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JUNE 23, 2019
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IDEA EXCHANGE PAGE 10

'THERE SHOULD BE SOME CASUALTY (AFTER) INTROSPECTION. SOONER THE BETTER'

VEERAPPA MOILY, Senior Congress leader

BIG PICTURE PAGES 12-13

Only for Women

As Delhi debates a government proposal to offer free rides for women in public transport, stories of women on the move



All It Takes is 15 Seconds
How TikTok, an app owned by a Chinese firm, has become a playground for India's young



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Minister of State Anurag Thakur distribute halwa to mark the beginning of printing of budgetary documents on Saturday. PTI

Bridge or causeway: India and Pak differ on Kartarpur corridor

India wants all-weather bridge, cites Ravi flooding; Pak says will miss deadline

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

A BRIDGE at Zero Line on the Indo-Pak border at Dera Baba Nanak has emerged as the latest bone of contention between India and Pakistan on the Kartarpur corridor issue, government sources said.

corridor, including over pro-Khalistani faces in a committee set up by Pakistan and over Pakistan's refusal to allow at least 5,000 visitors a day from India.

While India wants a bridge over the Zero Line and has already begun constructing one on its side, Pakistan is insisting on constructing a causeway, sources said. India is of the view that not building a bridge would lead to flooding of Indian areas

during monsoon when the Ravi river overflows.

The issue was discussed at a technical meeting held between officials of the two countries at the Attari-Wagah border on May 27.

"We are at a lower gradient vis-a-vis Ravi floodplains in Pakistan. So when Ravi floods, the water comes towards us. Without a bridge, the water won't drain out and will flood us.

We had told them right at the start that we need to build an all-weather corridor with cross

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPRESS NETWORK

PAK MUST IMPLEMENT FATFACTION PLAN BY SEPT, SAYS INDIA PAGE 7

JAMMU & KASHMIR Hurriyat leaders ready for talks, says Governor

If Centre shows sincerity, will respond in appropriate manner: Mirwaiz Umar Farooq to local daily

NAVEED IQBAL SRINAGAR, JUNE 22

APPEARING TO signal that the time was ripe for dialogue in Jammu & Kashmir, Governor Satya Pal Malik made a public statement on Saturday, in the presence of two ministers from the Narendra Modi Cabinet, that the separatist Hurriyat leaders were ready for talks.

"Things are much better than when I came here. Look at the Hurriyat, Ram Vilas Paswan stood at their door and they didn't open the door. Now they are ready for talks," Malik said.

The Governor was speaking at a Doordarshan event in Srinagar. Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar and Minister of State in the PMO Jitendra Singh

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED Ball in Centre court now

GOVERNOR MALIK'S statement is significant as it is a reiteration of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq's consistent line that he welcomes dialogue. The Hurriyat's moderate faction engaged in talks with the Centre earlier, but it did not lead anywhere. The absence of talks for the last 13 years has since brought the moderate and hardline factions together.

Ahead of Budget, PM meets economists & industry experts

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

AT A meeting with over 40 top economists, experts and industrialists ahead of the July 5 Union Budget, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the government was strongly committed to economic reforms. The industry, on the other hand, communicated to the government that it must focus on the economy by pushing growth and creating jobs.

N Chandrasekaran, Chairman, Tata Sons, spoke for the industry when he said the government should clearly focus on growth and not worry much about the fiscal deficit and inflation. For that, he is least to have said, the government must spend more and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) must cut policy rates.

Among the key issues discussed were ideas to improve competitiveness of the economy, making government flagship schemes more effective and increasing productivity and incomes in the agriculture sectors.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



BOWLED OVER

Mohammed Shami took a hat-trick in the final over of the innings as India beat Afghanistan by 11 runs in a low-scoring game at the Rose Bowl in Southampton Saturday. Reuters PAGE 20

WORLD



WILL RESPOND FIRMLY TO U.S. THREAT: IRAN

TRUMP FACES ANOTHER SEXUAL ASSAULT CHARGE PAGE 17

Swiss aircraft deal: CBI books Sanjay Bhandari, IAF, MoD officials

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

THE CBI late Friday raided nine locations across Delhi-NCR associated with arms dealer Sanjay Bhandari and Swiss company Pilatus Aircraft Ltd after registering a case of corruption against them. The agency is probing alleged bribery in a 2012 deal for purchase of 75 trainer aircraft from Pilatus at a cost of Rs 2,895 crore.

In its FIR, registered on June 19, the CBI has listed eight accused - unknown officials of the Indian Air Force and Ministry of Defence, followed by Bhandari, Pilatus and Bhandari's company, Offset India Solutions Pvt Ltd. Charged with corruption, criminal conspiracy and criminal misconduct, the other accused include Offset Director Bimal Sareen, suspected entry operators Deepak Aggarwal and Himanshu Verma, and Offset Solutions FZC, Dubai.

Bhandari is already facing a CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Rajesh Sahni and Geeta Devi, who lost their daughter to AES, in Harvanshpur village of Bihar. Ritesh Shukla

As AES claims seven in Bihar village, many leave with children

SANTOSH SINGH HARVANSHPUR (VAISHALI), JUNE 22

TEN DAYS ago, Chatur Sahni lost his son, Prince (7), to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES). Within 24 hours, his other son, Chhotu (2), died too.

In the last fortnight, Harvanshpur village in Vaishali district, about 40 km from Muzaffarpur, has reported seven AES deaths. Two other children are undergoing treatment at Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital (SKMCH) in Muzaffarpur. Since then, over a dozen fam-

SUNDAY STORY PAGE 11 ACUTE CRISIS

ilies have left the village with their children. Others have sent their children to live with their relatives elsewhere. All the six families who lost CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MP to ease cow transport rules, farmers can buy from each other

MILIND GHATWAI BHOPAL, JUNE 22

THE CONGRESS government in Madhya Pradesh has decided to ease rules governing the transportation of cows to ensure that farmers and traders are not harassed by cow vigilantes and stopped by police. The government has also decided to allow trade of cows between farmers by removing a condition that they could buy bovines only from bazaars or haats.

Animal Husbandry Minister Lakhman Yadav told The Sunday Express that the new rules would allow farmers in Madhya Pradesh seeking to buy cattle from another state or district to approach the sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) in their area and seek a No-Objection Certificate (NOC) by giving details of the number of cattle, the prospective buyer and the route they were likely to take while transporting the animals. The NOC will be prominently pasted on the vehicle transporting the CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Orange barfi, woman drowning: Leads in police hunt for bar dancer's parents

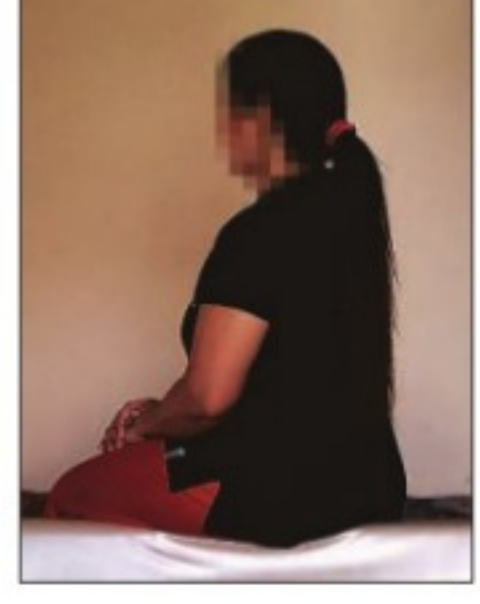
SAGAR RAJPUT MUMBAI, JUNE 22

ORANGE BARFI from a sweet shop, a sugar factory in the neighbourhood, a white-and-green school uniform and a woman drowning in a lake nearby - these snatches of memories from a 25-year-old bar dancer's childhood are the only clues that police have as they attempt to track down her biological parents.

Under orders from the Bombay High Court, the Mumbai Police Crime Branch has already questioned over a thousand people across three

states, but are no closer to finding her parents than when they began their investigation in 2016, when the woman approached police alleging she had been kidnapped and forced into prostitution as a five-year-old girl.

Following her complaint, the Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime) Sanjay Saxena raided a house in Kandivali, in Mumbai's western suburbs, in June 2016, and arrested four alleged traffickers, Vimal Thakur, Jitendra Thakur, Anju Thakur and Poonam Thakur. Two others, Sushil Thakur and Radheshyam Padamsingh Bhato, got anticipatory bail from the Mumbai ses-



Forced into prostitution as a child, woman told police in 2016. Prashant Nadkar

sions court. Three months after their arrest, the four arrested persons also got bail.

Investigations through 2016 and 2017 showed the woman had changed hands for about Rs 20,000 at a fair in Nagla Surajbhan, an Agra village. Those who bought her allegedly changed her name and created a fake birth certificate from Ghaziabad.

The certificate names her father as Sushil Thakur and his wife Rajeshwari as her mother. The couple were subjected to a DNA test in 2016 that confirmed they were not her biological parents.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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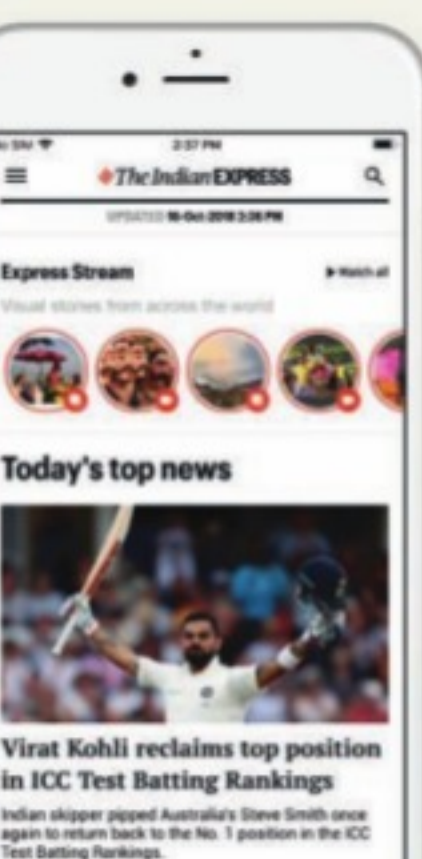
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**BENGALURU: TWO FALL TO DEATH FROM SECOND FLOOR OF PUB ON CHURCH STREET**

The victims have been identified by the police as Pawan, who worked with a leading newspaper in the city and Ms Vedha who worked in a private IT firm. According to the police, Vedha died on the spot, but Pawan succumbed to injuries in Bowring Hospital



**VIDEO OF THE DAY**

**WHO IS GENERAL FAIZ HAMID?**

As ISI chief, Hameed will be help in managing Pak's foreign policy



**FULL COVERAGE**

**CHENNAI WATER CRISIS**

DMK stages protests as govt ramps up efforts to help parched state

**EXPRESS AUDIO**

**The Evolution of India's Right Wing, with Swapan Dasgupta**

NEW EPISODE EVERY DAY

In this episode of Stepwell, Author Swapan Dasgupta details history of Hindu nationalist movement in India, discusses figureheads like Savarkar and Deendayal Upadhyaya

**OSMANABAD**

**16-year-old who scored 94.2 per cent in SSC 'commits suicide'**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
PUNE, JUNE 22

A 16-YEAR-OLD boy from the Maratha community allegedly killed himself at his residence in Devlali village in Osmanabad district's Kalamb taluka on Thursday. The teenager, Akshay Shahji Devkar, didn't leave a suicide note, said police. A case of accidental death has been registered with the Shiradhon police station and police are trying to ascertain the reason behind the alleged suicide.

Assistant Sub-Inspector SB Bansode, who is investigating the case, said, "The incident took place recently. His parents and other family members are in a state of shock. They will come to the police station on Sunday. Attempts are on to understand the exact cause behind Akshay's suicide."

Akshay's father is a farmer and has about five acres of land, said police. Akshay completed primary education at a school in Devlali village and later took admission at the Sane Guruji School in Latur district for further studies. Despite his family's strained financial condition, Akshay studied hard in secondary school and scored 94.20 per cent in SSC exams. He had applied in the first year junior college of the reputed Rajarshi Shahu College in Latur.

According to his family members, Akshay wanted to become a doctor. But he was reportedly tense about whether he would get admission in the college of his choice despite his high score in SSC exams.

"He may have committed suicide due to this worry, but we are probing the case further..." said an officer of the Shiradhona police station.

Member of Parliament in Rajya Sabha, Sambhaji Raje Chhatrapati, who belongs to the Maratha community, expressed grief about the incident in a Facebook post. In the post, Sambhaji Raje stated that the incident has brought to light the *ghusmat* (suffocation) of the Maratha community "due to reservation".

**GIRL FOUND DEAD IN KOLKATA SCHOOL**

**Primary autopsy of student confirms suicide**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, JUNE 22

PRIMARY AUTOPSY reports of Class 10 student, who was found dead inside the washroom of her school on Friday, confirmed suicide.

Police said the primary report mentioned hypoxia or lack of oxygen supply to the brain and body as the cause of death of the student of GD Birla Centre for Education in south Kolkata. The cut mark on her wrist was a second injury, which according to doctors was "self-inflicted".

Doctors suspected that the girl died because of the polythene packet that she had tied up with strings, used to bind practical notebooks, to cover her head. The autopsy was done at SSKM hospital on Saturday.

Police also confirmed that the girl had suicidal tendency. Even earlier, she had attempted to take the extreme step at home.

"So far, investigation reveals that it was a case of suicide. While examining her mother, we found out that she had made similar attempts at home earlier," said an investigating official.

**FROM PAGE ONE**

**PM meet**

Prior to their meeting with the Prime Minister, the participants were divided into five distinct groups based on their domain expertise and told to discuss sectoral issues. Sources said focus groups on Macroeconomy and Employment, Agricultural and Water Resources, Export, Education, and Health short-listed priority and agenda items and presented them to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister is learnt to have told the gathering to spread the same message outside the room.

Sources said discussions were also held on how flagships schemes — in housing, finance and health sectors — could be delivered better.

Among the industry leaders who attended the session with the Prime Minister were Vedanta Resources Chairman Anil Agarwal, Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran and ITC Ltd CEO Sanjiv Puri. "The meeting focused on improving competitiveness of the economy. Discussions were on improving health and education standards to make people's lives better," said an economist who attended the meeting.

The meeting, "Economic Policy — The Road Ahead", was organised by the NITI Aayog and comes in the backdrop of India's economy growing at a lower-than-expected rate of 5.8 per cent in January-March quarter, its slowest in five years, as per data released by the Central Statistics Office. For the full year 2018-19, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth was at 6.8 per cent, lower than 7.2 per cent in the previous financial year, while unemployment rate was at a 45-year high of 6.1 per cent in 2017-18.

Among the economists and experts who attended the meeting were HSBC Chief Economist Pranjul Bhandari, Narayana Health Chairman & Executive Director Devi Shetty, Bank of America Merrill Lynch Chief Economist Indraneil Sengupta, Credit Suisse MD Neelkanth Mishra, Kotak Mahindra AMC MD Nilesh Shah, JP Morgan Chief India Economist Sajjid Chinoy, Citibank Chief Economist Samiran Chakraborty, KKR India CEO Sanjay Nayyar, State Bank of India Chief Economist Advisor Soumya Kanti Ghosh, former RBI governor Bimal Jalan, CRISIL Chief Economist DK Joshi and Apollo Hospitals Vice Chairperson Preetha Reddy.

The meeting was attended by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and MoS (Independent charge) for Statistics and Programme Implementation Rao Inderjeet Singh. NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar and senior government officials were also present.

**Aircraft deal**

probe by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with foreign assets allegedly held by Robert Vadra, a claim denied by Vadra.

"Searches have been conducted at nine places in Delhi, Noida and Ghaziabad. These include premises of Sanjay Bhandari, Deepak Aggarwal and Himanshu Verma. Apart from this, offices of Pilatus, Offset and other companies associated with them have also been searched. Several electronic devices along with incriminating documents have been recovered," a CBI spokesperson said.

The CBI had initiated a preliminary enquiry in November 2016, which has now been converted into an FIR. According to the findings of the PE, Pilatus signed a "Service Provider Agreement" with Bhandari's Offset India Solutions in June

**Hurriyat ready for talks, says Governor**

were also present on the occasion.

In an interview published on Friday in the *Daily Excelsior* from Jammu, All Parties Hurriyat Conference Chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq had said the Hurriyat leaders were ready for talks with the government. Reiterating what he said last month after the BJP's massive election victory, he said: "With such massive mandate, it is the responsibility of the central government to take forward the political process in the state and initiate all possible measures to put an end to the cycle of violence in the state". He could not be contacted on Saturday.

The Hurriyat leader, in his interview, also said that "we will never shirk from our responsibility to take the political process forward, and if the Centre shows sincerity (we) will respond in appropriate manner". After the BJP's huge win in

the Lok Sabha elections, Mirwaiz, in his address to the congregation assembled at Srinagar's Jamia Masjid for the last Friday of Ramzan, had said: "People of India overwhelmingly voted for Mr Modi and his party... this mandate gives PM Modi the opportunity and the power to play a decisive role in the resolution of the long pending Kashmir conflict".

He had also said that the Kashmir issue cannot be resolved militarily or through confrontation "but by dialogue and deliberations, and Pakistan PM Imran Khan's oft-repeated offer of dialogue on all issues between India and Pakistan, including on the Kashmir issue, should be seriously considered by the new dispensation in New Delhi as the way forward."

However, even as the Governor seemed to be welcoming Mirwaiz Farooq's olive branch, the Hurriyat leader was placed under house arrest and prevented from attending a

book fair at Kashmir University Saturday. On Friday, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, the most senior Hurriyat leader, was also prevented by security personnel from leaving his house to visit the book fair.

Governor Malik also noted that recruitment has come down and instances of stone-throwing incidents post-Friday prayers have "nearly ceased". "We do not feel good at all about young men dying. We are interested in bringing them back and Centre is thinking about this. However, when a bullet is fired, one cannot respond to that with bouquets. A bullet will be responded to with a bullet by General sahib," he said.

Underscoring that the youth are being "misled" by being told that they will find a place in heaven, Malik said that "they have two heavens before them — one that they live in, that Jehangir termed as heaven, and another that they can

achieve by being good Muslims."

Malik added that J&K could become the best state in the country. "You have your own flag and your own Constitution. The flag of Kashmir is placed next to the national flag on my car. We just need to work with earnestness," he said. He added that the problem of Kashmir "is the problem of the younger generation. Uski narazgi agar hum door kar denge, toh sab kuch theek ho jayega."

Taking note of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq's appeal to overcome the drug menace among the youth of Kashmir, Governor Malik said he was grateful to him for bringing attention to this issue.

Governor Malik, along with Javdekar and Jitendra Singh, distributed set top boxes that are being provided free of cost to "identified beneficiaries". Singh also launched the Dogri News Bulletin which will be aired everyday on DD Kashmir.

**India, Pakistan differ on Kartarpur corridor**

drainage, adhering to international norms. We have flagged our concerns multiple times, but they have been saying they can only make a causeway. That is not going to work," said an official with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Sources said Pakistan has been saying that building a bridge would lead to missing the November deadline when the two countries plan to throw open the corridor connecting Gurudwara Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur with Gurudwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan. The two gurudwaras are approximately 8 km apart, with both the countries having decided to construct 4 km each on their side.

"We have told Pakistan that if meeting the deadline is a

problem, we can work on a temporary arrangement to connect their causeway with our service road. But we have conveyed to them that we will continue to build our bridge and Pakistan must keep its part of the commitment on the corridor and build the bridge later," an official of the Ministry of External Affairs said.

Sources said Pakistan's budget constraints were also an issue. While India has allocated Rs 500 crore for the project, Pakistan has allocated Rs 100 crore. The two countries have had four meetings since March on the corridor. While three of these were technical, one was a high-level meeting of top officials.

Sources said that in the March 19 meeting, Pakistan

had been positive about India's concerns over flooding. However, in the April 16 meeting, they steered clear of the issue, sources added. "On May 27, they said they would make a causeway," an official said.

There are several other issues which the two countries continue to negotiate without much success. While India had sought consular presence at the Kartarpur gurudwara to help Indian pilgrims, Pakistan has not agreed. "We continue to push for it," the MEA official said.

India has had no commitment from Pakistan on the issue of pro-Khalistani faces in Pakistan's committee. "Their response is always of denial. But we have strongly conveyed our displeasure," the MEA official said.

official said.

In March, the induction of Gopal Singh Chawla in the 10-member committee of the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (PS-GPC), which is expected to "facilitate" the visit of Indians pilgrims to the Kartarpur Sahib gurudwara, had Delhi seething and led to the cancellation of scheduled meeting between India and Pakistan. Chawla had played a key role in raising pro-Khalistani slogans and putting up posters on a Sikh referendum in November last year, during the visit of Indian pilgrims.

India has also been pushing for allowing Overseas Citizens of India to visit Kartarpur which Pakistan has not agreed to.

will be able to provide for his surviving two sons and two daughters at least.

Like the rest of the villagers, he has no cultivable land, and lives in a thatched house. With a monthly income of about Rs 7,000, he is still better off than the others who make barely Rs 2,500.

The village has about 2,000 families, mostly extremely backward classes and Scheduled Castes. With no agricultural land, they all depend on the 15-odd land-owning Bhumihar families for seasonal employment. About a quarter of the village's youths work in Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Mumbai.

Rajesh Sahni lost his daughter, Rupa (7), to AES on June 9. "After the death of my child at SKMCH, I had to wait and fight for a government ambulance for three hours... My daughter was good in studies. I had just got her a tutor," he says.

When he finds work, Rajesh Sahni, who makes thatched houses for a living, earns about Rs 500 per day.

Ramdev Sahni, a daily wageer, says he first took his daughter, Simran (7), to a private doctor in neighbouring Lalgarh. She was referred to SKMCH but died on the way to the hospital. Now, he is not sure if he will get the government compensation, as she did not die in a government hospital.

Ramdev's house is now a health camp. The district administration has assigned two doctors and an auxiliary nurse midwife (ANM) from the primary health centre in Bhagwanpur. They work in two shifts, trying to spread awareness while handing out ORS packets, parac-

etamol, deworming drugs and zinc supplements.

But many of the villagers have already taken their children elsewhere. Among them is Rajesh Manjhi, whose daughter, Sanya (8), was among the victims. "Rajesh and my daughter used to stay at my house, but they have left the village with their two daughters," says his mother-in-law, Munakiya Devi.

Manjhi is a daily wageer, earning about Rs 200-350 per day.

**Cow transport**

The minister said the NOC would be issued for up to 25 cattle. As of now, someone who seeks to buy cattle from another state has to seek an NOC from the SDM of the area from where he plans to buy the cattle. It used to be very difficult for local farmers to get NOC from the SDM in another state. Currently, no NOC is issued to farmers who buy from another district within the state.

Minister Yadav said that currently, in the absence of any written permission, it is easier for cow vigilantes to stop vehicles.

Former chairman of the executive council of the MP Gaupalan Evam Pashudhan Samvardhan Board, Akhileshwarananda Giri, criticised the move, saying the rules would make it easier for cow smugglers and cow killers to operate with impunity. "It's okay to simplify rules for transportation but what's the guarantee that only farmers will seek NOC? The move amounts to appeasement."

**Dancer's parents**

In April 2018, on a writ petition filed by a friend of the

woman seeking a CBI investigation, the Bombay High Court directed police to locate her biological parents. A separate writ petition has been filed by the Crime Branch for cancellation of Sushil Thakur and Bhat's anticipatory bail.

Since then, the Mumbai Crime Branch has questioned over a thousand people across Agra, Nagpur, Ghaziabad and Mumbai, checked the list of missing persons and pored over records on accidental deaths in Maharashtra and Agra from 1992 till 1998.

"I don't remember the date or place I belong to. But I remember Bhat picked me up, we travelled in a bus and train for a day and a half. We then went to his native village Gola, in Agra, where I stayed for a few days," the 25-year-old told *The Sunday Express*. She only remembers her first name and that of her parents.

During their investigation, Mumbai police say they found evidence of the Thakurs' alleged involvement in other human trafficking cases.

While the girl claims that Bhat kidnapped and sold her to the Thakur family, the Thakurs claim she was sold to them by a tempo driver.

Police sent a team to Agra to locate the fair as well as the tempo driver. They visited Nagla Surajbhan, but discovered no fair takes place there.

Police, however, fared better when they visited Ghaziabad, from where the Thakur family hails. In the late 1990s, Sushil Thakur was sarpanch of his village. Working back from the woman's passport that Sushil Thakur had got made for her in Ghaziabad, police discovered that the supporting documents on the basis of which the passport was issued, were also fake. Police discovered that the woman had used the passport to visit Dubai three times after 2009, spending three months each time.

"After bringing me to Mumbai, I stayed with the Thakur family. They initially made me do domestic work. I was taught dancing when I turned six, and when I was 15, they sent me to a dance bar with other girls. Whenever I refused, they would beat me up and lock me in a dark room for two days," she alleged, adding that she was eventually pushed into prostitution.

Thakur's advocate Prabhanjay Dave, however, questioned her move of registering an FIR "after so many years". "The woman claims she was kidnapped as a child. Why didn't she approach police all these years? She claims she was forced to visit Dubai for prostitution, then why didn't she inform the authorities at either of the two airports? If there was any truth in her claims, why couldn't the Mumbai Crime Branch get any clue about her parents?"

According to the Crime Branch, the woman remembers that her grandfather worked in a mill, would drop her to school on a bicycle rickshaw and that she wore a green-and-white uniform to school.

She also told the police that her grandfather would often buy her orange barfi. "Some days before she was separated from her family, she remembers a woman died by drowning in a nearby lake," police said.

With Nagpur famous for its orange barfis, a team was sent there to look for reports of between 1992 and 1998 of women drowning. Police teams even visited several villages with lakes.

"We managed to get her childhood photograph from the traffickers and inquired with several bicycle rickshaw drivers. We also checked with sweet-shop owners and visited mills looking for an elderly man whose granddaughter had gone missing," said an officer.

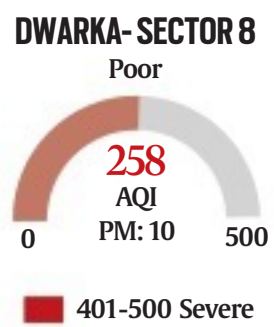
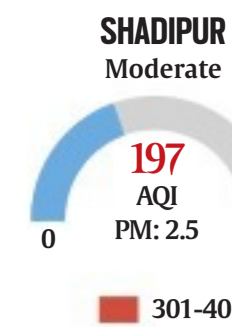
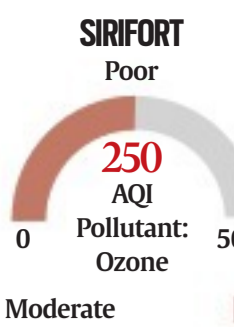
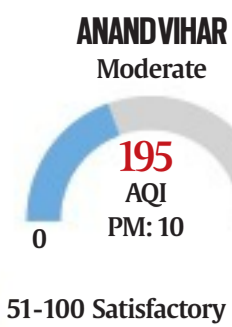
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## AT EVENT FOR STUDENTS WHO GOT OVER 90% Don't stop studying after school, we will help: Sisodia

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

ADDRESSING PARENTS and students of Delhi government schools who scored above 90% in the CBSE class XII examinations this year, education minister Manish Sisodia Saturday said none of them should stop studying after school because of economic problems and flagged Delhi government schemes to subsidise their higher education.

Speaking to students and their parents in a ceremony Saturday, Sisodia drew attention to two government schemes. While the first scheme, Higher Education and Skill Development Guarantee Scheme, allows students to avail education loans up to Rs 10 lakh to study in colleges in Delhi with the government standing as guarantor, the second is an economic need-based scholarship for studying in higher education institutes under Delhi government, such as GGS Indraprastha University, Ambedkar University and Delhi Technological University.

These scholarships are to the tune of 25% of fee for students with a family income between Rs 2.5 and Rs 6 lakh; 50% of the fees



Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal with his deputy Manish Sisodia at Saturday's event. Amit Mehra

for those between Rs 1 and Rs 2.5 lakh; and 100% for those with income below Rs 1 lakh.

During an interactive session, Sisodia promised students that the government will cover a mandatory Rs 1,500 CBSE registration fee. The announcement came after a student expressed concern about the fee.

At the ceremony, Sisodia also mentioned some new initiatives for students, particularly with a mind to their lives after completing school.

He also spoke of the government arranging for extra-curricular academic coaching for students. "There are some initiatives being taken at the school level by principals but in a year or two, from the government's side, there will be arrangement of preparatory coaching classes for exams like NEET and JEE in schools," said Sisodia.

At the ceremony, where over 1,000 students who had scored over 90% were felicitated along with their parents, both Sisodia and

CM Arvind Kejriwal took the opportunity to speak about AAP's contributions to the school education system. "Over 70 years, an education system has developed in our country wherein the children of the poor go to government schools and children of the rich go to private schools... With pride I can say that government schools have produced a 94.4% pass percentage (in CBSE class XII examination). Their results are better than those of private schools," said Kejriwal.

## DDA plans to woo home buyers with knowledge park and sports facilities

ABHINAV RAJPUT  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

WORRIED OVER lack of interest in housing projects in Narela, where it has over 40,000 flats in different stages of construction, DDA is planning to develop a knowledge park at the satellite city to attract home buyers.

DDA vice-chairman Tarun Kapoor told *The Sunday Express* that over 20 acres have been demarcated at the place for devel-

oping universities and constructing colleges in the area.

"NIIT is already coming up and we want more universities to take up space. Once there is an influx of students, any area will see rapid development because of the number of businesses that come up. This will in turn lead to rise in demand for housing," he said.

He added that DDA will set up a sports centre, which will have facilities like cricket, football and swimming. The agency is also in

talks with some organisations that are involved in housing finance schemes after it received reports that several people applying for houses under EWS category find it difficult to get loans.

Sources in the DDA said that flats in Narela are a worry for DDA as the 2019 housing scheme has not generated enough interest among buyers. *The Indian Express* had earlier reported that while the authority has received 45,000 applicants for 18,000 flats across four categories, the major-

ity are for the higher income group (HIG) and middle income group (MIG) homes. For the 15,000-odd lower income group (LIC) and EWS category flats, only 9,000 applications have been received.

A senior DDA official attributed the lack of interest in Narela project to concerns over the development of the area.

The official said that DDA's concerns were shared with Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal in a recent meeting.

## Surprise guest drops by at low-key wedding

ASHNA BUTANI  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

A CLEANER who has been working at the Delhi Secretariat for the last 19 years was in for a pleasant surprise when Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia showed up at her daughter's wedding on Saturday.

Noorjahan, who said she shares a good rapport with the Deputy CM as she works in his office, told *The Indian Express*: "It was a very thoughtful gesture...



Sisodia at the wedding function, Saturday

I had invited Sisodia ji for my daughter's wedding a few weeks ago, but I did not expect him to actually turn up."

Amid last-minute preparations and festivities, Noorjahan, who lives with her family in Bawani Khara, said: "My daughter's wedding is today. He came at around 12-1 pm, even before the *baarat* did. It was just close family members making a few preparations for the evening."

"Our family was in a tent outside the gurdwara at Mata Sundari Road when Sisodia ji en-

tered with his driver and his PA. The bride, Anwari (19), and groom, Sadre Alam, who works as a plumber, were not available as they were preparing for the wedding function, which is in the evening. Sisodia ji said he was sorry he could not meet the couple, but we passed on the message and it made my daughter very happy," said Noorjahan.

The family offered Sisodia some sweets and they spoke for a while before he left. "We are all very happy he came," Noorjahan said.

### BRIEFLY

#### Couple found dead with stab wounds

**New Delhi:** A man and his wife were allegedly stabbed to death in West Delhi's Mohan Garden extension Saturday, said police. "We received a call at 7 pm from a woman claiming that her parents had been stabbed. We rushed to the spot and saw a couple with multiple stab injuries," said a police officer. According to police, there were no signs of forced entry in the house.

#### Man kills flatmate, held

**Noida:** A resident of Greater Noida has been arrested for allegedly hitting his flatmate in the head with a steel pan, said police. The victim was rushed to a hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

#### Man held for theft

**Gurgaon:** Police claim to have solved five cases of theft, robbery of CNG autorickshaws and loot with the arrest of a Nuh resident from Sohna Friday.

#### Man, teen held for thefts in Dwarka

**New Delhi:** A 26-year-old man and a 15-year-old boy have been apprehended by police for allegedly stealing gold jewellery and other valuables from houses. According to police, an informer led them to a burglar and his accomplice who would steal valuables from locked houses in Dwarka when owners were away. **ENS**

#### Fire at RML hospital, 200 shifted

**New Delhi:** More than 200 patients were shifted to safety after a minor fire broke out at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital early Saturday. The DFS received information about the blaze at 4.19 am, following which five fire tenders were rushed to the spot. **PTI**

### The Nehru Memorial Museum & Library cordially invites you to a Public Lecture

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by

#### Dr. Prabha Ravi Shankar

Shri. M. D. Shah Mahila College of Arts and Commerce  
Malad (West), Mumbai

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No. D/Dir/Edu./HQ/SDMC/2019/5760A Dated : 21.06.2019

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Verification of documents of the provisionally selected candidates sponsored by DSSSB for the post of Teacher (Primary) Under post code 16/17 & 01/18 for appointment in the schools of three Corporations of Delhi i.e South Delhi Municipal Corporation, North Delhi Municipal Corporation & East Delhi Municipal Corporations will be held at SDMC Primary School, Tatarpur, New Delhi 110027, Near Tagore Garden Metro Station Pillar No. 436 on and from 25.06.2019 to 09.07.2019. The schedule of verification of the documents of selected candidates has been uploaded in mcd website [www.mcdonline.gov.in](http://www.mcdonline.gov.in). For detailed information please visit [www.mcdonline.gov.in](http://www.mcdonline.gov.in).

(Shirish Sharma)  
Director (Edn.)  
Ro. No. 17/DPI/S/2019-20

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Tender ID : 2019\_GGSIPU\_172880\_1

Extended date and Time : 05/07/2019 at 03:00 pm

of submission of online Bid  
The contents of Tender clause 4.1, 5.0 (f) j, 7.0 (vii), Annexure-C, Annexure-H may be read as under:  
"Should have minimum 15 nos. of vehicles registered in the name of the individual, firm or proprietor, as the case may be. Out of 15 vehicles, up to maximum of 3 nos. of Hatchback, at least 3 nos. of Sedan and at least 7 nos. of SUV vehicles (all vehicles should not be older than 2016) be provided".  
For detail, please see e-procurement website i.e. <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in/>  
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PROJECT SEEN AS PARTICULARLY CHALLENGING

# Dried up lake near Saket could see revival as Jal Board gets go-ahead

SHIVAM PATEL  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

A DRIED-UP Satpula lake in the heart of South Delhi's Khirki village could get a new lease of life, with the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) being given a no-objection certificate by the capital's development authority to revive it.

The project has been labelled one of the most difficult revival initiatives by the DJB due to a host of factors, including limitations to construct around an archaeological site and green belt area.

The Satpula, or the seven-arched bridge, located near Khirki Masjid, was reportedly constructed around the mid-1300s and acted as a dam or a weir. The monument, next to the lake, falls under the Archaeological Survey of India.

An official of the Delhi Development Authority, which owns and controls the land, said a no-objection certificate was issued to the water board around a month ago.

A Jal Board official added, "The whole purpose of rejuvenation is recharging groundwater.



The Satpula, or the seven-arched bridge, was reportedly built around the mid-1300s. Amit Mehra

At present, there is a gap of about 150 to 190 MGD (million gallons per day) of groundwater in Delhi."

More than 1,000 kilolitres of water per day (KLD) will be pumped out from a drain running adjacent to the location to fill a depth of about 2 metres of the lake.

The DJB estimates 15% of this water would percolate into the

ground.

An official said the water in the drain already passes through a sewage treatment plant (STP) 4 km before the lake, but a number of unauthorised colonies in that stretch had been emptying their waste in the drain.

Currently, the quality of water is quite poor, with a biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) range of 180-200 mg/l, and total sus-

pended solids (TSS) range of 200-300 mg/l.

As per Ministry of Environment and Forests' Environment (Protection) Rules 1986, the general standard for discharge of environmental pollutants in inland surface waters are BOD 30mg/l and suspended solids 100mg/l. CPCB's water quality criteria states that the level of BOD in a drinking water

source without conventional treatment, but after disinfection, should be 2mg/l or less. BOD is a measure of organic pollution in a water body.

In case of waste water or sewage, more organic matter means higher BOD, as a result of which there is lower amount of dissolved oxygen in the water. TSS includes materials such as silt, industrial waste and sewage.

Officials said the water entering the lake would be treated further with a hybrid STP that is eco-friendly and will remove all solid material, fine particles and purify it with a tertiary-level treatment such as a carbon filter.

The DJB is currently waiting to receive a map demarcating the lake area, and will issue tenders for the project in around 10 days. The entire project will take around eight months to complete. The Jal Board is also considering rejuvenating 17 other lakes in the capital, including the Hauz Khas lake, which are owned and controlled by the DDA.

This is in addition to 259 water bodies being rejuvenated by the DJB and the state Irrigation & Flood Control Department.

## How housing scheme rumour, fake form put ministry, DDA in a tizzy

ABHINAV RAJPUT  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

OVER THE past week, serpentine queues were witnessed outside Nirman Bhawan following rumours that people can submit forms for the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana — an initiative to provide affordable housing to the urban poor — at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, a senior official said. Such was the scale of the rumour that officials were prompted to paste a circular outside the building, stating that people who wish to avail benefits under the scheme should reach out to the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) or the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) instead.

People then started visiting the DDA office in Vikas Sadan to submit forms, filling in details like their name, address, income and PAN, only to realise later that the DDA had not launched any such scheme, and that the forms they were filling had not been released by any official.

DDA V-C Tarun Kapoor said, "It seems that to make money,

**An official from the Urban Development Ministry said the rumour prompted them to paste a circular outside the office**

some people printed such forms and sold them. Gradually, news spread and people started coming to Vikas Sadan to submit the form or enquire about it."

"Initially, the person at the help desk accepted one or two forms, as he might not have known what it was about. Soon, hundreds of people started coming to the office. I was informed about it and I told officers to stop accepting such forms and to tell people that the DDA has not launched any such scheme in the capital," Kapoor added.

Kapoor said the number of people thronging Vikas Sadan increased so much that the DDA had to issue a press release Thursday to clear the air, stating that it has not launched any EWS housing scheme for allotment of flats under PMAY (Urban).

According to an Urban

Development Ministry official, the rumour was spread in an "organised manner", thereby prompting the officials to paste a circular outside the office.

He also sought to suggest it was the "handiwork of the Aam Aadmi Party", as it "wanted to give people an impression that the Centre is not giving Delhi residents benefits under the scheme, which has in fact not been adopted in the capital".

The official added that the "scheme could not be implemented without state government's support and that the ministry has not received a single proposal from the Delhi government".

Under the flagship scheme, the Union government provides financial aid to beneficiaries to construct their own homes.

Responding to the Ministry's accusation, a Delhi government official said they have their own housing scheme — Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana — and a survey for the same is currently underway. "Unlike PMAY, we do not leave out people who have their houses. Everyone is accommodated," the official said.

## Cleric claims hit by car for refusing to chant Jai Shri Ram, police say looking for evidence

JIGNASA SINHA  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

A 40-YEAR-OLD cleric, who teaches at a madrasa, has alleged he was hit by a car in Rohini after he refused to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'. Police said that while they are looking into the accident, they have not found any evidence to substantiate the man's claim about being told to chant the slogan. A case has been registered under IPC sections 337 (causing hurt by endangering life or personal safety) and 279 (rash driving).

"We received a call on June 20 night about an accident in Rohini's Aman Vihar. We rushed to the spot and saw a man was injured; he was taken to the Sanjay Gandhi hospital. The next day, he gave a statement to police that three men in a car had told him to chant 'Jai Shri Ram', and when he didn't, they hit him with their vehicle, injuring his head, face

and hands," said DCP (Rohini) Shank Dhar Mishra.

Maulana Momin was discharged from the hospital the following day. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, he claimed, "I was taking a stroll outside the madrasa when three men inside a car called out to me. They asked me to chant 'Jai Shri Ram', I refused to do so. They started abusing me but I ignored them and started walking back to the madrasa. Suddenly, I was hit by the vehicle, and I fell near the footpath as the men fled. After some time, two-three people came to help me."

The DCP said: "We are not sure of any such altercation as claimed by Momin. Eyewitnesses said none of them witnessed an altercation before the accident. We are looking for CCTV footage to identify the accused." However, Momin claimed there was nobody on the street when the men in the car approached him.

## Finish roads, drains in unauthorised colonies within 5 months: CM

EXPRESS NEWS  
SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

WITH LESS than a year to go for the assembly polls, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Saturday ordered agencies concerned to finish constructing roads and laying sewer lines in the city's unauthorised colonies within five months.

According to an official statement from the Chief Minister's Office, Kejriwal directed the Irrigation and Flood Control Department, which is carrying out the work in 781 unauthorised colonies, to submit a weekly status report. The Delhi government has allocated Rs 1,500 crore for development work in these colonies, which are home to a large migrant population, mainly from eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

The colonies, where work is currently underway, is spread over 18 of Delhi's 70 assembly segments.

"The Chief Minister was informed that the Model Code of Conduct during the Lok Sabha elections had resulted in the ongoing works coming to a halt, which has pushed the deadlines in many cases. He heard the version of all the officials responsible for carrying out and supervising the ongoing developmental works, and asked them to get in touch with him directly in case of any obstacles coming

in the way of completion of these works," the statement added.

The regularisation of these colonies was a major poll promise of the AAP. But constant wranglings between the state and the Centre resulted in very little progress on this front, and delay in mapping the colonies has more or less halted the project. A panel appointed by Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal recently submitted its report on the issue to the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Meanwhile, Kejriwal also held a review meeting with DJB over water supply issues in the Malviya Nagar assembly constituency, where over 100 tube-wells were non-functional.

"The CM took note of it and ordered that they should be restarted with immediate effect. Directions were also issued to start all the booster pumping stations in the area. The complex process to get new water connections was also discussed during the meeting. He directed the DJB officials to immediately discuss the issue and make the process as simple and easy as possible," an official said.

Water woes in areas such as Hauz Rani, Kumhar Basti, K-block Green Park Extension, Begumpur, Brahman Basti, Krishna Nagar and B-4 Safdarjung Enclave came up in the meeting, which was also attended by Malviya Nagar MLA Somnath Bharti.

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Dy. Chief Minister, Delhi

"We will make Delhi the best city in the world"

- Arvind Kejriwal  
Chief Minister, Delhi



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Public Works Department, Government of NCT of Delhi

# Science tutor kills wife, 3 minor children

JIGNASA SINHA  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

A SCIENCE tutor allegedly killed his wife and three children by slashing their necks using a grinding wheel in Mehrauli in the early hours of Saturday. Police said the accused, Upender Shukla (35), has been arrested. According to police, the crime took place when the victims, Upender's wife Archana (34) and their three children — a five-year-old boy, a two-month old girl and a seven-year-old girl — were inside the bedroom of their fourth-floor home.

Shukla's mother was present in the house at the time.

Piyush, who stays on the third floor of the same building, told *The Indian Express*: "Shukla's mother came to my house in a panic, saying she wasn't able to open the bedroom door. I went with her to her house and saw blood coming out from under the door. I knocked on the door several times, but nobody answered. I then pushed the door harder and it opened. I saw four people on the floor with their necks slashed. Shukla was sitting on his bed and he didn't

say a word. He was looking at the bodies."

Police claimed Shukla has told them he and his wife "were unwell and didn't know how to take care of the children".

"We received a call about the incident in the morning. We rushed to the spot and saw the four bodies in a pool of blood, and the man next to them. We took them to AIIMS where the doctor declared all of them dead. The accused was arrested on the spot and his mother was admitted to the hospital," said a police officer.

Police said the post-mortem examinations were pending as no family member had come to claim the bodies so far. Police claimed they had found a letter written by the accused where he spoke about being depressed.

According to police, Shukla taught chemistry and physics to school students in the locality. Deepak Agrawal, a shopkeeper nearby, said, "I opened my shop at 6 am and soon afterwards, Piyush came and said Shukla had killed his family. I was shocked — just yesterday, he had visited my shop to buy milk and biscuits."



Outside Shukla's house, Saturday. Tashi Tobgyal

# From Northeast to Delhi, with some help

**CHANGING CAMPUS**  
AN EXPRESS SERIES  
PART IV

SUKRITA BARUAH  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

FROM HELPING with admission forms and finding accommodation to arranging Hindi lessons — older students in Northeastern regional associations are helping new undergraduates from their states find their feet in Delhi University.

Last year, 63 students from Northeastern states were admitted to Miranda House, while at Ramjas College, 17 students from Manipur, 14 from Assam, and 2 each from Nagaland, Mizoram and Tripura were admitted. Hansraj College had last year ad-

mitted 17 students from Assam, 15 from Manipur, 6 from Mizoram, 3 from Arunachal Pradesh and 1 from Tripura.

Various student associations are working to make this journey to DU colleges easier. Before under-graduation admission forms are made available on the university's website, senior members of these associations circulate their names and numbers to local newspapers and television channels back home, so aspirants know who to reach out to for assistance.

"Many applicants are in such remote places that they are unaware of the situation of Delhi. They have difficulty filling out forms and choosing programmes," said Chinglen Khumukcham, president of North East Forum for International Solidarity (NEFIS).

While the Manipuri Students' Association Delhi (MSAD) provided counselling over the phone



Students from Northeastern regional associations even open doors of their Delhi homes for aspirants, their families. Archive

for applicants this admission season, the Naga Students' Union Delhi (NSUD) set up a physical help desk as well.

"We set it up at Nagaland House in RK Puram for around 10 days. Now that the process is mostly online, not many people

come to Delhi for it, but still we did registrations for around 150. Including those who reached out over the phone, we assisted around 500 people," said Yaorei Horam, vice-president of NSUD.

After admissions begins the more difficult process for stu-

dents — of making Delhi home. "It is very difficult to find an appropriate place to reside in a new city. There are many colleges in DU, so we help students find a place in a locality based on the college," said Javed Mehedi, vice-president MSAD.

Students of the association go even further, opening doors of their Delhi homes for aspirants and their families. "During admission, students and their guardians need a place to stay. Many of us live in rented flats, so we invite them to stay with us... In my home, I have adjusted five people. Last year, almost 70 students had accommodated people," said Mehedi.

The Nagaland Students' Union also organises workshops and sessions, including free Hindi lessons. "We hire a Hindi teacher, for around a month, to offer Hindi

lessons as most people don't know the language. Without this kind of assistance, even simple things like getting a rickshaw can be hard. We also provide legal aid workshops to explain rent agreements, and electricity and water bills. These are provided by those of us studying at Law Faculty, and we also invite Naga lawyers working in Delhi," said Horam.

Mehedi explained why the older, more experienced students go out of their way to help new entrants. "We want to help the upcoming generation, as education opportunities are rare in Manipur. There is a desire to study, but there is only one full fledged university, and another upcoming one. Young people do not get the quality they want there. That is why we want to help them get the opportunity to do so here," he said.

**Dept. of Art, Culture & Languages**  
Govt. of NCT of Delhi  
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(2) Candidates should not have learnt Urdu at any stage. Prescribed Application forms can be obtained from the office of Urdu Academy on any working day between 11 A.M. to 5 p.m. from **24.06.2019**. And can be downloaded from our website: <http://urduacademydelhi.com/> Those who wish to submit the Application form on the same day, they should bring one Passport size Photograph and copy of the certificate of their educational qualification with them. For further details, please contact Room No.5 of Urdu Academy, Delhi.

**Last Date for the Submission of Application forms 11.07.2019.**

C.P.O. Building,	23865436	S.M. Ali
Kashmere Gate, Delhi	23863858	Secretary

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# 6 GOVT & POLITICS

**FRESH CLASH IN BHATPARA LEAVES 1 INJURED, TMC SAYS BJP VISIT TO PROVOKE PEOPLE**

## BJP team in Bengal: Police firing killed two

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, JUNE 22

A BJP delegation led by Bardhaman-Durgapur MP S S Ahluwalia visited Bhatpara in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district on Saturday and alleged that it was police firing that led to the death of two people after a clash earlier this week.

After the delegation's visit, another clash erupted between BJP workers and police in Bhatpara. One person was injured in the ensuing lathicharge.

Ahluwalia, accompanied by MP from Uttar Pradesh Satyapal Singh and MP from Jharkhand Vishnu Dayal Ram — both former IPS officers — visited the homes of the two victims. They said they would soon submit a report to Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

"Our leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah is deeply saddened by the incident. It is clear that the two persons, who were ordinary people passing through the area, were killed in police firing. The police stated that they fired in the air. Were these two people flying?" said Ahluwalia.

"We met the family of Ram Babu Shaw and Dharamveer Shaw. Both were the sole breadwinners of their families. Not a single representative from the West Bengal government visited them or tried to help rehabilitate the families. Our MP Arjun Singh



BJP MPs SS Ahluwalia, Satyapal Singh, Vishnu Dayal Ram and Arjun Singh in Bhatpara. Express

has already promised Rs 10 lakh to each of the families and is also taking care of the education of the children," he said. Arjun Singh, party MP from Barrackpore, was part of the delegation.

"We will submit a report to the Union home minister. A proper investigation is the need of the hour and the guilty policemen should be punished. The policemen are lathicharging miscreants and firing on ordinary people," said Ahluwalia.

Trinamool Congress leaders alleged that the BJP delegation visited the area to provoke people.

"Section 144 is imposed there. The BJP delegation should have visited after the situation became

peaceful. Instead they went there to provoke the people. Earlier, everything was peaceful. Now why is the area tense?" said TMC secretary general Partha Chatterjee.

After the delegation left the area, clashes broke out between BJP supporters and policemen. Bricks were lobbed at policemen, who resorted to lathicharge, leaving one BJP worker injured. Section 144 continued to be imposed in the area, where police forces took out route marches throughout the day.

"Everything is peaceful now and the situation is under control. Some people violated Section 144, but police chased them away. Normalcy is slowly return-

ing, and both police and public are working towards it. Today, permission was granted to the BJP delegation to meet the family members," said Manoj Verma, Barrackpore Police Commissioner, who was seen leading the police patrol personally in the area.

A joint delegation of the Congress and the Left, led by CPI(M) MLA Sujan Chakraborty and Congress MLA Abdul Mannan, also visited the area. "It is the failure of the chief minister... She came here and made wrong statements, calling these people outsiders. They are living here for decades... She should have called for meeting of all parties and resolved the situation," said Chakraborty.

## BJP worker's death fuels blame game

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, JUNE 22

A BJP supporter succumbed to his injuries on Saturday, a day after he was beaten up at Amdanga in North 24 Parganas district. The deceased had been identified as Nazmul Karim (25).

The incident took place at Bahitgachi village in Amdanga, which is 18 kilometres from Bhatpara, where two people were killed in a clash on Thursday.

BJP leaders claimed that Karim was earlier a supporter of the CPI(M), but joined the BJP before the Lok Sabha polls. He was actively involved with BJP's campaign in the area, they added.

According to police, Karim left his house on Friday night to buy some medicines as he was feeling unwell. Police suspected that he had got into a fight with a rival group. He was allegedly attacked with a heavy object, following which he collapsed on the spot. He was rushed to Amdanga Rural hospital. Due to excessive bleeding, he was later referred to Barasat Medical College and finally to RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, where he

was declared dead on Saturday morning.

Tension brewed in Amdanga as soon as news of his death spread. Amdanga police rushed to the spot and had to face a lot of resistance from local residents. A huge police contingent has been deployed in the area.

"He had extensively worked for us during the Lok Sabha polls and was identified in the area as a BJP supporter. Hence the TMC planned and murdered him. Those who have killed him must be arrested without delay," said BJP Barrackpore MP Arjun Singh.

Singh also met the family members of the deceased and extended his party's support.

Karim's body has been sent for autopsy. "A case has been lodged and investigation is underway. It is too early to reveal the actual cause of death, let the autopsy report come," said an official.

TMC refused the allegations. "The BJP has only one party to blame... They blame TMC even when it's a personal fight. Our party has no connection with the incident," said TMC general secretary Partha Chatterjee.

Police refused to confirm if the incident was politically motivated.

## CJI writes to Modi, seeks increase in number of SC judges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22



CJI Ranjan Gogoi

CHIEF JUSTICE of India Ranjan Gogoi has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking to increase the strength of Supreme Court judges, and raise the retirement age of High Court judges to 65 years.

Gogoi has also urged the PM to make tenure appointments of retired apex court judges and high court judges under Articles 128 and 224A of the Constitution, respectively, to clear backlog of cases pending for years.

The CJI, who wrote three letters to the PM, said there was a pendency of 58,669 cases in the top court and the number was increasing due to fresh cases. Due to paucity of judges, the required number of Constitution benches to decide important cases involving questions of law were not being formed, the CJI said.

"You would recall that way back in 1988, about three decades ago, the judge strength of the SC was increased from 18 to 26, and then again after two decades in 2009, it was increased to 31, including the CJI, to expedite disposal of cases to keep pace with the rate of institution," he wrote. "I request you to kindly consider, on top priority, to augment the judge-strength in the SC appro-

riately so that it can function more efficiently and effectively."

He said that though the size of the feeder cadre of chief justice and judges of the High Courts has increased, the strength has not been increased proportionally in the top court.

In his second letter, the CJI urged Modi to consider bringing a Constitutional amendment to increase the retirement age of High Court judges from 62 to 65 years. "One of the prime reasons why we are not able to contain the ever-growing pendency is shortage of HC judges. At present, 399 posts, or 37 per cent of sanctioned judge-strength, are vacant. The existing vacancies need to be filled immediately. However, despite best efforts put in by all stakeholders, it has not been possible to appoint judges to bring the working judge-strength anywhere close to the sanctioned judge-strength," Gogoi wrote.

## Rajasthan nod to Ayushman Bharat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

THE RAJASTHAN government has given an official go-ahead to implement the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) in the state, ending the months-long wait over the status of the implementation of the Centre's flagship health protection scheme.

AB-PMJAY will be integrated with Rajasthan's existing state health scheme, Bhamashah Swasthya Bima Yojana (BSBY). This leaves only Delhi, Telangana, Odisha and West Bengal out of the scheme. Rajasthan had in principle taken the decision to join the scheme some time ago but the move has been made formal only now.

Speaking on the development, Dr Indu Bhushan, CEO of AB-PMJAY and National Health Authority said, "The National Health Authority has been constantly working closely with the Rajasthan government in finding approaches to seamlessly integrate BSBY with AB-PMJAY. Yesterday, Rohit Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Health, Rajasthan informed us about the approval for implementation of AB-PMJAY in the state."

## Bias against Modi govt: BJP slams US report on religious freedom

KARISHMA MEHROTRA  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

REFERRING TO cow vigilante mobs, ghar wapsi conversions, and discriminatory language by the BJP, the latest US State Department annual report on religious freedom has outlined recent incidents of religious tensions in India, inviting sharp criticism from the BJP, which said that it reflected a "clear bias against the Modi government".

"Some senior officials of the Hindu-majority Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) made inflammatory speeches against minority communities. Mob attacks by violent extremist Hindu groups against minority communities, especially Muslims, continued throughout the year amid rumors that victims had traded or killed cows for beef," the report stated. "The central and state governments and members of political parties took steps that affected Muslim practices and institutions. The government continued its challenge in the Supreme Court to the minority status of Muslim educational institutions, which affords them independence in hiring and curriculum decisions. Proposals to rename Indian cities with Muslim provenance continued, most notably the renaming of Allahabad to Prayagraj."

The BJP reacted strongly, say-

ing that the report "shows clear bias against the Modi government and BJP". Drawing on the slogan "sabka saath, sabka vikas," the party said that its "mega-schemes" have cut across castes and religion.

"The basic presumption in this report that there is some grand design behind anti-minority violence is simply false. On the contrary, in most of such cases, these instances are carried out as a result of local disputes and by criminal mindsets. Whenever needed, PM Modi and other BJP leaders have strongly deplored violence against minorities and weaker sections of the society," BJP national media head Anil Baluni said in a statement. "India has deep rooted democratic institutions, including fiercely independent and pro-active judiciary, which is quite capable of handling such disputes and punish the guilty. Unfortunately, this fact is completely ignored in this report."

The remarks come ahead of US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's scheduled visit to India next week towards boosting bilateral trade ties.

The report has outlined several cases of violence and intimidation against non-Hindus and Hindu Dalits by law enforcement and private individuals. It has also detailed how laws on foreign NGOs were used against religious minorities.

## Fadnavis to set out on month-long yatra ahead of Maharashtra polls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, JUNE 22

MAHARASHTRA CHIEF Minister Devendra Fadnavis will set out on a month-long 'Vikas Rath Yatra' across the state in August as part of the BJP's bid to retain power in the upcoming state polls.

The announcement comes at a time when the BJP is locked in a tussle with its ally Shiv Sena over who would get to name the next CM if their alliance wins.

Senior BJP leader and state Revenue Minister Chandrakant Patil said, "In August, the CM will embark on a 'Vikas Rath Yatra' to underscore the achievements of the government and interact with people." He said the plan was to cover six Assembly segments each day, and 200 in all.

On Saturday, the state BJP held a meeting in Mumbai regarding the strategy for the polls, due in October.

While the two allies have sealed a 50:50 seat-sharing formula for the polls, the Sena, which wants to regain the status of the bigger party in Maharashtra, is also pushing for an "equal sharing" of power (sharing of tenure of the CM's post, irrespective of seats).

Senior BJP sources said the yatra was aimed at projecting Fadnavis's "leadership" as the face of the alliance. "The CM will be at the forefront of the campaign. Since we will project the government's achievements,



Devendra Fadnavis arrives for a meeting of BJP legislators in Mumbai on Saturday. PTI

other ministers, including those from the Sena, will join the yatra along the way."

While both parties have maintained that their top leaderships will mutually decide the issue, senior BJP minister Girish Mahajan said, "Considering the Lok Sabha outcome, it is clear the BJP is the bigger brother. Everyone in our party feels the (next) CM should be from the BJP."

Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray said, "Negotiations regarding the alliance have been decided by (BJP president) Amit Shah, CM Fadnavis and myself. Others should not concern themselves with it."

## EXPLAINED Plan to reach out to youths, women, parched areas

IN THE run-up to Assembly polls, the BJP will embark on a fresh membership drive to recruit 25 lakh more members. Party strategists have decided to reach out to first time voters, women and youths. Booth management plans were also reviewed at the meeting on Saturday.

In a reach-out to drought-stressed families, the party has also decided to run a localised campaign for mobilising resources to fund education-related expenses of school- and college-going girls in parched belts.

## After Rajya Sabha MPs, TDP MLAs in talks to join, say BJP leaders

SREENIVAS JANALYA  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 22

WITH NAMES of at least nine Telugu Desam Party (TDP) MLAs doing the rounds for a possible switch to the BJP, soon after the party's four Rajya Sabha members joined the saffron party, there may not be many TDP MLAs left in Andhra Pradesh by the time party chief N Chandrababu Naidu returns from his Europe vacation.

BJP Rajya Sabha member and senior leader G V L Narasimha Rao said that several political leaders from both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are in touch with the BJP leadership and have expressed their desire to join the saffron party.

While sources in both TDP and BJP named G Srinivasa Rao, the TDP legislator from Visakhapatnam (North) constituency, among the nine MLAs who are ostensibly considering



G V L Narasimha Rao said several leaders from Andhra and Telangana are in touch with the BJP leadership.

joining the BJP, Rao denied the "speculation".

"I will continue to remain in the TDP. I don't know whether other TDP members are in touch with the BJP," Rao maintained.

A source said that several former state ministers and former MLAs, who lost in the recent Assembly elections, are also in touch with the BJP.

The TDP has 23 MLAs in the 175-member House, with the ruling YSR Congress Party winning 151 seats and actor-politician Pawan Kalyan's Jana Sena Party the remaining seat in the polls.

According to former BJP MLA P Vishnu Raju, besides several sitting TDP MLAs, many former MLAs, MPs, and district-level party leaders are also vying to join the BJP.

Maintaining that TDP leaders have realised that breaking ties with the BJP was a "big mistake", Raju said, "They now acknowledge that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government are development- and growth-oriented, and that people across the country support him and the BJP overwhelmingly. Most of these TDP MLAs and leaders know that development is possible only with the BJP."

According to Raju, some TDP leaders contend that the BJP is playing a game by luring TDP MLAs, "but they are forgetting

that they admitted 23 YSRCP MLAs when they were in power (from 2014-19)".

On Friday evening, TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu spoke to some TDP leaders, including state party chief Kala Venkat Rao, and asked them to stay strong, according to party leaders. "He said defections are not new to party, and that we should work towards strengthening the party rather than worry about the four Rajya Sabha MPs leaving," Srinivasa Rao said.

Sources said Naidu wants to ensure that defection of the four MPs does not trigger criticism of his leadership in the party. The TDP chief is also learnt to be calling up party MLAs individually and requesting them not to take any decision in haste.

The former Andhra Pradesh CM, sources said, is also seeking information on whether his son N Lokesh, who is TDP general secretary and a Politburo member, is being blamed for the poll defeat and mismanagement of the party.

## With rise in substance abuse cases, Goa cops reach out to kids

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
PANAJI, JUNE 22

WITH CASES of substance abuse increasing among locals, Goa State Police on Saturday launched an awareness initiative to reach out to children across schools in the state.

The police said that the need for the move, was felt after an increasing number of alcohol-related accidents and cases of drug abuse among youth were reported in Goa.

On Saturday, police roped in medical experts from Goa Medical College and visited Our Lady of Mercy school in north Goa to give the maiden lecture. "In our records, we have a lot of offenders coming from areas around Merces. These are youths who have fallen on bad times. We are hoping to reach out to the children in this area and ensure they do not get influenced by substance abuse," said Superintendent of Police, North

Goa, Chandan Choudhary. "These are impressionable minds and we need to ensure we reach out to them before they take to anything wrong," he added.

According to Choudhary, the awareness campaign will be conducted systematically in all schools and police officials will make an appeal to children through case studies and presentations. On Saturday, Dr

Rajesh Patil, a laparoscopic surgeon from Goa Medical college, who has presented a paper on alcoholism, spoke to children of Classes 8 to 10 at Our lady of Merces school. He talked about the various illnesses one could contract due to substance abuse. "This is also about reaching them at a young age. Many must be seeing alcohol consumption at home or are forced into substance abuse due to peer pressure. We will evolve this programme and take it to all schools with much force," he said.

Dr Patil also asked the students to make at least one visit to an Alcoholics Anonymous workshop along with their parents.

"There is a general stigma attached to it. It is necessary to understand what the individual goes through. In fact, I would advise everyone, including adults to just sit in one session and hear the stories. It will change the way we look at things," he said.

## Ex-IAS officer joins BJP after RS nomination for Odisha bypoll

Bhubaneswar: Former IAS officer Ashwini Vaishnav joined the BJP on Saturday, a day after being named as the saffron party's nominee for the Rajya Sabha bypolls in Odisha.

Vaishnav, who was private secretary to former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, joined the BJP in the presence of the party's Odisha unit president and MP Basant Panda and other senior leaders.

Vaishnav told reporters that it is a great opportunity for him to serve the people of Odisha again. The ex-IAS officer said he will work for the development of the state and welfare of its people with dedication.

Shortly after the BJP named the ex-bureaucrat as its candidate for the July 5 Rajya Sabha bypolls, Odisha Chief Minister and BJD chief Naveen Patnaik announced his party's support to him. Vaishnav has enjoyed cordial relations with Patnaik. PTI

# 7 EXPRESS NETWORK



NORTH

## Rape accused BSP MP surrenders in Varanasi court

**Lucknow:** Newly elected BSP MP from Ghosi in Mau, Atul Kumar Singh alias Atul Rai, who was absconding since a rape case was registered against him on May 1, surrendered before a Varanasi court on Saturday. The court sent him to judicial custody for 14 days. The rape case was lodged against him at

the Lanka police station in Varanasi. Rai is yet to take oath in Parliament. "Atul Rai had moved a surrender application in the court on June 19 and court had fixed Saturday for hearing it. No bail application was moved by Rai," said Lanka police station SHO, Bharat Bhushan. **ENS**



AIADMK MLAs from Coimbatore P R G Arunkumar and Amman Arjunan pray for rainfall at the city's Kottai Eshwaran Temple on Saturday. **PTI**

EAST

## Two dead, 11 injured as auto collides with car in Araria

**Araria:** Two persons died and 11 others were injured when an auto-rickshaw collided with a car near Hasa village in Bihar's Araria district on Saturday, police said. The incident occurred when the auto-rickshaw, carrying over a dozen people, collided head-on with a car coming from

Araria, police said. Both deceased were in the auto-rickshaw. The 11 injured persons have been referred to Purnea for better treatment, they said. The deceased were identified as Sani Kumar (20) and Mohammad Safiq (20), said Raniganj police station officer-in-charge Om Prakash. **PTI**

WEST

## 25-year-old man held for raping minor in Goa

**Panaji:** A 25-year-old man was arrested on Saturday for allegedly raping a 15-year-old girl in Goa. The incident occurred on June 9, after which the accused fled. He was finally arrested on Saturday, Goa Police said. "The girl was offered a lift by the accused but he took her to a location near a mall," said police inspec-

tor Jivba Dalvi. "The medical reports have confirmed rape," he added. Based on the complaint by the girl's mother, the accused was booked under sections 376 IPC, section 8(2) of the Goa Children's Act, section 4 of POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) and Section 377 of the IPC. **ENS**

SOUTH

## Jagan Reddy's uncle appointed TTD chairman

**Hyderabad:** Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy's uncle, Yerram Venkata Subba Reddy (60) has been appointed chairman of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). A Government order is yet to be officially released. Contrary to speculations on social media that he is a Christian convert,

Reddy and his family members are staunch Hindus. Subba Reddy said that the CM asked him if he would head the TTD. "As I am very spiritual and deeply religious, I agreed. I may also go to Rajya Sabha later," he said. The Andhra government will nominate other board members later this month. **ENS**

## Two fall to death while leaving Bengaluru pub

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, JUNE 22

TWO PEOPLE fell to their death from the second floor of a building while leaving a pub in central Bengaluru on Friday night. Pavan Attavar (36) and R Vedha (29) were leaving #Bier pub at Church Street in Bengaluru around 11.30 pm when the incident occurred.

A CCTV camera located at the entrance to the pub captured the sequence of events leading to the two friends falling down a staircase and crashing out of the building through an open balcony.

The CCTV footage shows Attavar holding a seemingly inebriated Vedha and stepping out of the pub door to walk down the staircase. They slip near the first landing and the duo tumble

through the open balcony at the landing and on to the ground floor. They fell to their death even as Bengaluru's new Police Commissioner Alok Kumar was leaving the building after checks.

Television cameras covering the visit of the police commissioner also captured images of the two falling out of the building.

No case was registered by the police since the CCTV footage indicated that an accidental fall caused the death. Senior police officials, however, said they were exploring the possibility of pursuing a case of negligence by the building owners.

Attavar was employed with The Printers Mysore — which publishes the newspapers *Deccan Herald* and *Prajavani* — as a branding manager. Vedha was employed with a multinational IT firm.

# Pakistan must implement FATF action plan by Sept, says India

Islamabad still on 'Grey List', accuses New Delhi of politicising FATF process for 'narrow' objectives

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

INDIA ON Saturday emphasised that Pakistan needs to take all necessary steps to fully implement the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) action plan by the October deadline. Pakistan, however, claimed that India was politicising the process for its "narrow" objectives.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said in a statement that India expects Pakistan to take credible and verifiable steps against terrorism and terrorist finances.

He also mentioned that the FATF will continue to keep Pakistan on its compliance document for the International Cooperation Review Group

(ICRG) monitoring. "The FATF has decided to continue to keep Pakistan on its compliance document (i.e. Grey List) for the ICRG monitoring for its failure to complete the action plan items due in January and May 2019," the MEA said.

India said it expects "Pakistan to take all necessary steps to effectively implement the FATF Action Plan fully within the remaining time frame", which is September. "in accordance with its political commitment to the FATF and take credible, verifiable, irreversible and sustainable measures to address global concerns related to terrorism and terrorist financing emanating from any territory under its control".

The FATF is learnt to have warned Pakistan to get its act together on terror funding before

the October deadline during the ongoing Plenary Meeting in Florida, US, sources said Friday.

Accusing India of "politicising" the deliberations at the FATF meeting for its "narrow and partisan" objectives, Pakistan said in a statement on Saturday: "We regard the statement issued by India regarding the FATF report as preposterous and unwarranted."

The Pakistan Foreign Office said that "if anything, this is yet another evidence of India's relentless efforts to politicise the deliberations of FATF for its narrow, partisan objectives". It also said that it hoped the "broader FATF membership would take cognizance of this continuing malicious campaign and reject any attempt aimed at politicisation of the FATF process by

India."

Pakistan has been lobbying to get its name out of the Grey List, which has put tremendous financial pressure on the nation. India, on the other hand, has been trying to push the body to put Pakistan on the FATF Black List for its failure to contain terrorism against India, which is among the 37 members of FATF.

Countries including the US, UK and France, along with India are learned to have expressed reservations about Pakistan's commitment to stick to standards set by FATF on terror funding. The countries also highlighted that Pakistan had not filed a single FIR against UN-designated terrorists Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar and its inability to begin investigations on the source of funding of their organ-

isations, sources said. While Saeed leads the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), Azhar is the chief of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM).

Expressing concern, the FATF had said in a statement on the conclusion of its plenary that "not only did Pakistan fail to complete its action plan items with January deadlines, it also failed to complete its action plan items due May 2019". It "strongly" urged Pakistan to complete its actions plan quickly, "otherwise, the FATF will decide the next step at that time for insufficient progress".

Pakistan has been under the FATF scanner since last June, when it was put on the Grey List for terror financing and money-laundering risks after an assessment of its financial system and law enforcement mechanisms.

## SIT formed to probe murder of Gujarat family, father's role under scanner

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE AHMEDABAD, JUNE 22

A DAY after four people of a family were murdered and a fifth was poisoned in Gujarat's Banaskantha district, an SIT was formed Saturday to probe the incident.

The SIT will be headed by Deputy SP P H Chaudhary of Deodhar in Banaskantha district. On Friday, farmer Karsan Patel's wife, son, and two daughters were found axed to death at their residence in Kuda village. Karsan himself was found unconscious. However, police suspect he killed his family members and consumed the poison himself.

"Prima facie it appears that Karsan may have murdered the four and then poisoned himself... No sound or movement was observed by neighbours who live close by, and there were no signs of a struggle," Banaskantha SP Pradip Sejul told *The Indian Express*. Inspector General (Border range) Dharmendrasinh Vaghela was quoted by PTI as saying, "A five-member SIT has been formed to probe the matter after villagers held a sit-in and refused to receive the bodies from a community health centre until the murderers are arrested."

Sejul said police were awaiting the histopathology report, which would confirm their suspicion that the family was drugged, although the preliminary post-mortem report listed the cause of death as injury to the neck from an axe. **--WITHPTIINPUTS**

# Auli stares at mountain of waste after Gupta weddings

SOMYA LAKHANI AULI (UTTARAKHAND), JUNE 22

IN THE midst of two opulent wedding stages, a glasshouse with flowers from Switzerland, and snow-peaked mountains in the backdrop in Uttarakhand's Auli, all that Anil Kumar has looked at is waste — petals, plastic covers, foam, and leftover food. He's one of the two supervisors of the Nagar Palika Parishad of Joshimath, manning a team of 20 men responsible for keeping the Rs 200 crore wedding venue at the meadow clean.

"Usually, dry and wet waste collected daily from all of Joshimath amounts to 20 quintal. Since the weddings, it's crossed 40 quintal daily. Most of it is from the wedding venue," said Parishad chairman Shailendra Singh Pawar.

The weddings in question are of Suryakant and Shashank — members of the controversial Gupta family of South Africa, known for their dubious links to that country's former president, Jacob Zuma, and who are facing corruption charges. Suryakant got married on Thursday, while Shashank's wedding was on Saturday.

Keeping Auli clean during the weddings has been an uphill task. Pawar has deployed 20 workers, two supervisors, one junior engineer at the wedding venue in Auli, and an additional 10 workers across Auli till June 30.

"Usually, only four workers are needed across Auli as it's not



The venue at Auli, Uttarakhand, on Thursday, when the first wedding took place. **Abhinav Saha**

very populated and doesn't get so many tourists," said Pawar. Three safari vehicles too have been set aside for the venue, which comprises Hotel Cliff Top, a private helipad and an artificial lake.

On June 17, the Uttarakhand High Court came down heavily on the state government for allowing the extravagant wedding to take place in the ecologically fragile area. The court order, dated June 18, calls for the "prohibition of use of plastic, thermocol bags, glasses, plates, cups, saucers".

However, a worker at the wedding told *The Indian Express*, "There's so much plastic here, all the food and other goods that have come from Delhi or around have come wrapped in plastic sheets. The wind makes it harder to control the plastic... it keeps flying away. It's distressing."

For locals too, the worry is the

plastic which their cows might consume. "My cows graze in the area... they will eat that plastic now like city cows," said a villager.

Chamoli District Magistrate Swati Bhadoriya has created a team of 13 officials to ensure that court directions are followed. She told *The Indian Express*, "Apart from the Parishad, two monitoring assistants from the Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board are here to ensure there's no noise or air pollution."

On Saturday, hundreds of locals from surrounding villages thronged the venue to watch the wedding. "It's one-of-a-kind event but once they leave, who'll clean up the mess? They've turned the hill into a city," said Durga Devi (55), who came from village Parsari.

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**'Weddings have turned Auli into tourist destination'**  
Auli: Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, who attended the Gupta wedding on Saturday, said the event had turned Auli into a "tourist destination".

"They could have held this wedding anywhere in the world but they chose Auli... the Gupta family has contributed to turning Auli into a tourist destination by doing the wedding here..." he said.

Also present at the wedding were former CM Harish Rawat, yoga guru Ramdev and his close aide Balkrishna. **ENS**

## Skeletal remains found behind Muzaffarpur hospital, probe on

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUZAFFARPUR, JUNE 22

SKELETAL REMAINS found near the postmortem house of SK Medical College and Hospital (SKMCH) in Muzaffarpur left officials scrambling after a news channel ran the story Saturday.

SKMCH has been the epicentre of the Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) deaths in Bihar, which has left nearly 140 dead.

The hospital's medical superintendent, Dr SK Shahi, said that the administration will investigate whether the bones are human. "First, we have to confirm if the bones are of humans or animals. There has been an attempt to create sensation," he said.

Postmortem house in-charge Dr Bipin Kumar said: "At times, unclaimed dead bodies are buried or cremated after post-mortem. The skull and bones could be from past such cases..." Muzaffarpur DM Alok Ranjan Ghosh said all unclaimed bodies are cremated near the postmortem house in presence of local police. "We are investigating the matter in any case," he said.

## Brothers beat man to death for 'molesting' step-daughter

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, JUNE 22

A 33-YEAR-OLD man was beaten to death by his two brothers after they allegedly caught him sexually assaulting his minor step-daughter at his residence in a Sambhal village Friday.

Police said the man was beaten up by his two brothers and later tied to a bed after the victim's mother spotted her husband molesting her daughter Friday and raised an alarm. A police team reached the house and took the man to a hospital. He was referred to a hospital in Moradabad and died en route, sources said.

The body was kept at the postmortem house in Sambhal as family members refused to claim the body. On Saturday, police requested the village head and some elderly residents to complete the legal formalities so that autopsy could be done.

"Local residents and the family members were there at the postmortem house but they refused to take the body to the village for final rites. After repeated requests, they agreed to complete the last rites outside the village," said a police officer, adding that cause of death could be ascertained only after the autopsy

## Foreign militant killed in Kashmir encounter: Cops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, JUNE 22

A FOREIGN militant was killed in an encounter between militant and security forces in North Kashmir's Baramulla district on Saturday, police said.

According to a J&K Police statement, a cordon and search operation was launched at Bujthalan Boniyar area in Baramulla district in the morning. Militants who were hiding fired at the search party, leading to the encounter, it said.

"In the ensuing encounter, one terrorist was killed and the body was retrieved from the site of encounter," the police said. "From the incriminating material recovered from the site of encounter, the killed terrorist has been identified as a foreigner from Pakistan."

According to the official release, the militant is believed to belong to Jaish-e-Mohammed.

## Army chief visits Akhnoor sector, says troops ready for any challenge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JUNE 22

A DAY after his visit to Rajouri sector, Army Chief General Bipin Rawat met troops in Akhnoor sector on Saturday and said that they were fully prepared to meet all security challenges.

Expressing satisfaction over the operational preparedness of the troops, the Chief of Army Staff was briefed and updated by Lieutenant General Paramjit Singh, General Officer Commanding of the White Knight Corps, and the field commanders on ground in Akhnoor sector. The COAS reviewed the preparations to respond to ceasefire violations, counter infiltration grid and preparations to deal with provocations along the Line of Control and International Border, said Defence Ministry spokesperson Lt Colonel Devender Anand.

The COAS was also briefed on infusion of technology with operational techniques and integration of force multipliers, which has increased capabilities manifold, Anand said, adding that the Army chief awarded Commendation Cards to five soldiers for gallantry in the face of the enemy.

He was also appreciative of the cooperation between Jammu and Kashmir Police, civil administration, Border Security Force and the Army, Anand said.

General Rawat appreciated the motivation and high morale of the White Knight Corps and civilians residing along the LoC and International Border for their support to the troops and maintaining vigil in their respective areas.

## The two brothers beat the man after his wife reportedly spotted him molesting her daughter

report was received.

Based on the girl's mother complaint, an FIR was registered against the deceased on charges of rape and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

"The deceased's wife told police that the man was sexually harassing her daughter for the past three months and when she objected to it, he used to pick fights with her," said a police officer.

She told police that on Friday, when she and her daughter were asleep, the man entered the room and started molesting the minor. The woman woke up and raised an alarm. The man's two brothers, who live in the neighbourhood, came to the house. "The man started abusing his brothers and a fight ensued. The brothers thrashed the man and tied him to a bed. The woman later informed the police and also reached the police station and filed a rape case," said a police officer.







We should appreciate (Rahul Gandhi's) gesture of offering to step down... But that doesn't mean he gives up abruptly... Even if he steps down, it should be only after taking steps to resurrect the party"



### WHY VEERAPPA MOILY

Among the first few senior Congress leaders to speak out about the confusion in the party over its leadership issue after Rahul Gandhi's offer to step down as party chief, Veerappa Moily is a veteran Congress leader who has been chief minister of Karnataka and Union law minister in the UPA government. As the Congress attempts to find

answers in the wake of its second consecutive electoral setback at the national level, Moily's electoral experience will come in handy. A veteran of electoral contests, Moily withstood the Modi wave in 2014 and was elected to the Lok Sabha. He, however, lost to the BJP this time despite his party's alliance with the JD(S) in Karnataka.



"If you build a coalition, it should not be only for the sake of elections... In Karnataka, we all became a victim of the coalition. You allot seats on the eve of the elections and want the coalition to work... How will it work?"

**RAVISH TIWARI:** The Congress ended up with its second worst performance ever this Lok Sabha election. Did you not see this coming?

On merit, we thought the Congress would come to power. That is because the NDA could not live up to many of its promises — on GDP, employment, agriculture, etc. Even with reference to the 2014 manifesto of the BJP, we cannot give him (Prime Minister Narendra Modi) 10 out of 100. On these parameters, they should have lost and we should have won. Of course, not single-handedly, but the Opposition should have formed the government under the leadership of the Congress... It is thanks to the skilful storytelling of Narendra Modi that they got 100 per cent marks (even after getting) zero per cent on performance.

**RAVISH TIWARI:** The Congress forced PM Narendra Modi and Amit Shah to sweat it out for Gujarat (2017). After that, the party stopped the BJP from forming a government in Karnataka and, more recently, formed governments in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. Why didn't the party stick to that narrative when it sought votes this time?

Nationalism and Hindutva — and Modi's articulation of these two factors — must have clicked (with the voters). There is no other reason at all. Any government will be judged by their performance... We had to speak on the non-performance of the government. It may look negative as against the positive story of the NDA... It did not click. We spoke on corruption, employment... I was chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance in Parliament, where majority of the members were from the BJP... All the reports unanimously spoke out against the government's performance.

**RAVISH TIWARI:** What are you telling people who voted for the Congress?

We have to rework our strategies very skilfully. The Congress doesn't need to get disillusioned or disappointed because this is the first time the BJP has scored more than 300 seats, whereas the Congress scored has more than 300 seats six times... The BJP and Congress are national parties, the rest of the parties are regional outfits. The Congress has to survive for many more years to sustain democracy... So we have to work, not by imitating the BJP's philosophy — communalism, casteism, parochialism... We have to revisit our roots — the philosophy of the Congress, the philosophy of our country, *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*, inclusiveness etc.

**ABANTIKA GHOSH:** Do you think the categorisation of Congress as a national party and others as regional parties ended up costing the Congress potential allies, and eventually the polls?

If you build a coalition, it should not be only for the sake of elections. It has to be done methodologically and strategically. If the coalition ethos is not spread across the rank and file of the parties, it doesn't work. In Karnataka, we all became a victim of the coalition. You allot seats on the eve of the elections and want the coalition to work... How will it work? The coalition that is practised in Kerala is ideal. As general secretary, I was also in charge of Kerala. There the coalition works right from the *mandal* level to the block level, Assembly level, right up to the Lok Sabha level. This is the coalition that is needed. The Congress has to take up this leadership and that was not done... I must tell you that all of us lost because of the coalition.

**KRISHN KAUSHIK:** Why is Rahul Gandhi not being allowed to step down and can the Congress work without a Gandhi at the top?

Rahul Gandhi took over as president of the Congress only in 2017. He hardly got two years. He led the party to success in Karnataka, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. This election he failed. I don't think it (the failure) can be straightaway attributed to only one leader. It has to be shared by everybody. Some investigation or research work has to be done. But that has to be done on merit, otherwise we will end up taking an abrupt decision. Of course, we should appreciate his gesture of offering to step down after taking moral responsibility. But that doesn't mean that he has to suddenly or abruptly give up. We have two-three Assembly elections coming up and the party has to gear up. Even if he were to step down, it should not be at this stage, but only after taking steps to reorganise and resurrect the party.

**KRISHN KAUSHIK:** Many state PCC chiefs resigned owning moral responsibility after the defeat. What makes Rahul Gandhi's case different from theirs?

Rahul Gandhi is a national leader. The

## 'In the process of introspection, there should be some casualty. Sooner it is done, better for party'

Senior Congress leader Veerappa Moily explains why the Congress 'doesn't need to get disillusioned or disappointed', admits there was no churning within the party after its loss in 2014 and says the Congress should work out an alternative to the BJP, 'not imitate them'



Congress leader Veerappa Moily with Chief of National Bureau Ravish Tiwari at The Indian Express newsroom in Delhi. Praveen Khanna

rest of them (state-level leaders) sent their resignations, but they have not yet been accepted. I think we have to take a whole-some view of the political scenario.

**RAVISH TIWARI:** A big political setback should have generated a churn within any party. But voters saw no such churn within the Congress post 2014.

I agree that there should be a churning process and that has not happened after 2014. It has to happen this time at least. Only after the churning can we answer questions such as who should be accountable for what, who should resign and who should be replaced. So there is always a scope for the Congress to rejuvenate... The Congress has a future and it is going to stay. Whether they are CWC members or state unit leaders, everyone has to take responsibility, including myself. This is everybody's defeat, not only of Rahul Gandhi. In the process of introspection, there should be some casualty. And the sooner it is done, the better for the party.

**P VAIDYANATHAN IYER:** In some time, a few states will be heading to polls. Do you think there should be a timeline for this churn?

The churning has to take place right now. In two to three months, the party has to be rejuvenated...

**P V VAIDYANATHAN IYER:** You attributed the BJP's victory to Hindutva and nationalism. Don't you think that welfare schemes such as Ujjwala mattered to common people?

During UPA-II, a (cooking gas) cylinder cost between Rs 250 and Rs 300. Now it costs around Rs 1,000. No one got cylinders for free under the scheme (Ujjwala). So I don't think it helped (voters). GST ended up creating more confusion than resolving it... Demonetisation failed — it put all migrant labour out of jobs, led to unemployment. Take electricity — according to latest statistics, not even 50 per cent of the capacity is being utilised... Bank scams have been the highest... NPA's are the highest at 15 per cent... Every sector has suffered.

**ABANTIKA GHOSH:** The results show that people did not buy any of the Congress's arguments. Going forward, what will be your new narrative?

Voters did not buy it, because there was no time. Pulwama came first, then Balakot... Ultimately, the real story will come out one

day. That is another issue. But with Hindutva and this aggressive campaign on nationalism, people did not look at any other issue. Just because they won the election doesn't mean you can draw any inference that their performance was par excellence... At the same time, I don't think Hindutva or communalism are things we can adopt in the Congress. If that happens, the existence of Congress itself will be in question. We should have our narrative which is updated, modernised and one which responds to the challenges of the youth and others.

**ABANTIKA GHOSH:** But you're already toeing the soft Hindutva line. Visiting temples, talking about the caste of your president and so on.

Ultimately it was only nationalism and Hindutva that people cared for, even though they were suffering — agriculture was at its lowest, there was an atmosphere of distress everywhere, but nothing mattered. Nothing of what (Modi) said in the 2014 election campaign figured this election. He did not think it appropriate to refer to those promises — '*ache din*', Rs15 lakh to be deposited in every citizen's account... all these things disappeared.

**RAVISH TIWARI:** Are you suggesting that over 22 crore people (who voted for the BJP) were fooled?

I won't say fooled, they were swayed. Otherwise, in a democracy like India, or take the demographic history of any country, at no point of time have the majority community spoken about being victimis-

ed, aggrieved. Here it is happening. Whether they were fooled or not, it is a fact that such a campaign was done. Even now, 99 per cent of the wealth of this country is being handled by one per cent of corporates. That shows how deep the suffering is.

**RAVISH TIWARI:** You identified two issues that the BJP is going to cling to election after election — nationalism and Hindutva. What will the Congress's response be?

I think we need to work out an alternative, not merely follow or imitate them. We need to revisit the ideology of the Congress... Even where economic theories, ideologies are concerned, we need to revisit those and that doesn't mean giving up. We need to make people understand who stands for whom.

**RAVISH TIWARI:** Senior Congress leader A K Antony was charged with the responsibility of understanding what happened in 2014. Why has the report not made public?

I'm sorry to say that I have also not seen that report.

**RAVISH TIWARI:** Don't you think it should be made public?

If there is a report, they should make it public.

**RAJ KAMAL JHA:** But did you not ask for the report?

I'm only in the Central Election Committee, I was not in the Congress Working

Committee. That's why I didn't have to ask for it... What is the point seeing the report now? All that has passed. It has to be done afresh. (The new report) should include why we failed in 2014 also.

**KAUNAIN SHERIFF M:** What is the future of the JD(S)-Congress alliance in Karnataka?

If the coalition has to work, it has to work properly. If it cannot work, there is no point working in a coalition. Just to stay in power, you'll have to sacrifice the entire party. That is what is happening. If we had to contest independently, we would've won.

**KAUNAIN SHERIFF M:** During the previous CJ's term, Congress MPs were at the forefront of moving an impeachment motion against him (CJ Dipak Misra). Do you think that was a hasty decision?

I did not agree with our leaders when they moved the impeachment motion. Because unless there are concrete doubts, you cannot move that. I raised my voice against it...

**KAUNAIN SHERIFF M:** Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has said that his office will not act as a "post office". As a former law minister, how do you define the role of the executive in clearing judicial appointments?

The proposal (for appointment) comes from the Supreme Court collegium. They consider it on merit. Only if it is alright, do we forward it to the Prime Minister. Then it goes to the President. Before that, we examine all aspects — character, background of all candidates who have been recommended. There are cases we send back and discuss. During my tenure, I have personally gone to the Chief Justice of India and stated reasons (for reconsidering a particular name) without creating any friction. The law ministry need not be a post office... I think that he (Ravi Shankar Prasad) has not understood his responsibility. We never kept files for months and cleared them immediately.

**RAVISH TIWARI:** The Congress won polls in 2004, 2009 and many Assembly elections with EVMs. But now the party wants to go back to ballot papers.

In 2009, the BJP raised questions. As law Minister, I constituted a committee with technology experts from Germany, Britain and the US. They gave a report that every-

thing is okay. But one should understand that these are computer systems and they can be hacked... Earlier, I had found that there was nothing. But that doesn't mean that my opinion holds true even today. Almost all Opposition parties have raised doubts about the EVMs.

**KRISHN KAUSHIK:** How important is the Gandhi family to the Congress?

The Congress has worked even without the Gandhi family. And the family has always been reluctant to join (the party). Rajiv Gandhi was reluctant, but ultimately, the rank and file of the party wanted him. Sonia Gandhi was reluctant. Even Rahul Gandhi was reluctant for a number of years. He was asked to join the Manmohan Singh Cabinet and he refused. They are not greedy for power or position... The Gandhi *parivaar* is a part of the Congress *parivaar*. They are not above the Congress.

**P V VAIDYANATHAN IYER:** The Congress is often accused of being a dynastic party. Why does the party still keep conferring upon the members of the Gandhi family the leadership mantle?

That charge has been there since the time of (Jawaharlal) Nehru. But to say that the charge will permanently stick to the Congress is not correct at all. Whenever there has been another leader who is relevant, the party has not said no. Manmohan Singh was prime minister twice. Sonia Gandhi could have become PM if dynasty rule had to be perpetrated.

**RAVISH TIWARI:** While the BJP has already appointed a working president, there is no clarity in the Congress's strategy.

Why should Amit Shah continue as president of the BJP? He has a lot of work as Home Minister... he is holding all the internal committees and departments. He will have no time to work in the party, but still he would like to have a hold on the party. That is why he has put his own man as working president. The concentration of power in the present NDA regime is with two people — the PM and Amit Shah. The other point is... the Principal Secretary to the PM gets a Cabinet rank, the additional Principal Secretary gets a Cabinet rank... This is like building one's own empire. In this process, minimum government, maximum governance is the biggest casualty.



# 11 SUNDAY STORY

Ganiya Devi with her two-year-old grandson Ravi at the AES ward in the Mushahari PHC



## ACUTE CRISIS

Primary and Community Health Centres, the first rung in the state healthcare system, are now on the frontlines of the battle against Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES), which has so far claimed the lives of 128 children in Bihar's worst affected district of Muzaffarpur. SANTOSH SINGH visits three PHCs to find centres with airconditioned AES wards, ambulances and medical devices. But where are the doctors?

PHOTOGRAPHS BY RITESH SHUKLA

EVERY YEAR around this time, when temperatures in Muzaffarpur cross the 40-degree-Celsius mark, the district begins counting its losses from the deadly Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES). This year, there have been 560 confirmed cases of AES, with over 120 children dying of the disease in Muzaffarpur alone, a staggering rise from the seven deaths in the district last year. Most of the deaths have been reported from three blocks in Muzaffarpur — Mushahari (12 deaths), Minapur (14) and Kanti (14).

SKMCH, the biggest government hospital in the district, has witnessed over a thousand AES deaths since 2011, almost all of them children. This year, the hospital has already reported 128 deaths since the beginning of June.

Experts have been blaming the AES deaths on '3G' — Garmi, Garibi and Gaon, or Muzaffarpur's heat, poverty and certain distinct epidemiological features, which ensure AES cases almost stop with the first rains.

Dr Arun Shah, executive committee member of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics, says, "AES occurs mostly among children below 10 years. In most cases, malnutrition is the common factor. Hypoglycaemia (low sugar levels) is another common thread."

After the recent visits of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan to SKMCH, the health department called upon Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) to lead the charge. All PHCs and CHCs, the government said, should have devoted AES wards, each with at least two beds. These wards, with oxygen cylinders and glucometers, have to be airconditioned. They have been told that they must treat AES patients, not just refer them to SKMCH and other bigger hospitals.

Despite this mandate, PHCs and CHCs, often woefully short of both medical and non-medical staff, find themselves with their backs to the wall. The Sunday Express visits three PHCs/CHCs in the worst affected blocks of Mushahari, Minapur and Kanti.



### Mushahari, PHC

IT'S 9 AM, an hour since the Out Patient Department (OPD) at the Mushahari PHC was opened to patients, but the doctors are not in yet. Around 20 patients, mostly women and children, queue up outside one of the seven rooms in the OPD, the only one that will open, they have been told.

Outside the PHC, a worker is trying to fix a microphone atop an ambulance. After a few failed attempts, he manages to fix it. The ambulance is being readied for a round of villages in Mushahari, a block in Muzaffarpur district, to raise awareness on AES. The ambulance workers have also told to be on call for any emergency and bring in patients who call with fever, vomiting and convulsions, key symptoms of AES.

The three-storey building is proof that the AES battle begins at the doorstep of PHCs such as this one. While the building is swanky, complete with a glass facade, the centre faces a crippling shortage of staff. The six-bedded PHC was recently shifted to this new building that was meant for a Community Health Centre (CHC), but it hasn't been upgraded to CHC status yet (a PHC has six beds, a CHC 30). During his visit to Muzaffarpur, Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan announced that every PHC would now have 10 beds.

"Mushahari block has a population of about four lakh. According to rules, there should be a doctor per 1,000 population. We should have at least three-four paediatrician, an orthopedician and a surgeon. But we only have one paediatrician and he is on deputation. We have a general physician, but if a PHC has to take the load of hospitals, it must have specialists," says a hospital staff requesting anonymity.

The PHC's only paediatrician, Dr Rajesh Kumar, has been on deputation at the AES ward of Kejrival Matrisadan, a trust-run hospital in Muzaffarpur that has reported 20 AES deaths so far.

The PHC has separate wards for men and women and a room for ASHA workers (Accredited Social Health Activists) — all of which are shut. Rooms for the medical officer and the block health manager are also under lock and key. PHC staff say these positions could be filled once the centre is elevated to CHC status.

By 9.30 am, gynaecologist Dr Priti and general physician Dr Parbeen begin attending to OPD patients, mostly children.

At the AES ward on the first floor, two

Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) have been tending to two children admitted with suspected AES. "We have administered their saline. Their blood sugar levels are under control," says one of the ANMs.

No doctor has visited the AES ward yet this morning. The air-conditioner hums softly. There have been clear instructions to ensure functioning air-conditioners in AES wards.

Flipping through the admission register, the ANM says, "Since the AES outbreak this season, we admitted 18 patients, of whom three were discharged, two are under treatment here and the others have been referred to SKMCH and Kejrival Matrisadan." "All the children we referred to bigger hospitals had recorded blood sugar levels below 30 mg/dl. Anything less than 50 mg/dl has to be flagged," she says.

Ganiya Devi's two-year-old grandson Ravi is one of two patients inside the AES ward. "On June 19, Ravi got seizures and fell unconscious. That's when we got him here," she says.

Devi lives in Motipur, 3 km away, with her daughter and grandson. "I can barely manage two meals for the three of us. The night he fell sick, my son only ate half a slice of bread," she says.

"She brought the child just in time. Patients are supposed to be brought preferably within two hours of the onset of convulsions, with or without fever" says the ANM.

There is sudden activity at the AES ward as a Unicef team arrives at the PHC. As he walks in, Dr Asadur Rahman, chief of field office at Unicef Bihar, takes exception to the presence of "too many people" in the AES ward. Dr Syed Hubbe Ali, who is also part of Unicef's team, says, "Unicef has suggested to the state government that it must distribute glucose biscuits among poor people. We have observed that 82 per cent AES admissions happen during early mornings, which suggests that patients had gone to bed without food, making their sugar levels dip."

Just then, Muzaffarpur deputy collectors Pratima Sinha and Renu Kumari visit the PHC. They have been deputed to ensure ORS packets are being distributed and the awareness campaign is being carried out.

At 1.30 pm, with half an hour left for the OPD to wind up, there is still a steady flow of patients. "We just hope the rains come fast, AES cases subside and our lives will get back to normal," says a hospital worker, directing a patient to the OPD.

### CHC, Minapur

DR A K Pandey doesn't hide his irritation every time the door to the AES room swings open. "Please shut the door. The AC is on," he says every now and then.

Pandey, who is the medical officer in charge of the Minapur CHC, has posted himself at the AES ward, where two children are admitted. He says the CHC has so far distributed 56,000 ORS packets. "But we have population of 3.8 lakh in Minapur block and we need a lot more. We have to ideally give four packets to each family," says Dr Pandey. There have been frequent inspections these days and he is ready with most answers.

Since the beginning of this month, the centre admitted 14 children with symptoms of AES, of whom 12 were referred to SKMCH. The other two are under observation.

Of the 14 children who died of AES in Minapur block — as confirmed by District Malaria Officer Dr Satish Kumar — none was first brought to the CHC. "We still need to inspire people to come to us first rather than visiting quacks. In a lot of cases, the patients were brought in only after their condition deteriorated substantially. Our job is to stabilise patients and refer them to SKMCH. We are slowly growing in confidence while dealing with such cases," Pandey says.

Indu Devi's 10-month-old daughter Nandini was admitted this morning with high temperature and dipping sugar levels. Dr Pandey says the child is stable now. On another bed is Abhay Kumar, 7, who was admitted after complaints of vomiting. Both patients will be kept under watch, says Pandey.

"AES is called *chamki bukhar* in these



- Doctors:** 1 (4 sanctioned)
- Contractual doctors:** 1
- ANM:** 34 (36 posts)
- Pharmacist:** 1 (1)
- Dresser:** None (1)
- Health servant:** 1 (3 posts)
- Oxygen cylinders:** 3
- Oxygen concentrator:** 1
- Glucometers:** 3
- Pathology tests done:** CBC, sugar levels, kala azar, malaria

parts because the fever comes with convulsions. But a distinct feature of AES this year has been that not all patients are reporting fever," says Pandey.

The AES door swings open once again and two men walk up to Pandey. They introduce themselves as doctors from Supal — anaesthetists Deepak Gupta and Nilesh Pradhan. They are here under orders from the health department.

"They should have sent paediatrician, but at least we have some extra hands in this crisis situation," says Pandey, while assigning the doctors some work.

The CHC, which makes do with just one doctor against a sanctioned strength of four, makes do with doctors on rotational duty from additional PHCs under it.

"Though we do institutional delivery, we have no gynaecologist here. So in case of complications in delivery, the male doctor has to step in. Not all patients are comfort-

able with that. Elevating a PHC to CHC status is not enough; the government has to give us more staff," says a hospital official.

Dr Pandey has just been alerted about a visit by Muzaffarpur DM Alok Ranjan Ghosh. No sooner than he steps out of AES ward, the DM and other health officials enter the CHC.

"Your mandate is not just to stabilise AES patients and refer them to bigger hospitals. You have to ensure that you fully treat as many AES patients as you can. Take all cases to their logical end, diagnose them," he says as Pandey makes brief interjections.

DM Ghosh tells Pandey not to let ambulances stay idle at the CHC. "Station them near market places and let them make announcements on AES awareness. They must bring all suspects here," says the DM.

The CHC, which had two ambulances, got three more over the last two days. Two ambulances have been sent out to be fitted with ACs. Two are bringing children from villages nearby. "This is like a mission to flush out AES. Even children with mild fever are being brought to the CHC. Had we done this before, we could have saved several lives," says a hospital employee.

### CHC, Kanti

IT IS 3 pm and Dr Umesh Prasad Choudhary, the medical officer in charge of the CHC, has been busy all day — shuttling between the AES ward and the administration department to coordinate with visiting doctors and experts. With Kanti among the worst-hit blocks, reporting 14 AES deaths since the beginning of this month, the CHC and Choudhary have felt the pressure.

Since the first week of June, the hospital admitted 21 patients with suspected AES, of whom 10 had to be referred to bigger hospitals in the district.

An A-4 size paper stuck on a door announces the AES ward, where two patients have been admitted — two-year-old Priyanshu Kumar and nine-year-old Suruchi, who were brought in with fever and convulsions.

Priyanshu's father Vishnu Ram, a daily wage earning Rs 300 a day, says, "When my son fell sick, I was in two minds — whether to take him to SKMCH or here. Since the CHC was closer, I rushed him here. I am happy this hospital could save my child," says Vishnu, who says he got Rs 400 as conveyance allowance that the government recently announced for AES patients.

"The child's blood sugar had dipped alarmingly to 21 mg/dl. Had there been a delay of even 15 minutes, the child would not have survived. His sugar level has risen to 88



- Doctors:** 4 (7 posts)
- Nurses:** None (7 posts)
- Dresser:** None (1 post)
- Lab technicians:** 2 (8 posts)
- ANM:** 64 (77 posts)
- Pharmacists:** 1 (8 post)
- Oxygen cylinders:** 3
- Glucometers:** 4
- Pathology tests done:** CBC, Kalaazar, Malaria and sugar

mg/dl now," says Dr Amit Kumar, one of the two doctors in the AES ward, both general physicians on deputation. While Kumar is from Madhubani, Dr Shahid is from Darbhanga. They are joined by Dr Ajay Kumar Singh, a paediatrician who runs a private clinic in Bhagalpur and who is here to volunteer.

The centre, which caters to about 3.8 lakh people, has just four doctors against a sanctioned strength of seven. There is no gynaecologist or any other specialist doctor. There is no regular nurse either. There have been no appointments to the seven contractual posts of nurses. The SHC depends on 64 ANMs, who work in shifts and also do field visits.

Back in the AES ward, Dr Amit Kumar

says, "There should be a nurse posted permanently at the AES ward. Are we now expected to inject patients too?"

A hospital staff says, "They have given us a building, but we desperately need doctors and support staff. The administration should have foreseen the crisis and sent doctors from outside in May itself. It's only now that they are pressing the panic button."

On the first floor of the hospital is an empty general ward. The ward for women has only two patients.

Outside the CHC stand three ambulances, besides a three-wheeler droning on with instructions on how to tackle AES. "Shouldn't they be making these announcements outside the centre," says a visitor to the CHC.

**EXPLAINED**

## E

### PHCs need better resources

AES HAS struck Muzaffarpur during summers since 1995, with the disease claiming the lives of nearly 1,000 children between 2010 and 2014. While doctors have identified malnutrition and low sugar levels as a common thread among all AES patients, the state of the district's PHCs and CHCs make the battle against AES doubly harder.

# Mind the Gap

As Delhi debates a government proposal to offer free rides for women in public transport, ARANYA SHANKAR boards the first Delhi Metro train, and the last, to hear their stories on the move — a domestic help who finds the Metro “too expensive”, an engineer who says women need no free rides, and a mother who is glad the train offers her children a safe space

PHOTOGRAPHS: RENUKA PURI

**DWARKA SECTOR 21**  
6:00 AM  
**NOIDA ELECTRONIC CITY**  
7:44 AM



6 am: First Metro from Dwarka Sector 21 to Noida Electronic City



10: 52 pm: Last Metro from Noida Electronic City to Dwarka Sector 21

**NOIDA ELECTRONIC CITY**  
10:52 PM  
**DWARKA SECTOR 21**  
00:55 AM



**BHAVNA SINGH, 34**  
WORKS WITH A TRAVEL FIRM  
COACH NO: 3  
Dwarka Sector 21 to Nawada

**The journey:** Returning from a night shift at the Gurgaon travel company where she works, Bhavna Singh says, “After our night shifts, our company provides a shuttle service to drop around 25 of us to the Dwarka Metro station.” Singh’s shift starts at 8:30 pm every day and ends at 5:30 am. From there, Singh takes the Metro to Nawada, where she lives. Commuting the distance from Nawada Metro station to home “is not a problem” as it’s “only a 2-3-minute walk away”. Singh, whose husband is a bank employee and who has a school-going daughter, uses the Metro six days a week. “My daughter’s school is in Dwarka Sector 10. So, even when I have to attend parent-teacher meetings, I take the Metro because it’s convenient,” she says.

**Her Metro bill:** She has a Metro card and spends roughly Rs 2,000 per month.

**Life after Metro:** When she was in college, Singh would either take the Delhi University ‘U-Special’ buses or change two buses to reach BR Ambedkar College, where she studied. “It would take over an hour. Metro has made travelling faster and convenient,” she says. Singh believes that making Metro rides free for women would be a great step. “My company doesn’t pay a transport allowance despite putting us on night shifts. For someone who earns around Rs 30,000 per month, to spend Rs 3,000 a month just on travel is very difficult, especially if you have a family and have to pay the bills.”



**RIYA GUPTA, 19**  
STUDENT  
COACH NO: 5  
Dwarka Sector 9 to ITO via Mandi House

**The journey:** Gupta is a BBA student who uses the Metro six days a week to go to her college, Banarasis Chandiwala Institute of Professional Studies, in Dwarka Sector 11. Today, she is heading to the National Bal Bhavan at Mandi House in Delhi to perform Bharatnatyam with her troupe on International Yoga Day. “I live in Dwarka Sector 23. Today, I hired an autorickshaw to the Metro station which cost me Rs 30. From ITO, I will take an e-rickshaw for Rs 10 to reach Bal Bhavan,” she says. On her daily commute, she only needs to travel two stops, but still prefers taking the Metro. “An auto costs me Rs 70 one way, whereas by Metro I have to pay Rs 18 one way. Even on holidays, I take the Metro,” she says. Gupta lives with her parents, two brothers and sister-in-law.

**Her Metro bill:** She has a Metro card and spends around Rs 1,000 per month.

**Life after Metro:** “It’s the most convenient form of transport. Without the Metro, *roz ki travelling ruk si jayegi* (the daily commute will stop),” tenses up who don’t get stuck in traffic jams and it’s also air-conditioned. What more does one want? “Gupta is in favour of free rides, but with conditions. “It will benefit many women who can’t afford to travel, but it will also give access to chain snatchers and thieves. I feel free Metro rides is a good idea, but with some restrictions so as to prevent such people (chain snatchers) from getting in.”



**SUNITA, 40**  
DOMESTIC HELP  
COACH NO: 5  
Dwarka Sector 14 to Laxmi Nagar via Yamuna Bank

**The journey:** Two years ago, the Patparganj slum in East Delhi where Sunita and her family lived for 20 years was razed and they were forced to shift to Dwarka, about 30 km away. Sunita, however, continues to travel to Patparganj, where she works as a help in a few homes. “Once I get off at Laxmi Nagar, I will take a shared auto to Patparganj which will cost me Rs 5. All my contacts, all my work is in Patparganj and nearby areas like Vinod Nagar,” she says.

Sunita is the only earning member in her family — her four daughters are studying and her husband is differently abled. Taking the Metro both ways is expensive, she says. So Sunita tries to catch a bus on her return journey. “I take a bus from Vinod Nagar (in East Delhi) to Uttam Nagar (West Delhi), and then another bus from there to Dwarka Mor,” she says. Metro rides during holidays is “out of question” for Sunita.

**Her Metro bill:** She has a Metro card and spends about Rs 3,000 per month.

**Life after Metro:** “It is convenient but not as affordable as it used to be. The fare hike was bad for people like me. I earn Rs 10,000 a month, with which I have to support five people,” says Sunita. She hopes to save some money if the plan to implement free rides for women works out. But she has her doubts. “Will it happen? I am not sure. If the government manages to do it, it will be a welcome step.”



**SANAM LATA, 45**  
HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR  
COACH NO: 6  
Nawada to Karol Bagh

**The journey:** Lata leaves home every day at 7 am to go to Ganga Ram Hospital where she works as a housekeeping supervisor, and leaves work at 3 pm. Her home is 10-15 minutes from Nawada Metro station in West Delhi but she uses the Metro six days a week as well as on holidays, when she visits her parents in Noida. Kulshrestha lives with her husband, who runs a business in Uttam Nagar, and her in-laws.

**Her Metro bill:** She has a card and spends around Rs 2,500-3,000 a month.

**Life after Metro:** “It is very convenient. Even if I travel long distances, you don’t feel tired or stressed. For the same distance, if you were to take the bus, I don’t think you would be able to do your job properly because you would already be tired after all that travel in the heat. Also, the Metro is much safer. To wait for buses and autos, you need to stand on the road, which makes women vulnerable to harassment. My children also find the Metro to be the safest option. The stations are never deserted and trains keep coming every now and then. This makes me feel safe,” says Kulshrestha. She is ambivalent about the proposed free Metro rides — while she agrees they will make a difference for working women, she believes the financial burden on the government will be heavy. She says, “On the whole, I think it’s a good step.”



**PRIYAMVADA KULSHRESTHA, 24**  
QUALITY CONTROL ENGINEER  
COACH NO: 3  
Uttam Nagar East to Noida Sector 18

**The journey:** Kulshrestha, who works as a quality engineer at a company in Noida Sector 82, leaves home every day around 7 am to reach her office by 8 am. She clocks out at 6 pm, but reaches home only around 8 pm. She uses the Metro six days a week as well as on holidays, when she visits her parents in Noida. Kulshrestha lives with her husband, who runs a business in Uttam Nagar, and her in-laws.

**Her Metro bill:** She has a Metro card and spends about Rs 3,500 per month.

**Life after Metro:** “You don’t need to worry about not being on time, because even if you miss one metro, you know that another will come in 2 minutes. And no getting stuck in traffic jams also. I shifted to Uttam Nagar only in February, after my marriage. As I am new to the area, I find the Metro to be the safest option. The stations are never deserted and trains keep coming every now and then. This makes me feel safe,” says Kulshrestha. She is ambivalent about the proposed free Metro rides — while she agrees they will make a difference for working women, she believes the financial burden on the government will be heavy. She says, “On the whole, I think it’s a good step.”



**SUNITA SHARMA, 48**  
WORKS IN FIRM SELLING MEDICAL EQUIPMENT  
COACH NO: 1 (RESERVED FOR WOMEN)  
Shastri Nagar to Golf Course via Rajiv Chowk and Kashmere Gate

**The journey:** Sharma spends 12 hours away from home every working day — she leaves home at 6:45 am to reach office at 8:30 am, and leaves office at 5 pm to reach home around 6:45 pm. “My home is 10-15 minutes away from Shastri Nagar. My husband usually drops me on his motorbike, otherwise I walk that distance. But it’s not a problem. It’s safe,” she says. She uses the Metro six days a week to commute to work. It takes her around 25 minutes to reach office. “On my way back home, there is a staff bus which drops us off at Golf Course Metro station, so that is no trouble at all,” she says.

**Her Metro bill:** She has a card and spends around Rs 2,500-3,000 per month.

**Life after Metro:** “Around 10 years ago, when the metro had just started, I used to take the bus to work. I would get into a bus going to Faridabad from Kashmere Gate, and would plead with the driver to make an unscheduled stop and drop me off in the middle. I worked in that area earlier. Now travelling has become hassle-free and fast,” says Sharma. About the proposed free metro rides, she says, “No woman will say no, because it will benefit us. But I don’t think it’s a long-term measure.”



**DIKSHA DUBEY, 24**  
BPO EMPLOYEE  
COACH NO: 4  
From Noida City Sector 59 to Mayur Vihar Phase 1

**The journey:** A native of Kannauj, Uttar Pradesh, Dubey has been living in Delhi’s Mayur Vihar Phase-1 area for the last three years. She now works at a private BPO firm in Noida Sector 60. Though her shift ends around 10:30 pm, on days that her work stretches on, she takes the last Metro. Like today.

**Her Metro bill:** She has a travel card and spends around 2,400-3,000 per month.

**Life after Metro:** “It is the best mode of transport — it’s fast and it saves you from getting stuck in traffic jams. Some people may have problems with last-mile connectivity, but on the whole, it’s good,” says Sharma. According to her, it makes more sense to cut the Metro fares by half for everyone, instead of making the ride free for women. She says, “Around 80 per cent women travelling by Metro are working women; they can afford to pay. *Hum addimyon ke saath kandhe se kandha milaane ki baat karte hain to isme kyun nahi* (We talk about being equal to men, why not here?)”



**SAKSHI SHARMA, 21**  
GARMENT EXPORTER  
COACH NO: 3  
From Noida City Centre to Akshardham

**The journey:** As an exporter of ready-made garments, Sharma doesn’t have a fixed Metro route or office timings. She frequently goes to crowded markets — like the ones in Noida — where she sells ready-made *kurts* to shops. “I got late today, so I’ll stay over at my aunt’s home near Akshardham Metro station. I had to walk around 10 minutes to get to the Metro station but there’s no problem because I feel safe,” says Sharma, who was accompanied by a male friend. Since she lost her parents around eight years ago, Sharma and her brother haven’t had a fixed home, and they stay at homes of relatives. Their aunt’s house in Pandav Nagar is roughly 10 minutes from the Akshardham Metro station.

**Her Metro bill:** She has a travel card and spends around 2,400-3,000 per month.

**Life after Metro:** “It is the best mode of transport — it’s fast and it saves you from getting stuck in traffic jams. Some people may have problems with last-mile connectivity, but on the whole, it’s good,” says Sharma. According to her, it makes more sense to cut the Metro fares by half for everyone, instead of making the ride free for women. She says, “Around 80 per cent women travelling by Metro are working women; they can afford to pay. *Hum addimyon ke saath kandhe se kandha milaane ki baat karte hain to isme kyun nahi* (We talk about being equal to men, why not here?)”



**TANYA GUPTA, 23**  
BANK EMPLOYEE  
COACH NO: 1 (RESERVED FOR WOMEN)  
New Ashok Nagar to Saket via Rajiv Chowk

**The journey:** Gupta, who works as a relationship manager at an ICICI Bank branch in Gurgaon, recently shifted to a paying-guest accommodation in Saket, from her previous accommodation in New Ashok Nagar. Originally from Meerut, Gupta has lived in various PG accommodations since she moved to Delhi five years ago.

**Her Metro bill:** She has a travel card and spends around 2,400-3,000 per month.

**Life after Metro:** “Delhi has a lot of traffic and the Metro is the best option. It’s always on time, is fast and also safe. Moreover, it also has centralised AC which is important in this weather. Cabs are very costly,” she says. This is why Gupta approves of the proposal for free rides for women. “It will really help women, especially at night, when cab fares start surging,” she says.



**POOJA AGRAHARI, 30**  
HOMEMAKER  
COACH NO: 2  
Akshardham to Dwarka Mor

**The journey:** Agrahari is returning from a visit to the Akshardham Temple with her husband, an e-rickshaw driver, two children, and her brother’s family who are visiting them from Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh. They left their home near Dwarka at 4 pm to visit the temple, which is right next to the Metro station, but got delayed since the temple is part of a huge complex. Being a homemaker, Agrahari doesn’t need to use the Metro regularly — a few times a month, at the most — and prefers buses which, she says, are cheaper. She lives in Nangli Dairy, around 3 km from the Dwarka Mor Metro station, and will take an e-rickshaw home from the station, like she normally does, as it only costs Rs 10 per passenger. “*Mil jaana chahiye* (We should get one). Otherwise, we will walk,” she says.

**Her Metro bill:** As an infrequent user who buys tokens, she has no fixed monthly Metro bill.

**Life after Metro:** “It was much more helpful earlier when the fares were cheap. But since the fare was hiked, it has become almost impossible for us to take the Metro. The same route which earlier cost Rs 20-22, now costs Rs 50.” She is in favour of free Metro rides for women as, she says, “It will be very helpful for people like me who have had to reduce our travel because of the cost.”



**SHEETAL GAUR, 35**  
WORKS WITH AN IT FIRM  
COACH NO: 1 (RESERVED FOR WOMEN)  
Botanical Garden to Dwarka Sector 13

**The journey:** Gaur works with an IT firm in Noida’s Sector 126 and is travelling late because of an unusually long day at work. “I usually work from 9 am to 6 pm,” she says, but it takes her around two hours to reach her destination. “I take a shared auto from my office to Botanical Garden which costs Rs 30 and takes around 10-15 minutes to reach. I then take an auto from Dwarka Sector 13 Metro station to Dwarka Sector 3, where I live. That costs me around Rs 40,” she says.

**Her Metro bill:** She has a card and spends roughly Rs 4,500 a month.

**Life after Metro:** “It is the fastest way of getting anywhere. I think, for me, it’s impossible to even imagine travelling from Dwarka to Noida without the Metro,” says Gaur. She believes that, in the long run, the proposed move to make Metro rides free for women is unsustainable and will only make it easier for thieves and chain-snatchers to catch rides. She adds, “It’s also against the spirit of equality. Instead of making it free, they should reduce fares for everyone. For women, focus should, perhaps, be on providing marshals in the coach and better last-mile connectivity.”



**ANITA, 67**  
HOMEMAKER  
COACH NO: 6  
New Delhi to Subhash Nagar via Rajiv Chowk

**The journey:** Anita, a homemaker, is returning from a relative’s funeral in Jalandhar, Punjab. She boarded the Metro from the New Delhi Metro station, which can be accessed from the railway station. Her home in Subhash Nagar is around 10 minutes from the Metro station. “I will take an e-rickshaw which will cost me Rs 10. It should be available even now,” says Anita, whose husband died 15 years ago and who lives with her son — a labourer — and his family. Though she doesn’t use the Metro too frequently, she says she prefers it to the bus any day. This, however, is not always possible as the Metro is “too costly to be a regular mode of travel”.

**Her Metro bill:** Anita buys tokens whenever she travels and has no Metro card.

**Life after Metro:** “Metro travel is very safe and convenient, but it’s not for people like me. I don’t even get my old age pension so I cannot afford to travel by Metro,” says Anita. She approves of the proposal to make metro rides free for women, calling it a “great initiative”. “At my age, comfort is important. The trains are air-conditioned and have a special ladies coach as well as seats reserved for women in every coach. Some times men give up their seats for me,” she says. “Though Anita often travels by buses, she finds them “uncomfortable”. “Besides, men misbehave too, but at least we don’t have to spend so much.”



## Waterless in Chennai

As the city goes through one of its worst water crises, at this slum rehab colony, almost every conversation is centred around rising temperatures — and tempers. “People are angry. I am angry too. What do you do when there is no water to cook, bathe?”

ARUN JANARDHANAN

Look at me. Do I look like I have had a bath? Not in the last one week,” says G Rukmini, 65, carrying two pots of water from her second-floor house to the cemented patch abutting the street below, where she now squats alongside a tub full of unwashed clothes.

As she stirs up the soap foam, Rukmini's neighbour taunts her: “You haven't been bathing and yet you have all these clothes to wash.” Rukmini shoots back: “Why? As if you have had a bath.” “No, I haven't. We have been managing somehow,” laughs Ramani. Ramani's neighbour Shankar, a criminal lawyer practising in a city court, walks past and the women now decide to rib him. “You haven't bathed, yet look at yourself. Do you use up all your water just on that white shirt you usually wear to court,” says Ramani as the two women break into loud guffaws. Shankar smiles and walks off.

As Chennai goes through one of its worst water crises in nearly two decades, made worse by failed monsoons last year and shifting rainfall patterns over the years, here in Kapali Thottam, a slum rehabilitation colony in the Mylapore area of the city, almost every conversation is centred around water — and in light-hearted moments such as these, much of this is about missed bathing cycles.

But such moments are rare. The water crisis, made worse by the searing heat — temperatures have touched up to 42 degree

Celsius this season — and sapping humidity, has stretched patience thin, with frequent fights over water. A couple of weeks ago, a woman ended up with a deep cut on her neck after her neighbour attacked her over water. Outside the city, in a village near Thanjavur, a man was beaten to death by his neighbours, again over water.

“People are angry. I am angry too. What do we do when there is no water to cook, to keep toilets clean? So when water comes, everyone scrambles and then there are fights at the slightest pretext. I am so tired of this,” says Rukmini, who lives with her son Kathiresan, a sweeper-cum-cleaner with the Chennai Corporation.

In some of the city's busiest neighbourhoods, police stations have been reporting a steady increase in complaints over water.

“The root cause is water. People are frustrated and angry that they have to struggle so much for something as basic as water. Even a minor tussle leads to heated arguments and even physical attacks. Many of these fights start over people calling each other thieves — say, if someone takes home an extra pot of water than what is allowed under his family quota or if someone fetches a pot of water from a tanker that another person has booked... We can only make them sit down and talk. We try our best to settle disputes without registering a case since they are usually neighbours and need to move on. We register cases only when there are incidents of water tanker drivers getting manhandled by residents,” says an officer in one of the Mylapore police stations who didn't



Tankers criss-cross the city, delivering water to some of the most parched areas; (above) Rukmini outside her home in Kapali Thottam. Arun Janardhanan

want to be identified.

The colony of dilapidated apartment blocks at Kapali Thottam is one of the many ‘vertical slums’ that the government built in the 1980s and '90s to rehabilitate slum dwellers. Though these buildings came with pipes, two years ago, the government, in a bid to reduce consumption, stopped water supply to the colony. Instead, the government

“People are frustrated and angry that they have to struggle so much for something as basic as water. Even a minor tussle leads to heated arguments and even physical attacks”

A POLICE OFFICER IN MYLAPORE, CHENNAI

built common water tanks for each of these colonies, which would be periodically filled with water from tankers. In Kapali Thottam, which has about 500 households, the tanker now comes only twice or thrice a week.

The water tank in front of Rukmini's apartment block is dry, she says. A tap attached to the tank is locked, with one of the local residents in charge of opening it whenever the tanker comes.

“Each time the tanker comes, a household gets four pots of water, rarely six. What can anyone do with such little water? Should I use it to cook, wash clothes or for the toilet? Sollunge... (Please tell me),” she says with a defeated smile.

Luckily, she says, the tanker came last night. “That is why I can afford to wash clothes after a week. Sometimes the tankers come in the morning, or at night. Sometimes even at midnight. But at least they come. We tip them to ensure they come again,” she says, her feet dipped in clouds of foam from her washing.

Every day, a vast network of tankers criss-

crosses the city, delivering water to some of the most parched areas of the city — from posh localities such as Poes Garden, Greams Road and Adyar to slums such as Kapali Thottam.

According to the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, about 900 water lorries make about 9,400 trips a day to transport water from treatment plants and storage stations to different parts of the city — the largest such deployment of these vehicles in the city ever.

Rukmini came to Chennai in 1982 from her village, Cheyyar, near Kancheepuram, after her marriage. Her husband, who worked at a company that produced cooking oil, died some years ago. “In all my years in Chennai, I have never witnessed a summer like this,” she says. When reminded about the 2001 drought that forced the AIADMK government to bring water in rail wagons from far-away places, she says, “At least there were borewells then. Now even those are dry.”

She spots her neighbour Chandran, a taxi driver in his early 60s, who has come out for a bath, carrying half a bucket of water and a bar of soap. “Ask Chandran. At his home too, they have been cooking less to keep the kitchen and toilets clean,” Rukmini laughs.

Chandran isn't amused. “The poor always get less water even when there is enough. Now that there is a real shortage, you can imagine how bad our situation must be,” he says.

“People are dying in Bihar due to the heat. I can't imagine what will happen if there is no rain in Chennai next month too,” he adds, sitting on his haunches and pouring a mug of water down his head.

### TAKE 5

FACES ON THE FRINGES OF NEWS

A 41-YEAR-OLD TEACHER IN KISHTWAR

## ‘Half-a-dozen agencies are monitoring the attendance of teachers’

An order issued on June 17 by the Kishtwar Deputy Commissioner said government school teachers across the district would get their salaries every month only after they produce an attendance certificate signed by parents of at least 10 students and the sarpanch. A teacher at a government school in Kishtwar, who preferred to stay anonymous, says the order is “against civil service rules”

### 1 How long have you been teaching?

Fifteen years. I was recruited as a primary teacher in 2004.

### 2 What do you think of the Deputy Commissioner's order?

It is totally against civil service rules. Half-a-dozen agencies in the district are monitoring the attendance of a government school teacher — from the Zonal Education Officer to Chief Education Officer and Director Education Officer. I don't think there are these many bodies to check the attendance of employees in any other department. This is apart from the Village Education Committees (VECs) and Parent-Teacher Associations which have villagers, including parents, panches and sarpanches... This order does not seem practical.

### 3 Why do you think so?

Say, a school is in a far-flung area and has only 10-15 students on its rolls. Where will the teacher get signatures of 10 every month, and another set of 10 parents the following month?

### 4 What, according to you, prompted the order?

Only the officer who issued the order can tell you that. Maybe he received complaints from some quarters, but there can't be any blanket rule since it's not as if there is a culture of absenteeism among teachers. This academic year, I have taken five days leave to appear for my B.Ed exam. My colleagues too take leave on genuine grounds and these are sanctioned by the authority concerned.

### 5 Has the administration taken similar measures in the past to check absenteeism?

I can't think of any such rule issued in the past.

ARUN SHARMA

DAY IN THE LIFE OF

SUBRATA KUMAR MUKHERJEE, 40, MAGICIAN

## ‘Magic is an art. There is no spell’

Illusionist Chanchal Lahiri drowned in the Hooghly while performing a stunt. Lawyer-magician Mukherjee says behind every such trick are hours of practice and some hidden science

SANTANU CHOWDHURY

IT IS 9 am and 40-year-old Subrata Kumar Mukherjee is sipping tea in the living room of his two-bedroom apartment in South Kolkata. This is the time of the day when Mukherjee, a lawyer, usually meets his clients. Just then, the phone rings.

“I can assure you that there is no such thing. The best way to settle this is to appoint a consultant and bring both parties to the table for discussion,” he tells the person at the other end. Hanging up, Mukherjee says his client was requesting him to use magic to resolve a dispute between a married couple. “Magic is an art. There is no spell involved. There is science behind a lot of these tricks. But some people think magic has the power to solve problems,” he says.

Besides being an advocate at the Calcutta High Court, Mukherjee has been a professional magician for nearly 25 years. And this

is not the first time he is faced with such a request. On one occasion, a person had asked him to cure his paralysed son. “I advised him to meet a doctor,” he says, stressing that magicians possess no special powers.

On June 16, magician and illusionist Chanchal Lahiri, who called himself ‘Mandrake’, drowned in Kolkata's Hooghly river while attempting to perform legendary American stuntman Harry Houdini's escape act. The act required Lahiri — who was blindfolded, and his hands and legs tied with ropes — to escape from a six-foot-tall cage that was submerged underwater. After nearly 10 minutes, when Lahiri did not resurface, spectators informed police and divers were rushed to the spot. Mandrake's body was fished out of the river from Ramkrishnapur Ghat the next day.

Says Mukherjee, “Some acts can be deadly. It requires practice and precision to pull these off. One miscalculation can take your life.”

Mukherjee says he has known Lahiri for several years. “There are magicians and then



Subrata Mukherjee practises at home; an advocate, he says the life of a magician can be very “uncertain”. Partha Paul

there are illusionists like PC Sorcar Jr. Mandrake (Lahiri) was a successful illusionist. But he should not have chosen the Hooghly to perform the escape act. The river is unpredictable and one should have considered the tide timings,” he says, adding that it was Lahiri's ‘over-confidence’ that led to the unfortunate event.

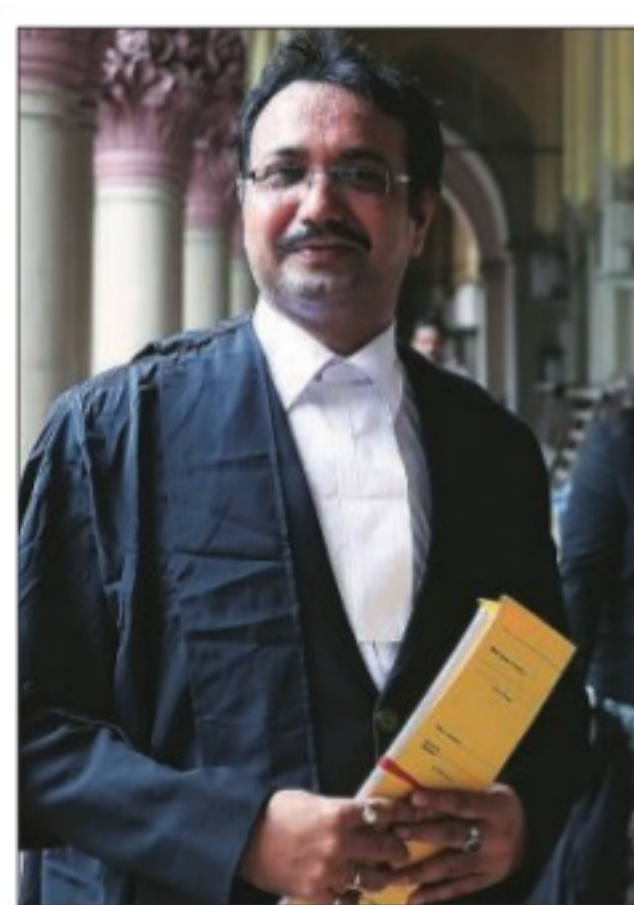
“He should have used nets or cables as a safety measure. Divers should have been put on standby,” he rues.

Magicians, he says, need a lot of practice before performing for an audience. “For illusionists, it is even tougher since their tricks are risky. There are escape acts, sword acts, sawing a woman etc. A high level of concentration is required for these acts. Also having the right team helps,” he says.

Around 10 am, while leaving for court,

Mukherjee says he is more of a magician and less of an advocate. On most days, he stays away from courts to perform magic shows. “I go to courts only when my presence is required for hearings. Rest of the time, my juniors attend to the clients,” he says, adding, “My life is all about robes — whether it's the lawyer's robes or the magician's.” From 11 am to 5 pm, Mukherjee is at the court, attending hearings and meeting clients.

At 7 pm, he is now back in his living room, which is filled with furniture and old electronic goods. In one corner of the room, a pile of newspapers is stacked against the wall. Next to it stands a showcase with the trophies and medals that he has won as a magician. He then disappears inside one of the bedrooms, which has been converted into a



storeroom for his instruments and props. Mukherjee's wife Arpita says she too developed an interest in magic after her marriage to Mukherjee in 2006. “I now accompany him to magic shows across the country,” she says.

Just then, Mukherjee emerges from the room in a completely different avatar. Gone is the black robe, and he now stands in a fiery red magician's robe, sporting a hat. He says he spends his evenings and nights practising tricks and perfecting them. He then performs a few tricks — moving a pair of glasses without touching it and pulling out handkerchieves from a container.

“This living room is small and not an ideal place to perform illusions, which require bigger instruments. Here, I only practice magic tricks that are to be performed in birthday par-

ties and small shows,” says the magician, adding that he practices his illusion tricks at his ancestral house in Maheshtala, about 10 km from his home. “Most of my bigger instruments and props are stored there,” he says.

Mukherjee says his first brush with magic was when he was six. “Those days, magicians would visit local schools to entertain students. It was during one of those shows that I decided I would be a magician. Initially, my father, who was a doctor, taught me science magic. At the age of 15, I became a professional magician. As I was a minor, the licence was made in my father's name. After I turned 18, I got my own licence,” he says.

In 2004, Mukherjee, then a 25-year-old, was persuaded by his prospective father-in-law to find other ways of earning a living. “That's how I studied law. The life of a magician is uncertain and the income generated by conducting shows is hardly enough. It takes years to become popular. It's only after you have made a name for yourself that you begin to get called for shows,” he says.

It was the plight of fellow magicians and the “lack of recognition from the government” that drove Mukherjee to form the Magic Artists' Forum in June 2018. The organisation currently has around 150 members. “The condition of the industry is poor. There is hardly any interest either from common people or the administration. We want to revive this profession. Once we have 500 members, we will approach the state education department, asking if there can be a course on magic for school students. We will also appeal to the government to recognise magicians by giving them certificates. The administration should consider magicians as artists and for offer benefits that come along with the recognition,” he says.

It's 10 pm, time for dinner. Mukherjee's seven-year-old son Sarabjit jumps up from his chair and asks, “Can I perform a trick? Do you know how to make a *rosogolla* disappear from a plate? Simple, by putting it in your mouth.”

VARINDER BHATIA

**T**WO YEARS ago, Bimla Devi's son Praveen was killed when a group of armed men, allegedly led by Krishan Malik, 55, a fellow resident of village Bhainswal Kalan in Haryana, pumped nine bullets into the 24-year-old. The murder, committed in broad daylight, laid the foundation for a deadly feud between the two families that has so far claimed the lives of seven men and one woman. Seven of these murders were committed in the last three months, of which four were in the last fortnight alone.

On April 16 this year, Praveen's brother Jitender, 22, his cousin Satpal, 26, and their friend Naveen, 22, allegedly killed Krishan's son Pradeep, 23 and his two friends Ravi, 22, and Akshay, 19, and dumped their bodies in a canal in Uttar Pradesh. Then, on June 4, a group of assailants led by Krishan, allegedly killed Bimla's husband Balbir Singh, 65, in retaliation. "The village was so terrified that nobody dared touch Balbir's body, which just lay on the street," says Narendra Malik (not related to accused Krishan Malik), who serves with the Haryana Police and whose wife, Manjita, is the sarpanch of Bhainswal Kalan.

Before Bimla could come to terms with her husband's murder, the assailants struck again in the wee hours of June 8. This time, they killed Bimla's brother-in-law Hoshiyar Singh, 58, and his wife Nirmala, 55. An hour later, the same group allegedly killed Surinder Singh, 50, an acquaintance of Hoshiyar. Surinder was shot dead while he was asleep at home in the neighbouring village of Katwal. According to villagers, he was killed as a result of his enmity with Sumit Katwal, one of Krishan's aides, and was shot while the assailants were escaping after killing Hoshiyar and Nirmala.

The feud has left villagers stunned. While Jitender, Satpal and Naveen are in Muzaffargarh jail, charged with the triple murder, Ravi and Akshay's parents have refused to press any charges against the killers.

A fearful silence prevails in Bhainswal Kalan, a Jat-dominated village 206 km from Chandigarh and with a population of over 10,000. Krishan and Bimla's families belong to the dominant community, with each of the family members making their living off their moderate landholdings. The locals prefer not to discuss the feud, but believe that "this is not the end". "Yeh yahan khatam nahi hoga. Aankada kam se kam 15 ya 16 tak jayega (This will not end here. The body count will rise to at least 15 or 16)," says one of the villagers, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Krishan and his aides, including his wife Guddi, 48, and son Paramjit, 27, are absconding. Krishan's brother Rajesh, alias Raju, 48, a *beldar* (attendant) with Haryana's water supply department, is the only member of the family left in the village. He lives in a dilapidated house, a short distance from Bimla's. Terrified of being attacked, he says, "My wife and daughters have gone to stay with my in-laws, near Delhi. I haven't had anything to do with my brother Krishan or his family for many years. But I'm related by blood to Krishan and they (Bimla's family) may kill me to avenge their family members' killings."

In Bimla's house too, the trauma of those who remain is palpable. The family no longer dares to step outside the main gate of their two-room house, for fear of being attacked. Sitting on her cot in a dimly-lit room, Bimla recalls how the assailants broke open the wooden door of the room, dragged her husband Balbir Singh out and shot him dead in the village's main street, just a few yards from the house. Three more cots have now been placed in the same room, for her brother-in-law Surinder, his wife Kamla and Hoshiyar's son Vikas. In a room on the roof, four cots accommodate four armed policemen.

Hoshiyar Singh's house, which is nearby, is now locked. "We have all decided to stay together. We shall live and die together. We do not know when the assailants will attack again," says Vikas, a postgraduate from MDU, Rohtak. Surinder too has locked up his house



## Blood Lines

Two families, a deadly feud, eight deaths and a village in Haryana, enveloped in fear



(Clockwise from top) Four members of Bimla's family, including her husband and son, have been killed; main accused Krishan Malik's home in Bhainswal Kalan lies locked; his brother Rajesh is the only member of the family left in the village

to stay with Bimla.

The feud began in April 2017 during the sarpanch elections. Balbir's son Praveen and Krishan, who, according to villagers, has a reputation as a "hot head", were supporting different candidates. The two got into an argument, followed by a scuffle. "Eventually, Praveen's candidate won.

Krishan nursed a grudge against Praveen. Finally, he killed my son on April 20, 2017," says Bimla.

Krishan, his son Paramjit and seven others, who were arrested on charges of murder and criminal conspiracy under provisions of the Arms Act in the IPC, were granted bail earlier this year. Fearing a bloody battle between

the two families, village elders and the panchayat tried to intervene. Their efforts proved to be in vain, after Krishan's son Pradeep and his two friends, Akshay and Ravi were killed on April 16. Krishan accused Balbir and Hoshiyar's sons of the triple murder, following which police arrested Jitender, Hoshiyar's son Satpal and their friend Naveen.

Balbir's brother-in-law Surinder claims that his family was not involved in the murders of Pradeep and his friends. Vikas adds, "Krishan named Jitender and Satpal and both were picked up by the Sonapat Police and then handed over to the Uttar Pradesh Police. There was no fair probe".

Village sarpanch Manjita says that after the first murder, a panchayat was convened where Krishan admitted his guilt and agreed to financially compensate Praveen's parents. "Bimla's family, including Balbir and Hoshiyar, had agreed, but she did not. She wanted legal action against the accused," she said, adding, "Praveen and his friend Naveen were the original targets. While Praveen was shot dead, Naveen escaped. Later, Naveen and his friends killed Pradeep. The village believes that Satpal and Jitender were not involved in Pradeep's murder."

Bimla's family claims that the police protection they had since Praveen was murdered, was removed on the eve of polling for the Lok Sabha elections and that after the elections, despite repeated requests for security cover, it was not restored until after Balbir was killed on June 4.

Vikas alleges, "After my uncle Balbir was shot dead, my father Hoshiyar again approached police and told them that he was next. But, police did not heed his requests. Finally they came and killed my father, mother".

Inspector Sandeep, SHO of Gohana Sadar police station, was transferred immediately after Hoshiyar, Nirmala and Surinder were murdered. Four armed policemen were deployed at Bimla's home where the entire family now lives.

"Since these murders took place at night, at least 10 armed policemen patrol the streets from 9 pm to 5 am everyday. A PCR van is also deployed in the village to avoid any untoward incident," says one of the policemen deployed for the family's security.

Sushila Lamba, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Gohana, refuted the family's allegations of police's negligence. "There was no request for security from Balbir's brothers. Otherwise, we had not refused it and would have deployed security at their residence too. We deployed security at Balbir's residence for protection of his remaining family members immediately after he was shot dead".

Regarding the accused who are absconding, DSP Lamba added, "We are still conducting raids to nab them. So far, they remain at large".

At the other end of the village, Kamlesh sits on her cot at home. Her nephew Ravi, alias Dhoola, had gone to Haridwar with Krishan's son Pradeep and another local youth Akshay. They never returned alive, their bodies eventually turning up in a canal in UP.

A teary-eyed Kamlesh said, "We do not want to pursue this case any further. Ravi's parents have abandoned their house and left the village. We do not know where have they gone. They fear that they may also be attacked or be harassed by the police. They may be accused of having a hand in the killing of Balbir, Hoshiyar, Nirmala and Surinder. But they are innocent. In fact, Ravi's uncles Om Prakash and Karanbir too have locked their homes and moved out of the village fearing that they may also be targeted."

Akshay's father Ravinder Singh Malik works as a technician at AIIMS, New Delhi. A few months ago, Akshay, who was to turn 20 in August this year, had joined his father at the institution to work as a contractual lift operator. Ravinder says, "We paid the price of the rivalry between these two families. Akshay was my only son. He was killed. What will I get from pursuing his case? I have accepted my fate. We performed his last rites and that was the end for us. We have nothing to say about who killed him and why he was killed."

SHAJU PHILIP

**O**N JUNE 15, seven people choked to death when they entered a septic tank outside a hotel at Partkui village near Vadodara, Gujarat. As he heard the news, Vimal Govind remembers feeling both angry and helpless. "Only three months ago, our team had held a demonstration of our robotic scavenger for government officials in Vadodara. If only things had moved faster, some lives could have been saved," says Vimal, 25, CEO and one of the four founders of Genrobotics, a start-up firm in Thiruvananthapuram that developed the Bandicoot in 2018, then hailed as India's "first manhole cleaning robot".

Since then, a few other robotic machines have been designed, all aimed at replacing men with machines inside drains, but none has been scaled up. Like it happens after every death in a manhole or septic tank, the initial uproar over the Vadodara incident was again accompanied by questions of why the job of cleaning choked drains isn't mechanised yet.

"Our intention is to eliminate manual scavenging. But there are hurdles — one, the government system doesn't move fast enough to adopt a new technology. Two, officials and municipalities see it from a purely economic angle. While an urban local body requires only Rs 1 lakh for manual cleaning of drains and sewers, a robotic scavenger is costly (the Bandicoot is now

priced at Rs 32 lakh)," says Vimal, sitting at Technopark, a state-owned IT park in Thiruvananthapuram where Genrobotics's R&D section functions.

Initially funded by the state government's Kerala Start-up Mission, Bandicoot was developed for the Kerala Water Authority (KWA) by Genrobotics. Four enterprising engineering graduates — Vimal Govind, Nikhil NP, Rashid K and Arun George — had founded the start-up after short stints with private firms.

Besides Kerala, Bandicoot has a presence in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Haryana, says George. "We have already signed an MoU with the Dubai municipality for using our robots to clean their sewage system. Besides, discussions are on with the governments of Punjab and Delhi for rolling out the product," he says.

With the contract with KWA over, Vimal says the firm is planning to enter a service contract with KWA. "Instead of selling our product to the government, we are plan-

## The robot's arm

Last week, seven people who entered a septic tank in Vadodara choked to death. The team that developed the Bandicoot manhole cleaning robot hopes that their machine and others like it will save lives — one robotic step at a time



Bandicoot, developed in 2018, was hailed as India's 'first manhole cleaning robot'

ning to take up cleaning of manholes on contract using a latest version of the Bandicoot," he says.

The robot has two units — a control unit and within which is a robotic unit, which has four legs that stabilise the unit. It also has a robotic arm, similar to that of a human arm, that lifts the lid on the manhole, goes down the pit, grabs waste that's blocking the manhole, brings it up and deposits it into a bucket-like system. Power is supplied by portable generators and the robot has waterproof, night-vision cameras that help the operator monitor the robot's work inside the manhole.

"Simple user interface has been developed to ensure that the product can be operated by a common man and voice commands have been given in local languages. Animated videos also help to operate these robots. As the size of the manholes varies, the robots can be customised to meet local requirements," says George.

There have been changes along the way, he adds. If the initial product weighed 120

kg, the latest version of the Bandicoot weighs only 50 kg, after the stainless steel used for the robot was replaced with carbon fibre.

George says that while the latest version is fully automated, they were always mindful of the fact that they didn't want the robots to deprive people of their jobs. "So we decided to train the very people who entered the drains to operate the Bandicoot. So far, we have trained 150 manual scavengers in various states. In local civic bodies, we have trained engineers as well as workers, who are hired by cleaning contractors," he says.

Nikhil, another of the co-founders, says the major challenge was to upgrade the product based on feedback from customers.

For now, he says, the effort is to convince stakeholders that the robot, though designed to clean manholes, can be used for cleaning septic tanks with a few modifications. "When we worked to develop a robot to clean a manhole, our aim was to end the practice of manual scavenging. Now, the message has reached everywhere and we are getting queries for the product that can be used for cleaning manholes cleaning and septic tanks," says Nikhil.

Started with eight engineers, who formed part of the core team, Genrobotics now employs 40-odd persons. At its production unit housed at the Kinfra Industrial Park in Thiruvananthapuram, Genrobotics has the capacity to make 25 robotic scavengers a month. The firm, however, has so far managed to sell up to 10 machines a month.

ACROSS THE AISLE



P CHIDAMBARAM

There is a huge gap between intention and implementation. Why? We are hesitant to say it, but it must be said: within the Government (with a capital G) there is another government (with a small g). It is the small-g government that has failed the big-G government as well as the people

# gOVERNMENT WITHIN GOVERNMENT

EVERY GOVERNMENT is taken by surprise when a grave crisis explodes in its face. Someone is at fault, but nobody will take responsibility. Ultimately, the buck stops at the table of the head of the government — Chief Minister or Prime Minister. A deeper probe will, however, reveal that s/he is not the first person who should be held responsible, but the parliamentary system of government holds otherwise.

## CRUEL DEATHS

The encephalitis epidemic that has consumed 128 lives so far in Muzaffarpur district, Bihar, is a case in point. According to the Union Health Ministry's Management Information System, all of the 103 primary health centres and the only community health centre in the district were rated 0 out of 5 because they did not meet the mandatory requirements for evaluation (medical officer, nurse/midwife). The paediatric unit of the Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital in Muzaffarpur, where the affected children were treated, did not meet the criteria to qualify as a paediatric ICU. On these facts, who should take the blame? No one will, so we will blame a small, white-coloured (and delicious) fruit called litchi! Doctors said that eating lychees affected only children who did not eat a meal at night. And pray, why did they not eat a meal at night? Because they are poor and don't get a meal. Can there be anything more devastating and painful?

(Between 2008 and 2014, there were 6,000 deaths from encephalitis.)

A few days ago, seven sanitation workers died while emptying a septic tank in a hotel near Vadodra, Gujarat. It was not the first time such a tragedy happened and, sadly, it will not be the last. Cleaning a septic tank is not rocket science: there are machines and an Indian version (Bandicoot) has been developed by a start-up in Kerala. When men have to be unavoidably deployed for cleaning sewers and septic tanks, there are special clothing, masks and oxygen cylinders. None of the equipment is scarce or beyond the financial capacity of a municipal corporation like Vadodra, yet seven poor men were allowed to die. (Between 2011 and 2018, death of 114 sanitation workers was reported from all states of India.)

## SHOCKING NEGLIGENCE

There is another unbelievably shocking statistic: on an average, four persons are killed in Delhi in road accidents every day. You can expect that four persons will be killed tomorrow, four the day after, and so on, on average four, every day in Delhi alone. Only a fraction of that number is killed in air accidents all over the world in a whole year! Why do we have strict rules for air travel and lax rules for road travel? (Between 2011 and 2017, 12,724 persons were killed in road accidents in Delhi.)

Have you traveled on the Barapulla

flyover in Delhi which is the 'pride' of the PWD of the Delhi government and which took years to be built? The flyover is average, the design is average, the ride is average, but the quality of the construction is awful. Just look at the parapets on either side of the carriage way — chipped or broken, uneven height, disjointed slabs, terribly plastered and painted and, on the whole, ugly. Yet, it passed all quality tests, the contractor was paid (and presumably feted) and the flyover inaugurated in 2010. It won't be long before it is closed for repairs.

## INTENTION & IMPLEMENTATION

In none of these cases — and you can think of others — was there a policy failure. Any government's policy is to build, equip and staff health facilities and hospitals; to abolish manual scavenging; to enforce traffic rules and ensure safety; to build quality infrastructure and beautify cities and towns; and so on. The Legislature or the Executive (i.e. the ministers) makes the policy and, naturally, wants the policy implemented well. But there is a huge gap between intention and implementation. Why? We are hesitant to say it, but it must be said: within the Government (with a capital G) there is another government (with a small g). It is the small-g government that has failed the big-G government as well as the people, at least as far

as India is concerned.

Let me make the point with two contrasting examples. Demonetisation was a policy blunder; the ministers who dreamed up that policy and constituted big-G Government must own responsibility. On the other hand, GST was a good policy. If it has caused as much distress as demonetisation, the blame must be taken by small-g government.

Swachh Bharat is good policy, but the false statistics fed on ODF status of states and villages is the deceit of small-g government. Ujjwala is good policy, but the replacement cylinder rate of three per year is the failure of small-g government.

When we vote, we the people vote for big-G Government. There is a small-g government over which we the people have no control at all. We have no say in their selection, recruitment, training, evaluation, posting, appraisal or promotion. We cannot go on in this fashion. We must re-invent small-g government. Just as we the people reward or punish big-G Government and its occupants every five years, we must find a way to reward or punish small-g government and its occupants every five years or sooner.

The main challenge that we face today is not in making policy. It is in the efficient, economical and excellent implementation of the policy.

Website: pchidambaram.in

@Pchidambaram\_JN

FIFTH COLUMN



TAVLEEN SINGH

# Terminal healthcare

HOW MANY more children must die before we notice that our public health services are not just broken, they simply do not exist in whole swathes of India? I speak of the hospital of horrors in Muzaffarpur. I am haunted by the glazed eyes of children lying three and four to a bed with needles stuck in their tiny arms. So, although, many things happened last week that are more appropriate for a political column, I feel compelled to dedicate this column to Bihar's dead children.

The lives of Indian children are cheap. Experts estimate that 21 children die of preventable diseases every minute. They estimate that 61 of a thousand children born every year do not make it to their fifth birthday. So what was it about the deaths of more than 100 children this time that was somehow so much more horrible than usual? What was it that made it somehow worse than the Gorakhpur horror two summers ago that caused 63 children to die of this same Acute Encephalitis Syndrome because the hospital ran out of oxygen? I believe it is because India has changed. Things that were tolerated just three years ago no longer are. One of the things that is now completely intolerable is that India should have some of the best private hospitals in the world and, at the same time, some of the worst public hospitals.

What is no longer acceptable is that our politicians and high officials should be permitted criminal neglect of government health services, simply because they never have to use them. So the first reform that the Prime Minister should order is to make it compulsory for all officials, elected and unelected, to use only government hospitals. When they see their own sick children lying crammed four to a bed on grimy sheets in filthy, crowded hospitals, conditions will immediately improve. When their wives and daughters are forced to sit on the unwashed floors of government hospitals, hoping and praying that their children somehow manage to survive, conditions will immediately improve.

They will probably improve last in Bihar because it has traditionally been governed by political leaders who lack basic humanity. And, because the vast majority of the people of Bihar are so mired in extreme poverty that they are forced to forget horrific tragedies like the one six years ago in the village of Dharmashati Gandamra when 23 healthy children died because of a poisonous midday meal. That horror also happened on the watch of the man they call 'Sushasan Babu' (Mr. Governance) and the people forgave him so quickly that he became chief minister again in 2015.

This time let's hope that even if Nitish Kumar quickly forgets the criminal negligence of his government, the Prime Minister does not. If Narendra Modi in his second term gives healthcare the kind of intense concentration he gave the Swachh Bharat campaign in his first term it is possible that Indian children will finally stop dying of preventable diseases. The excuse that healthcare is a state subject no longer works. Modi has chief ministers today governing almost every major Indian state, so if he orders them to make the radical changes that are needed in primary healthcare, they will be forced to make them.

They can also be ordered to widen the meaning of Swachh Bharat by taking it beyond sanitation. The disease that killed the children in Bihar is caused by mosquitoes who breed, as everyone knows, in stagnant water. If Swachh Bharat volunteers can extend their activities to teaching people about the dangers of dirty water, as they have done with poor sanitation, more and more rural Indian children could soon start living beyond their fifth birthday.

There are other reforms that are urgently needed. For a start something needs to be done to end the license raj in medical education that prevents desperately needed new medical colleges from being built. If governments cannot find the money to build them, then they must allow private investment. Why should there be such a desperate shortage of medical colleges that young Indians wanting to enter the medical profession are forced to go to other countries to study medicine?

In my personal opinion, though, the step that can bring about the most change is to make it compulsory for political leaders and high officials to use only government hospitals, clinics and primary health centres. Why should they be allowed excellent private health services when it is they who are directly responsible for creating the abysmal facilities that India's poorest, most vulnerable citizens are forced to rely upon? It is time as well to totally ban Indian officials from flying off to Europe and the United States for medical procedures that are now available in India. If these bad old habits continue in the 'new India', there will be no new India.

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INSIDE TRACK



COOMMI KAPOOR

## MODI'S CHOICES

WITH THE appointment of Om Birla as Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the top three posts in the country, President, Prime Minister and Speaker, are held by men who use Hindi as the lingua franca. They come from diverse castes, Dalit, OBC and Bania, and humble backgrounds. As with Ram Nath Kovind, Modi did not opt for a conventional choice, surprising everyone, including the person selected. Modi does not go by the traditional logic of job suitability. More than language skills and parliamentary experience, Birla was rewarded for outstanding social work and public service in his constituency. Incidentally, Birla along with two other Rajasthan ministers in Modi's Cabinet, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Arjun Ram Meghwal, are part of the anti-Vasundhara Raj camp, indicating that the former CM is out of favour.

## ODD CHOICE

The selection of Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury as leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha has taken many party MPs by surprise. Chowdhury, a five-time MP from West Bengal, is a doughty street fighter with several criminal cases against him. He does not have either the oratory or familiarity of the parliamentary rule book possessed by more obvious contenders for the post such as Manish Tewari, Shashi Tharoor or K Suresh. An added disadvantage is that floor coordination with the Trinamool will be awkward. In the last Parliament session, Chowdhury had infuriated Mamata Banerjee by alluding to her name in the Saradha scam. One surprise for the surprising choice is that Sonia Gandhi's advisers who recommended his name did not want to prop up anyone who would pose a threat to them. Another speculation is that the Congress assumes that, as in the last Parliament session, there will be little room for meaningful debate and discussion. The only way to grab attention will be through disruptive behaviour and adjournments, something that Chowdhury is familiar with.

## REAL-LIFE HEROINE

The Capital's media has focused on the victories of first-time actress MPs Sumalatha Amarnath from Karnataka and Mimi Chakraborty and Nusrat Jehan

## OUT OF MY MIND



MEGHNAD DESAI

NARENDRA MODI HAS secured for himself five or perhaps even ten years. He may be the first to equal Nehru's record by winning three elections in succession. But, he is a man in a hurry. This is why One Nation One Poll (ONOP) has been taken up at an early stage in the Modi 2.0 era.

The first constitution of India was the 1935 Government of India Act. It had strong states and a weak Centre. After the

from West Bengal. But one spectacular win has been largely ignored. Outspoken Dalit actress Navneet Kaur, standing as an Independent from Amravati in Maharashtra, defeated five-time Shiv Sena MP Anandras Adsul, despite the Modi wave in the state. Navneet, a Punjabi, has starred in Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Punjabi, Tamil and Hindi films, but never in a Marathi movie.

## NEXT STOP, RAEBARELI

Smitri Irani received a huge applause when she took her oath as MP. The feisty minister is not content to rest on her laurels. The giant killer wants to ensure that the BJP wins Raebareli in 2024. She hopes that her party will permit her to offer advice as how to go about storming Sonia Gandhi's citadel, which neighbours Amethi. Irani was perceived by the voters of Amethi as a helpful big sister, with none of the noblesse oblige airs of the Gandhis. Leaving nothing to chance, Irani even sent across a few Trojan horses to lull the Congress camp into a false sense of complacency.

## SPORTING LOSER

Akhilesh Yadav has taken his party's defeat with equanimity, unlike most defeated party leaders who kept away from Parliament's Central Hall for the first few days. A good natured Yadav answered all the queries posed to him by journalists. Asked about his wife Dimple's defeat from Kannauj, he joked that, in a way, it was a blessing since someone needed to stay home and take care of his mischievous son. Besides, Dimple can now resume work on a delayed project — opening her Hibiscus Hotel in UP.

## ACE UP ITS SLEEVE

The Gujarat Congress has gone to court over the Election Commission's decision that elections to the two Rajya Sabha seats, where vacancies have arisen due to the resignations of Amit Shah and Smitri Irani, should be held separately and not as one election. In a simultaneous poll for the two Gujarat vacancies, the Congress stands to win one RS seat since the electoral system provides each MLA with a single first-preference vote. However, if elections are held separately, then the BJP, which has a majority over the Congress, can walk away with both seats. The BJP is certain that past legal precedents in filling such vacancies is on its side. But it is extra confident since it has an additional ace up its sleeve. The two vacancies from Gujarat did not occur on the same day. Shah resigned his Rajya Sabha seat on May 23 after winning from Gandhinagar, Irani on May 24 because her victory from the Amethi was confirmed only the next day.

HISTORY HEADLINE

# When the Cup first came home



SYED KIRMANI

BEFORE THE 1983 Cricket World Cup, every member had different hopes and dreams. I thought, if we just qualified for the knockouts, that would be a big achievement. We were in the group of the reigning world champions, West Indies. They had won it on the previous two occasions, 1975 and 1979. We had beaten them in an ODI in Berbice before the World Cup. I was the vice-captain on that tour. Kapil Dev, who was the captain, went to the dressing-room and stayed there for some time due to an injury or something and I was leading the side. And we won very comprehensively and then defeated them for the second time in the first match of the 1983 World Cup. From thereon, belief came in the dressing room that we could win the World Cup. We started to believe in our strengths. It was a big boost.

We were the minnows of the tournament and some of our opponents were a little complacent as well. Then came the very important match against Zimbabwe. We had beaten them earlier in the first leg of the league phase. But we also lost a couple of group league matches. So the Zimbabwe game became a must-win affair. The game wasn't televised. I was very relaxed. Wicket-keepers were not considered as all-rounders until MS Dhoni came and changed the perception.

We batted first and I was getting ready for a shower followed by breakfast. Suddenly someone shouted from outside the dressing-room: 'Kiri pad up'. I realised it was a serious call. I was preparing myself for a big shower and a big breakfast. I went to the dressing-room window and saw the scoreboard. It was 17 for five. My towel dropped (tongue-in-cheek); my mouth agape. I don't know how I finished my shower and breakfast, because very soon I found myself walking out to bat. It was somewhere around 140 for eight, by the time I walked in.

I walked up to Kapil, who was standing there, his head down. It was a 60-over game and we still had 35 overs left in our innings. I told Kapil, "Listen Kaps, we are in a do-or-die situation. We just cannot sit and hit". "Maar ke mame ka hai (we will go down hitting)", he said. I inspired him saying that "You are the best hitter in the



India defeated the West Indies by 43 runs to lift the 1983 World Cup

Indian team. I will take singles and will give you a strike. You will try to hit every delivery." He said, "Kiri bhai humko aur 35 overs khelna hai (we still have to play 35 overs). I will try my best." He went on to score 175, which till this day remains the best ODI innings ever played. I have never seen any other batsman play like that in such a situation. Certainly, that was the greatest innings played in the history of the World Cup. I did my bit, gave him support. It was excellent partnership batting in fact.

When our partnership was flourishing, everybody sat tight outside the dressing-room. We played full 60 overs. We had an unbroken 126-run partnership. He was 175 not out and I was 24 not out. We reached the semifinal and it was history after that. I took a brilliant catch to dismiss David Gower, who was England's X-factor. We won the match comprehensively. Throughout the tournament, till we reached the final, we were overlooked by the fans. We were the minnows. Reality dawned on the local fans and media after we reached the final. They started to belt out, "the weakest team in the competition is looking to surprise the whole world."

On the eve of our very first match we had a team meeting, where Kapil said, "Listen gentlemen, you are all seven seniors, you don't need my guidance. You will have to guide me." It was a big statement which gelled the team. We improved as a team as the tournament progressed, although we didn't have any support staff. Of course, you had a bit of luck. But luck only helps you when you do your job with sincerity. Even after we were all out for 183 in the

final, we weren't looking back. We had nothing to lose. Kapil said, "Let's go and give our best." We had already overachieved. We decided to put our best foot forward.

Gordon Greenidge departed early. Vivian Richards came at No 3 and the way he started, it felt like the match was going to end inside 20 overs. Then Madan Lal asked for an extra over from Kapil. He was punished by Richards in his previous overs. It proved to be a masterstroke. Richards mistimed a pull and Kapil ran from wide mid-on to deep mid-wicket and took a stunner. Once Richards left, West Indies started to panic. In fact, sometimes they panicked when their top-order failed — Gordon Greenidge, Desmond Haynes, Richards and Clive Lloyd. We sensed an opening. But I told my team mates not to relax. It wasn't over until Michael Holding was out.

We didn't know how to celebrate also. Our triumph was that unexpected. A cash-strapped cricket board didn't have enough money to give us proper cash rewards. Lata Mangeshkar did a concert to raise the fund. The BCCI collected in lakhs from the concert. We, the players, were given Rs 1 lakh each.

For me, there was a personal achievement as well. I was adjudged the best wicket-keeper of the tournament. The great Godfrey Evans came with then ICC president and handed me over the silver gloves and the silver ball, written below, "World's best wicket-keeper".

The writer, a former Test player, was part of the 1983 World Cup winning team

# One Nation, One Poll

Partition, the Constituent Assembly changed the scheme from a Confederation to a Union. The Centre was all powerful and states were to be its creatures.

The assumption then was that the Congress would be in power at the Centre and in all states. Each unit in the Union would follow the Westminster system and a majority in the popularly elected Chamber was required to form a government. Governments could be dismissed by a no confidence vote at the Centre and in the states. The implicit tension in a Union of many states and a Westminster test of legitimacy was not tested for the first four elections. Congress ruled everywhere (except Kerala in 1957). From 1967 onwards, it has not been

possible to hold all elections simultaneously. The five year cycle of government at the Centre was interrupted and two consecutive elections five years apart for Centre did not recur till 1999. At the state level, the pattern is bewildering with short lived governments, defections, President's Rule etc.

Over time, states have increased their power vis-a-vis the Centre except in financial matters. Regional parties are powerful at home but may be weak at the Centre. What keeps the Union together is the electoral freedom for states to go at their own pace.

Unless the BJP/NDA repeats the old Congress hegemony for a very long period, restoring simultaneous elections

across the Centre and states would require restrictions on the power of the Opposition to defeat a government in a confidence vote. This could be done only by ruling out no confidence motions completely at the state and the central level. For example, it could be legislated that if a government fell in midterm, it would not be replaced by another party, but by President's Rule till the date of the next ONOP.

Even if this was possible, the problem of the government at the Centre is insuperable. You can impose President's Rule at a state level, but who can impose Article 356 at the Centre? The President acts on the advice of the Council of Ministers. The Council is not likely to urge him to sign

their death warrant.

A provision would have to be added that in case of losing a confidence motion, the incumbent government at the Centre must request the President to take over the reins of power till the due date of the next ONOP.

But while ONOP is doable with difficulty, is it worth it?

The advantage of ONOP is economy of effort, reduction in disruption of normal business, and uniformity. The risk is that truncating the democratic powers of legislature for the sake of marching in step may disturb the spontaneous unity which has sustained the Union, especially if the party in power at the Centre is not in power at the state level.

## TOP OF THE WORLD



Nawaz Sharif

## PAKISTAN

## 'Nawaz Sharif won't become Morsi of Pak'

Lahore: There is a threat to the life of jailed former Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif due to lack of medical care, his daughter Maryam said Saturday as she vowed to not let his father meet the fate of ex-Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi. Morsi, who became the first democratically elected President of Egypt in 2012 and was ousted a year later by the military, died on Monday after fainting during a session in court. "Doctors at the jail even did not know that he had suffered a heart attack this week and offered no treatment to him," she said.

## UNITED NATIONS

## UN to appeal for \$1.2 bn to help Palestinians

United Nations: The head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees said Friday he hopes donors will be as generous this year as they were last year after the United States cut all funding for the USD 1.2 billion programme to help some 5 million Palestinians. Pierre Krahenbuhl said at a news conference that 42 countries and institutions increased their funding to the UN Relief and Works Agency last year. He called that "unprecedented", adding that it was also "very remarkable" that every single pledge in 2018 was honoured.

## CAMBODIA

## Thirteen dead, 23 injured in building collapse

Phnom Penh: Thirteen people were killed when an under-construction building in Cambodia collapsed early on Saturday, an official said, as rescuers struggled to reach missing workers feared trapped under a mountain of twisted steel and rubble. At least 23 people were injured and many workers were still missing and feared trapped inside, according to the office of the spokesman for Preah Sihanouk. "The steel structure has collapsed on itself and we don't dare move it," the spokesman Oar Sarouen told Reuters.

## TENSIONS SPIKE AFTER IRAN GUARDS SHOOT DOWN US DRONE

## Will respond firmly to US threat: Iran

Drone 'launched from US base in UAE', Tehran summons top envoy

PARISA HAFEZI & LISA BARRINGTON  
DUBAI, JUNE 22

IRAN SAID on Saturday it would respond firmly to any US threat against it, the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported, amid escalating tension between Tehran and Washington over the shooting down of an unmanned US drone by the Islamic Republic.

On Thursday, an Iranian missile destroyed a US Global Hawk surveillance drone. Tehran said the drone was shot down over its territory and Washington said it had occurred in international airspace. US President Donald Trump said on Friday he aborted a military strike to retaliate for Iran's downing of the SU drone because it could have killed 150 people, and signalled he was open to talks with Tehran.

"Regardless of any decision they make... we will not allow any of Iran's borders to be violated. Iran will firmly confront any aggression or threat by America,"

foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi told Tasnim.

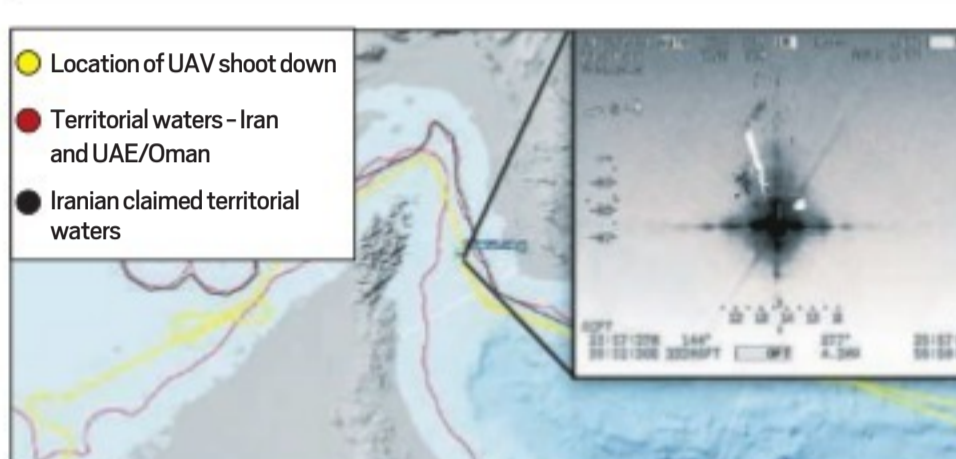
A senior commander of the elite Revolutionary Guards struck a similarly defiant note, in comments quoted by the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA). "This is our response to a violation of Iranian space and if the violation is repeated then our response will be repeated," said Brigadier General Amirali Hajizadeh, head of the Guards' aerospace division.

Iran's foreign ministry summoned a diplomatic representative of the United Arab Emirates on Saturday because the UAE allowed the drone that was shot down to be launched from a US military base on its territory, the Fars news agency reported.

A senior Arab diplomat said the tensions would further harm the crisis-hit Middle East region. "Confrontation, whatever we think about Trump or Iran, will be disastrous for everyone," the diplomat said. **REUTERS**



Activists hold a 'solidarity march with the Iranian resistance' outside the White House; (below) an image released by the US shows what it says is the flight path of the drone



## FOUR OF WORLD'S TOP POLLUTERS AMONG MEMBERS

## At ASEAN summit, nations vow to combat plastic debris in oceans

PATPICHA TANAKASEMPIPAT & PANU WONGCHA-UM  
BANGKOK, JUNE 22

SOUTHEAST ASIAN nations vowed Saturday to fight plastic pollution in the ocean, as their leaders adopted a joint declaration during a summit in Bangkok.

The Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Region was adopted by leaders of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which includes four of the world's top polluters.

ASEAN members Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand, along with worst offender China, throw the most plastic waste into oceans, according to a 2015 report co-authored by environmental campaigner Ocean Conservancy.



At the 34th ASEAN summit in Bangkok on Saturday. **Reuters**

Sukondhapatipak told reporters.

The declaration was commended by environmentalists as a good first step, though doubts over implementation remained because the group's code of non-interference would leave policy-making in the hands of individual members. **REUTERS**



## CLIMATE CHANGE BLOCKADE

Environmental activists block rail tracks during a protest against climate change near an open cast brown coal mine (seen in the background) in Germany Saturday. **Reuters**

## URUGUAY ORDERS SALE OF WWII EAGLE

A court in Uruguay has ruled that a bronze Nazi eagle from a German destroyer that fought in one of the first naval skirmishes of World War II must be sold. Half the proceeds will go to the government and half to the salvage team that found the insignia in the River Plate off Montevideo in 2006 after a decade of searching, the ruling said.

## Trump faces another sexual assault claim

LALIT K JHA  
WASHINGTON, JUNE 22

A NEW York-based writer and longtime women's advice columnist has accused Donald Trump of sexually assaulting her more than two decades ago, a charge denied by the US president who described it as fake news.

The allegation was immediately refuted by Trump.

E Jean Carroll in a new book "What Do We Need Men For?" said that President Trump sexually assaulted her in a dressing room of the Bergdorf Goodman department store in New York City in the mid-1990s. Excerpts of the forthcoming book were first published on the website of *New York* magazine.

While Carroll does not appear to name Trump in the printed excerpt of the first-person account, he is named in the headline.

According to a book excerpt that appeared in *New York* magazine, Carroll bumped into then-real estate mogul Trump at Bergdorf Goodman. The two recognized each other and they had a friendly back-and-forth. But



Trump has been accused of sexual misconduct by 15 other women. **Reuters**

then Trump became violent, Carroll wrote, going on to describe her rape in a dressing room.

Responding, Trump said, "Regarding the 'story' by E Jean Carroll, claiming she once encountered me at Bergdorf Goodman 23 years ago. I've never met this person in my life. She is trying to sell a new book—that should indicate her motivation. It should be sold in the fiction section."

Carroll, 75, a longtime advice columnist for *Elle* magazine, is among 16 women who have publicly accused Trump of sexual misconduct over the past several decades. Most spoke out just before the 2016 election. **PTI**

## Washington 'putting together' more sanctions against Tehran

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON, JUNE 22

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump said Saturday he will impose additional sanctions on Iran in an effort to prevent Tehran from obtaining nuclear weapons, adding that military action was still a possibility.

Trump, who was speaking to reporters at the White House, made his comments after recently calling off military action against Iran to retaliate for the downing of a US military drone.

"We are putting additional sanctions on Iran," Trump said. "In some cases we are going slowly, but in other cases we are moving rapidly."

The president said military action "is always on the table". But he indicated he was open to reversing the escalation.

## UK police respond to 'loud altercation' between PM candidate Boris, girlfriend

ALISTAIR SMOUT  
LONDON, JUNE 22

BRITISH POLICE were called to the home of Boris Johnson, the favourite to be the next prime minister, after neighbours heard a loud altercation between him and his girlfriend.

The police were called early Friday to an address in south London where Johnson is living with his girlfriend, Carrie Symonds. Johnson is currently

divorcing his second wife.

"The caller was concerned for the welfare of a female neighbour," the police said in a statement issued on Friday evening. "Police attended and spoke to all occupants of the address, who were all safe and well."

"There were no offences or concerns apparent to the officers and there was no cause for police action," the statement said.

A spokesman for Johnson declined repeated requests for comment. Symonds could not

be reached for comment.

The *Guardian* newspaper, which first reported the story, said an unidentified neighbour had heard a woman screaming followed by "slamming and banging". At one point Symonds could be heard telling Johnson to "get off me" and "get out of my flat". Despite a series of scandals in the past and criticism about his attention to detail, Johnson has dominated the race to replace Prime Minister Theresa May. **REUTERS**

E  
Sign of a larger wave

SOUTHEAST ASIAN nations, which have served as dumping grounds for the West's trash, have in the past few years taken steps to limit or stop the trash flow from other countries. Countries such as the Philippines, Vietnam and Malaysia have seen action by the government and activists to stop this trend.

## Myanmar orders internet shutdown in Rakhine state

Yangon: Myanmar authorities ordered telecoms companies to shut down internet services in conflict-torn western Myanmar, a leading operator said Saturday, amid heightening tensions in the region, where government troops are fighting ethnic rebels.

Telenor Group said the Ministry of Transport and Communications directed all telecoms companies to "temporarily" suspend internet services in nine townships in Rakhine and Chin states, citing "use of internet activities to coordinate illegal activities".

The shutdown went into effect late on Friday, the statement said. "Telenor Myanmar has... emphasised freedom of expression through access to telecom services should be maintained for humanitarian purposes," the group said.

A spokesman for the communications ministry declined to comment. **REUTERS**

## NEW DETAILS OF US PLAN FOR MIDEAST

The US's \$50 billion Middle East plan calls for the creation of a global investment fund to lift Palestinian and Arab economies, *Reuters* reported. Jared Kushner (right) is to present the plan next week



## TOTAL AMOUNT \$50 BILLION (ALLOCATION)

\$28 BILLION for Palestinian territories of West Bank and Gaza  
\$7.5 BILLION to Jordan  
\$9 BILLION to Egypt  
\$6 BILLION for Lebanon

## TOTAL AMOUNT \$50 BILLION (SOURCED FROM)

\$15 BILLION from grants  
\$25 BILLION in subsidised loans  
\$11 BILLION sourced through private capital

## 179 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

147 for West Bank and Gaza  
15 for Jordan  
12 for Egypt  
5 for Lebanon

## THE PROJECTS INCLUDE

■ Infrastructure  
■ Water  
■ Power  
■ Telecommunications  
■ Tourism  
■ Medical facilities

TENS OF MILLIONS of dollars would be set aside for several projects intended to draw closer connections between the Gaza Strip and Egypt's Sinai through services, infrastructure and trade

## All members of group blamed for Easter bombings held: Lanka PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
COLOMBO, JUNE 22

SRI LANKAN Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe Saturday said all members of a local Islamist extremist group blamed by the government for the Easter Sunday bombings have been arrested.

Nine suicide bombers carried out a series of devastating blasts that tore through three churches and as many luxury hotels on the Easter Sunday, killing 258 people and injuring over 500 others.

The government blamed local jihadi group National Thowheeth Jama'ath (NTJ) for the attacks. The Islamic State group also claimed a role in the attacks. "I have obtained reports from the police that all of Zahran's group have been either arrested or are currently under detention," Wickremesinghe said while addressing a gathering at Galle in the south.

The Prime Minister said the threat from the extremist group has been totally negated.

"All who were having links with them have been questioned and those who had attended Zahran's preaching sessions to have been questioned," he said.

## A \$120,000 HOLOGRAM OF THE STATUE IN ITS PRIME IS USED ON 'SPECIAL OCCASIONS'

## After 1,500 yrs, Taliban attack, fragments remain of two Buddha statues

RODNORDLAND  
BAMIYAN, JUNE 22

HERE IS a reminder to someone with the initials A.B., who on March 8 climbed inside the cliff out of which Bamiyan's two giant Buddhas were carved 1,500 years ago.

In a domed chamber — reached after a trek through a passageway that worms its way up the inside of the cliff face — A.B. inscribed initials and the date, as hundreds of others had in many scripts, then added a little heart.

It is just one of the latest contributions to the destruction of

the World Heritage Site of Bamiyan's famous Buddhas.

The worst was the Taliban's effort in March 2001, when the group blasted away at the two giant statues, one 181 feet tall and the other 125 feet tall, which at the time were thought to be the two biggest standing Buddhas on the planet. It took the Taliban weeks, using artillery and explosive charges, to reduce the Buddhas to thousands of fragments piled in heaps at the foot of the cliffs, outraging the world.

Since then, the degradation has continued, as Afghanistan and the international community have spent 18 years debat-



A 3D projection of a destroyed Buddha in Bamiyan. **NYT**

ing what to do to protect or restore the site. One recent idea came from a wealthy Chinese couple, Janson Hu and Lian Yu. They financed the creation of a Statue of Liberty-size 3D light projection of an artist's view of what the larger Buddha, known as Solsol to locals, might have looked like in his prime.

The image was beamed into the niche one night in 2015; later the couple donated their \$120,000 projector to the culture ministry.

The local authorities bring it out on special occasions, but rarely, as Bamiyan has no city power supply, other than fields of low-capacity solar panels. The 3D-image-pro-

jector is power-hungry and needs its own diesel generator.

When the Taliban demolished the Buddhas, in an important sense they botched the job.

Even without the Buddhas themselves, their niches remain, impressive in their own right; the Statue of Liberty would fit comfortably in the western one.

UNESCO has declared the whole valley, including the more than half-mile-long cliff and its monasteries, a World Heritage Site. "If the Taliban come back again to destroy it, this time they would have to do the whole cliff," Aslam Alawi, the local head of the Afghan culture ministry, said.

UNESCO has also declared the Bamiyan Buddhas complex a "World Heritage Site in Danger," one of 54 worldwide. The larger western niche is still at risk of collapsing.

Most archaeologists oppose restoration, arguing that the damage was too great and that the cost would be prohibitive. Estimates range from \$30 million for one Buddha to \$1.2 billion for the whole complex.

Others argue that the destruction itself has become a historical monument, and that the ruins should be preserved as is, a visible reminder of Taliban iconoclasm. After sunset on a recent

Monday, Alawi set up the projector for a demonstration and for 15 minutes filled the deep darkness of the western niche with the huge image of Solsol, left palm forward, visible from across the valley.

Arif Taquin, 28, an artist in town, rushed over to the site. "The first time I saw this I cried," he said. "Every time I see it again I am so moved in new ways, and it is only 3D. To think we had the real thing, and now it is gone."

When the generator died and the light flickered off, what was left to see in the niche was, as Taquin put it, "all that ugly scaffolding." **NYT**



# 18 ECONOMY

## BRIEFLY

### Distribution business: NTPC, PGCIL ink MoU

New Delhi: State-run NTPC, and PGCIL have signed an agreement for setting up National Electricity Distribution Company Ltd (NEDCL) through a joint venture company on 50:50 equity basis. The main aim of the initiative undertaken by the state-owned behemoths is to enter electricity distribution business on a pan-India basis. **ENS**

### FinMin issues clarification on DoE salary order

New Delhi: The finance ministry clarified on Saturday that an office order issued by Department of Expenditure on June 18 regarding disbursement of salary for June is applicable to only an attached office under the department and temporary in nature. The ministry cautioned general public not to circulate the order since it is confidential in nature and may attract punitive actions under applicable legal provisions. **PTI**

### 'Steel producers need to address consumer needs'

Guwahati: Stressing that the steel industry plays a key role in fostering socio-economic development of a country, Union Minister Fagga Singh Kulaste has said the manufacturing units should be able to understand and address all needs of the customers efficiently. Speaking here at an interactive programme organised by the Steel Authority of India Ltd, he said poor connectivity in the region has always been a major bottleneck for transportation of steel and iron products, but the northeast was working towards overcoming the challenge. **PTI**

## DECISION TAKEN AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE DGCA

# Indian carriers to avoid flying in affected areas of Iran airspace

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

FOLLOWING AN advisory by the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on Friday prohibiting US-registered planes from flying over part of Iranian airspace, Indian carriers in consultation with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have decided to avoid flying in the affected portions of the airspace.

Iranian Revolutionary Guard on Thursday shot down a US surveillance drone over the Strait of Hormuz adding to the tension between the two countries.

"All Indian operators in consultation with DGCA have decided to avoid the affected part of Iranian Airspace to ensure safe travel for the passengers. They will re-route flights suitably," India's aviation safety regulator said in a tweet on Saturday.

Air India's Chairman and Managing Director Ashwani Lohani said that there will be no substantial effect of this on the flag-carrier's flights but the airline was assessing the rerouting of incoming flights.

An IndiGo spokesperson



The green highlighted area shows the portion of Iran airspace that airlines are avoiding. Source: Flightradar24

Friday said: "Gulf of Oman/Strait of Hormuz: A few Routes are affected by the FAA advisory.

"Alternate routes and adequate special safety measures and instructions to pilots have been implemented. The situation is constantly being monitored and measures will be taken if necessary. All GE flights are operating according to the planned schedule."

On Friday, the FAA restricted American operators to fly over the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf, following which US-based United Airlines cancelled its Mumbai-Newark service. The air-

line said it has suspended all of its India services till September 1. The carrier's flights to Delhi were already suspended due to restrictions in Pakistani airspace since February.

Various global airlines that overfly the gulf region to fly either eastward or westward have also said they would reroute to avoid the tensed region.

These include Malaysian Airlines, Singapore Airlines, Lufthansa, KLM, British Airways, Qantas. Gulf-based carriers such as Abu Dhabi-based Etihad and Dubai-based Emirates have also

### 'Iran says its airspace is fully safe and secure'

Dubai: Iran's Civil Aviation Organization said on Saturday the country's airspace was safe for airlines to fly through, semi-official Tasnim news agency reported, amid heightened tension between Tehran and Washington. "Iran-controlled airspace over Persian Gulf and other flight routes are completely safe," Spokesman Reza Jafarzadeh, was quoted as saying. **REUTERS**

said they would reroute their flights to avoid possible areas of conflict.

There have been precedents where civilian flights have come under safety threat when flying over regions with ongoing geopolitical tensions.

The most recent case being shooting down of Malaysian Airlines flight MH17 using a surface-to-air missile over eastern Ukraine in 2014 at the height of the Crimean crisis.

## 'Capital outflows into commercial realty up 92%'

Capital investment in commercial real estate by Indian investors in overseas markets soared by 92 per cent to \$700 million between the first quarter of 2018 and the first quarter of 2019, as per a report by Knight Frank

**HIKE RETURNS:** Investors tapped the overseas market to diversify risk and increase their returns

**TOP DESTINATIONS:** The UK, the Netherlands, Germany, the US and Australia were top destinations for Indian capital investments

**WHAT PROMPTS OUTFLOW:** Geopolitical factors coming into play, prolonged global economic cycle and interest rate in late cycle investment are prompting cross-border capital flows

**INDIA'S RANK:** With investment of \$2.6 billion,



India stood 20th among the top capital importing countries globally, while China was at the sixth position with an investment of \$14.30 billion

\$2.6 bn the cross border investment into Indian commercial real estate sector during the period under review

**US AT TOP:** The US was the top capital importing country globally with an investment of \$80.89 billion and it also topped the list of capital exporting countries globally, with an investment of \$59.62 billion, followed by Canada (\$50.41 billion) and Germany (\$24.50 billion)

**ASIA-PACIFIC:** As per the report, Singapore overtook Hong Kong as Asia-Pacific's top source for outbound capital. Singapore has already invested more than \$4 billion in China, South Korea, the UK and Australia in January-March 2019, reflecting several landmark cross-border deals

# Puri inaugurates central command centre for air traffic flow management

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

CIVIL AVIATION Minister Hardeep Singh Puri termed the Central Command Centre for Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM) as "absolute necessity" for ensuring higher standards of safety while inaugurating it here on Saturday.

As major airports are facing capacity constraints, the central ATFM system is primarily meant to balance the "capacity against the demand to achieve optimum utilization" of "airport, airspace and aircraft", Airport Authority of India (AAI) said in a statement.

After the inauguration, the minister said, "This is a world class system where on one large screen you can see all the civil aviation infrastructure in the country. The planes on the ground, the planes which are in the air, those planes you are in touch with - all of it is integrated with the ATC (air traffic control)."

"It is an absolute necessity. It was a requirement. I am glad that this state of the art facility is now operational... But more than that, it will also help in ensuring higher standards of safety. That is most crucial," Puri said.

The minister said the defense forces will also use this system. "All platforms in the air, whether they are fixed wing or rotor craft, etc., are all part of this safety and integrated airflow management system," he added.



"It was a requirement. I am glad that this state of the art facility is now operational... But more than that, it will also help in ensuring higher standards of safety. That is most crucial"

**HARDEEP SINGH PURI,**  
CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

The central ATFM system integrates flight data from various subsystems like ATC Automation System, flight updates and flight update messages.

"The system also displays weather information along with static information about airports, airspaces and air routes. The system processes the demand and capacity information and provides decision-making tools to the ATFM Flow Manager for collaborative decision making and to ensure regulated flow of traffic at each airport in India," the AAI statement said.

After inauguration, AAI's Joint General Manager MK Nelli, who is in-charge of the ATFM command centre, told PTI, "This system helps us in collaborating actively in real time... We (aviation stakeholders) are all connected through various means of communications, through internet, through dedicated networks, so that all of us can access the same information

and everyone has the same visibility towards each other's resource requirements and resource availability.

"And then we manage to arrive at a solution. That solution then becomes - kind of - binding for all aviation stakeholders to follow... This centre works on this principle," Nelli added.

He said the central ATFM system has connected all airports in India.

"It has actively connected top 36 airports that are handling the traffic. These airports are physically connected to this network. The rest of the airports are connected through internet," he said.

Talking about the future, he said the system will look on how to deal with the rising demand for slots and other resources at various airports across the country.

"The principle is fair distribution of slots and other available resources to everyone," he said. **WITHPTI**

## TRADE WAR

# 'Trump-China tariffs could cost billions for consumers'

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON, JUNE 22

IF THE United States does impose tariffs on another \$300 billion worth of Chinese goods, it would cost US consumers \$12.2 billion more for apparel, footwear, toys and household appliances each year, the National Retail Federation (NRF) said on Friday.

The tariffs would result in consumers paying another \$4.4 billion on apparel, \$2.5 billion on footwear, \$3.7 billion for toys and \$1.6 billion for household appliances, the retail trade group said, based on a study it had commissioned.

"It would be impossible for all market participants in our industry to simultaneously move sourcing to other countries. The capacity does not exist," David French, NRF's senior vice president of government relations, said in a statement. "In the short term, retailers would be forced to continue to use Chinese suppliers and pass on higher costs to their customers."

Many retailers including JC Penney Co and Macy's Inc have opposed more tariffs on Chinese goods and warned of

## EXPLAINED Market players find it tough to move sourcing to other countries

FOR MANY fashion brands and retailers in the US, China is the top supplier with no realistic options for other sourcing destinations that could replace it.

It would be tough for US market participants to move sourcing to other countries and in short term, retailers would be forced to continue to use Chinese suppliers and pass on higher costs to their customers.

higher prices for domestic consumers.

Separately, on Friday, the United States Fashion Industry Association (USFIA), which represents brands, retailers, importers and wholesalers based in the United States, estimated that additional tariffs on clothing and home textiles would cost American consumers \$4.9 billion per year.

"We can conservatively estimate an increase in retail prices for products still made in China... That means a family of four would pay an additional \$60 per year just on clothing," United States Fashion Industry

Association said.

"The fact remains that for many (fashion brands and retailers), China remains the No. 1 supplier in the world, with no realistic options for other sourcing destinations that could replace China," the association added.

US President Donald Trump has threatened to extend tariffs on another \$300 billion worth of goods imported from China. Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping are to meet on the sidelines of the Group of 20 meeting in Japan at the end of next week to discuss the trade issues.

## SBI plans to tap Singapore SME biz

GURDIP SINGH  
SINGAPORE, JUNE 22

THE STATE Bank of India is planning to expand its market in Singapore by enhancing its relationship across small and medium enterprises (SMEs) some of which have strong footholds across Asia Pacific.

Acknowledging the stiff competition from Financial Technology (FinTech) companies, the SBI is also contemplating introducing its YONO SBI app while having opened remittance services to all bank accounts through

eRemit and remittance kiosk channels in the city state.

"We are working on extending credit to Singapore-based SMEs, supporting their businesses both locally and regionally," said SBI Country Head Kishore Kumar Poludasu, who recently took charge of the bank in a marketplace with global trading and financial links. Singapore SMEs accounts for 65 per cent of employment and contributed SGD 196.8 billion or 49 per cent to the economy in 2017, according to the Department of Statistics here.

"We see the potential of further expanding our services to

SMEs," said Poludasu, anticipating SBI's growth in line with Singapore's expansion as an Asian financial hub. The SBI has served Singapore retail and corporate sectors as a qualified full bank since 2008. It has six branches and offering ATM services under ATM5 network across the island state and two remittance centers, especially serving the large pool of Indian workers at dormitories in the industrial sectors.

He also acknowledged stiff competition from FinTech but was quick to assure that banks, as leaders in financial markets, are adopting technologies at faster pace. **PTI**

## Budget documents' printing begins with 'Halwa' ceremony

PRESSTrust OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur and senior officials of the ministry Saturday observed symbolic 'Halwa' ceremony to mark the launch of formal printing of documents relating to the Union Budget 2019-20.

The NDA government would on July 5 unveil the full Budget for 2019-20. On February 1, the government had presented an Interim Budget to take Parliament

nod for spending till the new government takes charge after polls.

Finance Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg, Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey, DIPAM Secretary Atanu Chakraborty and Financial Services Secretary Rajiv Kumar too attended the event.

"Halwa ceremony marking the commencement of Budget printing process for the General Budget 2019-20 was held in North Block here today afternoon in the august presence of the Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman," a Finance Ministry statement said.

## US blocks 5 Chinese tech firms on national security concerns

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON, JUNE 22

THE US Commerce Department said on Friday it was adding several Chinese companies and a government-owned institute involved in supercomputing with military applications to its national security "entity list" that bars them from buying US parts and components without government approval.

The export restriction announcement adding the firms to what is effectively a trade blacklist is the latest effort by the Trump administration to restrict the ability of Chinese firms to gain access to US technology amid an ongoing trade war. The department said it was adding Sugon, the Wuxi Jiangnan Institute of Computing Technology, Higon, Chengdu Haiguang Integrated Circuit and Chengdu Haiguang Microelectronics Technology - along with numerous aliases of the five entities - to the list over

concerns about military applications of the supercomputers they are developing.

Wuxi Jiangnan Institute of Computing Technology is owned by the 56th Research Institute of the General Staff of China's People's Liberation Army, the Commerce Department said, adding "its mission is to support China's military modernization."

China's state broadcaster, China Radio International, said in an editorial on Saturday that the move was one of a series of recent actions by the United States that violated the consensus reached by President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in Argentina last December.

In 2015, the Commerce Department added China's National University of Defense Technology (NUDT) to the list "be-

cause of its use of US-origin microchips, boards, and (co)processors to power supercomputers believed to support nuclear explosive simulation and military simulation activities." The Commerce Department said on Friday that since 2015 NUDT has procured items under the name Hunan Guofang Kei University using four separate, additional addresses not already on the entity list. The department said on Friday it is now adding Hunan Guofang and the four addresses to the list.

The companies "pose a significant risk of being or becoming involved in activities contrary to the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States," the Commerce Department said.

In May, Trump administration added China's Huawei Technologies Co Ltd to entity list.

## Amazon gets patent to use drones for surveillance service

REUTERS  
BENGALURU, JUNE 22

AMAZON.COM Inc is exploring using drones not just to deliver packages but also to provide surveillance as a service to its customers, according to a patent granted by the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

The delivery drones can be used to record video of consented user's property to gather data that can be analyzed to look out, say for example, a broken window, or a fire or if a garage door was left open during the day, the patent described.

According to the patent, the surveillance function of the drone can be limited through geo-fencing, a technology used to draw a virtual boundary around the property under surveillance.

## Huawei files lawsuit against US Comm dept over seized equipment

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON, JUNE 22

HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES Co Inc filed a lawsuit against the US Commerce Department on Friday challenging whether telecommunications equipment sent from China to the United States, and then back to China, is covered by Export Administration Regulations, according to a court filing.

The lawsuit is the latest salvo in a battle between the US government and Huawei. Washington says the Chinese company's telecommunications gear could be used by Beijing to spy. Huawei denies that is the case.

In the lawsuit, Huawei said that it shipped telecommunications equipment from China, including a computer server and Ethernet switch, to a testing laboratory in California. After the testing was done, the equipment was

shipped back to China. No application for a license was made because none was needed, the lawsuit claims.

But the equipment was seized in Alaska by the US government, and no decision has been made about whether a license is required to ship it, the filing said.

"The equipment, to the best of HT USA's knowledge, remains in a bureaucratic limbo in an Alaskan warehouse," Huawei said in its lawsuit. The Commerce Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Huawei contends that the equipment did not require a license because it did not fall into a controlled category and because it was made outside the United States and was being returned to the same country from which it came. Huawei asked for the equipment to be either released for shipment or for the Commerce Department to decide that it was shipped illegally.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) You must now pay greater attention to work, even if this goes against the grain. It may not be your responsibilities which come under scrutiny but those of someone with whom you are intimately involved. Venus is now urging you to put more effort into a close relationship and your emotional fortunes are looking up at last.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23) Travel still seems to be very strongly indicated in your stars. However, journeys undertaken for purely personal reasons will be much more significant than those connected to work and other responsibilities. Your romantic stars are excellent and will remain so for at least another six months.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) The big change is triggered by Mercury's alignment with a sector of your chart which is profoundly creative. This gives you the chance to rethink your plans and proposals in the broadest sense, no matter whether they are strictly personal or purely professional. Mars maintains your steady, worthwhile progress at work.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23) Mercury, the planet of communication, takes up a more encouraging aspect to your sign, an indication that your mood is about to improve. Put forward your own unique ideas with the confidence they deserve. If you're frustrated at work, you must be prepared to wait another month or so for difficulties to shift.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) In many respects life has been a bit gruelling over recent weeks, mainly because the planets have been in unhelpful positions. Now that Mercury, your planetary ruler, is changing signs, your fortunes will improve. Plus, your stars are about to assume a more prosperous dimension—if you can wait until next month.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23) With Jupiter, your ruling planet, so strongly placed, what can go wrong? 'Not much' is the answer, so you can afford to be confident. That doesn't mean that you must start throwing your money around, though! There is every opportunity for getting out and meeting new people. Take advantage of bright and bubbly invitations.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) It's energetic Mars and mystical Neptune which get you going this week and next. One moment you'll be floating on cloud nine, the next you'll be down in the dumps after your hopes are deflated. Try and find a middle way. The only problem may be friends who seem determined to misunderstand and misconstrue your every word.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20) Energetic Mars forms its next alignment with nebulous Neptune very soon, causing much confusion. This is, to put it mildly, not the best time to deal with any complicated practical issues unless you first check out the legal background. You must, repeat must, do your best to put colleagues, associates and friends at their ease.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) You have much to boast about, but you must remember the virtues of humility. The effects of recent lunar alignments are still too strong for you to abandon important commitments or break arrangements. Remember that as a Leo you have a duty to protect friends and relatives who are less well-off than you.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) Mercury, that most witty and versatile of planets, has entered your sign, bringing a much-needed shot of energy. Use this time wisely by arranging meetings, interviews and discussions at which you can put over your point of view. And, intriguingly, vivacious Venus lends an air of mystery to romantic encounters.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) Very gradually the stars are moving from a creative and personally fulfilling position, to one that is going to bring more in the way of hard work. In the meantime, make the most of children's company. Moneywise, you're approaching a period of rewards and windfalls but not just yet—first of all you have to sow the seeds.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) Enthusiastic stars are shining, and inspired contacts with new friends and even with complete strangers should now start to bear fruit. Someone you will begin to feel much more optimistic about your future. One thing is certain, and that is that you have commenced a new enterprise with your best foot forward.

If it's your Birthday

Sunday June 23 You may not be known for high spirits, but there is no reason why you should not party with the best of them. If you turn your attention to routine, you'll save time.

Monday June 24 Your passions are in full flood but it's important to get the business side of things right. If you lay the foundations, get your schedule right, and have enough cash, you can't go far wrong.

Tuesday June 25 Life is in a perpetual state of positive change, but you may be right to play it safe. Don't take more than your fair share of responsibility, and leave yourself time to pursue your own interests.

Wednesday June 26 The shift of mood today presages a change in direction. You could move away from an insistence on getting the job done to a greater emphasis on the quality of life.

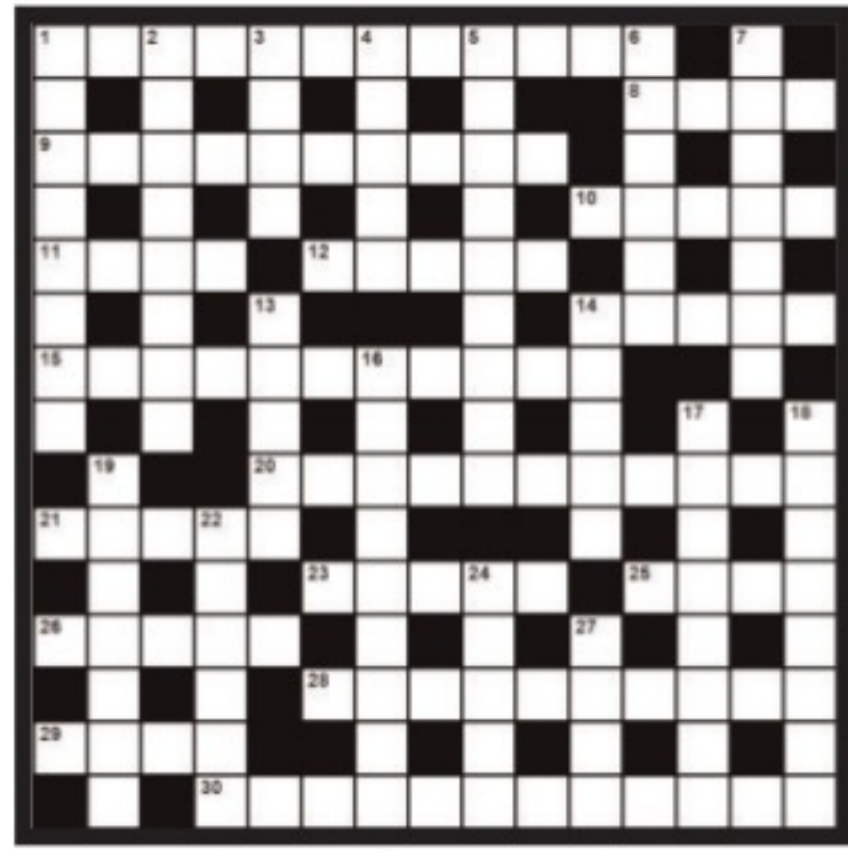
Thursday June 27 The Moon is on your side, encouraging happy and helpful feelings. Both today and the next one year are perfect for a root and branch reform of every single relationship.

Friday June 28 Indecision is inevitable, even desirable. You're still dwelling on financial questions. Do you have enough money? Are long-term investments more favourable?

Saturday June 29 You're heading for a practical and cautious year. Even if you are going for wild, crazy objectives, it should be one methodical step at a time.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2222

- QUICK CLUES ACROSS 1. Ex-West Indies batsman who had toured India too (5,7) 8. African tree (4) 9. Tie the knot within the same ethnic, social, or family group (10) 10. Gawks (5) 11. Owens, in Scotland (4) 12. Unskilled in (3,2) 14. East— certain city dweller (5) 15. Bewitchment, wizardry or attraction (11) 20. Examine unknown values (11) 21. Bun locales (5) 23. Displayed boredom (5) 25. Temple, poetically (4) 26. Gawker (5) 28. Professional treatment for illness or injury (7,3) 29. \$5,662,225,814,331.71 on 10/5/00, for U.S. (4) 30. — of: much superior to? (7,5)



- DOWN 1. Scare, threaten or terrorise (8) 2. Endeavour to contact and help those in need (8) 3. Bois — Osage orange (4) 4. Chameleon cousin (5) 5. City of northwest Colombia that was once the richest port on the Spanish Main (9) 6. A type of sausage, originally Italian (6) 7. Match — ICC's representative at an international cricket match to ensure fair play (7) 13. Hard, green blue or white precious stones? (5) 14. Stand of twelve sheaves (5) 16. Private conversation between two people (4-1-4) 17. — file: it has the extension ".dlb" (7,8) 18. Guarded, oversaw or patrolled, in a way (7,8) 19. Rajasthan is the land of — (7) 22. Court family (6) 24. Oust, eject or expel (5) 27. — au rhum (4)

- 14. Narrow way from which a shout comes back (5) 15. A dignified policeman is fired with poetic genius (6,5) 20. On which overheads may become a burden? (7-4) 21. Plays sport in a friendly fashion (5) 23. Muscular like some bully? (5) 25. Elijah shelled nuts in the can (4) 26. His bed may be sharply pointed (5) 28. Attack miner about certainty (10) 29. Brandy maybe, but certainly not stout (4) 30. Internalise one side of a coin with full evening wear (12)

- Japanese (4-4) 18. Some cookware collections about to bump off (8) 19. German state in which Brian almost entertains a girl (7) 22. Adds interest when small tarts turn cold inside (6) 24. International beefcake and grouse before ten (5) 27. Channel said to have been dodged (4)

Solutions to 2221

QUICK CLUES Across: 1 Caccara, 5 Scaldic, 9 A race, 10 Air filter, 11 Aviate, 12 Heretics, 14 Aggie, 15 Concesses, 18 Colossium, 20 Sushi, 22 Bombsite, 24 Cerate, 26 Metallica, 27 Naive, 28 Spreads, 29 Strings. Down: 1 Charabanc, 2 Staking, 3 Aparentness, 4 A fat, 5 Street name, 6 Afire, 7 Details, 8 Carbs, 13 Eccentrics, 16 Easterner, 17 Spineless, 19 Limer, 21 Station, 22 Bombs, 23 Selma, 25 Daps. CRYPTIC CLUES Across: 1 Alcohol, 12 Sharpen, 9 Vinyl, 10 Neighbour, 11 Carpel, 12 Deletion, 14 Tamil, 15 Out of step, 18 Dimension, 20 Slope, 22 Side-line, 24 Wilder, 26 Incline, 27 Alias, 28 Genesis, 29 Brewers. Down: 1 Advocated, 2 Centum, 3 Hellylyn, 4 Long, 5 Suggesting, 6 Amide, 7 Predict, 8 Niton, 13 Motionless, 16 Fascinate, 17 Picquets, 19 Madison, 21 Ondrive, 22 Sling, 23 Lanes, 25 Herb.

- CRYPTIC CLUES ACROSS 1. They aren't charged, but make the most noise (5,7) 8. This is an example of the spelling kind. (4) 9. Tied up by the weather? (10) 10. Angular gear (5) 11. Query the reason for including a vitamin as part of the Muffin diet (4) 12. She who appraises bookmaking activity? (5)

- DOWN 1. The way the world goes round (8) 2. Show how Sheridan initially writes in Biblical style (8) 3. Army's moves round saying, "They're sweet!" (4) 4. A couple of eerie bears look quietly, and slip away (5) 5. Bring up Tina's song for medical recovery institutions (9) 6. Spread about English authoress (6) 7. Allowed to take part in the act, or removed (7) 13. Mockingly, he is said to have an easy life (5) 14. Like gardens not kept straight (5) 16. A private message! (5-4) 17. A self effacing action of the

BRIDGE

This week's problem explains how some throw-in situations should be handled. Dir: West; Vul: Both

Bridge hand diagram showing North and South cards in various suits (Spades, Hearts, Diamonds, Clubs).

(1) Weak OPENING LEAD: SK Plan the play SOLUTION: If you have a diamond loser, you must avoid a heart loser. In order to do that, you must plan on throwing in the defender who started with Kx of diamonds when he is out of hearts (hopefully). Win the SA, pitching a heart, ruff a spade and play the DA. If East shows out on the DA, meaning West has Kx, cross to the HK, ruff a spade, back to the HA, ruff a spade, enter dummy with the CA and ruff dummy's last spade. The stage is set. Exit a diamond. If West started with 1 or two hearts, West will be forced to concede a ruff and a sluff and your heart loser will vanish.

If West shows out on the DA, meaning East has Kx, cash the HAK, the CA, ruff a spade, and exit a trump. If East started with a 2-2-2-7 pattern, he will have to exit a club and once again your heart loser will vanish. THE WEST HAND: ♠KQJ1086♥97♦K2♣J103 THE EAST HAND: ♠42♥QJ10♣None♦K9876542 In a strip and throw in ending with a trump loser and a certain one loser side suit (AKx facing xxx, xxx, or xxxxx), strip the side suits and cash the A K of the 'certain' loser suit before exiting a trump. If the player who wins the trump exit is void in the certain loser suit, the certain loser suit (the frog) will turn into a no loser suit, (the prince).

Your problem for the week: Dir: West; Vul: Both

Bridge hand diagram showing North and South cards.

OPENING LEAD: H K

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.

Word jumble puzzle with PXEII and FILTGH.

Word jumble puzzle with TONUS and AALOVV.

SOLUTION: PXEII: SNOUT, FLIGHT, TAVNA. AALOVV: ANSWER, PEOPLE ARE NOT DISTURBED BY THEM.

SUDOKU 3886

Difficulty Level 1s Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

A 9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers filled in.

Difficulty Level 1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 3885

A 9x9 Sudoku grid with all numbers filled in.

DAKSHINANCHAL VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED (UNDERTAKING OF U.P. GOVERNMENT) e-Tender Inviting Notice. Includes table with Tender No., Short Description, Estimated Cost, Earnest Money, Tender Fee, and Tender Opening Date & Time.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA SHIKSHA SADAN, GROUND & 1ST FLOOR, SECTOR-5, PANCHKULA, HARYANA (134105) CORRIGENDUM. With reference to NIT published in various Newspaper regarding e-Tender for Selection of Private Industry Partner to Promote Entrepreneurship and to Provide Freelancing/Self-Employment/ Employment opportunities to the youth of Haryana in 31 Colleges of Excellence in Department of Higher Education Haryana.

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH Chanakya Bhawan, 3rd Floor, Chanakyaapur, New Delhi-110021 TENDER NOTICE. Ref. No./12/Prot./CB/2019/909 Dated 19/06/2019 Sealed tenders are invited from reputed transporters for providing DLY taxi to office of the Resident Commissioner, Government of Chhattisgarh, Chanakya Bhawan, Chanakyaapur, New Delhi. Tender form with terms and conditions of the tender may be obtained from 3rd Floor, Chanakya Bhawan Chanakyaapur, New Delhi-110021 on payment of Rs. 1000/- (non refundable) in cash on or before 10.07.2019 between 11.00 am to 5.00 pm on all working days. Tender documents can be downloaded from www.rchhattisgarh.gov.in. Last date of receipt of tender is 11.07.2019 upto 2.30 pm. Tender will be opened on the same day at 03.30 pm.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE. The Divisional Railway Manager (Engg)/ E.C. Railway/Samastipur for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open Tender from experienced and financially capable tenderers for the following works in E-Tendering mode of IREPS web portal of Indian Railways.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE. The Divisional Railway Manager (Engg)/E.C. Railway/Samastipur for and on behalf of the president of India invites Open Tender from experienced and financially capable tenderers for the following works in E-Tendering mode of IREPS web portal of Indian Railways.

NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice. Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Moradabad on behalf of President of India, invites single packet open e-tenders via www.ireps.gov.in for the following:- Total Estimated Cost for Feeding of GST Invoices per Year = Rs.9,16,745/- (Including 18% GST)

TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD. NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (E-TENDERING PROCESS). T.2116 (Two Part system) Design, Detailed Engineering, Manufacture and Supply of 22.8 Kms of 110 KV, 1x630 sq.mm Aluminium XLPE UG (DC) cable and accessories, Laying of cable, Erection of joints and terminations, testing and commissioning of scheme from Gantry in the outer ring road (near MRTS Velachery) to proposed Pallikarani 110 KV SS for a route length of 3.8 Kms total Turnkey basis on local competitive bidding basis through the e-tendering.

GUJARAT WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED, GANDHINAGAR OFFICE OF THE GEOHYDROLOGIST, UNIT-2, KHERVA-382711 Tender Notice No. 1 NATIONAL HYDROLOGY PROJECT (WORLD BANK FUNDED) 1. Office of the Geohydrologist, Unit-2, Opp. Ganpat University, Mehsana, Gandhinagar Road, Kherva-382711, Tal & Dist. Mehsana, Gujarat, Tel. No. 02762-286016, e-mail: ghgwds@gmail.com invites online Bid for the following work from the experienced agencies.

Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (A Government of Chhattisgarh Undertaking) 1st Floor, Ud yog Bhawan, Ring Road No.1, Telibandha, Raipur-492006 (C.G.) TelexFax- 0771-4057624 Website : www.csidc.in, Email: csidc.cg@nic.in, csidc\_raipur@yahoo.com. E-TENDER ENQUIRY NO. CSIDC/MKD/2019-20/03 Raipur, Dated: 21/06/2019 Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation Limited, Raipur invites online tenders under Chhattisgarh Govt. Store Purchase Rule 2002 (As Amended) for the following items from the Registered Manufacturers only for the conclusion of rate contracts.

कार्यालय संचालक शासकीय मुद्रण तथा लेखन सामग्री छत्तीसगढ़ अटल नगर, रायपुर क्रमांक जी.बी. 4 क्र.शा./1(1)मु.सा.क्र./19-20/705 अटल नगर दिनांक 19.6.2019 /टेण्डर नोटीस// शासकीय क्षेत्रीय मुद्रणालय रायपुर/राजनांदगाव के उपयोग हेतु वर्ष 2019-2020 में लगने वाली विभिन्न प्रकार की प्रिंटिंग, प्रोसेसिंग, बार्डिंग एवं पैकिंग सामग्री इत्यादी के क्रय हेतु व्यवसायों से दरें एवं दर अनुबंध आमंत्रित की जाती है। निधारित प्रपत्र इस कार्यालय में दिनांक 24.06.2019 से 25.07.2019 तक कार्यालयीन समय में उपस्थित होकर निविदा प्रपत्र किया जा सकता है। निविदा प्रपत्र www.cgstate.gov.in से भी डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है।

Table with 3 columns: S. No., Name of Work, 1. Bid Security 2. Tender Fee. Row 1: Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Maintenance of Digital Water Level Recorders (DWL, Rs-Non-Vented pressure sensor type) with Telemetry system in Piezometers for ground water monitoring and integrate with data center located at Gandhinagar, Gujarat, including improvement/maintenance of existing Piezometers (through cleaning, fishing/flushing by Compressor development) in Gujarat State.



# Mohd Nabi Shami wins the day

Playing his first match of the tournament, the pacer takes a hat-trick in the final over to deny Afghanistan in a nail-biter at Southampton



EXPRESS AT WORLD CUP

SRIRAM VEERA  
SOUTHAMPTON, JUNE 22

MOHAMMAD NABI gave a royal scare to the Indians, dragging the game to the last over, raising hopes of a nation where cricket was born out of conflict and exodus, but just about falling short in the end. The Afghan cricket story is well-documented, but that shouldn't dull our senses to the passion and the danger. Here is a story about their passion. Once in Jalalabad kids swam through a flooded path to get to a hall for a cricket function. The national team was there that day in 2009 for a kids' camp, but the best part was that most of the children didn't even know that. Still, 150 of them waded through water because they were told that there would be something special related to cricket.

The soundtrack to this joyous childhood is explosions. Last September, at a match during Ramadan in eastern Nangarhar province, Taliban set off three bombs in succession, killing three spectators. "Sometimes you hear a boom of the bomb blast going somewhere nearby when you are coaching the middle," said Andy Moles, who coached them for the last world cup. "Like coaching in a war movie." Saturday at Southampton felt like a feel-good underdog movie. Almost.

First, they tied up the Indians with their spinners on a sluggish pitch. India, as is their wont, refused to try anything different. Bat normally for the first few overs, see where it takes them. But what was normal when Mujibur Rehman carrom-balled Rohit Sharma's off-stump? Or Rashid Khan twisted his elbows and wrists to get one ball after another where he wanted them to land? Indians just kept patting them — pushing, nudging, tapping, hoping for a release. But the most 'normal' off-spinner in world cricket, Nabi, doesn't know what freebies mean. He does what he does with minimum fuss and maximum effect.

That India were shaken came through in two moments involving MS Dhoni. First with the bat, after dragging on at a leisurely pace, as he does, he suddenly realised that 250 was some distance away unless he took some risk. The kind of risk he doesn't take normally. Trying to hit Rashid Khan in his 9th over — he would have normally seen him out. Getting stumped — rarely does he launch himself into a shot against a spinner without the option of returning to safety.

The second moment came early in the chase. So early that it said something about the Indian nerves. Mohammad Shami had a ball cut into a left-hander Hazratullah Zazai and it would have hit the leg stump — but considering the ball moved in from leg to off, and it was hitting the leg stump, it was highly unlikely that it would have pitched in line of the stumps. Shami was interested, Kohli was but what stood out was that even Dhoni who ran in to join the crime scene couldn't persuade them (assuming he wanted to in first place) to not go for it. Review wasted. Understandable of course considering they just had 214 to defend but it also showed that they were a bit desperate. Afghanistan would have taken heart from that.

Nearly everybody did their bit in the chase. Everyone got starts, pushed the ball around, threw the pressure back at India to check if one of the favourites at the World Cup cracked. And they would have, had it not been for Jasprit Bumrah. The score read 106 for 2, a partnership of 42 runs between Hashmatullah Shahidi (who was hit on the helmet in the last game but jumped up from the ground because he didn't want his "mother, watching back home, to get worried") and Rahmat Shah. Bumrah broke their back in the 29th over



Mohammed Shami celebrates after dismissing Aftab Alam during the match on Saturday. Shami took a hat-trick — the second by an Indian at the World Cup. Reuters

with a double strike. A bouncer that snarled at Shah's head and the top-edge was snaffed by Yuzvendra Chahal at fine-leg. Then, he took out Shahidi with a one that jumped up, the leading edge spooning the ball back to him.

The Afghan back was broken but the bravehearts kept ticking on. Najibullah with a fine cameo, letting Nabi hold his end and taking on the risks, and once he fell, unexpectedly to Hardik Pandya, Rashid Khan took over the baton. The same plan: Nabi to stay, Rashid to hit. The chase quickened, the target seemed close when Chahal produced a gorgeous leg-break — it dipped and turned, sucked Rashid out of the crease and even as he was stumbling to hold his balance, Dhoni had done his thing.

## So near...

Nabi pressed on. A nonchalant six against Bumrah in the 47th over. As if he was some club-level bowler. He swivelled to crash-pull a short delivery on to the Indians sitting beyond midwicket boundary. Silence there, but Kabul must have erupted. Mohammed Shami stepped up, giving away just 3 overs in the 48th as he kept peppering the 18-year-old Ikrām Ali Khil with short stuff. 21 off 12 now. Bumrah wasn't likely to repeat his errors from previous overs, would he? It seemed Dhoni wanted third man, but Bumrah waved his hand and asked mid-off to drop back to long-off. Dhoni then carefully adjusted the short third man and backward point fielders to the spots where he wanted them. It was clear that Dhoni was worried that Nabi might try slicing, steering, and squeezing the yorkers through that region. But Bumrah wanted cover at the straight boundary. Both won in the end, Nabi's attempted steers couldn't pierce the field and it came down to 16 from the last over.

There was an attempted yorker from Shami but Nabi was ready, deep inside the crease and he slugged it to long-on boundary. A dot ball later, he went for it again. And initially, it seemed he had connected it, but he couldn't clear the long-on fielder. And Shami had the stumps cartwheeling off the next two deliveries to effect India's second hat-trick in a World Cup game, and 10th overall. India won, but so did Afghanistan.

## Cooler Afghan cricketer out there

SRIRAM VEERA  
SOUTHAMPTON, JUNE 22

WHY DOES Mohammad Nabi never get colared? He even releases the question paper before the exams to the studious batsmen: "This is what I am going to bowl. It will be usually around a length, usually the stock ball with the one not turning as much as variation, some little changes in pace — now hit me if you can. Thank you very much, come again."

In an interview to a Dehradun FM channel, Nabi once talked about the difference between the Indian version of "Afghani chicken" and the real Afghani chicken. "No *masalas* back home. I don't like *masalas*." Just like his bowling. No *masala*, no *tadka*, just pure cricketing skills. It's easier to define what he doesn't do than what he does. Here is a list of the former: No great flight, no alluring drift, no many floaters, no vicious turn, even, no mystery elbow, no exotic snaps of fingers, no oriental bluff twists. It's plain old off-spin. The batsmen know all this, but they still fluff their lines. Almost always cautious, just looking for little singles and twos to get off strike if they can. Seen in this context, he is mind-bogglingly good.

A traditional off-spinner has rarely been treated with such respect in limited-overs cricket. As it is, it's such a derided art form. The condescension captured perfectly in a quote from the late Martin Crowe. In an interview where he went into great details about how he prepared for every type of bowler, he almost scoffed when asked about offies. "Oh, they are just in my hitting zone. I swing them to the leg." Over the years, it has come to be accepted that off-spinners who don't have that x-factor in wrists, elbows, or fingers aren't going to do well in limited-overs. Even someone as good Graeme Swann wasn't this good in this format. Nathan Lyon, Australia's premier off-spinner, doesn't find a place in the ODI side.

So, what does Nabi do differently then? For starters, the arcs he cuts in the air rarely allow the batsmen to get down the track. To achieve



Mohammad Nabi took two wickets — Rahul & Kohli's — and hit a fifty.

that effect, your everyday off-spinner would fire the ball across. Not Nabi. He might not toss them up as old-timers might have but he doesn't push them through in any cheap panic. He isn't insecure about his own art. Heck, he doesn't even do the pause routine that became mainstream in the last decade — that pause just before release, to sense batsmen's intent. That would be too much trickery for Nabi.

He does something with his delivery stride that not many do. Almost counter-intuitive in some respects. At times, he almost stretches that front foot well ahead, and usually when the spinners do that, it results in the ball dropping short. But somehow, Nabi manages to get a smooth body swivel into his action, the hips rotating fully, turning his body trunk, and pivoting well on release. Consequently the ball can travel a touch slower without visibly altering the trajectory or grip. He doesn't have to float it from his palm or flight it really high to do the job: he can do it with the way he rips and tweaks the ball at release.

And so most batsmen just wait at the crease, looking for pushes and nudges to get off strike.

They wait for the loose ball, a mistake in length, or a nervy push through. Not happening with Nabi. Forget this match — the sluggish pitch had made the Indians cautious — even on flat tracks in the IPL, not many mess with Nabi.

His wickets, as a result, don't come in spectacular fashion. The couple he took against India were no different. KL Rahul opted for a reverse-sweep to try something different to throw Nabi off his stranglehold, but ended up chopping it to backward point. Kohli went for a cut shot — the ball was short enough, but this pitch sucked it up, making the ball come off slowly, and Kohli couldn't control his shot.

Here is his "secret" in his own words. "When I get to bowl after 10 overs, I look for dot balls because it creates pressure and then Rashid and Mujeeb can get wickets from the other end," he said. "If you run after wickets, you will get hit more." No secret, really. But so many off-spinners (the traditional) have tried that approach and failed. With the other off-spinners, you can sense the panic in them. All that Nabi exudes is serenity. With the ball and with the bat. The coolest Afghan out there.

## SCORECARD >>

### IND vs AFG

Southampton | Toss: India

INDIA 224/8 IN 50 OV

KL Rahul c Zazai b Nabi 30 (53b, 2x4)

R Sharma b Mujeeb Ur Rahman 1 (10b)

V Kohli c Rahmat Shah b Nabi 67 (63b, 5x4)

V Shankar lbw b Rahmat Shah 29 (41b, 2x4)

MS Dhoni st Alikhil b Rashid 28 (52b, 3x4)

K Jadhav c sub b Gulbadin Naib 52

(68b, 3x4, 1x6)

H Pandya c Alikhil b Aftab Alam 7 (9b)

Mohammed Shami b Gulbadin Naib 1 (2b)

Kuldeep Yadav not out 1 (1b)

J Bumrah not out 1 (1b)

■ Extras: (w 7) 7

■ Fall of wickets: 1-7 (Rohit Sharma, 4.2 ov), 2-64 (KL Rahul, 14.2 ov), 3-122 (Vijay Shankar, 26.1 ov), 4-135 (Virat Kohli, 30.3 ov), 5-192 (MS Dhoni, 44.3 ov), 6-217 (Hardik Pandya, 48.4 ov), 7-222 (Mohammed Shami, 49.3 ov), 8-223 (Kedar Jadhav, 49.5 ov)

### ■ Bowling:

Mujeeb Ur Rahman 10-0-26-1

Aftab Alam 7-1-54-1

Gulbadin Naib 9-0-51-2

Mohammad Nabi 9-0-33-2

Rashid Khan 10-0-38-1

Rahmat Shah 5-0-22-1

AFGHANISTAN 213 IN 49.5 OV

Hazratullah Zazai b Shami 10 (24b, 1x4)

Gulbadin Naib c Shankar b Pandya 27

(42b, 2x4)

Rahmat Shah c Chahal b Bumrah 36

(63b, 3x4)

Hashmatullah Shahidi c & b Bumrah 21

(45b, 2x4)

Asghar Afghan b Chahal 8 (19b)

Mohammad Nabi c Pandya b Shami 52

(55b, 4x4, 1x6)

Najibullah Zadran c Chahal b Pandya 21

(23b, 2x4)

Rashid Khan st Dhoni b Chahal 14

(16b, 1x4)

Ikrām Alikhil not out 7 (10b)

Aftab Alam b Shami 0 (1b)

Mujeeb Ur Rahman b Shami 0 (1b)

■ Extras: (b 4, lb 4, w 9) 17

■ Fall of wickets: 1-20 (Hazratullah Zazai, 6.3 ov), 2-64 (Gulbadin Naib, 16.5 ov), 3-106 (Rahmat Shah, 28.4 ov), 4-106 (Hashmatullah Shahidi, 28.6 ov), 5-130 (Asghar Afghan, 34.6 ov), 6-166 (Najibullah Zadran, 41.3 ov), 7-190 (Rashid Khan, 45.4 ov), 8-213 (Nabi, 49.3 ov), 9-213 (Aftab Alam, 49.4 ov), 10-213 (Mujeeb Ur Rahman, 49.5 ov)

### ■ Bowling:

Mohammed Shami 9.5-1-40-4

J Bumrah 10-1-39-2

Y Chahal 10-0-36-2

H Pandya 10-1-51-2

Kuldeep Yadav 10-0-39-0

■ India won by 11 runs

## Zimbabwe Cricket suspended by govt

**Harare:** Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) has been suspended with immediate effect by the Sports and Recreation Commission (SRC), the governing organisation of all registered sporting associations in the country. ZC acting managing director Givemore Makoni has also been suspended from his position, according to a press release issued on Friday. The move from the SRC came a week after it issued a directive that ZC's electoral process be suspended following alleged complaints about the nomination process and the violation of ZC's constitution, as well as "various other controversies".

But the board ignored the directive, and Mukuhani was re-elected for another four-year term following the meeting. The SRC said it was forced to act after several complaints of violations of the constitution and other controversies.

"It cannot be in national interest that a national sporting association continues to conduct itself in a manner that it suggests that it and its officials are a law unto themselves," the SRC release said. PTI

## Captain Kane steadies the ship again

**Manchester:** Skipper Kane Williamson rescued New Zealand with a career-best 148, his second consecutive century, steering his side to a competitive 291 for eight against West Indies after first-over setbacks in a World Cup match, here Saturday. Williamson, who anchored his side's chase with an unbeaten 106 against South Africa in their previous match, yet again excelled under pressure as New Zealand were off to a disastrous start.

Negating a sluggish track and some testing initial fast bowling spells from the Caribbeans, Williamson batted with aplomb and in the process raised his 13th ODI hundred which came off 154 balls with the help of 14 fours and a six. Asked to bat, New Zealand were in for a shock when left-arm pacer Sheldon Cottrell (4/56) sent back both the openers — Martin Guptill (0) and Colin Munro (0) in the first over of the match.

Cottrell's swinging yorkers consumed both the batsmen, who were out for golden ducks. The joy for the Caribbeans did not last long as Williamson and Ross Taylor (69 off 95 balls) dug their heels to raise a 160-run partnership, which steadied the Kiwi ship.



Kane Williamson made 148, his career-best score. Reuters

Playing with extreme caution, Williamson and Taylor — the two seasoned Kiwi campaigners — built the innings bit by bit. Mostly playing in the "V" region, the first signs of aggression came when Williamson cut Oshane Thomas for a four. Team's fifty

came in the 15th over with Taylor smashing a short one from Jason Holder. He later straight drove Thomas for a delicate boundary. Pacing the innings nicely, both the batsmen completed half-centuries in the 24th over, bowled by Kemar Roach. PTI

## Bowling will decide outcome of Aus-Eng clash, says Border

**London:** Bowling will be decisive when Australia meet England at the Cricket World Cup on Tuesday and the reigning champions should consider giving spinner Nathan Lyon a runout at some point in the round-robin stage, former captain Allan Border has said. Australia currently top the standings from New Zealand with England in third place after the hosts lost by 20 runs to Sri Lanka on Friday, undone by some brilliant pace bowling from the evergreen Lasith Malinga. Border, who helped Australia to victory over England in the 1987 final, said Aaron Finch's side were building nicely and he could not wait for the resumption of cricket's oldest international rivalry at Lord's in midweek.

"Rivalries run deep and bragging rights are up for grabs ahead of the semi-finals," Border told ICC media. "It's going to be a good assessment for both teams in terms of where they're at. England are playing this gung-ho form of cricket and are red-hot favourites. The game will be won and lost in the bowling. If Australia can hold their ground against

the onslaught and put pressure back on England, that'll be key. Both sides have potential to post big scores, so whoever takes those opportunities will win."

In left-arm pacesman Mitchell Starc, Australia have the joint highest wicket-taker in the tournament but Border felt off-spinner Lyon, the only unused player in the squad, might give the five-times champions an extra edge.

"The full 100-over performance hasn't been there quite yet, and I've just got a little voice at the back of my head saying 'try Nathan Lyon in a couple of these games,'" he added. "He's a wicket-taker and knows how to get people out. Test bowling is obviously different, but Lyon is a good attacking bowler and gets lots of revs on the ball. The mindset of players now is to really attack the opposition spinner, and it can go two ways, but the other side of the coin is that to win this tournament you're probably going to need to have more of an attacking mindset so that you can limit the opposition." REUTERS

### LEADING SCORERS

447 David Warner (AUS), 425 Shakib al Hasan (BAN), 424 Joe Root (ENG)

### LEADING WICKET-TAKERS

15 Jofra Archer (ENG), 15 Mitchell Starc (AUS), 13 Mohammad Amir (PAK)

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1 WORLD CUP • 10 COUNTRIES • 1000 OPINIONS

# Michael learns to (take a) walk

MICHAEL VAUGHAN'S mood swing on Twitter showed how the World Cup suddenly got a little tricky for England after Sri Lanka pulled off a major upset. The former England captain's mood was sunny to start with like the Leeds weather. "Early call... If England Bat first 400 will be scored...!! Morning everyone..." Vaughan started off, as England came into the game on the heels of Eoin Morgan's blitz against Afghanistan.

England bowled well and Sri Lanka laboured to respectability. Vaughan couldn't hold back his smirk: "Sri Lanka playing cricket like England were playing in 1996...!! or for that matter 1999, 2003, 2007, 2011 & 2015!!" Chasing a pretty modest target, though, the Poms started to falter and their skipper gradually turned edgy. "Slightly nervous...!!!" he posted followed by: "Very nervous!!!"

Lasith Malinga rolled back the years and an upset loomed. Vaughan chose to focus on the bigger picture or eat the humble Yorkshire steak pie. "Well I did say it would be good for the World Cup if we had an upset!!!!!! #OnOn"... Deep inside though, he was seemingly angry as his next tweet suggested: "You wouldn't even expect this from Schoolboys..."

The former opener was gracious in defeat: "Well Done Sri Lanka... Fantastic spirit showed today... Lasith Malinga take a bow... Magnificent display...!!" He also applauded Ben Stokes. "On a positive note I thought @benstokes38 played great today... Night all..." The hosts have three group league matches left and one more win will all but take them to the semifinal. Then again, two of those three matches are against Australia and India.

## Surprise!

Before the start of the World Cup, Eoin Morgan was asked if Jofra Archer would be the main surprise package of the World Cup. It was a seemingly straightforward question. But the England captain didn't take it too well and went off on a different tangent - talking about Sri Lanka's selections, which was a source of amazement for him. With a touch of haughty disdain in his tone, Morgan replied: "Jofra Archer... surprise pick... No, Sri Lanka got about 10 new members or something. Don't they? Sri Lanka have picked a couple of guys I haven't played against and I have been playing for 10 years. I think that's the surprise for me." Wonder what Morgan made of the surprise Sri Lanka dished out on Friday!

## Ch for champs; Ch for...

England might not yet be bleeding, but Australians are already hovering like vultures. And it's their media doing the job for players before they take the field against the bitter-rivals on Tuesday. *The Sydney Morning Herald* has declared that England's four-year plan is on the line, referring to the rebuilding efforts following a disastrous 2015 World Cup campaign.

The report quotes former England Michael Vaughan saying that Friday's results has set 'the cat among pigeons' and gives some gossip from the



## IN UNISON

Sri Lankan supporters finally had something to cheer about in this World Cup. Reuters

Australian camp, noting that some players 'privately questioned' if the Englishmen have the 'mental toughness' to deliver at the grand stage.

The writer stops short of using the 'C' word, leaving that for his English counterparts instead. "England have worked too hard over the past four years, having risen from the ashes of the 2015 World Cup disaster in Australia and New Zealand, to let this latest campaign slip. Or have they? Lose to Australia and the British press will feed on the "chokers" tag," the report says.

## Fire in the belly

Lasith Malinga, whose crucial spell of 4 for 43 helped Lanka turn the tables on England, is trending on social media. While most took to Twitter to congratulate the seasoned pacer on his latest exploits, some shared a picture of a "pot-bellied" Malinga walking in the dressing room area and poked fun at his fitness.

"Thing to be notice fluffy tummy is kinda lucky for #SriLanka remember the player who won them World Cup in 1996... Ranatunga and D Silva," tweeted a certain user. Some tweets were not so palatable. Former Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene took it upon himself to silence such trolls. On his Instagram page, he posted the very same image with a caption reading, "Well bowled Mali!!! Thought I would share the most talked about picture last week for your fans (insert a couple of emojis, including a wink)". But there's more to the story. Malinga's viral picture apparently is photoshopped.

Azzam Ameen, whose twitter profile says he's a BBC journalist, posted the "original" picture where Malinga's tummy isn't as large as shown in the vi-



Lasith Malinga's fitness had come under criticism on social media.

ral picture.

Sometime last week, a bare-bodied, pot-bellied photo of Lasith Malinga emerged on social media. The veteran pacer was subjected to intense body-shaming and the vicious trolls didn't stop at that. They even went on to suggest that this photo was symptomatic of everything that was inherently wrong with the current Sri Lankan cricket team. With just a solitary win from five matches, Sri Lanka were on the brink of an elimination when Malinga inexplicably stepped up against England at Leeds on Friday.

## The dangling headline

Has England's World Cup ended after the loss to Sri Lanka? Or does the team that was sitting in semi-final position still have a chance to make it to the next stage? After the loss to Sri Lanka, you can't tell what the *Daily Express* meant with its headline: "We'll take it

out on the Aussies." England's next opponents. For years, the English media has been glum with the way the national team performs in World Cups - be it football or cricket. So with the cheeky headline on Saturday, there's really no telling if there is still some hope, or have they thrown in the towel on England's World Cup campaign. England skipper Eoin Morgan is quoted saying that the home team will come back stronger in the next match. "When we get beaten, we tend to come back quite strong and resort to smart, aggressive cricket. It's now about fronting up for the next game." Australia are waiting.

## Vince in pain

If you are an England opener and Geoffrey Boycott has taken the trouble to come and watch you bat, you better not fail. Or at least look like you tried your best. James Vince has been getting starts but hasn't made a half-century since his debut and with the Ashes around the corner each failure in the 50-over World Cup is being amplified. Boycott made it known on Twitter that he was paying special attention to Vince, who is one of the contenders for the No.3 spot in the Test line-up. "Sat here in the Emerald suite @YorkshireCCC, stunning view right behind the bowlers arm just waiting to see how Vince gets himself out? Some of them you couldn't dream up," Boycott tweeted.

Vince, however, lasted just 18 balls and made 14, nicking to the slip cordon while trying to drive, a mode of dismissal which has seen him have a start-stop Test match career. "Didn't have to wait long. No sooner sent the below tweet than he was out driving on the up

caught at slip!!! @englandcricket," Boycott was prompt on twitter again. When someone suggested he has mystic powers, the former England opener was witty. "It's not rocket science watching Vince, he's one of those players you aren't go for a pee."

Vince is running on borrowed time because when regular opener Jason Roy is fit, he is likely to be benched. Boycott is not the only one having a go at him. Michael Vaughan, another opening batsman, gave Vince just 2 out of 10 in his player rating put out by The Telegraph, London. "I know it is one-day cricket but he can't keep getting out like that. He has clearly got a problem with the drive at this level, falling into the trap when they moved the short mid off. It cannot carry on like this," was Vaughan's assessment. With calls from cricket pundits to get Roy fit for the big game against Australia on Tuesday, it looks like Vince's ODI career is not taking off in the near future.

## Quiver of the stiff upper lip

You know that the Cup might not be coming home, when the English upper lip begins to go loose and the British headlines writers start betraying their emotions.

On Saturday morning, The Times announced, through an eight column screaming headline, that the home team lacked that precious something which is mandatory to be World Champion cricketers. Or, on second thoughts, even to be thinking humans. "Brainless England fall to the magic of Malinga." - was an exaggerated indictment of England's late batting collapse that didn't factor in Sri Lanka's fiery second half charge.

The press box's Big Boys too were beginning to demystify the so-called cracking unit that till yesterday took it for granted that they are in the semifinals. Former England captain and *Times* chief cricket writer wrote under the headline - "Teams now know where this side are vulnerable". The secret was out, England were beatable now. According to Mike Atherton: "... They have shown their Achilles' heel to others watching on, who will surely look to bat first, put runs on the board and ask those questions of England's batsmen time and again. It may encourage Morgan, who would have batted first here, to set and defend rather than chase in future, which has been his preferred route."

But to say that England were losing sleep over another Cup slipping from their grasp would be giving cricket, or sport, far too importance than it deserve. The more worrying headline for this country in political turmoil was the one on *The Times* front page. "Police called to Johnson's home after domestic row".

The story was about neighbours overhearing a heated mid-night exchange between Boris Johnson, the odds-on favourite to be next PM, and his girlfriend. "Ms Symonds (Johnson's girlfriend) to "get off my f\*\*\*ing laptop". A loud crashing noise was said to follow." This must have made the English toss and turn in their beds, certainly the 10, Downing Street neighbourhood. It was Friday too when the favourites took a beating. **ENS**

# England forgot how to chase, says Morgan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LEEDS, JUNE 22

ENGLAND CAPTAIN Eoin Morgan admits England forgot about the basics of a run chase in a shock defeat to Sri Lanka here on Friday, failing to bounce back against defending champions Australia in their next game on Tuesday. England suffered a shocking 20-run defeat at the hands of Sri Lanka here on Friday, failing to chase down what looked like a sub-par 232/9.

"You look at the basics of a run chase, partnerships are very important. We struggled to get enough of them, or one substantial one, going. We had a couple of individual innings but that is not going to be enough to win the game," Morgan was quoted as saying by ICC website.

Ben Stokes made an unbeaten 82 and Joe Root 57 for the hosts, but the two ran out of partners even as Lasith Malinga led a remarkable fightback. "Quite a few wickets were turning points, simply in the fact that you have got guys coming in at six, who average 40, seven who average 30, we bat all the way down. So every single wicket is quite important because every single one could have salvaged a partnership that could win you the game," insisted Morgan.

With England scheduled to face Australia at Lord's next week, Morgan has asked his teammates to come back strongly. "When we get beaten we tend to come back quite strong, we tend to resort to aggressive, smart and positive cricket so let's hope that's the case on Tuesday. "The message is quite simple, we need to do the basics along with the way that we play as well. There is no reason why it shouldn't be, we are going to play competitive games and are not going to win every game in this World Cup," said Morgan.

"We need to go back to the process that has taken us to being a strong side in the world," he added. A lowly Sri Lanka had only one win in the tournament coming into this clash and too against Afghanistan, but Morgan insisted they didn't underestimate their opponents. "Mally (Malinga), he has been around for a long time, so bowling like that is not a surprise at all. We are going to lose games in the group stages." "We didn't deserve to win this game. There were a couple of challenges that presented themselves with the wicket and we didn't overcome them."

England were without the services of injured Jason Roy at the top of the order and their slow start in the chase might have hampered their chances of winning, but Morgan begged to differ. "If you look at the games we have played. We would love (Roy) in the side and he is a huge strength at the top of the order but that is not why we lost the game or why we might have struggled on this wicket," Morgan added.

## POINTS TABLE

Team	M	W	L	T	N/R	PT	NRR
Aus	6	5	1	0	0	10	+0.849
NZ	5	4	0	0	1	9	+1.591
Ind	5	4	0	0	1	9	+0.809
Eng	6	4	2	0	0	8	+1.457
SL	6	2	2	0	2	6	-1.119
Ban	6	2	3	0	1	5	-0.407
WI	5	1	3	0	1	3	+0.272
SA	6	1	4	0	1	3	-0.193
Pak	5	1	3	0	1	3	-1.933
Afg	6	0	6	0	0	0	-1.712

Top 4 teams after the ninth round will qualify for the semis.

## FIGHTING TO STAY ALIVE

# Pakistan clutching at straws, South Africa staring down the barrel

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON, JUNE 22

PAKISTAN OUGHT to be far more inspired than South Africa when they meet on Sunday at Lord's in the Cricket World Cup. Pakistan still has a chance to climb the standings to the semifinal positions, even though it's a long shot. After South Africa, the Pakistanis play New Zealand, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. Of all four opponents, only Afghanistan is below them. "Pakistan plays better under pressure," fast bowler Wahab Riaz says. To soothe critical fans at home after the demoralizing defeat to India last Sunday, he adds, "We will qualify for the semifinals."

Despite the promise, Riaz says the team can't afford to think beyond this Sunday. The next game against New Zealand won't mean as much if they don't beat South Africa. He says Pakistan has talked openly about its problems: Poor fielding, lack of penetration by the bowlers with the new ball, the lack of big scores by the batsmen.

"Good teams are those that discuss and talk about their mistakes openly to each other and we've done that. We will make up for our mistakes," he promises again. "We have to lift ourselves. We are each other's strength. We are all good friends and know that only 15 of us can lift the team which not even our family members can do."

He says, apart from the win against England, they have let themselves down in not playing up to standard in the last two matches, defeats to India and Australia. "Execution of skills is everything," he adds. "They (South Africa) have failed in that aspect like us. In this match, it depends on who handles pressure better and plays better."

Unlike Pakistan, South Africa is all but out. It was telling that after losing to New Zealand on Wednesday and told by a journalist his side was still in semifinals contention, captain Faf du Plessis said, "Are we?" Yes, mathematically.

South Africa would have to win its three remaining games against Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and defending champion Australia and hope a lot of other teams don't win a bunch of



South Africa has beaten only Afghanistan in five matches. AP

games, including top-four sides New Zealand, England and India.

Knowing this, and in the emotional aftermath of throwing everything at New Zealand and coming up excruciatingly short, it would be understandable if South Africa is feeling

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS

PAK vs SA

3 pm onwards from Lord's

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WEATHER FORECAST

Mostly cloudy.

flat. South Africa has beaten only Afghanistan among five matches and a washout. Injuries have handicapped the bowling attack but it's been the batsmen who haven't performed. Only once has South Africa passed 300, nobody has a century, and there's been only six half-centuries.

Even du Plessis, who is averaging 32 in six innings, blames himself. "I need to be the leading run-scorer in our batting unit with Quinny (de Kock) probably. That's been happening the last two seasons," du Plessis said.

## Not like I have committed a sin... a normal thing: Sarfraz on yawn

London: Pakistan skipper Sarfraz Ahmed, who faced flak on social media after he was seen yawning during their loss to India at Old Trafford, played down the incident. "Yawning? Yes okay it happened. It's not like I committed a sin. It's a normal thing, it came and it happened when the match had stopped. A lot of people gained views and made money from it. Someone benefited because of me, it's a good thing."

Pakistan have won just one of their five matches in the World Cup so far, but what drew major flak for the team was the loss to India by 89 runs in their last game at Manchester. Sarfraz insisted that it was not the first time they had lost to India in the World Cup and hence "it's fine". "Everything is fine after the India match,"

Sarfraz was quoted as saying by ICC website. This was Pakistan's seventh loss to the traditional rivals in the 50-over showpiece event. "Psychologically there is a pressure on you as a Pakistan captain if you lose against India in a World Cup match. People will think we are beaten but it's not the first time we have lost to them in a World Cup, so it's fine. We are backing ourselves, so hopefully we will bounce back," he added.

After the loss to India, Pakistan had a week to analyse and they would now be looking to beat a lowly South African side, who also have just one win from six outings. "It (loss against India) was tough for us but we gave our players two days' rest. Then after three days, we were practising hard," Pakistan captain added.

# Sumitra kicks up a storm

Odia teen's last-gasp penalty helps Indian women secure first international 15s win

SHIVANI NAIK  
MUMBAI, JUNE 22

SPRINGBOKS 80'S star Naas Botha, who is now coach of the Indian women's rugby team, says he doesn't want to get into trouble talking about South African cricket. "Let's just say they're having a torrid time right now," he stubs out the topic which he doesn't want hijacking brighter news from his end: the Indian women's team has just scored its first Test win in the 15s over Singapore at Philippines, a hard-earned, thrilling 21-19 victory that came in the dying minutes.

Botha who cryptically adds that the South African "rugby mind is stronger than cricket", has just watched how a 19-year-old Odia girl, Sumitra Nayak, showed nerveless poise when called upon to take a crucial penalty with 4 minutes to go, which secured India its first-ever international win in the 80-minute traditional format. Sumitra's place-kick was the difference between a win and a loss.

Here's what had happened in the match upto that point: India which led at 18-12, had let in a try (7 pts) after kicking a penalty for 3 more (score 18-19), and trailed by a point with 5 minutes to go. More history: India's first full test (XVs) was last year, and the team had lost to Singapore (30-10), Philippines (19-10), Philippines again two days back (32-27) since then. In the words of the doughty, resilient national captain Vahbiz Bharucha, "Until now, we were moving up and then coming back, shutting between progressing and regressing, just not going ahead." Vahbiz, a warhorse of many scarring battles in the 7s, having watched the country's slow, inch-by-inch progress, had ensured the 18-12 lead earlier, as India successfully sustained a stable scrum, and 18-year-old speed sensation Sweetie Kumari



Sumitra Nayak (second from right), showed nerveless poise when called upon to take a crucial penalty with 4 minutes to go.

picked the ball wide in open spaces and touched down for beautifully confident tries. But the forwards were tiring, and Sumitra, an ebullient scrum-half with no shortage of confidence (she's won as junior in England, led India's U18s and given Tedx talks on her journey), sensed the penalty she was about to take at 18-19, was a make-or-break.

In what warmed the hearts of the South African legend, and left former India men's captain and her juniors coach Nasser Hussain "with no nails left", Sumitra would step up to take the place-kick, some 25 metres out and at a slight angle, not straight as a rod.

"I wanted to desperately help the forwards because 80 minutes in that heat is tiring. Bobby didi (captain Vahbiz) had the option of tap-in but we decided I'd go for the 3-pointer place kick. I wasn't sure because I'd practiced for it only yesterday," she recalls the moment. Back home, she hadn't trained with the precise kicking-tee, a specialized perch for spot kicks (at angles like a sprinter's starting block), and made do with cones.

"But I suddenly felt confident, and bhagwaan ka naam leke, I just went for it," she says.

It was a kick taken without any visible hesitation, a rather cool tonk like a Dhoni sixer. "I blocked out every doubting voice. I think I blocked out encouraging voices too because it was noisy, and I got the job done," she chuckles. India went up 21-19 and ran down the clock for a third-place in the Division 1 event. India is ranked 47 to Singapore's 33, and this win should bump up their ranking a bit.

"I've been in similar situations," Botha explains adding, "it's like a winning drop-kick or a winning penalty in the World Cup football final. Or yes, the last-ball six," he says, clearing his throat. The coach would round off by telling the women to enjoy this win. "There will only be one first-ever. At 80, they can tell people they were part of this," said the 61-year-old.

But the win came on the back of some back-breaking physical conditioning workouts - where the team put in the hard yards in

Bhubaneshwar's heat twice a day, under specialist Jannie Brooks. "He's a very sports-specific guy," Botha says, which means he reads out rugby's painful truth to the girls. "In rugby, as you get fitter, training becomes tougher. Last two weeks, the women were put through this, and we loaded it more and more. But they never complained, and knew they needed to get through this," he says, about a time when they needed 36 hours to recover from the extreme heat conditions.

While it's been patient learning for the team - from stabilizing scrums to at some point, demolishing rival scrums, surviving defensive structures, tackling and securing ground balls and passing it wide, Sumitra's learnt some rough lessons far too early.

"My father abandoned my mother in Jajpur district, and went and married someone else. She wasn't educated post Class 9, but she courageously brought me and my two siblings to Bhubaneshwar and washed people's clothes and utensils to ensure we didn't go hungry initially in a big city. She enrolled me at Kalinga Institute (KISS, one of India's top junior rugby projects) where I started the sport. She now runs a beauty parlour and is a little settled. But those early years have taught me to face the worst situations with guts. Nothing scares me, because like my mother, I have a very strong heart," the teenager, oldest of three, recalls.

A huge fan of the USA rugby player Perry Baker, a sprinting winger, who hasn't let his wiry frame come in the way of this hugely physical game, Sumitra was only told by mother Gayatri to learn to defend, so that she wouldn't get tackled badly. "I'd scared her initially, saying anything can happen in this sport. She said, nothing will, but you must learn to run fast," she ends. On Saturday, Sumitra Nayak, ran away with a little piece of exhilarating history.

**DEPARTMENT OF TRAINING & TECHNICAL EDUCATION**  
Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi  
Muni Maya Ram Marg, Pitampura, Delhi-110034  
Website- [www.tte.delhigov.nic.in](http://www.tte.delhigov.nic.in)

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  - Date of start of registration & Choice filling : 10.06.2019
  - Date of start of Verification (at any Govt. ITI) : 11.06.2019
  - Last Date of registration & Choice filling : 30.06.2019
  - Last Date of Verification (at any Govt. ITI) : 01.07.2019

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[Director]

**Department of Training & Technical Education, Delhi**

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**EXPLAINED**

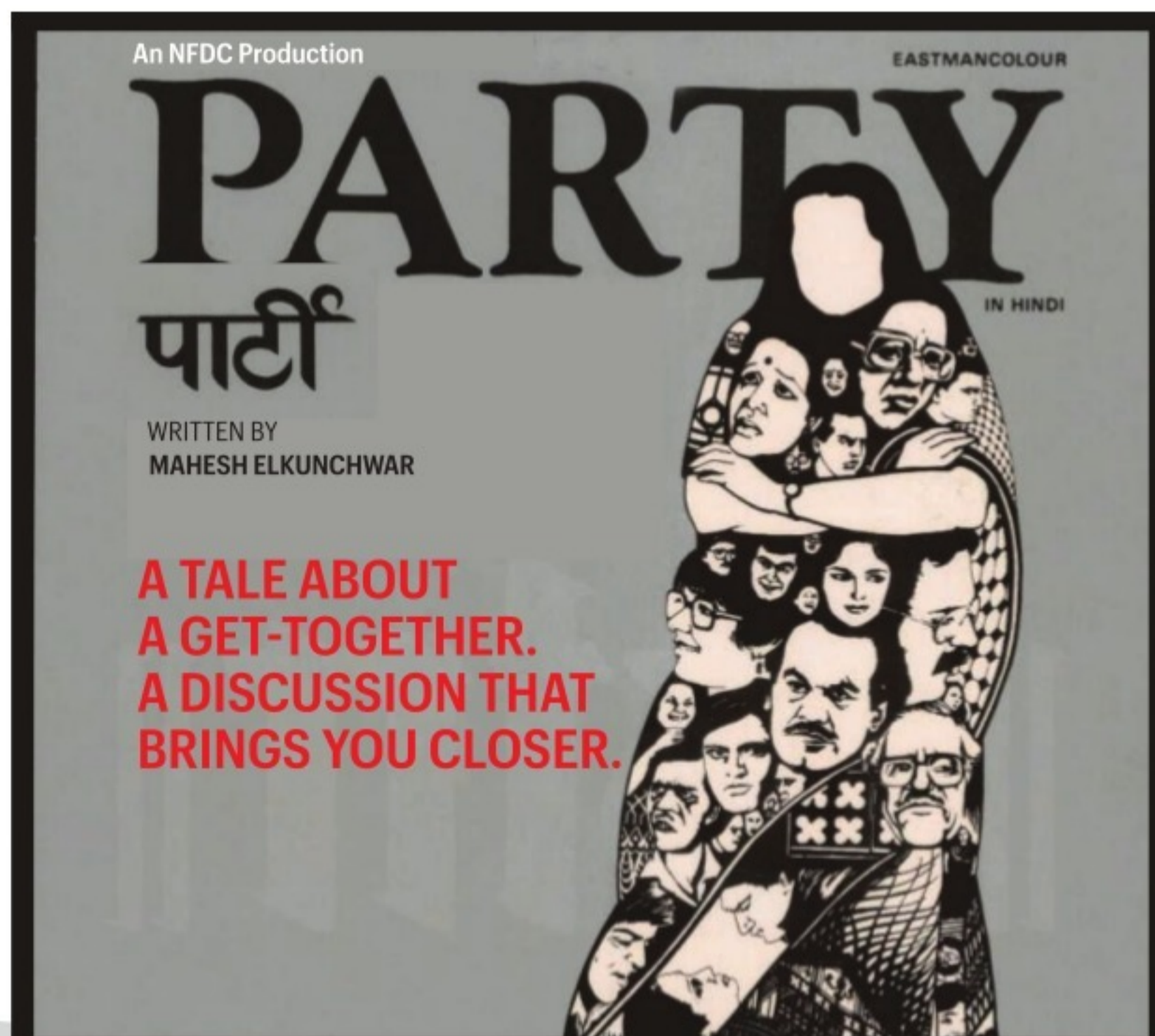
## Why 15s win is a stepping stone

The Indian women's rugby team has been playing the 15s game since last May, and played the swifter 7s format for longer. In 2018, they played two matches, losing both. Two days back, they had gone down to Philippines, but corrected their mistakes in time for the Singapore game, though China and Kazakhstan finished in top two positions. The team led comfortably till 5 minutes from the end, when Singapore - a physically equal unit - scored a try, taking a 1-point lead. Indians would convert a penalty and play out the last 3 painful minutes, clinging onto the 2-point lead. "This is definitely start of things going forward. We didn't make the final playoffs, but this is definitely the conception of good, valid women's rugby in India," captain Vahbiz said. While the 7s format has gained in popularity, the 15s is considered the true test of rugby skills, and technical formations.

## India in final leg of Olympic qualifiers

Drag-flicker Gurjit Kaur scored a brace as India secured its place in the final round of Tokyo Olympic qualifiers by beating Chile 4-2 in the semifinals of the women's FIH Series Finals hockey tournament here Saturday. The top two teams from the ongoing tournament have secured their berths in the FIH Olympic Qualifiers to be held later this year.

**The Indian EXPRESS FILM CLUB**



Directed & Photographed by: **Govind Nihalani**  
Curator: **Shubhra Gupta**, Film Critic, The Indian Express  
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Venue: **Gulmohar, IHC**

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Confirmation SMS will be your ticket. Limited seats available on first-come-first-served basis.

Here are some comments shared by our readers about the unique format of The Indian Express Club.



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**Shekhar Sati**, Defence Officer



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## TRAINS TEMPORARILY AFFECTED DUE TO CONSTRUCTION OF LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAYS ON SONPUR-CHHAPRA GRAMIN SECTION

In order to further upgrade train operational facilities, Railways will undertake the construction work of 04 Limited Height Subways between Sonpur - Chhapra Gramin section. To execute this work, Railways will take 06 hours traffic blocks from 09:10 hours to 15:10 hours on 25.06.2019 and 02.07.2019. As a result, the following trains will remain temporarily affected as under :-

### Cancellation of Trains

Train No. & Name	Date (from the Originating Station)
12530-12529 Lucknow - Patna - Lucknow Super Fast Express	25.06.19 & 02.07.19
14006 Anand Vihar T. - Sitamarhi Licchavi Express	24.06.19 & 01.07.19
14005 Sitamarhi - Anand Vihar T. Licchavi Express	26.06.19 & 03.07.19

### Short Termination/ Partially Cancellation of Trains

Train No. & Name	Short Terminated at/Organized from	Partially Cancelled between Stations	Date (from the Originating Station)
11123 Barauni - Gwalior Mail	from Chhapra	Barauni - Chhapra	25.06.19 & 02.07.19
11124 Gwalior - Barauni Mail	at Chhapra	Chhapra - Barauni	25.06.19 & 02.07.19

### Rescheduling of Trains

Train No. & Name	Rescheduling	Date (from the Originating Station)
13019 Howrah - Kathgodam Bagh Exp.	will depart 250 minutes delay from Howrah station	24.06.19 & 01.07.19
12553 Saharsa - New Delhi Vaishali Exp.	will depart 200 minutes delay from Saharsa station	25.06.19 & 02.07.19
14649 Jaynagar - Amritsar Saryu Yamuna Exp.	will depart 180 minutes delay from Jaynagar station	25.06.19 & 02.07.19
15231 Barauni - Gondia Exp.	will depart 180 minutes delay from Barauni station	25.06.19 & 02.07.19
15903 Dibrugarh - Chandigarh Exp.	will depart 60 minutes delay from Dibrugarh station	24.06.19 & 01.07.19
14617 Saharsa - Amritsar Janseva Exp.	will depart 75 minutes delay from Saharsa station	25.06.19 & 02.07.19
15708 Amritsar - Katihar Exp.	will depart 300 minutes delay from Amritsar station	24.06.19 & 01.07.19
15280 Anand Vihar T. - Saharsa Poorabiya Exp.	will depart 200 minutes delay from Anand Vihar T. station	24.06.19 & 01.07.19
12554 New Delhi - Saharsa Vaishali Exp.	will depart 180 minutes delay from New Delhi station	24.06.19 & 01.07.19
12562 New Delhi - Darbhanga Swatantra Senani Exp.	will depart 180 minutes delay from New Delhi station	24.06.19 & 01.07.19

### Regulation of Trains

Train No. & Name	Regulated at	Date (from the Originating Station)
19165 Ahmedabad - Darbhanga Sabarmati Exp.	120 Minutes between Shahganj - Chhapra Stations	23.06.19 & 30.06.19
15715 Kishanganj - Ajmer Garib Nawaj Exp.	60 Minutes between Katihar - Sonpur Stations	25.06.19 & 02.07.19

### Diversion of Train

Train No. & Name	Diverted via	Date (from the Originating Station)
12565 Darbhanga - New Delhi Bihar Sampark Kranti Exp.	Muzaffarpur- Paniahwa - Gorakhpur	25.06.19 & 02.07.19

Note:- For detail related to stoppages of trains etc. passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139, nearest Railway Station or visit Railway's website [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in).

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