



World's Largest multi-stage Lift Irrigation Scheme Pride of India and boon to Telangana

KALESHWARAM

Multi-purpose Lift Irrigation Project

A Strategic and Dynamic Approach by The Telangana State Government by solving Inter-State Disputes and obtaining all permissions and clearances in a short span of three years.

A HISTORICAL MOMENT OF PRIDE

Kaleshwaram Lift irrigation Scheme is dedicated to the nation today ...



It is, indeed, an auspicious day for people of Telangana when Hon'ble Chief Minister **Sri. K. Chandrashekhara Rao's** dream is realised and when the multi-purpose Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project is Inaugurated today. It is a moment of honour and pride for India, with the construction of Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, the World's Largest Multi-phase Multi-Purpose Lift Irrigation Scheme.

Sri. E.S.L. Narasimhan

Hon'ble Governor of Telangana & A.P.

Sri. Devendra Fadnavis

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra

Sri. Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy

Hon'ble Chief Minister of A.P. participating as Chief Guests

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telangana

Sri. K. Chandrashekhara Rao

will formally inaugurate today the

Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project

Date: 21st June, 2019

Time: 10:30am

Place: Medigadda, Jayashankar Bhupalpally District

Water is supplied for two crops in a year to 45 Lakh acres



40 TMC of water through 'Mission Bhagiratha' to supply safe drinking water daily to every household



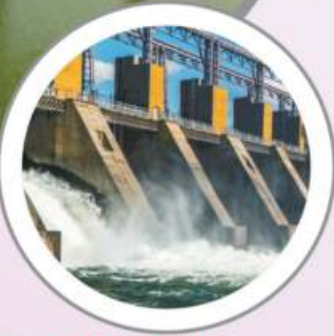
Drinking water to be supplied to one crore population in Greater Hyderabad city daily



Supply of 16 TMC of water to thousands of industries in the State for the industrial usage



Opportunity for Hydel power generation



The new and latest records established in the annals of Irrigation history in the country by Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme

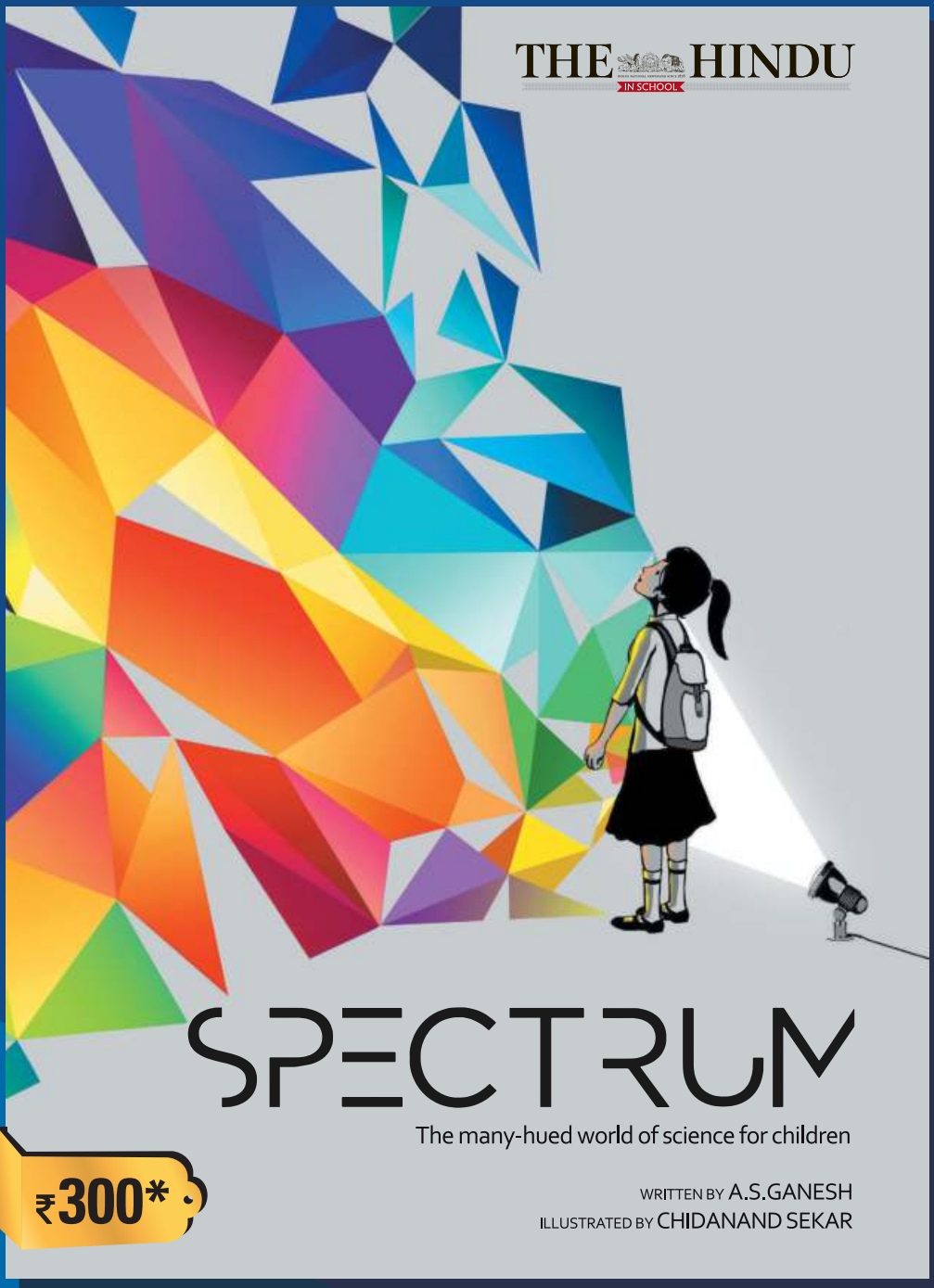
- Utilisation of 139 MW maximum capacity Pumps which were never used anywhere in the world
- World's longest Tunnel route of 203 Meters
- Kaleshwaram is the one and only project in the world, which can lift 2TMC of water every day Efforts are on to lift 3 TMC of water from next year
- This is the only project in the world, which caters to the water needs of 45 lakh acres of agriculture land, hundreds of industries and drinking water to thousands of villages
- This is also for the first time that water from Godavari River is lifted in phases from 92 meters height for supply of water to the farmland, taking it upto 618 meters height

Stage-wise lift irrigation process from 92 meters to 618 meters

Area	Height (Meters)	Height of Lift (Meters)	Water Usage in TMC
Medigadda	92		16.17
Yellampally	148	56	75
Mid-Mannair	318	170	25.873
Sriram Sagar	332.54	14.54	200
Malakpet	432.50	127.5	8.6
Anantagiri	397	95	3
Ranganayaka Sagar	490	117	11
Mallanna Sagar	557	103	108
Kondapochamma Sagar	618	120	29



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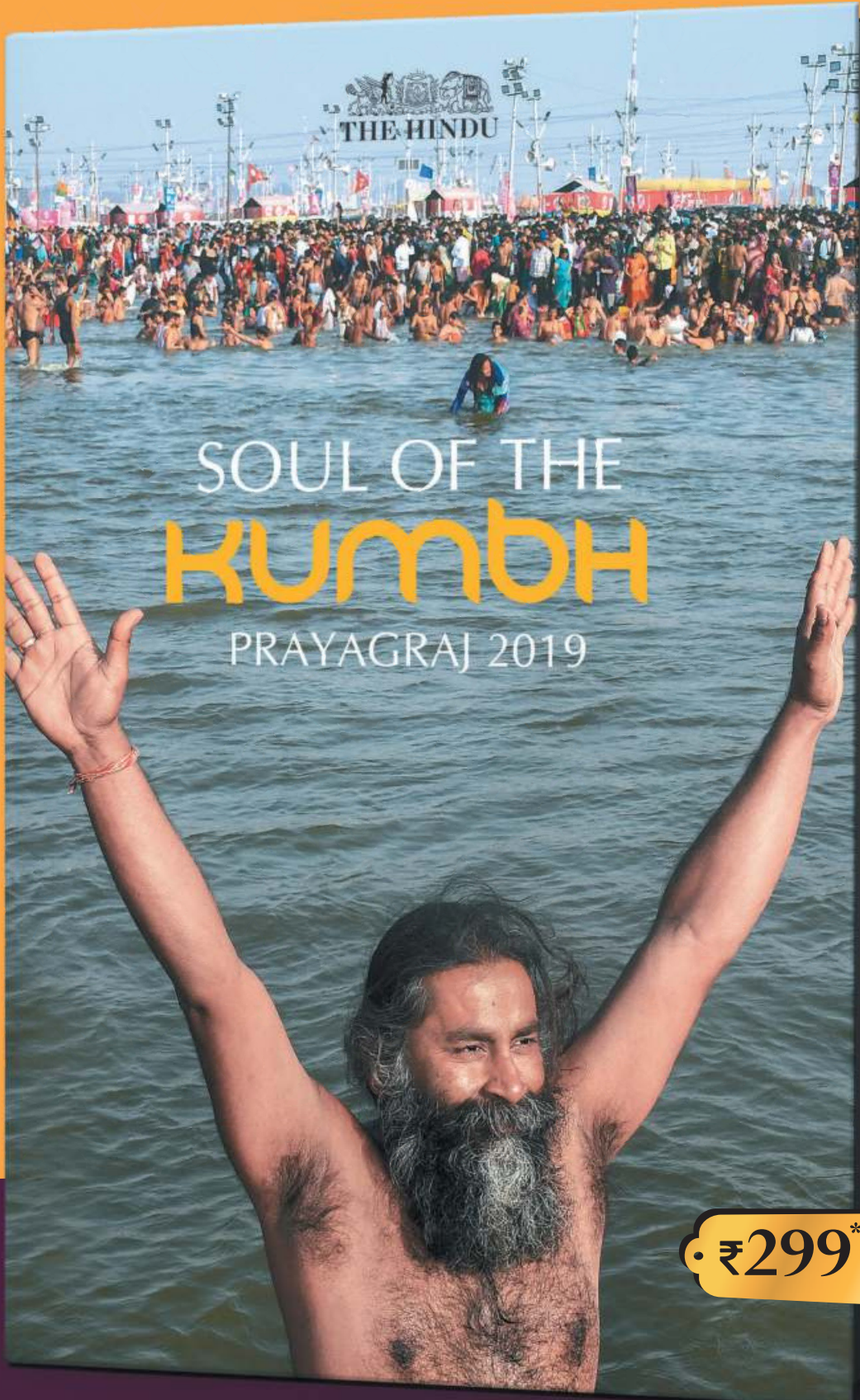
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Police reinstate kin of woman who levelled charges against CJI Gogoi
page 9



Party will choose the next president, says Rahul Gandhi
page 12

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Warner sets up Australia's win against spirited Bangladesh
page 17

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NEARBY

AAP may move petition to disqualify more MLAs

NEW DELHI
Aam Aadmi Party chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj on Thursday said the party may move a petition to disqualify more MLAs who are supporting other political parties.

CITY PAGE 2

All-party meeting soon on NRC

GUWAHATI
Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal will convene an all-party meeting to discuss the fate of people to be left out of the updated National Register of Citizens to be published in July, the CPI(M) said on Wednesday. The CM's Office confirmed the meeting.

NEWS PAGE 13

Leh bribery case: BJP panel gives clean chit

JAMMU
Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina and two other senior leaders were given clean chit by the party's internal fact-finding commission in the alleged case of offering bribes to journalists in Leh to influence the recently held parliamentary polls in Ladakh.

NORTH PAGE 5

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FRIDAY REVIEW 8 PAGES (TABLET)

Kerala offers to send 20 lakh litres of water by rail to T.N.

After initially declining to accept it, State says it will take decision today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/CHENNAI
Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami will on Friday take a decision on Kerala's offer to supply 20 lakh litres of water by train from Thiruvananthapuram to Chennai to tide over the water crisis, Municipal Administration Minister S.P. Velumani said on Thursday evening.

The Minister's response came after the Kerala Chief Minister's Office posted a statement on Facebook stating that Tamil Nadu had declined its help to supply water (on a one-time basis). "Kerala is willing to assist Tamil Nadu in tackling the crisis caused by water scarcity. We could deliver 20 lakh litres of drinking water through the rail network. In response to our offer, we have been informed that present Tamil Nadu has sufficient supply and doesn't require additional assistance from Kerala," the statement said.



Bone dry: Workers collecting water from the Puzhal reservoir on the outskirts of Chennai on Thursday. •AFP

Opposition leader and DMK president M.K. Stalin criticised the Tamil Nadu government for "rejecting" the help from the neighbouring State and urged that the water be accepted. Despite rainfall deficit, the storage in Kerala's reservoirs is much better than in Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Nadu government in the evening released a statement "tweeted by" Mr. Velumani, in which he confirmed that there was an offer through the Secretary to the Kerala Chief Minister to his counterpart in Tamil Nadu seeking to know whether drinking water in 20 wagons could be sent.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

President bats for simultaneous polls

Plan will spur growth, says Kovind

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Thursday asked MPs to seriously ponder over the proposal of simultaneous elections, terming it "development-oriented". In his hour-long address to both Houses of Parliament, he said the people of the country had "demonstrated their wisdom by delivering a clear verdict" in the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

Mr. Kovind also flagged the government's move to push forward with the triple talaq Bill in this session, the decision to implement the National Register of Citizens (NRC) on a priority basis and the strong response to terror after the attack in Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir,



Ram Nath Kovind addressing Parliament. •PTI

on February 14. "One nation, simultaneous election" is the need of the hour, which would facilitate accelerated development, thereby benefiting our countrymen," he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12
FULL OF PLATITUDES PAGE 12
MISPLACED PRIORITIES EDITORIAL

Sanjiv Bhatt gets life term in custodial death case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT AHMEDABAD

A court in Gujarat on Thursday sentenced the dismissed IPS officer, Sanjiv Bhatt, to life imprisonment in a custodial death case dating back to 1990 when he was the Additional Superintendent of Police in Jamnagar district.

At present, Mr. Bhatt is in jail in a separate case related to drug planting and falsely implicating a lawyer for alleged possession of drugs that goes back to 1996 when he was the Superintendent of Police in Banaskantha district.

Mr. Bhatt, who filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court in 2011 against the role of the then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi in the 2002 riots, was suspended from the Indian Police Service in 2011 and sacked by the Ministry of Home Affairs in August 2015 for "unauthorised absence" from service and on other charges.

D.N. Vyas, judge of the court of sessions in Jamnagar, convicted Mr. Bhatt and constable Pravinshah Zala under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code and sentenced them to life in jail. The court also convicted SIs Dipak Shah and Sailesh Pandya and constables Pravinshah Jadeja, Anopsinh Jethva and Keshubha Jadeja and sentenced them to two years in prison.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Dead cat on the line



Tragic end: A leopard hangs from high-tension wires passing below a tree at Mandawar village in Sohna, Gurugram, on Thursday. •ANI (REPORT ON PAGE 2)

One killed in firing as violence continues in West Bengal

Three others were injured in the Bhatpara-Kakinara area

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

At least one person was killed and several others were injured in firing in the Bhatpara-Kakinara area of North 24 Paraganas, about 30 km from Kolkata. The deceased was identified as Dharamveer Shaw.

While the police confirmed the death of Mr. Shaw, a street food vendor, locals said one more person was killed, but this could not be confirmed. At least three more civilians and a few pol-



A rally was taken out in Kolkata on Thursday to seek an end to the violence. •PTI

icemen were injured. It was after a two-hour clash that the police reached Bhatpara. They said they

had been attacked by the locals and "vehicles were vandalised." However, one person, who claimed to be an uncle of Mr. Shaw, said, "The police opened fire without provocation and killed my nephew." His body could be seen lying in a pool of blood, while the bullet that presumably hit him pierced the shutter of a shop. A police officer said they had not "fired and killed civilians".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Four TDP Rajya Sabha members join BJP

Drawn by Modi's leadership, they say

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Less than a month after the Lok Sabha and Andhra Pradesh Assembly elections, in which the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) was wiped out, four of its six Rajya Sabha members, including former Union Minister Y.S. Chowdary, on Thursday joined the BJP.

Besides Mr. Chowdary, the others are C.M. Ramesh, T.G. Venkatesh and Garikapati Mohan Rao. The TDP legislature party in the Rajya Sabha passed a resolution as

per the 10th Schedule of the Constitution, according to which two-thirds of a legislature party can shift loyalties without losing their membership.

"Inspired and encouraged by the impeccable leadership of Narendra Modi and developmental policies being pursued by him in the overall interest of the nation, we have decided to merge with the BJP with immediate effect," the resolution read.

NADDA'S TAKE PAGE 12

Pak. told to go beyond cosmetic steps

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

India will not be impressed by some "cosmetic" anti-terror steps from Pakistan, the External Affairs Ministry said on Thursday.

India's response came after Pakistani media reported that Prime Minister Na-

rendra Modi in a letter to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan had expressed a desire to hold talks with Islamabad. "The Prime Minister in his letter said India wants a normal and cooperative relationship with countries in South Asia and with other

countries which calls for an environment free of terror and violence. We reiterated our old position in the letter. There is no mention of dialogue with Pakistan in the letter," said official spokesperson Raveesh Kumar.

DETAILS ON PAGE 13

Infant dies after being shunted between hospital wings in U.P.

Treatment delayed for three hours

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT LUCKNOW

A medical superintendent was suspended and departmental action was initiated against another senior doctor for negligence when a critically ill infant died at a hospital in Bareilly after allegedly being shunted from one wing to another without treatment for more than three hours.

to the OPD of the men's wing of the hospital on Wednesday, where sufficient paediatricians were available, but instead of stabilising the child, her family was turned away to the women's wing.

However, the CMS of the women's hospital, which has a Sick Newborn Care Unit facility, referred the child back to the men's wing.

The infant, born on June 15 at a private hospital in Bareilly, was brought to the hospital by her father and grandmother. The child had developed breathing complications. Kusma Devi, the child's grandmother, said they were made to run around for more than three hours to just get the child admitted.

'Negligence of duty'
Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ordered the suspension on charges of "negligence of duty". Departmental proceedings would also be initiated against the CMS of the women's wing of the hospital, a government spokesperson said.

The victim was brought

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Woman beaten to death while saving husband

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old woman was beaten to death and her husband injured when they were allegedly attacked by a relative in south-east Delhi's Hazrat Nizamuddin area in the early hours of Thursday. The accused has been arrested, the police said.

DCP (South-East) Chinmoy Biswal said that the accused, Rati Ram, attacked Sita and her husband Mangal (25) outside their house. All three worked as labourers under a PWD contractor and Ram is Mangal's cousin, the police said.

The police said that the contractor had fired Ram as he was getting several complaints about his drinking habits. "Ram suspected that it was Mangal and his wife who had misguided the contractor and he was upset with the couple. In the early hours of Thursday, he went to their house with a baton. The couple was sleeping with their six-month-old daughter. He started beating Mangal and when Sita intervened, he assaulted her as well," Mr. Biswal said.

Locals rushed the victims to AIIMS where Sita was declared brought dead and Mangal is undergoing treatment. Ram was arrested from Sarai Kale Khan. A case under Section 302 (punishment for murder) of the IPC was registered against him," Mr. Biswal added.

Gangs lure minors into crime with glitzy lifestyle

Use juveniles for 'big tasks' as they face lenient punishment

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

Seventeen-year-old Vikas (name changed) is from a well-to-do family. A school dropout, he became famous among his friends in the locality after he started keeping an expensive mobile phone and pistol, wearing branded clothes and often throwing parties for his friends at a restaurant where the owner saluted him and never asked for money. Recently, when he was apprehended for his involvement in the murder of a property dealer in West Delhi's Vikaspuri, the police recovered a stolen car and three pistols from his possession.

Like Vikas, the Delhi police had apprehended 905 juveniles till May 31 for their involvement in various criminal activities.

"Juveniles usually start with petty crimes and with time they join big gangs to get social identity and power in the locality. Gang leaders provide them with guns, cars [stolen ones] and money before they are given tasks to execute heinous crimes like murders, kidnapping and extortion," said a police officer.

Give them drugs, liquor
The officer said that before assigning them 'big tasks', these juveniles are nurtured by the gang members. They take them to nightclubs in expensive cars and provide

Tracking the crime

RECENT CASES

May 24: A juvenile was apprehended in connection with the killing of a 27-year-old gym trainer and TikTok celebrity Mohit More in Dwarka

June 6: A 17-year-old boy was detained for allegedly firing at his friend's residence in Dwarka to threaten the latter

June 15: A 17-year-old juvenile was involved in a murder in outer-north Delhi's Bhalswa Dairy area

June 16: A 17-year-old was apprehended in connection with the murder of a property dealer in Vikaspuri

JUVENILES INVOLVED IN CRIME

905 till May 31

2,980 in 2018

them with drugs and liquor. Gangs lure them into the world of crime by showcasing flamboyant lifestyle, he added.

"Criminal gangs nurture juveniles in the age group of 16-17 and use them to execute crimes as they face lenient punishment under the Juvenile Justice Act. In 2018, 2,980 juveniles were apprehended by the police for various criminal offences. But we tried to ensure that juveniles involved in heinous crimes like rape, murder, kidnapping etc. are to be treated as majors during the trial and get maximum punishment," said the officer.

Joint CP (Southern Range) Devesh Chandra Srivastava

said that around 1,500 juveniles are getting training at skill centres operating in 22 police stations across the city. "We organise sports activities, street plays and gender sensitisation programmes in schools and JJ colonies across the city to channelise juveniles and keep them away from antisocial activities," said Mr. Srivastava.

Mr. Srivastava added that they reform juveniles involved in petty crimes by getting them trained in skill development so that they can be part of the society's mainstream.

Woman taking stroll in park bitten by pet dog

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 45-year-old woman sustained severe injuries after being bitten by a pet dog at a park in Rohini on Thursday morning, the police said.

DCP (Rohini) S.D. Mishra said that the victim has been identified as Shobha Singh, a resident of Sector 17. Ms. Singh was bitten by the dog when she went for a walk.

Locals rushed Ms. Singh to a nearby hospital.

The victim told the police that she can identify the man who was with the dog. "A case under IPC Sections 289

[negligent conduct with respect to animal] and 323 [punishment for voluntarily causing hurt] has been registered and further investigation is on," Mr. Mishra said.



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IN BRIEF

2-month-old 'trafficked': police get DCW notice
NEW DELHI
The DCW on Thursday issued notice to Delhi Police following a complaint made by a 21-year-old woman who alleged that her two-month-old child was trafficked by a Taimoor Nagar-based placement agency. The commission has asked the force to respond by June 24.

Women safety: Vijender Gupta slams AAP govt.
NEW DELHI
Leader of the Opposition Vijender Gupta on Thursday said that the AAP government had made tall promises on women's safety to come to power. "The AAP government's failure to fulfil its promise to install CCTV cameras, GPS and panic button in DTC buses is an instance of its inability to provide safety to women," he said.

Yoga Day: civic bodies to hold events in city
NEW DELHI
The three civic bodies will hold yoga day functions in different parts of the city on Friday. The SDMC will hold a function at Talkatora Stadium. The north civic body will hold an event at Qudsia Bagh near ISBT Kashmiri Gate. The EDMC will hold a yoga workshop at its headquarters in Patparganj.

Two battery thieves held in city, case filed
SAURAV SINHA
NEW DELHI
Two persons have been arrested for stealing batteries from shops in Rohini and Outer Delhi, a police officer said on Thursday. DCP (Crime Branch) Joy Tirkey said that the arrested persons have been identified as Rahul (26) a resident of Budh Vihar and Abid Malik (23) a resident of Mustafabad. They are members of a gang of burglars which steals batteries to further sell them at their own shop in Delhi's Mustafabad.

LSR hostel union protests 'no seats for seniors' move

College principal defends decision to reserve seats only for first-year students

SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI
"Rise in rage!" declared the hostel union of Lady Shri Ram College on a social media post on Thursday, in response to the college's decision a day earlier to disallow hostel vacancy to students in the second and third year.



Responding to the union's stance, college Principal Sum Sharma said that the decision has to be seen from the context of affirmative action. Getting students to move out of the hostel after one year would ensure that those from disadvantaged communities and from remote parts of the country, who are new to the city, are accommodated.

The Principal's defence of the move referenced last year's protests organised by college students — as part of women's collective Pinjra Tod — demanding hostel space for OBC category students as well as the abolition of curfew timings among other things, some of which the college acceded to.

Fire in 10-storey building; over 100 residents rescued

'Short circuit in AC led to the blaze'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
A fire broke out in a 10-storey residential building in north-west Delhi's Pitampura, a Delhi Fire Service official said on Thursday. Over 100 residents were safely rescued and no one was reported injured in the fire that broke out late on Wednesday, the official said.

'Not feasible for all'
While the hostel union, LSR Residence Hall Students' Un-

'Mild suffocation'
A few residents complained of mild suffocation, but did not require medical attention, Chief Fire Officer Atul Garg said. The fire broke out at an apartment on the fifth-floor

around 1 a.m. and spread to the other floors. Fifteen fire tenders took nearly three hours to extinguish the fire, the official also said. Ajit Chaudhary, who lives on the fifth floor with his family, said he called up the Delhi Fire Service as soon as he sensed smoke in the hall. Mr. Chaudhary said eight people were inside the house at that time. He rushed outside the apartment along with them. A short circuit in the air-conditioner is said to have led to the fire at the apartment. The fire engulfed Mr. Chaudhary's apartment and spread to the other floors of the building.

Gun-smuggling racket busted, two arrested

They supplied arms to criminal gangs

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
Two persons have been arrested for allegedly running an inter-State gun-smuggling racket, the police said on Thursday.

The accused, the police said, have been dealing in the business for over 10 years.

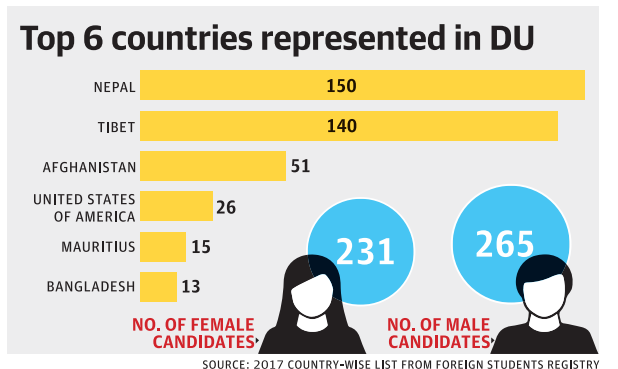
Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Manishi Chandra said that the accused have been identified as Pawan Singh and Chandar Singh, both residents of Dhar district in Madhya Pradesh. They were nabbed on Tuesday from Rohini Sector 3 where they had come to deliver a huge consignment. "Around 30 illegal pistols were recovered from them. The seized weapons were manufactured by Pawan,"

the DCP said. The police said that Pawan and his family members manufacture illegal arms at a cottage industry in a forest near his village and he has been supplying consignments to criminal gangs operating in Delhi, UP, Haryana, MP through his various courier chains. Pawan has been previously involved in five cases under the Arms Act in MP. Chandan has also been involved in a case of assault on the police in MP, the police further said.

DU admissions: seniors to the rescue of foreign students

As aspirants struggle to communicate with university officials

PALLAVI KESWANI
LYDIA JAYAKUMAR
NEW DELHI
Over the last six years, students from over 95 different countries have sought admissions in Delhi University, according to the Foreign Students' Registry (FSR) office. Over 498 foreign students were admitted in the 2017-18 academic session. However, several foreign students said that the services provided to them during the admissions "lacked satisfaction".



Poor communication between departments/colleges and the FSR office and inadequate support system to assist the foreign students in adapting to a new city are the key issues which have pushed fellow students to form associations to help each other. "Problem of communication between students and the FSR office has been persistent for a long time. My colleagues received their admission notification late and were left with only one week's time to figure out all the logistics of getting to India," said Ritesh Tularam, a PhD scholar from Guyana.

This vacuum of necessary services created by the FSR office is being increasingly filled by student groups created by senior students. Groups like 'Delhi University Tibetan Students' Union' help new students in the admission process by arranging forms, necessary documents and temporary accommodation. They also arrange an array of events and orientation sessions to make new students feel comfortable. They also reach out to students from other countries who may not have a large enough population to start an association. These groups operate on social media platforms, communicating with students via Facebook and WhatsApp groups, on which they regularly update group members about important admission deadlines in English and their native language.

"Once we get admission in a particular department, they [university officials] demand certain documents which we are not informed about at an earlier stage. Language barrier is another

problem that we face. There are not many people in the FSR office who can speak English. This results in miscommunication," he elaborated. Dean of FSR Shyama Rath acknowledged that 'language barrier' was sometimes an issue with the students who could not speak Hindi, including those from non-Hindi speaking parts of the country, but assured that the staff at the FSR office communicated in English.

Trial dates for sports, extracurricular activities out on DU website

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
The schedule for trials for sports and extracurricular activities (ECA) was released by Delhi University on its website on Thursday.

Trials for 34 sports categories will be held between July 2 and 6 at various sports complexes available with the university and its colleges. The trials for 14 ECA categories will start in June 28 and go on till July 5. The schedule and locations for the trials have been specified in the notification. In a separate notice, DU also said that now candidates will be allowed to update the academic section of

their applications till the final date of registration (June 22) without making any payments. Applicants under various reserved categories will be allowed to update and upload their community certificates till June 22 without making any payments as well.

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a person (depicted in the photo), **Name : Ramesh Kumar Gupta S/o : Sh. Mohan Lal Gupta R/o : H. No. 14, D-Gali No. 07, Tandon Road, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi** is missing since 06.05.2019. In this regard a case vide DD No. 87A dated 09.05.2019 has been lodged at PS Adarsh Nagar, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

RAMESH KUMAR GUPTA
Age: 56 Years, Height: 5', Complexion : Shallow, Built : Thin, Face : Round, Wearing : Sky Blue and white shirt and Brown Pant.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing person, may inform SHO, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>.

SHO P.S. Adarsh Nagar, Delhi North-West Distt., Delhi Ph. No. 011-27495198

Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
Office of the Executive Engineer
Ganga Pump Canal Division Sahibganj.

CORRIGENDUMS
e-Res Tender Reference No.:- WRD/GPCDIV/SBG/SBD/01/2019-20
Date :- 10.06.2019
PR No-209004

For Item no.-7 date of Download BOQ should be read as 17.06.2019 at 2:30 PM in place of 18.06.19 at 11:00 AM to 26.06.19 at 5:00 PM.

Executive Engineer
Ganga Pump Canal Division Sahibganj.
P.R.209305 District(19-20):D

North Eastern Railway Open Tender Notice No. N/539/2/OT/19-20/16

"Open Tender" through Online (E-Tendering) is invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecom)/Varanasi/N.E. Railway for and behalf of the President of India for the following work:

Tender Notice No. and Description of work	Details
SN: 1, N/539/2/OT/19-20/16	Approx. Value ₹ 14628000.00
Name of work: Comprehensive AMC for Media make Electronic Interlocking at 08 nos. Station of ADSTE/BSB section of BSB division for a period of three years.	Earnest Money ₹ 223100.00 Cost of Tender Form ₹ 5000/- Completion period 36 Months

Tender Closing Date & Time : 24.07.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs.

1. Tender online will be submitted up to 15.00 Hrs on date 24.07.2019.
2. For full details and submission of bid kindly visit the official website of Indian railways i.e. www.irps.gov.in.

Div. Rly. Manager (S&T)/Varanasi
Railway Vlg. Mobile Help Line No. 0551-155210 (Regarding corruption complaint)
Do not travel on roof top and foot board of train

कार्यालय नगर परिषद मण्डी डबवाली (सिरसा)
सूचना

Replacement of Street Light with LED Light in MC Mandi Dabwali and plantation of various wards in Mandi Dabwali के कार्य के लिये सामान व लेबर रेट व पीपी के रेट सहित कुटेशन आमंत्रित है। विभिन्न सामान की सूची/Specifications का विवरण किसी भी कार्य दिवस में नगर परिषद मण्डी डबवाली से निम्नलिखित प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। कुटेशन दस्तावेज का अंतिम तिथि 25-06-2019 है।

हरसाह-सचिव, नगर परिषद मण्डी डबवाली।

PRDH 76985

श्री श्री सूर्य

नगर निगम, कलकत्ता द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि एक/दो वर्ष के लिए लेबर वर देने की शर्तों की शर्तों पर नगर निगम (सर्विस प्रोविजन का) कार्य के लिए एक/दो वर्ष के लिए, श्रमिक, लेबर, श्रमिक, कर्मचारी, ज्योतिष विभाग की ओर से निम्नलिखित 21.06.2019 को घाट 10:00 बजे नगर निगम, कलकत्ता कार्यालय में की जायेगी। शर्तों में आम लेबर से पूर्व कोटेशन का 50,000/- रुपये वाली नगरीय प्रोविजन का कार्य करवायी जायेगी जोकि अग्रिम कोटेशन का शर्तों की शर्तों के तुरन्त बाद शर्तों पर ही की जायेगी। शर्तों के विवरण व शर्तों पर सुझाव जायेगे

विज्ञापन प्रकाशक नगर निगम, कलकत्ता।

PRDH-76974

Haryana Roadways Engineering Corporation Limited
(A Government of Haryana Undertaking)
Regd. Office & Factory: 6th Milestone, Gurugram Jaipur Highway Behrampur Road, Khandsa, Gurugram(Haryana)
Tel. 0124-2215660. Tel. Fax 0124-2215389

No. 517/PMA/HREC Dated: 19/6/19

CORRIGENDUM

The tender for sale of (1) MS Scrap (2) Aluminium Scrap (3) Car (4) Bus (5) Jeep (6) Crane & (7) Diesel Tanker was closed on 17.06.2019. It was published in Dainik Jagran, Delhi/Chandigarh, Gurgaon mail and The Hindu, Delhi etc. on 30.05.2019. Due to change of site, tender documents could not be uploaded. Now the last date is extended to 29.07.2019. The site for uploading the tender will be intimated by another corrigendum shortly. Interested bidders are advised to send their e-mail address to gm.hrec27@gmail.com so that they can be intimated for uploading the tender on the site.

General Manager,
Hr. Roadways Engg. Corpn. Ltd. Gurugram

PRDH-76980

HARYANA PW (B&R) DEPARTMENT
Invite Auction Notice

Sr. No.	Name of Building	Reserve Price	Earnest Money	Time Limit	Location	Date & Time of auction
1	Demolition of old unusable building opposite to the Terminal Building at Hisar Airport.	Rs. 3,12,000/-	Rs. 31,200/-	15 (Fifteen) Days	Civil Aviation HUB, Hisar	04.07.2019 at 11:00AM

Note:- Terms and conditions can be seen in the office of undersigned on any working day during office hours.

For and on behalf of Governor of Haryana
Executive Engineer
Provincial Division No. 3 Hr. PW (B&R), Deptt. Hisar
Phone: 01662-239887

PRDH 76977

PUBLIC NOTICE/TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No :- 1

Name of Department/ Board/Corp/Auth :- Women and Child Development Department Haryana

Name of work/ Notice/ Tender :- For filling up of the post of **Chairperson (CWC) Mewat (1) & Rohtak (1) Member (JJB), Jind (1) & Panchkula (1) (Only for Female)**

Opening Date :- 19-06-2019
/ Closing Date (Time) to 8/7/2019

Website of the department :- www.wcdhr.gov.in

Nodal Officer/Contact/Details / E-mail :- Smt. Poonam Raman Deputy Director
Phone No- 0172-2560580

Tender Ref. No./ Tender No.:- No 1339/CW-2/WCD/2019 dated 18-06-2019 Date. 18/06/2019

PRDH 76979

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

1st&GroundFloor, I.T. Bhawan, Mehli, Shimla -171 013
Tel. No. 0177-2623259, 2623513, 2626320, 2623513 2623043, FAX:0177-2626320 Website :www.hpsedc.in Date: 19-06-2019

e-TENDER NOTICE

No.: HPSEDC/CC/Servers/2K19-1479

e-Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for procurement of servers, storage array and rugged tablets. Pre-bid meeting will be held on 27/06/2019, 02:30PM at HPSEDC, 1st Floor, Mehli, Shimla.

Last date for online e-bid submission is 08/07/2019 (upto 02:30 PM) and shall be opened on the same day at 3:00PM. Detailed Tender Document containing Technical Specifications and Terms & Conditions are available on HPSEDC website www.hpsedc.in and <https://tenders.gov.in>.

General Manager (Technical)
HP/0118/2019-2020

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

1st&GroundFloor, I.T. Bhawan, Mehli, Shimla -171 013
Tel. No. 0177-2623259, 2623513, 2626320, 2623513 2623043, FAX:0177-2626320 Website :www.hpsedc.in Date: 19-06-2019

e-TENDER NOTICE

No.: HPSEDC/SMART-PHONE/2K19-1480

e-Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for procurement of about 4500 Smart Phones. Pre-bid meeting will be held on 26/06/2019, 02:30PM at HPSEDC, 1st Floor, Mehli, Shimla.

Last date for online e-bid submission is 05/07/2019 (upto 02:30 PM) and shall be opened on the same day at 3:00PM. Detailed Tender Document containing Technical Specifications and Terms & Conditions are available on HPSEDC website www.hpsedc.in and <https://tenders.gov.in>.

General Manager (Technical)
HP/0117/2019-2020

R.K.S.HIMACHAL PRADESH GOVT. DENTAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL SHIMLA-1.

No.-HFWD(GDC)G(3)1/2000-IV-Dated:Shimla-1, the

"TENDER NOTICE"

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by the Principal, H. P. Govt. Dental College And Hospital Shimla from the Publishers, Reputed and Standard Book Sellers or their authorized dealers having minimum of 10 years experience in this field, for the supply of Library Books (Latest Editions) and Journals(Including Current and Back Volumes) to the H. P. Govt. Dental College Library so as to reach in the office of the undersigned on or before 12.7.2019 by 3.00 p.m. where after No Tender(s) will be entertained. The tenders will be opened on the same day at 3.30 p.m. in the presence of the tenderers or their authorized representatives who-so-ever would like to be present. The list of books and journals to be purchased /supplied along with Terms and Conditions of the supply will be available along with the tender documents in the office of the undersigned w. e. f. 20.6.2019 to 11.7.2019 up-to 3.00 p.m. on cash payment of Rs. 1000/-Only (non-refundable). No request for dispatch of Tender Documents by post shall be entertained. Tender has been uploaded on institutional website www.hpgdcshimla.org

The Tender should be accompanied with the EARNEST MONEY OF Rs.30,000/-Only(rs Thirty Thousand Only) in the shape of EMD/FIXED DEPOSIT RECEIPT/BANK DRAFT in favour of The Principal, H. P. Govt. Dental College And Hospital Shimla.

The interested parties / firms may quote their HIGHEST DISCOUNT to be allowed on the supply of Books/Journals to the Library. Only the LATEST EDITIONS of Books have to be supplied No Remainder Titles are required.

In case any of the above day(s) happens to be a holiday, the next working day will be considered as DUE DATE. Undersigned reserves the right to accept any or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

Sd/- PRINCIPAL
H.P.GOV.T. DENTAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL SHIMLA-1

HP/0585/19-20

Court acquits man in Irish woman assault case

Terms prosecution allegations doubtful

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI
A court here has acquitted a man in a case of alleged sexual assault on an Irish woman at a hotel in Paharaganj in 2018, terming the prosecutrix allegations doubtful. The woman was on a tour of the country. The blood sample of the accused did not match with the DNA of the sample lifted from the pillow cover on the bed. A delay of two days in lodging an FIR by the victim also created doubt in the mind of the court benefiting the accused. "The prosecutrix herself is not sure that she was being raped by the accused as she had admitted that she was asleep, and she had deposed that she believes that the accused had done sexual intercourse with her and she do not know if the same was done by the accused. If the

prosecutrix herself is not confident as to what had happened, then her testimony cannot be considered as of sterling quality and cannot be relied upon and in spite of doubt it is to be given to the accused." Additional Sessions Judge Satish Kumar said. "The prosecutrix is a highly qualified and matured lady and she alleged that the accused raped her on July 21, 2018, whereas she had reported the matter to the police on July 23 and there was unexplained delay in lodging the FIR... It also creates a doubt to the prosecution story," the Judge said. "Therefore, in these facts and circumstances, this court is of the considered view that the prosecution has not been able to prove the charges against the accused," the Judge said.

Water, garbage: survey finds spike in complaints

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
Complaints about non-availability of water made to the Delhi Jal Board and those about garbage collection made to the municipal corporations of Delhi have seen a sharp rise between 2015 and 2018, Praja Foundation said in a report on registered civic issues released on Thursday. According to data analysed from RTI replies received by the group, the number of 'no water' complaints has seen a rise by 151% in the given period — from 34,554 in 2015 to 86,637 in 2018, the group said. The number of com-

plaints saying garbage were not being collected have risen by 361% — from 1,830 to 7,606 — it said. The most number of complaints registered with the civic bodies were to do with unauthorised construction at up to 65,277 complaints in 2018. The DJB, on the other hand, also saw an increase in the number of complaints on contamination of water that rose by 34%, among others. The report also includes issues raised by MLAs and councillors at various levels and their attendance. The attendance of councillors at ward committee meetings in 2018 stood at 68% and of MLAs in 2018 stood at 82%.

BJP panel gives clean chit to party leaders in Leh bribery case

An attempt by the party to influence the police investigation: J&K Cong.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAMMU

Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina and two other senior leaders were given clean chits by the party's internal fact-finding commission in the alleged case of offering bribes to journalists in Leh to influence the recently held parliamentary polls in Ladakh.

"The BJP leaders have not done anything wrong and whatever charges have been levelled against them are totally false and baseless," the three-member commission headed by Justice (ret'd) G.D. Sharma said in its report, released by the party here on Thursday.

The State unit of the Congress, however, rejected the



J&K BJP chief Ravinder Raina

probe and termed it an attempt by the party to influence police investigation.

The commission was constituted last month on the directions of BJP national president Amit Shah.

The commission, whose other members include former IGP S.S. Bijral as member and Pallav Sharma as member-secretary, has given clean chits to Mr. Raina,

State party general secretary Narinder Singh and MLC Vikram Randhawa as it found that they did not, in any manner, whatsoever, mis-conducted themselves to seek favour in any form.

On May 4, the Press Club, Leh, had accused the BJP of trying to bribe its members by offering "envelopes filled with money" after a press conference on May 2, a charge denied by the party which had said allegations were "politically motivated".

Statements recorded

The commission said it recorded statements of journalists, persons associated with the Press Club, local leaders and examined CCTV footage besides recording the statement of the accused

BJP leaders.

The commission said it was established beyond any manner of doubt that the allegations of giving bribe by the MLC in the presence of Mr. Raina, Mr. Singh and district president, Leh, Dorje Angchuk is the result of afterthought and forms a part of criminal conspiracy as defined under Section 120-A of RPC.

"The proof of giving or accepting illegal gratification is the raison d'etre of the offence of bribery, which ingredient is missing in this case," the commission said.

The police had on May 9 registered an FIR against the BJP leaders in connection with bribe allegations on the directions of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Leh.

Odisha budget to be presented on June 28

Proposals for 2019-20 likely to have a total outlay of ₹1,39,000 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Council of Ministers on Thursday approved the draft budget for the 2019-20 fiscal at a meeting presided over by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

The budget will be presented in the Assembly by Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari on June 28. The budget session is scheduled to begin on June 25.

The proposals for 2019-20 are likely to have a total outlay of ₹1,39,000 crore, which is higher than what the State



CM Naveen Patnaik.

government had projected in the interim budget that was presented in February ahead of the simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly polls in the State.

The focus of the new bud-

get will be on farmers' welfare, including smooth implementation of the KALIA (Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation) scheme that was rolled out in January this year.

Besides, the budget will focus on relief and restoration work in the coastal districts that were ravaged by Cyclone Fani on May 3 and other existing welfare schemes.

The Mission Shakti programme, apart from allocation for sectors such as

health and education, will also get priority.

The budget for 2018-19 was of ₹1,20,028 crore, which was about 12.3% higher than the one for 2017-18.

Growth rate

While presenting a vote-on-account budget for the first four months of 2019-20 in February, the then Finance Minister, Shashi Bhushan Behera, had said that the State's economy was expected to grow at the rate of 8.35% in 2019-20, surpassing the all-India growth rate of 7.2%.

Drunk drivers to be arrested in Odisha

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government has decided to arrest those driving under the influence of alcohol, instead of the present practice of imposing fines on them.

Powers have already been vested in the police under Sections 202 and 203 of the Motor Vehicles Act to arrest a person detected or suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol.

To deal with the menace of drunk driving, the government had resorted to temporary suspension of driving licences. But, the provision of arresting drivers under influence of alcohol was never carried out.

6 Bangladeshi girls repatriated

Victims of trafficking; spent years at a Chennai shelter home

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

Six victims of human trafficking who spent up to five years in a Chennai shelter home have gone back home in Bangladesh.

The Meghalaya-based Impulse NGO Network helped repatriate the six girls under a government-to-government partnership model it had designed a few years ago.

"A team from Madras Christian Council of Social Service, which runs a home under the Ministry of Women and Child Development's Swadhar Greh scheme, was among the multiple agencies involved in repatriating the six girls on July 16," Hasina Kharbhii, Impulse's chairperson,

told *The Hindu*.

The girls were repatriated from Phulbari on the international border near Sili-guri in West Bengal under the standard operating procedure between India and Bangladesh.

Members of their families received them along with activists of the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), an NGO associated with Impulse.

Coordinated effort

"This was an exercise where the Home and External Affairs Ministries and the border force of both countries were involved, besides a number of NGOs working to end human trafficking," Ms. Kharbhii said.

Two such organisations -

Ebong Aamra and Nari Shakti - function in northern West Bengal.

Ms. Kharbhii said she came to know about the six trafficked Bangladeshi survivors during a conference in Hyderabad in 2018 where she met members of the Madras Christian Council of Social Service.

The six, she learnt, were at the Council's home in Chennai for periods ranging from one to five years.

Impulse coordinated with BRAC for ensuring that the victims could be integrated back with their communities in Bangladesh.

BRAC has also designed a counselling, rehabilitation and reintegration programme for them in Bangladesh.

Bureaucrats to spend two days in J&K villages

Under 'Back to the Village' programme

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

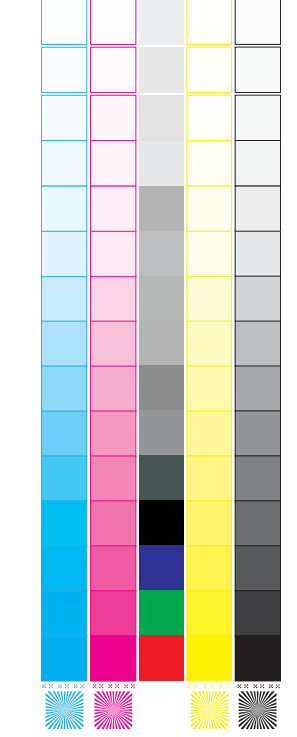
As part of its unique outreach programme, 'Back to the Village', the Governor's administration in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday designated gazetted officers to all the 4,483 panchayats in the State to seek feedback and share knowledge on government schemes.

"The idea is to have a gazetted officer each in all 4,483 panchayats. It's a first for J&K," said Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring.

Each officer has been directed to visit a gram panchayat and interact with the stakeholders "in a bid to innovate programmes, ensure participation and decentralise planning".

Under the 'Back to the Village' programme, around 4,500 gazetted officers will spend a minimum of two days, including one night, in the allocated panchayat.

"It's aimed at strengthening the bond between the government and the citizens," said Syed Sehresh Asgar, District Development Commissioner, Budgam.



Jaipur to host Stonemart

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

A memorandum of understanding signed here for organising the 11th India Stonemart in Jaipur in 2021, as the largest international exposition of dimensional stone and ancillary products and services, has indicated to a thriving stone industry in Rajasthan. The event will bring together various stakeholders of the industry.

The Rajasthan Industrial Development & Investment Corporation, Centre for Development of Stones and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry signed the MoU here on Wednesday.

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT
Mr. N SELVA KUMAR
PH: 98203 50726
selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in
Mr. GAURAV SEHGAL
PH: 98110 06590
gaurav.sehgal@thehindu.co.in
THE HINDU

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Your feedback is valuable to us. Please scan the QR code or visit www.thehindu.com/feedback
You may call us at toll free 1800 3000 1878 or write to us at customer.care@thehindu.co.in

SEARCH FOR MISSING
General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely: Deepa, D/o: Sh. Pappu, R/o: D-245, T-Huts, G-Block, Pitampura, Delhi, Age: 19 Years, Height: 5', Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Red Top and Blue Pyjama and Hawai Chappal in Feet** has been missing / kidnapped since 29.03.2019. In this regard DD No. 04-A dated 30.03.2019 has been lodged at **PS. Maurya Enclave, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnapped girl please inform the undersigned.
SHO
E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in PS. Maurya Enclave, Delhi
Fax: 011-29551597 Ph.: 011-27322353
DP/9048/NW/19

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT ROAD DIVISION, KHUNTI
e-Procurement Notice
E Tender Reference No. RCD/KHUNTI/690 Date :- 18.06.2019

1. Name of the work	IRPW WORK OF KHUNTI TAIMARA ROAD (KM.00 TO 30.00)
2. Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 14,37,01,605.00 Rs. Fourteen Crore Thirty Seven Lakh One Thousand Six Hundred Five only.
3. Time of Completion	06 Months
4. Last date / Time for receipt of bids	15.07.2019 up to 12:00 Noon
5. Date of Publication of Tender on website	24.06.2019 at 10:30 A.M.
6. Name & Address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, Road Construction Department, Road Division, Khunti
7. Contact no. of Procurement Officer	06528-221215
8. Helpline number of e-Procurement Cell	0651-2401010

Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>
Executive Engineer,
R.C.D., Road Division, Khunti
PR 209330 Road(19-20)D

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. JBP/TRD/TENDER/2019/07. DATE: 17.06.2019
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD) West Central Railway, Jabalpur for and on behalf of the President of India invites sealed tenders from the reputed and experienced contractors having valid Electrical License issued in the name of firm by State Government as required under IE rules, 1956 with one of the partner or in his own name if sole proprietor. (1) **Name of Work:** TRD/OHE work of additional loop to accommodate long haul train at Bansapahar (PB 2017-18 PID 16.02.16.17.1.51.001 item No. 51). (2) **Place of Work:** Jabalpur Division (3) **Completion Period:** 03 Months (4) **Tender Value (Cost of the work):** ₹ 1,10,81,218.33/- (₹ One Crore Ten Lakhs Eighty One Thousand Two Hundred Eighteen Paise Thirty Three Only) (5) **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,05,400/- (₹ Two Lakh Five Thousand Four Hundred Only) (6) **Tender Fee:** ₹ 5,000/- (₹ Five Thousand Only) (7) **Date & Time for Submission/Opening of tender:** 10.07.2019 (15.00 hrs.) / 10.07.2019 (15.30 hrs.) (8) **Website address:** <https://www.ireps.gov.in>. (9) Tenderers are advised to regularly visit IREPS website "http://www.ireps.gov.in" to note any changes/ corrigendum. Minimum eligibility criteria as per tender form shall be applicable for this tender.
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/ TRD, WCR, Jabalpur
During Rail Journey, Dial 138 for general complaints & Dial 182 for security complaints

Dr B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD)
(Accredited with NAAC grade 'A')
ADMISSION NOTICE FOR RESEARCH PROGRAMMES IN THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2019-20

Dr B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD), a State University established by the Government of NCT of Delhi invites applications from the eligible candidates seeking admission to its research programmes, MPhil and PhD under different Schools of study in Kashmere Gate campus and Lodhi Road Campus as detailed below for the academic year 2019-20:-

Programme	Courses/Subjects
M.Phil	1. Development Practice, 2. History, 3. Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy, 4. Women's & Gender Studies, 5. Mathematics and 6. Comparative Literature & Translation Studies (CLTS).
Ph.D	1. Development Studies, 2. English, 3. Human Ecology, 4. History, 5. Hindi, 6. Sociology, 7. Mathematics, 8. Comparative Literature & Translation Studies (CLTS), 9. Women's & Gender Studies, 10. Economics, 11. Management and 12. Education#

Introduced by the University from the academic session 2019-20. All programmes will be offered at Kashmere Gate Campus except PhD Education, which will be offered at Lodhi Road Campus.
How to apply: Only online applications are accepted through AUD's website www.aud.ac.in. For details about eligibility conditions for admission, fee etc., please refer to the Bulletin of Information available on the website. Last date of submission of online application is 8 July 2019.
Date: 17.06.2019
Dean, Student Services
Dean Student Services
AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY DELHI,
Lothian Road Kashmere Gate,
Delhi - 110006
Website: www.aud.ac.in
DIP/Shabdarth/0243/19-20

Everything you need to know about Colorectal Cancer
Dr. Devavrat Arya
Medical Oncology
Principal Consultant, Max Hospital, Saket

The cancer of the large intestines, also known as Bowel Cancer or Colorectal Cancer (CRC) is the fifth most common cause of cancer mortality and is the commonest gastrointestinal malignancy in India. Every year in India approximately 25,000 people develop CRC and about 20,000 deaths are due to CRC. The prevalence of CRC is increasing in the younger population and this could be attributed to lifestyle choices particularly an unhealthy diet and obesity. CRC also seems to indicate a strong association with family history.

Most CRCs start in the colon in small clumps of cells called polyps or adenomas which can turn cancerous in a period of 5 to 10 years. Most polyps are benign, which means they will not spread to the rest of the body. If the polyp becomes cancerous it grows bigger and can spread. When bowel cancer spreads to the liver and sometimes to the lungs, bones and other parts, it is referred to as Metastatic Colorectal Cancer.

You may have a higher than average risk of getting CRC if you have a family history of CRC, have colon polyps, are age 50 or older, are obese, consume a diet high in red meat and poor in fiber, smoke cigarettes, aren't physically active, drink too much alcohol, or have a disease that inflames your colon such as ulcerative colitis or Crohn's Disease.

Symptoms of CRC include change in bowel habits such as alternating diarrhea or constipation, blood in the stools, belly pain, bloating, flatulence or weight loss. However, it is important to note that these symptoms can be caused by conditions other than colon cancer and it is possible to have CRC without any symptoms. The good news is that Colorectal Cancer is a preventable disease which can be prevented by using a two-pronged approach. This includes timely and regular screening and healthy lifestyle that includes consumption of a prudent diet rich in fiber and green leafy vegetables.

Screening is an effective way to prevent CRC. Essentially, the whole objective of prevention is to find any lesions before they become cancerous and remove them, so you don't ever get colon cancer.

Preventive screening is recommended from the age of 50 onwards in all adults. Those people who have a history of colorectal cancer may need to start screening earlier. Screening can be done either using a sensitive stool test or a visual examination. In addition to a yearly fecal occult (hidden) blood test (FIT or iFOBT), every five years, people should undergo colonoscopy, a procedure which allows a specialist to examine the entire colon using a probe. The annual stool tests check for fecal occult (hidden) blood and are non-invasive and economical. In case the results are positive, a colonoscopy is recommended to rule out cancer.

The key message is that a healthy lifestyle, screening and timely diagnosis are the keys to prevent and treat CRC. It is up to you to take the above necessary steps to keep this evil cancer at bay.

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IN BRIEF

**Actor Vinayakan arrested, granted bail**

KALPETTA
Malayalam actor Vinayakan surrendered at the Kalpetta police station in Wayanad district on Thursday in connection with a case registered against him for verbally abusing a Dalit woman activist over the phone. He was granted bail after his statement was recorded, the police said. The women said the actor used abusive words over the phone while she was visiting the district in April.

Four officials held in NRI investor suicide case

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Four officials of the Anthoor municipality in Kannur district of Kerala have been suspended from service in connection with the suicide of NRI investor Parayil Sajjan, Local Self-Government Minister A.C. Moideen said on Thursday. Sajjan, who had invested a substantial sum for constructing a convention centre, committed suicide following the alleged denial of permission for the centre by the municipality. The incident has triggered a political storm in the State.

Hike in private medical, dental college fees

BENGALURU
The Karnataka government, much to the dismay of students, has increased the medical and dental fees in private colleges by 15% for the 2019-20 academic year. The hike will be applicable to both institutional and government quota seats in these colleges. After a meeting with various associations on Thursday, Medical Education Minister E. Tukaram said the decision was made as the cost of infrastructure had risen.

Seized currency was business income, says Income Tax Dept.

Removal from TTD Board was an injustice, says industrialist Sekar Reddy

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

In a twist to the case involving the seizure of ₹33.89 crore in new ₹2,000 denomination notes from the business premises of J. Sekar, alias Sekar Reddy, on December 8, 2016, the Income Tax Department has concluded that the money was proceeds from the sale of sand by his firm M/s SRS Mining.

The finding goes against the allegation of central agencies that Mr. Reddy and his partners had indulged in money laundering to source the new currency notes with the help of bank officials.

Replying to a query from Mr. Reddy, the IT Department has said: "As per the seized documents, the source of new currencies seized is from proceeds of sand sales by M/s SRS Mining."

Of the three cases booked



Legal income: The Income Tax Department said that the cash seized came from the proceeds of sand sales by SRS Mining, in which Sekar Reddy has a stake. ■ FILE PHOTO

by the CBI, two were quashed by the Madras High Court last year. The adjudicating authority for Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) cases had also vacated the attachment of immovable assets by the Enforcement Directorate, stating that the property was not involved in money

laundering. When contacted, Mr. Reddy told *The Hindu* on Thursday that the findings of the IT Department vindicated his stand. "It has been clearly stated that our firm paid advance tax to the tune of ₹31 crore even before the raid. Since the details of the money seized were already

entered in the book of accounts, the question of unaccounted money does not arise," he said.

"What hurts me is the way the then Andhra Pradesh government hastily removed me from the post of Member, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Board, even without seeking my explanation," he said.

The Andhra Pradesh government had issued an order removing Mr. Reddy from the TTD Board stating that he was found to be in possession of ₹100 crore in cash and a huge quantity of gold during a CBI raid on December 11, 2016. "But the fact is that the CBI search came many days later and there was no such seizure at all. The IT Department seized only ₹12 lakh from my residence and the rest of the money belongs to the company, which was duly accounted for," Mr. Reddy said.

Kumaraswamy gets on makeover train to shed his 'five-star' image

Karnataka CM wants to regain a 'people-friendly' image

SHARATH S. SRIVATSA
BENGALURU

In less than a fortnight, Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has made two important announcements – resumption of his 'Grama Vaastava' (village stay) programme and the completion of the crop loan waiver scheme. These, coupled with a spree of Janata Darshans in Vokkaliga heartland over a week, point to his effort at regaining a "people-friendly" image, which he desperately needs after the Lok Sabha election debacle and the BJP's renewed bid at destabilising the coalition government.

In the first year of his current tenure, Mr. Kumaraswamy kept away from village stays, which was a popular programme in his tenure during 2006-07.

Last week, he visited his constituency, Channapatna in Ramanagaram district, and laid the foundation stone for projects totalling



People connect: Karnataka CM H.D. Kumaraswamy taking a train to Yadgir from Bengaluru. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

over ₹230 crore. In Bengaluru too, of late, Mr. Kumaraswamy has been meeting people to receive petitions.

These are seen as strategic attempts to rebuild the party's image, multiple sources said.

Village stay

Mr. Kumaraswamy's 'Grama Vaastava' starts from Chandraki in Gurmitkal taluk of

the backward Yadgir district on Friday. The next day, he will stay at Herur (B) village in Afzalpur taluk of the neighbouring Kalaburagi district.

Unlike his previous village stays, during which he stayed with villagers in their homes, the Chief Minister has chosen public places, such as government schools, this time.

Binoy Kodyeri goes missing from residence

He has been booked in a rape case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KANNUR

Binoy Kodyeri, the elder son of CPI(M) Kerala secretary Kodyeri Balakrishnan, who has been booked in a case of rape and sexual assault by the Maharashtra police, is learnt to have absconded from his residence near Thalassery.

There was speculation that two Maharashtra police officers, who reached Kannur on Wednesday, were here to arrest him in the case registered on a com-

plaint filed by a Mumbai-based woman. Police sources said Mr. Binoy had apparently absconded fearing his arrest.

The two officers from the Oshiwara police station made enquiries with the local police, but could not get information about the whereabouts of Mr. Binoy, who was residing at his residence within the New Mahe police station limits. He has been asked to appear within three days before the investigating officer in Mumbai.

Driver held on charge of molesting T.N. passenger

Other people on the bus, going from Kannur to Thiruvananthapuram, handed him over to the police

STAFF REPORTER
KOZHIKODE

The Thenhipalam police here on Thursday arrested a reserve driver of a Kallada Travels bus on the charge of molesting a 24-year-old passenger from Tamil Nadu.

Johnson Joseph, the suspect, was caught by fellow passengers, who handed him over to the police.

The bus was bound for Thiruvananthapuram from Kannur. The incident reportedly took place around 1.30 a.m. at Kakkanchery in Malappuram district.

Following the woman's

protest, fellow passengers intervened and called the police. Though there was reportedly some resistance on the part of the bus crew to stop the journey, they were compelled to respond to the passengers' call.

Some of the passengers also smashed a windshield of the bus during arguments. Later, the police impounded the vehicle on the woman's complaint and she was allowed to resume her journey on another bus.

The police said the woman was sexually harassed by the man while she was

sleeping. The suspect is a native of Puthuppally in Kottayam district.

The man was charged under Section 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) of the Indian Penal Code. The police said he would be produced before the Parappanangadi judicial first class magistrate court.

The State Women's Commission has also registered a case and opened an investigation on its own. Chairperson M.C. Josephine said she had summoned the owner for a hearing next week.



Up in arms: DYFI cadres staging a protest at the office of Kallada Tours and Travels in Thiruvananthapuram. ■ S. MAHINSHA

TDP faced with a double whammy

Kapu leaders go into a huddle

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA

A day after Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national president N. Chandrababu Naidu left Amaravati on a vacation to Europe along with family members, the party faced a double whammy.

While four out of six TDP Rajya Sabha MPs have joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), closer home, about 20 TDP leaders, including former MLAs, from the Kapu community went into a huddle in Kakinada on Thursday, triggering speculation that they might join the BJP or the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP).

A last-ditch effort made by the TDP leadership, with Mr. Naidu himself getting into the act of placating the disgruntled MPs, went in vain.

The party, still smarting

under the crushing defeat it received in the general elections, has been shocked by the MPs' action of brazenly walking out and seeking recognition as a separate block supporting the BJP in the Rajya Sabha.

Senior TDP leaders and former Ministers such as Kala Venkata Rao, Kaluva Srinivasa Rao and Mr. Naidu's son, Nara Lokesh, discussed the issue but could not prevent the MPs from moving out.

Party leaders here are surprised by the MPs' decision, though some of them knew that one of the four MPs, Y.S. Choudary, was kowtowing to the BJP for some time.

Mr. Choudary has himself made it clear that he did not like Mr. Naidu's decision to walk out of the NDA in March 2018.

Rain or shine?



Seeking showers: A farmer readying his land in the hope of a good monsoon in Khammam district of Telangana. Due to the delay in the monsoon, the government has issued an advisory asking farmers not to rush into sowing. ■ G.N. RAO

India's first solar cruise vessel to be rolled out soon

A ₹3 crore boat that can carry 100 passengers is under construction in Aroor

JOHN L. PAUL
KOCHI

Close on the heels of launching India's first solar-powered ferry in 2016, Kerala is gearing up for the launch of the country's premier solar-powered cruise boat by December.

The initiative comes from the State Water Transport Department (SWTD), whose solar ferry Aditya in the Vaikom-Thavanakadavu route has proved to be a success.

"The ₹3 crore cruise boat that can carry 100 passengers is under construction at a boatyard in Aroor and comes from the stable of the builders of Aditya. It will be rolled out in Alappuzha in December. The hybrid vessel will be powered by a motor that can source energy from solar panels, battery, and



Way forward: Aditya, India's first solar ferry, in operation on the Vaikom-Thavanakadavu route.

generator. Its battery will have 80 KWh (kilowatt hour) power backup, as compared to 50 KWh backup in Aditya," says Shaji V. Nair, director of SWTD.

Aditya incurs a rock-bottom energy expense of ₹200

a day, as compared to the approximately ₹8,000 needed for diesel-powered ferries.

No noise, air pollution
Solar vessels do not create air and noise pollution. The double-deck, double-engine

catamaran-type vessel adheres to norms specified by the Indian Registry of Shipping (IRS). The vessel will have an air-conditioned lower deck and pushback seats, he said.

The upper deck, which is non-air conditioned, can be used for dining and to get a better view of the backwaters. Apart from regular cruise, the vessel would be ideal to host parties and conferences.

"A similar cruise boat will be introduced in Ernakulam based on commuter response to the one in Alappuzha," Mr. Nair said.

Considering the huge savings in energy expenses, the SWTD has also drawn up plans to introduce three sister vessels of Aditya by the end of the year.

'Polavaram project will be completed in 2021'

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy visits site, reviews progress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
POLAVARAM DAM SITE

The Polavaram Multipurpose Project will be completed by June 2021 and not in 2020 as expected. The Minister for Water Resources Anil Kumar Yadav, making an announcement at the dam site, after a visit and review meeting by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday, said the officials, when asked by the CM to give a timeframe, said they would be able to complete the project in another two years. Accepting their "timeframe", Mr. Jagan asked the officials to go ahead, Mr. Anil Kumar said.

The erstwhile Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government had said that it would be able to send water into the canals of the project by gravity



Taking stock: A.P. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy at the Polavaram project site on Thursday. ■ A.V.G. PRASAD

when there was flood at the dam site in this year (2019) itself. But it could not do it because of early elections in the State.

After the landslide win by the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), a few leaders of the party, speaking informally, have said that the govern-

ment would complete the project by June 2020.

Relocation of families

Mr. Anil Kumar, addressing the media along with Agriculture Minister K. Kanna Babu, said no work was possible in the four months during which the dam site

would be flooded. But the big task ahead for the A.P. government was the relocation of 28,000 families living in 113 colonies that would get marooned or inundated once Godavari river goes into spate after June 15.

All the colonies that were below the +41.5 metre contour would be evacuated as there was a danger of the floodwater entering into the homes because of the cofferdams. There was a threat to the villages because the Spillway and Spill Channel were still incomplete, the Ministers said.

Earlier, Mr. Jagan, who came to the dam site for the first time after becoming the Chief Minister, asked the officials several questions on technical details pertaining to the project.

IN BRIEF



PM, Amit Shah to lead Yoga Day celebrations

NEW DELHI PM Modi will lead the nation in celebrating Yoga Day by participating in a mega event in Ranchi. Amit Shah will be in Rohtak and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will be in the national capital to celebrate the occasion. PTI

MoU to boost Dalit entrepreneurship

NEW DELHI To boost entrepreneurship among Dalit youth, the Union Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry's Dr. Ambedkar International Centre and the Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICC) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU).

Lesbian couple seeks police protection

MUZAFFARPUR A lesbian couple in Uttar Pradesh's Shamli district has sought police protection after their families opposed their decision to get married and allegedly threatened them with dire consequences, an official said on Thursday. Registering a complaint, the police directed the families not to harass the couple. PTI

Truck driver shot dead over ₹20 in U.P.

BANDA A truck driver was shot dead by security guards of a sand mine in Uttar Pradesh's Hamirpur district on Thursday for allegedly paying ₹30 as 'rangdaari' (extortion) to them instead of ₹50, a police official said. A case has been filed against four persons. PTI

At least 47 killed in two accidents



Fatal fall: The remains of the bus that fell into a 500-ft deep gorge near Kullu on Thursday. PTI

44 killed, 34 injured as bus falls into a gorge in Himachal Pradesh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

At least 44 people were killed and 34 injured when a private bus veered off the road and rolled into a 500-ft deep gorge at Banjar in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district, police officials said.

Earlier Banjar's Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) M.R. Bhardwaj put the death toll at 32, while indicating it could go up.

"The death toll can go up as the relief and rescue operations are still going on. At least 30 people have sustained injuries," he said. The 42-seater bus was reportedly carrying close to 60 people.

"The bus was on its way from Banjar to Gadagushani-Khauri and rolled down into the gorge near Byoth Morh (curve). The injured were rushed to civil hospi-

itals in Banjar and Kullu. Teams of the district administration and district disaster management authority, along with doctors and ambulances, were rushed to the spot for the rescue and relief operations," the official said.

Expressing grief, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said a magisterial enquiry had been ordered. Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted, "Deeply saddened by the bus accident in Kullu. Condolences to the families of those who lost their lives."

Congress president Rahul Gandhi also offered condolences.

The Kullu district administration has announced an immediate relief of ₹50,000 each to the kin of the deceased and injured. (With PTI inputs)



Watery grave: Relatives and others waiting on the banks of the canal as a NDRF team searches for bodies. ANI

7 children go missing after a van falls into a U.P. canal; 3 bodies fished out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LUCKNOW

The bodies of three children were recovered during search operations after seven of them went missing when a pick-up van plunged into a canal near here Thursday, officials said.

The vehicle carried 29 people, who were returning after a wedding function in the neighbouring Barabanki district, and of them 22 were rescued.

Seven children went missing and the three bodies were fished out by divers of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), officials said.

The van fell into the Indira canal in Nagam on the outskirts at around 3 a.m., Lucknow District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Shar-

ma said. "Three bodies have been found and the hunt is on to trace the remaining four children," Mr. Sharma said. The bodies were yet to be identified, he added.

"As many as seven children, all in the age group of 5 and 10 years, are missing. They might have been washed away in the rapid current of the water in the canal," Mr. Sharma, who rushed to the site, said earlier.

Parents of some of the missing children accused the driver of the pick-up van of being under the influence of alcohol.

"The driver of the van was under the influence of alcohol and was driving at a high speed when he overshot a bend and the van hurtled down the canal," said Lajjawati, one of the parents.

NHRC questions frailty of health infrastructure

Rights body serves notice to all States, Union Territories

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Thursday issued notices to the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry (MoHFW), and all States and Union Territories, over what it termed was the "deplorable public health infrastructure in the country", an NHRC statement said.

The NHRC took suo motu cognisance of several media reports on recent deaths across the country due to "deficiencies and inadequacies in the healthcare system".

This comes in the wake of over 100 children dying in Bihar's Muzaffarpur due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) recently.

"The Commission has observed that large number of deaths of innocent people including women, children and elderly persons, are taking place due to lack of proper medical care, infrastructure, manpower and due to administrative failure, across the country," the statement read.

Deaths of children

The NHRC cited 143 recent deaths of children in Muzaffarpur as well as the loss of lives of children in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, due to the failure of oxygen supply in 2017.

"The Commission has reminded the Central/State Governments of their constitutional duty under Article 21 of the Constitution under which Right to Life is guaranteed. Quoting the Supreme Court of India, the



Awaiting help: A child suffering from AES lying on a bed at a hospital in Muzaffarpur. REUTERS

3 more deaths raise AES toll to 118 in Bihar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUZAFFARPUR

Three more children suffering from Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) died here since Wednesday evening, taking the total number of deaths caused due to the outbreak to 118, the district administration said on Thursday. While two deaths were reported from the government-run SKMCH hospital, another child died at privately owned Kejriwal hospital.

Commission has observed that right to live with human dignity is part of Right to Life.

"Referring to the widespread malnutrition prevalent in several States, the Commission observed that it

Prisoners' ward converted into ICU in hospital

ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL MUZAFFARPUR

Following the public outcry over lack of facilities in the government-run Shri Krishna Medical College and Hospital (SKMCH), the hospital management has converted its ward for prisoners into an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) to accommodate the rising number of AES patients. The decision came after Chief Minister Nitish Kumar passed orders to meet the acute shortage of beds.

is the primary duty of the State under Article 47 of the Constitution to raise the level of nutrition and standard of living of its people, which the Commission observed, the State has failed," the statement said.

Husband, kin of CJJ's alleged victim reinstated

Delhi police posts them in armed police

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police have reportedly reinstated the husband and brother-in-law of a woman who had levelled allegations of sexual harassment against Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, said a senior police officer on Thursday.

C.K. Mein, Additional Commissioner of Police (Delhi Armed police), confirmed that they were presently posted in the armed police. Asked under what charges they were suspended, Mr. Mein said he would

have to check the records. The duo were suspended on December 28 without assigning any reason.

On January 2, a Deputy Commissioner Of Police passed an order stating that "due to official misconduct, departmental action has been initiated against" the husband, for making "unsolicited calls to the office of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India." Later, the suspended policemen got another order from the DCP office explaining that they had been suspended for their links with a local gambler.

AN-32 crash: six bodies retrieved

Trekkers return; remains to be sent to their hometowns

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

The mortal remains of 13 Indian Air Force personnel aboard the AN-32 transport aircraft that crashed in Arunachal Pradesh on June 3 have been retrieved and sent to the Air Force Station in eastern Assam's Jorhat.

A defence spokesperson said a 20-member team of trekkers including a local hunter and 11 porters reached the crash site on Wednesday and returned with six bodies of the air warriors and mortal remains of the other seven.

"The mortal remains of the air warriors will be sent



Hostile terrain: The 20-member team, also comprising of a local hunter and 11 porters, retrieved seven bodies. PTI

to their respective hometowns where the funeral will be carried out as per service customs," the defence spokesperson said.

The aircraft, with 13 members on board, went missing

on June 3, about 30 minutes after taking off from Assam for Menchuka in Arunachal Pradesh.

The black box was recovered last week. (With PTI inputs)

14th century idol found inside temple tank in Kancheepuram

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

A copper idol of Lord Parasurama, said to belong to the 14th century, was found inside a temple tank in Oli Muhammed Pettai in Kancheepuram on Wednesday evening.

According to the police, the idol was spotted by two youngsters playing near the Sarva Theertha Kulam in Oli Muhammed Pettai that belongs to the Sri Ekambaranathar temple.



The idol weighed 5kg.

They immediately alerted the residents who informed the Siva Kanchi police sta-

tion. "We collected the idol which will now be sent to the Revenue Department for safe custody," said a police officer.

According to sources in the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, the tank was being cleaned from Tuesday. "Since we had received complaints of fish dying due to lack of water, we caught and put them inside the big tank. This idol does not belong to the Ekambaranathar temple," said an official.

NIA court rejects Pragma's request to waive presence

Grounds for seeking exemption were not reasonable and genuine, says special judge Vinod Padalkar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

In a major setback to Bharatiya Janata Party MP and prime accused in the 2008 Malegaon bomb blasts case, Pragma Singh Thakur, the special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court on Thursday rejected her plea seeking permanent exemption from appearing before the court during the trial.

Ms. Thakur was represented

by her lawyer, advocate JP Mishra who filed an application on her behalf, seeking an exemption till the end of the Parliament session on July 26.

The plea said she is suffering from various ailments and was not in a condition to attend the court. It also said being a 'sadhvi' (a priestess) she has to follow a strict discipline for her 'sadhna' (worship) and dietary rules. On the basis of this, it was not

possible for her to travel from Bhopal to Mumbai every week.

The application also mentioned that now that she is a MP she has some duties in Parliament. As per her party's whip, she needs to attend the ongoing session. Special judge Vinod Padalkar exempted her from appearance on Thursday but said the grounds for exemption were "not reasonable and genuine."

The court said, "Attendance of Parliament is necessary and one should obey the whip of the party. However, no documentary evidence about any such whip was produced." Last month, the court had directed all the accused in the case to appear before it once a week.

Judge Padalkar referred to the statements made by Ms. Thakur on June 7 and how she threw a fit about the chair pro-

vided to her in the court and the dust all around her.

"There were some statements made [by Thakur] that the premises of court hall was not clean... On humanitarian grounds the court repeatedly asked her to sit on the chair which she refused.

"She deliberately and intentionally did not notice construction work happening in the court premises," the judge said.

Sudden showers break Chennai's dry spell

Met office forecasts more rain over the next few days; temperature expected to dip

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

The sudden showers that lashed many parts of the city on Thursday broke a dry spell that lasted over six months, bringing joy to many residents.

According to the Meteorological Department, Chennai may experience thunderstorms for the next few days.



Soaking it up: Residents enjoying the rain at Marina beach on Thursday. R. RAVINDRAN

ganallur, said. Even people in offices gathered to watch the rain wherever they could.

The weather station in Nungambakkam did not record any significant rainfall till 6 p.m. Officials of the Meteorological Department said the city experienced the sudden spell of rain owing to a favourable wind pattern. Chennai recorded a day temperature of 40.7 degrees Celsius.

N. Puviarasan, director, Area Cyclone Warning Centre, said the low pressure that had formed over the Bay had accelerated monsoon activity. There would be a dip in day temperature from Friday.

Plaint against rapper for post on U.P. CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUMBAI

A complaint was submitted here on Thursday against U.K.-based rapper Taran Kaur Dhillon aka Hard Kaur for an alleged abusive post against RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on a social networking platform, police said.

The complaint was submitted at the cyberpolice station in Bandra Kurla Complex by one Sandip Ghuge, who claims to be the president of the BJP Chitrapat (Film) Union, an official said.

The complaint alleged that Ms. Kaur had "insulted and abused" the senior leaders.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF, PUBLIC HEALTH, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR.

35-C: **NOTICE INVITING BID**
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. EICPH-01/2019-20 Dt. 18.06.2019

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR
"Augmentation of Water Supply to Rairangpur, Anandapur & Vyasaganagar under OMBADC" ON ENGINEERING, PROCUREMENT & CONSTRUCTION (EPC) CONTRACT INCLUDING OPERATION & MAINTENANCE FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS

The Engineer-in-Chief, Public Health, Odisha, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Housing & Urban Development Department, Govt. of Odisha is engaged in the Execution, Operation & Maintenance of Water Supply Projects for different ULBs in the State of Odisha and, as part of this endeavour, Govt. of Odisha has decided to undertake "Augmentation of Water Supply to Rairangpur, Anandapur & Vyasaganagar under OMBADC" on Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) Contract Including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of Five Years (the "Project") under EPC Contract (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) basis, and has decided to carry out the bid process for selection of the eligible contractor to whom the Project may be awarded eventually for Construction as well as for Operation & Maintenance.

S/N	Name of the Water Supply Project	Bid Identification No.	Indicative Total Project Cost including O&M Cost (Rs. in lakhs)	Construction Period	Operation & Maintenance Period
1	"Augmentation of Water Supply to Rairangpur, Anandapur & Vyasaganagar under OMBADC" on Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) Contract Including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of Five Years	EICPH-01/2019-20	12047.74	24 (Twenty Four) Months	60 (Sixty) Months

The complete Bid document can be viewed/downloaded from e-procurement portal of the State Government <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> from 29.06.2019 (11.00 hrs. IST) to 27.09.2019 (17.00 hrs. IST). Bid must be submitted online only. Bid through any other mode shall not be entertained. However, Bid Security, Document Fee, Power of Attorney and Joint Bidding Agreement shall be submitted physically by the Bidder before the schedule date & time indicated in the RFP.

Please note that the Authority reserves the right to accept or reject all or any Bid without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Availability of RFP Document : From 29.06.2019 (11.00 hrs. IST) to 27.09.2019 (17.00 hrs. IST)

Name & Address of the Officer Inviting RFP. : Engineer-in-Chief, PH, Heads of Department Building, 1st Floor, Unit-V, Bhubaneswar, Odisha - 751001. Phone # +91-674-2393909, email: eicphodisha@gmail.com.

Interested bidders may download the Request for Proposal Documents (the "RFP" document) from the State Government web site www.tendersodisha.gov.in to see further details for participation in the online bidding. All amendments, time extension, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the website only. Bidders should regularly visit the above website to keep themselves updated.

Sd/-
ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (PH)

13068/11/0001/1920



Misplaced priorities

There is no case to introduce simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and Assemblies in haste

The decision to form a committee to examine the issue of holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies is a significant step towards achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's objective of synchronising elections across the country. The fact that he took the initiative to convene a meeting of leaders of all political parties so early in his second stint in office shows that he attaches considerable importance to it. Advocates of such elections point to potential benefits. There is the obvious advantage of curbing the huge expenditure involved and reducing the burden on the manpower deployed. The second point in its favour is that ruling parties can focus more on governance and less on campaigning. The idea that some part of the country is in election mode every year, resulting in impediments to development work due to the model code of conduct being in force, is cited in favour of reducing election frequency. But there are challenging questions of feasibility that the political system must contend with. First, it may require the curtailment or extension of the tenure of State legislatures to bring their elections in line with the Lok Sabha poll dates. Should State governments bear this burden just to fulfil the ideal of simultaneous elections? There is an obvious lack of political consensus on this. Another question is: what happens if the government at the Centre fails?

The Law Commission, in its working paper on the subject, has mooted the idea of a 'constructive vote of confidence'. That is, while expressing loss of trust in one government, members should repose confidence in an alternative regime. Another idea is that whenever mid-term polls are held due to loss of majority, the subsequent legislature should serve out only the remainder of the term. These measures would involve far-reaching changes to the law, including amendments to the Constitution to alter the tenure of legislatures and the provision for disqualification of members for supporting an alternative regime. In terms of principle, the main issue is whether getting all elections to coincide undermines representative democracy and federalism. In a parliamentary democracy, the executive is responsible to the legislature; and its legitimacy would be undermined by taking away the legislature's power to bring down a minority regime by mandating a fixed tenure just to have simultaneous elections. The interests of regional parties may take a beating, as regional issues may be subsumed by national themes in a common election. Given these challenges, there is simply no case for hastening the introduction of simultaneous elections. The government must accord priority to other electoral reforms. For instance, it should seek ways to curb spending by candidates and parties, which has reached alarmingly high levels and poses a threat to free and fair elections.

Fed's signals

The dovish turn from major central banks indicates the threat of a global slowdown

The days of monetary policy normalisation in most advanced economies may well be over. The U.S. Federal Reserve, after a two-day policy meeting that ended on Wednesday, held its federal funds rate unchanged in the 2.25% to 2.50% range and simultaneously signalled its readiness to ease policy by dropping a reference to being 'patient' on borrowing costs. Fed Chairman Jerome Powell suggested that the central bank may look at cutting interest rates in the near future in order to tackle the various threats to U.S. economic growth. In particular, he noted the uncertainty on the trade front and its potential to impact the U.S. and other economies. With U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping set to meet at the G-20 summit in Japan this month, the Fed's decision at the conclusion of its next meeting on July 31 could well hinge on the outcome of the Trump-Xi talks. The dovish stance of the Fed comes just a day after Mario Draghi, the President of the European Central Bank, hinted that the ECB may resort to rate cuts and bond purchases if inflation failed to rise. Whether these major central banks will back their rhetoric with action remains to be seen. However, the change in their tone is clear. The Federal Reserve had begun its policy normalisation process in 2015, sending several emerging market currencies into crisis. But just a few years into normalisation, and with real interest rates barely above zero, central banks are already talking about a possible cut in rates if the economy demands it.

This dovish turn indicates the growing threat of a global economic slowdown due to increasing trade tensions between the U.S. and China. It may also be a sign that central banks are yielding to increasing pressure exerted by politicians like Mr. Trump, who has been vocal in his criticism of the Fed. The important question, however, is not whether central banks will cut interest rates but whether the resultant rate cuts would be enough to boost the global economy. This is particularly so at a time when trade wars have led to increasing restrictions on the movement of goods and services. Further, with real interest rates in advanced economies currently not far above zero, central banks may have to look beyond rate cuts and explore other unconventional policy measures to directly inject money into the economy. But even that may not ensure success as the effectiveness of monetary policy has been decreasing with growing debt levels. The shift to an easing cycle internationally will of course make it easier for the Reserve Bank of India to cut rates aggressively without worrying about the effect of such reductions on the rupee. Boosting growth, however, may require a new round of structural reforms.

Protectors of real news

In this moment when democracy is threatened by majoritarianism, readers can play a more pluralistic role



SHIV VISVANATHAN

Citizenship today is divided into four categories, four styles of role-playing and involvement. The first two are more advertised and discussed in sociological detail. These are the voter and the consumer. They combine different times and involve different dramas. The other two are the fan and the reader. The cinematic fan has found his place in the south; and the fan club, in fact, is the only real cadre in politics today. The fan's commitment to his iconic star goes beyond the dramas and demands of ideology. The reader, however, is portrayed as a more laidback, reflective character. He is loyal, but openly critical, and sustains a running commentary on the newspaper he reads. For him, the newspaper commands a certain loyalty, a certain ritual where, for many, the newspaper and morning coffee go together, articulating the pleasures and demands of citizenship.

An informal trustee

The role of the reader deserves to be analysed in greater detail. His invisibility hides the fact that he is an informal trustee of a newspaper, tuned to its nuances and style. He sustains his favourite columns and greets them with a kind of enthusiasm which is moving. As a columnist, I can testify that readers' comments sustain one, and their openness and honesty are moving. I still remember an old reader who complained to me imperiously: "Please do not ruin my morn-

ing coffee with your difficult English!"

One faces the paradox that while a particular news might be ephemeral, the newspaper is a commons of memory, and the reader a trustee of news and its integrity. News, in that sense, is a public landscape maintained by the reader. He is its symbolic guardian. Memory is crucial and critical in a newspaper, and some columns sustain it brilliantly. The civics of ordinary life is sustained by these people through what I call an informal economy of ethics and aesthetics. There is no policing here - just a celebration of a way of life, an appeal to its norms.

This forces one to ask whether the time for the reader to play a more creative role has not arrived. As a trustee of news, the reader enacts a fascinating ritual of citizenship. He becomes the argumentative Indian discussing every facet of democracy and culture. In this very moment when democracy is threatened by majoritarianism, the reader can play a more pluralistic role, sustaining norms when institutions fail. He becomes an ethical second skin of news and the newspaper he is loyal to. He fine-tunes a sense of truth and plurality, signalling it with terse reminders we call "Letters to the Editor".

As mnemonic, as consumer, as trustee, the reader can be more proactive as a part of the networks of civil society. Consider an ongoing event: the fate of the media activist Julian Assange, who is being harassed by many Western governments for revealing the real secrets behind today's governmentality. The state had been waiting vindictively for Mr. Assange ever since he showed that the emperor had no clothes. He is being harassed and mentally tor-



V.V. KRISHNAN

mented. Consider a situation where a newspaper were to nominate him as 'a prisoner of conscience'. Resistance becomes an everyday affair as readers rise to the occasion and readership transforms itself from a passive act of consumption to an active sense of citizenship. The readers help the newspaper to sustain its efforts at plurality. It helps consolidate the power of civil society in unexpected ways. Imagine a newspaper selects half a dozen exemplars like this, and the subscriber becomes the trustee from the reading room. The possibilities are fascinating. We become not acceptors of paid and fake news, but protectors of real news, where writing is a form of risk. It consolidates a sense of citizenship within the everydayness of an information community.

A reflective space

One realises with a sense of dread that TV as a medium belongs to the lynch mob, the patriotic goon squad. It is no longer a public space except as a symbolic long-ing. Print, at least the communities around newspapers, has acquired a more reflective style. It demands immediacy, but the urgency is not instantaneous. It has space for memory, judgment and morality. We must think of ways to deepen this precious space, where

responsibility combines with rationality. Given the disorders of development which every newspaper reports, one suggestion is that a newspaper, through its readers, become a trustee responsible for the fate of at least one craft, one language, one species such that readership becomes both life-giving and life-affirming. It must be emphasised that such a concern is not organisational, but stems from a community's sense of its own membership.

Ideas of the Anthropocene

Decades ago, the French poet and essayist, Charles Baudelaire, described the newspaper as a landscape. His description was immaculate, and the reader today walking through this landscape realises that citizenship needs the language of care and resistance, an owning-up to the cultures in which it is embedded. Given the power of information, one realises that the state and the corporation practice forms of organised indifference and illiteracy. Their responses to the ideas of the Anthropocene is evidence of it. For years, scientists, at least many dissenting scientists from James Lovelock, Lynn Margulis to Isabelle Stengers, have fought a battle to reread science and its responsibilities to the earth. The planet acquires a new sense of sociology, a new politics of ecology, as a result of their writings. States and corporations have avoided these issues, stunting it under the idea of corporate social responsibility or by playing blame games, focussing on advanced industrialised countries. The Anthropocene becomes the newspapers' responsibility and the readers' trusteeship. It will unravel debates between experts and laypersons, homemaker and policymaker, but make the Anthropo-

cene everyone's responsibility. It is what a sociologist and journalist called "the Big News".

Robert Park was a journalist who helped establish the Chicago School of Sociology which saw urban life, its violence, ethnicity and migration as the Big News of the era and chronicled it with subtle ethnographic insights. The Anthropocene, or the damage and transformation man as a species has inflicted on the earth today, is the Big News of our time, but sadly it is the Big News that few newspapers in India are reporting. Ordinary citizens have already sensed the power of the project and its philosophical and ethical implications. I remember one villager near a Sterilite plant telling me that climate change is a label for whatever governments want to wash their hands of. The villager realises that the problem demands a new kind of governmentality and a new social contract between state and citizen which goes beyond national boundaries. The reader as a citizen of the planet and the newspaper as a global player become ideal custodians of such a text, where memory, compassion, responsibility and an innovative science emerge in a new way. Both democracy and science invent themselves in new ways.

Remaking democracy

The tragedy is that while there is a frenzied preoccupation with digital media, print as readership is ignored. Yet print as news is critical, crucial in India. Print can help remake democracy, and the reader as citizen reinvent what news can mean today.

Shiv Visvanathan is an academic associated with the Compost Heap, a group in pursuit of alternative ideas and imagination

What yoga can teach us

The evolution of yoga can present us with an alternative world view for transforming human society



MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI

The word yoga was first mentioned in the *Rigveda*, but its philosophy, science and grammar were first provided by Patanjali in his magnum opus, *Patanjali Yoga Sutra*. It is heartening to note that yoga has been widely accepted across the world today. The Polish government celebrates International Yoga Day. In Aligarh Muslim University here, special endeavours are being taken to make this event successful.

Yoga was taken to the West by Indian gurus. They started centres where people practised yoga and realised its benefits. However, the popularity of yoga also created a massive business of approximately \$40 billion. This is set to grow with the rising popularity of yoga.

All is one

Yoga is something beyond physical health and material wealth. The human persona is not only a body; it is also a mind, an intellect, and a soul. Yoga attempts to harmonise all of them. In the process, one attains a healthy body, a sharp intellect, and a focused mind capable of realising the unity between

'I', generally defined as personal consciousness, and 'T', the universal or cosmic consciousness.

Yoga means to join. Its ultimate goal is to experience the unity of individual and universal consciousness. Yoga teaches us to recognise the fundamental unity between human beings and humankind, humans and the environment, and ultimately recognise a total interconnectedness of everything. The essence of this realisation is to experience that all is one. There is no 'us' and 'they' - everything is us. This is an integral or holistic approach.

I have been in the field of education, both as a teacher of physics and as a seeker of integral education and integral development of the world. I have received inspiration from Upanishadic thought and literature. I am fascinated by the modern developments of physical sciences, which seem to take us back to the ancient truths which were discovered long ago in India by great seers and scientists of higher knowledge.

There is today a new vision of reality emerging from new physics. As we know, old physics was mechanistic; we had then the great figure of Isaac Newton. Corresponding to that mechanistic philosophy, but in a larger mould, we had a dualistic philosophy that divided the world into two components: the world of matter and the world of mind. The great figure of



S.S. KUMAR

this philosophy was Descartes. But a hundred years ago, a brilliant Indian physicist, Jagadish Chandra Bose, demonstrated to the scientific world that there was no fundamental division between plants, animals and human beings.

When Darwin discovered the process of evolution, a series of new philosophies came to be developed. But none of these philosophies has the thoroughness of the evolutionary philosophy of Indian sages that bridges the gulfs between matter and life, and life and mind, and of Sri Aurobindo's philosophy of evolution from mind to supermind. In fact, he reverses the entire process of evolution and points out that the real evolutionary force is not material but supramental in character, and that matter itself is nothing but a mode of the supermind. He thus bridges, like the Vedic rishis, the three great oceans of existence - the inconscient, conscient, and superconscient. This is extremely refreshing, and one feels a kind of re-

juvenation of thought and life.

I can see clearly the interconnection between Sri Aurobindo's vision of a world union of free nations, the vision of a spiritualised society, and the vision of integral humanism based on a holistic vision of universe. I feel that probably a new alternative of the present moulds of thought is now being built in the world.

A new way of thought

Globalisation based on the mechanistic world view also attempts to integrate nations through the concept of the world as one market. The recent experience of attempts to integrate the economies and technologies of nations instead of creating any global consciousness leading to oneness has turned out to be divisive, exclusivist, fragmentary and has not helped in resolving any of the conflicts. The market forces, instead of harmonising conflicts, have further deepened the fault lines. This has resulted in a world that is out of balance. Restoration of the balance in this planet is a big challenge. Enlightened global minds need to think about an alternative paradigm.

Former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said, "We should do this [yoga] before every negotiation so that we can work with a calm mind". This indicates that some meaningful thinking has set in. It can be argued that

if international negotiations could be held on the basis of holistic tenets, along with a calm mind, perhaps the UN would be able to use its time for good purposes. If such and other practices of holistic behaviour are pursued, possibly a new culture of conducting world affairs and international relations might evolve in the future. There is increasing awareness that the present imbalance is the outcome of the inability of existing socio-economic institutions and political structures to deal with the current impasse, which is derived from the inadequacy of concepts and values of an outdated model of the universe and the belief that all problems can be solved by technology. Perhaps there is a need for a new paradigm.

Can an alternative world view for transforming human society into a non-violent, eco-friendly, non-dogmatic, egalitarian, all-inclusive, secular world family be evolved through the harmonisation of yoga and science? Enlightened global minds should seriously ponder on such a probability. Apart from emphasising the normal benefits of yoga, International Yoga Day should be utilised to think about how a peaceful transition can be achieved for peace, harmony and happiness.

Murli Manohar Joshi is a former BJP Union Minister and a professor of physics. Views are personal

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.

Simultaneous elections

Some parties seem to have boycotted the all-party meeting called by the Prime Minister to discuss the 'one nation, one poll' proposal because of their intolerance towards the NDA government ("Panel will study the '1 nation, 1 poll' issue", June 20). Consensus-building is essential for a democracy. All parties must rise above differences. Those who swear by the spirit of federalism are obligated to engage with the Central government.

V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN,
Thiruvananthapuram

Every State has its own languages, culture and set of problems. People's expectations from Central

and State leaders and elections are different, as seen in their votes. If the proposed idea is implemented, State issues will be sidelined. It will weaken India's federal structure.

M. GOVINDARAJ,
Gudiyatham, Vellore district

We cannot afford to be in perennial election mode. As people want stable governments at the Centre and in the States, they will be receptive to this idea.

C.G. KURIAKOSE,
Kothamangalam

The NDA is busy discussing simultaneous elections even as the water crisis continues to grip Tamil Nadu and other parts of India. Instead of prioritising

the poll issue, the Prime Minister should convene an all-party meeting to discuss how to combat water shortage in the country.

N. VISVESWARAN,
Chennai

Is one poll even feasible?

And is the NDA proposing this idea so that it is easier for it to carry out its Hindutva agenda?

ILANKO XAVIER M,
Pune

Turning a blind eye

Whatever the evidence against the Saudi Crown Prince, Washington will not antagonise a trusted ally that supports it in its fight against Iran ("UN report links MBS to Khashoggi killing", June 20). It is a pity that the U.S. will probably

continue to pursue its decades-old policy with the Saudis despite evidence of such unimaginable cruelty.

ARUN MALANKAR,
Mumbai

Water crisis

Chennai Metro Water tankers take two to three weeks to turn up ("A cry for water", June 20). Private tankers are fleeing the public and demanding ₹3,000-5,000 for one lorry. This would not have been the situation if at least 20 water bodies in the city had been maintained properly, if they had not been encroached on, and if sewage and garbage had not been dumped into them.

LAKSHMINARAYANAN P.,
Chennai

In 2013, it was reported in *Nature* that scientists had discovered huge freshwater reserves in aquifers under oceans. This water has been shielded from seawater by a protective layer of clay and sediment. The volume of this water is estimated to be higher than the water we have extracted from the ground in the last century apparently. At

present, government and private oil firms spend millions of dollars to drill oil. It may be worth spending part of the money to drill into the seabed to extract this water, which has become such a precious commodity.

R.V. RAVISHANKAR,
Chennai

MORE LETTERS ONLINE:
www.hindu.com/opinion/letters/

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS: >>The lead story on Om Birla being named for Speaker's post (June 19, 2019) erroneously called him an influential member of the *Agarwal* community. Actually, he belongs to the *Maheshwari* community.

>>"All out for 61!" - a Sports page story (June 20, 2019) - said Rashid conceded 104 runs in his nine overs. Actually, Rashid had conceded 110 runs in his nine overs.

It is the policy of The Hindu to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition (place of publication), date and page. The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday); Fax: +91-44-28552963; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in; Mail: Readers' Editor, The Hindu, Kasturji Buildings, 859 & 860 Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002, India. All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone number. No personal visits. The Terms of Reference for the Readers' Editor are on www.thehindu.com

Is India overestimating its economic growth?

PARLEY

The new GDP series has some methodological and sampling problems

Former Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian recently claimed in a paper that India's GDP growth from 2011-12 to 2016-17 was likely to have been overestimated. The Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council has rejected this claim, stating that his paper would "not stand the scrutiny of academic or policy research standards". In a conversation moderated by T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan, Pronab Sen and R. Nagaraj discuss the methodology in calculation of GDP growth. Edited excerpts:

Professor Nagaraj, was economic growth overestimated from 2011-12 to 2016-17? If so, by how much? In other words, which is more accurate: 7% growth, as estimated by the government, or 4.5%, as estimated by Dr. Subramanian?

R. Nagaraj: Ever since the 2015 GDP rebasing, there have been many concerns about the veracity of the GDP estimates. With the debate progressing, more and more issues have come to light. Many of us who have intervened in this debate have looked at the specific issues with the revised methodology and revised databases. And we have been trying to say how these could have affected the output estimates.

However, most critics have refrained from giving an alternative estimate given the complexities involved in the changes in the methodology and databases used. Therefore, most of us have only pointed out the problems with the methodology and the database, but have refrained from giving an alternative estimate of the GDP. We all agree that there is an overestimate, but by how much is something that we have refrained from estimating.

Dr. Subramanian has given a very drastic estimate. He has said that GDP growth was 4.5% per year for six years from 2011-12. This is less than the official estimate by 2.5 percentage points, and has caused a lot of uproar in the media. Whether GDP growth was really lower by 2.5 percentage points, or lower by less than that or more than that, is something we are unable to be very

specific about. This is because the methodology used by Dr. Subramanian can be questioned on many grounds. He has not addressed the methodological issues, but he has used the covariates of GDP and a regression methodology to arrive at this alternative estimate.

Therefore, this number, though it is drastic and catches public imagination, can be questioned on many grounds. That's the reason why there has been a lot of scepticism. If you ask me whether I agree with him, I won't comment because I really don't know. Unless I go into the details of the methodology, I would not be able to assess the merit of his claims. But what I would definitely say is that the growth rate seems overestimated. But by how much, I would not be able to give you an alternative number.

Dr. Sen, would you agree that growth is overestimated? And if it is, do you think it is by an amount that should be taken note of?

Pronab Sen: I don't even know whether growth is overestimated. This is a technical debate. It is a debate where people like Professor Nagaraj, who are critics, have written papers and the CSO [Central Statistics Office] has formally replied to them. It is a technical debate and it is healthy.

The real issue is that most of them really say nothing about how the growth rate will be affected. The question that is being asked is whether the level of GDP was overestimated or not. So, when Professor Nagaraj says that there was an overestimation, my sense of the criticism that he and others have levelled seems to suggest that they are really talking about the levels and not the growth rate. I don't think one can make a categorical statement about the growth rate.

Dr. Subramanian's paper is a different matter altogether. What he has done is that he has taken 17 indicators and found that they were very closely correlated with the GDP in the first period, that is, prior to 2011-12, and that most correlations broke down in the second period. This does not come as a surprise be-



cause a lot of the indicators that he has taken were used earlier in calculating GDP. They are no longer used now.

When we use the corporate value figures now, that relationship seems to have broken down. Then he assumes that that relationship, had it continued into the second period, would have given a 4.5% growth, and then says that therefore there is a 2.5 percentage points overestimation. That is conceptually wrong. I don't think it stands scrutiny theoretically.

He then does a cross-country regression and shows that India was pretty much on the average of 70 countries in the earlier period. But in the second period, India is off. There are two problems with that argument. One, in the cross-country regression that he does, he doesn't give us the confidence interval because we know you are not going to all be on a straight line. You are going to be off it by a certain amount and so there are confidence intervals. He has not actually told us whether in the second period we are beyond, outside the confidence zone. Until that information is given, we cannot say that it is an outlier.

Two, what he should have mentioned is that almost all the countries in the 70 he has used are using volume indicators to calculate their GDP. And in doing that, they would be closely correlated with what we were doing earlier because we were also using volume indicators and would not be correlated in the second period.

So, I think there are issues.

Post-demonetisation, the non-corporate sector was affected more adversely than the corporate sector. If you continue to assume that the two sectors are behaving similarly, you are probably seriously overestimating the growth of the non-corporate sector.

Whether growth was being overestimated or not... my sense is that growth was not being overestimated earlier. That is, up to 2016-17. Subsequent to that, I think it is being overestimated. But by how much, I have no call.

Dr. Sen, you had mentioned that growth after 2016-17 might be overestimated. Why would this be the case after 2016-17, and is it a significant amount?

PS: The reason for this is very simple. It is that we do not have direct data on the non-corporate sector. A critical assumption that is made in GDP calculations is that sector-wise growth rates are similar for the corporate and non-corporate sectors. So, you calculate corporate growth rates for each sector and you assume that for that sector, the same growth rate applies for the non-corporate side as well.

Post-demonetisation, the non-corporate sector was known to have been affected much more adversely than the corporate sector. If you continue to use the same assumption that the two are behaving simi-

larly, you are probably seriously overestimating the growth of the non-corporate sector. But this was not the case prior to demonetisation.

There are known issues with the way we are trying to estimate the size of the non-corporate sector. Do you feel that there are ways by which we can do things better?

RN: One thing which has been ignored in the recent past in the debate is that with the introduction of the new GDP series, two things happened. One is that the size of the corporate sector got enlarged and, correspondingly, the size of the household or informal sector got reduced. A good part of this change was on account of shifting partnerships and proprietary firms from the unorganised sector to the corporate sector.

Another thing that happened in the changed methodology is that earlier they would get estimates of the value added per worker using the NSSO [National Sample Survey Office] surveys and multiply it by the number of workers as estimated by some other NSSO surveys and get the value added in the unorganised sector. This old method was supposed to have been leading to underestimation, as many earlier committees had suggested, including C. Rangarajan's National Statistical Commission.

But in the new GDP series, the size of this has further reduced because they have used what they call the effective labour input method, where they have estimated a production function instead of using the average productivity. This has reduced the value added per worker in the unorganised sector. This again seems to have contributed to the reduction in the unorganised sector's share. Whether production function should be used or not is debatable.

Second, even if one uses the production function, it has to be used with care, because the production function is technically more complicated. And why one uses a particular production function and not something else is a very technical matter. And it appears to us that this was decided without adequate investigation into alternative methodologies.

Therefore, the size of the household sector got reduced in this process. Both these issues together have contributed to the distortions in the new GDP series. So, this part is something that has not been very much in the current debate because the MCA issue seems much bigger and has dominated the current discussion.

The unorganised sector also has problems but we know less about it, so we have not been talking too much about it.

Dr. Subramanian asked for a committee to be set up to take a relook at the methodology of the new series. Professor Nagaraj, would you agree that such a committee needs to be created?

RN: Yes, this is a welcome suggestion. In fact, this is what I have been arguing since 2016. The late professor T.N. Srinivasan and I had a paper where we have argued that there must be an international expert committee to look into the entire thing. We also said that there should be a statistical audit of the revision process. Because we don't know where the problems have cropped up.

Dr. Sen, do you feel that a complete overhaul is needed or do you feel that if certain issues are fixed, that would make the system robust?

PS: Let me first get to the question of whether the statistical system is aware of the infirmities. By and large, I think they are. As far as having an expert committee is concerned, we have a system called the Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics, which is in fact a very high-level expert body. Professor Nagaraj is a member of this body. It is the empowered body for all decisions regarding national accounts in India. If you actually leave out the members of these, you are not going to find too many Indian experts left to form this expert group that Dr. Subramanian is talking about. Then what you are effectively saying is that you have to get an international body of experts to come in. And this is not a statistical issue, this is more an issue of the politics of international relations. So, one needs to be a little careful on this account.



Pronab Sen is a former Chief Statistician of India



R. Nagaraj is professor at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research



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SINGLE FILE

Tension in the Persian Gulf

The U.S. and Iran are muddying the waters with accusations and counter-accusations

EJAZ AHMED



The U.S. administration's strategy to counter Iran on the nuclear front is being met with an alleged new strategy that has left the global security community baffled in more ways than one. It is being suggested that shipping vessels be provided naval escorts through the Persian Gulf and the Strait of

Hormuz, something reminiscent of World War II when most merchant ships would be provided with naval security.

Two oil tankers, one belonging to the Norwegian shipping company Frontline and the other a Japanese vessel, Kokuka Courageous, were sabotaged in the Strait of Hormuz by what the American central command calls limpet mines, apparently manufactured in Iran. Speculation has been rife over who may have conducted such a sophisticated attack in a sea route through which 40% of the world's traded oil passes. The U.S. blames Iran for the sabotage attacks, even releasing videos and photographs of the incident in an attempt to prove Iranian involvement, something Tehran has vehemently denied.

The situation in the Gulf has been brewing for a few months now and there can be multiple ways to read it. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was on a state visit to Tehran, hoping to mediate between the two rivals, when the Japanese tanker was attacked.

To believe either side of the story, without evidence, would be misleading. However, geopolitics in most instances does not come in black or white – rather, it's all grey. The U.S.'s decision to unilaterally pull out of the Iran nuclear deal and impose sanctions on Iran for its nuclear programme has not gone down well with Tehran; the global community too has not appreciated the move. The American side of the story is that Iran is meeting economic and diplomatic manoeuvres with violent attacks by pulling off sophisticated sabotage on the seas. Iranians, on the other hand, proclaim that it is the American intelligence apparatus that is conducting such moves to escalate the situation to the brink of war, thus paving the way for yet another 'promotion of democracy' in West Asia.

Iran has been at the wrong end of American sanctions for decades now, and it has learned to negotiate its way each time with creative new strategies. However, the recent U.S. pressure on countries such as India, Japan and Turkey to reduce their oil imports from Iran to zero has hit Tehran where it hurts most. And this new strategy of sabotaging oil supply routes in the Persian Gulf may be Iran's 'creative' way of dealing with American absolutism. It might well be Iran's way of looking at the adverse situation created by the U.S.: 'If we can't ship oil, might as well let no one else do it too.'

Ejaz Ahmed is a researcher with Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi



NOTEBOOK

A dilemma during a humanitarian crisis

Should relief workers do their job or give access to journalists?

SUHASINI HAIDAR

"What's your weight," asked the Indian Air Force (IAF) officer, visibly irritated by my persistence. He was responsible for ensuring that much-needed fuel and rations reached the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the days following the deadly tsunami of 2004, and I had been trying to get a ride on one of the helicopters or AN-32s flying between the islands all day. These aircraft would set out carrying food and fuel for people stranded on the islands, and return carrying the injured and homeless to shelters in Port Blair. So, when I asked again to be allowed to fly to Car Nicobar, which was among the most devastated, he snapped and told me, "I can either send a bag of rice or you on this flight. Which one should it be?" Cowed into silence by his words, I sat down and waited for the next flight

that could carry me out.

Relief workers in any humanitarian situation face the same dilemma: should they deliver all the relief they can or give journalists access to the affected areas so the world can be informed about the crisis? This is a choice that must be made responsibly. Officials must consider whether journalists are hampering or aiding relief efforts, with the understanding that the media has a responsibility in bringing information to the public.

As a battle rages on about whether journalists should have access to wards at the hospital in Muzaffarpur, Bihar, where more than 100 children have died, questions must also be asked about whether the officials who allowed them had weighed these options carefully. There is a public purpose served in ensuring that the State Health Department is held to account even as the cur-

rent epidemic of acute encephalitis syndrome continues. Having been granted that access, however, it is for the journalist to cover the story with what UNESCO-framed media guidelines call "a personal ethical consciousness", where information is seen as a "social good, not a commodity", and in a way that doesn't obstruct health workers and doctors from doing their job. The dignity and privacy of all patients, victims and their families must also be maintained, note the UNESCO guidelines that were adopted in 1983.

Notwithstanding the point made by the IAF officer in Port Blair, facilitating the media in humanitarian situations does serve a larger purpose. One famous study titled 'Media Coverage and Charitable Giving after the 2004 Tsunami', published in the *Southern Economic Journal*, found that "each additional mi-

nute of international news coverage raised donations worldwide by about 2.5%". Millions of dollars poured into the affected areas in the months after the tsunami.

Sometimes, the impact is even more immediate. I once covered a school project in a large slum in Delhi, and interviewed a little boy who didn't speak much. When I asked him what he wanted the most, he simply pointed to his bare feet. A staff member explained that he and his brothers had one pair of shoes between them, and would take turns to wear them to school. Some days after the story aired on the international channel I worked for, I heard from a woman in the U.S. She wanted to know how she could reach the boy. Imagine our joy when we heard that a consignment of 500 shoes had arrived for not only the boy, but for every student in the school!

FROM THE HINDU ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 21, 1969

Bihar's Ministry falls

The history of defection was repeated in Bihar to-day [June 19] when the 115-day old Congress-led coalition Government headed by Mr. Harihar Singh was defeated in the Bihar Assembly by the combined Opposition in a dramatic trial of strength on a budget demand for Animal Husbandry. Just before the showdown all the six members of the Soshit Dal, a constituent of the coalition, including Mr. Jagdeo Prasad, Minister for River Valley Projects and Mr. Mahavir Prasad, Minister of State, defected to the Opposition. The 69-year-old Chief Minister, Mr. Harihar Singh, later submitted the resignation of his Government to the Governor, Mr. Nityananda Kanungo. The Governor is understood to have accepted Mr. Harihar Singh's resignation but asked him to continue till alternative arrangements were made.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 21, 1919.

The Congress Deputation in England.

(By Mr. S. Satyamurti) We landed in London on Sunday, the 25th, after having been detained near Folkestone, London, for nearly 12 hours by a thick fog in the Channel. We were received at St. Pancras station by Indian friends who gave us a truly Indian welcome, with garlands, rose water, etc. I must say at once that Indian friends here are very helpful and we cannot be too thankful to them. The next day after our arrival, we went to the rooms of the British Congress Committee and met Mr. Polak there. We asked him for the co-operation of the Committee in the work of the Deputation and the use of their rooms for our office. He informed us that the Committee was meeting on the 30th to consider the whole question and that then they would let us know. Mr. Patel then wrote to the Chairman and asked for an opportunity for the Deputation to see him and the Committee and we are to meet them next Monday at 4 P.M., when we shall know something about it definitely.

CONCEPTUAL Cognitive miser

PSYCHOLOGY

This refers to a theory of human behaviour which states that the human brain tries to expend the least amount of energy to solve the various problems that it encounters in daily life. Such tendency to conserve energy causes human beings to arrive at simplistic, and often wrong, solutions to issues that might actually require a sophisticated solution requiring a significant amount of energy. Thus the human brain, according to the cognitive miser theory, is similar to a miser who economises when it comes to expending money. The term was coined by American social psychologists Susan Fiske and Shelley Taylor in their 1984 book *Social Cognition*.

MORE ON THE WEB

Cinema quiz | A tribute to 'Crazy' Mohan

<http://bit.ly/CrazyMohanQuiz>

FROM PAGE ONE

'Simultaneous polls are development-oriented'

"With such a system in place, all political parties, according to their respective ideologies, will be able to better utilise their energy towards development and public welfare," he said.

The government had taken steps to curb infiltration by deciding to implement the NRC, currently being updated in Assam, on a priority basis in areas affected by infiltration, the President said.

While the government was working to identify infiltrators, it was also fully committed to protecting those who were victims of persecution due to their faith in neighbouring countries. The Citizenship Act would be amended to protect linguistic, cultural and social identities, he said.

The amendments to the Act were necessitated by huge protests in the north-eastern region, particularly in Assam, early this year.

Tough on terror

Mr. Kovind commended the government for acting

tough on terror after the Pulwama attack.

"India has amply demonstrated both her intent and capabilities, first through surgical strikes and then through air strikes after Pulwama on terrorist hideouts across the border. In future too, all possible steps will be taken to ensure our security," he said.

The "whole world stands with India on the issue of terrorism – the designation of Masood Azhar, responsible for the dastardly terrorist attacks on our soil, as a global terrorist by the United Nations – is a major testimony to this fact."

UPA leader Sonia Gandhi was seen thumping her desk when the Balakot air strikes were mentioned by the President.

The "eradication of social evils like triple talaq and *nikah halala*" was imperative and all members should cooperate in such efforts. The Cabinet had cleared a fresh Bill on triple talaq and is expected to table it in this session of Parliament.

Kerala offers 20 lakh litres of water to T.N.

"Since the Chief Minister was on a medical check-up, his Secretary had discussed with the Municipal Administration Minister and the MAWS Secretary and conveyed gratitude to Kerala CM's Secretary on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu," according to the statement.

Since the daily requirement of Chennai a day is 525 MLD (million litres per day), the Chief Minister's Secretary also conveyed that the offer of 20 lakh litres was being managed from here and

"if there is a requirement, help from Kerala would be sought certainly."

"Tamil Nadu government officials have opined that it would be helpful if Kerala sends 2 MLD. The Chief Minister would take an appropriate decision after a review meeting on the drinking water issue scheduled tomorrow (Friday)," Mr. Velumani said. He denied reports that the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister had rejected the Kerala government's offer.

Sanjiv Bhatt gets life term in custodial death case

On October 30, 1990, Bhatt detained around 150 people following a communal riot in Jamjodhpur town after a 'bandh' call against the halting of veteran BJP leader L.K. Advani's 'rath yatra' for the construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya.

One of those arrested, Prabhudas Vaishnani, died in a hospital after his release by the police. Subsequently, his brother lodged an FIR accusing Bhatt and six other policemen of killing his sibling by torturing him. During the trial, prosecutor Tushar Gokani argued that Bhatt's role in the 'torture' of the victim was evident along with other policemen. The case against Bhatt remained pending for years, as the State government did not give the nod for prosecuting him. It, however, gave the permission later.

Drug case under trial

On September 5, 2018, Bhatt was arrested in the drug case, which is under trial.

He has been denied bail by the courts.

In 2011, Bhatt said in his affidavit to the Supreme Court that he was part of the meeting called by Mr. Modi following the Godhra train attack case in which Hindu pilgrims were charred to death. He claimed that at the meeting, Mr. Modi asked the administration to allow "the majority community to vent their anger against the minority community."

After the Godhra incident, the State plunged into its worst communal riots, in which more than 1,000 people were killed.

However, the court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT), headed by former CBI Director R.K. Raghavan, rejected Bhatt's allegations pertaining to complicity of Mr. Modi in the riots.

In the 2012 Gujarat Assembly polls, Bhatt's wife Shweta was the Congress candidate against Mr. Modi in the Maninagar seat.

Violence continues in Bengal, one killed in firing

The area, predominantly inhabited by migrant workers from Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh, witnessed sporadic violence following the election result, which saw BJP leader Arjun Singh defeating Dinesh Trivedi of the Trinamool Congress.

The State government has decided to set up a new police station in Bhatpara, and it was supposed to be inaugurated on Thursday. But the inauguration was postponed following the violence.

Additional Director-General of Police (Barrackpore Police Commissionerate) Sanjay Singh reached the area with a huge force. The Rapid Action Force was also

deployed. Director-General of Police Virendra also reached there.

Home Secretary Alapan Banerjee said Section 144 had been imposed in Bhatpara, Jagaddal and adjacent areas.

BJP leader Kailash Vijayvargiya said the party was sending a team of MPs to Bhatpara. "It is a clear case of the police opening fire and killing an innocent person. [Chief Minister] Mamata Banerjee and the State government have failed to control the situation," he said.

Trinamool leader Tapas Ray said the BJP was "instigating such violence to destabilise the government."

Grand plans for the farm sector

Kovind says Centre will invest ₹25 lakh crore to boost agricultural productivity



In full strength: President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and others on their way to the central hall of Parliament for the joint session. •SANDEEP SAKENA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Centre plans to invest ₹25 lakh crore in the farm sector in the coming years to boost agricultural productivity, President Ram Nath Kovind said on Thursday.

Addressing the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament, the President said that a committee of Chief Ministers was being set up to look into structural reforms in the field of agriculture. With regard to drought-hit areas, Mr. Kovind said the government was aware of the crisis

and was assisting farmers and tackling drinking water shortage with the support of State governments and village *sarpanchs*.

Listing the BJP-led government's decisions in its first 21 days, the President began by highlighting the expansion of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, an income support scheme, to all landowning farm families. Earlier, the scheme was only open to small and marginal farm families owning less than two hectares of land. The expansion of the

scheme, in keeping with a BJP poll promise, would increase its annual budget to ₹90,000 crore (from the previous ₹72,000 crore estimate), said Mr. Kovind, adding that ₹12,000 crore had already been disbursed in the past three months.

Pension scheme

Other initiatives include the contributory pension scheme for farmers above the age of 60, a ₹13,000-crore scheme to fund treatment of common diseases in cattle, the Grameen Bhand-

aran Yojana to provide village-level storage facilities for farm produce and the plan to create 10,000 new farmer producer organisations. A new department for fisheries development is expected to usher in a new blue revolution, the President said.

With regard to higher education, the President said the government was "striving to increase the number of seats in the country's higher education system by one-and-a-half times by 2024." This would create two crore additional seats, he said.

One-poll idea totally impractical: AIADMK

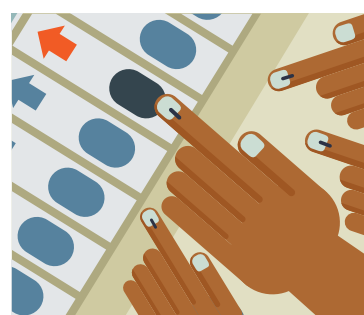
Key NDA ally 'politely' rejects Prime Minister's proposal, says it will be a disruptive move

SOBHANA K. NAIR NEW DELHI

A key National Democratic Alliance ally, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), is opposed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's formula of "One nation, one election".

Tamil Nadu Minister C.V. Shanmugam and Rajya Sabha member A. Navaneetharishnan submitted a memorandum on Wednesday on behalf of their party as they were not allowed inside the meeting which was only open to party presidents.

According to sources, the party, in a one-page memorandum, has argued that the formula is completely impractical. "If an Assembly dissolves, will you hold the



If an Assembly dissolves, will you hold general elections too, just so that the two are synchronised? It's simply not doable.

— SENIOR AIADMK LEADER

Lok Sabha election too, just so that the two are synchronised? It's simply not doable," a top AIADMK leader who refused to be identified told *The Hindu*.

The AIADMK fought the Lok Sabha election in an alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Tamil Nadu. Sources said they had

the initial round of consultations, the government announced that a committee would be constituted to carry out a detailed examination and chart out a road map for synchronising the State and general elections.

The AIADMK was tight-lipped about its position and did not publicly comment on it.

Thambidurai was for it In September 2017, senior AIADMK leader and former Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha M. Thambidurai had written to Mr. Modi supporting the idea. He had even suggested that the system should be in place by 2024, and argued that it would save the government pre-

vious money, which could otherwise be utilised for welfare programmes.

The first elections to the Lok Sabha were held simultaneously with all State Assemblies in 1951-52. This practice continued in three subsequent general elections – 1957, 1962 and 1967.

The cycle was disrupted with the historic split of the Congress in 1969, leading to the premature dissolution of the Lok Sabha. Since then, the government had used Article 356 all too frequently, prematurely disrupting Assemblies. The first victim was the Communist government under E.M.S. Namboodiripad in Kerala in 1959, which was sacked by the Congress using Article 356.

BJP will be stronger in A.P., says Nadda

'We believe in politics of inclusiveness'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and TDP president N. Chandrababu Naidu, who is abroad, spoke to its Rajya Sabha MP Y.S. Chowdary in an effort to dissuade him from leaving the party. Along with Mr. Chowdary, three other TDP members of the Rajya Sabha, C.M. Ramesh, T.G. Venkatesh and Garikapati Mohan Rao have quit the party and joined the BJP. They have cited "lack of accountability" for the party's recent poll debacle as the reason for leaving it.

The four met Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu to submit the TDP legislative party resolution.

Probe under way The CBI is investigating Mr. Chowdary in a case of bank fraud. Mr. Ramesh's and Mr. Venkatesh's business premises and homes were raided by the Income Tax Department during the elections.

According to top TDP leaders, the four defectors had asked other colleagues to join them.

From 126 seats, the TDP is down to 23 in the Assembly. Many of its stalwarts, includ-

ing Mr. Naidu's son Nara Lokesh lost in the recent polls. In the Lok Sabha, they are down from 15 to three seats.

The BJP formally inducted the four MPs at a press meet in New Delhi on Thursday. Mr. Chowdary, Mr. Venkatesh and Mr. Ramesh were present at the induction, while Mr. Rao, who had sprained his ankle, sent in a written undertaking.

The inductions happened in the presence of BJP working president J.P. Nadda and leader of the House Thawar Chand Gehlot. "Looking at the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Modi and organisational skill of Amit Shahji, the TDP MPs had been feeling for a long time that they should join the BJP," Mr. Nadda told reporters. Their entry would strengthen the BJP in Andhra Pradesh, he said.

The BJP did not win a single seat in the Lok Sabha or Assembly polls in the State. "I want to assure the MPs that the BJP believes in the politics of positivism and inclusiveness. All four of them are leaders with ground support in Andhra Pradesh and we hope to strengthen the BJP in that State," Mr. Nadda said. The MPs later met Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah.

Party will choose its next president, says Rahul

Congress plays down speculation, says it stands by him



Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi seen with other MPs in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. •PTI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday maintained that there was 'corruption' in the Rafale fighter aircraft deal and indicated his firmness on stepping down as party chief by declaring that the organisation would choose its next president.

While walking out of the Central Hall after President Ram Nath Kovind's address to the joint sitting of Parliament, presspersons sought his response to the mention of Rafale aircraft delivery in

the address. "My stand has been the same that there has been corruption in the Rafale jet deal," Mr. Gandhi replied. President Kovind in his address referred to the delivery of the first lot of Rafale aircraft by the end of this year.

Mr. Gandhi was also asked to respond to a news report in a leading Hindi daily that claimed that he would nominate Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot for the party chief post.

"Who am I appoint? The call on who will be the Congress president will be that

Hollow and full of platitudes: Congress

Opposition pans President's address

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday said President Ram Nath Kovind's address to the joint sitting of Parliament was "uninspiring, hollow and full of platitudes", and missed highlighting several pressing issues such as "unemployment and economic slowdown".

Addressing the media, Deputy Leader of the Congress in the Rajya Sabha Anand Sharma and Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the President's address was just a repetition of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statements as well as the executive decisions taken by the Union Cabinet after Mr. Modi was re-elected.

'No mention of jobs'

"There is no reference whatsoever to the past commitments to the people of India in the Presidential Addresses by the government beginning with 2014," Mr. Sharma said. "There is no mention of the jobs and unemployment which has touched... [the highest level] in the past 45 years."

Mr. Sharma objected to the reference in Mr. Kovind's address to the issue of "one nation, one election", and said simultaneous elections were not feasible due to the country's diversity.

The references in the address to Gurudev Rabindra-



Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury

nath Tagore and Sri Narayana Guru from Kerala reflected the ruling party's political ambition in these States, Mr. Chowdhury said.

Biju Janata Dal Lok Sabha member Bhartruhari Mahatab told *The Hindu* that the President should "focus on *sabka vishwas* to take along all sections and give cooperative federalism a push".

"President disappoints Nation. There is no action plan for building New India. Triple Talaq and One Nation, One Poll seems to be priority. Claims on growth is untrue," CPI Rajya Sabha member Binoy Viswam tweeted.

"The President's address tries to present a rosy picture but the claims made about development, growth and inclusiveness do not match the reality," said CPI national secretary D. Raja. "Just look at the infant deaths in Bihar because of encephalitis and the claims about health infrastructure."



Manmohan Singh

Cong. seeks DMK help for Manmohan's RS entry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

With the tenure of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in the Rajya Sabha ending recently, the Congress high command has approached its ally, the DMK, to get him elected to the Upper House from Tamil Nadu. Biennial elections are due in the State next month with six vacancies.

"Senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel called DMK president M.K. Stalin requesting him to part with one of the three seats that the party is likely to win from Tamil Nadu," sources in the DMK told *The Hindu* on Thursday.

The Congress leaders are also in touch with DMK Parliamentary Party leader T.R. Baalu to get the seat for Dr. Singh.

Though Mr. Stalin has not taken any decision, the request of the Congress has put the DMK in a spot since it has already committed the seats to MDMK general secretary Vaiko and two of its own aspirants.

Dr. Singh was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Assam and the Congress does not have adequate strength to re-elect him.

"They have been talking about it for two years and never made any move. Now suddenly Mr. Patel called our leader for a seat. This is how the Congress leadership takes care of a former Prime Minister. They could have arranged a seat from Karnataka," said a DMK source.

The six vacancies would arise due to the completion of tenures of four AIADMK MPs and CPI leader D. Raja, who was elected with the DMK's support. Besides, DMK's Kanimozhi was recently elected to the Lok Sabha from Thoothukudi.

Pak. told to go beyond cosmetic steps

India denies that Modi's letter to Imran Khan had expressed a desire to hold talks with Islamabad

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India will not be impressed by some "cosmetic" anti-terror steps from Pakistan, the External Affairs Ministry said on Thursday. India's response came after Pakistani media reported that Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a letter to Prime Minister Imran Khan had expressed a desire to hold talks with Islamabad.

"The Prime Minister in his letter said India wants a normal and cooperative relationship with countries in South Asia and with other countries which calls for an environment free of terror and violence. We reiterated

They really have to take some action that can be verified. Some concrete action has to come from their side. We will not be fooled by some cosmetic or temporary actions that we have seen in the past

RAVEESH KUMAR
Spokesperson, Ministry of External Affairs



our old position in the letter. There is no mention of dialogue with Pakistan in the letter," said official spokesperson Raveesh Kumar.

The Prime Minister's letter to Mr. Khan was sent on June 12, as a reciprocal gesture to the Pakistani leader's congratulatory letter to Mr.

Modi on his election victory. Both the leaders spoke on May 26 when they discussed ways to combat poverty and promote peace in the region.

Bilateral talks have been stalled after a series of terror attacks from Pakistan, starting with the 2016 Pathankot attack, derailed the India-Pa-

kistan Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue. The escalation following the Pulwama attack further hurt the prospects for such a dialogue.

'Fake' reports Reports in the Pakistan media on Thursday informed that Mr. Modi had written to Mr. Khan responding to a call for bilateral dialogue.

The official spokesperson, however, described the news portions that were attributed to the Indian letter as "fake".

"They really have to take some action that can be verified. Some concrete action has to come from their side. We will not be fooled by some cosmetic or temporary

actions that we have seen in the past," said Mr. Kumar, highlighting the need for credible anti-terror action from Pakistan.

Despite differences on the future talks, both sides are in contact regarding the building of the Kartarpur corridor project.

Mr. Kumar said that Mr. Modi, in his letter, had mentioned early operationalisation of the corridor and its functioning round the year. India has so far held three technical-level discussions with Pakistan and Delhi asked for some clarifications.

"India is committed to the Kartarpur project," Mr. Kumar said.

U.S. report cites Bihar shelter home abuse case

Criticises 'systemic failure to address forced labour'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The abuse of girls at government-run shelter homes, including the Muzaffarpur shelter abuse case of 34 minor girls in Bihar, has found mention in the annual 'Trafficking in Persons Report' of the U.S. State Department released on Thursday.

The report criticised India for "systemic failure to address forced labour", adding that "sex trafficking in government-run and government-funded shelter homes remained a serious problem."

India remained in the Tier 2 category along with countries such as Pakistan, Nepal, Nigeria, and Singapore.

In Tier 2 countries, governments do not fully meet the minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, 2000, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards, the report said. India has remained in this category since 2012.

"The Government of India does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. The government demonstrated overall increasing efforts compared to the previous reporting period; therefore, India remained on Tier 2," the report said.

Serious challenges, it said, in oversight of government-run and government-funded shelters continued in 2018, and some of these cases drew the Supreme Court's attention.



Horror house: The shelter home in Muzaffarpur, Bihar, where 29 minor girls were sexually assaulted. ■ RANJEET KUMAR

"Victims alleged in a few cases that government officials facilitated trafficking and in three cases were clients of shelter residents exploited in sex trafficking. In one government-funded shelter, at least five girls died after sex trafficking, and traffickers buried them on the shelter's premises; victims alleged both government and NGO officials facilitated the sex trafficking and were among the clients of the victims at that shelter," the report said.

Expert study It said a Bihar government-commissioned study noted abuse "varying in forms and degrees of intensity" to be prevalent in almost all 110 government-funded women and child care institutions surveyed and noted "grave concerns" in 17 institutions that required immediate attention.

"In at least two cases al-

legedly involving sex trafficking in government-funded shelters, lawyers and media reported government officials impeded the investigation. In Deoria district of Uttar Pradesh, despite 20 letters from the district administration to cease sending vulnerable women and children to a shelter operating without proper registration, three police superintendents ordered to send at least 405 girls to the shelter over two years," the report said.

It also said that though the government officially abolished bonded labour in 1976, the system of forced labour still existed.

"For example, under one scheme prevalent in granite quarries in India, quarry owners offer wage advances or loans with exorbitant interest rates, trapping workers in debt bondage - in some cases for their entire lives," it said.

Pompeo to pave way for Modi-Trump meet

He is slated to visit India from June 25 to 27

KALLOL BHATTACHARJEE
NEW DELHI

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's visit next week will give a boost to the engagement between the political leaderships of India and the U.S., the External Affairs Ministry said here on Thursday.

During his visit from June 25 to 27, Mr. Pompeo is expected to deliver a major public lecture, addressing the next generation of Indian youth, and discuss tricky issues such as H-1B visas for information technology professionals and Indian plans for data localisation.

Officials involved in plan-



Mike Pompeo

ning the visit said Mr. Pompeo and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will focus on preparations for a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump expected on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Osaka on June 28 and 29.

Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump are expected to meet Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe for a trilateral meet on Indo-Pacific strategy.

Officials said that difficult issues on trade, 5G telecommunications and India's planned purchase of the Russian S-400 anti-missile systems would, however, take up a fair amount of time during the discussions.

Apart from U.S. concerns on data localisation and a possible *quid pro quo* with H-1B visas, Mr. Pompeo is expected to make it clear that if India goes ahead with the S-400 deal, it would be difficult for Washington to offer high-technology hardware such as the F-35 combat aircraft.

"There will be certain issues that will be on the table at all points of time," said the official spokesperson of the Ministry. "Overall direction of the relationship remains very positive," he added, highlighting the fact that bi-

lateral trade had grown over the years to about \$150 billion.

The official maintained that the U.S. had not officially informed India about any plans in relation to H-1B visas for IT professionals.

The Iran sanctions are expected to be taken up during the Trump-Modi bilateral, and India's concerns on energy security would be discussed during Mr. Pompeo's visit, said officials.

Mr. Pompeo and Mr. Jaishankar would also set the course for future engagements. Both governments are exploring the possibility of another meeting between Mr. Trump and Mr. Modi at the UN General Assembly in September, and Mr. Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will head to Washington for the annual

2+2 summit around that time. Officials would not confirm if India had repeated its invitation to Mr. Trump to be the chief guest at the Republic Day parade in 2020, but said they expected a presidential visit at "some point in the next few years".

Regarding U.S. concerns about Chinese company Huawei's participation in the 5G roll-out in India, an official said that internal discussions were on, focusing on the economic and security aspects. "Such discussions usually do not conclude immediately. Finally we will have to see which of the two components - security and economic - will become the major factor in deciding the case," the official said.

(With inputs from Yuthika Bhargava)

IN BRIEF



Actress-cum-MP Nusrat Jahan ties the knot

KOLKATA Bengali actor and newly-elected MP Nusrat Jahan tied the knot with businessman Nikhil Jain in the picturesque Turkish town of Bodrum. The wedding took place late on Wednesday at the Six Place Kapalankya, a luxury resort located in Milas, 84 km from Bodrum. IANS

PM introduces Ministers in Rajya Sabha

NEW DELHI Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday introduced his Council of Ministers in the Rajya Sabha on the first day of the Budget session. The Prime Minister read out the names of 24 Cabinet Ministers, nine Ministers of State with independent charge and 24 Ministers of State, along with their portfolios. On Wednesday, Mr. Modi had introduced the Ministers in the Lok Sabha after all the elected members took the oath.

Changes to IT Act to take effect soon

Mandatory to trace unlawful content

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government will soon notify amendments to the Information Technology (IT) Act that seek to make it mandatory for online platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook and Twitter to trace the originator of "unlawful" content.

"The guidelines have been almost finalised. They will be notified very soon," an official source said. Last December, the government sought public comments on the draft amendments to the IT Act proposed with an aim to curb the spread of fake news. Besides tracing the origin of the message, the draft rules proposed the removal of "unlawful content" within 24 hours from the platform.

Opposition's criticism The draft rules had drawn criticism from the Opposition and some experts over fears of "surveillance and



The rules will have implications for WhatsApp.

censorship". Additionally, platforms such as WhatsApp have been at loggerheads with the government over the issue of tracing the origin of a message.

However, the government has pointed out that a number of lynchings occurred in 2018 mostly due to fake news being circulated on social media sites. It has further reasoned that social media had brought new challenges for the law enforcement agencies, including inducement for recruitment of terrorists, circulation of obscene content, spread of disharmony and incitement to violence.

All-party meeting soon on NRC

Assam CM Sonowal assures CPI(M) on discussion on fate of people to be excluded

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Sarbajit Sonowal will convene an all-party meeting to discuss the fate of people to be left out of the updated National Register of Citizens (NRC) to be published in July, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) said.

A CPI(M) delegation met Mr. Sonowal on Wednesday evening and submitted a memorandum on major issues affecting the State. "He assured us that all political parties and diverse groups would be called for a meeting for suggestions on those to be excluded from the NRC," Suprakash Talukdar, CPI(M) Central Committee member, said on Thursday.

No date yet The Chief Minister's Office confirmed the meeting. "The date has not been fixed yet," a spokesperson said. "We requested the Chief Minister to organise the all-party meeting well ahead of July 31," Mr. Talukdar said.



A file photo of a National Register of Citizens centre, where people had queued up to check their names on the draft list in Nagaon district of Assam.

The exercise to update the Supreme Court-monitored NRC began in May 2015. The deadline for this document for sifting illegal migrants from genuine Indian citizens living in Assam is July 31.

About 40.07 lakh people out of the 3.29 crore applicants were excluded from the complete draft of the

NRC that was published on July 30, 2018. The excluded were given a three-month window ending December 31, 2018 for reapplying with fresh set of documents to be back on the list.

The issue of Foreigners' Tribunals (FT) declaring genuine Indian citizens as foreigners and throwing them

in detention centres is also likely to figure in the all-party meeting.

'Not fair'

"The case of Kargil War veteran Mohammed Sanaullah has made it clear that the FTs and the Assam Police's border wing have not been fair. So we have asked the government to find out if people are being falsely detained as foreigners," Mr. Talukdar said.

Mr. Sanaullah, who retired as an Honorary Captain from the Army in August 2017, was declared a foreigner on May 23 and sent to the Goalpara detention camp five days later. The Gauhati High Court granted him bail on June 7.

The CPI(M) also demanded revision of the doubtful, or D-voters', list for people with proper documents to be allowed to exercise their franchise. The Election Commission had before the Lok Sabha polls said there were some 1.2 lakh D-voters in Assam.

Smuggling of arms: NIA raids 12 places

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday conducted raids at 12 locations in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in connection with the smuggling of prohibited weapons from the Central Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur. These were supplied to various Maoist groups and criminal gangs.

The NIA took over the investigation last year.

"On the basis of evidence collected during investigation, searches were conducted in the houses of suspect Hulas Pandey and his associates at different places in Buxar, Bhojpur, Rohtas, Varanasi and Patna," an NIA statement said.

Pandey is the brother of Lok Janshakti Party leader Sunil Pandey. The case pertains to the recovery of three AK-47 rifles on the disclosure of accused Shamsher Alam from the house of his sister and accused Rizwana Begum in September 2018.

Navy to build 6 submarines

Second project under the Strategic Partnership model

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Navy issued an 'Expression of Interest' for shortlisting potential strategic partners for the construction of six P-75 (I) submarines costing nearly ₹45,000 crore, the Defence Ministry said on Thursday.

This is the second project being undertaken under the latest Strategic Partnership (SP) Model, with the first being the procurement of 111 naval utility helicopters (NUH). This will provide a major boost to the indigenous design and construction capability of submarines in India, in addition to bringing in the latest submarine design and technologies as part of the project, the Navy said.

"As a major initiative to-



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. ■ PTI

for shortlisting of Indian strategic partners has been uploaded on the Defence Ministry and Navy websites. The EoI for shortlisting of Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) will be issued in two weeks, the Navy said.

The SPs have been mandated to set up dedicated manufacturing lines for these submarines in India with an aim to make India the global hub for submarine design and production.

"All six submarines under this project will be built in India by the selected Indian Strategic Partner in collaboration with the selected OEM," the Defence Ministry said.

The potential SPs are expected to respond to the EoI within two months.

2 warships deployed in Persian Gulf

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Amid rising tensions between the U.S. and Iran as well as recent incidents related to maritime security, the Navy has deployed its warships in the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf to safeguard Indian vessels in the region, it said on Thursday.

In addition, aerial surveillance by Naval aircraft will also be being undertaken in the area, it said.

"INS Chennai and INS Sunayna have been deployed in the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf to undertake maritime security operations," the Navy said on Thursday.

PIMPRI CHINCHWAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION PIMPRI, PUNE - 411018
CIVIL DEPARTMENT
TENDER NOTICE NO.6 / 2019 - 2020
Request for EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) seeks to evaluate its regional parking potential and structure its future parking projects accordingly. Effective parking Management is an essential tool to facilitate the efficient use of road space and accommodates fee passage for pedestrians, cyclists, public transport and motorists.

This Notice for Expression of Interest (EOI) is being published for the Appointment of Consulting Firm to assist in the identification and preparation of Equivalent Car Space (ECS) location drawing in Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation. Applications are being invited from the technically sound consulting firms with local knowledge to conduct parking investigations along the identified major transit corridors within PCMC limits.

Details of The Expression of Interest are Available on Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation's websites at www.pcmcindia.gov.in

The documents for submission shall be submitted by hardcopy system using two envelop system. The financial bid of only shortlisted bidders will be opened.

Important Dates & Details	
EOI document publication	Date-21/06/2019 to 27/06/2019
Last date of submission of tenders	Date-27/06/2019 up to 3.00 pm
Date of opening of tenders	Date-01/07/2019 at 03.00 pm (if possible)
Address for Hardcopy submission	Office of Joint City Engineer, BRTS, Civil Engg. Dept. 1st Floor, PCMC Main Building Pimpri-411018

Adv. No. 330
Date: 20/06/2019
Sd/- Joint City Engineer
Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation,
Pimpri, Pune - 411018

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'Iran made a very big mistake by shooting down U.S. drone'

You will soon find out if the U.S. will strike Iran in retaliation, says Trump

REUTERS
DUBAI/WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday said Iran made "a very big mistake" by shooting down a U.S. military drone that Tehran said was on a spy mission over its territory, in an incident that fanned fears of wider military conflict in West Asia.

The U.S. called the event an "unprovoked attack" in international air space. It was the latest in an escalating series of incidents in the Gulf region since mid-May, including explosive strikes on six oil tankers.

"Iran made a very big mistake!" Mr. Trump said in a Twitter post. Asked if the U.S. would strike Iran in retaliation, Mr. Trump told reporters, "You'll soon find out."

Iran has denied involvement in the tanker attacks.

Tensions flared with Mr. Trump's withdrawal last year from the 2015 nuclear accord with Iran.

Spy drone brought down Iranian state media said the "spy" drone was brought down over the southern Iranian province of Hormozgan, which is on the Gulf, with a locally made "3 Khorad" missile. A U.S. official said the drone was a U.S. Navy MQ-4C Triton and that it had been downed in international air space over the Strait of Hormuz, through which about a third of the world's seaborne oil exits the Gulf.

Navy Captain Bill Urban, a spokesman for the U.S. military's Central Command, said Iran's account that the drone had been flying over

The gulf widens

Tensions between Tehran and Washington have been intensifying since last May, when the Donald Trump administration pulled the U.S. out of the 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran. The situation has seen a rapid escalation this year

April 8, 2019: Washington declares as a "terrorist" group the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, an important part of the Iranian Army

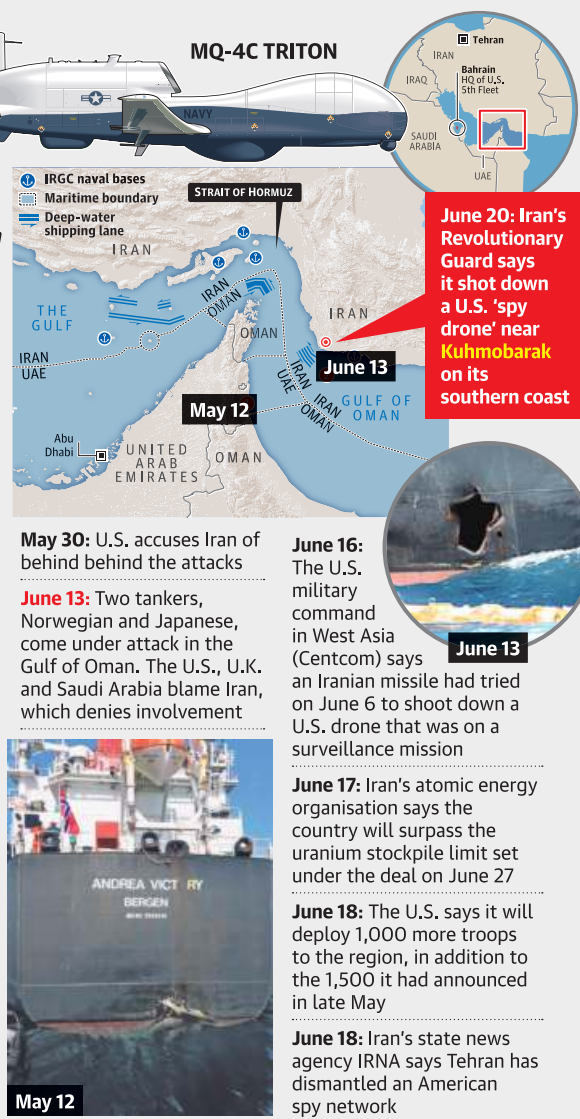
May 5: National Security Adviser John Bolton says the U.S. will send an aircraft carrier and a bomber taskforce to West Asia

May 7: The U.S. says it is deploying B-52 bombers, a Patriot missile battery and an amphibious assault ship

May 8: Iran says it is planning to stop exporting enriched uranium and increase heavy water production as part of its decision to stop some commitments made under the 2015 deal

May 8: A year after the U.S. withdrawal from the deal, Trump announces new measures against Iran's steel and mining sectors. Washington also hits Iran's largest petrochemical group PGPIC with sanctions

May 12: Four ships, including three oil tankers, are damaged in mysterious "sabotage attacks" off the UAE coast



Source: Graphic News, AFP

Iranian territory was false. "This was an unprovoked attack on a U.S. surveillance asset in international air space," Captain Urban said. The drone, he added, was downed over the Strait of Hormuz at approximately 23:35 GMT – in the early morning hours of local time in the Gulf. Separately, a U.S. official said the debris field

from the drone was in international waters in the Strait and U.S. naval assets have been dispatched to the area.

Iran's Foreign Ministry said the drone had violated Iranian air space and warned of the consequences of such "illegal and provocative" measures. Independent confirmation of the drone's location was not im-

mediately available.

The Trump administration sought on Wednesday to rally global support for its pressure on Iran by displaying limpet mine fragments it said came from an oil tanker damaged in the June 13 attacks, saying the ordnance closely resembled mines publicly displayed in Iranian military parades.

U.K.'s arms sales to Saudi Arabia were unlawful, rules court

Decision imposes stay on grant of new export licences

REUTERS
LONDON

Britain broke the law by allowing arms sales to Saudi Arabia that might have been used in Yemen's war, a court ruled, after activists said there was a clear risk that the weapons could be operated in violation of human rights legislation.

While the court's decision does not mean Britain must immediately halt arms exports to Saudi Arabia, it does mean that there is a stay on the granting of new export licences to sell arms to the kingdom – Britain's biggest weapons purchaser.

Significant error

"The Court of Appeal has concluded that the process of decision-making by the government was wrong in law in one significant respect," Judge Terence Etherton said.

Handing down the ruling, he said the government made "no concluded assess-

ments of whether the Saudi-led coalition had committed violations of international humanitarian law in the past, during the Yemen conflict."

International Trade Minister Liam Fox said he disagreed with the judgment and would seek permission to appeal. "Alongside this we are carefully considering the implications of the judgment for decision making," he said.

"While we do this, we will not grant any new licences for export to Saudi Arabia and its coalition partners which might be used in the conflict in Yemen."

Britain is the world's sixth largest seller of arms, after the United States, Russia, France, Germany and China, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

Saudi Arabia accounted for 43% of Britain's global arms sales in the past decade.

Mr. Fox told lawmakers that Britain had always taken its export control obligations very seriously and would continue to do so.

Yemen war

The legal action against the British government was brought by the Campaign Against the Arms Trade, which wants to end the global arms trade and argued that British weapons were likely to have been used in Yemen in violation of human rights law.

"The decision of the court today does not mean that licences to export arms to Saudi Arabia must immediately be suspended," the British Judge said. "It does mean that the U.K. government must reconsider the matter, must make the necessary assessments about past episodes of concern, allowing for the fact that, in some cases, it will not be possible to reach a conclusion."

Malaysian PM slams MH17 charges

International investigators charged the men on Wednesday.

The Boeing 777 was travelling between Amsterdam and Kuala Lumpur when it was hit by a missile over part of eastern Ukraine held by pro-Russian rebels and 298 people were killed.

"We are very unhappy because from the very beginning it became a political issue on how to accuse Russia of wrongdoing," Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad told reporters. "It is a ridiculous thing," he added.

"As far as we are concerned we want proof of guilt. So far there is no proof. Only hearsay."

Kim gives Xi Jinping a special welcome

North Korean leader takes Chinese President to Pyongyang's Kumsusan Palace

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PYONGYANG

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un held talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Pyongyang on Thursday during a historic visit to burnish an uneasy alliance, with the two men each facing challenges of their own with U.S. President Donald Trump.

With the North's nuclear negotiations with the U.S. at a standstill, Mr. Kim told his country's key diplomatic supporter that he was "willing to be patient", Chinese state media reported, but wanted "the parties concerned" to meet him halfway.

First in 14 years

Mr. Xi is the first Chinese President to visit North Korea in 14 years, after relations between the Cold War-era allies deteriorated over Pyongyang's nuclear provocations and Beijing's subsequent backing of UN sanctions.

But Mr. Kim ensured that



Prime ally: Chinese President Xi Jinping and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Pyongyang on Thursday. •AP

Mr. Xi was the first head of state he met as he embarked on a flurry of diplomacy last year, and has now visited his ally four times in China.

China's trade negotiations with Washington hit a wall last month and analysts say Mr. Xi is now looking for leverage ahead of his meeting with Mr. Trump at next week's G20 summit in Japan.

At their formal talks, according to Chinese state

broadcaster CCTV, Mr. Kim told Mr. Xi that the North had taken "many positive measures to avoid a tense situation" over the past year, "but has not received positive responses from the relevant parties".

"This is not what the DPRK wants to see," CCTV cited him as adding.

Mr. Xi told Mr. Kim that he "positively evaluated" the North's efforts and was "will-

ing to strengthen coordination and cooperation with the DPRK and all relevant parties".

Mr. Kim met Mr. Xi at Pyongyang airport as he began the state visit with his wife Peng Liyuan, Foreign Minister Wang Yi, and other officials, television images showed. In an unprecedented move, Mr. Xi was welcomed at the Kumsusan Palace, the mausoleum where the preserved bodies of the North's founder Kim Il-sung and his successor Kim Jong-il lie in state.

The *Rodong Sinmun* newspaper, the mouthpiece of the ruling party, devoted the top half of its front page to the visit, with a colour picture of Mr. Xi, a day after it carried an article by him, also on the front page.

Authorities imposed tight restrictions on media, with international journalists in Pyongyang not allowed to cover the visit, and no non-Chinese foreign media organisations given visas.

ELSEWHERE



China's ex-Interpol chief pleads guilty to bribery

Former Interpol chief Meng Hongwei pleaded guilty at a trial in China on Thursday to accepting \$2.1 million in bribes. The Tianjin No.1 Intermediate Court said Meng "showed repentance" during the hearing, which was the culmination of a dramatic case that shook the international police organisation and put a spotlight on China's opaque judicial system. •AFP

New Zealand launches gun buyback scheme

New Zealand opened a gun buyback scheme on Thursday aimed at ridding the country of semi-automatic weapons similar to those used in the Christchurch mosque attacks. Licensed firearms owners will have six months to surrender weapons that have now been deemed illegal, with an amnesty ensuring that they will not face prosecution during that period. •AFP

Pak. to set up courts to deal with gender violence

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's top judge has vowed to set up more than 100 gender-based violence courts in the country.

Chief Justice Asif Saeed Khosa said the Supreme Court proposes to set up "116 gender-based violence courts and also child courts in every district in Pakistan".

The courts "will be designed to look entirely different both in their infrastructure and working than other courts," he told judges in Islamabad on Wednesday. He offered no further details, and Supreme Court officials

said the plan is still being discussed.

'A first step'

Setting up gender-based violence courts is a "first step", said lawyer Benazir Jatoi – though she warned that without clear mechanisms and effective implementation it was too soon to celebrate.

Ms. Jatoi cited violence against a women's centre that was briefly set up in Multan. "The present government... programmes stopped the funding for the centre," she said. "The newly-promised... courts should not meet the same fate."

China confirms that it hosted Taliban leader Mullah Baradar

We support internal dialogue among Afghans: spokesman

ATUL ANEJA
BEIJING

China on Thursday confirmed that it had hosted Taliban leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar as part of its bid to expand its role in Afghanistan.

In response to a question, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang said that Chinese officials exchanged views with Mr. Baradar and his aides on "peace and reconciliation process as well as the fight against terrorism".

The dialogue took place ahead of the seventh round of talks between the Taliban and the U.S. in Doha, Qatar.

Stepping up engagement China has stepped up its engagement with Afghanistan, apprehending that the proposed U.S. military withdrawal from Afghanistan can result in a power vacuum, which can trigger an outflow of militants belonging to the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM), destabilising the neighbouring Xinjiang region.



Taliban leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar. •REUTERS

Mr. Lu stressed that China was focussing on promoting an internal dialogue between the Taliban and the Afghan government led by the President Ashraf Ghani. "We always support Afghan-led, Afghan-owned extensive and inclusive peace and reconciliation as well as the internal dialogue among the Afghans," Mr. Lu said.

"So we have made our position clear with Mr. Baradar. This is also an important part in our efforts to promote peace talks," he noted.

Mr. Lu pointed out that both the opposition and the

Afghan government appeared ready to resolve their differences. He acknowledged that China was trying to promote a dialogue among Afghan groups.

Talks in the past too

China has held talks with Taliban in the past. In mid-July 2015, an Afghan Taliban delegation led by Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai held back channel talks in China. In the same year, representatives of both the Taliban and the Afghan government reportedly met in Urumqi, capital of China's Xinjiang Province.

Observers point out that China needs a peaceful Afghanistan to draw Kabul firmly into its Belt and Road Initiative as South Asia's gateway into Central Asia. The Chinese Foreign Ministry had said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has been extended to Afghanistan.

Afghanistan has also been a source of Chinese investments especially in the raw materials sector.

Johnson, Hunt to fight for U.K. leadership

REUTERS
LONDON

Fervent Brexit campaigner Boris Johnson and Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt emerged on Thursday as the only two candidates left in the race to become British Prime Minister, with the flamboyant Mr. Johnson odds-on favourite to win next month.

In a fifth and final ballot of Conservative lawmakers, which eliminated Environment Secretary Michael Gove, Mr. Johnson was again way out in front with 160 out of 313 votes, versus Mr. Hunt's 77. One ballot paper was rejected.

Mr. Johnson has increased his share of the vote of Con-



Boris Johnson. •REUTERS

servative lawmakers at each of the ballots so far: 114 out of 313 votes in the first ballot on June 13; 126 on June 18; 143 on Wednesday; and 157 and 160 on Thursday.

Mr. Gove was third with 75. Interior minister Sajid Javid was knocked out in the

fourth round earlier on Thursday. Betting markets gave Mr. Johnson a 92% probability of winning and Mr. Hunt just 7%.

Vote next month

Now, around 1,60,000 Conservative Party grassroots members will vote on who will be their leader – and Britain's next Prime Minister – by the end of July.

Mr. Johnson has pledged to leave the European Union (EU) on October 31 with or without a deal.

The EU has said it will not renegotiate the divorce deal that Theresa May agreed last year and the British Parliament has indicated it will block a no-deal exit.

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IN BRIEF



Maruti hikes Dzire price by up to ₹12,690

NEW DELHI
Maruti Suzuki India on Thursday said it has increased the price of its popular compact sedan Dzire by up to ₹12,690 on account of compliance with new safety and emission norms. Dzire is now compliant with "AIS-145 Safety Norms" (both petrol and diesel). Dzire Petrol is also now BS-VI-compliant, Maruti Suzuki India said in a regulatory filing. The new price will be effective from June 20, the company said. PTI

ICRA downgrades Reliance Power rating

MUMBAI
Credit rating agency ICRA has downgraded Reliance Power long-term rating from 'BB' to 'C' continuing to remain in the 'Issuer Not Cooperating' category, citing deterioration in the company's financial position coupled with its stretched liquidity profile. However, the company disagreed with the revision in the ratings. "The company continues to show strong operational performance," it added.

Moody's downgrades Tata Motors

MUMBAI
Moody's Investors Service has downgraded Tata Motors Ltd's (TML) corporate family rating (CFR) and senior unsecured instruments rating to Ba3 from Ba2. "The outlook remains negative," it said. "Downgrade reflects sustained deterioration in TML's credit profile, with weaker than anticipated credit metrics, — led by the weak performance of JLR," said Kaustubh Chaubal, vice-president, Moody's.

Sundaram Finance to buy out BNP in JV

France's BNP Paribas Personal Finance sells stake in housing finance venture for almost ₹1,000 crore

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI**

Sundaram BNP Paribas Home Finance Ltd. (SBPHFL) is set to become a wholly owned subsidiary of Sundaram Finance Ltd. (SFL).

SFL will be acquiring the remaining stake of 49.9% from BNP Paribas Personal Finance S.A. France for ₹999.67 crore, subject to all regulatory approvals.

SFL inked an agreement with BNP Paribas Personal Finance S.A. France to this effect. It is reliably learnt that the move follows a decision by the BNP Paribas Group to exit the retail housing finance business.

BNP Paribas currently holds 49.9% stake in the home finance unit and the rest is held by SFL. As per the



The home finance arm has strong synergies with SFL's auto lending business, says T.T. Srinivasaraghavan. • BIJOY GHOSH

deal, SFL would acquire the entire stake, representing 5.05 crore equity shares of ₹10 each.

"Sundaram Finance and BNP Paribas Personal Finance have enjoyed an excellent relationship over the past 15 years and built up a

successful and respected brand in the housing finance sector in India. BNP Paribas Personal Finance has added a lot of value to the technical aspects of the business and been a valued business partner," said T.T. Srinivasaraghavan, MD, SFL.

"India is in an interesting phase in its economic journey. The financial services sector, specifically the housing finance sector, is poised for significant growth once the consolidation activity, which is under way after the recent spate of volatility, is completed.

"Given the strong synergy with the parent's auto lending and related businesses, this will further strengthen our footprint in the retail financial services space," he added.

Partner exits SBFS

The board of SFL also agreed to buy out BNP Paribas Securities Services, France in Sundaram BNP Paribas Fund Services Ltd. (SBFS) for a total consideration of ₹1.5 crore subject to all regulatory

approvals. This follows the France-based joint venture partner deciding to exit the registrar and transfer agency business.

After the proposed acquisition goes through, SFL's stake in SBFS will increase to 100% from the current 51% and SBFS would become a wholly owned subsidiary of SFL. The acquisition is proposed to be completed by July, 31.

It may be recalled that Sundaram Finance had brought in Ageas as a 40% partner in Royal Sundaram, its general insurance subsidiary, in late 2018.

The insurance joint venture was originally promoted jointly by SFL and Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance plc, U.K. The latter had exited the JV in 2015.

Motorola wants to make India an export hub

Chinese firm to focus on profitability

**YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI**

Motorola, owned by Chinese firm Lenovo, is working towards making India an export hub as it looks to achieve profitable growth in the country, a top official said on Thursday.

"We have a manufacturing strategy in place. Everything we make is made in India. We [also] have an export-ready strategy which gives you better cost advantages," Prashanth Mani, country head for Lenovo's mobile business group and MD, Motorola Mobility, told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Mani said the company recently exported about 1-1.5 lakh units from India to markets such as West Asia, South Africa and Mexico. Its

manufacturing unit at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu has a capacity of about 12 million units and employs about 4,000 people.

"Globally, there are just 2-3 brands which are profitable. Now, Motorola has joined the league... In India, it's the same approach, we are saying it is not about being number one or number two, but profitable growth."

The company has created an IT system, investing "significant million dollars" which will enable the company to export systematically. "We will have products keeping the Indian consumer in mind but exported outside." He was speaking at Motorola's launch of the One Vision smartphone priced at ₹19,999.

Tech Mahindra signs contract with Airbus

Pact covers cabin engineering

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI**

IT firm Tech Mahindra has signed a multi-year contract with Airbus for cabin and cargo design engineering with an aim to capitalise on the specialised skills and competencies in the growing cabin engineering business over the next few years.

Commenting on the deal, Karthikeyan Natarajan, global head of engineering and IoT, Tech Mahindra, said: "Airbus is a strategic customer and partner of Tech Mahindra, and it has been our constant endeavour to develop innovative engineering and digital solutions for our customers. This is a step towards further nurtur-



ing this key relationship and supporting Airbus in consolidating their global supplier base while driving business efficiencies and competencies in this process."

"This will strengthen our aerospace engineering portfolio, especially in areas like cabin engineering and customer services," Mr. Natarajan added.

Fed sees case for rate cuts this year

**REUTERS
WASHINGTON**

The U.S. Federal Reserve on Wednesday signalled interest rate cuts beginning as early as July, saying it is ready to battle growing global and domestic economic risks as it took stock of rising trade tensions and growing concerns about weak inflation.

Even as the Fed left its benchmark interest rate unchanged for now, the shift in sentiment since its last policy meeting was marked. The bulk of Fed policymakers slashed their rate outlook for the rest of the year by roughly half a percentage point, and Chairman Jerome Powell said others agree the case for lower rates is building.

Jain Irrigation allays investors' concerns on debt servicing

Ind-Ra has downgraded firm's long-term issuer rating

**PIYUSH PANDEY
MUMBAI**

Jain Irrigation Systems Limited shares jumped more than 22% on Thursday after the company tried to ward off investors' concerns around debt servicing.

The company's shares hit a 52-week low of ₹16.3 after India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) downgraded the firm's long-term issuer rating to 'IND BBB' from 'IND A', while placing it on rating watch negative (RWN) on Wednesday.

"We wish to reassure our investors and stakeholders that company is moving forward with normal operations and is confident of fulfilling its agenda, while



Company says it is making 'serious efforts' to deleverage its balance sheet

making serious efforts to deleverage its balance sheet," it said in regulatory filings.

Unabated and unprecedented significant fall in share price is not the result of anything linked to company's current or expected performance, but may be linked to exit of company's stock from F&O and/or negative sentiments born out of speculative operations fuelled by rumours, said the company statement. "Management remains committed to owning and running all its

major business based on intrinsic value, which has been created while pursuing deleveraging to reduce debt by ₹2,000 crore as conveyed earlier," it said.

Shares rise

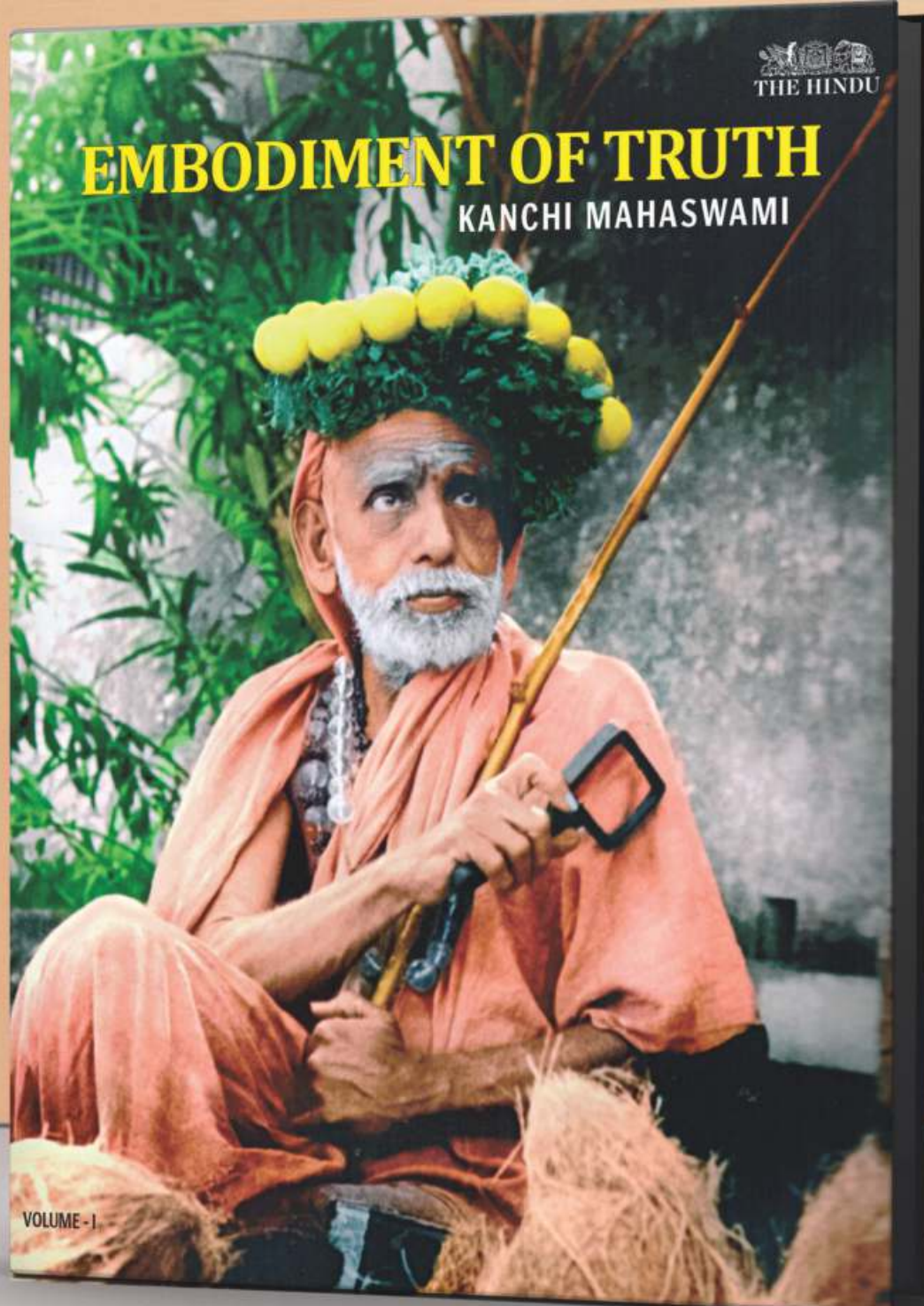
Jain Irrigation shares rose 22.08% to close at ₹24.05 in a firm Mumbai market on Thursday.

"Any new investment infusion, either by private equity / sovereign or other investors, in one or more divisions is being done. This is not to address any immediate shortfall in debt. Deleveraging is part of a well-thought out strategy to create a much better balance sheet," said the statement.

L&T gets three board seats in Mindtree

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI**

Construction major L&T, which is in the midst of a hostile takeover of Mindtree Ltd., has secured three board positions at the IT services firm, giving it a firm control over the company. Mindtree on Thursday said L&T CEO and MD S.N. Subrahmanyan would join its board as a non-executive director with effect from July 16. The nomination and remuneration committee and the board of directors of Mindtree have approved and recommended the appointments of Jayant Damodar Patil and Ramamurthi Shankar Raman as non-executive directors, subject to shareholders' approval.



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Kapil's masterpiece — a tipping point in India's sporting history

The legendary cricketer's unbeaten 175 against Zimbabwe in the 1983 World Cup has a touch of mythical allure to it



K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
TUNBRIDGE WELLS

A bright Thursday morning, with clear skies and the chirping of birds, was the perfect setting for embarking on a cricketing pilgrimage. Tunbridge Wells is a familiar name to cricket lovers and it was time to head there. Before V.V.S. Laxman and Rahul Dravid engineered that engrossing turnaround against Steve Waugh's Aussies at Kolkata's Eden Gardens in 2001, the Indian version of rising from the ashes harked back to a glorious June 18 in 1983 at Tunbridge Wells.

Kapil Dev's unbeaten 175 (138b, 16x4, 6x6), miraculous in its conception, resuscitated India from a precarious 17 for five in a World Cup match against Zimbabwe. The skipper's dare-devilry and partnerships with Roger Binny and Syed Kirmani ensured that his men scored 266 for eight and subsequently the opposition was bowled out for 235. It was a tipping point in India's sporting history and Kapil's Devils eventually won the World Cup in a David-versus-Goliath moment against the West Indies at Lord's.

The 36th anniversary of Kapil's supreme effort passed by just recently and it was time to snuggle into nostalgia's warmth. Strangely, on that epochal day, the BBC



Commanding show: Kapil Dev hits a trademark shot during the epic knock. **Right:** The great allrounder is lauded by teammates after the scintillating effort. • THE HINDU ARCHIVES



crew had a strike and there is no footage of an innings for the ages. A member of the 1983 Indian squad once told this correspondent: "I think the strike was an excuse, the BBC perhaps presumed that there was no value in reporting a game involving India and Zimbabwe." The only lingering references are photographs of Kapil launching his sixes and shards of memory fixated to a few anecdotes and R. Mohan's despatches in *The Hindu*.
Cut to the present, trains

had to be switched: Southampton Central to London's Waterloo; and Waterloo East to Tunbridge Wells. And as the rail-lines snaked past London's high-rises, rolling greens, slumbering sheep, and through tunnels burrowing into hills, a slice of history was to be relived.

Quaint town
Tunbridge Wells is a quaint town and the venue — Nevill Ground — that witnessed Kapil's masterpiece is fringed by country homes and the

woods laced with flowering shrubs. The guard whispers: "Kapil Dev, 175!" In the middle, a county skirmish was in progress involving Kent and Nottinghamshire. A wicket falls, Samit Patel departs, there is measured applause from an audience munching cucumber sandwiches, pork pies and imbibing ale or wine. The thud of the red cherry in a pastoral setting, surely picture-postcards are made of these moments.
Paul Downton, former England wicketkeeper and the

director of Kent County Cricket Club extends a firm handshake. "I missed that match but it changed Indian cricket, didn't it? Till then India only cared for Tests and then this match and the World Cup win shifted attention to ODIs," he says before seeking out the regulars, who were present when Kapil made a mockery of the odds with his rousing big-hits and toothy grin.
Two gentlemen, nursing their beers on the grass-banks, raise their hands



Epochal venue: A view of the scoreboard above the pavilion. **Bottom:** Bruce Standing, a cricket fan, and Carl Openshaw, president, Tunbridge Wells CC, snapped on Thursday. • K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR

when asked about that distant magical day. Carl Openshaw, president of the Tunbridge Wells Cricket Club, remembers: "India was in trouble, losing wickets, first two and then another three and it looked like the match would be over by lunch. It wasn't meant to be that way, imagine India was playing against little Zimbabwe and then Kapil Dev steps in and soon he is hitting sixes and fours all over. It was incredible to be here. It has been our only ODI so far. This ground

has limited facilities and it is difficult to accommodate so many modern-day television cameras. We have the stands here and the woods there and you are in time for our annual Kent game too. We prefer it this way."
Carl's friend and fellow old-timer Bruce Standing was at the arena with his then little daughter and he recalls: "It was jaw-dropping, first there were the wickets and then Kapil Dev strikes those sixes. There were not many Indian fans back then and we

were all just catching a game of cricket but it was special." But is there anything related to the fortune-flipping joust? A scoreboard, may be an old picture, any remembrance of things past? Downton does the rounds in the pavilion, the members' bar and the club's office but there are no physical clues to Kapil's incandescent moment under the sun. All that remain are the 'I-was-there' tales passed across generations, adding a mythical allure to a stupendous knock.

Another injury scare!

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SOUTHAMPTON

All-rounder Vijay Shankar is the latest to suffer an injury scare in the Indian camp after being hit on the toe during a rain-hit training session on Wednesday.

During training, a Jasprit Bumrah yorker hit Shankar flush on his toes and he was apparently in pain.

However a team source informed that there's nothing to worry as of now. "Yes, Vijay (Shankar) was in pain but it subsided by the evening. Hopefully, there's nothing scary," the source said.

Shankar is one of the designated No. 4 batsmen in this Indian line-up although he is being used



Vijay Shankar. • AP

as a floater. He is also a handy medium-pacer.

With Shikhar Dhawan already ruled out of the tournament due to thumb fracture and Bhuvneshwar Kumar out for two games due to hamstring strain, Shankar's injury will only increase tension for the team management.

The pitches in England are the flattest in the world: Bumrah

Though there is cloud cover, there is neither seam movement nor swing, says the India speedster

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SOUTHAMPTON

World's premier fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah on Thursday said the pitches in England used for white ball cricket are the "flattest tracks" he has ever bowled on as there is rarely any movement in the air or off the pitch.

Bumrah busted the myth about English conditions and tracks during an interaction with the media here.

"Whatever white ball cricket I have played so far, I felt the flattest wickets are those in England. There's no help for the bowlers on these tracks," he said.

"You see cloud cover and feel that the ball will swing but there is neither seam movement nor swing," said Bumrah.



Matter of fact: Bumrah says it is a bonus if the surfaces for the World Cup games offer some help to the speedsters. • AP

Bumrah said when playing in England the Indian bowling unit is always ready for the worst-case scenario and if some help is available, it treats it as bonus.

"You have to rely a lot on

your accuracy and clarity. So that's what we try to do. We know that the wickets are flat in England and we take that into consideration as the worst possible scenario. So if there is a bit of help, then ad-

justment becomes easy." Normally fast bowlers don't go full tilt at the nets especially when they are playing matches regularly, but it's different for Bumrah who had K.L. Rahul and Virat Kohli in all sorts of trouble during Thursday's net session.

Rattling Rahul, Kohli

A perfect yorker pegged back. When Kohli batted, Bumrah got one to shoot up from short of good length, leaving the skipper ducking for cover. The ball hit the top of the bat and flew!

Then there was a delivery that pitched on length and beat Kohli's bat. "With Bumrah, he exactly bowls in the nets as he bowls in the

match," the Indian captain had said earlier.

Ask Bumrah about that and he echoes his captain's observation. "Sometimes you want to try something different in the match and

you want to try that in the nets as well. You want to execute everything in the nets. In the match, it's just repetitions. Be it a death-bowling session or with new ball, I do it in the nets."

Where they stand

Team	Mat	Won	Lost	NR	PTS	NRR
Australia	6	5	1	0	10	0.849
New Zealand	5	4	0	1	9	1.591
England	5	4	1	0	8	1.862
India	4	3	0	1	7	1.029
Bangladesh	6	2	3	1	5	-0.407
Sri Lanka	5	1	2	2	4	-1.778
West Indies	5	1	3	1	3	0.272
South Africa	6	1	4	1	3	-0.193
Pakistan	5	1	3	1	3	-1.933
Afghanistan	5	0	5	0	0	-2.089

* till the Australia-Bangladesh match on June 20

Warner's big hundred highlights Australia's consummate win

Mushfiqur Rahim's determined century to no avail as a combative Bangladesh comes up 48 runs short

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOTTINGHAM

Australia moved closer to the semifinals after David Warner, with his second century of the tournament, inspired the defending champion to a comfortable 48-run win over a combative Bangladesh here on Thursday.

The left-handed opener contained his natural aggressive self before swinging his arms freely to score 166, which steered Australia to a mammoth 381 for five, its second highest in the World Cup.

Warner, who had hit a

hundred against Pakistan, added 121 with his skipper Aaron Finch (53) in a risk-free opening partnership and then raised a 192-run stand with Usman Khawaja (89).

His 16th ODI hundred, which was also his sixth 150-plus knock, came off 147 balls and had 14 hits to fence and five over the ropes.

The stage was set to go after the bowlers and Glenn Maxwell produced a 10-ball 32, which had three sixes and two fours. Maxwell was run out after a mix-up with Khawaja, who sent his part-

ner back sensing a risk, and the latter was caught behind 11 short of a hundred.

Faced with a daunting task of chasing down a massive target, the "Tigers", as expected, took the fight to the rival camp but ended up with 333 for eight in the stipulated overs.

Good cameos
Mushfiqur Rahim (102 not out), Mahmudullah (69), Tamim Iqbal (62) and the in-form Shakib Al Hasan (41) gave it their all in the chase but the effort still proved insufficient though the total was the Asian nation's best ever in one-dayers.

It was Mushfiqur's first hundred in a World Cup game and seventh overall. Paceman Mitchell Starc and Nathan Coulter-Nile shared four wickets between them.

The win took Australia to the top with 10 points.



Flying high: David Warner celebrates in inimitable style after notching up his 16th ODI century. • AP

STAT SPHERE

1 The match aggregate of 714 is the highest in the World Cup, surpassing the 688 between Aus (376/9) and SL (312) in Sydney, 2015

1 Warner's 166 is the highest score of this edition, and his sixth score of over-150 in ODIs

MOST 150-PLUS SCORES IN ODIs

- 7 (Rohit)
- 6 (Warner)
- 5 (Tendulkar, Gayle)

• 4 (Amla, Jayasuriya and Kohli)

1 Shakib has become the first player from Bangladesh to score 400 runs in a series/ tournament in any format

2 Number of 150-plus scores by Warner in the WC, the first player to do so. He had scored 178 against Afghanistan (Perth, 2015).

5 Number of 50-run partnerships between Finch and Warner in this WC, the highest so far

7 Number of centuries scored by Mushfiqur in ODIs. This is his first in the WC

FEWEST INNINGS TO 16 ODI HUNDREDS

94 - Amla
110 - Kohli & Warner
126 - Dhawan
128 - Root



INNINGS SCAN			PROGRESSION		
AUS	BAN		AUS	BAN	
0	Maidens	1	53/0	10 overs	53/1
34	Fours	30	117/0	20 overs	112/2
10	Sixes	4	168/1	30 overs	177/4
192	Best stand	127 (5th)	250/1	40 overs	245/4
7.62	RR	6.66	381/5	50 overs	333/8

TOP SHOWS		
For	Batting	Bowling
Australia	Warner 166 (147b, 14x4, 5x6)	Stoinis 2/54 (8), Starc 2/55 (10)
Bangladesh	Mushfiqur 102* (97b, 9x4, 1x6)	Sarkar 3/58 (8)

Next assignment
BANGLADESH: June 24 vs Afghanistan, Southampton, 3 p.m.
AUSTRALIA: June 25 vs England, Lord's, 3 p.m.

SCOREBOARD AUSTRALIA VS BANGLADESH

AUSTRALIA
David Warner c Rubel b Sarkar 166 (147b, 14x4, 5x6), Aaron Finch c Rubel b Sarkar 53 (57b, 5x4, 2x6), Usman Khawaja c Mushfiqur b Sarkar 89 (72b, 10x4), Glenn Maxwell run out 32 (10b, 2x4, 3x6), Marcus Stoinis (not out) 17 (11b, 2x4), Steve Smith lbw b Mustafizur 1 (2b), Alex Carey (not out) 11 (8b, 1x4), Extras (b-1, lb-5, nb-1, w-5): 12; Total (for five wks. in 50 overs): 381.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-121 (Finch, 20.5 overs), 2-313 (Warner, 44.2), 3-352 (Maxwell, 46.2), 4-353 (Khawaja, 46.5), 5-354 (Smith, 47.1).

BANGLADESH BOWLING
Mortaza 8-0-56-0, Mustafizur 9-0-69-1, Shakib 6-0-50-0, Rubel 9-0-83-0, Mehidy 10-0-59-0, Sarkar 8-0-58-3.

BANGLADESH
Tamim Iqbal b Starc 62 (74b, 6x4), Soumya Sarkar run out 10 (8b, 2x4), Shakib Al Hasan c Warner b Stoinis 41 (41b, 4x4), Mushfiqur Rahim (not out) 102 (97b, 9x4, 1x6), Liton Das lbw b Zampa 20 (17b, 3x4), Mahmudullah c Cummins b Coulter-Nile 69 (50b, 5x4, 3x6), Sabbir Rahman b Coulter-Nile 0 (1b), Mehidy Hasan c Warner b Starc 6 (7b), Mashrafe Mortaza c Maxwell b Stoinis 6 (5b, 1x4); Extras (b-4, lb-4, w-9): 17; Total (for eight wks. in 50 overs): 333.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-23 (Sarkar, 3.5), 2-102 (Shakib, 18.1), 3-144 (Tamim, 24.1), 4-175 (Liton, 29.2), 5-302 (Mahmudullah, 45.3), 6-302 (Sabbir, 45.4), 7-323 (Mehidy, 48.2), 8-333 (Mortaza, 49.6).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING
Starc 10-0-55-2, Cummins 10-1-65-0, Maxwell 3-0-25-0, Coulter-Nile 10-0-58-2, Stoinis 8-0-54-2, Zampa 9-0-68-1.

Toss: Australia; **MoM:** Warner. Australia won by 48 runs.

TV PICKS

ICC World Cup: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 3 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Ferrari summoned over Vettel appeal

LE CASTELLET (FRANCE) Ferrari has been called to attend a hearing on Friday at the French Grand Prix to inquire into the team's request for a review of Sebastian Vettel's penalty at the Canadian Grand Prix. The meeting is expected to be with the stewards of the French event acting as replacements on behalf of the Canadian stewards. Vettel was relegated to second behind Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes by a five-second time penalty. The hearing is scheduled to start 45 minutes before second free practice. AFP



Giampaolo appointed AC Milan coach

MILAN Former Sampdoria boss Marco Giampaolo has been appointed new coach of AC Milan, the Serie A side announced on Wednesday. The 51-year-old will take over on July 1 on a two-year deal with an option of a third, the club said. Giampaolo replaces Gennaro Gattuso, who quit last month after leading the team to a fifth-placed finish in Serie A. AFP

Squad for Asian junior badminton

NEW DELHI India on Thursday named a 23-member squad for the Asian junior badminton championship in Suzhou, China from July 20 to 28. **The squad:** **Girls:** Malvika Bansod, Ashi Rawat, Unnati Bishit, Samiya Imad Farooqui, Aditi Bhatt, Tanisha Crasto, Ritika Thakkar. **Boys:** Maisnam Meiraba Luwang, Sathish Kumar, Sidhant Gupta Sankar Muthuswamy, Ishaan Bhatnagar, Vishnuvardhan Goud, K. Dingku Sing.

Lakshmi Sahithi Reddy makes summit clash

CHANDIGARH Qualifier Lakshmi Sahithi Reddy continued with her dream run and made the women's final with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Sravya Shivani Chitlakapudi in the ₹2,00,000 AITA-ranking tennis tournament at the CLTA Complex on Thursday. In the final, Lakshmi will face another qualifier, but favourite Salsa Aher, who was pushed to her wit's end by Kashish Bhatia and prevailed 7-5 in the third set.

FORMULA ONE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE CASTELLET (FRANCE)

Lewis Hamilton will seek to stretch his lead and extend Mercedes unbeaten run to 10 races with a victory unaided by fortune at this weekend's French Grand Prix. The defending five-time drivers' champion, a lucky winner in Canada two weeks ago when Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel was controversially penalised, won at the remote sun-baked Le Castellet track last year and is hunting his sixth win this year and the 79th of his career. If he, or teammate Valtteri Bottas, succeeds, it will mean the Silver Arrows have won all eight contests this year after finishing last season with two triumphs.

Testing weekend

But after a testing weekend in Montreal, where four-time champion Vettel claimed pole position and finished the race first 'on the road', Hamilton and Mercedes are wary of any signs of complacency. Team chief Toto Wolff admitted: "Canada was something of a wake-up call for us." "After a run of very good reliability over the opening six races, we experienced a number of problems almost all of which were of our own making." He said the team would learn from their problems and thanked Mercedes mechanics for their excellent work. "We expect another



Atletico signs Llorente from Real Madrid

MADRID Atletico Madrid announced a deal to buy Real Madrid midfielder Marcos Llorente on Thursday in a move that could pave the way for Rodrigo Hernandez to join Manchester City. Llorente's five-year signing, reportedly for €40 million, would appear to increase the likelihood of a departure for Rodrigo, who is expected to choose City ahead of either Bayern Munich or remaining at Atletico. AFP

Vihari — blending composure, solidity

Temperamentally and technically suited for Test-match cricket

CRICKET

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

Hanuma Vihari's bat-speed is an indicator of the type of batsman he is. It also gives us an insight into his strength. Vihari's bat-speed is slow and measured and very unlike some of the super-fast willow-velocities of several present-day batsmen, suited more to the shorter versions.

Built to tackle bounce

And Vihari has more of an ideal Test-match bat-speed which serves him well on seaming pitches with bounce. On such tracks he doesn't go hard at the ball, which works in his favour. "My bat-speed has helped me in the longer formats," the 25-year-old Vihari told *The Hindu* here on Thursday. He is in the city, playing for Nelson in the TNCA first division league.

Vihari's composure and patience complement his technical solidity. He can construct an innings. The youngster is also



Cool character: Hanuma Vihari has responded to criticism on his selection with impressive performances. •FILE PHOTO: S. SUDARSHAN

mentally tough. His selection in the eleven, against England at The Oval last year, came under intense criticism but Vihari remained unfazed on his Test debut. "I did not feel any pressure because I genuinely believe I am good enough to

play at this level." He responded with an impressive 56 in seaming conditions. The youngster remembered the words of his India-A coach and batting legend Rahul Dravid: "Remember, if your game has brought you so far, it will

take you further." Vihari revealed the Indian team support staff was very welcoming. "Coach Ravi Shastri and skipper Virat Kohli were extremely encouraging." And when Kohli asked him to open in the pivotal

Jeevan and Purav in semifinals

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
ILKELY (ENGLAND)

Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Purav Raja made the doubles semifinals with a 6-4, 2-6, [10-4] victory over Sander Arends and David Pel of the Netherlands in the €137,560 Challenger tennis tournament here on Thursday.

In the pre-quarterfinals, Leander Paes and Marcus Daniell of New Zealand beat Britons Jan Choinski & Evan Hoyt 6-2, 3-6, [10-7].

The results: €137,560 Challenger, Ilkley, England: Doubles (quarterfinals): Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Purav Raja bt Sander Arends & David Pel (Ned) 6-4, 2-6, [10-4]. Pre-quarterfinals: Marius Copil (Rou) & Ugo Humbert (Fra)

bt Jamie Ceerretani (US) & Sri-ram Balaji 6-1, 7-5.

Marcus Daniell (Nzl) & Leander Paes bt Jan Choinski & Evan Hoyt (GBR) 6-2, 3-6, [10-7].

\$54,160 Challenger, Fergana: Doubles (quarterfinals): Niko-lica Cacic (Srb) & Tsung-Hua Yang (Tpe) bt Arjun Kadhe & Vijay Sundar Prashanth 7-5, 6-3.

\$15,000 ITF men, Harare: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): S.D. Prajwal Dev bt Joshua Howard-Tripp (RSA) 6-3, 3-0 (ret.).

\$25,000 ITF women, Jakarta: Doubles (quarterfinals): Beatrice Gumulya & Jessy Rompies (Ina) bt YeXin Ma (Chn) & Ashmitha Easwaramurthi 6-2, 6-0.

\$25,000 ITF women, Figueira Da Foz, Portugal: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Mai Hontama (Jpn) bt Rutuja Bhosale 7-5, 6-2. **Doubles (quarterfinals):** Karolina Berankova (Cze) & Oona Orpana (Fin) w/o Alison Bai (Aus) & Rutuja Bhosale.

Fruitful day for Yash Vardhan Singh

Tops qualification in air rifle in men's junior and youth categories

SHOOTING

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

It was both an eventful and fruitful day for 15-year-old Yash Vardhan Singh as he topped qualification in air rifle with 629.2 across men's, junior and youth categories and went on to be among the top three in finals in the National Shooting selection trials, held concurrently with the Kumar Surendra Singh shooting championship, at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Thursday.

Brilliant climax

It required a shooter of the calibre of Ravi Kumar, a regular in the national team, to beat Yash Vardhan in the men's final, which he did by half a point, in a brilliant cli-

max. In the junior section, World junior champion Hriday Hazarika and Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar pushed Yash Vardhan to the third spot.

Golden climax

The young boy, however, revealed considerable reserves of energy, both physical and mental, in having a golden climax for the day, as he topped the youth event with a commendable 252.4.

More importantly, he beat a strong challenge from Dhanush Srikanth by 0.1 point, as both fired a 10.7 on the last shot.

Meanwhile, in the non-Olympic 50-metre free pistol, which was part of the Kumar Surendra Singh championship, World junior champion Arjun Singh Cheema won both the men's and junior gold with a score of



Impressive: Yash Vardhan came up with a dominant performance in air rifle. •KAMESH SRINIVASAN

559. In the men's centre fire pistol, Mandeep Singh, Adarsh Singh and Olympian

Gurpreet Singh shot 585, and swept the medals, with the tie being broken on the

Khelo India programme spectrum to be widened

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Highlighting the importance of the government's flagship 'Khelo India' programme, President Ram Nath Kovind on Thursday said in order to make India a "global sports powerhouse", it was important to unearth talents from across the country.

Addressing the joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament, he said the new government has decided to widen the spectrum of the 'Khelo India' programme to cover the entire country.

"Impressive performances in sports competitions at the world-level enhances the pride of the country as well as increases the interest of children and youth in sports.

"To make India a global sports powerhouse, it is important that talented players living in far-flung areas of the country are identified and their selection process is made transparent, Kovind said in his address.

"To identify the players at the State and District-level, it has been decided to widen the 'Khelo India Programme' Under this, 2,500 talented players have been selected, and are being trained. Now this facility will be provided to 2,500 new players every year," he added.

The President stressed on the importance of strengthening the existing sports infrastructure in the country.

Reid's friendly approach helping us: Manpreet

Indian captain says coach has created a friendly environment in the team

HOCKEY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Indian hockey captain Manpreet Singh said on Thursday that the new chief coach Graham Reid's "simple and friendly approach" has brought a calming influence on the team and it is reflecting on the turf.

"The coach has created a friendly environment in the team and he has kept a very simple approach. He is very open about his thought process and is approachable to each and every team member. If any player has any concerns, he is always welcoming," Manpreet said.

"This has also improved the performance of the team," added the 26-year-old midfielder, who had an impressive FIH Series Finals in Bhubneshwar.

Manpreet said the 56-year-old Reid, who replaced Harendra Singh in April, didn't tinker too much with the attacking style of play.



Big Positive: Manpreet Singh feels Graham Reid is a calming influence on the players. •PHOTO: BISWARANJAN ROUT

Semenya to race in 800m



Caster Semenya...proving a point. •REUTERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Caster Semenya will race in the 800m at the Stanford Diamond League on June 30 in her first outing over the distance since she launched a legal battle against new rules targeting athletes with hyperandrogenism.

The double-Olympic champion was cleared to compete in the event after Switzerland's top court upheld her appeal against an IAAF ruling obliging women with higher than normal male hormone levels to artificially lower their testosterone before competing in races at distances of 400m to the mile.

"Caster's representation requested that she be moved from the 3,000 meters (where she was originally entered) to the 800 meters and we are happy to comply," Prefontaine Classic's director Tom Jordan said in a tweet on Tuesday.

An initial appeal by Semenya was struck down by the Court for Arbitration of Sport in Lausanne, leading to her appeal to the country's top court.

ARCHERY

WA appoints Bindra to sort out AAI mess

World body authorities to meet IOA top brass at IOC session

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

World Archery (WA) on Thursday appointed Olympic gold medallist shooter Abhinav Bindra as an "independent person" to look into the selection matters in the Archery Association of India (AAI).

In a letter to Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president Narinder Batra, WA secretary Tom Dielen said the world body appointed Bindra "who is a highly respected athlete."

Earlier, the international federation had said that for the Madrid World youth championships, for which a preliminary entry was made of 24 athletes, "WA will only accept entries from a selection commission composed of the IOA Secretary General, (a representative of) the Ministry of Sport and an independent person who will be appointed as soon as



Abhinav Bindra. •FILE PHOTO: G.R.N. SOMASHEKAR

possible." Dielen said that WA "always respected the decisions of the Supreme Court" of India.

WA authorities are likely to meet the IOA top brass during the forthcoming International Olympic Committee (IOC) session to discuss the AAI issues.

INTERVIEW | ANUBHAV SINHA

NAMRATA JOSHI

Anubhav Sinha's film, *Article 15* opened the Bagri Foundation London Indian Film Festival yesterday, a week before its commercial release. The impassioned trailer and the contentious issue of caste politics that the film evidently deals with made one expect the worst for it at the hands of the censors.

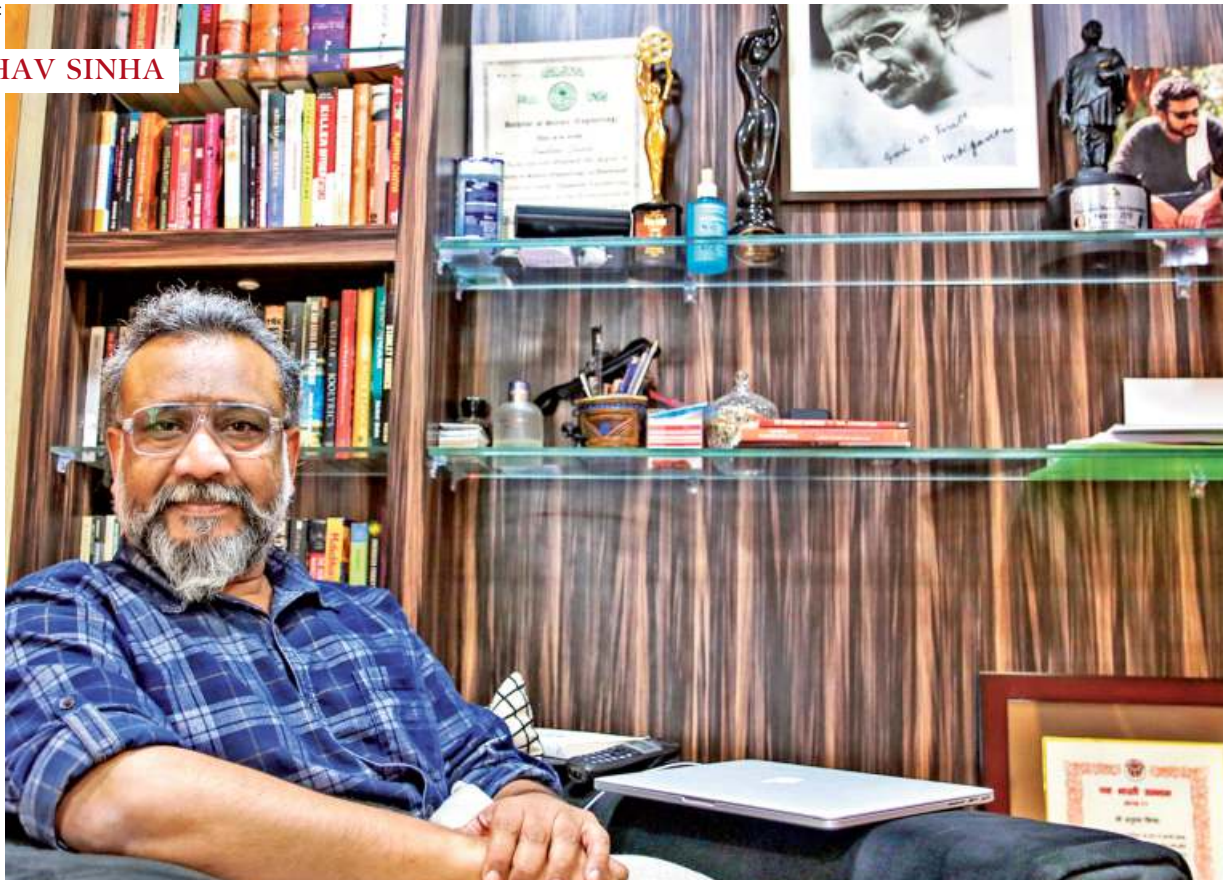
But the film has got cleared with four "very insignificant", "minor" cuts and the mandatory insertion of a disclaimer. "They didn't touch the content at all. I must applaud them for this. The examining committee meeting went on for two-and-a-half hours, the revising committee went on for 30 seconds," says Sinha.

The film's trailer came like a sock on the jaw. Were you deliberately quiet about it?

● I don't apply too much [of my] mind [to it]. There was no planning. Ayushmann and I spoke about it [the film] in October. We had met for something else. I ended up telling him this story. He took over from there. Within three months after having met him for the first time I was shooting. It may not be the best marketing thing to do but I don't like talking about my film until I have finished it. We have all grown up on Amitabh Bachchan so we root for reticent people.

Since the title is *Article 15*, was the Constitution the trigger for it?

● I was very affected by this phenomenon [caste-based discrimination] in our country and for the longest. I didn't have a title for the film. The working title was *Kanpur Dehat*, is a small district near Kanpur. But I realised I didn't want it to be the story of one specific place. The idea was to highlight that it was happening all over the country. I was sitting with [filmmaker] Sudhir Mishra and my co-writer Gaurav Solanki. We were brainstorming on the title. We looked up the Constitution and realised that its Article 15 was the most apt title to describe the film.



India calling: Director Anubhav Sinha (top) and (below) a still from the film *Article 15*. • SUPREET SAPKAL

needs to do whatever he or she can do, to talk, communicate and express.

Caste issues have largely been dealt with in regional films or in parallel cinema, but not so much in popular Hindi films, with odd exceptions like *Achhut Kanya*, *Sujata*, or a track in *Lagaan* or *Masaan* recently...

● At times it has been like the black man in a white film. Or like a Muslim in a Bollywood film who is either very good or very bad. That only enhances the problem. It segregates. Segregation was the idea whether it was the Ku Klux Klan movement or our caste hierarchy. I have never been affected personally by the system but I can't deal with a man going into the manhole. India is launching satellites for other countries but we can't get rid of [manual scavenging]. We should be able to get rid of this in a week. But we don't do it. People don't have a voice.

There is this debate about how caste portrayal in Hindi cinema comes from people who are privileged. Making a film on Dalit oppression has been the privilege of the upper castes...

● If a person makes a mistake, admits and then corrects it, what better than that? Why would you want to see it as a privilege? See it as an admission. See it as setting an example for those who haven't done things correctly. The privilege is being questioned by the privileged.

How intense was the research for the film?

● We read a lot of books. The most helpful was that red one [*Republic of Caste* by Anand Telumbde]. I read *Joothan* by Omprakash Valmiki. That was very helpful. You will see a lot of headlines in the film if you have been reading the newspapers carefully. It's from newspapers. But you can't say it's that one incident or character. I have done my best to shield them but you will be able to identify.

Flags and songs are not nationalism'

Filmmaker Anubhav Sinha on using films to talk about the idea of India, while keeping the popular idiom of cinema intact

Before *Mulk* you were associated with a certain kind of cinema. What triggered the change?

● Anurag [Kashyap], Vishal Bhardwaj, Sudhir Mishra, Hansal Mehta are people I have known since I came to Mumbai. One tweet from Hansal and one phone conversation with Anurag answers your question. When Hansal saw the film he tweeted "what a fantastic debut of Anubhav Sinha". Anurag messaged me from the interval in the film: "*Ab aaya na boss wapas* (The boss has finally returned). I think I was



always this person. I think I was dealing with a misplaced definition of success. *Meri picture uski picture se badi hai ki nahin* (Whether my film is bigger than his). Later I figured that's not success. Success is saying what you want to say effectively and successfully. It seems sudden, but it was brewing inside. I felt very strongly about *Mulk*. Making that film, releasing it, the amount of love I got for it was such a liberating feeling that I got addicted to it. Now all the films I am working on are about things I feel very strongly about.

Is it a response to the country having become very political?

● When I hear of nationalism in my country today from youngsters, I want to sit them down and tell them that flags and songs are not nationalism. Stopping at the traffic signal, opening the door for a lady, doing something for your country is nationalism. The flag, the anthem, the national song were meant to celebrate a country. They are not the country; they are means to celebrate the country. You and I are the country.

I try to present it to them in various ways. *Mulk* was one, *Article 15* is another. If you build the country the flag will go higher and higher on its own. You don't need to worry about the flag; the flag is worried about you.

Despite dealing with politically charged subjects, your cinema is very popular and massy...

● It's very conscious. There is no point in making an incomprehensible film. I don't live in Europe. There is a certain literacy and palate of the country and I have to reach out to that. I remember [film critic] Anupama Chopra, was all praise for the film, used a phrase in her review which I don't mind actually: "Subtle as a sledgehammer". But I wasn't looking for subtlety, I was looking at communicating. We have divided our Hindu society in such thin slices of caste with subtlety over a thousand years. Now you can't deal with it with subtlety. I am very happy and proud to not be subtle.

Article 15 is less verbose than *Mulk* but I have done my bit to reach out to everyone. We are the country and we will make the change and I need to talk to the whole country. Everybody within his or her means,

FOOD SPOT

For those who like a good melt-in-mouth kebab, head to Zakir Nagar to get your fill

Gorge on Galawatis

kebabs made out of lamb meat. He was known for his galawati kebabs. Galawati gets its name from the Urdu word gata, or melted. The kebabs actually melted in the mouth, and thus the name. Later, we started getting this kebab elsewhere in North India. Now, there are places all over Delhi where you get galawati kebabs: some good, some indifferent, and some delicious.

One nice place that I discovered some weeks ago is in Zakir Nagar. I had gone there for an Iftar meal, and found the shop – Lucknowi Galawati Kebab – in the main market (8, House No. 57, Lane 12, Main

Kebab calling
Buff and lamb varieties from Lucknowi Galawati Kebab
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Road, Zakir Nagar; 9911080787). They sell three kinds of galawati kebabs: buffalo meat (₹40 for four pieces), chicken (₹80 for four) or lamb (₹120 for four). I asked for the buffalo and lamb kebabs, and a few parathas (₹10 each), had it packed, and took all of it home.

Galawati kebabs, as most of us know, are prepared with finely-minced meat, which is marinated with spices and sometimes with tenderisers such as papayas. Then, on a flat, well-oiled, hot paraat, small balls of the minced meat mix are placed, flattened and then

flipped over. In minutes, the kebab is done. The trick is the marinade, of course. Some kebabchis insist that they put 100 different spices in their mince, but I seriously doubt that. Just a few basic masalas – cloves, cinnamon, nutmeg, mace – can give you some delightful, mouth-watering kebabs.

The shop has a small enclosure where you can sit and eat. It has other items on the menu: keema, koftas and rolls. For vegetarians, there is dal and a potato sabzi, and for eggetersians, egg curry.

The kebabs were soft, well flavoured, and not in the least bit chewy. I liked both the buff and the lamb one, but enjoyed the former just a bit more than the latter. I had it with their parathas, which, however, were a bit too oily for me. The next time I am there, I am going to have the kebabs with a roomali roti (₹5).

My friend Amar Farooqui, who is quite a connoisseur of good food, says that when it comes to kebabs, biryanis and kormas, Old Delhi still rules. But I am beginning to think that Zakir Nagar is soon going to overtake the Walled City. Good for us, for it means a bigger table. And, of course, many, many more delightful food memories.

The writer is a seasoned food critic



RAHUL VERMA

A foodie's favourite pastime, I have often said, is pulling memories out from a cloud called nostalgia. I do that often. I recall old places and bawarchis who are no more, and whose food is still talked about in hushed whispers. When I first encountered some of these masters, they were known only in intimate circles of food lovers. And I watched as their name and fame spread over time.

That's how I remember Tundey, the legendary kebab-maker of Lucknow. He was called Tundey – a colloquial term for a man with one arm – as he didn't have an arm. My friends from Lucknow would bring over some of the most delicious kebabs every time they visited us.

Tundey those days was in an obscure little lane and made only grilled kebabs out of buffalo meat. The kebabs came to us in those small cardboard boxes that sweets are still packed in. Later, of course, he moved to a more prominent spot in the city, and started selling

POP-UP

Tune in and chill

Staying in for World Music Day? There's an ongoing 24-hour livestream to tap into

In an upcoming livestream over 30 of India's favourite musicians are coming together – with MTV Beats, Vh1 and Facebook – for a full 24 hours. The artists include Zaeden, Darshan Rawal, Aastha Gill, SICKFLIP, Tony Kakkar, Su Real, Shahid Mallya, Nikita Gandhi, Tulsi Kumar and Amit Mishra – all from different corners of the country. We talked to Aastha Gill and Zaeden.

Aastha Gill

At 26, Delhi-born Aastha has been making waves with tracks such as 'DJ Waley Babu' and 'Buzz' which collectively have about 500 million views across different platforms. She released a TikTok exclusive ICC Cricket World Cup anthem 'Jeetega Saara India'.

Will we be seeing a remix of the World Cup anthem?

● Yes definitely! And it's going to be super fun!

How would you encourage musicians to embrace independent music with realistic expectations?

● Every aspiring musician in our industry who wants to be a part of independent music scene should be very passionate about it and should not give up cause trust me it's not easy to break in it difficult you know so I think they should really be passionate and consistent. Don't be afraid of your failures because I have been through failures but I never gave up.

Do you plan to celebrate the tag party-song singer?

● I think this is going to be a fabulous opportunity for me to make people dance to my music.

Zaeden

Shahil Sharma has made his mark in the Big Room House scene with his remixes of Maroon 5 and Justin Bieber tracks. His repertoire snagged him a deal with Spinnin' Records, one of the most reputed EDM labels in the industry.

Will you be experimenting with tabla, guitar and piano for the livestream?

● I have been exposed to all kinds of music ever since I was a kid, which led to me being super inquisitive about learning new instruments. It has definitely helped me understand arrangements and instrumentations of a track and how layers of each add a touch to a piece of music. However, my first obsession was pop and electronic music and these are what I will be playing on the World Music Day livestream.

In what ways do livestreams differ from a live experience for you?

● Live experiences are undoubtedly the real deal. Not only are the ambience and the energy overwhelming but seeing thousands of happy faces dancing and singing in unison make it all worthwhile.

The World Music Day livestream kicked off at midnight June 21. Find livestreams on the Facebook pages of Vh1 and MTV Beats.



DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

PEOPLE

Yoga next

It's not often that you find a man in dhanurasana in front of a Delhi monument. But Brajesh Kumar, a digital-marketing professional, who does headstands in front of the Qutub Minar and headstand in front of India Gate, will soon be an Instagram sensation. Hailing from Khajaria village in Bihar, Brajesh, 30, came to Delhi about a decade ago.

"I drive to Sector 31 in Faridabad, where I do yoga from 4-30 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. on the sprawling Town Park lawns," he says. "I begin with Surya namaskar for 20 minutes, as a warm-up and then do all the seated poses."

His favourite is Marichyasana that he says calms the mind and strengthens the spine. Once he's done, he'll teach anyone who comes along, for free. He begins the day with just a glass of water, and follows the yoga with a glass of juice and a light breakfast of boiled chana, sprouts, and oats. Of late, he has given up meat. "I need a healthy diet of juices three times a day and dry fruits. I need to spend at least ₹10,000 on a nourishing diet," says Brajesh, who eventually wants to become a yoga teacher.

Today, he is happy that yoga has given him inner joy, happiness and a positive outlook towards life. "All negative thoughts have banished from my mind," he says.

For a listing or to be featured here, email us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in



MADHUR TANKHA

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



HEALTH

International Yoga Day

Experience an early-morning yoga session, with Ankit Sharma, at The Roseate New Delhi. There will be beginners' level yoga that will start with the Suryanamaskar and lead on to other asanas. This session will be followed by some healthy snacks comprising fresh fruits and juices for the participants.

VENUE: Aheli Spa, The Roseate, New Delhi
TIME: 7:30 a.m.



FOOD

Friday fun

Head to La Roca, for Boca Chica evening, where the night is filled with all-natural signature cocktails like Violet, Scarlet, The Blue-Fashioned and some in-house infusions like the lemon grass and kaffir lime-infused gin, vanilla-pod-infused dark rum, and more.

VENUE: R 06, Lower Ground Floor, Worldmark 1, Aerocity, Delhi, India 110037
TIME: 8 p.m. onwards



LIFESTYLE

Heart yoga

Head to Select Citywalk mall to practise asanas and rediscover a holistic approach towards health. Yogacharya Yogiraj Dr. Om Prakash Maharaj will impart a meditation and yoga session, which seeks to energize visitors both mentally and physically.

VENUE: The Plaza, Ground Floor, Select Citywalk mall, Saket
TIME: 6 p.m. onwards



MUSIC

World Music Day

Imperfecto Shor Club presents Nawed Khan/Browncoat, a name recognised in the dance and music scene in India. Nawed will perform electronic music, and visitors invited to dance. Nawed has performed at festivals like Supersonic, Sunburn and EVC.

VENUE: Hotel Pride Plaza, Hospitality District Asset 5A, Aerocity
TIME: 10 p.m. onwards



FITNESS

Yoga blends

Leap India joins hands with modern-day yoginis, Tarini Nirula (Hath Yoga Practitioner, RYT 500 Int. Yoga Alliance) and Myra Khanna (Ashtanga practitioner) to conduct an introductory workshop to explore and understand the tools that could be used to prevent injuries, tightness, fatigue, and to enrich your daily life.

VENUE: We Work Forum, Cyber City, Gurugram
TIME: 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.



Role play
Dhanush; (below) a still from his Hollywood film • ARUN PRASATH

The extraordinary journey of Dhanush

How the Tamil actor honed his English and went on to star in his debut Hollywood film that hits screens today

SRINIVASA RAMANUJAM

As a child, Dhanush's ultimate fantasy was to own the red remote-controlled toy car that his neighbour proudly bandied about. "I really wanted it," he recalls, to a group of scribes assembled at a hotel in Chennai. "So badly that I'd go ask him and he'd refuse to part with it."

His brother, Selvaraghavan, noticing his younger brother's desire, tried to create a substitute. He'd take a used thread spool and attempt to shape it into something that looked like a car. "The days I've yearned for that red car I'd never forget."

That yearning is what Dhanush thought of when he read the screenplay of *The Extraordinary Journey of the Fakir*, his big Hollywood debut directed by Ken Scott that releases today - interestingly on the same day that his Bollywood debut *Raanjhanaa* hit screens six years ago.

The life of Ajatashatru, the character he plays in *Fakir*, reminded him of his own experiences. "I saw Ajah as a very relatable character," he says in an exclusive interview with MetroPlus, "The world he comes from, the lifestyle he leads and the priorities he has, everything is very similar to where I come from."

The Extraordinary Journey of the Fakir has met with regional success in the festival circuit, but Dhanush is still waiting to see how his Indian fans will react to it. Considering his initial Tamil films saw him in dark and raw roles, was it intentional to keep his first Hollywood film colourful and light-hearted? "Had I planned things out, my life wouldn't be as successful as it is now. Be it *Raanjhanaa* or *Fakir*, they all just happened. I just met the right people at the right time."

Dhanush considers himself a spontaneous actor - it's something that his Tamil fans have loved, in films like *Pudhupettai*, *Aadukalam* and *Vada Chennai*. But the actor says he could not take that time-tested

SUCCESS STREAK

Today (June 21) is an important day for Dhanush. *Raanjhanaa*, his Bollywood debut, released this day in 2013, and his Hollywood debut hits screens today. Today is also the birthday of his second son, Linga

Dhanush says he is "scared of success." "It changes you in ways you don't realise. Only when failure comes along do you realise that."

route in *Fakir*. "The methodology there (in Hollywood) is different. The biggest challenge was doing the exact same thing many times, since I'm the sort of actor who does the same thing differently in multiple takes. I'd describe the experience akin to going to school - only this time, I had to unlearn a lot of things about acting before I started learning," he explains.

Taking on English
When Dhanush debuted in Tamil - way back in 2002, in the coming-of-age *Thulluvatho Ila-mai* - he wasn't too convinced about his future as an actor.

Over the years, he has

grown, not just as an actor, but also as a person. "It took a lot of effort, since nothing comes naturally to me," he grins, "But when something becomes part of your lifestyle, it isn't effort."

He cites his lack of English-speaking skills during his initial years, and the work he put into it, as an example. "My English was pretty bad in 2005. To fix that, I got into the habit of reading English books. It

would take me more than six months initially to read a book; I'd fall asleep before finishing a single chapter," he recalls. But what egged him on was the need to learn a new language, and the fact that he was reading a story. "Stories always excited me. When reading became a habit, it becomes less of an effort."

He was filming *Pudhupettai*, one of his most acclaimed films, when most of his friends were talking about *The Da Vinci Code*. "Curiosity got the better of me, and I read that. I'm glad I did," he says. It would spark the fire in 'reader-u' Dhanush (the actor is known to affix the 'u' in dia-

logues and lyrics). He soon discovered James Patterson ("his chapters are easy to finish"). By the time he found Jeffrey Archer and Conn Iggulden, his two favourite authors, he was sold. "I understood how much time I had wasted without reading, and how much there is to catch up. All this helped hone my English skills over the years."

The actor still considers the language as only something he needs for communication. "I'm sorry to say this, but it's only in India that I have been looked down upon for my lack of English skills. When I shot all over Europe for *Fakir*, they were actually surprised I could speak the language. At the end of the day, English is only a medium to communicate in."

Tamil, the language he thinks in, is very dear to him. So much so that he has written the lyrics of many of his films, including for the Anirudh-composed 'Ila-mai Thirumbudhey' number in Rajinikanth's *Petta*. "Every lyric in it was

inspired by the charisma Rajini sir oozes in the song," he says.

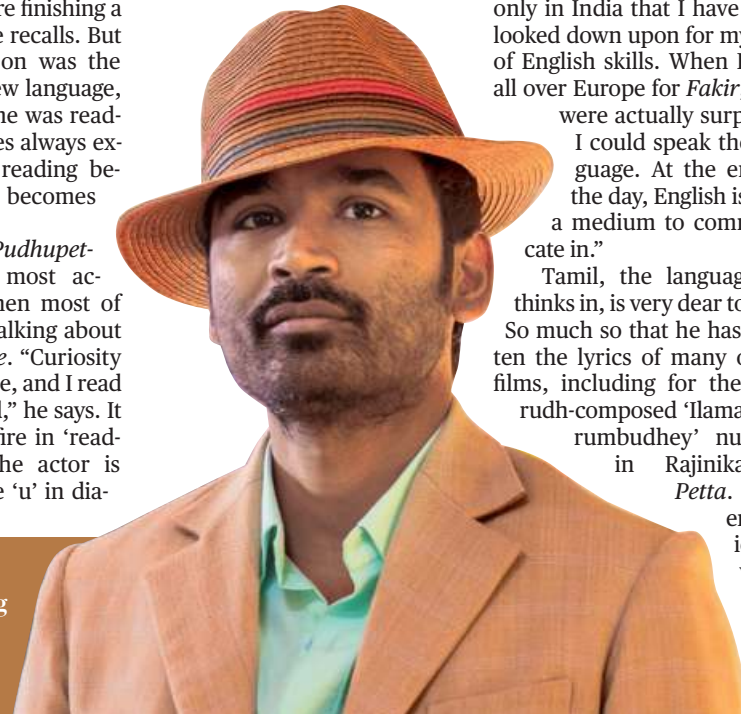
The viral star

Dhanush's recent song - 'Rowdy Baby' from his last release, *Maari 2*, has clocked half a billion views already. But he dismisses comparisons to his 2012 'Why this Kolaveri Di'. "I think that's an unfair comparison," he feels, "Kolaveri" defined the word viral. I'm happy 'Rowdy Baby' has done so well. Dancing in a Prabhu Deva-choreographed song was overwhelming, especially because I'm not a natural dancer. Sai Pallavi, who is a phenomenal dancer, got the better of me...something I'm happy about."

He says he has not yet caught his brother Selvaraghavan's recently-released Suriyastarrer *NGK*, since he has been shooting around-the-clock for Vetrimaaran's *Asuran*. "When I watch a Selvaraghavan film, I want my mind to be completely free, and I hope to do that in the next month," he says.

Dhanush will soon be teaming up with Selvaraghavan and Karthik Subburaj, besides films with Maari Selvaraj and Ramkumar. There's also *Vada Chennai 2*, which he says is "surely on". All this even as he awaits the release of Gautham Menon's *Ennai Nokki Paayum Thota*, which has been held back for a long time. "Like you, I'm waiting for it as well."

It's only in India that I have been looked down upon for my lack of English-speaking skills. When I shot in Europe, people were actually surprised I could speak the language



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TIGER

WUMO

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

PEANUTS

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by Bran Smith

CAN MEDITATION HAVE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES?

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1,232 PEOPLE WHO HAD MEDITATED FOR AT LEAST 2 MONTHS FILLED OUT A QUESTIONNAIRE. 25% OF THEM REPORTED "UNPLEASANT EXPERIENCES" AS A RESULT OF MEDITATING. THEIR EXPERIENCES INCLUDED ANXIETY, FEAR, DISTORTED EMOTIONS OR THOUGHTS, OR AN ALTERED SENSE OF SELF OR THE WORLD.

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THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13102

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CONURBATION
A W N I H B G
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L U C I D N O T I C E S
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T A G I V Y L E A G U E
S N E A N E R
W E L L I N G T O N S

Solution will appear in *The Hindu* dated June 22, 2019.
Solution No. 13101

IN BRIEF



Unheard song of Freddie Mercury released

NEW YORK
Universal Music unveiled a previously unheard and unreleased song by the late Queen frontman Freddie Mercury. The record label announced the track, *Time Waits for No One*, on Thursday. It was originally recorded in 1986 for the album of the musical *Time* with musician Dave Clark. AP



Smartphone locking style can reveal user's age

TORONTO
Older smartphone users tend to rely more on their phones' auto lock feature compared to younger users, a study has found. Older users also preferred using PINs over fingerprints to unlock their phones. The finding was made by University of British Columbia scientists working on phone security. IANS



Bible belonging to Lincoln to go on display

WASHINGTON
In 1864, Abraham Lincoln received a gift of a Bible, at a time when the 16th U.S. President was turning increasingly to Scripture for personal strength. More than 150 years later, the Bible — which was in the possession of a family friend — is set to go on display at the Lincoln Presidential Library. NY TIMES

Himalayan glaciers are melting twice as fast since 2000: study

Cold war-era spy satellite images repurposed to study ice loss in 650 glaciers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Comparing data obtained by Cold War-era spy satellites with images from modern stereo satellites, scientists have shown that Himalayan glaciers have lost more than a quarter of their ice mass since 1975, with melting occurring twice as fast after the turn of the century as average temperatures rose.

In the 1970s, at the height of the Cold War, the U.S. had deployed spy satellites that orbited the globe and took thousands of photographs, using a telescopic camera system, for reconnaissance purposes. Film recovery capsules would be ejected from the KH-9 Hexagon military satellites and parachuted back to Earth over the Pacific Ocean.



At risk: The snow-covered peak of Mt. Everest. • REUTERS

More than four decades later, scientists are using those same images to show the devastating impact of a warming Earth on the Himalayan glaciers. The overlapping images, each covering 30,000 square kilometres with a ground resolution of six to nine metres, have been pieced together to form digital elevation models of the Himalayas of that era.

In an article published in

the *Science Advances* journal on Wednesday, J.M. Maurer and co-authors analysed four decades of ice loss for 650 of the largest glaciers across a 2,000 km transect across the Himalayas.

"Our observed annual mass losses suggest that of the total ice mass present in 1975, about 87% remained in 2000 and 72% remained in 2016," the study's authors wrote. "We find similar mass

loss rates across subregions and a doubling of the average rate of loss during 2000-2016 relative to the 1975-2000 interval," they added.

Rising temperature

The study goes on to assert that rising temperatures are responsible for the accelerating loss.

"This is consistent with the available multidecade weather station records scattered throughout HMA [High Mountain Asia, which includes all mountain ranges surrounding the Tibetan Plateau]," the authors wrote, noting an average increase of 1° Celsius since 2000. The study rules out other causes for glacier changes, such as the deposition of soot on snow and ice and changing precipitation patterns.

Scientists find earliest signs of Parkinson's in brain

Serotonin function serves as marker

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Scientists said on Thursday they had found the earliest signs of Parkinson's disease in the brain years before patients showed any symptoms, a discovery that could eventually lead to better screening for at-risk people.

The disease is diagnosed by a build-up in the brain of a specific protein, α -synuclein, the cause of which is unclear. However some people are born with a genetic mutation that makes them almost certain to develop the disease at some stage in their life.

Researchers from King's College London compared data from 14 individuals carrying the mutation with that of 65 non-genetic Parkinson's patients and 25 healthy volunteers.

They found that changes in the serotonin system in the brains of Parkinson's sufferers started to malfunction well before other symptoms occurred.

"Serotonin function was an excellent marker for how advanced Parkinson's disease has become," said Heather Wilson, from the university's Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience.

First 'song' recorded from rare right whale

Scientists say the crooning could be the mating call of one of the most elusive marine mammals

REUTERS
ANCHORAGE

For the first time, scientists have recorded singing by one of the rarest whales on Earth, and it just might be looking for a date.

The crooning comes from a possibly lovelorn North Pacific right whale and its song was documented by researchers in the Bering Sea off Alaska's coast, and announced on Wednesday by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The song may not be a greatest hit, but is classified by marine biologists as an underwater call using a distinct pattern of sounds. And it is the scientists' best guess



A North Pacific right whale. • MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

that this serenade of the seas is a mating call from a lonely aquatic mammal.

Scientists surveying endangered marine mammal populations first heard the

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
STOCKHOLM

The Nobel Museum in Stockholm has been gifted Albert Einstein's first paper published after he received the Nobel Prize in 1922 and discussing his then still controversial relativity theory.

Swedish businessman Per Taube bought the handwritten two-page document at an auction for 1.2 million krona (€110,000) in December last year. He has now made good on his promise to gift the manuscript to the Nobel Museum, which will put it on display in a glass frame later this year.

The paper, written in November 1922 while Einstein was attending conferences in south-east Asia, was published a month later by the Prussian Academy of Sciences.



Words of a genius: The rare document has been donated by a Swedish businessman to the Nobel Museum. • AFP

It also has handwritten editor's annotations by German physicist Max von Laue who won the Nobel Prize in 1914. Von Laue owned the manuscript until 1948 before it passed into the hands of private collectors.

Significantly, the document contains a modified version of the relativity theory and shows that Einstein was facing fierce resistance

within the scientific community.

"This letter shows that even though Albert Einstein had received the Nobel prize, his physics was very much part of the debate among scientists at that time and Albert Einstein himself was also part of this debate," said Gustav Kallstrand, senior curator at the Nobel Prize museum.

Myanmar love poem saved by devotion of fans

It will remain in school textbooks

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
YANGON

A Myanmar love poem will remain on the national curriculum after the government's plans to scrap it over fears it promoted smoking sparked widespread public anger. *Present of a Cheroot*, composed by writer Mae Khwe more than 200 years ago, has long been a staple for Burmese teenagers in a nation where literature is highly revered.

The ode describes how the poet makes a home-made cheroot — a traditional kind of cigar — for her far-away lover by drying the "aromatic leaves" in her bed then trimming them with her teeth.

It was not the steamy content, however, that prompted the Education Ministry to withdraw the verses from

the curriculum in the conservative country. Rather, the government confirmed earlier this month that it feared it encouraged Class 8 students to smoke.

Myanmar has around 13.3 million smokers, a quarter of the population, according to the World Health Organisation. It estimates some 65,000 people a year die from tobacco use. But the decision prompted uproar in some quarters.

Political commentator Mg Mg Soe took to Facebook to brand the decision-makers "idiots" who "did not understand history".

This week the authorities reinstated the poem, albeit for Class 10 instead, on the grounds that 15 and 16-year-olds would be mature enough to handle the material.

Little steps



Staying supple: Jyoti Amge, who holds the record for the world's shortest woman, and yoga exponent Dhanshri Lekurwale practising in Nagpur ahead of the 5th International Day of Yoga. • PTI

Japan's 'washi' paper torn by modern life

Despite its UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage tag, the artefact's market value is dwindling

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HIDAKA

Once an indispensable part of daily life in Japan, ultra-thin washi paper was used for everything from writing and painting to lampshades, umbrellas, and sliding doors, but demand has plunged as lifestyles have become more westernised.

Despite its 1,300-year history and UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage status, washi paper is struggling to attract consumers and the market value has dropped by more than 50% in the past two decades.

But at a small workshop in western Japan, Hiroyoshi Chinzei, a fourth-generation traditional paper maker, creates washi with a unique purpose that may help revive interest — both at home and abroad. His product, the



Fading fast: Hiroyoshi Chinzei, a fourth-generation traditional manufacturer, displays the world's thinnest paper. • AFP

world's thinnest paper, has helped save historical documents at major museums and libraries — including the Louvre in Paris, the British Museum and Washington's Library of Congress — from decay.

"Washi paper is more flex-

ible and durable" than what Japanese refer to as "western paper", which disintegrates into tiny pieces when it becomes very old, said the 50-year-old.

The traditional hand-made paper is manufactured from plants called kozo, or

mulberry, which has fibres that are much longer than materials used for paper in the west such as wood and cotton.

"Old Japanese books from the seventh or eighth century remain in good condition... thanks to the fibres of the kozo plants," said the washi maker at his small factory in Hidaka, a village 640 km southwest of Tokyo.

'Wings of a mayfly'

Mr. Chinzei's washi, a type called tengu-joshi paper also known as "the wings of a mayfly", is 0.02 mm thick and weighs 1.6 gm per square metre.

"It's a mesh-like paper mainly made with fibres... It's as thin as human skin," Mr. Chinzei said. This compared to a standard sheet of photocopy paper, which is

about 0.09 millimetres thick and weighs 70 gm per square metre. Using both machines and hand-made techniques passed down for generations, the firm can create ultra-thin paper, which is also used by conservationists to restore and protect cultural objects.

One such conservationist, Takao Makino, carefully applies washi with a brush onto golden sticks representing the halo of a Buddhist statue estimated to be around 800 years old.

He used washi for the first time in 2007 to protect the surface of one of the two main statues at Tokyo's historic Sensoji Temple.

"The surface was damaged and peeled off. So we covered all of it (with washi) to contain the damage," the 68-year-old said.

WHO writes new prescription to prevent misuse of antibiotics

Guidelines specify which drugs must be sparingly used

BINDU SHAJAN
PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Rx: Keep it simple. This is the World Health Organisation's (WHO) prescription to combat the growing menace of antibiotic abuse and burgeoning resistance worldwide.

In its latest advisory, WHO has suggested the adoption of 'Access, Watch and Reserve', an approach that specifies which antibiotics to use for the most common and serious infections, which ones ought to be available at all times in the healthcare system, and those that must be used sparingly, or reserved and used only as a last resort.

WHO estimates that more than 50% of antibiotics in



many countries are used inappropriately for treatment of viruses, when they only treat bacterial infections, or are the wrong choice of antibiotic (broader spectrum), thus contributing to the spread of antimicrobial resistance.

The new campaign aims to increase the proportion of global consumption of antibiotics in the 'Access' group to at least 60%, and to reduce use of the antibiotics

most at risk of resistance. Using 'Access' antibiotics lowers the risk of resistance because they are 'narrow-spectrum' antibiotics (that target a specific microorganism rather than several). They are also less costly because they are available in generic formulations.

In India, the Health Ministry has made it mandatory to display a 5mm-thick red vertical band on the packaging of prescription-only drugs to sensitise people to be cautious while buying these medicines that are widely sold without prescriptions.

WHO has now urged all countries to adopt the Access, Watch and Reserve guidelines to reduce the spread of antimicrobial resistance, adverse events and costs.

Auction of royal objects from India sets a record

Gem-studded items sold for \$109 mn

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW YORK

An auction of royal Indian jewellery at Christie's here has raked in almost \$109 million, with a jade-hilted dagger of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan, a ceremonial sword of the Nizams of Hyderabad and a bejewelled medieval huqqa setting world records.

These objects, among a total of 400, went under the hammer at the "Maharajas and Mughal Magnificence" auction here on Wednesday.

It established "the highest total for any auction of Indian art and Mughal objects, and the second highest auction total for a private jewellery collection", Christie's said in a statement.

The objects on sale were from the Al Thani Collection of the Qatari royal family.



Exquisite: The Shah Jahan dagger. • CHRISTIE'S

The Shah Jahan dagger sold for a \$3,375,000 (₹23.4 crore), while the Nizams' sword sold for \$1,935,000 (₹13.4 crore). The gem-studded huqqa set sold for \$759,000 (₹5.27 crore).