally of Mr. Morsi, paid tribute to him and called him a "martyr". The official Al-Ahram news website also re-



Egypt's former President Mohamed Morsi. ■ AP

ported the death of Mr. Morsi, 67, who was Egypt's first democratically elected president but spent just one turbulent year in office after the 2011 uprising before the Army toppled him in 2013.

The Islamist leader has

been in prison since his ouster on trial for several cases including for spying for Iran, Qatar and militant groups such as Hamas in the Gaza Strip. He was also accused of plotting terror acts.

Since Mr. Morsi's overthrow on July 3, 2013, his successor Abdel Fattah el-Sisi has waged an ongoing crackdown targeting his supporters from the Muslim Brotherhood.

Mr. Morsi's turbulent rule was marked by deep divisions in Egyptian society, a crippling economic crisis and often-deadly opposition protests.

Saudi Arabia not to execute Shia teenager after outcry

Qureiris was facing death sentence for multiple offences; some of them dated back to when he was 10

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DUBAI

A Saudi Shia teenager who was arrested at the age of 13 and faced the death penalty will not be executed, activists said on Monday, after his case drew international criticism.

Saudi prosecutors had sought the death sentence for Murtaja Qureiris, now 18, for a series of offences, in-

cluding participating in anti-government protests, rights groups reported this month.

Some of those offences dated back to when Mr. Qureiris, who is from the kingdom's minority Shia community, was 10 years old, they said. The teenager will not be executed and could be released by 2022, according to campaigners including the European Saudi Organi-

zation for Human Rights, which has tracked his case for years. The teenager has been sentenced to 12 years in prison, which includes time already served since his arrest and four years suspended, CNN reported citing a Saudi official.

3 more years in jail

That effectively leaves him with three more years in jail.

"The news that Murtaja Qureiris will not face execution is a huge relief for him and his family, but it is utterly outrageous that the Saudi Arabian authorities were seeking the death penalty for someone arrested under the age of 13 in the first place," said Amnesty International's research director Lynn Maalouf.

"Use of the death penalty

against people under 18 at the time of the crime is a flagrant violation of international law."

In April, 37 people, mostly Shias, were executed in what experts called one of the largest mass executions of the minority sect in the kingdom's history.

Some of them were minors at the time of their alleged crimes, activists said.

U.S. Mayor apologises over black family's arrest

Videos show police issuing threats

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

The Mayor of Phoenix apologised on Sunday after videos emerged showing police in the southwestern U.S. city violently arresting a black family with young children.

The videos, shot by bystanders when the arrest happened last month, show police using foul language while shouting at the family to get out of their car, and threatening to shoot them.

A woman later emerges from the vehicle with two young children. She hands them over to a bystander before being arrested. Separately, an officer is shown kicking the legs of another man who he is handcuffing against a police car.

'Inappropriate action'

"I, like many others, am sick over what I have seen in the video depicting Phoenix police interacting with a family and young children," Mayor Kate Gallego tweeted. Calling the officers' actions "inappropriate" and "clearly unprofessional," she wrote, "There is no sit-



Kate Gallego, Mayor of Phoenix.

uation in which this behavior is ever close to acceptable. "As a mother myself, seeing these children placed in such a terrifying situation is beyond upsetting," she said. "I am deeply sorry for what this family went through, and I apologize to our community."

Phoenix police chief Jeri Williams said the officers had responded to a report of shoplifting when they encountered the family.

"Every time I look at that video it's extremely unsettling. It's not in keeping with what I expect from our employees," Ms. Williams told ABC15. The family has filed a \$10 million claim against the city, alleging civil rights violations.

Sri Lanka misusing UN law: activists

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

Media activists on Monday accused Sri Lankan police of using a UN convention on hate speech to crack down on media freedom and the country's Muslim minority.

The Free Media Movement rights group said the police Special Task Force (STF) attempted to arrest a respected journalist for his writing on anti-Muslim riots and Buddhist extremists using the UN-backed law. The STF told a magistrate on Friday they were pursuing freelance writer Kusal Perera under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) Act.

Award winning author and poet Shaktika Sathkumara has been held since April under the ICCPR act for his work hinting at homosexuality among the Buddhist clergy.

The Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna party said police have arbitrarily detained several Muslim men and women since the Easter Sunday attacks that killed 258 people.

TNPL TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED		
Kagithapuram – 639 136, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu Phone : 04324-277001 (10 lines) E-mail : stores.dis@tnpl.co.in / purchase.wood@tnpl.co.in		
NOTICE INVITING TENDER		
Tender No.	Material Description	Due Date
2019008	Anaerobic Sludge from ETP	03.07.2019
2019009	Waste and Scrap of Polythene Sheets	03.07.2019
192013 001447	Handling of finished Paper reels / bundles / copier stacking / De-stacking and loading into lorries / wagons / containers at TNPL Unit-1, Kagithapuram for the period 2019-20	29.06.2019
192013 001663	Providing Manpower Asst. for maintenance of Lawns & Greenery at TNPL Unit-1, Kagithapuram for the year 2019-20	05.07.2019
192013 001664	Cleaning & handling of accumulated ash, pith & bed materials at various points. Cooling Tower drain channels other miscellaneous job and maintaining fuel flow to Boiler no.4, 5, 6 & 7 at TNPL Unit-1, Kagithapuram for the year 2019-20	03.07.2019
Terms & condition, Qty., Tender Fee, EMD are available in Tender document at our websites: www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in		
DIPR/2009/Tender/2019 TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper		

KARNATAKA STATE DRUGS LOGISTICS AND WAREHOUSING SOCIETY (R)		
No.1, Dr. Siddaiah Puranik Road, K.H.B. Colony, Magadi Road, Bangalore-79. Ph : 91-80-23283218, Fax: 91-80-23281477. E-mail: ad.kdlws@gmail.com		
No: KDL/EQPT/Re-TND/16/2019-20	Date: 17/06/2019	
SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION		
Ref: 1. Tender Notification No.KDL/EQPT/Re-TND/16/2019-20, (IND-607)dated: 17/06/2019. 2. Tender Notification No. KDL/EQPT/Re-TND/17/2019-20, (IND-608)dated: 17/06/2019. 3. Tender Notification No. KDL/EQPT/TND/79/2018-19, (IND-603)dated: 17/06/2019. Nation wide Tender is invited through e-Tendering system under KPPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tenders:		
1. Short term Re-Tender for Supply & Installation of Sound Proof Audiometric Cubicle, KDL/EQPT/Re-TND/16/2019-20, (IND-607) under NPPCD programme from NHM budget.		
2. Short term Re-Tender for Supply & Installation of ENT OPD Unit with workstation, KDL/EQPT/Re-TND/17/2019-20, (IND-608) under DHS budget.		
3. Short term Tender for supply & Installation of Phototherapy Unit KDL/EQPT/TND/79/2018-19, (IND-603) under Child health programme from NHM budget. The tenderers who have registered under e-Procurement department may participate through e-tendering system.		
Details regarding specification, EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information is available in the Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 17/06/2019. The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders under e-procurement platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office.		
Sd/- Additional Director (Karnataka State Drug Logistics and Warehousing Society)		
DIPR/DDU/2019-20		

TNPL TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED	
UNIT 2	
GLOBAL NOTICE INVITING BIDS	
FOR SUPPLY OF CHIPPER AND CHIPS STORAGE SYSTEM FOR HARDWOOD PULP MILL INCLUDING ERECTION SUPERVISION & COMMISSIONING (RE ISSUED)	
Tamil Nadu Newprint and Papers Limited (TNPL), which owns and successfully operates a 200,000 tpa Multilayer Coated Board Mill at Mondipatti, Trichy District (Unit 2) in the State of Tamil Nadu, India, is embarking upon a Mill Expansion Plan.	
TNPL invites sealed Bids for supply of Chipper and Chips Storage System for Hardwood Pulp Mill including supervision of its erection and commissioning, as per the scope specified in the Bid Document. The Bidder shall be a reputed manufacturer having designed, manufactured and supplied at least two (2) complete chipper and chips storage system in the past ten (10) years, with capacity not less than 1000 BD bpd chipping lines each that might include wood log feeding, washing, chipping, screening, re-chipping, storage & retrieval system and should be in successful operation at least for the last six (6) months. The reference chipping lines shall have chippers of capacity not less than 100 tph (as such) each, to enable qualification.	
A complete set of Bid Document may be purchased by any Interested vendor on the submission of a written application to TNPL and upon payment of a non-refundable fee (including GST) of US Dollars 140 or Euro 125 or Indian Rupees 10,000 by way of Banker's Cheque/Demand Draft in favour of Tamil Nadu Newprint and Papers Limited, payable at Trichy, from the following address:	
Project Management Division Tamil Nadu Newprint and Papers Limited Kagithapuram 639 136, Karur District, Tamil Nadu, INDIA Phone : 04324-277001 (10 lines) Extn: 4402/4568 Telefax : 04324-277027 E-mail : pmd2@tnpl.co.in, Web : www.tnpl.com	
Alternatively, the bidders can request for the Bid Document through e-mail from the links available in TNPL's website.	
A single stage, two-envelope (Technical Bid and Price Bid envelopes) bidding procedure will be followed. All Bids must be delivered to the above office of TNPL not later than 15.00 hours on 17 th July, 2019. Technical Bids will be opened at 16.00 hours on the same day in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.	
TNPL reserves the right to qualify the bids received and/or reject any or all the bids, without assigning any reasons therefor.	
DIPR/2011/Tender/2019 TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper	

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD	
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)	
# 49, East Wing , 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080 - 40931272 website : www.kiadb.in e-Mail: cdco@kiadb.in	
No. IADB/ENGG/PMC/EP-TND-EP-02/3490/2019-20	Date: 17.06.2019
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR PROVIDING PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY	
(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)	
KIADB is inviting tender for providing consultancy services for Project Management Consultancy Services from Consulting Firms under two cover system for the following work: Name of Work: (1) Consulting Services for Proof Checking of Design, Project Management Consultancy for the work of Establishment and Commissioning of 1.2MLD capacity CETP in two modules of 0.60 MLD capacity to be implemented in phased manner for treating the waste water generated from chemical units at Kolhar Industrial Area, Bidar District to ZLD on turnkey basis including operation & maintenance of plant for a period of 60 months. Estimated amount: Rs.4434.00 Lakhs. Approx. EMD: Rs. 2.00 Lakhs.	
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in .	
Scheduled of dates are as follows:	
• Last date to receive pre bid Queries : 24.06.2019 Up to 17:00Hrs	
• Pre bid meeting will be held on : 26.06.2019 at 12:00 noon	
• Last date for submission of bids is : 15.07.2019 upto 16:00Hrs	
• Time and date of opening Technical bids is on : 17.07.2019 at 11:30Hrs.	
Sd/- Chief Development Officer & Chief Engineer-1	
DIPR/DDU/RO-458/2019-20	

MARKET WATCH

	17-06-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	38,961	-1.25
US Dollar	69.91	-0.15
Gold	33,620	-0.29
Brent oil	61.61	-0.75

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	422.85	-3.55
Asian Paints	1401.95	-10.80
Axis Bank	777.70	-23.50
Bajaj Auto	2836.20	-36.35
Bajaj Finserv	8121.30	-113.85
Bajaj Finance	3466.50	-51.90
Bharti Airtel	344.00	-9.30
BPLCL	378.15	-8.35
Britannia Ind	2899.20	-64.90
Cipla	545.15	-10.45
Coal India	255.30	0.15
Dr Reddys Lab	2554.15	-11.00
Eicher Motors	19727.85	-39.20
GAIL (India)	305.95	-2.55
Grasim Ind	879.35	-19.65
HCL Tech	1074.90	-12.10
HDFC	2173.00	-12.85
HDFC Bank	2422.00	-13.10
Hero MotoCorp	2648.25	-22.05
Hindalco	193.60	-4.65
Hind Unilever	1818.05	-4.90
Indiabulls HFL	654.70	-17.55
ICICI Bank	414.20	-3.55
Indusind Bank	1399.65	-27.15
Bharti Infratel	272.15	-2.90
Infosys	740.55	0.10
Indian OilCorp	155.30	-4.50
ITC	275.00	-3.05
JSW Steel	260.20	-11.05
Kotak Bank	1460.35	-13.50
L&T	1498.75	-27.55
M&M	625.05	-12.20
Maruti Suzuki	6581.65	-165.75
NTPC	132.25	-0.50
ONGC	164.40	-4.90
PowerGrid Corp	194.05	-0.55
Reliance Ind	1282.30	-35.25
State Bank	337.85	-5.95
Sun Pharma	382.90	-9.65
Tata Motors	158.75	-5.45
Tata Steel	473.10	-28.70
TCS	2249.20	-5.30
Tech Mahindra	736.55	-3.70
Titan	1256.05	-25.85
Ultra Tech Cement	4455.30	-46.45
UPL	994.95	-11.05
Vedanta	164.05	-5.50
Wipro	299.15	0.35
YES Bank	116.15	1.10
Zee Entertainment	338.10	1.60

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 17

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	69.70	70.02
Euro	78.31	78.68
British Pound	87.79	88.20
Japanese Yen (100)	64.16	64.46
Chinese Yuan	10.06	10.11
Swiss Franc	69.84	70.16
Singapore Dollar	50.86	51.10
Canadian Dollar	51.96	52.22
Malaysian Ringgit	16.68	16.77

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

June 17 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

22ct Silver (1g)	39.9	(40.4)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3132	(3161)

Claims against RCom swell to ₹57,382 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Claims against Reliance Communications (RCom) have risen to ₹57,382.5 crore with new entities, including some Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group companies, joining the creditors' list, according to a regulatory filing.

Interim Resolution Professional (IRP) Pardeep Kumar Sethi, however, admitted dues of ₹30 crore out of fresh claims of ₹8,189 crore, taking admitted claims so far to ₹49,223.88 crore, RCom said in the filing.

Reliance ADA Group firms account for ₹7,000.63 crore of fresh claims against the group firm RCom. The filing said the fresh claims except for admitted dues have been put for verification.

HDFC MF provides liquidity for FMPs

To benefit those facing Essel exposure

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Investors in fixed maturity plans (FMPs) of HDFC Mutual Fund that have exposure towards Essel Group paper will be able to exit the scheme as the fund house has decided to take the exposure on its books.

In a statement issued to the stock exchanges on Monday, the asset management company said that it had decided to provide a liquidity arrangement to certain FMP schemes to deal with the illiquidity faced by such schemes due to their exposure to the non-convertible debentures issued by Essel Group companies.

"The liquidity arrangement may involve an aggregate outlay not exceeding ₹500 crore and will be put in place shortly," said the

Sensex sheds 1,000 points in 4 sessions

Investors turn bearish on trade war fears after India imposed retaliatory duties on 29 U.S. items

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The Indian equity markets fell for the fourth consecutive session on Monday as investors remained jittery amid a mix of negative global and domestic news flow.

The 30-share Sensex lost 491.28 points or 1.25% to close at 38,960.79. The index has lost nearly 1,000 points in the last four sessions.

Among the Sensex pack, as many as 27 stocks ended in the red on Monday with Tata Steel, Vedanta, Axis Bank, Bharti Airtel, Reliance Industries, ONGC and Maruti Suzuki India, all falling more than 2% each.

The broader Nifty ended the day at 11,672.15, down 151.15 points or 1.28%. Incidentally, the India VIX index, which was on a down-



In a bear hug: Delayed monsoon and weak trend in global markets also weighed on Indian markets

ward slide till recently, gained nearly 5.5% on Monday.

Investors took a bearish stance on account of fears of a trade war after India imposed retaliatory duties on

about 29 items that would impact U.S. exporters. It was in response to the U.S. government's decision to remove certain trade privileges for Indian exporters.

To add to it, concerns of a

Liquidity crunch and high valuations have affected investor sentiment

UMESH MEHTA, head of research, Samco Securities

delayed monsoon, weak trend in the global markets, slowdown in inflows from foreign investors and geopolitical tensions in West Asia also weighed on investor sentiment.

Umesh Mehta, head of research, Samco Securities, said that the Indian markets were being weighed down by a combination of factors including liquidity crunch, escalating trade war concerns and high valuations.

"Indian markets have shown a divergent behaviour over the past couple of

months with large caps on the uphill and small and mid-caps on a downhill. Today, however, most of the large caps faced the heat and stocks from a wide gamut of sectors and not only the financial space were down," said Mr. Mehta.

On the BSE, more than 1,900 stocks lost ground on Monday, as against only 653 gainers with all sectoral indices ending in the red. Further, more than 200 stocks touched their respective lower circuits during the trading session.

Meanwhile, data showed that foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have been net buyers at only ₹1,333 crore in the current month, as against ₹7,920 crore worth of net purchases in the previous month.

IndiGo seals \$20-bn deal for CFM engines

Parts ways with Pratt & Whitney

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Budget carrier IndiGo on Monday announced a \$20 billion deal with engine maker CFM International, parting ways with Pratt & Whitney (PW) after a spate of snags over the past three years. This is the largest ever single order for engines in history.

The LEAP 1-A engines of CFM International will power IndiGo's 280 Airbus A320neo and A321neo aircraft. The contract also includes spare engines and an overhaul support agreement, the airline said in a press statement. Delivery of the first LEAP 1-A-powered A320neo is scheduled in

2020. The value of the deal in Indian currency, according to the latest exchange rate is ₹1,39,700 crore.

The airline currently operates a fleet of 17 A320ceo aircraft powered by CFM 56-5B engines as part of a total fleet of 215 A320/A321 family aircraft.

IndiGo inducted its first PW powered A320neo in March 2016 and until the beginning of 2019 saw a large number of groundings because of problems with the engine. Earlier this year, DGCA issued several show-cause notices to IndiGo over safety concerns and ordered a special audit due to the persistent engine related problems.

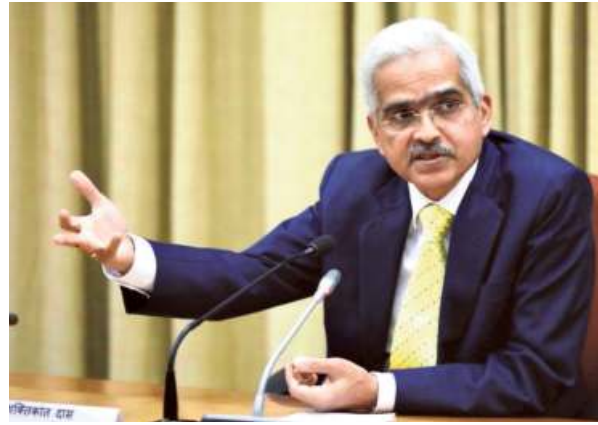
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

With the liquidity crisis of non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) threatening to spillover to other sectors, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das has highlighted the importance of the central bank's role to maintain financial stability.

Speaking at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, Mr. Das said while there is no explicit mandate of the monetary policy to maintain financial stability, that is the underlying theme.

He further said price stability, which is the explicit mandate of the RBI's monetary policy, may not be sufficient for financial stability.

"Post the global financial crisis, it has been recognised



Pulling out all stops: Mr. Das said the RBI would not hesitate to take required steps to maintain financial stability.

that price stability may not be sufficient for financial stability and therefore financial stability has emerged as another key consideration for monetary policy, though the jury is still out as to

whether it should be added as an explicit objective of monetary policy," he said.

"The fact remains that though the focus of monetary policy is mainly on inflation and growth, the under-

Piramal exits Shriram Transport, sells 9.96%

May have gained up to 40% in 6 years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Piramal Enterprises Ltd. (PEL) has sold its entire stake of 9.96% in Shriram Transport Finance Company (STFC) in the secondary market on Monday.

While the exact price at which Piramal sold the shares is not known, it may have sold them at between ₹1,000-1,015 per share, a 40% gain in six years. STFC shares ended the day at ₹1,018, down 5.88% from its previous close.

PEL bought STFC shares in 2013, and in 2014 it acquired a 20% stake in Shriram Capital – the financial services arm of the Shriram Group – for ₹2,014 crore. Ajay Piramal became the chairman of Shriram Capital.

In the same year, it acquired 10% stake in Shriram City Union, a retail focussed NBFC of the Shriram group.

"In April this year, PEL had announced its intention to exit from its investments in Shriram and optimally re-deploy the capital in a market that is clearly seeing consolidation take place," a statement from PEL said.

"This divestment is in line with PEL's stated intent and one of the steps in a broader strategy to leverage opportunities for strategic growth in its own financial services business," it added.

Piramal and Shriram Group also joined hands to acquire stake in erstwhile IDFC Bank but the deal did not go through due to valuation hurdles.

Delicate balance is needed between inflation and growth

SHAKTİKANTA DAS, RBI Governor

lying theme has always been financial stability."

Referring to the challenges faced by the shadow banks, Mr. Das reiterated that the RBI would not hesitate to take the required steps to maintain financial stability.

Commenting on the 'primary objective of the monetary policy' as per the amendment in the RBI Act in May 2016, Mr. Das said, "In a flexible inflation targeting framework, a delicate balance needs to be maintained between inflation and growth objectives."

He said the endeavour of RBI is to ensure price stability under the flexible inflation targeting regime and simultaneously focus on growth when inflation is under control. In 2019, the RBI reduced the key interest rate, or repo rate, by 75 bps to 5.75% to boost economic growth, which fell to 5.8% in the January-March 2019 quarter, dragging down the full year growth to a five-year low of 6.8%.

He observed that in the recent period, there had been a loss of speed in the second half of 2018-19 as some drivers of growth, notably investment and exports, had slowed down. "On the supply side, activity in agriculture and manufacturing moderated sharply," he added.

Modi likely to meet bank chiefs to discuss roadmap for PSBs

Meeting comes in the backdrop of slowing GDP growth

MANOJIT SAHA MUMBAI

Amid a slowing economy and a crisis in the shadow banking sector, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to meet chief executives of Indian banks on June 21 to chalk out a blueprint for the banking sector for the next five years.

According to the bankers, they have been informed about the meeting, though a formal communication is yet to be received. The meeting assumes significance as the country's GDP growth slowed to 5.8% in the January-March 2019 quarter, dragging down the full-year growth to a 5-year low of 6.8%. Credit flow to productive sectors of the economy has been impacted.

The interaction with Mr.



Narendra Modi

Modi, who assumed the office of the Prime Minister for a second term last month, was indicated during a meeting with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman last week. The Finance Ministry has been holding discussions with bank chiefs on improving lending to micro, small and medium enterprises, agriculture and other

productive sectors of the economy, and also on ease of doing business.

The Ministry has also held discussions with banks on the ongoing crisis in non-banking financial sectors as NBFCs are facing liquidity crunch following the debt default by IL&FS. Bankers said the meeting could discuss the road map for public sector banks (PSBs) for the next five years in terms of growth and consolidation.

In its first term ended May 2019, the NDA government oversaw the merger of Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank with Bank of Baroda, as also the associate banks of State Bank of India with the latter.

There could be more consolidation among PSBs going ahead with the objective of creating size, bankers said.

Reliance Capital sells 10.75% stake in RNAM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Reliance Capital on Monday said it had sold 10.75% in Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management Ltd (RNAM) for over ₹1,450 crore. In two successive offers, Reliance Capital has sold 10.75% of its shareholding in RNAM and has achieved the minimum public shareholding of 25% in RNAM by reducing the promoter stake, the company said in a statement.

The entire RNAM stake monetisation proceeds of ₹6,000 crore, to be received from the offer for sale and the already announced transaction with Nippon Life Insurance Company, will be utilised to reduce Reliance Capital's outstanding debt.

No relief for blackmoney cases under new I-T rules

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Indulgence in serious criminal cases of money laundering, terror financing, corruption, possession of benami properties and undisclosed foreign assets will virtually shut a person's chances of getting relief in an income tax evasion offence beginning Monday, a latest directive issued by the CBDT said.

The CBDT has issued revised guidelines for 'compounding of offences under direct tax laws, 2019' which will be executed under the I-T Act, 1961. The new directives make it clear that compounding of offences is "not a matter of right" and the department can extend such a relief only in certain cases.

Amazon India best place to work in the country, Microsoft next, says study

Randstad rates e-commerce player as country's most attractive employer brand

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

E-com player Amazon India has been rated as the country's most 'attractive employer brand,' as per a Randstad Employer Brand Research.

Microsoft India emerged as the runner-up, followed by Sony India. Mercedes-Benz, IBM, Larsen & Toubro, Nestle, Infosys, Samsung and Dell are others among the country's top 10 most attractive employers.

75% of global economy

The Randstad research this year covered 75% of the global economy with 32 participating countries and more than 2 lakh respondents worldwide.

As per the study, salary and employee benefits conti-



Picking for perks: Salary and employee benefits continue to be the top driver in choosing an employer.

nue to be the top driver, while choosing an employer for the Indian workforce, followed by work-life balance and job security.

While gender differences between men and women

on the top three aspects were minimal, women, however, attributed more importance to salary and benefits (49%) and work-life balance (47%) compared to their male counterparts who

ranked these as the top aspects at 46% and 46% respectively. It is interesting to note the importance accorded to work-life balance as a key factor considered while choosing an employer – this has increased even further (46%) compared to the last two years and the emergence of the fact that employees in India are willing to place a premium on job security, said Randstad.

The number of employees in India indicating that they would be agreeable to a security versus compensation trade-off is 23%; higher than the broader APAC average, found the study.

Some 52% of the survey respondents said that they were willing to forfeit more than 10% of their salary for job security, it added.

IN BRIEF



TechM to buy Canada's Objectwise Consulting
NEW DELHI
IT firm Tech Mahindra said it would acquire Canada-based Objectwise Consulting Group Inc. worth 2.75 million Canadian dollars (about ₹14.33 crore). "The investment committee of the board of directors has approved the proposal to acquire 100% equity shares of Objectwise Consulting Group Inc. through a new entity to be formed under its wholly-owned subsidiary viz, Tech Mahindra (Americas) Inc.," Tech Mahindra said.

Bandhan cuts rate on micro loans by 70 bps
KOLKATA
Bandhan Bank had slashed the interest rate on micro loans by 70 basis points (bps) to 17.95%. The revised rate will be applicable to new disbursements from Tuesday, the bank said. "I believe, with the reduction in the micro loan interest rate, more people will find it affordable to borrow money and build sustainable livelihoods for themselves," Bandhan MD and CEO Chandra Shekhar Ghosh said.

Airtel Africa to price IPO at 80-100 pence a share
LONDON
Bharti Airtel announced the price range of its Africa business IPO on the London Stock Exchange at 80-100 pence per ordinary share, through which the company expects to raise \$750 million (approximately ₹5,236 crore). The offer is expected to comprise 595.2 million to 744 million shares, to be issued by Airtel Africa, to raise gross proceeds of approximately £595 million, the company said.

DoT panel approves levy of penalty on Airtel, Vodafone Idea

Asks TRAI to review ₹3,050 cr. fine amount over denial of interconnection to Jio

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**
The Digital Communications Commission, the highest decision-making body of the Department of Telecom, has given its approval for imposing penalty on Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea for denial of interconnection to Reliance Jio when the latter had entered the market.
However, the inter-ministerial panel has asked the Telecom Regulatory authority of India (TRAI) to review the penalty amount of ₹3,050 crore, given the financial stress in the sector, an official source said.
The TRAI had recommended total penalty of ₹3,050 crore on three telcos



Mild rap: TRAI had said the act violated licence agreements and called for revocation of licences. ■ V.V. KRISHNAN
— Airtel, Vodafone and Idea — in October 2016, for violating their licence agreement and denial of interconnection to newer entrant Reliance Jio. TRAI's decision had followed a prolonged

battle between Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel, Vodafone and Idea Cellular. Reliance Jio had alleged that its subscribers were unable to make calls to other networks as those operators were not

providing adequate inter connection points.
The regulator had, in its recommendations, stated that the act of the three operators was against public interest and in violation of their licence agreement, which warrants revocation of the licence.
Not troubling users
However, it recommended penalty, instead, to avoid consumer inconvenience.
While the recommended fine for Airtel and Vodafone amounted to ₹1,050 crore each, for Idea it was ₹950 crore. Since then, Vodafone and Idea have merged to form Vodafone Idea, the largest telecom carrier in India.

OnePlus to roll out Smart TVs, 5G phones next year

Ties up with offline stores to hike sales

**N. ANAND
CHENNAI**
Premium smartphone maker OnePlus said its focus would be on rolling out Smart TVs and 5G smartphones next year. The firm has also tied up with offline stores to increase its sales volume in India.
"Right now, we are a two product firm - OnePlus7 and OnePlus 7 Pro. Next year, our focus will be on rolling out 5G smartphones and [the] Smart TV," said Vikas Agarwal, general manager, OnePlus India.
'Ready with technology'
"Once spectrum for 5G is announced in India, trials will commence. We are ready with the technology and

will roll out the phones next year," he said.
On the launch of Android-based Smart TVs, Mr. Agarwal said that these products would be available in the premium segment and prices would be cheaper compared with existing products of other companies in the market.
He, however, said it was too early to say whether the Smart TVs would be manufactured in India.
Mr. Agarwal was in the city to announce the company's tie-up with Poorvika Mobiles to strengthen its offline presence. Currently, OnePlus has a strong presence in the online market, commanding a market share of more than 60%.

Tackled Uber's entry with guerrilla-like plan, says Ola

We focussed on nooks and corners of India: CEO Aggarwal

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI**
India's biggest ride-hailing firm Ola countered American giant Uber's 'carpet bombing' entry into the country with guerrilla warfare, by going into nooks and corners to gain significant market share, said its founder and CEO Bhavish Aggarwal.
Speaking at the IIT Bay Area Alumni meet in California, a transcript of which was made available by the company, Mr. Aggarwal said Uber was clearly ahead of Ola in terms of fund infusion but it was never able to gain a dominant market share.
Mr. Aggarwal claimed



but were never really able to gain dominant market share in India." He likened the firm's strategy to guerrillas stating they will "fight the nooks and corners" and win in the long-term.
Mr. Aggarwal recounted that when Uber entered India in 2013, Ola was a "tiny company" operating in two cities with a mere half a million dollars in the bank. "We did not have a huge head start against them in India ... [however], we were clear about our strengths... we know India better, we ended up building our business model customised around Indian reality in every aspect," he noted.

SMEV seeks 'green' cess on polluting vehicles

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI**
The Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles (SMEV) on Monday called for imposition of 'green cess' on polluting vehicles besides seeking marking EVs for priority sector lending to accelerate creation of a robust ecosystem.
In its Budget wish list, the SMEV also asked the Centre for a dedicated allocation for a 'clean air' campaign, which could be integrated under the Swachh Bharat Mission. "We strongly advocate the imposition of a notional green cess on polluting vehicles and its use to accelerate electric mobility," director general Sohinder Gill said.



'Blood' in hands: Conflict diamonds are those used to finance wars against governments around the world. ■ GETTY IMAGES

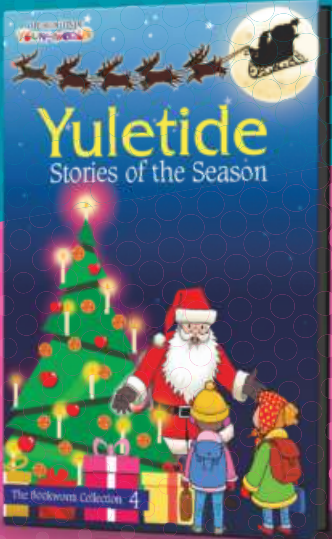
India to actively curb 'conflict' diamonds

Hosts first ever Kimberley meet

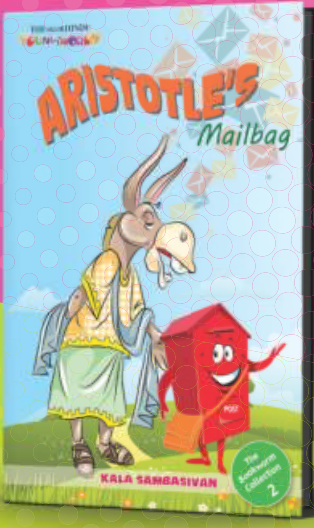
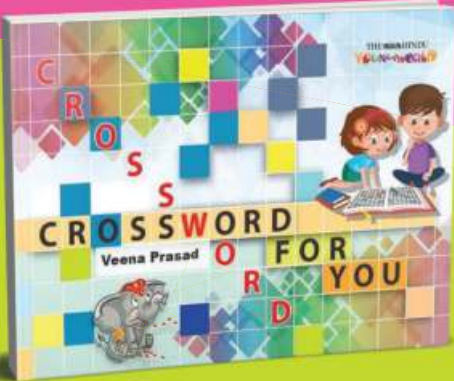
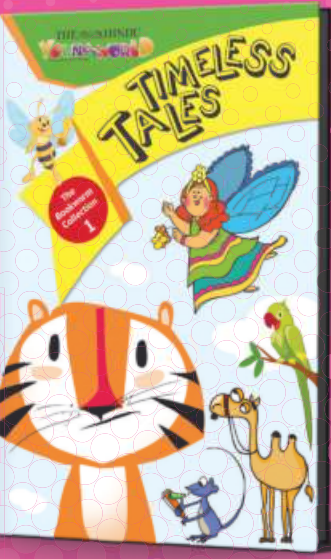
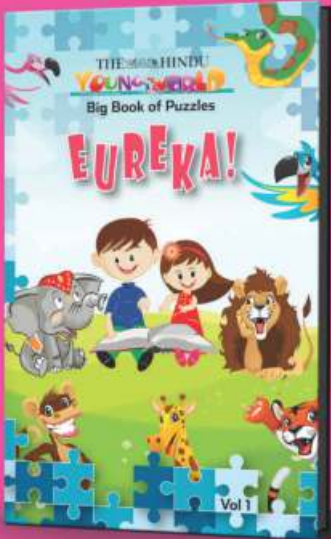
**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI**
India has committed to play an active role to curb the circulation of 'conflict diamonds' or 'blood diamonds' in the international market by further strengthening the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS).
"Even a single conflict diamond is one too many. India will play an active role in the evolution and transformation of the Kimberley Process (KP) and in the transition from conflict diamonds to peace diamonds," Alok Vardhan Chaturvedi, India KP Chair and Director General, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), said at the opening session of the Kimberley Process Intersessional Meeting 2019, here on Monday.
"The 4Cs [cut, clarity, colour and carat] of diamond may soon be expanded to 5Cs with the fifth C being 'conflict-free'. And the 5Ps of diamond marketing [precious, popular, prestige, priceless] will include 'peace' diamonds," Mr. Chaturvedi said. KPCS Intersessional Meeting is an annual mid-year event of KPCS, which unites administrations, civil societies and diamond industry to reduce the flow of conflict diamonds used to finance wars against governments around the world, mostly in African countries. India is the KP chair for 2019.
Fifty-five members representing 82 countries, including the U.S., Russia, European Union, Africa, Canada, China, Israel, Japan, Singapore, Australia, UAE, New Zealand and South Africa, are participating in the four-day conference to deliberate on the issue and find a way forward. India, supported by the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), is hosting this event for the first time.
Mr. Chaturvedi said that 'blood' or 'conflict' diamonds had been almost excluded from global trade and now account for only 2%. Every rough diamond is accompanied by a certificate confirming its non-conflict origin, and export-import procedures in most of the countries are now subject to rigorous control.
Noting that the Kimberley Process (KP) had improved the lives of most people dependent on the industry, he said that India was committed to making this process stronger.



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Djokovic heads men's rankings

PARIS

Novak Djokovic leads the men's ATP tennis rankings on Monday ahead of French Open champion Rafael Nadal and former World No. 1 Roger Federer.

Top ten: 1. Novak Djokovic, 2. Rafael Nadal, 3. Roger Federer, 4. Dominic Thiem, 5. Alexander Zverev, 6. Stefanos Tsitsipas, 7. Kei Nishikori, 8. Kevin Anderson, 9. Karen Khachanov, 10. Fabio Fognini.

AFP



Osaka remains top as Wimbledon approaches

PARIS

Naomi Osaka retained top place in the WTA rankings on Monday in an unchanged top 20 with two weeks to go to Wimbledon.

Top ten: 1. Naomi Osaka, 2. Ashleigh Barty, 3. Karolina Pliskova, 4. Kiki Bertens, 5. Petra Kvitová, 6. Angelique Kerber, 7. Elina Svitolina, 8. Simona Halep, 9. Sloane Stephens, 10. Aryna Sabalenka.

AFP

Perth to host Fed Cup final

SYDNEY

Perth was on Monday named host city for the Fed Cup final between Australia and France later this year — the first to be held down under in four decades. The women's team showdown on November 9 and 10 will be played on hardcourts at the west coast city's RAC Arena, Tennis Australia announced. Recently crowned French Open champion Ashleigh Barty is expected to lead seven-time champion Australia in its first home Fed Cup final since 1978.

AFP

Priyanka's suspension upheld

GENERAL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

Dismissing the appeal of athlete Priyanka Panwar, the National Anti-Doping appeal Panel has upheld the decision of a disciplinary panel to impose a suspension of eight years on her for a second anti-doping rule violation.

Priyanka, a member of the 4x400m women's gold medal winning team in the 2014 Asian Games, had returned a positive result for stimulant *mephentermine* during the National Inter-State athletics championships in Hyderabad in 2016.

The athlete who had been suspended for testing positive along with five other team mates in 2011 for a steroid *methandienone* and was suspended by the Court

Echevarria's high in Moroccan capital

Genzebe Dibaba wins 3000m; sensational win for hurdler McLeod

DIAMOND LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE RABAT

Cuba's highly-rated Juan Miguel Echevarria claimed victory in the long jump at the Diamond League meeting here on Sunday as South African World champion Luvo Manyonga was stretched away with an ankle injury.

The 20-year-old Echevarria, the World indoor champion, claimed victory with a leap of 8.34m, just short of the season best of 8.38m set by Jeff Henderson of the United States.

With time on his side, the Cuban has made it his intention to eventually better Mike Powell's World record of 8.95m set back in 1991.

He has already had the world of track and field sit up and take notice with jumps of 8.92m in March and 8.83m in June last year even if they were wind-assisted.

Season's best

"I am happy for my performance and achieving a season's best," said Echevarria, who finished second on his 2019 Diamond League debut in Stockholm. "I owe my achievement to the crowds and the great atmosphere."

By contrast, Olympic silver medallist Manyonga cut a



Spectacular: Cuban World indoor champion Juan Miguel Echevarria uncorked a 8.34m effort to win the long jump event on Sunday. • DIAMOND LEAGUE/TWITTER

desolate figure, being carried off after injuring his ankle on his fourth attempt having been in front at that stage with an opening effort of 8.21m.

The meeting in Rabat saw two season-leading times set.

Ethiopia's Genzebe Diba-

ba clocked 3min 55.47sec in the 1,500m and compatriot Getnet Wale won the 3,000m steeplechase in 8min 6.01sec.

"I am ready for the World championships (in September at Doha)," said the 28-year-old World record holder and 2015 World

champion.

The men's 110m hurdles saw Jamaica's Omar McLeod, who was well on his way to victory, stumble over the last hurdle and in front of Russian rival Sergei Shubenkov to his right.

Shubenkov crossed the finish line in front and horizontally as a result of the clash. McLeod rolled home in fifth.

Bahrain's Salwa Eid Naser held off Niger's exciting youngster Aminatou Seyni to win the 400m for her third Diamond League triumph this year, in a season's best 50.13.

Sharapova returns with 'expectations'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE PALMA

Maria Sharapova said on Sunday she has "expectations" for herself ahead of her return from a five-month injury absence in Mallorca next week. She has not played since withdrawing from the St. Petersburg event in January to have a shoulder sur-

gery. "When you go out in a tournament, anything can happen," the 32-year-old told *wtatennis.com*.

"You want to go out on the court and you want to show the type of tennis you think you can produce. I certainly have expectations for myself... And I enjoy getting better every day.

Salsa stuns Vanshika; Bhargavi shocks Himaanshika

SPORTS BUREAU CHANDIGARH

Salsa Aher packed off second seed Vanshika Chaudhary 6-2, 6-1 in the women's first round of the ₹200,000 AITA-ranking tennis tournament at the CLTA Complex here on Monday.

Eighth seed Himaanshika Singh was outplayed 6-0, 6-1 by qualifier Bhargavi Kalaga in another match.

Fifth seed Renne Singla

was in fine form as she got past qualifier Prinkle Singh for the loss of just two games. Sarah Dev overcame a slow start to outlast Kaavya Sawhney in three sets.

Hardeep's day out

In the men's section, Hardeep Singh Sandhu defeated the eighth seed Shashank Theertha 2-6, 6-2, 6-2. The rest of the seeds, led by three National champions —

Mohit Mayur, V.M. Ranjeet and Dalwinder Singh — sailed into the second round.

Important results (first round):

Men: Mohit Mayur bt Sanket Tomer 6-4, 6-4; Udayan Bhaker bt Raghav Jaisinghani 6-2, 6-3; Garry Tokas bt Oges Theyjo 6-4, 7-6(7); Suraj Prabodh bt Drona Walia 6-3, 6-1.

L.R. Balaji bt Abhimanyu Vannem Reddy 7-6(3), 7-5; Jagmeet Singh bt Kartik Sharma 6-1 6-3; Shubham Malhotra bt Deepinder Singh Bains 6-0,

of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) a year later, had submitted that in her second case she had taken Mucaine gel for her stomach and back pain before the championships and was not aware of the requirement of taking a therapeutic use exemption certificate from NADA.

Ingesting banned substance

The appeal panel agreed with the deposition of Dr. Shila Jain, the director of National Dope Testing Laboratory, that Priyanka ingested the banned substance and rejected the athlete's claim. It also concurred with the disciplinary panel's view that the doctor's prescription and the statement during the course of the evidence gathering process did not match.

The appeal panel's June 3 decision, which was made

It's Amonatov

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUMBAI

GM Farrukh Amonatov (Elo 2624) of Tajikistan emerged champion in Category A of the 12th Mayor Club chess tournament on Sunday.

Amonatov pipped the overnight leader, GM Manuel Petrosian (Elo 2573) of Armenia, at the post.

Both GMs ended up with the same aggregate (eight points), but Amonatov was declared champion on the basis of a better tie-break score.

In his final round game, GM Amonatov, playing on the second board, defeated GM Vasquez Rodrigo (Elo 2476) from Chile in 49 moves. Petrosian was held to a draw by GM Paichadze Luka (Elo 2557) of Georgia in 59 moves.

Only one Indian, GM R.R. Laxman (Elo 2437), finished in the top 10.

'New ranking system does not give real picture'

Former coach Yefremov says top stars approached the game in best possible way

TABLE TENNIS

STAN RAYAN KOCHI

Ten years ago, he was India's National table tennis coach and now Aleksey Yefremov is amazed with the transformation that has taken place in the country.

G. Sathiyam is now the World No. 24, the first Indian to go that high on the rankings ladder, while others like Manika Batra have had very impressive runs.

"Sathiyam was a one of the more promising players when I was the coach for a year in 2008-2009. I'm surprised by his progress and also Manika's," said Yefremov now in the city for a fortnight-long coaching camp organised by the Regional Sports Centre.

"Players like Sathiyam, Soumyajit Ghosh and Sha-



Remarkable: Aleksey Yefremov, coaching a young ward, is amazed at the Indian paddlers' rise • STAN RAYAN

rath Kamal have natural talent. And I think they approached the game in the best possible way, many of them stay in Europe and play in strong clubs and also have strong training. So, it is normal to expect quality results from them."

Does he think Sathiyam can get into the top 10 some day? "Now, in the new rank-

ing system, everything is possible. In my opinion, the new rankings do not give the real picture, there are many weaknesses.

"I don't look too much into the new ranking system," said the 44-year-old from Belarus.

"It's much better to see how you play against the big players and whom you beat.

Beating a big player is more important to me."

The new ranking system, which came in early last year, is based on the final positions players reach in tournaments regardless of the strength of the opponent.

Tournaments are also graded and, among other things, there is no loss of points when one loses a match.

After leaving India, Yefremov has had national coaching assignments in Egypt, Colombia, Peru and now is the head coach of Iceland and works part-time in Norway.

Fond memories

He has fond memories of his time in India and still keeps in touch with the top stars.

"India is always an interesting country for me. If something comes, I'll be very interested."

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It never occurred to me cast someone cis for the role [of Wye]. I don't think I would have been able to work with them [cis actors]



Port Authority: a deep dive into sexual identity issues

NAMRATA JOSHI

At the Cannes Film Festival this year Danielle Lessovitz's *Port Authority* became the first film in the festival's history to have a trans woman of colour – Leyna Bloom – in a leading role. The last role in which one remembers a trans part not played by a cis-gender actor was Daniela Vega in *A Fantastic Woman*. One of last year's Cannes favourites, Lukas Dhont's *Girl*, had a male actor, Victor Polster, playing the trans girl ballerina, a role that won him the Un Certain Regard Jury Award for best performance. The debut feature of both Lessovitz and Bloom, and executive-produced by Martin Scorsese, *Port Authority*, like *Girl*, also played in the Un Certain Regard section.

Port Authority is a deep dive into the New York sub-culture of the homeless and the underprivileged. It's about the queer folk on the periphery of the society, and also of voguing (a modern dance form) and the Kiki ballroom culture. It was after the film's cast had spread all the rainbow colours at the theatre as well as the Croisette and after the film got a long standing ovation, set to voguing beats, at the screening that the international

Filmmaker Danielle Lessovitz on capturing the tribulations and joys of a New York queer dance community in one of Cannes' favourite films this year

press got to speak with Lessovitz about the politics and identity issues of casting.

Close to character

"It never occurred to me to cast someone cis for the role [of Wye]. I don't think I would have been able to work with them [cis actors]," she said. Casting a transwoman in the role of a transwoman was not so much a question or an issue for her as much as a requirement of the neo-realistic style of cinema that she believes in and adheres to, "I like to cast people who have some sort of a relationship with the characters... who are very close to the characters and then I rewrite for them." It was also about having Bloom give direction to the project, like having a conversation with someone who would have had those experiences. According to Lessovitz, in the USA the conversation is about the fact that there aren't enough opportunities for people with trans experience to play transgender roles. And, since there are so

few trans roles, why would you let someone who isn't one play them?

Last year, Scarlett Johansson had to drop out of playing a trans man in *Rub & Tug*, after her casting sparked a backlash of criticism.

In the case of *Girl*, Nora Monsecour, the Belgian trans female dancer, on whose life the film is based and who collaborated actively on it with Dhont, had defended the film. "It's a grey area. I don't think there is an answer. If it's her story and she feels this person is properly evoking it, that's [also] important to take note of," said Lessovitz. There are only two professional actors in the film. It took a year-and-a-half to cast for the various roles but no workshops were held with the "non-actors".

"We auditioned many and the people that we found were naturally talented. Many of them have ranges. They can play various characters. They are playing versions of themselves [in the film]. So much of their life is about masking their queerness.

They can navigate these roles. They are just talented; not trained but good actors," said the filmmaker.

Community building

Lessovitz is not a part of the community portrayed in the film. How much did she add to the story by virtue of being the outsider looking in? According to the director it was about being honest about her relationship with the community. She had to start engaging with everyone, to feel connected on a human level to many people.

"Getting to know all the kids and working on draft after draft after draft [of the script] allowed me take a deep dive into a perspective switch. [Which was about] being able to decentralise yourself... To break down the rooted structure of one's perspective; see yourself from someone else's perspective." It took Lessovitz three years of engaging every day, every weekend, going to balls, meeting people, researching on queer bodies and cinema. And then, a year to write it

before rolling the film.

Pop icon Madonna and director Jennie Livingston in the successful but controversial 1990 documentary, *Paris Is Burning* have depicted the ballroom culture earlier. How have things changed since then? "In terms of representation, from Madonna and *Paris is Burning* there was this sense of 'you are profiting off our cultural contributions. [While] We are still struggling, really hurting'. In the community, now there is reluctance to let anyone in, to be exploited again for understanding the history of exploitation from a popular perspective," explained Lessovitz.

Heavy with catharsis

Port Authority, despite the happy dancing is also gloomy. "New York is a rough place. We have seen it in so many different iterations over the years. The NY today, especially for these kids [shown in the film], is very very rough and they have managed to find an escape from that, through the com-

Sexual spectrum: Danielle Lessovitz who directed *Port Authority*, at the 72nd edition of the Cannes Film Festival.

■ AFP

munity and the dance. It's joyful but it doesn't mean it's carefree. It's still heavy with catharsis," said Lessovitz, quickly reminding us that the NY and LA climates are also very different.

Eventually it's the unusual love story of Wye and Paul (the boy who comes to NY in search of new beginnings, watches her from a distance and finds an instant connect with her) that reaches out – beyond any class, gender and identity divides.

Tender, sensitive and sensual, intense and painful, it is primarily about sexual identity issues that the lovers have to confront and resolve. Swinging between the intimacy of desire, ecstasy of dance and fighting the many hindrances posed by the world at large, Lessovitz's is an empathetic, non-judgmental vision that underscores the power of love.



PEOPLE

Inner space

Antoine Besseyre des Horts, a product designer specialising in bathrooms, tells us how the home's functional area has evolved

Antoine Besseyre des Horts, vice president of design, at American Standard, a 140-year-old company that specialises in bathroom and kitchen fittings, was in India recently. He manages to make the conversation around taps, tiles, and bidets sound almost elegant, especially since we're having it in French. Here's what he told us about the way bathrooms have evolved.

●The boundaries between bathroom and bedroom are dissolving, he says. Where earlier the bedroom was seen as a haven, today, the bathroom is the innermost space of the home where you can truly be yourself. It's no longer just a functional zone, but one where you can balance body and mind.

●Design with responsibility is a market-driver today. Antoine's the water-saving hand shower saves several litres per minute in comparison to traditional shower, he says.

●It also looks to nature: "The sprays and controls of rain showers match experiences one can have in natural environment. A good shower can be energizing," he says, much like nature itself is.

●There are new materials in production today. "We are experimenting with material beyond ceramics. On the cards are Cerafine (a form of ceramic) ultra thin basins utilising Japanese technology, and lead-free faucets," he says.

●The scarcity of space is a recurrent problem in urban areas, especially in Japan. "The company will soon launch a city collection which is all about compact living to optimise space," he says.

●The colours on an Indian street inspire him. He takes these to bathrooms, going beyond pastel hues.

●Handcrafted is not just for the 'seen' parts of the house. "When you look at ceramic products or fittings, lots of products are handmade. There is beauty in them," he says, telling us how he collects craft that inspire him. "I love the contact with material."

●The bathroom is a major driver in the purchase decision of a home, and comes into focus especially when the apartment is empty, he says.



SYEDA FARIDA

PRODUCT

Colourful cows



Lai Designs, a Delhi-California personal-accessories brand has launched Folklore, a collection of silver jewellery inspired by India's 'crafty' heritage: mandanas, colourful wooden toys, and more. The earrings, rings and cufflinks are a playful take on little things that we had just a generation ago, but are not so common any more. Puja, who founded Lai, is a NIFT, Delhi alumnus, and says her designs fall somewhere between "stereotypical ethnic/tribal jewelry and the ultra modern/minimalist pieces."



Atable at in.lai-designs.com; ₹2500 upward

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#DELHIMOVES

GAGAN DHILLON KULLAR

If you've seen the Red Bull videos of stunts that push the boundary of fear, you'd assume it's a 20-something performing it. But Archana Sardana is a mother of two boys, ages 19 and 17. She ventured into the world of extreme sports only after she married a Naval officer. The kids love that their mother is into cool, fearless "stuff".

Archana is India's first civilian Building Aerial Span Earth (BASE) jumper. A BASE jump involves climbing up a high structure like a bridge, a building, or a cliff. Then, you jump off and deploy a parachute to land. "When I am preparing to jump, I just clear my mind and focus on the jump. If I start thinking about other things, I'd never get take the plunge," she says. The equipment costs about ₹6 lakhs, so she always rents it.

It takes at least 200 skydives to even qualify for BASE-jumping training. Then you need to clear eight levels and some coach jumps to call yourself a BASE jumper. She



Jumping off a high

Meet Archana Sardana, the country's first civilian BASE jumper

has braved skydiving 335 times. It took her seven trips to the US to learn skydiving and BASE jumping. It wasn't easy financially. She raised money through a loan against her wedding jewellery and her home.

All this risk-taking is backed by solid training. Archana, based in Greater Noida, is also a trained mountaineer. Because she gets bored easily, she also trained as a scuba-diving instructor, and runs a

Balancing act Archana, a mother of two loves the fear factor of adventure sport ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



mainland scuba-diving training centre in Noida called Archana Sardana Scuba Diving Academy, where training begins in a swimming pool.

Her advice to those looking for adventure is simple: "Pack your

bags and leave to find what excites you." She suggests thoroughly researching the service provider to ensure they take all safety measures. "Taking risks doesn't imply ignoring safety," she says.

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



TALK

Adventures in Ladakh

Ranjan Pal, a traveller and an adventurer, will present an illustrated lecture, chaired by Vaibhav Kala, the founder of Aquaterra Adventures. The event will feature Pal's travels over water and land in the Zaskar region and a trek from Tso Kar to Tso Moriri.

VENUE: Conference Room 1, Main Building, India International Centre
TIME: 6:30 p.m.



FOOD

Just desserts

Zing GourMET offers a range of desserts starring the season's favourite fruit: mango. On offer are a range of desserts including Mango Gateaux Cake, Mango Eclairs Pastry, Mango & Mint Crumble, Mango Roulade, Mango Mascarpone, Mango Tartlet and much more.

VENUE: The Metropolitan Hotel and Spa, Bangla Sahib Road, Connaught Place
TIME: 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.



ENTERTAINMENT

Live music

Krishna Vinod, a Delhi-based singer and design student from Kerala, will showcase her versatility. She covers a variety of genres including indie folk, jazz and neo soul. Some of her major influences are Amy Winehouse, Etta James, John Mayer and Norah Jones.

VENUE: The Piano Man, 32nd avenue, Sector 15 Part 2, Gurugram
TIME: 9 p.m. - 11:55 p.m.



FOOD

Sushi fest

The Drunken Botanist has curated a special menu for Sushi lovers. Sushi that is light and healthy will be served in multiple variants like Mango Mania Sushi Rolls, Temari Sushi, Canape Sushi, Dessert Sushi and more.

VENUE: The Drunken Botanist, Unit 1B & 1C, Upper Ground Floor-C, Building 10C, Cyber Hub, DLF Cyber City, Gurugram
TIME: 12 noon - 12 midnight



STAND-UP

Hinglish show

Angad Singh Ranyal and Adel will present a stand-up routine in a mix of English, Hindi, and Hinglish. While Angad, the engineering-MBA grad is a part of the East India Comedy collective and is fairly experienced, Adel is the new kid on the Delhi circuit.

VENUE: Chull, Leisure Valley Rd, Sector 29, Gurugram
TIME: 8 p.m.

Vatican to consider married priests for Amazon region

Church may appoint ‘men of proven character’ to deal with shortage of clergy

REUTERS
VATICAN CITY

A Vatican document on Monday said the Church should consider ordaining older married men as priests in remote areas of the Amazon, a historic shift which some say could pave the way for their use in other areas where clergy are scarce.

The recommendation, contained in a working document prepared by the Vati-

can for a synod of bishops from the Amazon scheduled for October, also called for some kind of “official ministry” for women in the area, although it did not elaborate.

It was the most direct mention ever in a Vatican document of the possibility of a married priesthood, albeit limited, and a greater Ministerial role for women in one area of the world.

The document spoke of



Historic shift: A file photo of Pope Francis with members of indigenous communities of the Amazon basin. ■AFP

the possibility of ordaining what are known as *viriprobat* – Latin for men of proven character – to deal with the shortage of priests. Such men would be elderly, out-

standing members of the local Catholic community and with grown-up families.

“While affirming that celibacy is a gift for the Church, there have been requests that, for the most remote areas of the region, (the Church) studies the possibility of conferring priestly ordination on elderly men, preferably indigenous, respected and accepted members of their communities,” the document said.

It said such men could be ordained “even if they already have an established and

stable family, in order to guarantee the sacraments that accompany and sustain Christian life.”

Only priests can say Mass or hear confessions, meaning that Catholics in isolated communities in the Amazon can go for many months without participating in either of the sacraments.

Some Catholic scholars have said the approval of *viriprobat* in the Amazon may eventually pave the way for their use elsewhere in the world as a response to the shortage of priests.

Bitcoin use causing huge CO₂ emissions, says study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BERLIN

The use of cryptocurrency Bitcoin emits 22 megatonnes of carbon dioxide annually, comparable to the emissions of cities such as Las Vegas and Vienna, says a study.

Researchers in Germany carried out the most detailed calculation of the carbon footprint of the Bitcoin system to date. For a Bitcoin transfer to be executed and validated, a mathematical puzzle must be solved by an

arbitrary computer in the global Bitcoin network. The network, which anyone can join, rewards the puzzle solvers in Bitcoin.

The computing capacity used in this process – known as Bitcoin mining – has increased rapidly in recent years.

Statistics show that it quadrupled in 2018 alone.

Consequently, the Bitcoin boom raises the question of whether the cryptocurrency is imposing an additional burden on the climate.

Visually challenged musicians strike a chord in Meghalaya

Election commission hired the band for its pre-poll campaigns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHILLONG

A troupe of visually challenged musicians is hitting the right notes in this hill State, with night club owners and event managers lining up to hire them, more so after the State election department recently engaged them for pre-poll campaigns.

‘Light After Dark’, a musical band of five performers in their 20s, has been receiving rave reviews for its shows, not just in Meghalaya, but elsewhere in the region too. Zoma Sailo, a music teacher and the group’s mentor, said.

“The band had played during the Cherry Blossom festival last year, also at the La-tomatina fest by the scenic Umiam Lake, and IIT’s TedX show at Guwahati. Everywhere the response has been overwhelming,” he said.

Mr. Sailo, who teaches



The Light After Dark band during a practice session. ■YOUTUBE

music at the government-run centre here, also maintained that he had to blindfold himself on occasions to get a feel of how the troupe members perceive the musical notes.

“The boys, who initially played for a school band, would visit my place often to practice rock, reggae and Hindi music. They got together in 2013 to form the band with four members – Wanlamphrang as the vocalist, Rimiki Pajuh as lead guitarist, Dilbertstar Lyngdoh as bassist and Hilter Khongshai as drummer,” he said.

The fifth member, Plamiki Lapasam, joined the band as vocalist and guitarist earlier this year.

“The big break came when the State election department hired the band for its pre-poll campaigns. That became the turning point of their lives and there was no looking back for them,” he said. Mr. Wanlamphrang, who leads the band, said his disability never came in the way of his performances.

“The band can play almost anything, from rock and reggae to traditional Khasi numbers,” he added.



Facebook to unveil cryptocurrency today

LONDON

Facebook is set to unveil a bid to bring cryptocurrency payments into the mainstream on Tuesday, reportedly with the endorsement of governments and financial giants. The world’s biggest social network is expected to outline details of a virtual currency launching next year that it hopes to avoid the rollercoaster volatility of “blockchain” technologies such as bitcoin. ■AFP



French billionaire to buy Sotheby’s in \$3.7 bn deal

PARIS

French telecoms and media mogul Patrick Drahi is acquiring Sotheby’s auction house, one of the world’s biggest art brokers, in a \$3.7 billion deal. Mr. Drahi, the founder of the Altice empire which owns SFR telecoms company, is paying \$57 per share to acquire Sotheby’s.

EU leaders to debate push for zero emissions

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRUSSELS

EU leaders will this week discuss setting a target of zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, European officials said on Monday, following elections that highlighted climate change fears.

European Union leaders meeting on Thursday and Friday in Brussels will debate the 2050 target of “climate neutrality” that the environmental group WWF says now has the support of 16 of the EU’s 28 countries. “We urgently need to step up our action to manage this existential threat,” a draft of the EU’s strategic agenda for the next six years says.

“The EU must lead the way, by engaging in an in-depth transformation of its own economy and society to achieve climate neutrality,” according to the draft.

The draft contained a footnote, saying the wording may be adjusted to reflect the results of the summit debate, which an EU source said would focus on the 2050 target. The source said that a number of EU countries want more debate on financing the shift from an economy running on fossil fuels, especially those in eastern Europe, to one driven by clean energy.

The growing stress on climate action comes after May 23-26 elections to the European Parliament where Green parties made substantial gains.

Sixteen ‘on board’

The World Wildlife Fund said Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Britain are “on board” for the 2050 goal.

The British government last week presented draft legislation to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2050.

The WWF said Austria and Ireland appeared increasingly likely to support the target. Still uncertain or hesitant, it added, are Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, Lithuania and Slovakia, though they are “unlikely to block” it. It said Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Hungary remain “strongly opposed,” but Hungary and Romania could overcome opposition to do a deal.

Under the 2015 Paris climate change treaty, the EU pledged to reduce its carbon emissions by 40% below 1990 levels by 2030.

‘Virtual biopsy’ device can non-invasively detect skin tumours

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW YORK

Scientists have developed a “virtual biopsy” device that can quickly and non-invasively determine whether a skin tumour is cancerous and needs to be removed surgically.

Using sound vibrations and pulses of near-infrared light, the device can determine a skin lesion’s depth and potential malignancy without using a scalpel, according to the researchers from a Rutgers University in the U.S.

The ability to analyse a skin tumour non-invasively could make biopsies much less risky and distressing to patients.

Currently, physicians who perform surgical biopsies often do not know the extent of a lesion – and whether it will be necessary to refer the patient to a specialist for extensive tissue removal or

plastic surgery – until surgery has already begun.

The first-of-its-kind experimental procedure, called vibrational optical coherence tomography (VOCT), creates a 3D map of the lesion’s width and depth under the skin with a tiny laser diode.

The procedure also makes use of soundwaves to test the lesion’s density and stiffness since cancer cells are stiffer than healthy cells.

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