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THE HINDU

JUNE 23, 2019

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

on Sunday

DELHI
CITY EDITION
54 pages • ₹15.00

Neither CPI(M) nor I will protect my son, says Kodiyeri Balakrishnan
page 10

CBI conducts searches on premises of defence dealer Sanjay Bhandari
page 12

Lewis Hamilton takes pole position for French Grand Prix
page 20

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NEARBY

Smriti Irani, Goa CM visit Amethi

AMETHI (U.P.)

Union Minister Smriti Irani and Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant visited Amethi's Barolia village on Saturday to meet the family members of BJP worker Surendra Singh, who was killed recently.

NORTH & EAST ▸ PAGE 7

BJP delegation visits Bhatpara in W.B.

KOLKATA

A three-member BJP delegation visited the trouble-torn Bhatpara area in West Bengal on Saturday, and alleged that police firing had led to the death of two persons during the clashes earlier in the week.

NEWS ▸ PAGE 12

Elderly couple stabbed in their Dwarka home

NEW DELHI

A couple in their 50s were stabbed to death at their residence in Dwarka's Uttam Nagar on Saturday. The police suspect the involvement of a man who used to live with the couple. The victims lived in Mohan Garden with their son and daughter. The police are looking at all angles, including robbery and monetary dispute.

CITY ▸ PAGE 3

MAGAZINE ▸ 32 PAGES (TABLOID)
CLASSIFIEDS ▸ PAGE 4 & 6

Thriller win

Hat-trick man: India clinched a thriller against Afghanistan in the World Cup match in Southampton on Saturday. Defending 15 runs in the final over, Mohammed Shami performed a hat-trick to seal the victory for the Men in Blue by 11 runs. ▪ REUTERS (PAGE 19)

BJP slams U.S. for 'bias' against PM

Annual report had criticised the party

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In a strong statement on Saturday that could spiral into a diplomatic spat, the ruling BJP accused the U.S. State Department of a "clear bias" against the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the party in an annual report on international religious freedom released on Friday.

The '2018 Report on International Religious Freedom' had criticised BJP office-bearers for hate speech and the government for reportedly protecting cow vigilante groups.

'Local disputes'

"The basic presumption in this report that there is some grand design behind anti-minority violence is simply false," BJP National Media head Anil Baluni said in the statement.

"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, Mr. Modi and other BJP leaders have strongly deplored violence against minorities and weaker sections of society," he added.

The report, which documents the situation in every country (except the United States), was released by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who will arrive in Delhi on June 25 for talks with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

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REPORT EXPRESSES CONCERN ON COMMUNAL VIOLENCE ▸ PAGE 14

Minorities not under siege, says Naqvi

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had, by direct contact with all sections, smashed what was till now a "hypocrisy" around engagement with minority communities of "*room main topi, sadak par tilak*" (a skull cap indoors, a tilak out on the streets).

In an exclusive interview with *The Hindu*, Mr. Naqvi said, "All talk that minorities are under siege in India is part of the haar ka horror show (the horror show of the defeated)."

He added that violent incidents where minorities were being targeted were "isolated."

INTERVIEW ON ▸ PAGE 13

Time running out to curb terror, Pak. told

New Delhi cites FATF move to blacklist Islamabad

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Reminding Pakistan that it has less than three months to show progress on curbing terror financing, India said it expected its government to fully comply with the action plan set out by the global body Financial Action Task Force (FATF) by taking "credible, verifiable, irreversible and sustainable measures" against terrorist groups on its soil.

On Friday, the FATF plenary session in Orlando, U.S., issued a stern statement at the end of its outcome document, telling Pakistan that it could face blacklisting (the next step) at its next session in October, if it did not follow a 27-point check-list on bringing in stricter laws to curb the access of funds to terror groups inside the country, including the Islamic State, al-Qaeda, the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad. The FATF put off the blacklist, reportedly due to support for Pakistan from China, Turkey and Malaysia, but the entire 38-member body stressed that Pakistan had missed two action plan deadlines.

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said India expected Pakistan "to take all necessary steps to effectively implement the FATF Action Plan fully within the remaining time frame, that is, by September 2019, 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."

Cutting the flow

The Financial Action Task Force has asked Pakistan to take stern steps to check terror funding. A look at the country's status

GREYLIST

- FATF placed Pak. in its 'greylist' in June 2018
- 12 countries, including Ethiopia, Sri Lanka and Yemen, are on the greylist, with "strategic deficiencies" in anti-money laundering and combating terror financing
- **Pakistan faces review of action taken on a 27-point checklist in September 2019**

BLACKLIST

- Failure could push Pakistan into the 'blacklist', alongside Iran and North Korea
- Blacklist will mean severe strictures on Pakistan's banks and credit rating, as well as access to loans and foreign investments

Risk ignored

The task force said Pakistan had failed to understand the "transnational" or cross-border terror financing risk it posed. It also listed 10 of the most important tasks, including the effective implementation of UN sanctions against designated entities and more robust prosecution of terror financiers. India was not a sponsor of the original move to put Pakistan on a compliance 'grey list' last June, but has supported the U.S., the U.K., Germany and France in efforts to make Pakistan accountable. Pakistan was put on the grey list in 2018, the second time it has been on it since 2012-2015.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

Indian airlines told to skip Iran's airspace

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

The civil aviation regulator on Saturday decided to ban Indian carriers from flying over the Iranian airspace, fearing an increase in hostilities between the U.S. and Iran and to ensure the safety of passengers, crew and aircraft flying the route.

The decision, which will impact Air India and IndiGo, comes a day after the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) banned U.S. carriers from flying over the Iranian airspace, days after Iran shot down an unmanned U.S. spy drone. As a result, United Airlines has suspended its direct flight from Newark to Mumbai.

In a statement issued through its Twitter handle, the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said, "Indian operators, in consultation with the DGCA, have decided to avoid the affected part of Iranian airspace to ensure safe travel for passengers. They will reroute flights suitably." It did not say whether flying was allowed over the rest of the Iranian airspace.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12
NAVY MAY ESCORT OIL SHIPS THROUGH THE GULF ▸ PAGE 13
TENSION SPIKES ▸ PAGE 14

Tutor kills wife, three children in Mehrauli

Accused admitted crime in two notes before attempting to take his own life

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

A 42-year-old private tutor allegedly killed his wife and three minor children before trying to take his own life in south Delhi's Mehrauli area in the early hours of Saturday. The accused has been arrested, police said.

The accused, Upendra Kumar Shukla, belonging to Bihar's Champaran region and a resident of Mehrauli's ward number 2, allegedly killed his wife Archana, daughter Ranya (8) and sons Raunak (6) and a month-old boy whom they used to fondly call Rani. They were found with their throats slit at the fourth-floor residence. The accused allegedly tried to slit his left wrist later.

The police have also recovered two notes, in English and Hindi, in which Upendra admitted to killing his family and said no one else is responsible for the murders.

Onlookers outside the house where the murders took place, in Mehrauli on Saturday. ▪ SANDEEP SAXENA

Heard cries

Deepak Agarwal, who runs a grocery shop on the ground floor of the building, said around 6.30 a.m., a third-floor resident told him that he heard someone crying upstairs. The neighbours got together and broke open the door. Seeing the bodies, they called the police.

A senior police officer said they reached the spot by 7 a.m. and saw the bodies of Upendra wife's on the floor and the three children on the bed. "Upendra was sitting on the bed with a stone cutter close to him. His mother-in-law Lalita Devi was crying," he said, adding that Upendra's clothes were bloodstained. The notes were marked as being written at 2.18 a.m.; investigators suspect the crime was committed around 2 a.m.

The Shukla family lives in a two-bedroom house. Upendra's minor niece and nephew have been staying for the past year for their education, and his mother-in-law arrived about two-three months ago.

"Upendra and his family used to sleep in one room and his mother-in-law, niece and nephew in the other. When Upendra and his wife didn't come out on Saturday morning, Ms. Lalita went to the room and saw blood coming out from inside. She started knocking but Upendra didn't open the door, after which she started shouting," the police officer said.

Upendra, a chemistry teacher who used to give private tuitions in Vasant Kunj, had graduated from Jawaharlal Nehru University in a language course years ago. The couple, married for nine years, had been living in Delhi for over seven years.

SEE ALSO ▸ PAGE 6

Rajasthan to implement Ayushman Bharat

It will be integrated with existing State health scheme

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

The Rajasthan government has given an official go-ahead to implement the Central government's flagship health insurance scheme, Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. It will be integrated with the State's existing Bhamashah Swasthya Bima Yojana.

"We are very happy with the outcome and have assured all possible support to Rajasthan," said Indu Bhushan, CEO, AB-PMJAY.

Rajasthan is currently providing benefits to 97 lakh families under the BSBY scheme, and many of the eligible families under AB-PMJAY are already covered under BSBY. All eligible families will be made eligible to avail health benefits up to ₹5 lakh per year under the scheme.

The Central scheme is also undergoing a price review of the over 1,000 medical packages being offered to patients.

The Indian Medical Association has long been demanding a "reasonable and fair package rate" under Ayushman Bharat while consultants such as PricewaterhouseCoopers had said the rates were not sustainable for quality health care.

"The government has set up committees to review the cost of nearly 1,300 medical packages," said a senior Health Ministry official.

Skeletons near Bihar hospital

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUZAFFARPUR

Human skeletal remains were found strewn near a garbage dump close to the post-mortem section of the Sri Krishna Medical College Hospital (SKMCH) here on Saturday, officials said.

The SKMCH is in news for the death of more than 100 brain fever-afflicted children since June 1.

NATION ▸ PAGE 11

Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	189	Gurugram	144
Ghaziabad	206	Faridabad	122
Noida	171	Greater Noida	224

Good 0-50 | Satisfactory 51-100 | Moderate 101-200 | Poor 201-300 | Very poor 301-400 | Severe >401

AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) | SOURCE: CPCB

DELHI TODAY

Exhibition: Between Art Deco and Modernism - Polish Posters from 1918 - 1939, an exhibition of archival posters from the collection of the Poster Museum at Wilanów, Main Art Gallery, Kamaladevi Complex, India International Centre (IIC), 11 a.m. onward.

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

Exhibition: A solo painting exhibition by Kumar Umesh at Convention Centre Foyer, IHC, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

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

'Finish work in illegal colonies'

Kejriwal gives officials time till Nov., asks for weekly report

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday directed government officials to carry out development works in over 750 unauthorised colonies on a "war footing" and complete all the projects within five months.

The directions were issued by Mr. Kejriwal during a high-level meeting with Irrigation and Flood Control Minister Satyendar Jain and senior officials.

"The Chief Minister directed the department to submit a weekly report on the progress of ongoing developmental works now, which he will personally monitor," the government said in a statement.

At the meeting, the Mr. Kejriwal was informed that the model code of conduct during the Lok Sabha election had halted the ongoing work in such colonies, pushing the deadlines in many cases.

The Delhi government has made a provision of ₹1,500 crore in the budget for the development of these colonies.

"The Chief Minister directed the officers to ensure that financial resources do not become a constraint in the development of unauthorised colonies. He said the government has made more than adequate provision of financial resources for these works," the statement said. Mr. Kejriwal also alleged that the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has "failed" to ensure proper development of Delhi.

Criticises DDA

Had the DDA, Mr. Kejriwal was quoted as having said at the meeting, ensured proper planned development of the national capital since its inception, the residents would not have suffered due to uneven development.

He alleged that the DDA could not keep pace with the expanding city and failed to provide adequate housing in accordance with the demands of the residents of the Capital.

CM directs DJB to resolve water issues in Malviya Nagar

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday directed the Delhi Jal Board to resolve all water-related problems in Malviya Nagar and make the process of getting new water connections easier.

Mr. Kejriwal, who is also the DJB chairman, further directed officials during a review meeting to restart 100 tubewells that are currently non-functional in the area. "We should augment supply of water and take all steps required. No colony should face problem of water," the CM said.

"Providing water to the people is our duty. We should not have any complex rules for getting new water connections. We must make it as simple as possible... please work it out," the CM told DJB officials.

Minor fire at RML Hospital

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A minor fire broke out at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in the small hours of Saturday. Over 200 patients were shifted to trauma centre and other places as a precautionary measure.

No casualty was reported, the Union Health Ministry said. A fire department official said a call was received at 4.19 a.m. regarding the fire in an electricity panel near the Emergency gate. "Four fire tenders were rushed to the hospital. The fire was doused within 15 minutes," he said.

Free rides for women only the starting point, say activists

Majority of them welcome the Delhi government's proposed policy but want more initiatives to ensure women safety and empowerment

SHINJINI GHOSH
NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

Several women activists have welcomed Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's proposed policy of free transport for women in DTC buses and metro trains, but maintain that this is only the first step towards ensuring women safety and empowerment, as many other factors such as secure working environment and generation of more jobs are equally important.

Calling the move a progressive step, activist Shabnam Hashmi said it will especially benefit the lower middle classes. "A lot of women are unable to venture out for work as they cannot afford it. Increased mobility also ensures freedom over a period of time. A large section of women earn anything between ₹10,000 and ₹15,000, and free transport would mean that they will be able to save at least ₹2,000 per month. This can make a lot of difference to them," she said.

Free metro rides would also mean safer commute for women, said Kavita Srivastava of People's Union for Civil Liberties. "Several women hesitate to board private buses, especially after the Nirbhaya incident. However, if travel on the metro is made free, it will definitely become easier for women to commute. The fact that the Delhi Metro is expanding at such a fast pace is an added advantage."

On questions being raised on the rationale behind the policy, Ms. Srivastava said: "It is important to note that when minimum wages are suppressed and proper ration is not provided, it is okay for the government to at least provide some kind of subsidy in terms of public transport."

Some activists, however, stressed that free transport may not necessarily mean safer travel. Annie Raja of the National Federation of Indian Women said, "While we are not opposed to the idea, it has nothing to do with the safety and security of women. It is a welcome step, but eventually it should be extended to those who cannot afford public transport. An intervention needs to be made for all those who are reeling under economic distress."


Women seen travelling in a metro in New Delhi. ▪ FILE PHOTO

'Need more jobs'

She pointed out that women's participation in the workforce in India has reduced to 27%, hence generation of employment and implementation of existing legislations are equally essential.

"About 93% of the Indian workforce is in the unorganised sector and constitutes mostly home-based workers. Free transport is one factor but it will only help the workforce if the workplace environment is improved. If it is a short-term publicity stunt it will not work," Ms. Raja explained.

'Pinjra Tod', an autonomous collective of women students in Delhi, hailed the government's move and also criticised certain groups which claimed "providing free rides only to women was not equality". The group in a statement said, "Equality is not the denial of particular needs or turning a blind eye to power differences, where entire classes of people, based on their gender, caste, class, race identity are systematically and historically put in a position of disadvantage and marginalisation. Equality is the end of socially differentiated power which requires organised intervention on the side of those oppressed/excluded/exploited."

'More freedom'

Renuka Viswanathan, former Principal Adviser of the erstwhile Planning Commission, said the Delhi government's decision would encourage women to go out and work. She even wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 18 seeking his support to the policy.

"Women, irrespective of what strata they belong to, should be in charge of their income and mobility. If the Delhi government has surplus budget and political legitimacy, then surely this scheme will be sustainable in the long run. The government can easily work out a system where it pays the DMRC upfront to ensure it does not run into losses," said Ms. Viswanathan.

'Poll gimmick'

Some, meanwhile, saw the move as a "poll gimmick" which was bound to fail. Poonam Parashar Jha, president of the BJP Mahila Morcha, said, "These freebies being promised by the government, especially before the upcoming elections, will not work. E. Sreedharan [former Delhi Metro chief] has also pointed out what will happen to the metro if this policy is rolled out. If the government actually wants to empower women, it should focus on generating jobs for them."

Vaani Subramanian of Saheli Women's Resource Centre said that the "grand gesture with zero impact" will not help women. "The announcement is more of an economic measure and not based on safety issues. Even though last-mile connectivity has improved, it still is a hassle in many areas. The policy should have been better thought out."

"Mobility is only one step. It has to be complemented by other factors, including proper wages and better facilities at the workplace. Using women's issues in a populist framework is not a good idea," she added.

'Investment for future'

Suneeta Dhar, an adviser at Jagori, a Delhi-based NGO working for women empowerment, welcomed the move and said that the government should not see it as a subsidy. "More than a subsidy, see it as an investment to increase women's participation in public spaces and workforce," she said.

Ms. Dhar suggested the government should redesign the transport system for women's safety. "There should be last-mile connectivity, buses should stop near women's workplaces and houses among other measures. Just free rides won't help, but it's a welcome step," she added.

Jyotsna George, campaign manager (gender and sexuality) at Jhatkaa.org, a group campaigning for citizen power, said they have been running an online campaign on the issue. "Research shows that women feel safer in public spaces when there are more women around," Ms. George said.

"The government has to take this momentum forward and initiate many more steps such as last-mile connectivity and fixing street lights. Don't stop at giving free tickets," she said.

AAP dragged Sreedharan into dirty politics: BJP

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The BJP Opposition on Saturday accused Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal of dragging 'Metro Man' E. Sreedharan and the Delhi Metro into "his dirty politics".

It also attacked Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia of "lying" about having written to Mr. Sreedharan on the issue on June 14. Mr. Kejriwal and Mr. Sisodia had "no right to waste" public money for their "electoral gimmick" even as it condemned AAP allegations against Mr. Sreedharan, the BJP said.

"Mr. Kejriwal is so irresponsible that he did not send the letter dated 14 June 2019 to Mr. Sreedharan but pubblicised it in the media. Obviously, their intentions are bad," said LoP in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta.

"Mr. Sreedharan in his response to Mr. Sisodia has informed of not having received this letter yet... Such an attitude can only be of those who have no love for the people of Delhi or the Delhi Metro," Mr. Gupta added.

No headway in madrasa teacher attack probe

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The police on Saturday said they have not found any leads in the alleged attack on a Madrasa teacher who was hit by a car after he refused to say "Jai Shri Ram" on Thursday in Rohini Sector 20.

A senior officer said Mohd. Momin has not been able to give information on the make of the car. Also, CCTV footage obtained from near the spot has not been of much help. "The accounts given by some eyewitnesses of the incident do not substantiate the claims made by the victim but the investigation is under way," the officer said. The accused have not been identified yet, the police added.

Hoax call at BJP headquarters

NEW DELHI

A call was allegedly received at BJP headquarters control room on Saturday in which the caller threatened to blow it up. The police were informed and during the probe, it was found to be a hoax. The caller has been traced to Mysore, they said.

Couple found stabbed to death at Dwarka residence

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A couple was stabbed to death at their residence in Dwarka's Uttam Nagar on Saturday evening, the police said. They suspect the involvement of a man, who used to live with the victims.

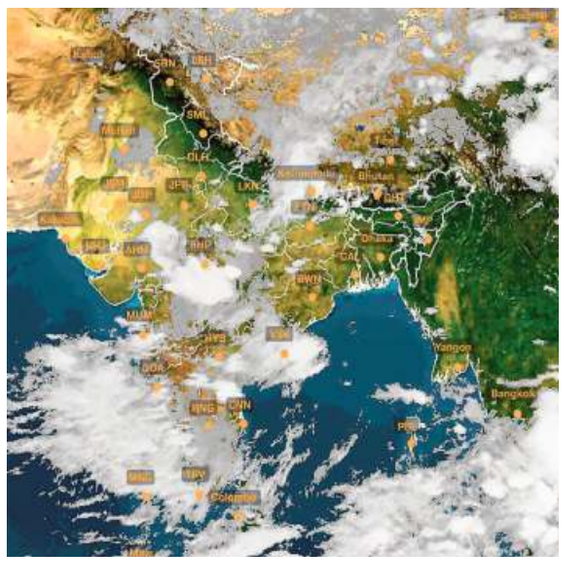
An officer said Hari Ballabh and his wife Shanti Singh, both from Bihar, used to live with their son and daughter. Hari was blind and used to teach at a government school while Shanti was a homemaker. There was no sign of forced entry in the house, the police said.

"The couple's daughter had made a PCR call at 7 p.m. The victims had been stabbed in their stomach and neck. They were rushed to a hospital where they were declared brought dead," the officer said.

A 30-year-old man, who was in the business of taxi service and property dealing, had been living with the family for a year. A case has been registered and probe is under way, the police added.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at a few/ isolated places over coastal Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, south Interior Karnataka, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Vidarbha, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Konkan & Goa, central Maharashtra, Marathawada and Bihar

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	27.2	34.6	26.7	Kozhikode	4	29.4	24.0
Ahmedabad	–	39.8	28.2	Kurnool	9	35.7	27.3
Aizawl	3	27.8	19.2	Lucknow	0.3	37.6	27.0
Allahabad	12.7	33.7	26.6	Madurai	–	37.3	28.0
Bengaluru	–	29.4	21.6	Mangaluru	9.8	29.4	23.4
Bhopal	–	39.8	27.4	Mumbai	–	33.3	27.4
Bhubaneswar	1.4	31.4	23.9	Mysuru	–	31.6	20.2
Chandigarh	–	41.2	25.0	New Delhi	–	40.3	27.2
Chennai	–	40.2	30.5	Patna	3.6	32.4	28.8
Coimbatore	7.2	31.4	22.2	Port Blair	50.6	31.7	23.9
Dehradun	–	37.5	23.6	Puducherry	–	40.2	29.8
Gangtok	0.4	24.1	19.1	Pune	–	34.2	23.9
Goa	–	30.8	23.2	Raipur	–	29.0	21.8
Guwahati	9.3	36.4	35.6	Ranchi	22.2	36.8	23.2
Hubballi	–	28.0	22.0	Shillong	3.1	26.4	18.4
Hyderabad	7.9	31.9	23.2	Shimla	–	28.2	17.2
Imphal	1.6	30.5	22.3	Srinagar	–	28.7	11.7
Jaipur	–	40.1	29.8	Trivandrum	3.8	30.5	26.3
Kochi	12.2	28.0	23.8	Tiruchi	–	37.8	27.4
Kohima	8.6	32.7	18.0	Vijayawada	–	35.1	28.2
Kolkata	8.6	33.6	27.0	Visakhapatnam	–	30.0	27.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

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

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	..	..	35	.....	.....	....
Bengaluru	..4	.30	20	94	...72	....
Chennai	13	.32	57	92	.....	....
Delhi	36	.48	39	..160	.256	....
Hyderabad	..9	.34	11	61	...53	....
Kolkata	..3	.18	14	34	...48	....
Lucknow	..2	.43	48	..280	.....	....
Mumbai	30	..	10	41	.150	....
Pune	63	...8	29	81	...75	....
Visakhapatnam	11	.76	52	99	.105	....

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ballabgarh, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 254 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Haldia, West Bengal recorded a healthy AQI score of 21

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.
NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.
CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.
PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

CLASSIFIEDS

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REGIONAL

EDUCATIONAL

MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

Wanted smart educated well settled match for good looking mudaliar girl, widow, 37 years/5'.7", employed ,from mudaliar family settled at Hyderabad cast no bar ph:8008608222.

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YADAVA/NAIDU MBBS, MS 29 Seeks MD/MS/MDS/Doctor/CA/IAS/ Grade 1 Grooms only CT :7305352183

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Doctor Girl 29/165 doing MD Anaesthesiology Fair beautiful cultured. Father Cardiac Surgeon Kerala Nair Hindu. Mother Author Tamil Christian. Liberal values, Chennai based. Seeking Doctor MD/MS grooms from good families. Kerala/Tamil boys preferred.
98400 50381 / 98409 85383

24 Manai Telugu Chettiar, Rishabam,Karthigai, 29/ 165cm, Doctor MD, Well Settled. Looking for Any Chettiar / Naidu Doctor - MD Groom / Well Settled Business Professional.
09840733299 / 09840744477

ENGINEER

PILLAI/ MUDALIYAR: B.E. 35 SW Er widow 2 boy kids own house seeks qualified tamil groom 35–40 india/ abroad. ct 9994423130

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

ALLIANCE FOR young businesswomen M.S, [UK] based in Chennai, 26, 5.4 ht, fair, Beautiful, clean habits. Inter–caste Parents of Vellalar Community, Net worth about 200 Crores. Business in Garment Exports, Agri, Construction, Travels, Minings. Suitable alliance age below 30 from an equal net worth family with clean habits preferred. Caste no bar. Email:mgnath77@yahoo.com. 7299744777

Hindu Adidravida 29/161 IPS Officer Fair seeks IAS,IRS,IPS Officer Groom Caste & Religion No Bar. 8838348204

I.R.S OFFICER 30/163 Hindu Mudaliar Asst. Commr (Customs & CE) Chennai 1Lpm seeks similar Employed Groom CNB.9840136141/dskflats@gmail.com

KANNADA

KORAMASHETTY (SC) 33/162, M.Sc, B.Ed, B'lore, unmarried seeks well educated groom. CNB, Ct:9591815684

MALAYALAM

Nair Thiruketta 24/160 sudhajatagam BE SWE Chennai seeks below29 Educated Employed Groom. 9884167385

Kannur, Nambiar Girl, 40/165, Chithra, MDS Doctor working Abroad. Looking for Suitable alliance. 9495545852. thankamtm@gmail.com

CHENNAI SETTLED 23/165 Makayiram SW Engineer F–Thiyya M–Nair Parents Govt. employed. Brother employed Canada. BHP to: anand_9896@ yahoo.com

NAIR, GIRL, Pooyam, Two Dosham, 31–5–1979, MCA.,HSBC, Hyderabad. Suitable for Bridegroom Ct : 9003213224

GROOMS WANTED
C/R No bar proposals invited from professionals for divorcee with a child, 38 yr old, Hindu, Well educated, U.S settled. Seeking proposals from India and abroad. Please respond to proposalm28@gmail.com or call / whatsapp 001-201-873-3880.

NRI

TAMIL HINDU Vellalar Divorcee 46 MS,SWE,US Employee, Son17yr seek US Employee Groom.Ct: 9940623480

TAMIL

CSI CHRISTIAN NADAR Girl 22/163 B.E, Well to do family. Looking For Groom from Same Caste Community Well Educated Doing Business , God Fearing, Clean Habits And Well to do family. Respond with full Bio–Data, Photo & Contact Number. E– mail to alexandergeorge27101969@ gmail.com

TAMIL

TAMIL MUSLIM Chennai Settled, DENTIST, 32Yrs Good–looking, Fair, Divorcee No issues,Well placed Educated Parents, Seeks Dr / Er / PG / Prof. Qualified Groom. Ct: 8939214627.

SEEKING PRACTISING Muslim living in USA for 24yrs/163cm PG girl with F1 US visa to do phd. 9940014700

FAIR LOOKING, Dy. Manager, SBI Chennai, Mylapore. Tamil, BE/ 27yrs, Roman Catholic seeks Govt/ Bank/ IT Groom Ct: 94439 52465/ 87789 97608

RC NADAR (Caste No Bar) 28/155 cm, B.Tech (Hons), Working in TCS, Canada. 7538802230

RC Nadar (Caste No Bar) 27,153, B.Com, Working in CTS, 55K/Month. 7538802230

CSI SC DOB 12.8.1982 DOCTOR–BHMS C.NO 9626637750, 9843162625

MUSLIM DOCTOR 26/154.MD final year seeks tamil muslim doctor groom studying or completed PG. 9884623120

CHRISTIAN NADAR Smart Fair Employed 34/165 B.E. MS (US) seeks professionally Qualified Groom preferably US 35–37yrs. Ct 9884612958

RC NADAR, 30/153, Very Fair, BE MBA SWE Chennai Divorcee (Short Lived) Seeks Wellsettled Educated Groom. 9884924350.

HINDU SC PR Kongu 1984 MBBS DCH Govt Doctor, working in Govt Hospital seeks suitable groom. 94436 80973.

VANNIAR AVITTAM 24/160 MS, Working in USA, Seeks Equally Qualified Vanniar/Gounder/Naicker groom below 29 yrs. Cont: 9442344779

SC-AD Thiruvadirai Midunam 34/163 Msc,MBA SBI Mngr chen seek Eductd Employd groom below38. 9444005310

RC DKV,31, BE,MBA Govt.Bank Officer 40K, Good Looking,Well Settled. Seeks Alliancs, CasteNoBar 9176260510

TAMIL

AGAMUDAIYAR 43 MSc IT in Chennai seeks Groom (1st Marriage) from OBC Mob– 9445612997

DIVYA NIVEDA 27/BE, SC–AD, Pvt Job 25000/– Middle Class Settled in Chennai. Seeks same Caste. 9840126883

DIVORCEE CHENNAI bound St Gvt School teacher MA B.Ed 31/152 Issueless Valluvan(Father)/Veerakodi Vellalar(Mother) seeks Tamil Bridegroom(Divorcee/Widower–no child) in Chennai Caste No Bar 9443208536

SOZHIA VELLALA 39/167 Uthiratadi BE MBA empld– Chennai, Divorcee no encumbrance seeks educated groom. Subsect no bar. 9283433069/ 9840329160

HINDU 32 / 152 B.E, M.S, Upper Middle Class, Divorcee, Seeks suitable groom India / Abroad. Caste No Bar. Contact : 9489695984

VANNIAR, 35, Chithirai, M.Tech, Fair, working in MNC seeks suitable groom from good family Ct:9444028038

2ND MARRIGE 40/160 BE Issueless SC, Seeks Groom 40–45Yr Hindu CasteNo-BAR. 9840368809, sbpalani@ yahoo.co.in

ARUNTHATHIYAR BEAUTIFUL graduate girl, 24,155 cm, sevvai thosham private firm seeks employed groom, contact 9443890224.

Vanniyakula Kshatriya, 22/ 150/ MSC/ Visakam/ Working - seeks Professionally Qualified Groom. Email: ntsureshkumar@gmail.com, Contact : 9444288762.

ARUNTHATHIYAR BEAUTIFUL graduate girl, 24,155 cm, sevvai thosham private firm seeks employed groom, contact 9443890224.

ME , 5.2" , 20.07.1992 , Pisces , Puratathi,Native: Erode. Peferring educated gavara naidu groom Ph no. 9965157980.

SEEKING GROOM For Mudaliar Bride 28yr 165cm BE MBA Uthiradam/Magaram MNC in Chennai 9444038889/ 9444012991

WANTED BRIDEGROOM for SC Girl 30 yrs CA, Employed as Grade A Officer in PSU Salary– 75000/pm Star– Moolam, Rasi–Thanasu caste no bar. M– 9444396676 email: mohan6359@ gmail.com

TAMIL

LOOKING FOR bridegroom for our daughter, aged (25) years, residing in (Muscat), height (5'2"), (ACCA (UK) B.Sc.,(Hons), (Hindu), (Vadakalai Iyengar).(Maudgalya, Thiruvaadirai) The Groom should hail from a decent, educated family. (Same caste). Should be around (28) years. Professionally qualified/Post graduate. Contact with (Astrological) details 0096899833031(whatsapp) or Email to vjnarayanan@hotmail.com

44 TN GOVT HEALTH OFFICER MBBS DPH Cuddalore dt divorcee (20 days only) no issue. INTER CASTES father hindu SC mother hindu vanniyakulakahatriya BC from FC pure and mostly vegetarian wants bride groome 36 to 48 willing to settle with brides working places seeks MBBS ME caste religion country citizen citizenship no bar cell 7708159295 9443073953

PILLAI, 27/160, B.E, MBA, SWE, HCL, 6Lac.PA, Busi.fmly, 25Cr, Sks suitable groom, 9500085718, 9003077746

MUDALIAR, BEAUTIFUL, 25/165, MBA, BK MANAGER, 15Lac.PA, 15Cr, Sks suitable groom, 9566002501, 9500147440

ADIDRAVIDAR, 25/165, IAS OFFICER, Affluent Elite family, Seeks suitable groom, 8056091059, 7358378866

VANNIAR, 27/152, Slim, MBBS, MD, DOING, Affluent Elite family, Sks suitable groom,8056174102, 8754415378

TAMIL BRAHMIN 36/163, Dental Surgeon, settled in B'lore seeks alliance from well educated and settled groom preferably from B'lore. Ct: 9108106439

IYER HARITHAM Revathi2 Oct 72 Blr girl seeks well settled never married Brahmin boys 46-49. Send BHP sree.lashmi108@gmail.com

Thengalai iyyengar non bharathwaja, India based well educated and employed bridegroom not more than thirty years for a swayamachariyar family girl 167cm tall fair slim good-looking 25 years B.tech and employed as senior software engineer MNC at Bangalore . Contact 94861 05748

VEGETARIAN, MS (USA), 32/165, Iyer, never married, atheist woman, antinatalist, not willing to have children, WANT TO ADOPT seeks well–educated vegetarian groom, 32–38yrs with similar mindset. Widower with young child ok. No divorcee. anantakrishnan55@gmail.com

SEEKS SUITABLE Alliance for a Iyer Srivatsa Uthiratathi Vathima girl, aged 21 BE, Employed. Boy should not be more than 25 yrs, Tamil Iyer boys only need to apply. Sub sects no bar. Send Horoscope with Biodata, Photo and contact details to sunsradha64@gmail.com

IYER SRIVATSAM Vadama Rohini 30 Slim BS(MIT USA), MBA (Standford) Citizen Working USA seeks Well qualified Groom.Parents Cont: 9841275504

NISHA, BRAHMIN, 32, B.Com, Working, No Expectation, Seeks any Brahmin Groom. Contact: 9790754669

DIVORCEE 37 Yrs Bhramin Girl With 12Yrs Son Seeking For A/L 37–40 Divorcee /Widow Caste No Bar:7397449793

Vadakalai Bharathwajam Hastam Dec1987, 178cm Lawyer 9884375894, matrimonynew07@gmail.com

ELITE - VANNIYAKULA KSHATRYAR(NAICKER)
22 /B.Arch /162cm /Kanni /Astham / fair & beautiful girl,Only Daughter more than 30 Crores worth in Chennai, very Decent and Conservative Business Family, Seeks well educated Working/ Business groom in Chennai only, (Note: Intercaste parents ignore please) send full details, which will be Confidential.
marriageinvite2019@gmail.com
78248 88277 (Only Whatsapp)

BRIDE GROOM WANTED
CSI Christian Doctor Girl, aged 32, Very Fair, Good looking & God-fearing, MBBS, MD (doing in Pediatrics). Parents are doing God's ministry and having 5 Schools, 4 Colleges, Orphanages and also B.Sc Nursing College and their own Mission Hospital, expecting Christian, and service-minded doctor from Good family from any BC community MBBS or MD or Ph.D holders or Engineers.
Contact :
icmcslm@gmail.com
basil_bright@hotmail.com
Ph : 09865222070/ 09655998760

ELITE-BRIDEGROOM-KULALAR
26 / B. Tech (IT) MBA / 168 cm / R:Kadagam / S:Poosam / Tall / Good looking and only daughter from very well settled family working in City Bank Chennai Seeks well educated groom working with Salary 12.0 L pa. Send Profile / Horoscope / Photo.
Whatsapp No: 9443262222
Email: mrginfo2019@gmail.com

Saiva Pillai, karthigai, 26/5', B.Tech, MNC/ 5 lac PA, fair, seeks suitable groom. Contact 9818772193.

NAIDU 47 yrs, widow, st. Govt. officer seeks well settled Groom ct. 9994005705

DKV SC, 32/165, Pooradam, Dhanusu Rasi M.D., Doctor Divorcee (without issue) seeks professionally qualified Groom. Ct: 9943469215/ 9943730849

HINDU KONGU Vellalar 24 MBBS doing MPH Melbourne ready to work Abroad, seeks professionally qlfd groom Medicine or Engg. Ct: 9952446416

COIMBATORE based Sozhiya Vellalar Pillai girl 24/160 B.Tech, MIB (Singapore), seeks well educated boy age 25-29, Abroad/ IT, family business, rich family back ground, Pillai/ Mudaliyar subsects no bar. Ph:9442153678, Em: hr.skspl@gmail.com

WELL SETTLED professionally qualified match for beautiful Tamil Brahmin girl divorcee 33 5'4" employed delhi govt. Contact 7303206600

TAMIL VISWAKARMA (goldsmith) girl 27 ME MNC Seeking alliance from well employed professionals from the same community. Ph : 9080144782

TAMIL

Vanniyar Uthradam Dhanusu 27/168 BE,MBA Work-Pvt seek Educated,Employd groom.6374776824/9884239606

HINDU SC AD B.Tech 26/165 cm, seeks Raghu Kethu Dosam Groom. Ct: 9443681102, Coimbatore.

HINDU Adidravidar (Kongu) 28, B.E, M.Tech., (Ph.D), Seeks goodlooking Groom. CT: 7598988370.

INTERCASTE HINDU Brahmin 25/ 162cms M.Pharm from affluent Industrialist family in Cbe, Seeks suitable Groom preferably working abroad. Caste no bar. Ct: 98429 53500.

TELUGU

KSHATRIYA RAJU, 32/158, Kumbam, Poorattathi, Fair, Ph.D., Food Tech seeks Groom (Abroad preferred) from Telugu Communities. Ct: 8778160819

✔ UNMARRIED, 42/153/WHEATISH, B.E, Chennai, BalijaNaidu Seeks Unmarried groom, 43–46, Working Professional or Businessman, CNB. Send BHP to graiah2019@gmail.com

BALIJA NAIDU Jan 1976, Mirugasiridam, Mithunam, MCA, SWE, CTS Chennai. First Marriage seeks Groom. 9444823815. Email: snsukumar13@ gmail.com

NAIDU 29/165, Uthiram MDS Fair Seeks any PG Professionals/ well settled Grooms in Chennai SNB/ 6382122136

NAIDU 3.12.85/164 BE, MBA SWE MNC CH Ayilyam 2 Padam well settled seeks prof qual groom from decent family. Subsect No Bar Ct: 9952922971

JYESHTA REDDY, Chennai bred, 29/ 158/70, pretty, wheatish, MBBS, embryologist, 1 lac pm, jovial, friendly, outgoing, seeks Telugu, Hindu, extrovert, dynamic, family type from metros or abroad. WhatsApp 9418009585

BALIJA NAIDU Swathi very fair good looking 27 B.Tech/ M.Tech Sastra Univ, doing Ph.D Guindy Engg, Chennai seeks PG professional well settled grooms. Ct: 9865098336, Whatsapp: 7904411819/ rpramanujam@ gmailcom

TELUGU

BALIJANAIDU 1972/50K PM/ Fair/ 165cm/BA/Poosam/CNB Seeks Settled Groom. Ct:. 7395916003, 044–26200465

Balija Naidu Hastam 31/155 BE SWE 11Lpa seeks Goodlooking Groom earn Rs.1Lpm & below 35yrs. 9444634347

KAMMA NAIDU, Beautiful, 27/175, B.E, MBA, Busi.fmly, 100Cr, Sks suitable groom, 9500085718, 9003077746

NAIDU, BEAUTIFUL, 26/169, B.E, MBA, Business family, 100Cr, Sks suitable groom, 8056174102, 8754415378

REDDY 35/165 ME, Veg, Divorce, No Child, empld in Chennai, seeks below 40yrs without child. 9884635286

TELUGU KAAPU, 39, MS, USA, SWE Seeks Groom Employeed Profession in U.S.9490743746.

URDU

SMU 24/160 B.Tech. Chennai Fair Beautiful Working in IT. Seeks well Qualified & Settled Groom, Preferred Abroad. Whatsapp: 9176343757, 9962259650, fouzia21.ahmed@gmail.com

SMU 25/162CM Graduate From Decent Well Settled Family. Contact: 9092186127, 9841736622.

SMU PARENTS Seeking allaince Daughter 28/168 M.D final year. Preferably Post Graduate Doctors. 9791106339

41/ 5"3', Ph D CSE, Wheatish, Sunni. Contact : 9182973484

SMU Syed 38 unmarried Govt. employee, Gazetted, seeks suitable qualified religious groom having good family background. Ph: 9495519229, s.fahidha@yahoo.com

CHENNAI URUDU Parents seeks alliance from Qualified, clean habit groom for educated, religious, fair & Homely daughter (Khula): 7397428335

Elite Matrimony From BharatMatrimony

ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN, 35, 170 cms, Global Business Manager, MBA. Lives in UK. Father is retired. Family is financially well off. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match from the same community. Contact: 7449270602

SAIVA MUDALIYAR, 26, 183 cms, Doctor, pursuing MS in General Surgery. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Chief Engineer. Family is financially well off. Looking for a likeminded Doctor match. Contact: 6381751157

MUDALIYAR, 30, 170 cms, Audit Manager, ACCA. Lives in UK. Father is a Chartered Accountant. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible and well educated match from the same community. Contact: 9360655558

SOZHIYA VELLALAR, 26, 175 cms, Doctor, MS. Lives in Tiruchirappalli. Father is a Doctor. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible and well educated match from the same community. Contact: 9360225494

KAMMA, 28, 180 cms, Program Manager, MS. Lives in USA. Father is a Vice President . Family is financially well off. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match from the same community in USA. Contact: 9345262358

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN, 30, 163 cms, Senior Consultant, Masters. Lives in Bangalore. Father is retired. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible and well educated match from the same community. Contact: 9513551907

MUDALIYAR, 25, 168 cms, pursuing Masters. Lives in Australia. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible and well educated match from the same community in Australia. Contact: 9916950199

KONGU VELLALA GOUNDER, 25, 157 cms, Architect, B.Arch. Lives in Tamil Nadu. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match from the same community in Coimbatore. Contact: 9360655558

NADAR, 25, 163 cms, MBBS. Lives in Chennai. Father is a well known Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match from the same community. Contact: 9362294184

YADAV/TAMIL, 24, 170 cms, Entrepreneur, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match from the same community in Chennai. Contact: 6381751157

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TAMIL

CSI M–NADAR F–Mudaliar 26/162 BE (CS) Wheatish working IT seeks BE/ ME/MCA employed in good job preferably in Chennai/ Bangalore/ Abroad age below 30yrs. from any BC Christian family. Ct: 9445953647/ 9444330960

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Fair, Good Looking, 03–04–1986 born / 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil , working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private) , Suitable Alliance, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact: 9841182514

33/158, Good looking girl employed Bangalore. Seeks employed Christ realised spirit filled Christian boy from Bangalore only. Contact: 8220712872/ 6364044206.

ELITE CHRISTIAN Business Family in Chennai, looking for Bridegrooms age around 33 Settled / Working in US for a fair looking God fearing girl working in America. Ct: raechelsavi@gmail.com

MUSLIM ROWTHER 29/155 M.Com M.Phil Seeks Suitable Groom. Converted Muslims acceptable. 9043435212

ADIDRAVIDA PROTESTANT 28/165, MBA, Working in Foreign Bank in Chennai. Seeks God Fearing Groom. Ph: 9791183867 / 9791183523 / 044 – 26850417

CHRISTIAN GROOM engaged in business for RC Nadar girl Educated at London. Fair,Slim, 162cm 27yrs, family oriented Ct: 9444389092/ 94445 81118

RC NADAR 35/155 MA MPhil employed–ICF Chennai. seeks suitable groom Ct:9445512183/ chella.ranis@ gmail.com

✔ TAMIL MUSLIM fair slim 33 yrs B.E educated girl looking for never married well educated Boy from Chennai. Whatsapp Biodata:7358624675

RC BANGALOREAN Doctor Parents are looking for a suitable PG Doctor groom, Language no bar, studying/ working in India/ UK, for their fair beautiful daughter, MBBS, DTMH (UK) 26/160, studying further in UK. Ct: 9945530186.

CSI– AD 34/ 164 Divorcee ME, PhD Asst Prof Seeks qualified groom Caste– NB Ph 9655679974

ROMAN CATHOLIC Nadar, 33/159 cm, Dentist Divorcee with one child, good looking pious seeks individual earning Groom less than 39 yrs from India or Abroad. Cell: 8220541095.

TAMIL

PILLAI,24/160 SADHAYAM (No Dosham) MBBS,Currently doing MD,Upper middle class family seeks suitable groom with good family background below 29 yrs,Seeks Doctors/PG Engrs,Caste no bar.Ph:+91–9841048236

MUDALIAR 24 BE Chennai seeks well settled qualified Pofn/ Business Groom in Chennai Ct:Geetham 9884858014

REDDY 30 Attorney at Law California seeks suitable profile in California CNB Ct: Geetham 9884858014

Smart girl 30/160 father Kallar mother Isai vellalar working in French bank, Chennai seeks groom from similar parents Ct. : 9443661551

SEEKING ALLIANCE for SC/AD bride, 35 yrs/ 153 cm, B.Tech, Bharani/ Mesham, working Sr. Consultant in a reputed IT firm.Caste No Bar. Ct 8056404941/ 04449595634

IRS(DEPUTY COMMISSIONER),HINDU,31, Caste no bar. Looking for suitable groom.mob– 8754971212

32 /158CM Divorcee Veg Hindu Rajput Hastam MBA Self Emp No Issues Seeks Well Emp Groom CNB Ct:8939449193

SENGUNTHA MUDALIAR Uthiram 28/163, MBA, French National, Employed France,Seeks Equally Qualified France/USA groom. Cont:9894386532

F–DKVSC, M–REDDY, Age:37 BA Slim Fair expects any diploma/degree, private/govt Business,Caste no bar, ct:9003225310 mail:ipmin2019@ gmail.com

HINDU SAIVAPILLAI Age 26 BE 157cm Fair Employed Chennai MNC Seeking groom from decent Pure VegEmployed Chennai Resident. Age within 30yrs pazhamalai57@gmail.com 9283422833

SC,AD,MCA 32/150CM Meenam Purathadhi Working in Private.Seeking Suitable Groom.Ct:09840069565/09710783411

VANIYA CHETTIAR M.Sc 39/157, Karthigai Jr.Sct Officer Chennai, seeks equal Qfln employed Boy.9488722804

SC-AD 31/157 Bharani, Mesham BE Sr.SWE, TCS Rs.72000pm seek same caste groom.9952147216/8838034943

HINDU NADAR Anusham 26/172 Fair doing PhD in Germany seek Educated Groom preferably Europe SameCaste. 9444075051 / vallimahan@gmail.com

HINDU NADAR 24 Fair Slim BE Civil seeks Well Educated Groom Same Caste.Cont:9445095832/ 9791419099

SC-AD Revathi 29/174 ML Judicial Officer Chennai seeks Well Educated Settled Groom upto35yrs. 9710129955

TAMIL

MUDALIYAR 28/155 B.Tech, Wheatish, Bharani, Working in USA seeks Equally Qualified USA Groom. Ct:9840697596. Mail: vishnusuresh9816@gmail.com

HINDU NADAR B.COM., MBA/ age 29/164cm/1,50.000PM /Bridegroom wanted /K.A.Raman Nadar/ what's : 9380791999

✔ HINDU INTERCASTE Fbc/Msc, 30 MSC journalist Uthiram Nonveg Chennai seeks suitable Groom with clean habits.ct 9940504016

SC AD BE 29 Wheatish Chevvai Thosam Working in Foreign Bank. Prefer In & Around Chennai Send BHP Ct : 9841966234

YADAVA GOOD Looking, 28/155, Ayilyam, Kadagam Rasi, B.Com, MBA, seeks Yadava groom. Ct: 9844261097

HINDU SOZHIYA Vellalar 35 / 160 cm MBBS, Govt. Dr, Divorcee (No Child). Seeks MBBS, BDS, PG. Suitable groom, (No Child) good family. Contact : 9500766577

VISWAKARMA, ROHINI, July77, 155cm BSC, MBA Sr. Manager Standard Chartered Bank Ch, 85K pm seeks Groom Ct: 9840616326 / gans_74@yahoo.com

BAKYA & BANU Msc,B.Ed M.Phil, Teacher Yadava(CasteNoBar), 16.12. 82,8.35am, Dhanusu,Moolam,3rd Padam,Chennai 9080988170, smuthu2425@gmail.com

MUDALIAR, 36Yrs, Very Pretty, Fair Working for MNC, desires a partner to match her stature. CNB. Contact - 9949985811 / 9989827274

HINDU NADAR /24 /B.E/ PVT /3.5Lak / P.ASG Durainadar Chromepet Ch–44 044–48573284, 6381576005 10am– 6pm

MUDALIAR GIRL 27/152 Uthradam Fair Good Looking B.Tech MBA Working in Software Co., Upper Middle Class Seeks Alliance from Groom with Equal Match with Raghu Dosham. 9043020942

MUDALIAR GIRL 27/152 Uthradam Fair Good Looking B.Tech MBA Working in Software Co., Upper Middle Class Seeks Alliance from Groom with Equal Match with Raghu Dosham. 9043020942

HINDU SC/ PARAIYAR, 1981, M.Com, Ph.D, Asst.Prof, Hindustan University seeks suitable Hindu / Christian Groom-Nellai Dist. Ct: 9487650079

MUDALIAR EDUCATED parents seek groom for their daughter Uthiratadhi 29/155 BE & journalism job@ Chennai. CT: 9841281331. thanga1960@gmail.com

Hindu, Muthuraja, M.E, 29/165, Asst Prof. Simmam / Pooram, seeks suitable Groom with B.E, M.E, MBA, M.S, working India or abroad. 9443756523.

BRIDES WANTED

BUSINESS

Alliance for our only son, aged 29 yrs, B.E, Fair, handsome with clean habits residing in Chennai, height 5'78, doing business in Construction, Agri Exports, Mining, Intercaste Vellalar, Net worth about 300 Crores. Fair & beautiful bride from a decent educated family of same net worth with clean habits preferred. Caste no bar age below 26 yrs.
E-mail : mgnath77@yahoo.com 7299844777

COSMOPOLITAN

ALLIANCE SOUGHT for a soft spoken teetotaller Ezhava boy, Date Of Birth: 22.06.1994, 162 cms, fair, good-looking, well read scientist engineer with ISRO, Thiruvananthapuram, a rank holder from IIT. The girl should either be a Postgraduate or be doing Postgraduate or Ph.D in any of the IIT's or AIIMS across the country. Any religion barring Muslims and Christians, should be good-looking. The boy has no other relatives except for his widowed mother, a retired teacher. We offer full support in furthering the personal and career alike. Preference to girls with one or two male siblings. Interested please do contact, Phone: 9567170748

SMARTHA DESISTA Marathi /31/173/ BE. MS/MNC Bangalore seeks well qualified, employed Brahmin girl. Contact: 9480616626 / 9845830683.

WE ARE looking for an alliance for our son Rounak, Age 31, Height 5'11', Residing in Pune, B.E (Civil), M.Tech (Construction and Mgt) , Business – Construction, Real Estate, Hospitality, Owns Bungalow in Baner, Pune, Affluent, Progressive, Spiritual. Hindu, Kashyap Gothram, Vegetarian. Looking for well educated, compassionate girl.Caste no bar. Email Id: info@ecobluesapphire.com. Ph: 9850903665

Intercaste Parents, 32, 5'10, only son from affluent family, Doctor, Physician, US Citizen now residing in Hyderabad. Looking for a suitable match. Caste no bar. Contact: 91-7093533076, Email: Goodtiming3399@gmail.com,

RICH SENIOR Citizen Life Partner Age : 35–50. Divorcee And Widow Welcome. 9445435377/ agni1960@ yahoo.com

DOCTOR

AFFLUENT VELLALAH Orthopaedic surgeon, 31 years divorcee from Nagercoil, no encumbrances looking for bride from same or related caste. Doctor or non doctor from well off family. Bride Divorced without children or not married. Call 9443131342

ENGLISH

BRIDE WANTED for a educated boy 29/ 167 B.com, MBA Working in MNC Seeking English Speaking Roman Catholic working girls settled in Chennai Ct: 91760 60027 / 89391 53313

MUDALIAR – we are looking for a bride for our only son aged 26 years , height – 5'9" completed MBA from IIM , and B.E –Mechanical from a reputed institute . working in chennai in a MNC with income of 18 lakhs / annum . Family is financially well settled . Interested can contact us on + 91 9551131093 .

Professor, 39/ 170, PhD, Hindu, Vanniya Kula Kshatriyar, Ayilyam-Katagam/ Vellore/ Seeks Qualified Girl (age 27- 34)/ CNB/ Call me @ 9791177668.

MALAYALAM

CHRISTIAN ERUDITE 28, Tall, US Employed. US Based Parents any Denomination Kindly Contact: 9791683272

MALAYALAM

Palghat Nair Anusham 28/170 B.Tec MBA,IT,MNC chen seek fair Prof.quafd Nair Bride.044-26564753/ 9940208911

HINDU NAIR Groom, 34/165cms, Revathi, Good looking, B.Tech.(I.T) Soft-Ware Engineer-Technopark,IBS Software Services,Trivandram. Well settled. Ct: 9941424563/ 9841478564/ 9042553215/ 9400274854

HINDU MALAYALI Viswakarma boy, 29, B'lore based, 180 cm, BE MBA (S'pore), employed outside Karnataka presently, well settled, intercaste parentage. Seeks Malayali bride. Ph:9600190880 mail to: pbpbmon@gmail.com

MARATHI

MARATHI BRAHMIN, 32, MBA, Gautama Gotra, 175 CM, seeks educated and employed bride Ph: 9962581127

TAMIL

NRI RESIDING in USA for 12yrs, 37 yrs handsome groom, B.E Senior Product Manager Amazon,Christian Vellalar. Seeking well educated good looking girl,Any Religion/ Caste contact:8939151823, maryraj.ray@gmail.com

CRISTIYAN BRIDE Wanted:26yrs/6'1, Born again, upper middle class, Software engg.in Europe(work permit)seeking for his son a fair & good looking girl , in a decent family, min.H 5'3, Backward community,ph: 9444894641

NADAR CSI 1984/ 158 B.Com Divorced Chennai MNC Project Lead 65K Seeks-Bride in Chennai. Ct:93809 20784

CHRISTIAN MUDHALIYAR 26, 6 ft,30Cr Networth,Business,Well Settled in Chennai Seeks Suitable Bride (any Degree, any BC Community) – 9360894447

CHRISTIAN NADAR 33/176, US Educated Corporate employed Chennai from Business Rich Affluent Educated family seeks Professionally Qualified Bride from same Community. Ct: 9443256614, 9884353795.

MUSLIM 28/172 MBBS,PG Fin Librated Parent seeks MBBS Bride Modrn / Pious & Small famly. drkan29@ gmail.com

CSI NADAR 13.04.1975 162cm B.E, M.S, D.G.M, M.N.C, Chennai 2L/M, Slim Handsome Young needs M.E, M.Sc,M.Phil, Ph.D, MBBS Bride.Ct: 9442758847

DOCTOR age56 Widower Earning 2Lpm Seeks Widow, divorcee. Age Caste No Bar. 9840568449.

TAMIL MUSLIM 37, PG, Tall, 30L PA, affluent seeks educated, pretty, Tamil /Malayalam bride.PH: 9344087122

MUSLIM 28/176 MD paediatrics Seeks Prof qualified bride Ct: 8220042091 mdullahsafi@gmail.com

RC NADAR 35/166, m.tech,m.b.a,35k/ pm smart looking,clean habit,divorce seeks bride.ph:9345691983

AG CHRISTIAN 38 / 178 Fair, slim, BE MS Owns Software Firm, Own house in Chennai, Only Son, Parents – Retd.Govt Officers, seeks suitable bride. Subsects no bar. Ph: 9445481313

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA 26/174 kumbam,puratathi-1,RahukethuDosam ME,Engr,TVS Chennai, Well Settled Parents seeks Govt/Private Executive Ct: 9445487378/ vedsiva@gmail.com

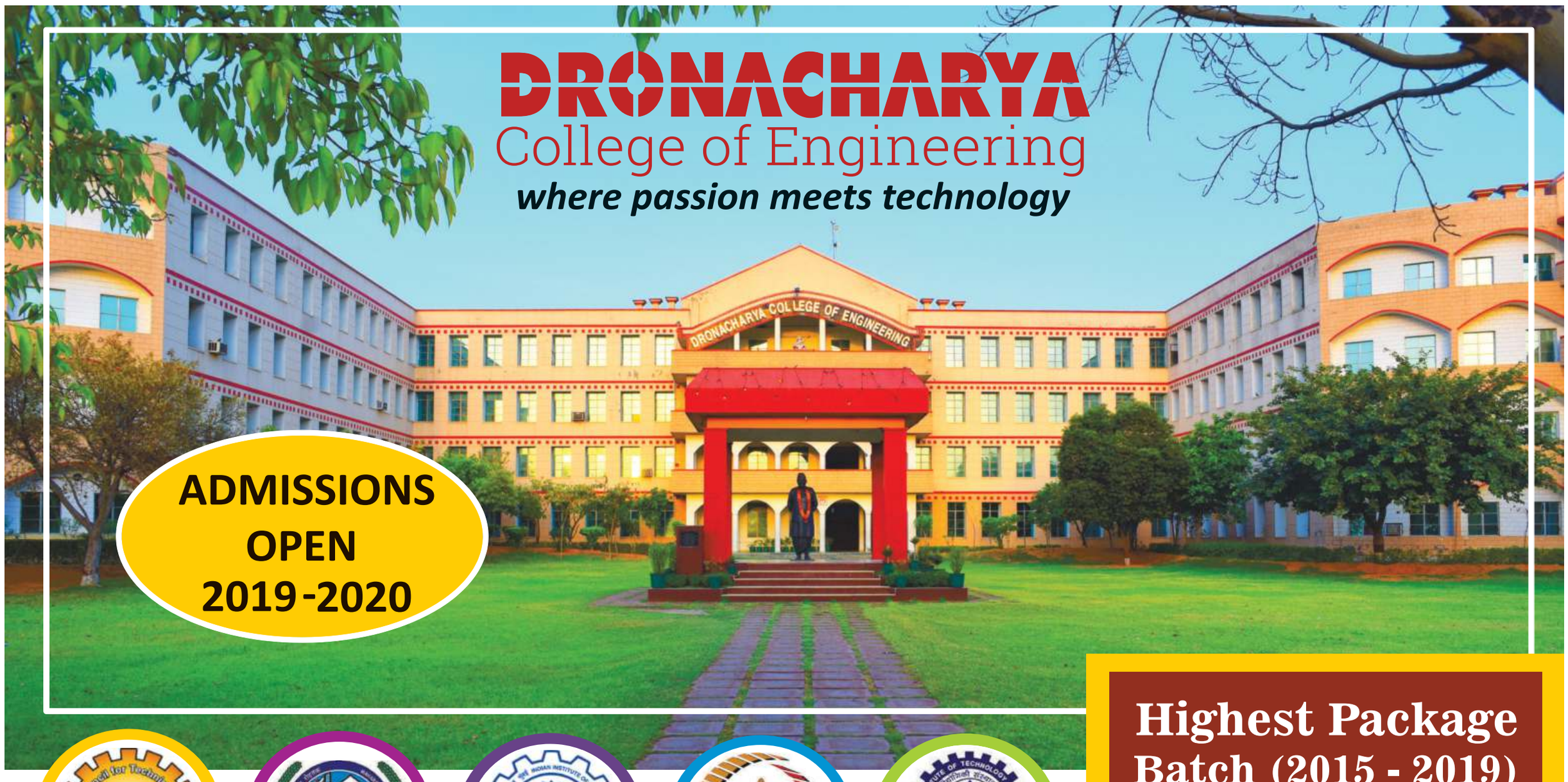
BALIJA NAIDU Hastham 38/170 Employed, Puducherry, Middle Class, Seeks Suitable Naidu or Equivalent Caste bride. Ct:9442787805

33, DKV, BAMS Doctor, Own Clinic & Medical Shop, Own house in Chennai. 9448725470/ 8197795301

KULALAR THIRUVONAM 33yrs Ht 181cms ME citizen of Canada seeks Girl of age 27–29 qualified from Metrocity willing to settle abroad 9444432635

VISWAKARMA (CASTE no bar) Male Age 28,Height:5.7ft,Handsome Boy,Running Business in Coimbatore,Looking Traditional Girl.Ph: 8056456694

WANTED FAIR Beautiful girl Caste no bar Affluent Hindu Tamil Boy B.E. MBA. IIM Age 28 Ht 5'11" 9840970170



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GATE QUALIFIERS 2019

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Divas
Gate Score : 585
Branch : ME

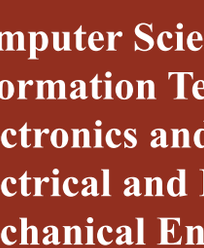
Drishty Raj
Gate Score : 506
Branch : Civil

Rishabh Madan
Gate Score : 502
Branch : Civil

Mayank Madan
Gate Score : 481
Branch : CSE

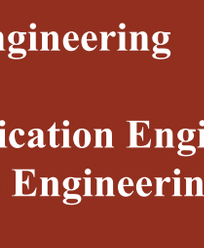
Shubham Shukla
Gate Score : 407
Branch : CSE

Himanshu Gupta
Gate Score : 426
Branch : CSE

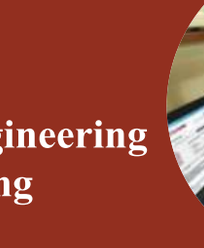


Bhumika Chugh
Gate Score : 370
Branch : CSE

Ritik Gautam
Gate Score : 363
Branch : Civil



Manish Jhajot
Gate Score : 359
Branch : CSE



Aman
Gate Score : 358
Branch : ME

Piyush Vig
Gate Score : 352
Branch : ME

Vivek Pant
Gate Score : 352
Branch : ME

Asad Ullah
Gate Score : 282
Branch : ME

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REMEMBRANCE

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HEMAMALINI MUTHURAMAN
(Sep 14, 1975 – Jun 22, 2017)
D/o Muthuraman Kuppareddy & W/o Sivakumar C.N
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DELHI Timings

SUNDAY, JUNE 23			
RISE	05:25	SET	19:23
RISE	23:46	SET	10:31
MONDAY, JUNE 24			
RISE	05:25	SET	19:23
RISE	00:00	SET	11:23
TUESDAY, JUNE 25			
RISE	05:25	SET	19:23
RISE	00:18	SET	12:15

IN BRIEF

Trio apprehended for sodomising, killing teen

GURUGRAM

Three minors were apprehended on Saturday for allegedly sodomising and murdering a mentally disabled teenager in Sector 5 here, the police said. The crime was committed on June 14, they said. The victim succumbed to injuries on Saturday following which his father reported the matter to the police.

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	40	27
Safdarjang	40	27
Palam	42	27

Delhi Palam Today
41ºC A dusty and comfortable morning lies ahead. Day will be hot and dry with a few clouds.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
40ºC A hazy morning lies ahead. Day will be hot. There are chances of dust storm and thundershower.

Mehrauli murders: accused was upset over family's poor health

Wife was diabetic, he had BP issues for past three months

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

Investigators probing the Mehrauli murders on Saturday said the accused allegedly killed his family members because of poor health of his wife and himself.

Upendra Kumar Shukla was arrested for allegedly killed his wife Archana, daughter Ranya, son Raunak, and a month-old baby boy in the early hours of Saturday at their residence in south Delhi's Mehrauli.

A senior officer said he allegedly told the investigators that his wife was diabetic and fell ill more frequently after childbirth. "He said Archana could not do household chores and take proper care of children because of her poor health. He had blood pressure problems for the past three months. Upendra was worried that both of them were ill and there was no one to take care of his children and hence decided to kill his family members and himself," the officer said.

Tension between couple

Another investigator said there was tension between the couple "because the wife used to remain irritated and often lost her calm after childbirth".

The police said Upendra bought the knife, used in the commission of crime, sedatives and milk on Friday night. "He mixed the sedatives in the milk and fed it to the victims," the officer said.

Upendra's mother-in-law Lalita Devi, who has been residing in their house for the past three months, said the couple's infant son was with her on Friday night. However, Upendra came and took the child with him to feed him milk, she said.

In the CCTV footage obtained from the camera installed outside the building, Upendra can be seen leaving at 8.30 p.m. on Friday and returning half an hour later. He was carrying a bag, the police said.

When questioned about Upendra's behaviour, neighbours said he appeared to be educated and mostly communicated in English.

"He never lost his cool. He had come to buy a few things from me around 5 p.m. on Friday and seemed fine. The couple never fought in public and looked like a happy family," said Deepak Agarwal, who runs a grocery shop on the ground floor of the building.

MATRIMONIAL

BRIDES WANTED

TAMIL

CHETTIAR 37/168 own business settled Coimbatore seeks any BC Community smart bride. 9443750184/ 9865072972

GOVT MBBS MD Pediatrics Doctor/ 30 years from Mudaliar Community seeks MBBS Bride. Ct: 9442411172. Email: jaya.3105@gmail.com

MUDALIAR, 38, B.Com,MBA,70000/p.m,Gud look,well settled seeks suitable bride,CNB,Ct.7200866346/8778514465

HINDU NADAR BE/ 27/173cm 1,30,000/pm Seeks Bride. Raman Nadar Whatsup –9380791999ramannadar2004@gmail.com

35YRS VANNIYAR BTech(IT) 178 cms, wheatish Kadagam Star Poosam Tech Manager/HCL/Chennai/1lakh pm/Own House seeks Educated Brides(Vanniyar Only) born in Revathi,Kettai, Visagam, Avittam,Uthiradam,MirugasaresamStars ct K.Palani,Cheran St, Maraimalainagar–603209, Ct 9176759899

RAJESH 35,BSC, General Mgr (PVT), 1.40 Lac PM.Seeks Girl with Degree.(Caste No Bar). whatsapp–8610014920

VANNIYAR BOY Fair 28/168 M.S (USA) Rishabam Karthigai SWE Working in CHE 12L/P/A Seeks Fair and Educated Bride Ct: 9444169764/ 044–24795764

SEEKING WORKING, good looking bride for my son, 29/174, BE, Vanniyar, working in Microsoft, Hyd. Native: Neyveli. C/R: No bar. 7842374014

Alliance invited for Sozihya Vellala Bridegroom, 28yrs, B.Tech, M.B.A, Employed, Own House, Land, Wealthy Family from Suitable bride. Mudaliars also can apply. Ct:0413-2213834 / 9944064540

HINDU/ KARUNEEGAR (Pillai) Viveka Vinayagam B, BE graduated, 36 yrs, ht 5'4" Chennai, Looking for suitable bride ct: 9789878162

SAIVAPILLAI THIRUVADIRAI 23/178, B.E., SWE, Chennai, Seeks beautiful bride. Contact: 9443443914 / e-mail: chidams_mdu@yahoo.com

HINDU NADAR 39, B.E, 170 Cm, Rs. 75000/–Pm, Divorced,All BC ok. Preferred age below 32.Ct: 9789071515

33 Tamil MD doctor working in jipmer smart good looking devandra kula Vellalar caste no bar seeking bride. Ph 9787278408.

CASTE NO BAR.Permanent Resident in UK 37/178 / Uthiram. BE, MBA working in BT – London, Seeks Good Looking Graduate Girl . 8971526262

HINDU BC 25 Simmham Pooram doing M.B.B.S Motherless, invisible Phy.handi Boy Only Father Govt Retd Car, Own House. Need Graduate Decent Compassionate Family any BC.8300370750

IYENGAR BHARATHWAJ Gothram / Visakam MBA 33/173 Wheatish Colour Clean Habits seeks Graduate Bride Caste No Bar Ct:7871137806

HINDU NADAR BE /MBA /30 /175cm / 2, 00,000 PM Working in Bangalore Seeks Bride /K.A.Raman Nadar 9380791999

ThuluvaVellala Mudaliar 32 BE(ECE) emp MNC,Chennai seek eductd Mudaliar bride.9840334131/ 9840898891(w)

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER (Group 1 Officer) Commercial Taxes, 39/175, CNB, seeks suitable Girl with MBBS or Any Degree. CT: 98655-88329.

MUDALIAR/38/SECTION OFFICER,GOVT.,HIGH Court,Ch.Caste No bar. 9486021062

Balija Naidu Krithigai 29/160 BE MBA Working Banglore seeks Educated Employed Bride. Contact: 9840983387

SEER KARUNEEGAR, V.Viswanathan B.E, Age 27 Yrs, Vegetarian, Working as Software Engineer in WIPRO–Chennai.Seeks Bride With Good Family Background & Education.(Vegetarian Only) Contact : 9445863207 / 9551756618

HINDU ST Poosam 38/162 BE, MBA ManagerCentralgovt Divorcee NoIssue seeksEducatedBrideCNB.9677247227

HINDU GAVARA 39/160 BE MNC CHN 8.5 LPA, seeks middle class girl cont: 7871433297.

IYER MOUDGALYAM Gowthram 33 years BE, MBA, working in Pvt company, 24000/pm near Kanchipuram seeks graduate bride. No expectations. Both parents not alive. Contact: 9994657081

TAMIL

HINDU NADAR, unmarried, 41/180 BBM, Pooradam, fair self-employed, clean habits, well std in Blr, seeks graduated, good family BG bride upto 36. LCNB, 9980914365, raam2366@gmail.com

HINDU SC Ayilyam 43/178 Doctor MS Handsome Teetotaler Unmarried seek Doctor Bride below 40yrs. Caste No Bar.Ct: 8668090209 / 8248223023 (W)

ALLIANCE FOR our son (Arunagiri), Widowed, 34 years (30/07/1984), 5'11", B.Tech , (Hindu), (Sengunthar). Contact 9986286801 or Email to arunagirirajasekaran1984@gmail.com

CASTE NOBAR Handsome Hindu SC/AD 38/168CM BE, HCL,Chennai 16Ls/ Annum.Ct: 9840368809, sbpalani@yahoo.co.in

SAIVA MUDALIYAR 34/180, BA, BL, M.Sc., Legal Company & Bank 15L P.A Seeks Fair Good Looking Educated Family Veg Only 9080374843 / 9841298539

VISHWAKARMA GOLDSMITH Chennai, Never Married Groom 42/176, Pvt Compy. +2, CNB Only Hindu - 8754589314

INTERCASTE PARENTS (F–chettiar M–saiva Mudaliyar) Seeks Suitable Working Girl (Vegetarian) for their son Age 28 (B.E)/ Uthiram/ 178 cms/ Fair/ SWE,Contact 9710080772, 9442506706

HINDU Adidravidar (Kongu) 27, B.E, M.Tech., (Ph.D), seeks goodlooking bride. Ct:8760883559, 8637663072

MUDALIAR GROOM B'lore 5'11 B.A Bed.Bride required below 34 cast no bar ph. 9449719453/ 9945752903

SAIVA PILLAI CNB MSc,MBA 4Lakh/ Month CompanyOwner 10Crore Propertied onlyson Unmarried Nov.1973 whe atish 173cm Visagam. 9841553677(W)

HINDU BC fair, Rohini, Rishabam, 34/ 180 cm, B.E USA, L1B Visa, seeks fair Bride, any degree and ht above 160 cm. Caste No Bar. Ct: 9600867757. selvaraaj2013@gmail.com

SC AD Hindu Kongu–PR Coimbatore OCT89 5.11Ft Tall Fair B.Tech(NIT) MS(Germany) work at Bangalore Only Son 9443709427(W.App) or 0422 4347427

HINDU NADAR /28 /B.E /5.4Lakhs /P.A SG Durainadar Chromepet Ch–44 044–48573284, 6381576005 10am–6pm

ARCOT AGAMUDAYA MDR 41 yrs MCA, LDC Pondicherry Govt. Seeks PG/UG Empd / Unempd. Girl can also find a job in pondicherry. No Demands Ct. 9940970769

AD 31/ 170, Kadagam, Poosam BE Mech. Site Engr. Working Saudi Seeks Bride Hindu/ Christian. Ct:7708133834

PIRAMALAI KALLAR/MADURAI/LEGALLY divorced/Remarriage/Age 44/Rs. 40, 000 pm Brides wanted 8838584381

GOKUL. IYER. Age: 29. B.E. Bharadhwajam. Mirugarsheesham. Height: 6 ft. Salary: 40000. Own House. Chennai. Ph: 9884420014

ADIDRAVIDAR, 29/163, M.Tech, PETROLIUM ENGR, 10Lac.PA, 250Cr, Sks suitable Bride, 8056272922, 9003281596

CHETTIAR, 27/185, B.E, MBA, MS, SWE, MNC, USA, 100000$PA, 4Cr, Sks suitable Bride, 9789850231, 9677086774

MUDALIAR, 26/175, CA, OWN AUDIT FIRM, 200000PM, 200Cr, Seeks suitable Bride, 8056091059, 7358378866

PILLAI, H.SOME, 30/180, B.E. (E&C) , Business family, 250Cr, Seeks suitable Bride, 9566002501, 9500147440

SC/AD/25/168,BE,ASWINI(RAGU/KETHU) WORK Canara Bank seeks working bride preferably Bank/LIC. ct:9994195565

RC NADAR, 29, 178 cms, MS from USA, Software Professional, Working in US, Parents Educated and well off. Looking for a like-minded and educated match. Contact: 9444380548

CHENNAI BASED THEVER well to do family, own business ,Properties, construction & Finance, MBA Age. 30,height 5.6" , Fair, Exercise body,clean habits,looking a bride – a degree holder from a well settled family from same community. Ph– 9444075777

REDDIYAR BOY 39, Poorattathy, clean habits, M.E, 14 Lakhs PA, Top MNC own Flat & House seeks suitable bride. Please Ct: 9985792975.

TAMIL

CHENNAI HIGH Status kind Govt Job 35 yrs Fair PG Innocent Divorce and Hindu Seeks Educ Girl. 9884171419

Alliance for Highly Qualified Affluent Professional Iyer 54years Healthy Young-look bachelor seeks Unmarried Bride.Can relocate India/US/UK. Caste No Bar.Reply: s2155698@gmail.com

IYER HARITHAM Ashwini April 76 Blr M.Sc, MS(CS), well settled boy seeks any never married Brahmin girls. Send BHP hdrs.rajkumar@gmail.com

NIYOGI TELUGU Brahmin 37/180 MBA own business 10 LPA seeks any vegetarian bride contact:9884443330

IYER VADAMA, Kausigam 1983, MS in US and employed in US, drawing a salary of US $90000/- PA, clean habits, seeks any graduate Brahmin girl with good family background. Ct: 9686417417 or 080-26724422

TAMIL IYER BOY well educated (BE, MS) settled in US, Green Card, 43/ 180 Srivatsa Uthiradam divorcee no issues, seeks well educated Iyer/ Iyengar bride. Respond with BHP to rmrk1950@gmail.com

Iyer Kasyaba Chitirai Kanni 44/172 Unmarried MSc,TCS Chen seeks Educatd Bride.SubsectNoBar.9840149495

BRAHMIN HANDSOME 29 yrs/181cms B.Tech, USA citizen, earning $80000 p.a. seeks any Brahmin. Ph: 7358535950

IYER BHARADHWAJAM Uthiram, 37yrs/ 180cms, BE, MNC Chennai 15 Lakhs per annum, Own House at Chennai seeks any Brahmin Girl. Ct: 09445222214

VADAKALAI SADAYAM Srivatsam 46/170 unmarried BAemplyd seek Any BraminBride.9444740544/9444958511

TAMIL VADAKALAI Iyengar son 33Yrs MBA own Business bharani srivatsa gothram, seeks Brahmin bride frm educated decent family subsect no bar send details to iqssjn@gmail.com

IYER VADAMA, Srivatsa Moolam 37, B.Com EMP Saudi 6L PA Seeks Graduate with Teaching Preferred. 9941798207

DIVORCEE 35 Uthiram Brahmin MNC seek alliance from educated girl for early simple marriage CNB 9626985553

BRAHMIN, 1975, Unmarried, Pvt Comp 2L /month. Expecting bride from any Marital status. Prefer vegetarian. Cont :7824033219

IYER KOUNDINYA Gothram Avittam 26 / 175 B.Tech MBA MNC Bangalore 14L pa, seeks Professionally qualified Good looking girl with good family background & values. SS matri id: 169962. Ph: 9840078972, 9841178325

Iyer, Well to do family, Uthram (4), 36 /178 cms, MBA, Manager,Hyderabad, seeks girl willing to settle in Hyd, caste no bar, No Demands.Ph:8106885021

ELITE YADAVA BRIDE WANTED
Well to do Yadava, Bharani, 27 / 172, M.Tech., D.Agri. Doing Wholesale / Retail Agro Business in Cumbum (TN) seeks suitable bride.
9865375235, 9443600003

BRIDE WANTED
HINDU NADAR, 29/175, Hastham, Fair, Handsome, B.Tech., MBA, NRI Clean Habits seeks Elite NADAR BRIDE 20 - 23.
Contact
7598344708

KAMBAR / ISAI Vellalar / Moolam, Dhanush, 32/5L PA, Lecturer / Advocate M.L., Ph.D with SET Tiruchendur, 8072781487.

Iyer Brahcharanam / Koundinyam / Avitam 1988 MNC / Bangalore, seeks educated working bride. 94431 32445.

VANIYA CHETTIAR Uthram M.Sc 42/ 175 Jr Sct Officer. Seeks Girl any Degree, Sub caste also. 9488722804

Naidu BE 36 / 182 working at Singapore seeking Doctor, SWE, Nurse bride age 28 - 33 for a well settled family. Subsect No Bar. Contact : 09791698985.

HINDU CHETTIAR, 33/183, M.B.B.S, Govt.Doctor seeks Doctor/ Engr. Bride. BC/ MBC. Ct: 97897 95670

TELUGU

Balija Naidu 27/180 MS(Eng) working in Netherland seek Software Bride.Sub sect NoBar. 9841279755/ 9444319109

TELUGU

TELUGU DEVANGA Chetty 12–Nov–1984 B.Arch 7.2Lakhs P.A Thiruvathirai Raghu in at Lagnam, Kethu in at 7th, No Own House, seeks Qualified Employee Bride, CNB. Contact : 9176766335 , 9884468691

CHETTIAR 36/181CMS B.Tech MBA 12 LAKHS/PA Manager. Seeks TELUGU/ TAMIL chennai girl. Preferably vegetarian. Ct 9444559768/044–42859960

GAVARA NAIDU, 33, Kettai, B.E., SWE- Hyderabad seeks Fair, B.E/ PG Bride. Caste No Bar. Ct: 9362412226.

BALIJA NAIDU Chennai Based 34/ 165 Swathi, Physiotherapist, 1.5lac PM Working At Abhudhabi seeks a suitable Girl Call: 91593 73249

KAMMA 29/177CM Shatabhisha BE10L PA seeks girl from same community with Good Family9367641813/ 9080152824

WANTED BRIDE 35 to 39 years for fair groom aged 48 yrs, 6 feet tall, chennai based. computer engg graduate with mba degree, working in mnc, any caste is ok, groom belong to kamma naidu, divorced, no issues interested contact 9787302360 email rvjay2004@gmail.com please send biodata along with photos

5'10–38YR,IVY LEAGUE, PG (Gallup), High status Naidu family,seeks,slim ,V.beautiful,well–educated girl, NaiduPref, Mail,BHP: dr.naidu1952@gmail.com mob:8792298197

BALIJA NAIDU UTHIRAM Age 27 / 175 cms B.E. Dual MBA working as Financial Analyst in MNC with decent salary at Chennai seeks same caste & matching Horoscope Chennai based Professional / Employed Bride. Pl contact 95662 80891

Balija Naidu Thiruvadhirai 33/170 Fair BE,MBA,SWE 19Lpa seekgoodlooking EducatedEmployed Bride.9444634347

REDDY, 27/177, B.E, MS, SWE, GOOGLE, USA, 200000$PA, 25Cr, Seeks suitable Bride, 8056272922, 9003281596

KAMMA NAIDU, 28/178, B.E., MBA, MBBS, Busi.family, 200Cr, Seeks suitable Bride, 9500085718, 9003077746

BALIJA NAIDU Uthiram Age 31/176cm B.E.,MS Employed in Singapore, Seeks B.E Bride 9840104373/ 9952064373

TELUGU VANNAR, 34, MBA, Kanni, Astham, Mktg Mgr, Jpn. Car Mfg.Co, 14LPA, Any Telugu OK. Ct: 98942 64600

A WELL settled 32 year old postgraduate doctor, divorcee, looking for a Brahmin bride from a traditional family with progressive views. Contact 9849367000

TELUGU BRAHMIN 36yrs , Vaadhula, B.E., M.B.A, Manager MNC, Unconsummated Divorcee seeks suitable Brahmin (Tamil, Telugu, Iyer, Iyengar) Bride between 28-33 yrs. No Expectations. Ct: 9894839852

BRAHMIN IYENGAR Never married 48/ 5'7" BE, ME working Software MNC Bangalore seeking Brahmin alliance bsreenath@hotmail.com

Intercaste Parents Avittam 34 BCom Govt Chen 32k NoOwnhouse/property seeks bride.Caste NoBar. 6382186957

BALIJA NAIDU 35/165 BE Ayilyam Kadagam settled abroad seeks Tamil/ Telugu girl, decent family. 8189971716

KAVARA Kettai 28/178 B.Tech, Hotel (Director) and Own Industry. Seeks beautiful bride. Cont: 9790002554

URDU

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Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by S. Ramanujam at HT Media Ltd. Plot No. 8, Udyog Vihar, Greater Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. 201306, on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
Regd. DL(ND)-11/6110/2006-07-08 • RNI No. UPENG/1986/49939 • ISSN 0971 - 751X • Vol. 9 • No. 25

Smriti Irani visits Amethi

Goa CM accompanies, promises development works

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AMETHI (U.P.)

Union Minister Smriti Irani and Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant visited Amethi's Barolia village on Saturday to meet the family members of BJP worker Surendra Singh, who was killed recently.

Former Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar had adopted Barolia in 2015 as a Rajya Sabha MP from Uttar Pradesh.

Parrikar adopted village

"We are saddened at the death of Singh. He was a devoted party worker and the party stands with his family," Mr. Sawant said after meeting the family.

"Manohar Parrikar had adopted this village. If the U.P. government wants, we will work on education, health, roads, water and other problems here in his (Parrikar's) memory," Mr. Sawant said.

Former village head Surendra Singh was killed on May 25.

Mr. Sawant added that he had worked as a party worker in Amethi in the run-up to the 2014 Lok Sabha elections and had come in contact with party worker Surendra Singh, who was shot dead soon after the 2019 general elections.

This is Ms. Irani's first planned visit to her constituency after defeating Congress president Rahul Gandhi.

'Sawant avoiding work'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
PANAJI

Criticising Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's visit to Barolia village in Amethi in Uttar Pradesh, the Congress in Goa accused him of running away from pressing issues in the State like unemployment, contamination of fish with formalin and the mining ban, while at the same time promising to undertake developmental works instead in Amethi constituency.

"There is unrest everywhere in Goa. Chief Minister cannot find time for Goa and he has the time to go to Amethi to solve their problems. Our Chief Minister should first focus on solving issues which Goa is facing," Goa Congress president Girish Chodankar said.

Barmer oil refinery back on track

Gehlot government pushes for project completion within four years

MOHAMMED IQBAL
JAIPUR

The Barmer oil refinery, caught in a political quagmire after its foundation stone was laid by UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi in 2013, has come back to the priority list of the Congress government here, with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot setting the target for the project's completion within four years.

Barmer oil refinery would be a significant industrial project resulting in the establishment of a model oil refinery with an investment of ₹43,129 crore.

ASHOK GEHLOT
Rajasthan Chief Minister

Stalled, renegotiated

The previous BJP regime had stalled the project and renegotiated the terms with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited for setting up the refinery. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated "commencement of work" at project site Pachpadra last year and accused the Congress of announcing the project without any clearances or budget allocation.

Mr. Gehlot, who had criticised Mr. Modi for "relaying" the refinery's foundation stone, said here over the weekend that this would be a significant industrial project resulting in the establishment of a model oil refinery with an investment of ₹43,129 crore.

He asked the HPCL officials and the State government departments to make the refinery operational as per the target.

Job opportunities

The Chief Minister at a review meeting said that the youth had high hopes on the refinery for jobs and business opportunities. He said the State government would set up skill development centres as well as an industrial training institute for imparting training and guidance on petrochemical-related subjects.

An industrial corridor to be developed in Barmer district will also ensure consumption of petrochemical products and create employment opportunities.

Mr. Gehlot said the existing Jodhpur-Barmer road would be converted into a six-lane highway to cater to the increase in traffic, while the wayside facilities would help the travellers and drivers.

HPCL Managing Director M.K. Surana said the refinery project would create 40,000 jobs directly and 60,000 jobs indirectly. He said ₹1,348 crore had so far been spent and tenders had been floated for construction works worth ₹10,000 crore.

Odisha bid to improve attendance in schools

Students to get transport cost

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHUBANESWAR

In a bid to improve attendance in schools, the Odisha government on Saturday decided to give transportation cost to students who stay more than a kilometre away from their schools.

This comes with a rider because only those students with an attendance of more than 30% will get the allowance, officials said.

The decision was taken at a review meeting chaired by School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash.

The government has also decided to close down 966 schools across the State since there are less than 10 students in each of these schools. These students will be relocated to other schools.

"If the distance exceeds one km, travel expense will be given to parents of the children," Mr. Dash said.

The government has also decided to close down 966 schools since there are less than 10 students in each of these schools

He added the cash incentive will be given to the parents for 10 months in a year.

Students having more than 75% attendance will get ₹600 per month as travel expense, while students with 50% to 75% attendance will get ₹400 per month, officials said.

Similarly, ₹300 will be given to students with attendance between 50% to 70%, the Minister said, adding, no transportation cost will be provided to students with less than 30% attendance.

Shooting stars

Members of the J&K Wheelchair Basketball Association participating for the first time in the Sixth Wheelchair Basketball Championship at Mohali in Punjab on Saturday. ▪ NISSAR AHMAD

2 undertrials flee Tripura jail

SYED SAJJAD ALI
AGARTALA

Two men on trial for murder and arms trafficking escaped from a prison in south Tripura on Saturday. The escape, which took place in broad daylight, rattled the entire prison department in the State.

One of the two escaped prisoners, Swarna Tripura (26), had been involved in a similar breakout from Bishalgarh central jail on October 21, 2016. He had fled with two other inmates who had been serving life term in connection with separate murder cases.

Swarna and his accomplice Jewel Tripura were recently arrested for their involvement in illegal trade of small arms. At the time of the escape, they were in judicial custody at Sabroom Sub Jail in south Tripura, 130 km from here.

BSF alerted

The police and paramilitary forces launched a search to track down the escaped criminals. The Border Security Force was also alerted as Sabroom is situated near the Bangladesh border.

Senior prison officers, policemen and administrative officials rushed to Sabroom to probe the incident.

The State's home department has sought a report from the prisons department following the escape.

Bengal to observe death anniv. of S.P. Mookerjee

Last year too, TMC govt. remembered the BJP ideologue on his 65th death anniversary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

For the second year, the Mamata Banerjee-led government in West Bengal has decided to observe the death anniversary of Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder and BJP ideologue Syama Prasad Mookerjee on Sunday.

State Minister for Power and Non-conventional Energy Sovandeb Chattopadhyay would offer tribute to Mookerjee's bust at the Keoratala crematorium in the southern part of the city, sources in the Trinamool Congress said.

Last year too, the TMC government had remembered Mookerjee, considered a great visionary and a patriot, on his 65th death anniversary.

Mookerjee's bust at the crematorium was vandalised by a group of Left radicals in 2018. The State government had replaced the damaged bust with a bronze one and arrested four persons in this connection. Those arrested had admitted that the bust was vandalised in protest against the desecration of two statues of Russian communist revolutionary Vladimir Lenin in Tripura.

AES prevention: Odisha shows the way

No deaths due to the disease have been reported in Malkangiri since 2017

SIB KUMAR DAS
BERHAMPUR

As Bihar struggles to contain the outbreak of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome, which has claimed the lives of 127 children so far, Odisha seems to have learnt its lesson following AES deaths in Malkangiri in 2016.

Timely precautionary measures by the State government have ensured no child has died due Japanese Encephalitis and AES in Malkangiri since 2017.

In 2016, at least 103 children had died due to JE and AES outbreak in the district, prompting the administration, health officials and locals to be more prepared against the two diseases. A majority of them had developed AES after consuming Cassia occidentalis beans, locally known as 'bada chakunda'. Anthraquinone, a toxin found in the plant, was responsible for causing encephalopathy among the children in the district.

Dr. Shobha Malini, associate professor of community medicine at Saheed Laxman Nayak Medical College , Koraput, said strict watch was kept on AES-prone regions in Malkangiri ahead of the monsoon season. Cases of AES are usually reported in the beginning of monsoon and continue till October.

"A major preventive measure against AES is regular clearing of bushes of Cassia occidentalis plants and motivating tribals not to let their children eat beans of the plant," said Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty, chief district medical officer, Malkangiri.

With the aid of village committees and health workers, tribals living in remote areas became aware of the dangers of consuming Cassia occidentalis and started taking precautions, the CDMO said.

Vaccination drive

Vaccination is a major weapon against AES. In December 2016, a 15-day-long mass vaccination programme against JE and AES was initiated in Malkangiri with the inoculation of over 2,18,000 children up to the age of five.

"Vaccination against JE and AES has been included in the immunisation programme for children throughout Odisha and children are being vaccinated against the same at nine months and 18 months. In Malkangiri, all children under the age of five are getting booster doses of the vaccine," said Dr. Malini.

The district headquarter hospital in Malkangiri was renovated to have a six-bed ICU, a paediatric ward to accommodate 50 patients and four ventilators.

ASHA volunteers and Anganwadi workers were provided special kits to administer medication in case of emergency.

Odisha govt. staff to get holiday on 4th Saturday

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government has announced the fourth Saturday of every month as general holiday for all government employees.

"In order to improve the efficiency in the administration and to make it more citizen-centric, the government has been taking various innovative steps... government hereby declares fourth Saturday of every month as general holiday for all State government employees," states office order of General Administration and Public Grievance department. The working hours in the government offices will be from 10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. with half-an-hour lunch break from 1.30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Odisha govt. to attach property of six mining companies

They had extracted beyond approved limit, did not pay penalty

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government has moved for property attachment of six iron ore lessees, which had extracted iron and manganese ore beyond the limit approved under environment clearance, for their inability to pay penalty on time.

Six lessees

The lessees are Shive Dutt Sharma, BPME Limited, Naryani Sons, Basudev Agarwal, B.K. Mohanaty and Orissa Minerals Development Company Limited.

The six lessees, who were operating mines in Keonjhar district, had not paid penalty amounting to ₹1,977.27 crore. Proceedings against them were initiated under the Orissa Public Demands Recovery Rules, 1963.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik ▪ FILE PHOTO

In 2017, the Supreme Court had ordered that mining companies which had extracted iron and manganese ore beyond the limit approved under environment clearance would have to pay ₹17,576.17 crore compensation. So far, mining companies have paid penalties amounting to ₹14,800 crore.

Issued notices

"Lessees were issued notice to pay penalty. Some have paid and some have not. After due process and case confirmation, I have issued orders for attachment of property of six defaulters. There are other cases which would be take up after completion of court procedure," said Ashish Thakare, Keonjhar District Magistrate, over the phone on Saturday.

An estimated 215.5 million tonnes of iron and manganese ore were extracted illegally in Odisha between 2000-01 and 2010-11.

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3	Assistant Professors	Pharmacology(1),Pediatrics(1), Obstetrics & Gynecology(1)
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Corrigendum – 1

Sl. No.	Clause No./ Reference No.	As in RFPQ Document	AMENDMENTS
1	Notice Inviting Tender	1. Last Date & Time for submission of online bid (Bid Due Date) – 20.06.2019 upto 1700 Hrs 2. Last Date & Time for submission of tender fee & EMD – 21.06.2019 upto 1700 Hrs 3. Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bids – 21.06.2019 at 1730 Hrs	1. Last Date & Time for submission of online bid (Bid Due Date) – 27.06.2019 upto 1700 Hrs 2. Last Date & Time for submission of tender fee & EMD – 28.06.2019 upto 1700 Hrs 3. Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bids – 28.06.2019 at 1730 Hrs

PR 209538 (Urban Development and Housing)19-20#D

Sd/-
General Manager (P&E)

The Executive Engineer, Jirania Division, PWD(R&B), Jirania, West Tripura, invites e-tender against press **NIT No. 03/EE-JRN/2019-20** Dated **14/06/2019**.

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Notes: - 1) All the above mentioned time are as per clock time of e-procurement website **https://tripuratenders.gov.in**

Executive Engineer
Jirania Division, PWD (R&B),
Jirania, West Tripura

ICA-C-452/19

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Dated:- 21.06.2019

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GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA
DIRECTORATE OF TRIBAL WELFARE
AGARTALA, TRIPURA

No.F.14-11/TW/Coaching / 2019-20/7310
Dated, Agartala 21 June, 2019

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(Tanusree Deb Barma, IAS)
Director, Tribal Welfare
Govt. of Tripura

ICA-C-472/19

Government of Tripura
Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

NIT NO: F.23(34)-Agri(FM)/SSP/2019-20/146 Dated: 20-06-2019

The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare invites an e-Tender in two-bid system (Technical & Financial) with Item-wise contract type through website http://tripuratenders.gov.in from the bonafied manufactures or their authorized dealers and bid will be open for eligible Bidders/Firms/Agencies till 15-07-2019 16:00 hrs for the following work:-

Key Information

Sl.	Name of Work	Tender Value/ Estimated Cost	EMD & Tender Fee	Completion Period	Document Download & Bid Submission End Date & Time	Bid Opening Date	Place of Bidding
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Notes: All the above mentioned time are as per clock time of e-procurement website https://tripuratenders.gov.in.

All the information of the above stated tender is available in https://tripuratenders.gov.in. Eligible bidders shall participate in bidding, only in online mode, through website https://tripuratenders.gov.in. Bidders are allowed to bid 24x7 until the time of bid closing, with option for Re-Submission, wherein only their latest submitted Bid would be considered for evaluation. The e-Procurement website will not allow any Bidder to attempt bidding, after the scheduled date and time of Bid Submission. Submission of bids physically is not permitted.

Sd/-
20-06-2019
(Dr. D.P. Sarkar)
Director of Agriculture
Tripura

ICA-C-471/19

कार्यालय उपायुक्त एवं जिलाधीश, फरीदाबाद।

नोटिस

सभी आमजन को इस नोटिस के जरिये सूचित किया जाता है कि जिला न्यायालय, फरीदाबाद में नियुक्त क्रमशः श्री मौहम्मद जकारिया खान, सिविल जज (जूनियर डिवीजन), फरीदाबाद, मिस प्रियंक जैन, सिविल जज (जूनियर डिवीजन), फरीदाबाद, फरीदाबाद, श्री सुमित कलोन, सिविल जज (जूनियर डिवीजन), फरीदाबाद एवं श्री राकेश कादयान, सिविल जज (जूनियर डिवीजन), फरीदाबाद के आवास हेतु निजी आवासीय भवन किराये पर लिये जाने प्रस्तावित हैं जिन मकानो का कवर्ड एरिया 2950 Sq.Ft. (Civil Judge, J.D.) तथा स्वतन्त्र होना आवश्यक है। अतः इच्छुक व्यक्ति अपना आवासीय भवन किराये पर देने के लिये इस कार्यालय के कमरा नं0 216, विविध शाखा, द्वितीय तल, लघु सचिवालय, सैक्टर–12, फरीदाबाद में अपना प्रार्थना पत्र तथा भवन का मालिक होने की पुष्टि से सम्बधित दस्तावेज संलग्न करके इस विज्ञापन के प्रकाशित होने के एक सप्ताह के अन्दर–अन्दर जमा कराने का कष्ट करें।

PRDH-77047 जिलाधीश, फरीदाबाद।

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

The Divisional Railway Manager (Mech.)/ E.C. Railway/Samastipur for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open e-tender under two packet system from experienced and financially capable tenderers for the following works in E-tendering mode of IREPS web portal of Indian Railways.

1. Tender notice No. : M/TC/34 of 2019 (Open e tender) dated 20.06.2019 2. Name of work : Machanised and manual cleaning and removal of garbage from Raxaul station for four years. 3. Tender value (In ₹) : ₹2,56,99,682/-, 4. Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,78,500/-, 5. Cost of tender document (In ₹) : ₹10,000/-. 6. Completion period of the work : 1460 days.
1. Pre-bid meeting : 27.06.2019 from 11.00 hrs. to 14.00 hrs. 2. Receiving date and time for e-tender mode on IREPS web portal : 18.07.2019 upto 12 hrs. 3. Opening date and time for e-tender : 18.07.2019 at 12.30 hrs. 4. Web site particulars where complete details of tender and tender document can be seen on website : www.ireps.gov.in.

Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (C&W)/ECR/
PR/0558/SPJ/T/36 Samastipur

हरियाणा सरकार

TENDER NOTICE

SR. NO.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HVPNL	SWEEPING SWABBING AND MAINTENANCE OF SEWERAGE SYSTEM & MAINTENANCE OF HORTICULTURE/ARBORICULTURE ARRANGEMENT AT SLDC COMPLEX, HVPLN,SEWAH (PANIPAT) FOR THE YEAR 2019-20	19.06.2019 18.07.2019	12.94 LACS	etenders.hry.nic.in	9306736030 xensidcrtumtc@hvpn.org.in
2	HVPNL	PROCUREMENT OF VARIOUS 400 KV LIGHTENING ARRESTOR	21.06.2019 21.07.2019	EMD-17000	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
3	HVPNL	PROCUREMENT OF VARIOUS 400 KV CURRENT TRANSFORMERS	20.06.2019 20.07.2019	EMD-39000	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
4	HVPNL	PROCUREMENT OF VARIOUS 66 KV CURRENT TRANSFORMERS AND NCTS	20.06.2019 20.07.2019	EMD-1.32 LACS	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
5	MUNCIPAL CORPORATION YAMUNA NAGAR-JAGADHRI	CONST OF STREET WITH COVERED DRAIN IN AASAN WALI GALI, KAHRAN GALI, GANGA KASERA GALI, PANSARI BAZAR, RAJA SAHIB GALI & DHARAMPURA COLONY OF WARD NO.3, + 13 OTHER WORKS	21.06.2019 29.06.2019	1.64 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9818656867 xen.mcynr@gmail.com
6	MUNCIPAL COUNCIL REWARI	S/I/T/C OF 120 WATTS LED STREET/ROAD LIGHT FROM DHARUHERA CHUNGI TO ABHEY SINGH CHOWK IN AREA MC REWAI(RE-TENDER) + 8 OTHER WORKS	19.06.2019 25.06.2019	478.56 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in/nicgep/app	9999740089 secymc.rwr@gmail.com
7	MUNCIPAL COUNCIL REWARI	DOOR TO DOOR GARBAGE COLLECTION FOR ALL 31 WARDS IN MC REWARI	19.06.2019 29.06.2019	3.27 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	7015483676
8	MARKET COMMITTEE GURUGRAM	DAILY CLEANING SWEEPING WITHIN THE NAI SUBZI MANDI, GURUGRAM. ALL THE TOILETS, CLEARING SEWERAGE LINE & STAFF QUARTER ARE WITHIN NVM, GURUGRAM	CLOSING 28.06.2019	EMD-50000	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0124-2320011
9	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE KHARKHODA	CONST OF SPORTS STADIUM AT MATINDU ROAD KHARKHODA EST COST 91.36 LACS	CLOSING 01.07.2019	EMD-1.83 LACS	etenders.hry.nic.in	8222009777 yogeshrathi89@gmail.com
10	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE SAMPLA	CONSTRUCTION OF HALL IN BHASU DHAM AT BHASU JOHAR IN M.C SAMPLA + 1 OTHER WORK	CLOSING 27.06.2019	21.03 LACS	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	-
11	HSAMB JIND	CONST OF ROAD FROM VILL.SINDHVI KHERA TO ASHRAFGARH VIA.RADHANA + 1 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING 04.07.2019	188.33 LACS	etenders.gov.in	01681-255039 etenders.gov.in
12	HSAMB KARNAL	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD FROM VILLAGE BAL PAHANA TO BANSA (H-9417)-CM ANNOUCEMENT CODE-23233 + 5 OTHER WORKS	21.06.2019 01.07.2019	835.87 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0184-2220964 xenkarnal.hsamb@gmail.com
13	HSAMB JIND	ORDINARY REPAIR OF LINK ROADS OF M.C JIND FROM GROUP NO.1 TO 6 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2019-20 + 7 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING 08.07.2019	AS PER DNIT	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01681-255039 etenders.gov.in
14	HSAMB PIPLI	WIDENING OF L/R FROM THANESAR CITY TO GHAMUR KHERI VIA BAHRI IN MC THANESAR(ROAD-ID: 3579) + 3 OTHER WORKS	26.06.2019 09.07.2019	1.31 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01744-231420 xenkkr.hsamb@gmail.com
15	UHBVN	E-PROCUREMENT OF MALE & FEMALE CONTACTS FOR 11KV 400 AMP, G.O SWITCH (ONE SET COMPRISING OF ONE MALE & ONE FEMALE CONTACT)	19.06.2019 10.07.2019	2.01 CRORE	uhbvn.org.in	9357189013 cemm@uhbvn.org.in
16	UHBVN	1 NO. JEEP/CAR WITH HARD TOP I.E BOLERO/SUMO WITH DRIVER FOR XEN S/U DIVISION NO.2, UHBVN KARNAL	CLOSING 05.07.2019	6000	www.uhbvn.org.in	0184-2268351 xenopuhbvnsu2karnal@gmail.com
17	HARYANA FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD	OUTSOURCING OF SERVICES OF UN-SKILLED, SEMI-SKILLED, SKILLED AND HIGHLY SKILLED CATEGORIES KURUKSHETRA	20.06.2019 04.07.2019	EMD-50000	www.hfdc.gov.in	01744-230364 gm.kurukshetra@hfdc.gov.in
18	HARYANA FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD	SUPPLY OF MATERIAL FOR FURNITURE MAKING KURUKSHETRA	20.06.2019 05.07.2019	EMD-50000	www.hfdc.gov.in	01744-230364 gm.kurukshetra@hfdc.gov.in
19	HARYANA FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD	SUPPLY OF PLASTIC GRANULE FOR NURSERY BAGS MANUFACTURING KURUKSHETRA	21.06.2019 08.07.2019	EMD-50000	www.hfdc.gov.in	01744-230364 gm.kurukshetra@hfdc.gov.in
20	HARYANA FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD REWARI	SUPPLY OF PLYWOOD, BOARD, MICA & VARIOUS OTHER ITEMS REQUIRED FOR FURNITURE MANUFACTURING AT FURNITURE WORKSHOP AT MASANI BARRAGE, REWARI DURING THE YEAR 2019-20 + 1 OTHER WORK	13.06.2019 24.06.2019	3 LACS	www.hfdc.gov.in	9971875199 gm.rewari@hfdc.gov.in
21	THE KURUKSHETRA-KARNAL COOPERATIVE MILK LTD	HIRING OF ROUTE VEHICLE (TATA ACE/MAHINDRA SUPRO/JITTO OR EQUIVALENT) 6 VEHICLES + 4 OTHER WORKS	22.06.2019 08.07.2019	1 LACS	www.viataindia.org.in	01744-275544 milkunionkkr1@yahoo.co.in

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

PRDH-77057

Government of Jharkhand
Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute
Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minorities and Backward Class Welfare Department
Morabadi, Ranchi - 834008
Tel: 0651-2551824 e-mail- tri.directorate@gmail.com/dir-triran@gov.in

Lt. N. 686 **Ranchi. dated : 21.06.2019**

Call for Articles

Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Ranchi, Jharkhand will publish its journal 'Seng Durang' issue no XXXXVII (47) 2019. This issue will be based on 'Tribal Philosophy.' In this regard, the institute is inviting papers (Research paper, Thematic Essay/Surveys, Notes from the field, Book review & Reports) on this theme and on topics selected, but not restricted, to the following sub-themes. The articles should be submitted by last week of *August 2019.*

Tiltle of Sub Themes :-

1. Tribal Religion in India : Its Nature of Persistence, Philosophy
2. Defininng the Indigenous Tribal Religion
3. Religious Beliefs and Practices of the Tribals of Jharkhand
4. Religious Rituals and Ceremonies of the Tribals of Jharkhand
5. The Cosmos and Religion in the Folklores of Tribals
6. Women in Tribal Religions
7. Tribal Theology
8. Eschatology of Tribals
9. Metaphysics/Ontology of Tribals
10. The Significance of Spiritual Semiotics.
11. Myths - Mythologies and Tribal Religion/Philosophy
12. The necessity of Tribal Philosophy in discipline of Philosophy

For important points for submission of article please visit our website www.trijharkhand.com or institute's notice board.

Sd/-
Dy. Director

PR 209609 Welfare (19-20)_D

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender Notice No. RE-DNR-Engg-Gr-201-WT-05A date 20.06.2019 On behalf of the President of India, Chief Project Director, Railway Electrification, Danapur invites open & sealed e-tender for the following work from experienced, financially and technically sound contractors to be opened on 16.07.2019.

1. Name of the work & its location : Balance work of construction of OHE Cum PSI Depot. TSS Control Building. Tower Wagon Shed with Siding. DEE Office and Repair center with all ancillary works viz Earth Work Boundary wall, Water supply and Sanitary installation. Drains, road, pathway etc. at Hazaribagh Station and provision of Protective Screen over FOB and ROB in connection with Railway Electrification of Koderma-Hazaribagh-Barkakana-Ranchi section of Gr.201 in Dhanbad Division of E.C. Railway. 2. Approximate cost of the work : ₹1,94,33,755.18, 3. Earnest Money to be deposited : ₹2,47,200/- 4. Date for submission of the tender and opening of Tender : For submission : From 02.07.2019 & up to 11.00 Hours on 16.07.2019. Tender will be opened at 11.30 Hrs on 16.07.2019. 5. Website particulars, Notice board location where complete details of e-tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : website https://ireps.gov.in. Notice board location & Add. of the office : Office of the Chief Project Director (Engg), Railway Electrification, Danapur (Near Jagjeevan Stadium), PO-Khagaul, Patna-801105 (Bihar).

Cheif Project Director (Engg.)/RE/
PR/0563/RE/T/48 ECR/Danapur

Congratulations Delhi!

Foundation stone of Water treatment plant of a daily capacity of 47.7 crore litres to be laid in Chandrawal

Drinking water produced from the new plant will cater to 22 lakh residents of the city

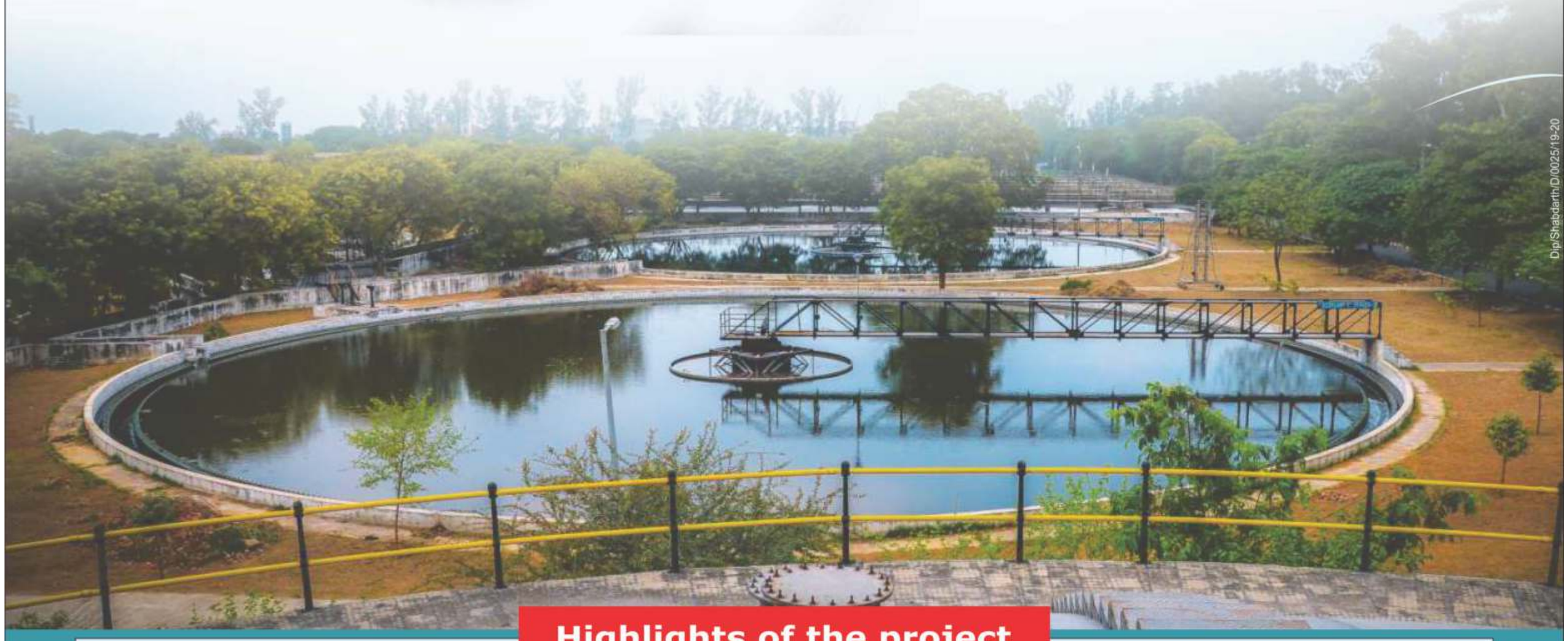
Laying of Foundation Stone ceremony

Monday, 24 June, 2019 at 11.30 A.M.

Venue : Behind Delhi Vidhan Sabha, Between Chandrawal I and II

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

- Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi



Dip/Shabdarth/D/0025/19-20

Highlights of the project

- Equitable and Continuous water distribution in the command area of Chandrawal WTP.
- Plant will treat high ammonia in raw water and supply uninterrupted water to the residents.
- The work to benefit about 22 lakh residents of the city.
- Command areas include area of Old Delhi, Chandni Chowk, Pahari Dhiraj, Idgah, Civil Lines, Karol Bagh, Kamla Nagar, Malkaganj, Rajinder Nagar, Shadipur, Patel Nagar, Naraina, partly NDMC and Cantonment areas.
- Completion of work will provide better living conditions to the public.
- Total cost of project is approx. Rs. 599 Crore and is to be completed in 3 years.

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

**Department of Urban Development
Government of NCT of Delhi**

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

IN BRIEF

Subba Reddy sworn in as TTD chairman

TIRUPATI

Y.V. Subba Reddy was sworn in as the 50th chairman of the TTD's Board of Trustees at a function in Tirumala on Saturday. Mr. Reddy thanked Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for appointing him to the coveted post. "Our priority is to provide hassle-free darshan to the devotees and initiate measures on a permanent basis to protect Tirumala from water scarcity," he said after assuming office.

Junior doctors call off strike in Telangana

HYDERABAD

Junior doctors in Telangana on Saturday called off their four-day stir over their demand for recruitment of assistant professors, following an assurance from the government that the matter would be looked into. The Telangana Junior Doctors Association announced its decision after talks with State Health Minister E. Rajender who assured that recruitment would be taken up through medical recruitment board. PTI

Two die after falling from window of Bengaluru pub

They were coming down the stairs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A man and his woman friend died after they accidentally fell out of the window of a pub on Church Street here while coming down the stairs on Friday night. The incident occurred even as City Police Commissioner Alok Kumar, along with senior officials, was inspecting the pub as part of the night rounds.

The deceased are Pavan Attavar, 36, marketing manager at a media house, and Veda R. Yadav, 28, a software engineer with an IT company. The police personnel heard a thud and found the duo lying in a pool of blood and rushed them to hospital, where the doctors declared them as brought dead.

The police have charged the pub owner and the manager with causing death due to negligence and are investigating. The Cubbon Park police have obtained the CCTV footage for further investigation.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the two had gone to the pub along with their friends. They left early, and their friends were still in the pub when the incident happened. According to the police, the two were coming down from the third floor of Beir Pub on Church Street. "In one of the CCTV images, it was found that Pavan was helping Veda to get down as she was finding it difficult to walk. There was no grill and the window was covered with a fibre blind," a police officer said.

Fatal fall: The pub on Church Street where Pawan Attavar (inset) and Veda R. Yadav fell and died. ▪ V. SREENIVASA MURTHY

'CPI(M) will not protect Binoy'

The case is the personal issue of an adult individual, says Kodiyeri Balakrishnan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Communist Party of India (Marxist) Kerala secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan has clarified that neither he nor the party will protect or help his son Binoy Kodiyeri who is facing rape charges.

Mr. Balakrishnan told reporters here on Saturday that his son was an adult, having his own family, and he alone was responsible for the personal allegations that had come up against him. The party and he would not intervene, he added.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury had clarified earlier that the party would not intervene in personal issues. It was for the accused to prove his innocence. The case was pending before court and the law would take its own course, he had said. Asked whether he felt that his son was guilty of the offences raised against him, Mr. Balakrishnan said that was why a case had been registered against him and it needed to be proved.

Mr. Balakrishnan, who was undergoing Ayurveda treatment, said he left the hospital to attend State secretariat and State committee meetings. His son had met him at the hospital. He said he did not want reporters to go in search of him and hence had decided to hold the press meet.

Asked whether he was aware of the allegations, Mr. Balakrishnan said he came to know of them only when the case was registered. He was unaware of the victim filing any complaint with the CPI (M) central leadership on the issue. He parried queries on his son's present whereabouts saying the issue was pending in court and it was for the police to trace him.

Speaking up: CPI(M) Kerala secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan addressing a press meet in Thiruvananthapuram.

NRI suicide: Kerala civic chief offers to resign

CPI(M) leadership gives clean chit to P.K. Shyamala, blames municipal officials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KANNUR

Anthoor municipal chairperson P.K. Shyamala has offered to step down amid protests over the suicide of NRI businessman Sajan Parayil.

Addressing a meeting here on Saturday to explain 'the facts' relating to the controversy over the suicide, CPI(M) district secretary M.V. Jayarajan said Ms. Shyamala had offered to resign. "The police and departmental inquiry is under way into the denial of occupancy certificates for the convention centre built by Sajan and the High Court has registered a *suo motu* case," Mr. Jayarajan said, adding the party would also conduct an inquiry.

There were serious lapses on the part of the municipal officials, he added.

Giving a clean chit to Ms. Shyamala, senior party leader M.V. Govindan's wife, Mr. Jayarajan said she had even asked the municipal secretary to provide completion and occupancy certificates for the building on the basis of a report by the municipal engineer.

Ms. Shyamala has been under pressure from local CPI(M) leaders as the family of the deceased businessman alleged that he had committed suicide on June 18 following the denial of permits for the convention centre he had built at Bakkalam here. The family said it was Ms. Shyamala's adamant stand that led to the denial of permits for the building.

P.K. Shyamala

Kumaraswamy cancels 'grama vaastavya' due to rain

Visit to Kalaburagi will be rescheduled, says Karnataka CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HERUR

Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy said that he was sad that his scheduled visit to Herur (B) had to be cancelled due to heavy downpour, but happy that the area received good rainfall and farmers can take up farming activities.

Speaking to reporters, he said, "My visit to Kalaburagi district would be rescheduled, probably in July first or second week, after seeing the dates of the State Legislature Session."

Herur (B) village, on the bank of Bhima, was flooded in the midnight downpour leaving no option for authorities but to cancel 'grama vaastavya' programme. The low-lying areas in the village and its vicinity, including the spot designated for Chief Minister's interaction with people, was completely waterlogged. The rain has also damaged the road being repaired for the Chief Minister's travel to reach the village.

Later in the day, Social Welfare Minister Priyank Kharge, along with Afzalpur MLA M.Y. Patil, Karnataka government's representative in New Delhi Dr. Ajay Singh visited Herur (B) village to speak to the disappointed villagers. They assured that all demands of the residents would be met.

Change of plans: The site where H.D. Kumaraswamy was supposed to hold 'grama vaastavya'. ▪ ARUN KULKARNI

BJP to release book on CM's 'village stay'

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

As part of its campaign against Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy's 'grama vaastavya' (village stay) programme, the BJP will release a book on the 'ground reality' in the 48 villages he visited during his first stint as Chief Minister.

"The CM must stop this circus and instead tour the State and take up effective drought relief measures," BJP State president B.S. Yeddyurappa said on Saturday. "Grama vaastavya is a gimmick, and even that has now been wound up for a silly reason like rain," he said. The BJP leader was speaking at the party office here. "The Chief Minister had promised ₹1 crore for each of these village. But that promise never materialised ," he said.

Review all projects, identify lapses: Jagan

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has instructed the expert committee formed to review the grounding and execution of projects in all engineering departments, to identify areas where the government could reverse tenders.

He ordered that immediate attention should be paid to the prospect of saving money in the Polavaram project by detecting lapses in it.

Focus should then be laid on the irregularities in housing, the implementation of the Galeru-Nagari, Handri-Neeva and Vamsadhara projects in the Water Resources Department and other major works in due course, Mr. Reddy said.

In a meeting of the expert committee on Saturday, Mr. Reddy said he sought the constitution of a judicial commission to bring transparency in tenders and was committed to cleansing the system.

'Norms violated'

He alleged that the TDP government has flouted norms and had undertaken the construction of the cofferdam without completing the spillway. As a consequence, the government will not be able to take up work on the project for four months, if the river Godavari floods heavily during the rainy season.

Some officials in the TDP government were responsible for the large-scale corruption, which brought disrepute to the State, he said.

In the Polavaram headworks component alone, work costing ₹3,490 crore was awarded on a nomination basis, said the Chief Minister.

Cat in the net

Safely landed: A four-year-old female leopard was rescued by Forest Department at Bedarahalli Kaval near Hassan, Karnataka, on Saturday. The animal was spotted in an abandoned house. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tie-up with JD(S) caused Congress's defeat: Moily

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Amid talks of mid-term elections to the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, former Union Minister and senior Congress leader M. Veerappa Moily on Saturday said the party had suffered a humiliating defeat in the Lok Sabha election because of its seat-sharing arrangement with the Janata Dal (Secular).

Speaking to presspersons at Chickballapur, Mr. Moily claimed that the Congress had the prospect of winning 15 Lok Sabha constituencies, including Chickballapur, had it contested alone. While the leaders of the two parties came together to form the alliance, the chemistry among workers and supporters was not positive, and this resulted in a shaky alliance on the ground and limited vote transfer to the Congress, Mr. Moily said.

M. Veerappa Moily

Mr. Moily's remarks came after former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah met party president Rahul Gandhi this week and reportedly told him that the alliance was damaging the party in the State.

In the 2019 general election, the alliance won just one seat each in the State. In 2014, the two parties contested separately and the Congress won nine, and the JD(S), two seats.

TTD plans 3D laser show for devotees

It is initially being proposed at Sri Govindaraja Swamy Pushkarini

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
TIRUPATI

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) is planning to add an extra dimension to the pilgrimage experience by introducing a 3D laser show on mythological themes in Tirupati.

The laser show is initially being planned in Sri Govindaraja Swamy Pushkarini, which is abuzz with pilgrims, and also at Sri Ramachandra Pushkarini, where locals also gather in large numbers. The TTD has apparently chosen water bodies, as a wall of water sprayed by a series of jets would form the backdrop of the laser show.

TTD Joint Executive Officer B. Lakshmikantham, who set the ball rolling on the laser show proposal, is in touch with Sri Venkateswara Bhakti Channel (SVBC) and other technical agencies to take the ambitious project forward. The project uses Augmented Reality (AR) on various mythological themes like *Dasavatharam* and *Srinivasa Kalyanam*.

"It is in the conceptual stage and we need to work out technicalities and other resources before launching the project," he told *The Hindu*. When water is poured on the deity of Sri Venkateswara while airing the Abhishekam ritual, members of the audience will also get a "divine feel" when water is sprinkled on them using micro dispensers. Buoyed by the impressive response from devotees to the AR-based *Srinivasa Kalyanam* introduced at the Friday Gardens in front of Tiruchanur Sri Padmavathi Ammavari Temple, the TTD has put its best foot forward to make the laser show a hit.

Divine touch: A sample shot of the TTD's proposed 3D laser show.

The going is getting tough for TDP

'Mass migration of sitting MLAs, MPs and key advisers on the cards'

APPAJI REDDEM
VIJAYAWADA

After four of its Rajya Sabha members crossed over to the BJP, the Opposition TDP is staring at another setback, this time in the form of mass migration of sitting MLAs, MPs, former MLAs, and key advisers to the saffron party.

In less than a month of receiving a severe drubbing in the elections, four of its six MPs - Y.S. Chowdary, C.M. Ramesh, T.G. Venkatesh and Garikapati Rammohan Rao - joined the BJP recently.

Timing of defections

The timing of their exit – when party national president N. Chandrababu Naidu is on a holiday along with his family in Europe – and the fast-changing developments thereafter are a pointer to the weakening of the party further.

"The leaders are of the view that there is no point in staying put in a sinking ship. Joining a strong national party serves their interests best. Not just the MLAs and MPs, some of the advisers too are joining the BJP shortly. It's just a matter of time," confides a leader in the TDP on condition of anonymity.

Interestingly, one of the MPs is evaluating the option of joining the ruling YSRCP, he says.

BJP game plan

Going by the sources in both TDP and BJP, the national party intends to weaken the TDP and emerge as a strong player by the 2024 elections.

With Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy making it clear that MLAs keen on joining the YSRCP will have to do so only after resigning their post, the BJP is the only option left for those eager on switching their loyalties.

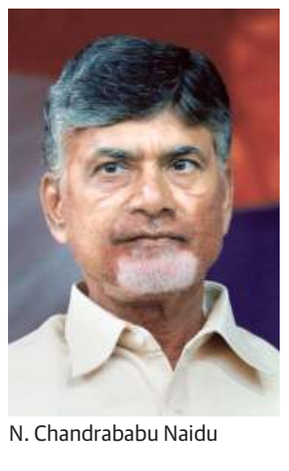
On the other hand, the BJP is openly stating that several TDP sitting and former MLAs are in touch with it and are ready to cross over unconditionally. The TDP is, however, dubbing it as an "unethical back-door manoeuvre."

Stoic silence

This apart, the stoic silence of the TDP leaders who attended Mr. Naidu's teleconference on Saturday on the future plan of action raises doubts on the outcome of the meeting.

The leaders are reportedly not happy about the party's failure to groom second-rung leaders and ensure transparency in the way finances are managed.

However, the party's well-wishers think the TDP has a permanent cadre that will revive the party's lost glory.



N. Chandrababu Naidu

IN BRIEF

All Indian houses to have TV sets soon: Javadekar

SRINAGAR

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said India will soon become the largest country in the world where every household has a television set. He was addressing a function to launch the distribution of free Dish TV set top boxes in Kashmir. PTI

U.S. man arrested for 'molesting' magistrate

SHILLONG

A U.S. aid worker was arrested for allegedly molesting a judicial magistrate at her home, the police said on Saturday. "We have arrested the American national, Theodore M. Moallem," the police said. Moallem and his organisation, Blind Lead Trust, have also filed a counter complaint against the magistrate for assaulting him. PTI

3 feared dead as car falls into canal in Punjab

RUPNAGAR

Three men are feared to have drowned after their car fell into the Bhakra canal near Anandpur Sahib, the police said on Saturday. The incident took place on Friday night near the Ganguwal power house when four men were crossing a bridge on the canal. While three of them fell into the canal with the car, one managed to get out and alert the police. PTI

Advani arrives in Shimla on week-long visit

SHIMLA

Veteran BJP leader L.K. Advani arrived in Shimla on Saturday. Accompanied by his family, he is here on a seven-day private visit. Mr. Advani was received by Irrigation and Public Health Minister Mahender Singh, Health Minister Vipin Singh Parmar, Transport and Forest Minister Govind Thakur and State BJP president Satpal Satti.

PMK founder Ramadoss threatens journalists

CHENNAI

PMK founder S. Ramadoss on Saturday made a controversial statement that he will "cut down those who ask questions (about the PMK's protest by cutting trees) and lay them across the road". He said he will do this if journalists continued to ask him questions about an agitation in which his partymen cut down hundreds of trees and threw them on the roads across the State.

Plan to use Sanjay Dutt as face of anti-drug drive dropped

Centre's decision after disagreement over selection of the actor for the role

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

The proposal to name actor Sanjay Dutt as the face of the government's anti-drug campaign to mark International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on June 26 has been dropped, Union Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry officials said.

The actor has been vocal about his experiences with drugs and had been proposed as the ambassador of the campaign.

Sources said the plan was dropped because there was disagreement over his selection for the role, with Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot eventually deciding against it.

Sanjay Dutt

A Ministry official added that a media publicity campaign planned earlier has been shelved for now, but could be rolled out in the future with a different face.

Mr. Gehlot told *The Hindu* that the Ministry would observe International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking like it has in the past.

Six-minute film instead

According to officials, a six-minute film to officially launch the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction would be released on June 26.

The action plan, stretching from 2018 till 2025, aims to create awareness about the harmful impact of drug abuse, facilitate research and provide community-based identification, counselling, de-addiction and after-care services.

The action plan also provides for financial assistance to organisations, States and Union Territories for conducting programmes. The setting up of outreach and drop-in centres for those affected and community-based peer-led intervention programmes to prevent drug use among adolescents are among the tools mentioned in the plan.

In order to rehabilitate former addicts, the plan provides for vocational training and livelihood programmes to be conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and State governments.

Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh

Dera chief wants to farm, seeks parole

PRESS TRUST OFINDIA
ROHTAK

Jailed Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh has sought parole for more than a month for farming at his fields in Haryana's Sirsa, officials said on Saturday.

The Dera chief is lodged at the Sunaria jail in Rohtak after being convicted in two rape cases and the murder of a journalist.

Following his application for the parole for 42 days, the jail superintendent wrote to the Sirsa district administration asking whether it was feasible or not.

In the communique, the official mentioned that Gurmeet's conduct in the jail had been good and he had not violated any rule.

On receiving the letter, the Sirsa police had approached the Revenue Department to ascertain how much land the Dera chief owned.

"We have asked the Revenue Department to provide record of how much land is in his name. The details are awaited," Sirsa DSP Rajesh Kumar said.

In August 2017, the Dera chief was sentenced to 20 years in jail for raping two women. A special CBI court also found him guilty of murdering a journalist more than 16 years ago.

Skeletons found close to Bihar hospital plagued by AES deaths

'Improperly dumped following post-mortem'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUZAFFARPUR

Human skeletal remains were found strewn near a garbage dump close to the post-mortem section of the Sri Krishna Medical College Hospital (SKMCH) here on Saturday, officials said.

The SKMCH is in news for the death of more than 100 brain fever-afflicted children since June 1.

"Unclaimed bodies after post-mortem are cremated in due course. These skeletal remains are found at the spot where cremations are said to take place. But I agree this should be done in a more humane fashion," Dr. Sunil Kumar Shahi, superintendent of the SKMCH hospital, said.

The embarrassed hospital superintendent was replying to queries from a swarm of journalists who have been camping in the town to cover the epidemic-like situation that has arisen in the wake of the outbreak of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES), which has claimed close to 140 lives across the State, with this north Bihar district alone accounting for 127 deaths.

Mortal traces: Police officials investigating the human skeletal remains found in Muzaffarpur on Saturday. ▪ PTI

Bearing the brunt, the SKMCH, which is one of the largest government hospitals in the State, has witnessed the death of 107 AES-afflicted children since June 1.

"The post-mortem section comes under the administrative control of the principal of the medical college attached to the hospital. I have asked him to set up a committee to look into the matter and take remedial measures," Dr. Shahi added.

Locals said that improper disposal of bodies has been a long-standing problem in the area.

Ex-IAS officer offers help

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUZAFFARPUR

A former IPS officer on Saturday donated two ambulances, a hearse and other materials to the Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital here, where 127 children have died due to suspected case of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES).

Acharya Kishore Kunal, also ex-chairman of the Bihar State Board of Religious Trusts, donated 40,000 packets of ORS, biscuits and glucose each to the hospital.

Meanwhile, former JNU Students' Union president Kanhaiya Kumar, who came to Muzaffarpur to visit the SKMCH, was not allowed to enter its paediatric Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and general ward following an order from the hospital authorities.

'Better to go it alone in local body elections'

Former DMK Minister causes stir in T.N.

S. GANESAN
TIRUCHI

Former DMK Minister K.N. Nehru on Saturday caused a stir in political circles by suggesting that the party should go it alone, instead of with the Congress, in the local body elections.

Mr. Nehru was apparently expressing his displeasure over a Congress functionary's reported statement that they would seek a good number of seats in South Chennai as part of the DMK-led alliance, which had achieved a massive victory in the recent Lok Sabha election.

Speaking at the party's protest demonstration on the drinking water crisis in Tiruchi, the party's Tiruchi south district secretary said he would tell his party president that "if we are to be of use to the people, we should contest the local body election alone. How long can we remain the palanquin bearers? We have been doing so for long."

However, Mr. Nehru qualified his statement as his personal views and not that of the party. He affirmed that he would abide by his leader's decision.

Former DMK Minister K.N. Nehru taking part in an agitation. ▪ M. MOORTHY

Without naming anyone, Mr. Nehru said, "When we were in alliance with the Congress, people like Mayura Jayakumar continuously criticised the DMK regime. They spoilt the relations between us and the Congress. Yet, we worked for them as per the alliance dharma in the recent elections and all have won."

The party must go it alone at least in Tiruchi, he said.

Railway declines to move Assam jumbos to Gujarat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has declined to transport four elephants from eastern Assam's Tinsukia to Ahmedabad for the July 4 Jagannath Rath Yatra until the Gauhati High Court resolves the matter and the State Forest Department clarifies an order of the Supreme Court regarding transfer of elephants.

Assam-based animal rights activists Urmi Mala Das and Nandini Baruah had on Friday filed a public interest litigation at the High Court challenging the Assam government's decision to transport the four juvenile elephants, two of them females, in railway wagons to Ahmedabad.

Their PIL followed a petition filed via email to the court by Canada-based activist Sangeeta Iyer.

'Clarification sought'

"We will not dispatch the elephants unless we receive a clarification sought from the Forest Division on an order by the Supreme Court. Besides, there is a PIL to watch out for," said Masood Alom, the additional divisional railway manager of NFR's Tinsukia Division.

Hearing a case related to Kerala, the Suprem Court had in May 2016 said: "The State government shall not issue any ownership certificate to any of the persons in possession of elephants. That apart, the persons who are in possession of elephants shall not transfer the elephants outside the state nor shall they part with the elephants by way of transfer in any manner..."

Officials of NRF's zonal headquarters in Guwahati's Maligaon confirmed the decision not to transport the elephants until the legal issues are resolved.

They also trashed reports that the elephants were being dispatched quietly before the PIL is heard on Monday.

Man arrested for attack on Muslim men in Assam

Accused is a right-wing group member

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The police have arrested the prime accused in the case of allegedly assaulting a group of Muslim men in western Assam's Barpeta and forcing them to say '*Jai Shri Ram*', '*Bharat Mata ki jai*' and 'Pakistan *Murdabad*' on June 18.

The victims were forced to say 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Bharat *Mata ki jai*'.

The accused has been identified as Debojit Deka, 30, a member of the right-wing Sri Ram Sena headed by the Karnataka-based Pramod Muthalik.

"A joint team of Barpeta and Guwahati police caught him from a southern suburb of Guwahati close to midnight yesterday [June 21]," a senior police officer said.

Video viral

The incident had come to light after a video of the forcible chanting of slogans went viral on social media. The police began searching for four people seen assaulting the Muslim men after two organisations – the All Assam Minority Students' Union and the North-East Minorities Students' Union – filed separate First Information Reports (FIR) in Barpeta on Thursday.

"We hope to catch the others involved in the incident soon," the officer said, adding that the police's cybercell has been monitoring social media sites for communal or incendiary comments.

Odisha uses satellite imagery to create unique flood hazard atlas

Aimed at tackling floods effectively, the system takes into account flood inundation data from 2001 to 2018

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha has come out with a unique flood hazard atlas on the basis of historic flood inundation captured through satellite imagery from 2001 to 2018, which is expected to help the State manage floods more efficiently.

The National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Hyderabad, conducted the study on flood hazard zonation for Odisha. The atlas was released by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the State-level Natural Calamity Meeting here on Saturday.

Vast areas of the State are inundated every year due to the flooding of major rivers – Mahanadi, Brahmani, Baitarani, Subarnarekha and Rushikulya. Other rivers, like the Vamsadhara and the Budhabalanga, also cause flash floods due to instant run-off from their hilly catchments.

Common delta

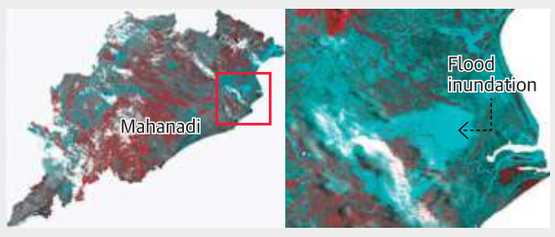
According to Bishnupada Sethi, managing director, Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA), damages due to floods are caused mainly by the Mahanadi, the Brahmani and the Baitarani, which have a common delta where floodwaters intermingle, and, when in spate simultaneously, wreak considerable havoc.

The entire coastal belt is prone to storm surges, which is usually accompanied by heavy rainfall, thus making the estuary region vulnerable to both storm surges and river flooding. A few districts in the western and southern parts of Odisha are prone to flash floods, he pointed out.

Clear picture

The atlas will help the authorities in several ways

- To systematically plan flood control measures
- To carry out relief and rescue operations
- To control developmental activities on floodplains
- To plan relief shelters and health centres



A satellite image of the flooding in Odisha ▪ ISRO

The NRSC analysis says about 8.96% (13.96 lakh hectares) of land in Odisha was affected by floods during 2001-2018. Out of total flood-affected area (13.96 lakh hectares), about 2.81 lakh hectares of land falls under high (inundated seven-nine times) to very high (inundated 10-14 times) flood hazard categories.

Eight out of 30 districts – Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghapur, Balasore, Puri, Jajpur, Khordha and Cuttack – are more flood-affected than others. As high as 77% of Bhadrak and 70% of Kendrapara have been categorised as flood hazard.

According to P. G. Diwakar, director of Earth Observation, Application and Disaster Management Support Programme Office of ISRO, "A large number of satellite images acquired over 18 years (2001-2018) were used. All satellite data sets were analysed and flood layers were extracted. All the flood layers corresponding to a year are combined as one inundation layer, so that this layer represents the maximum flooded area in one year."

'Useful resource'

"All such combined flood layers were integrated into flood hazard layer representing the observed flood-inundated areas with different frequencies. This layer was integrated with the digital database layers of Odisha," said Dr. Diwakar.

The atlas would serve as a useful resource of information for policy makers, planners and civil society groups, said Chief Secretary A. P. Padhi.

Oblivious doctor, staff forget patient

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUZAFFARNAGAR

Oblivious to the unconscious patient lying alone on a bed, staff of a State-run community healthcare centre in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar district allegedly shut its gates and left as their duty hours were over.

Sonia, 30, was taken to the centre in the district's Faloda village in Purkazi block on Friday for treatment. While she was still lying unconscious on a bed in the patients' room, the staff members, including a doctor, left in the afternoon as their duty hours were over.

A few hours later when she regained consciousness, she found herself locked inside the centre, following which she shouted for help. Hearing her cries, locals informed officials, who rushed to the spot and brought her out.

As the incident stirred up a row, a Group D staff was suspended and four other officials, including medical officer Dr. Mohit Kumar and chief pharmacist Praveen Kumar, were shifted out, said chief medical officer Dr. P.S. Mishra.

A probe has also been ordered, which will be led by deputy chief medical officer Dr. B.K. Ojha. The probe panel has been asked to submit its report within three days, he said, adding that strict action will be taken against those found guilty.

Meanwhile, locals demanded strong action against officials for negligence.

FROM PAGE ONE

Time running out to curb terror, Pak. told

A day after the FATF strictures, Pakistan said it remains committed to taking "all necessary measures to ensure completion of the Action Plan in a timely manner."

However, it accused India of attempting to "politicise" FATF deliberations.

"Pakistan has consistently shared its concerns [on] high level political statements and media leaks from India to cast Pakistan in a negative light and plead for Pakistan's downgrading," Pakistan foreign office spokesperson Mohammad Faisal said in a statement on Saturday where he referred to the MEA statement as "preposterous and unwarranted."

BJP slams U.S. for 'bias' against Prime Minister

The visit is expected to prepare the ground for a proposed meeting between President Donald Trump and Mr. Modi on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Osaka on June 27 and 28.

When asked, the Ministry of External Affairs didn't comment on the report, nor did it respond to a question whether India would raise objections to it during Mr. Pompeo's visit.

The 2018 report had listed 18 attacks against "Non-Hindu and Dalit" victims, in which 8 people were killed in violence linked to cow protection. In addition, the report quoted various Christian NGOs that had documented 300-500 cases of alleged violence against Christian priests and churches nationwide.

"Mob attacks by violent extremist Hindu groups against minority communities, especially Muslims, continued throughout the year amid rumours that victims had traded or killed cows for beef. According to some NGOs, authorities often protected perpetrators from prosecution," the report said, adding that a "crackdown" on one Christian group in Jharkhand was part of "a ploy to discredit the organisation as part of the State government's anti-Christian agenda."

The report said, "Senior officials of the Hindu-majority BJP made inflammatory speeches against minority communities," but did not name any leaders.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is scheduled to arrive in Delhi on June 25.

On June 13, in a testimony before the U.S. Congress, State Department official Alice Wells said the U.S. wanted the Indian leadership to "swiftly condemn acts of violence on the basis of religion and hold perpetrators accountable."

In the past, the government has rejected similar reports issued by the U.S. government as well as the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, which placed India on its Tier 2 list of countries of concern in April 2019.

In 2005, the U.S. revoked Mr. Modi's visa (he was then Gujarat Chief Minister) under its religious freedom law, the only time the U.S. has invoked it. India had protested against the decision at the time.

Governor lauds Hurriyat offer

Says the separatists' readiness for dialogue with Centre is a 'positive change'

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik said here on Saturday that the offer of talks made by Hurriyat leaders was a "positive change".

"The Hurriyat, which once did not let in [Union Minister] Ram Vilas Paswan who was waiting at their door, is now talking about talks. This is a positive change," he said.

Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq made the offer from the historic Jamia Masjid on Friday, saying he was ready to support any dialogue process on resolution of the Kashmir issue.

Small steps: Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik flanked by Union Ministers Jitendra Singh and Prakash Javadekar at a function in Srinagar on Saturday. ▪ NISSAR AHMAD

Pat for Mirwaiz

The Governor expressed happiness that the Mirwaiz spoke against the drug menace too and pledged to fight it. He said it pained him to see youth getting killed with bullets.

"If we function sincerely, youth will not be swayed and misled that if you die you will get *jannat* [paradise]. A Muslim will get heaven only if he becomes a good Muslim," he said.

He admitted that there was displeasure among the youth which "needs to be solved".

The Governor said the State was witnessing many changes. "Recruitment to militant ranks is almost zero. There is no stone-throwing after Friday prayers," he said.

Jaish militant killed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

A Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) militant was killed in an operation in Baramulla of north Kashmir on Saturday.

An official said a contact was established with hiding militants at Bujtalan village during a search. "In the ensuing encounter, one militant was killed. From the material found at the site, he has been identified as from Pakistan and associated with the JeM," the police said. The Army's 6 JAKLI, the police's special operations group and the CRPF conducted the operation.

BJP delegation visits Bhatpara

Claims police firing caused deaths; Trinamool sees BJP bid to fan tension

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

A three-member BJP delegation visited the trouble-torn Bhatpara area in West Bengal on Saturday, and alleged that it was due to police firing that two persons lost their lives during clashes earlier in the week.

The delegation was led by former Union Minister and Bardhaman-Durgapur MP S.S. Ahluwalia. Newly elected MPs and former police officers Satyapal Singh and B.D. Ram were in the team. Party leaders of the State accompanied them.

"We spoke to the family members and local people. We got portions of spent SLR (self-loading rifle) bullets used by the police on Thursday to shoot the BJP workers," Mr. Ahluwalia said.

S.S. Ahluwalia

Two people were killed and 11 others injured in the town in North 24 Parganas district on Thursday after clashes broke out between two groups believed to be affiliated to the Trinamool and the Bharatiya Janata Party.

"The police are saying they fired in the air. If they had done that, how can it hit humans," he asked. "We will submit our detailed report to party president and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. He is concerned with the violence in the area," he said.

The police and the ruling Trinamool called the observation baseless.

Trinamool secretary-general Partha Chatterjee said the BJP delegation's visit was aimed at increasing tension in the area. "[Ban orders under] Section 144 [of the Criminal Procedure Code] is in force, but the BJP is visiting there. The police should have taken action against them for violating Section 144." A senior officer said the BJP leadership had taken permission.

Seeks CBI probe

Earlier in the day, a joint delegation of the CPI(M) and the Congress, led by Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Abdul Mannan, visited the troubled areas of Baruipara, Jagaddal and Bhatpara. They demanded a CBI inquiry into the killing of two persons.

The BJP leadership has sought a CBI probe.

Increase number of judges, CJI urges PM

'Courts unable to clear pending cases'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking to increase the strength of judges and raise the retirement age of High Court judges to 65.

Justice Gogoi has also urged the Prime Minister to make tenure appointments of retired Supreme Court and High Court judges under Articles 128 and 224A, respectively, to clear cases pending for years.

The CJI, who wrote three letters to the PM, said 58,669 cases had been pending in the top court and the number was increasing.

With the paucity of judges, the required number of Constitution Benches to decide important cases involving questions of law was not being formed, he 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 appropriately so that it can function more efficiently and effectively as it will go a long way to attain ultimate goal of rendering timely justice to the litigant public," Justice Gogoi wrote.

Many vacancies

He said though the size of the feeder cadre of Chief Justices and judges of the High Courts had increased in the past, the strength had not been increased proportionally in the top court.

In his second letter, he urged Mr. Modi to consider bringing a constitutional amendment to increase the retirement age of High Court judges from 62 to 65.

It will go a long way in attaining the ultimate goal of rendering timely justice to the public

"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% 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," Justice Gogoi wrote.

Retirement age

On raising the retirement age of the HC judges, he wrote: "This, in turn, would help in improving the vacancy position and consequently reducing pendency of cases. This would also be in consonance with the [repeated] recommendations made by parliamentary standing committees."

Justice Gogoi said, "A judge takes time to evolve and by the time he is in a position to put innovative thoughts based on rich experience to practice, he finds himself nearing retirement. This can be avoided if the age of retirement is raised to an appropriate level so that his vast experience, deeper insight and expertise can be utilised for a longer period."

Indian carriers told to skip Iranian airspace

This move will affect flights to Europe and the U.S. from India and vice versa. Air India's Europe and U.S.-bound flights will be impacted.

IndiGo and Air India Express's Qatar-bound flights will have to take a different route as they fly over Iranian airspace.

Several European carriers have also decided not to fly over Iran.

Air India chairman and managing director Ashwani Lohani said, "There will be no substantial effect on Air India's flights. Details are being worked out for re-routing the incoming flights."

The diversion will put an additional financial burden on Air India which has been incurring losses since the ban on flying over Pakistani airspace a few months ago.

There will be no substantial effect on Air India flights. Details are being worked out for re-routing flights

ASHWANI LOHANI
Air India chairman

Etihad Airways has suspended operations through Iranian airspace over the Straits of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman, and will use alternative flight paths on a number of routes to and from Abu Dhabi until further notice, the airline said.

"These changes will cause delays on some departures from Abu Dhabi, due to increased congestion in available airspace, and will increase journey times on some routes," it added.

CBI conducts searches in Pilatus deal case

Nine locations, including the premises of 'absconding' defence dealer Sanjay Bhandari, raided

DEVESH K. PANDEY
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation has conducted searches in nine locations, including the premises of 'absconding' defence dealer Sanjay Bhandari, in connection with the ₹2,895.63-crore Pilatus trainer aircraft deal case.

The case alleging corruption in the deal for supply of 75 trainer aircraft was registered on June 19, following a preliminary enquiry initiated in November 2016. Based on the FIR, the Enforcement Directorate may soon initiate a money laundering probe.

Several accused

Among those named as accused are Switzerland-based Pilatus Aircraft Ltd., unknown officials of the Indian Air Force and the Defence Ministry, Mr. Bhandari as director of Offset India Solutions Private Ltd and another director Bimal Sareen. Mr. Bhandari is now said to be in the U.K.

Deepak Aggarwal, Himanshu Verma of Offset India Solutions and the Dubai-based Offset India Solutions FZC have also been arraigned.

According to the CBI, the searches were carried out in Delhi, Ghaziabad and Noida on Friday. "A local office of Pilatus Aircraft and the places linked to Mr. Aggarwal and Mr. Verma, besides the offices of some other companies, were also searched," said an agency official.

Sanjay Bhandari is said to be in the U.K. at present.

It is alleged that, as part of the conspiracy, Pilatus Aircraft made payments of over ₹21 crore in two tranches to Mr. Bhandari's company in India from August to October in 2010 and about ₹339 crore to his Dubai firm from 2011 to 2015.

The Air Force issued a request for proposal for procurement of 75 basic trainer aircraft on December 16, 2009. The CBI alleges that Pilatus Aircraft, one of the bidders, conspired with Mr. Bhandari and others to bag the deal.

The supplier signed a service provider agreement with him in June 2010, in "violation" of the defence procurement procedure, to get the contract.

Pilatus Aircraft fraudulently signed a pre-contract integrity pact with the Defence Ministry on November, 12, 2010, deliberately concealing the service provider agreement with Mr. Bhandari, as alleged. "It is suspected that the said commission amount was paid in order to influence the public servants associated with the process of procurement," said the agency.

In May 2012, Pilatus Aircraft got the contract. The agency suspects that the commission was paid for influencing the public servants who were associated with the process of procurement.

Offset India Solutions and six other domestic companies of Mr. Bhandari, apart from his wife Sonia Bhandari, allegedly received ₹25.5 crore from June 2012 to March 2015 in lieu of the cash provided by him from nine companies of Mr. Aggarwal. Mr. Bhandari took over five companies from Mr. Verma with the help of Mr. Aggarwal and ₹39.36 crore was deposited in them in lieu of the cash given by the defence dealer.

Rape-accused MP surrenders in U.P. court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
VARANASI

Newly elected Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MP Atul Rai, who has been accused of rape, surrendered in a court here in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday.

The judicial magistrate (first) remanded Rai in 14-day judicial custody. An FIR was registered against Rai on May 1 on a complaint by a college student who had alleged that he took her home on the pretext of meeting his wife but sexually assaulted her.

Mr. Rai, who has denied the rape allegations, had been on the run since the lodging of the FIR. The parliamentarian from Ghosi in U.P. was declared absconder by the local court.

Probe ordered into murder in Punjab prison

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Saturday ordered an inquiry into the fatal assault on the main accused in the "Bargari sacrilege" incident at the New Nabha prison, warning of stringent punishment for the assailants.

An initial probe revealed that accused Mahinderpal Bittu, 49, died after he was attacked by two inmates. He was rushed to a hospital at Nabha, where he was declared brought dead, said an official spokesperson.

ADGP Prisons Rohit Chaudhary will head the fact-finding committee, which has been asked to submit its report within three days.

Fabricated case, says Shweta Bhatt

Allegations of custodial death baseless, writes wife of ex-IPS officer on Facebook

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Shweta Bhatt, wife of former Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Sanjiv Bhatt, who has been convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment in an alleged custodial death case dating back to 1990, has called her husband's conviction a "miscarriage of justice", and alleged that he had been "implicated in a fabricated case".

She said she would fight for justice for her husband and their family.

In a detailed post on Facebook, she alleged that the "so-called custodial death" case was baseless and Bhatt, who was posted as Assistant Superintendent of Police, Jamnagar, at the time had nothing to do with the case or the person who died after he was detained by the local police following communal riots in Jamjodhpur town.

Shweta Bhatt, wife of former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt, leaving the Jamnagar Sessions Court on Thursday. ▪ PTI

"The deceased, Prabhudas Madhavji Vaishnani, was arrested hours before Sanjiv Bhatt and his staff reached the Jamjodhpur Police Station," she said. "At no point in time were any of the arrested 133 persons, including the deceased and his brother, in custody of Sanjiv Bhatt or any of his staff. Nor were they interrogated by Sanjiv Bhatt or his staff."

'No signs of torture'

"On 18th November 1990, while undergoing treatment in Rajkot, Mr. Vaishnani passed away. The hospital records as well as his post-mortem records have noted that there were no internal or external indication[s] of any injury/torture or any grievance," she added.

Ms. Bhatt alleged that the complaint filed against her husband was a "classic case of political vindictiveness".

Will provide air ambulance for Choksi's return, ED tells court

PNB scam accused had said he left India for treatment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has told the Bombay High Court that it was ready to provide an air ambulance to bring diamantaire Mehul Choksi, a key accused in the multi-crore Punjab National Bank (PNB) scam, to India.

Choksi, currently based in the Caribbean nation of Antigua, recently told the High Court that he had left India for medical treatment and not to avoid prosecution in the case. He said he would return to India as soon as he was medically fit to travel.

In a counter affidavit filed before the court on Friday, the ED said Choksi's submission appeared to be "façades being erected merely to mislead the court".

Mehul Choksi

"The ED conducts investigations in a very fair and professional manner. It may be appreciated that taking a humanitarian approach, we are ready to provide an expert medical team along with air ambulance to bring Choksi from Antigua to India," the probe agency said. If required, best medical services would be provided to Choksi on his return, it said.

The agency also brought to the court's attention the discharge summary of the hospital in New York, where he had undergone a surgery in February 2018, which allowed the diamantaire to return to work within three to five days. "As such it is not clear what is preventing him from travelling now, after 16-17 months from the date of undergoing the said procedure," the ED said.

INTERVIEW | MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI

'A democratic revolution is on with people rejecting communal politics'

Minister says issues facing minorities are not looked at through a narrow prism and there is development with dignity and without discrimination or appeasement

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

Union Minority Affairs Minister **Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi** *speaks on "Sabka Vishwas", minority politics and the demographic challenge faced by Parsis.*

What was behind Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech during the NDA parliamentary party meet when he spoke of a government with *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas* (Together, development for all, with everyone's trust)?

■ Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that phrase as he has already demonstrated that he had support from all sections of society. In the past five years, the Modi government has emphasised on development without discrimination, development with dignity and development without appeasement. Education, employment and empowerment were our priorities.

We are satisfied that we moved forward on that agenda. People have also seen this, otherwise Modi*ji* would not have been voted back with a bigger mandate than the last time around, a very rare thing in the political history of the country.

What does this mean on the ground?

■ Till now, when we used look at the issues facing minorities, we used to look at them via a very narrow prism, issues like personal law, Babri Masjid or that Islam is in danger or even that religious rights were being encroached on. I remember public meetings where such things were emphasised.

Now development programmes are front and centre and are being implemented without any fear or favour. For example, under the Mudra Yojana, 32% of beneficiaries are minorities, under Awaas Yojana (pucca houses for poor), 26-27% of beneficiaries are minorities; most importantly, in electricity, we have figures that say that 28-29% connections were areas that had significant minority population. In the past five years, we started 28 degree colleges and 2,197 schools and built 113 hostels, 91 ITIs, 50 polytechnics, more than 4,000 anganwadis, 400 *sadbhavana mandaps* and 92 residential schools. In fact, Prime Minister Modi increased the total number of minority districts from a pre-2014 level of 90 districts to 308, saying that even areas where minorities are around 25% of population should not be neglected, as all sections will gain form special attention. Our focus will be on education and self-employment through skill development programmes, etc. specially for girls.

What about representation in government jobs and administration, where minorities have been long under-represented?

■ We don't have figures for government jobs across the country at various levels but if you look at the UPSC exams, we have reversed the declining trend of before 2014; 102 in 2016, out of which 51 were Muslims, in 2017 that number went up to 113, with 43 or 44 Muslim candidates. It is the result of an atmosphere of development without discrimination. If we look at the participation of the six notified minority communities in government jobs, it was barely 4% before 2014, now it is close to 10%.

There is, however, a narrative of minorities under siege under the Modi government.

> **The entire symbolism of going around with a few Imams and declaring that Muslims are with certain parties has been broken by Modi*ji***

■ First of all, what we are seeing is *haar ka* horror show (a horror show of the defeated). Those opposing Modi*ji* have not been able to figure out what has happened to get him support from all sections of society. We used to hear talk of religion, caste, or region when asking for votes. We believe we are seeing a new democratic revolution where people are rejecting communal and caste politics.

In 2014, when Modi*ji* first came to power, some people thought that they could accuse him of bias, that he is intolerant or run an *Awaas Wapsi* programme and people will be convinced. But all these efforts were in vain, and Modi*ji*'s popularity and acceptability both rose. Under the first Modi government, people had started saying that India's relationship with all Islamic countries will see a decline and that Muslims will be discriminated against.

People saw the exact opposite of that, with the Islamic countries reposing deep faith in Modi*ji*, awarding him their highest honours. Even countries who don't get along, have Modi*ji* as a common point.

There have been reports of violence against minorities coming in since the results and even in the earlier term, how would you react to that?

■ No destructive agenda will be able to circumvent the development agenda. These incidents, mostly isolated, should be acted upon, and demonstrable action should be taken by State governments. These have been done in the past too. Some of these incidents are from those who want to poison a positive atmosphere with negativity.

Will there be any specific outreach to minority communities?

■ The government has been reaching out via its development programmes, and has broken what was a hypocrisy around the secularism of "room *main topi, sadak pe tilak*" (skull cap indoors, tilak on the streets). The entire symbolism of going around with a few Imams and declaring that Muslims are with certain parties has been broken by Modi*ji*. He has established direct contact with the people, and even I, through a series of progress panchayats, circumvented any middlemen and went directly to the people.

What is the status on the Kartarpur corridor?

■ This is a historic decision, despite the circumstances.

Your Ministry also launched an ambitious programme called "Jiyo Parsi" over the declining numbers of that community. What is the status of that?

■ The decline of population of Parsis, due to a multiplicity of reasons, is a matter of concern. We wanted to provide help, in terms of finance and spreading awareness. In the past five years, 200 children were born in that community after the launch of the scheme. We will continue with this. The Parsi community has had a big contribution to nation-building, and it's not good for the country if the community is seeing a demographic decline.

IN BRIEF

PM meets economists, industry experts

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday interacted with economists and industry experts on the current economic situation and took note of their suggestions. About 40 experts participated in the session organised by NITI Aayog on 'Economic Policy - The Road Ahead'. The themes of macro economy and employment, agriculture , exports, education and health were discussed. Mr. Modi thanked the participants for their suggestions. PTI

HC moved on appointing Leader of Opposition

NEW DELHI

A plea seeking direction to the Lok Sabha Speaker to appoint a Leader of the Opposition in the 17th Lok Sabha has been filed in the Delhi High Court. The public interest litigation (PIL) petition, filed by advocates Manmohan Singh and Shishmita Kumari, may be heard by a vacation Bench on June 26. They have sought a direction to the Speaker to frame a policy for the appointment. "In the new Lok Sabha, with 52 members, the Congress is the largest party in the Opposition and is, therefore, the rightful claimant to the post under the law," the PIL stated. IANS

Visa must for Nepalese entering India via Pak.

KATHMANDU

Nepalese nationals must hold a Indian visa if they are entering India from Pakistan, China, Hong Kong and Macau, according to a notice issued by the Nepalese Embassy in New Delhi. Similarly, Nepalese nationals travelling to Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain and Lebanon, are required to acquire a 'no objection certificate' from the respective Nepalese Embassies, it said. PTI

Kartarpur bridge work in Pakistan stalls

Islamabad cites defence concerns after initially agreeing to the proposal to construct the structure

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Pakistan is reluctant to build a bridge on its side to connect with the one being built on the Indian side for seamless movement to the Kartarpur shrine, a senior government official said on Saturday.

The official said the bridge on the Pakistani side would cut into their defence embankment, and the neighbouring country had refused the proposal after initially agreeing to it.

The Kartarpur corridor, which will connect Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur to Kartarpur in the Narowal province of Pakistani Punjab, is being constructed to commemorate the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, founder of Sikhism. The Guru spent the final years of his life at Kartarpur. The corridor is to be constructed before November 23, 2019.

Against the clock: The deadline for completing work on the Kartarpur corridor is November 23. ▪ PTI

"A 4.2-km all-weather road is being constructed to overcome the threat of floods on the Indian side. A bridge was to be built connecting the road with the corridor on Pakistan's side, but they are not agreeing to it. We don't want to block the path of the Ravi river as any construction will inundate areas on the Indian side," the official said.

On June 12, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while replying to a congratulatory message by his Pakistani counterpart Imran Khan, asked for early operationalisation of the corridor.

India and Pakistan had another round of talks to discuss the technical details of the corridor earlier this month.

The official said Pakistan was adamant on capping the number of daily visitors at 700, while India's demand is 5,000.

"Pakistan has not responded to our demand of allowing 10,000 pilgrims on special days. They are also adamant on allowing pilgrims in groups of at least 15 persons while we want permission for individuals. It is also insisting on putting a permit fee and we have demanded visa-free, no-fee movement," the official said.

The official said India was also concerned about the corridor being used to push Khalistani separatist propaganda, and the government had conveyed the threat to Pakistan.

Safety is key: Oil tankers passing through the Gulf region will be given additional protection by the Navy. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Navy teams to escort crude carriers

Tensions in West Asia escalating

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Amid escalating tensions in the Gulf region, which is crucial for India's energy security, the Indian Navy is considering deploying small teams on board large crude carriers passing through the region.

The proposal is currently under discussion among various stakeholders, official sources said.

"The proposal was discussed on Friday in a meeting between the Navy, Directorate General of Shipping and the Indian Ship Owners' Association. Discussions are still ongoing and the exact modalities will depend on the outcome," a defence official said on Saturday.

The proposal is to have small Navy teams comprising an officer and personnel on all energy-carrying platforms – ultra large crude carriers and very large crude carriers – to advise on protection measures, another defence source said.

The teams will be deployed on transiting crude carriers depending on the necessity, the source added.

Last week, after a series of attacks on ships transiting through the Persian Gulf, the Navy deployed two ships in the region, destroyer *INS Chennai* and offshore patrol vessel *INS Sunayna*, under Operation Sankalp to "re-assure Indian-flagged vessels operating/transiting through Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman".

This is in addition to the aerial surveillance in the area by Navy aircraft. The Information Fusion Centre (Indian Ocean Region), which was opened by the Navy in Gurugram last December, is keeping a close watch on the movement of ships in the Gulf region, the Navy has stated.

Protection advisory

Also, Director-General of Shipping issued advisories on June 13 and 16 to all Indian-flagged vessels operating in the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian/Arabian Gulf region to undertake "appropriate protection measures".

Tensions in the region have mounted following the spat between Iran and the U.S. and peaked after an advanced U.S. unmanned drone was shot down by Iran.

Tehran alleged it violated its airspace. Much of India's energy needs is sourced from the Gulf region and any potential disruption would have an adverse impact on the economy.

No sweetness deficit

Generous allocations: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and her deputy, Anurag Thakur, serving halwa to officials during the 'halwa ceremony' marking the beginning of the printing of the budgetary documents, in New Delhi on Saturday. Officials stay in the Ministry till the presentation of the Budget in the Lok Sabha to maintain secrecy. ▪ PTI

Confusion on Odisha RS candidate ends

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR

After a day of confusion as rivals Biju Janata Dal and Bharatiya Janata Party announced the name of Aswini Kumar Vaishnaw as their candidate for the Rajya Sabha byelection in Odisha, the former IAS officer joined the saffron party on Saturday in the presence of the party's Odisha unit president, Basant Panda. .

Mr. Vaishnaw had not joined either party till Friday evening. But now it is clear that the former Odisha-cadre officer will be the BJP candidate. The byelection to three Rajya Sabha seats in the State will be held on July 5. People were taken by surprise on Friday when Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced Mr. Vaishnaw's name minutes after the BJP tweeted that the former IAS officer will be its candidate.

When Railways plant 'bombs' to test alertness of its staff

Another use for detonators used to stop trains in emergency

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

An explosive device that is akin to an anti-tank landmine, but just emits a loud sound, is partly responsible for your safe travel by train.

The Railways get detonators, which contain proprietary chemicals, from an ordnance factory specialising in explosives. These are flat, circular explosives or 'pressure bombs' that explode under the weight of a locomotive or a wagon wheel.

The Railways use these detonators sparingly – mostly to stop a train from chugging into a disaster. But when the explosives approach expiry, they are used to test the alertness of staff.

"Each of these detonators has a shelf life of five years. We usually do not let the unused ones go waste and instead spring surprises on the running as well as station staff to test their alertness," M.K. Agarwal, Principal Chief Safety Officer of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR), told *The Hindu*. The detonators, with metal clips, come in a box of 10 that the Ordnance Factory supplies to the Railways at ₹163. Each station is allotted two boxes and each gateman of a level crossing gets one.

Advance warning: The gateman is responsible for placing detonators to alert drivers to danger. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"We have to place the detonators when track damage or an obstacle is detected but the train is too close to stop by other means," said Bhaskara Rao Baipalli, one of the three gatemen of level crossing NN274 on the western edge of Guwahati.

A gateman's duty in such an emergency is to attach a detonator on a rail at 600 m from the level crossing and three more detonators 10 m apart till a distance of 1,200 m.

The driver has to apply the brakes after the detonators go off under the weight of the wheels. "The detonators are powerful enough for locomotive drivers to hear beyond the noise of the train. But they do not cause any damage to the railway line," Mr. Agarwal said.

"Even when there's no danger for any train, we place the detonators at railway stations, on a bridge or in any section (between two stations) to try to catch employees off guard. Getting through the ambush is a sign that a train is in good hands," Mr. Agarwal said.

ELSEWHERE

Trump names new defence chief

WASHINGTON

Donald Trump has nominated Mark Esper to be the U.S. Secretary of Defense, the White House said late Friday, as Washington navigates a spike in tensions with Iran. Mr. Esper, who must be confirmed by the Senate, is the third man to lead the Pentagon in six months. AFP

U.S. blacklists five Chinese tech companies

WASHINGTON

The U.S. Commerce Department blacklisted five Chinese technology entities — including prominent supercomputer manufacturer Sugon and its three subsidiaries — on Friday in a new move against Beijing's supercomputing industry. All the five entities will be barred from obtaining U.S. technology. AFP

Myanmar order Internet shutdown in Rakhine

YANGON

Myanmar authorities ordered telecom companies to shut down Internet services in eight townships in Rakhine and Chin States, leading operator Telenor said on Saturday, amid heightening tensions in the region, where government troops are fighting ethnic rebels. REUTERS

7 killed in Cambodia building collapse

PHNOM PENH

At least seven people died on Saturday when an under-construction building owned by a Chinese company collapsed at a Cambodian beach resort, officials said, as rescuers scoured the giant rubble heap for survivors. The building went down before sunrise in the casino-resort town Sihanoukville in southwestern Cambodia, a rapidly developing tourist hotspot awash with Chinese investments . AFP

Iran vows to 'firmly confront' any aggression by the U.S.

Foreign Ministry says Tehran will not allow the country's borders to be violated

REUTERS
DUBAI

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

On Thursday, an Iranian missile destroyed a U.S. Global Hawk surveillance drone. Tehran said the drone was shot down over its territory and Washington said it had occurred in international airspace.

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Friday that he aborted a military strike to retaliate for Iran's downing of the U.S. drone because it could have killed 150 people, and signalled he was open to talks with Tehran.

Call for peace: An anti-war protest outside the White House in Washington on Thursday. ▪ AP

More sanctions

Speaking in Washington on Saturday before heading to the U.S. presidential retreat at Camp David, where he said he would deliberate on Iran, Mr. Trump said the U.S. government was imposing new sanctions on Tehran. "We are putting additional sanctions on Iran," he said. "In some cases we are going slowly, but in other cases we are moving rapidly."

Military action was "always on the table," he added, but he said he was open to reversing the escalation and could quickly reach a deal with Iran that he said would bolster the country's flagging economy. "We will call it 'Let's make Iran great again'," Mr. Trump said.

Iran has vowed to defend its borders. "Regardless of any decision they (U.S. officials) 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.

Worries about a confrontation between Iran and the U.S. have mounted despite Mr. Trump saying that he has no appetite to go to war with Iran. Tehran has also said it is not seeking a war but has warned of a "crushing" response if attacked.

"Any mistake by Iran's enemies, in particular America and its regional allies, would be like firing at a powder keg that will burn America, its interests and its allies to the ground," said the senior spokesman of Iran's Armed Forces, Abolfazl Shekarchi, on Saturday.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration on Thursday issued an emergency order prohibiting U.S. operators from flying in an oversea area of Tehran-controlled airspace over the Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman. Some other international airlines are taking related precautions.

Airspace safe: Tehran

But Iran said on Saturday its airspace was "safe and secure" for all planes to cross, Tasnim reported.

The U.S. and Saudi Arabia have blamed Iran for attacks on two oil tankers last week in the Gulf of Oman and on four tankers off the United Arab Emirates on May 12, both near the strategic Strait of Hormuz. Iran has denied any involvement.

Britain's Foreign Office said West Asia Minister Andrew Murrison would raise concerns about "Iran's regional conduct and its threat to cease complying with the nuclear deal" during a visit to Tehran on Sunday.

U.S. report expresses concern on communal violence in India

Officials often failed to prosecute perpetrators: document

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON

The U.S. Secretary of State released the State Department's '2018 Report on International Freedom', an annual submission it makes to the U.S. Congress as mandated by law.

"This mission is not just a Trump administration priority – it's a deeply personal one. For many years, I was a Sunday school teacher and a deacon at my church," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said.

"And that might sound unusual to a lot of folks inside the Beltway [i.e., Washington DC] . But I am one of millions of Americans, and billions of people across the world, who live in the knowledge of a higher power."

"I had a chance to meet with some Uighurs here, but unfortunately, most Chinese Uighurs don't get a chance to tell their stories. That's why, in an effort to document the staggering scope of religious freedom abuses in Xinjiang, we've added a special section to this year's China report," Mr. Pompeo said.

The report consists of country-wise chapters. The chapter on India detailed mob-related violence and discusses conversion, the legal status of minorities and government policies.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. ▪ AP

Renaming of cities

'The report said the Central and State governments as wells parties took steps to affect 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. Activists said these proposals were designed to erase Muslim contributions to Indian history and had led to increased communal tensions," the report said.

"There were reports of religiously motivated killings, assaults, riots, discrimination, vandalism, and actions restricting the right of individuals to practice their religious beliefs and proselytize," the report said. Authorities often failed to prosecute perpetrators of "cow vigilante" attacks, it said.

"There were reports by nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that the government sometimes failed to act on mob attacks on religious minorities, marginalized communities, and critics of the government. Some senior officials of the Hindu-majority Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) made inflammatory speeches against minority communities... According to some NGOs, authorities often protected perpetrators from prosecution. As of November, there were 18 such attacks, and eight people killed during the year," said the report.

Sri Lanka extends state of emergency

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

A state of emergency was extended by Sri Lanka's President Maithripala Sirisena on Saturday, going back on pledges to relax the tough laws introduced after the Easter Sunday attacks that killed 258 people.

Mr. Sirisena said in a decree that he believed there was a "public emergency" in the country, and was invoking provisions of the public security act extending the state of emergency.

Sweeping powers

The tough laws, granting sweeping powers to police and security forces to arrest and detain suspects, were due to expire on Saturday.

Just over 100 people, including 10 women, are in custody in connection with April's Easter Sunday suicide attacks against three churches and three luxury hotels in Colombo.

The emergency can be declared for a month at a time, and Parliament must ratify it within 10 days. The continuation of the emergency came as police announced criminal investigations against several top officers, including the Inspector-General, for negligence and lapses ahead of the bombings.

Writer accuses U.S. President of sexual assault

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

An advice columnist for *Elle* fashion magazine said on Friday that Donald Trump sexually assaulted her in the dressing room of a New York department store more than two decades ago, an accusation swiftly denied by the U.S. President.

According to E. Jean Carroll, the rape occurred in either 1995 or 1996, when Mr. Trump was a prominent real estate developer and she was a well-known magazine writer and host of a television show.

16th person

The account, revealed in an excerpt of Ms. Carroll's latest book and published on Friday by *New York* magazine, makes her at least the 16th woman to have accused Mr. Trump of sexual misconduct before he became President.

Mr. Trump reacted with a statement saying he'd never met Ms. Carroll, and that the incident "never happened."

Ms. Carroll said she never went to the police because she was afraid of repercussions.

Ms. Carroll wrote that she did not come forward sooner because she was afraid of "receiving death threats, being driven from my home, being dismissed, being dragged through the mud."

Mr. Trump shot back that Ms. Carroll was an attention seeker.

New York magazine quoted a senior White House official saying that the accusation "was created simply to make the President look bad," while Mr. Trump asked if Ms. Carroll had links to his opponents in the Democratic Party.

Palestinians reject U.S.'s West Asia 'peace plan'

Palestine isn't for sale, says Hamas

REUTERS
GAZA CITY

Palestinian officials on Saturday dismissed proposals unveiled Jared Kushner to form the first economic portion of the Trump administration's long-awaited West Asia peace plan.

Senior Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) official Hanan Ashrawi said Mr. Kushner's plans were "all abstract promises" and said only a political solution would solve the conflict. Hamas was more blunt, saying: "Palestine isn't for sale".

The Trump administration's $50 billion West Asia economic plan calls for creation of a global investment fund to lift the Palestinian and neighbouring Arab state economies, according to U.S. officials.

Palestinian negotiator official Hanan Ashrawi. ▪ AFP

One proposal is for the construction of a $5 billion transportation corridor to connect the West Bank and Gaza. Ms. Ashrafi, a veteran Palestinian negotiator, said the Trump administration's stance was an "entirely wrong approach", adding: "They can end the occupation, which is the most basic requirement for prosperity. There can be no prosperity under occupation."

Iran executes 'contractor' over spying for CIA

Zavar worked for the Defence Ministry

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Iran has executed a "Defence Ministry contractor" convicted of spying for the Central Intelligence Agency, semi-official ISNA agency reported on Saturday.

"The execution sentence was carried out for Jalal Haji Zavar, a contractor for the Defence Ministry's aerospace organisation who spied for the CIA and the American government," ISNA reported, quoting the Iranian military.

ISNA said he was convicted by Iran's military court and that he was executed, at an unspecified time, at the Rajayi Shahr prison in the city of Karaj, west of Tehran.

The agency did not say when Zavar was arrested, noting however that his contract with the Defence Ministry had been terminated during the Iranian year 1389 (March 2010-2011).

He was identified as a spy by the Defence Ministry's intelligence unit, ISNA said. During the investigation the suspect "explicitly confessed to spying for the CIA" in return for money, ISNA said, adding that "documents and espionage devices were found at his house".

Zavar's ex-wife was convicted of "involvement in espionage" and is serving a 15-year jail sentence, the agency said.

The report comes days after Iran said it had dismantled a "new" U.S. spy network in the country linked to the CIA, amid escalating tensions between Tehran and Washington.

Police called to Boris Johnson's home after row with girlfriend

Neighbour was concerned for her welfare, says official

REUTERS
LONDON

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 in the early hours of Friday to an address in south London where Mr. Johnson is living with his girlfriend, Carrie Symonds.

"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 poster depicting Boris Johnson near his house in London. ▪ REUTERS

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, Ms. Symonds could be heard telling Mr. Johnson to "get off me" and "get out of my flat".

Recording of altercation

A neighbour of Mr. Johnson told *The Guardian* newspaper that they had recorded the altercation from inside their flat out of concern for Ms. Symonds.

The Guardian said it had reviewed the recording and that Mr. Johnson could be heard refusing to leave the flat and using a swear word to tell Ms. Symonds to get off his laptop. Crashing sounds can also be heard, the newspaper said. Reuters has not reviewed the audio.

Another neighbour interviewed by the BBC confirmed the argument and said she had heard a woman shouting.

Philippines ex-official hits out at China

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BANGKOK

A former Philippines Foreign Minister who was denied entry into Hong Kong said on Saturday that he was barred over his criticisms of China, calling the move "sheer intimidation" by Beijing.

Hong Kong, which has been rocked by massive anti-Beijing protests in recent weeks, on Friday turned away Albert del Rosario, who has spearheaded legal moves against the Chinese government's bullish behaviour in South China Sea.

Mr. Del Rosario tried to enter on a diplomatic passport before being held for six hours and put on a flight back to the Philippines. His lawyer said authorities gave no reason, but Mr. Del Rosario said he was targeted by Beijing.

Banks may extend foreign currency loans for exporters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday said the Ministry is in talks with banks to see ways to extend foreign currency loans to exporters.

Addressing members of the CII here, he said there were ways to resolve the problem of inadequate and expensive credit without putting a significant stress on the exchequer.

He said providing subsidies was not a solution to trade-related issues. "Instead, we will work on foreign currency loans and I already have dialogues with bankers to see how we can expand foreign currency loans," he said.

Infosys says Panaya, Skava arms are not for sale

The company is currently in the process of 'growing activities' under these acquisitions, says CEO Parekh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Tech bellwether Infosys said Panaya and Skava are no more considered assets for sale; instead, they have been put on a growth path.

The company said it was currently in the process of 'growing activities' under these acquisitions to see if they can complement the growth of the company's retail, manufacturing and consumer care verticals.

In February 2015, Infosys acquired Panaya, an enterprise software management firm based in Israel, in an all-cash deal worth $200 million.

The deal ran into a huge controversy that eventually led its then CEO Vishal Sikka to quit the firm in August 2017, after a public spat with the co-founders.

Responding to shareholders' queries at the company's 38th annual general meeting held here on Saturday, Infosys CEO Salil Parekh said: "Panaya and Skava are not put on sale and we have stated this in our annual report and financial results. We are now looking at how to refocus and repurpose activities within these businesses with a view to growing these acquisitions."


Our BPO and BFSI teams say that mortgage platform Stater can help Infosys scale up, says Salil Parekh. ▪ SOMASHEKAR G R N

Growing acquisitions

He said Infosys had assigned two senior executives who, in addition to their existing roles, would look at these acquisitions to see how to grow them and combine them with the company's other businesses.

"The process has already begun. We expect better results in the short and medium term," said Mr. Parekh.

Nandan Nilekani, the company's non-executive chairman, said, "Panaya controversy is a closed chapter for Infosys."

Responding to another investor query on why the company was unwilling to make the Panaya investigation report public, Mr. Nilekani said: "The investigation report on Panaya is a confidential document. People who were part of the investigation were given assurance of confidentiality before their statements were recorded. The board is comfortable with the decision to keep this confidentiality as it is."

> **The Panaya controversy is a closed chapter for Infosys**
> NANDAN NILEKANI
> non-executive chairman, Infosys

Digital disruption

In his address to shareholders Mr. Nilekani said, "We clearly see that our clients operate in an increasingly complex world disrupted by many digital technologies, and they are looking at us to partner with them in this new era.

"Our work across industries, value chains and geographies give us keen insights into the pattern of changes transforming the fundamental wiring across a diverse set of businesses."

Commenting on its M&A focus, the company said it had set up an internal committee that would look at potential acquisitions and also address integration issues around its existing acquisitions.

"There is increasing interest from clients for platform-based businesses. The thinking behind the acquisition of ABN AMRO Bank subsidiary Stater was one such. Stater is a mortgage platform. Our BPO and BFSI teams are of the view that such a platform can help us scale up," added Mr. Parekh.

Dr. Reddy's unveils Vitamin K1 injection

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has launched Phytonadione injectable emulsion USP, 10 mg/ml single dose ampules, a therapeutic equivalent generic version of Vitamin K1 (Phytonadione) in the U.S.

The product, indicated in certain coagulation disorders, has been launched with the approval of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The Vitamin K1 (Phytonadione) for injectable emulsion USP, 10 mg/ml brand and generic had combined U.S. sales of approximately $46.6 million MAT for the 12 months ended April 2019, the company said on Saturday, citing IQVIA Health.

Greaves to boost EV output

Earmarks ₹75 crore towards capital expenditure

N. ANAND
CHENNAI

Greaves Cotton Ltd., a diversified engineering company, is evaluating the process of more than doubling the output of Ampere electric bikes, besides setting apart ₹75 crore towards capital expenditure, said a top official.

"Ever since the strategic acquisition of the Coimbatore-based Ampere Vehicles in August 2018, the market share has grown to double-digits and the exclusive sales outlets from nearly 70 to 120," said Nagesh Basavanhalli, managing director and chief executive officer, Greaves Cotton Ltd.


Nagesh Basavanhalli

"Currently, we are producing 1,800 bikes and plans are on to ramp it up to 5,000 units per month during this fiscal. We have already planned for it and as the market demand increases, we will be ready to support it," he said.

For the time being, Ampere bikes would be manufactured at the Coimbatore facility and the production line had been structured to make 5,000 bikes per month. When the demand picks up, the company would evaluate other production facilities, he said.

Increase of three times

Asserting that the sales of EVs had seen ta hree times increase over the last year, he said the firm's phase II strategy called for making Ampere 'India's most preferred EV bike brand' revolving around greater design efficiencies and building a local network of suppliers.

Talking about 325 Greaves Retail outlets, which offer a combination of sales, service and spare parts for two-wheelers, Ampere electric bikes and e-rickshaws, multi-brand servicing and spare parts, he said that the group was adding 15 to 20 outlets every month.

The outlets would be set up by franchisees.

Gelato machine maker Valmar enters India

Ties up with Swedinox for marketing

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

European gelato and ice cream machine manufacturer Valmar has entered into an exclusive marketing tie-up with city-based Swedinox Impex to sell the former's equipment in India, said a top official.

"To start with, we have imported about 10 machines each costing about ₹10 lakh each," said Abdul Rahim, chairman, Swedinox. "As we are the official importer of this equipment, we have already received about 80 enquiries," he said.

Claiming that the Indian ice cream and frozen dessert market was about ₹140 billion and growing, he said initially, it would target hotels, restaurants and cafes in Chennai.

"The market is expected to touch ₹238 billion by 2023," he said.

"We have also discussed the possibility of setting up an ice cream machine manufacturing unit in Chennai, and the partners are ready to give their technology, but we are waiting for the sales volume to pick up," he said.

Besides, Swedinox is also planning to enter the residential sector by joining hands with another ice cream machine maker. While Valmar machines can make 3.5 kg of ice cream in each attempt, those for residential use can prepare 750 grams of ice cream, he said.

Tea Association seeks curbs on extension of tea-growing areas

Aims to bring about demand-supply balance

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Tea Association of India (TAI) wants State governments to restrict new lands being brought under tea cultivation for at least five years, in order to bring a balance in tea demand and supply.

Pointing out that the economic sustainability of the organised tea plantation sector was in jeopardy due to shrunken margins on account of a mismatch between production costs and tea prices, TAI said that the livelihood of over five million people, directly and indirectly employed in this sector, was threatened.

The TAI release noted that between 2008 and 2018, tea prices increased by about 4.8% CAGR whereas wage costs, which comprise about 65% of total production cost, increased by over 10% CAGR. Other input expenses have risen by over 7% CAGR.

According to TAI, prices have not risen due to the rapid increase in tea supply, especially from the small tea growers (STG) segment. In 2018, this segment accounted for a 48 % share in India's output of 1,338 million kg against 20% in 2003.

This rapid growth of the small grower sector has led to the emergence of a dual business model, with completely different costs of production, and one in which most of the organised plantations are faced with selling teas below their cost of production. This is mainly because the STG segment is not governed by the same laws as the large estates are.

Budget: realty sector wants govt. to tackle NBFC crisis

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The real estate sector wants the Budget to spur growth and provide a solution to the NBFC liquidity crisis. Developers and experts said the government must accord high importance to infrastructure growth, which will provide impetus to real estate.

"India needs a stable political and investment climate supported by growth-oriented Union Budget 2019. Realty sector needs strong demand through economic activities, including continued infrastructure development, and easy availability of capital," said Sanjay Dutt, MD and CEO, Tata Realty and Infrastructure Ltd. and Tata Housing Development Company.

The Centre should implement specific initiatives to complement and accelerate growth through policy changes. "Overall, we are confident that this Budget would provide the right traction to the industry and prepare it to lead at the global front," he said.

Farshid Cooper, MD, Spenta Corporation, said: "We look forward to a swift solution to the NBFC liquidity crisis and intervention from the RBI to stabilise the banking sector. Further, we expect progressive and sustainable tax laws, which will make compliance easy." He said additionally, there should be a stringent focus on affordable housing and unwavering support of all stakeholders to ensure the mission 'Housing for All' regains momentum.

Shishir Baijal, CMD, Knight Frank India, said, "Last few Budgets have taken steps to stimulate affordable housing demand. But conversion of latent demand to actual sales have remained slow."

INTERVIEW | M. MURALI

'Realty in consolidation mode'

Big role for affordable housing: Shriram Properties' CMD

LALATENDU MISHRA

Shriram Properties Ltd., the real estate arm of the Shriram Group, is planning to tap the capital market to raise resources as well as to provide exit to private equity investors who have invested in the company. In an interview, **M. Murali**, *CMD, Shriram Properties, elaborates on the company's plans and on the real estate sector. Excerpts:*

How is Shriram Properties different from other players?

■ What I follow is the direction and vision of our founder Mr. Thyagarajan. He always says that passion should be on while your emotions should be off in business. So, we keep away emotion and continue to hold on to our passion towards growing the business.

If there is a defective product you can rectify it, but if there is a defective title you cannot rectify it. Therefore, right from day one we were very clear that we will not give any defective title to our clients.

Cash flows from all the projects are closely monitored and we have never deviated from that. In the other areas also we have maintained our stance very clearly; for instance, we will focus on middle-level and affordable housing segment and we will not deviate from that.

The entire organisation is built with this philosophy. So everything is based on this and helps us to stay firm.

What is the total debt?

■ Gross borrowings, as on March 31, 2019, were ₹8,380.89 million

What are your future plans?

■ We have completed 25 projects as on November 30, 2018. We have 31 projects in our pipeline with a saleable area of 54.87 million square feet (msf) as of DRHP (draft red herring prospectus) date. We have completed one commercial project (2.03 msf), have nil ongoing commercial projects, and have three upcoming commercial developments (4.35 msf).

What is the outlook for the industry?

■ Overall, the industry is going through a phase of consolidation. What happened to NBFCs in early 2000 is exactly what is happening in the real estate sector now.

In the last two years, we have seen price erosion, a lot of people have moved out of the business, which is forcing the industry into a big consolidation today. In my opinion, there will be no more than 100 players left in the industry.

In the next 10 years, mid and affordable housing will play a major role not only for the real estate sector but also for the economy.

You have been growing at 30%; what is the average industry growth?

■ The industry had grown at around 8-10%. Not only that, all the big players who are stabilised today have the potential to grow at 30% CAGR.

How much exposure do you have to the commercial space?

■ We have a small bit of commercial [space]. We have delivered 2.5 msf of office space. At present 2 msf is the commercial real estate is under construction.

> **'Housing for all' is a great mission and it needs to be done**

For growing at 30%, one needs a lot of capital...

■ Capital is not a cause for concern today. People are sitting with tonnes of money for India and Indian real estate. This is because global investors think of India as a destination where they can park their funds. Capital availability is plenty, but this money can be taken over by only 20 players.

With the Budget coming up, what is your recommendation to the government?

■ 'Housing for all' is a great mission and it needs to be done. There are statistics that say housing started in the 1970's in a big way. A little later, public housing started. However, compared with the growth achieved by public housing, we have not done 10% of that so far.

But the money spent as a nation is 10-20 times in the last 40-45 years. However, if we think that 'Housing for all' can be delivered only by government departments we are making a mistake. To achieve that goal, the government might have to set up a different Ministry altogether like the Singapore model.

Where are real estate prices headed?

■ I expect land prices to remain stable. On the finished products, the prices will go up, because the demand-supply gap is widening.

Biovet to invest ₹200 cr. in animal vaccines

Veterinary vaccine maker eyes enhancing output by 300 million doses

MINI TEJASWI
BENGALURU

Dairy farmers in India incur an average annual loss of ₹21,000 to ₹25,000 a year per head of cattle affected by the highly contagious foot and mouth disease (FMD).

FMD brings the milk production in cattle, buffaloes and sheep down by 80% and the animal's life deteriorates, making it a burden on the farmer.

With India having the largest cattle population in the world, it requires over a 1,000 million doses of FMD vaccine but only half of it is currently made available.

Malur (Karnataka)-based veterinary vaccine research and development firm Biovet currently supplies over 200 million doses while its target is to raise the vaccine production by another 300 million doses.


The country has a huge vaccine shortage and hence its cattle are not in good health, says Dr. Ella. ▪ PRAKASH HASSAN

The production facility would also churn out 100 million doses of Brucella vaccine per year.

Buoyed by the Centre's emphasis on animal health, giving greater push to control and eradicate FMD and Brucellosis in cattle, Biovet has decided to invest ₹200 crore to expand its FMD and Brucellosis vaccine manufacturing facilities in Karnataka.

As per Dr. Ella, founder-promoter of Biovet, dairy farmers in the country incur an annual economic loss to the tune of ₹25,000 crore because of FMD and related restriction on the export of milk, dairy and other animal products.

The estimated losses per infected animal because of FMD is ₹2,023 for sheep, ₹3,046 for the goat and ₹2,830 for the pig.

> **Foot and mouth disease reduces milk production in cattle, buffaloes and sheep by 80%**

The country currently has a huge vaccine shortage and therefore all its cattle are not in good health. Cattle health has a direct impact on human health as well as Indians consume a lot of dairy and meat products.

"The animal health situation in the country is expected to improve with the government recently deciding to have an exclusive ministry for animal husbandry. A sum of ₹13,343 crore has been earmarked for control and eradication of diseases with a special focus on FMD and Brucellosis," added Dr. Ella.

Logistics sector seeks tax sops

Calls for fiscal incentives for digitisation, skill building

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

The logistics sector is looking for rationalisation of taxes in the forthcoming Budget besides fiscal incentives for in-depth adoption of digitisation and skill building in the sector.

"The input credit norms for warehouse construction and operations needs to be relooked at. Currently, there is an accumulation of input tax that leads to high incidence of tax on warehousing services," said Rajesh Jaggi, managing partner, real estate at Everstone Group.

He said since warehousing and logistics are gearing up for an in-depth adoption of digital technologies, the government should incentivise the adoption of various technologies in the sector, which would help in effective packaging and material handling, besides improving efficiency.

> **The government should incentivise the adoption of technologies in the sector**
> RAJESH JAGGI
> managing partner, real estate, Everstone Group

Mr. Jaggi said any announcement on the roll-out of the National Logistics Policy that entails an Integrated National Logistics Action Plan, would serve as an optimised master plan to define logistics' priorities across various Ministries, including Road Transport Highways and Shipping. This would be a positive for the sector, he said.

'Top of agenda'

Experts said the logistics industry, with its potential for empowering economic growth, should be on the top of the agenda for the new government.

"Efficient logistics will not only provide better and cheaper mobility but also deliver quick and substantial employment opportunities to semi-skilled and skilled job seekers. The sector can also provide critical mass to make India a superpower in artificial intelligence," said Rohit Chaturvedi, CEO, TransportHub.

"In my view, a tax credit for technology spends can go a long way in encouraging the industry for faster adoption of technology. In addition, there should be a specific training budget through Skill India to train the workforce for future jobs in the industry," he said.

As per a JLL India report in 2019, the logistics and warehousing sector would absorb about 38 million square feet of space.

Amazon to offer drones for surveillance

REUTERS

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 analysed to look out for, say for example, a broken window, or a fire or if a garage door was left open during the day, the patent described. 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. Any image that the drone captures outside the geo-fence would be removed.

DELHI THE HINDU
SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2019

Two sides: "Libra may have a few things working in its favour. But going by the opposition to the idea, it is not going to be smooth sailing." Representations of virtual currency in front of the Libra logo ▪ REUTERS/DADO RUVIC/ ILLUSTRATION

Libra unveiled

What is Facebook's plan to empower billions? What is Libra's technology? Is this cause for worry?

SRIRAM SRINIVASAN

The story so far: On June 18, Facebook announced that it is going to launch a global digital currency by the first half of 2020. The currency has been named Libra. It will be run by the Libra Association, a Geneva-based entity that has over two dozen founding partners, including Facebook, Mastercard, Visa, Uber and the Vodafone group. Almost immediately, concerns were raised by some lawmakers, commentators and even the co-founder of Facebook, Chris Hughes, who is now one of the foremost critics of the social media network he helped create.

Why does the world need Libra?
A white paper released by the Libra Association says its mission "is to enable a simple global currency and financial infrastructure that empowers billions of people". The point it makes is this: in a world with cheap data and smartphones, about 1.7 billion adults are still outside the organised financial system in the world. This, despite a billion of them having mobile phones and nearly half a billion having Internet access.

The reasons for this are high fees, lack of access, and absence of documentation. Libra is being pitched as a solution to this. The promise is of financial inclusion on a global scale.

The white paper says: "Moving money around globally should be as easy and cost-effective as – and even more safe and secure than – sending a text message or sharing a photo, no matter where you live, what you do, or how much you earn."

It is apparently being built on the block chain technology. How similar is it to Bitcoin?
It is true that Bitcoin and Libra are both based on block chain technology, which refers to a form of distributed ledger – not centralised – of transactions. These are created by complicated math functions that make them almost incorruptible. But beyond this, there is very little in common between Bitcoin and Libra.

Libra is an initiative of 28 influential corporate entities. Bitcoin, which the world first came to know of in 2008, is seen as a product of libertarian values. Its founder, whose identity remains a mystery to this day, is referred to as Satoshi Nakamoto.

> Facebook, with its over 2 billion users, and its partners has acceptability. Also, unlike Bitcoin, the Libra Association is promising to play by the regulatory rule book

In *Bitcoin: The Future of Money?*, Dominic Frisby imagines what would happen if Bitcoin becomes somehow globally preferred: "In a flash, the ability for a government to fund itself through the manipulation of money disappears. You can't obfuscate bitcoin supply – inflation is transparent. You can't 'quantitatively ease' bitcoins... Central banks and private banks can't create bitcoins when it suits them, and government can't print bitcoins. It all means you don't have to pay the price for the mistakes of governments and banks."

Libra is going to be nothing like Bitcoin. The association white paper says, "We believe that collaborating and innovating with the financial sector, including regulators and experts across a variety of industries, is the only way to ensure that a sustainable, secure and trusted framework underpins this new system."

Those are just some of the differences.

Though Bitcoin has come a long way, it has remained a niche currency. Why should Libra's fate be any different?
Bitcoin, though built on a sound technological base, has had to encounter challenges relating to regulation across the world. Governments of the world, including India, have been wary of it functioning outside the ambit of organised finance. With huge swings in value, it remains one of the most volatile currencies.

Libra immediately has a few things working in its favour. A currency, to be a success, needs to have acceptability amongst many people. Facebook, with its over 2 billion users, and its partners could tick this box. Also, the Libra Association is promising to play by the regulatory rule book.

Plus, to make it a relative stable currency, not prone to wild fluctuations, the creators of Libra are backing this up with a reserve of real assets. Still, going by the opposition to the idea, it isn't going to be a smooth sail for Libra.

Why is Libra being opposed?
Bloomberg has reported that the French Finance Minister, Bruno Le Maire, has called on the Group of Seven central bank governors to "prepare a report on Facebook's project for their July meeting. His concerns include privacy, money laundering and terrorism finance".

Markus Ferber, a German member of the European Parliament, has also been reported as saying that Facebook could become a "shadow bank" and that regulators should be on high alert.

Facebook's co-founder Hughes, terming the digital currency "frightening", has said it is a shift of power from central banks towards multinational corporations.

Why is the litchi toxin causing deaths?

Why is Methylene Cyclopropyl Glycine lethal for malnourished children? What can be done?

R. PRASAD

The story so far: Acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) in Bihar's Muzaffarpur, Vaishali, Sheohar and East Champaran districts has so far claimed the lives of over 100 children. More than 400 children with AES have been admitted to various hospitals. Most of the deaths have been attributed to low blood sugar level (hypoglycaemia).

What is acute encephalitis syndrome?
AES in short, it is a basket term used for referring to hospital, children with clinical neurological manifestations which include mental confusion, disorientation, convulsion, delirium or coma.

Meningitis caused by virus or bacteria, encephalitis (mostly Japanese encephalitis) caused by virus, encephalopathy, cerebral malaria, and scrub typhus caused by bacteria are collectively called acute encephalitis syndrome.

While microbes cause all the other conditions, encephalopathy is biochemical in origin, and hence very different from the rest. There are different types of encephalopathy. In the present case, the encephalopathy is associated with hypoglycaemia and hence called hypoglycaemic encephalopathy.

Is encephalitis different from hypoglycaemic encephalopathy?
Yes. The two conditions show very different symptoms and clinical manifestations.

Fever on the first day is one of the symptoms of encephalitis before the brain dysfunction begins. While fever is seen in children in the case of hypoglycaemic encephalopathy, fever is always after the onset of brain dysfunction (actually due to the brain dysfunction). And not all children exhibit fever. Some children have no fever, while others may have mild or very high fever.

The blood sugar level is usually normal in children with encephalitis but is low in children with hypoglycaemic encephalopathy.

In the case of encephalitis, fever (due to virus infection) for a day or two is followed by the onset of symptoms caused by the brain getting affected. However, in hypoglycaemic encephalopathy, children go to bed without any illness but manifest symptoms such as vomiting, convulsion and semi-consciousness early next morning (between 4 a.m. to 7 a.m.). At that time, the blood sugar level is low, hence the name hypoglycaemic encephalopathy. The most important difference between the two is the presence of white blood cells in the cerebrospinal fluid. In encephalitis, there are more white blood cells per unit volume of cerebrospinal fluid, which is a reflection of inflammation in the brain. In contrast, no increase in white blood cells is seen in hypoglycaemic encephalopathy as there is no inflammation in the brain.

What killed so many children in Bihar?
In a majority of cases, children died due to hypoglycaemic encephalopathy. According to a Press Information Bureau (PIB) release (June 18) , hypoglycaemia (low blood sugar level) was reported in a "high percentage" of children who died in Muzaffarpur. Unlike hypoglycaemic encephalopathy, encephalitis does not cause low blood sugar level so death in a high percentage of children couldn't have been due to encephalitis.

Why has it affected only young children?
It is an observed fact that malnourished children between two to 10 years fall ill and die due to hypoglycaemic encephalopathy. It is not known why older children or adults do not suffer the same way. This clear discrimination by age is also a reason why the underlying cause of the illness cannot be a virus. A virus does not discriminate by age, and children younger than two years too are affected by Japanese encephalitis.

It has also been documented that most of the children falling ill are from families camping in orchards to harvest the fruits. These children tend to collect and eat the fruits that have fallen on the ground.

Hypoglycaemic encephalopathy outbreaks are restricted to April-July, with a peak seen in June. This is because litchi is harvested during this period.

> Hypoglycaemic encephalopathy can be easily treated. A full and complete recovery can be achieved if affected children are infused with 10% dextrose within four hours after the onset of symptoms

Is litchi fruit responsible for causing hypoglycaemic encephalopathy?
In 2012-2013, a two-member team headed by virologist Dr. T. Jacob John suspected, and confirmed the next year, a toxin found in litchi fruit that was responsible for causing hypoglycaemic encephalopathy. In 2017, an India-U.S. team confirmed the role of the toxin called methylene cyclopropyl glycine (MCPG).

Early morning, it is normal for blood sugar to dip after several hours of no food intake. Undernourished children who had gone to sleep without a meal at night develop hypoglycaemia. The brain needs normal levels of glucose in the blood. The liver is unable to supply the need. So the alternate pathway of glucose synthesis, called fatty acid oxidation, is turned on. That pathway is blocked by MCPG.

Litchi does not cause any harm in well-nourished children, but only in undernourished children who had eaten litchi fruit the previous day and gone to bed on an empty stomach.

Why is the toxin more dangerous for undernourished children?
In well-nourished children, reserve glucose is stored as glycogen (glucose polysaccharide) in the liver. Whenever the glucose level goes down, glycogen is broken down into glucose and circulated in the blood for use. But undernourished children lack sufficient glycogen reserve that can be converted into glucose. Therefore, the natural mechanism in undernourished children is unable to correct the glucose level in blood, leading to hypoglycaemia.

Normally, when glycogen reserve in the liver is exhausted or is not sufficient, the body converts the fatty acid (non-carbohydrate energy source) into glucose. But in the presence of the litchi toxin, the conversion of fatty acid into glucose is stopped midway. As a result, no glucose is generated and the low blood glucose level is not corrected by the body.

How does the toxin cause coma and even death in children?
The toxin acts in two ways to harm the brain and even cause death. Because of the toxin, the body's natural mechanism to correct low blood glucose level is prevented thus leading to a drop in fuel supply to the brain. This leads to drowsiness, disorientation and even unconsciousness. When the toxin stops the fatty acid conversion into glucose midway, amino acids are released which are toxic to brain cells. The amino acids cause brain cells to swell resulting in brain oedema. As a result, children may suffer from convulsions, deepening coma and even death.

Can hypoglycaemic encephalopathy be prevented in undernourished children?
Yes, by making sure that undernourished children do not eat plenty of litchi fruit, ensuring that they eat some food and not go to bed on an empty stomach. Since 2015, the prevention strategy as recommended by Dr. Jacob John's team has helped in sharply reducing the number of deaths from hypoglycaemic encephalopathy in Muzaffarpur. In 2017, the India-U.S. team published a paper corroborating these findings and recommendations.

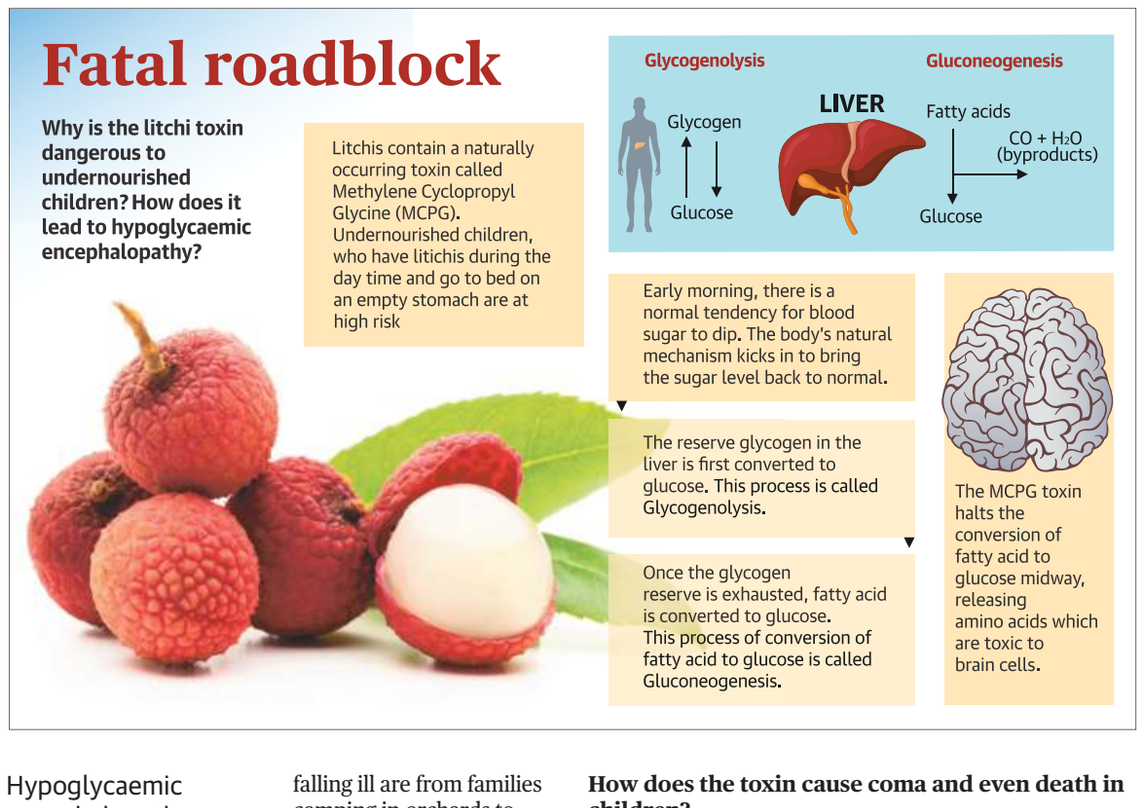
Can hypoglycaemic encephalopathy be treated?
Yes, hypoglycaemic encephalopathy can be easily treated. A full and complete recovery can be achieved if children with hypoglycaemic encephalopathy are infused with 10% dextrose within four hours after the onset of symptoms.

Infusing 10% dextrose not only restores blood sugar to a safe level but also stops the production of amino acid that is toxic to brain cells by shutting down the body's attempt to convert fatty acid into glucose.

Together with dextrose infusion, infusing 3% saline solution helps in reducing oedema of the brain cells. The concentration of ions in the fluid outside the brain cells becomes more than what is inside the cell; this causes the fluid from the cells to come out thus reducing oedema and damage to brain cells.

Using 5% dextrose, as is the norm in cases of general low blood sugar level, may help children with hypoglycaemic encephalopathy recover from hypoglycaemia, but the accumulation of amino acid is not turned off. And so, even if children survive, they will have brain damage.

If dextrose infusion is not started within four hours after the onset of symptoms, the brain cells may not recover but will die. As a result, even if they survive, children suffer from various aspects of brain damage – speech getting affected, mental retardation, muscle stiffness/weakness and so forth.



How will Jet's insolvency process play out?

Will potential buyers be interested in capitalising on the airline's brand value and try to relaunch the carrier?

PRASHANTH PERUMAL J.

The story so far: Jet Airways, the troubled private airline that has failed to meet its huge debt obligations, was admitted to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Thursday. This happened after a consortium of lenders led by State Bank of India (SBI) that had lent money to the airline over the years approached the NCLT to begin insolvency proceedings. Shares of the airline soared more than 120% on Thursday after news broke that the airline has been admitted by the NCLT for bankruptcy proceedings.

In accordance with the procedures laid out under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, the court ordered an interim resolution professional to take control of Jet Airways. The professional appointed by the court will now look at ways to salvage the most value out of the airline so that the money can be used to pay back lenders.

Why did Jet Airways fail?
It was founded by Naresh Goyal in 1992, and began flying a year later. It was one of the earliest private entrants into India's airline industry after the government slowly began to liberalise the economy. The opening up of the airline industry to more private companies in the ensuing years caused a boom in air travel in the country. At the same time, greater competition put increasing pressure on airlines to either deliver better services to justify their high prices, or cut costs to operate more efficiently as budget airlines. Jet, which was unable to adapt to changing market conditions, suffered losses for many consecutive years. The unpredictability of the price of oil in the global market also played a role in messing up its cost calculations. In the first quarter of financial year 2018, Jet posted a loss of ₹1,323 crore.

Since that huge loss, its management has tried to pump additional money into the airline to meet its operating costs and has also announced various aggressive measures to cut down costs. But all this may have come a little too late. Lenders, seeing the writing on the wall, have refused to keep throwing good money after bad just to keep the airline afloat. Kingfisher and Sahara are two other private airlines which failed under the pressures of competition. Air India, which is again burdened by a huge amount of debt like Jet, was another prominent loser in the battle for market share. But unlike Air India, Jet does not have the government to bail it out of its financial trouble.

PTI

What made lenders approach the bankruptcy court?
It is estimated that Jet may owe about ₹20,000 crore in the form of short- and long-term debt obligations to an array of lenders. A consortium of lenders that loaned money to Jet has already been in talks with some potential buyers such as Etihad (UAE) and Tata Sons who could invest capital in Jet in order to make the airline fully operational once again. However, these talks have failed to materialise into an actual deal given the high level of debt on Jet's balance sheet. It is worth noting that buyers of troubled companies are generally reluctant to take responsibility for the debt of the troubled entity as it will affect their own return from the investment. The lender consortium led by the SBI, on the other hand, may believe that it can salvage more value from the failed airline through the insolvency proceedings carried out under the purview of the court.

Further, the lenders may also be able to gain greater control over Jet's management by approaching court. Mr. Goyal's resignation from the airline's board in March may have been in expectation of unilateral action by the lender consortium to take it to the doorstep of the bankruptcy court. Mr. Goyal's exit may give Jet's lenders the confidence to infuse more money in case they decide to make the airline fully operational. The removal of the old management may also make Jet more endearing to buyers who prefer to wrest full control over it. It is worth noting that Jet shares soared on Thursday after the company was admitted to the NCLT. This suggests that investors expect value to be extracted out of Jet through the bankruptcy proceedings.

What lies ahead for the airline and its lenders?
Jet Airways is the first airline company in India to be admitted to undergo bankruptcy proceedings under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016. In contrast to other companies that have previously undergone bankruptcy proceedings under the bankruptcy code, Jet has very few assets, especially when compared to the size of its debt obligations. Many of the airline's aircraft have already been seized by lenders after Jet stopped making payments. This leaves banks such as the SBI with very little to salvage from the airline, so it is very doubtful whether Jet's lenders will be able to make any significant recovery of their debts just by selling off its assets.

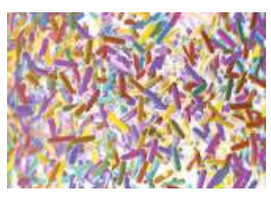
> The airline has very few assets compared to its debt obligations. Many of its aircraft have already been seized after it stopped making payments. This leaves banks with little to salvage

The resolution professional in charge of Jet may thus want to keep the airline running as a going concern so that it might fetch the best value for lenders in the long run. Potential buyers may be interested in capitalising on the airline's brand value and trying to re-launch the carrier by infusing fresh capital. Buyer interest, however, will depend largely on the amount of debt that lenders are willing to write off. The sale of Air India earlier this year failed to attract any bids due to the airline's heavy debt burden that the lenders were unwilling to write off before the sale. If no buyer shows interest in purchasing Jet as a going concern, the only option left may be to sell each of Jet's assets individually. Jet will then cease to exist as a company.

CAPSULE

Dialogues in the brain
Imagining a scene requires a dialogue between different regions of the brain, a new study finds. While the region called ventromedial prefrontal cortex selects the elements for a scene, the hippocampus constructs the scene imagery. The researchers imaged the brains of participants who were asked to imagine novel scenes or single objects.

Small world of fish
New research finds that global fish populations behave like a small world network, with currents carrying populations far and wide. The researchers modelled how currents distribute the larvae of about 700 species of fish. Using network analysis, they assessed the distribution. This has implications for global conservation and management of fish and food supplies.



Medicine munchers
Researchers have shown how a person's gut microbiome can interact with the medication taken. They used levodopa, the Parkinson's disease drug and pointed out that *Enterococcus faecalis* in the gut was able to degrade the drug. This reduced the amount of drug reaching the brain, making patients take a higher dose leading to side-effects.

IIT Guwahati uses water-repelling cotton for sustained drug release

Duration of drug release can be tuned by varying the water-repelling property of cotton

R. PRASAD

Sustained release of drugs for as long as 110 days has now been achieved by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati by immobilising the drugs on cotton that is extremely water repelling (superhydrophobic). A team led by Uttam Manna from the Department of Chemistry found that 30% of the drug was released within 48 hours and the remaining drug over a period of 110 days. Two drugs – aspirin and tetracycline – were tested for sustained drug release.

Tuning in: We can tailor water repellency from 125 to 150 degrees so that the drug is released in a sustianed manner over several days, say (from right) Uttam Manna, Arpita Shome and Adil Rather.

Collaboration

"We have extended this approach [use of superhydrophobic cotton coated with the drug for sustained release] to make bandages for wound healing," says Dr. Manna. "Animal studies will be undertaken soon. The collaborative work with the Delhi-based International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) has already begun."

The researchers found that the duration of drug release can be tuned by varying the degree of water repelling property of cotton. For instance, when water repellence was reduced from 155 degree to 125 degrees, the duration of drug release reduced sharply from 110 days to over 50 days. "When the cotton was moderately water-repelling (125 degrees), 64% of the drug was released over 48 hours and the remaining drug was released over 50 days in the case of both the drugs tested," Arpita Shome from IIT Guwahati and first author of a paper published in the journal *ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering*.

Altering properties

To make the supremely water-absorbing cotton to repel water the researchers coated the cotton with a naturally occurring protein – bovine serum albumin (BSA). The BSA protein is dissolved in water and when ethanol is added it forms nanoparticles, which get embedded on the cotton. The BSA nanoparticles are made to bind to each other to form a 3D coating on the cotton with the addition of a cross-linker (5ACl). "The residual acrylates of 5ACl are further exploited to react with amine-containing long-chain hydrocarbons. The long hydrocarbon chain of the alkyl amine renders hydrophobicity to cotton," says Shome.

"Two essential criteria are needed for achieving extreme water repellence – topography which can trap a layer of air and low surface energy coating that makes the cotton inert so it does not react with water," says Dr. Manna. In this case, the BSA nanoparticles provide the required topography and the long hydrocarbon chain of the alkyl amine makes the cotton inert.

"We can tailor water repellency to varying degrees – 125-150 degrees – by selecting an appropriate alkyl amine to react with the residual acrylates on the BSA nanoparticles," Dr. Manna says.

The drug to be loaded onto the extremely water-repelling cotton is dissolved in ethanol and the cotton is soaked in the drug-containing ethanol. When the cotton is removed, the ethanol evaporates leaving behind the drug molecule on the cotton. Superhydrophobicity returns once ethanol evaporates.

How it works

When the cotton containing the drug comes in contact with water, the air that is trapped gets displaced. Water slowly starts penetrating the cotton and comes in contact with the drug molecule and dissolves it. The dissolved drug diffuses out of the cotton and thus the slow release of drug over a period of over three months is achieved.

When cotton is supremely water repelling, there is sustained release for about 110 days after the burst-release in the first 48 hours. When the cotton is moderately water-repelling, 64% of drug is released in 48 hours and the remaining over the next 50 days.

Both the drugs were released in a similar fashion and the bioactivity of the tetracycline released at one, three and seven days was examined. "The bioactivity was similar to the native drug at all three time periods. Tetracycline was able to prevent the proliferation of both *E. coli* and *Streptococcus aureus*," says Dr. Manna.

The antibacterial study was done in collaboration with Prof. Biman Mandal's group at IIT Guwahati.

Why did woolly rhino, mammoth go extinct?

Yak dung analysis helped to map out the different plants and trees in the area

ASWATHI PACHA

A pile of dung may irk many, but not these researchers who spend days analysing yak dung to understand the vegetation and climate of the past and the connections they have to extinct mega herbivores such as the woolly rhino and mammoth.

The wild yak is an endangered species restricted to the higher Himalayas of Asia, the Tibetan plateau and parts of North Russia. It can tolerate temperatures as low as -40 degrees Celsius and is associated with the Himalayan tahr and White-bellied musk deer. The most non-invasive way to study its diet and the local vegetation is by examining its dung.

During the summer of 2017, researchers from Birbal Sahni institute of Palaeosciences, Lucknow set out to the hilly terrain which is about 25 km from the Dronagiri village in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand and collected the dung samples. This exercise was repeated in the winter season too.

Endangered : The wild yak is restricted to higher Himalayas of Asia, the Tibetan plateau and parts of North Russia..

Diverse diet

Once back in the laboratory, they carried out the macro- and micro-botanical analyses to decode its diet. A good diversity of pollen, spores and phytoliths (silica bodies found in plants) were seen. This meant that the yak preferred a variety of food – simple grass to leaves and fruits of woody trees. This diversity was high during summer and the yak could walk up to 50 km in search of food.

This also indicated that the yak was able to modify its diet according to the climatic change of the past. "The end of the Pleistocene epoch (11,700 years ago) and the start of Holocene brought about a change in vegetation and also introduced humans," explains Swati Tripathi, one of the authors of the paper published in *PLOS ONE*. "Giant mammoth and woolly rhino which used to live with the yak about 18,000-20,000 years ago were not able to adapt to these changes and thus went extinct. This is a classic example of 'survival of the fittest'. Our humble yak proved to be the fittest one."

The yak dung analysis also helped to map out the different plants and trees in that area, thus, generating modern botanical analogue for palaeo environmental studies in higher Himalayas.

Mega herbivores

"Across the globe, many researchers are working on coprolite or fossilized dung of extinct animals. A comparison of the present results with the extinct ones can help understand more about ancestor climatic factors and other adaptation strategies of mega herbivores.

"These animals mostly depend on the regional flora and studies can throw light on the past vegetation of an area," adds Dr. Sadhan Kumar Basumatary, corresponding author of the paper.

Controversial telescope to be built on sacred Hawaiian peak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

After years of protests and legal battles, officials have announced that a massive telescope which will allow scientists to peer into the most distant reaches of our early universe will be built on a Hawaiian volcano that some consider sacred.

Hawaii Governor David Ige said it was the final legal step in a long, often contentious, process, and that construction is expected to begin sometime this summer.

Scientists say the summit is one of the best places on Earth for astronomy. The telescope would be three times as wide as the largest existing visible-light telescope in the world, with nine times more area. Several telescopes and observatories are already on the summit.

But opponents say the telescope will desecrate sacred land atop Mauna Kea, a place of religious importance to Native Hawaiians.

State officials arrived at the summit to remove Native Hawaiian structures that had been built on land where the telescope will be constructed.

Native Hawaiians have used the structures for years, said Kealoha Pisciottaa a Native Hawaiian activist whoconsiders the removal of the structures to be desecration and discriminatory.

The new telescope will allow astronomers to reach back 13 billion years, to the time just after the big bang, and scientists say it will help answer fundamental questions about the advent of the universe.

Bhubaneswar becomes 0.5 degree C hotter due to urbanisation

Cuttack and Bhubaneswar have seen the most increase in local temperature while warming in rural areas is less

R. PRASAD

How urbanisation of cities in the last decade can sharply increase the local temperature has been well documented by a recent study undertaken by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar.

Blame it on increased urbanisation, the local surface temperature in large cities in Odisha – Cuttack and Bhubaneswar – has increased by as much as 40-50% during the period 2001-2010. While temperature has increased by about 0.9 degree C due to regional warming, which is a global phenomenon, urbanisation or changes in land use and land cover alone has contributed 40-50% of that increase in these cities. In other words, there has been a 0.5 degree C increase in absolute local temperature in large cities in the State during the period 2001 to 2010 solely due to urbanisation.

In the case of smaller cities and town in the State of Odisha, the change in local warming caused by urbanisation or changes in land use and land cover has been about 25%.

Thirty-year data

The team used 30 years of surface temperature measurements taken from over 22 sites over the state of Odisha coupled with Earth Observation data and model output to explore the effect of land use land cover and its changes.

"When compared with rural areas, the local warming in cities in Odisha is double due to urbanisation," says Dr. V. Vinoj from the Institute's School of Earth, Ocean and Climate Sciences and corresponding author of a paper published in the journal *Scientific Reports*. "The local warming due to urbanisation in Odisha in 2001-2010 is comparable to any other developed region of the world."

Hot days: The local surface temperature in large cities in Odisha, such as Cuttack and Bhubaneswar, has increased by 40-50% during the period 2001-2010. ▪ ASHOKE CHAKRABARTY

The 0.5 degree C increase in local temperature in Bhubaneswar can be traced back to rapid urbanisation of the city in about 15 years. An earlier study by the team led by Dr. D. Swain from IIT Bhubaneswar and a co-author of the latest paper had found 83% increase in urbanisation of Bhubaneswar between 2000 and 2014. The rapid increase in urbanisation was at the cost of dense vegetation and crop fields. While dense vegetation reduced by 89%, crop fields shrunk by 83%.

Cropping patterns

The study shows that across the State of Odisha, changes in cropping pattern and urbanisation have together had a clear effect on long term temperature changes. For instance, the cropping pattern has seen a clear shift from Kharif crops (July-October) to Rabi crops (October-March). Compared with 2004, Kharif crop cultivation area in 2010 had reduced by 28,000 sq. km, whereas there has been an increase of 38,000 sq. km in Rabi crop cultivation area during the same period.

The northeast part of the State has witnessed the greatest change in land use and land cover during the period 2001-2010. During the period 1991-2000, the western part of the State saw the most change in land use and land cover causing more warming in that region. However, during the period 2001-2010, the trend shifted to northeast as changes in land use and land cover were more pronounced in that part of the State causing more warming in northeast Odisha.

"Our study provides crucial information for policy makers to understand the relative contribution from each land use type to surface temperature, we believe this information would help with future land use planning in the state of Odisha," Prof. J. Dash from the University of Southampton, UK and a co-author of the paper says in a release.

Remotely sensed indices unreliable in informing elephant forage

Grass abundance, which indicates elephant fodder, tends to be low in locations with dense canopy cover

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

A field study by researchers from Bengaluru shows that a popularly used index that remotely estimates density of vegetation does not yield a reliable estimate of food abundance for elephants in tropical forests. In fact, researchers show that this index has a negative correlation with graminoids (grassy food - grasses, sedges and rushes - preferentially consumed by elephants) in tropical forests.

Monitoring vegetation

For both academic and practical purposes, there is the practice of remotely monitoring vegetation in an area and representing it in terms of maps and parameters. One such parameter used is the normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) which is measured remotely from satellite data. This has been used to estimate the amount of food abundance available to herbivorous animals, for example, elephants. The NDVI is used, for instance, in attempts to track the presence of elephants using the vegetation they consume. However, this work clearly establishes that this can be misleading, and field-based studies are the ones which can yield definitive results. The work is published in the journal *Biotropica*.

Out of reach: Grazing elephants that cannot reach up to the level of the canopies mostly feed on the grassy species. ▪ KABINI ELEPHANT PROJECT

"There is a need to establish this, because the obvious has not been understood," says Ajay Desai who is a consultant to World Wildlife Fund, India, and an expert on Asian elephants.

The researchers were led by T.N.C Vidya from the Evolutionary and Organismal Biology Unit of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru.

They carried out the study in the Nagarhole National Park, in the Nilgiris-Eastern Ghats in southern India and sampled five 20m X 5 m vegetation plots along each of 17 transects (lines along which the regions to be sampled can be marked out) in the wet season in 2011 and 22 transects in the dry season. The transects included three forest types: moist deciduous, dry deciduous and teak forests. "We found that the abundance of food plants is not correlated with NDVI. This should be a prerequisite before using NDVI as a proxy of food abundance," says Hansraj Gautam, the first author of the paper, who is also at JNCASR.

> **We found that NDVI was negatively correlated to grasses. This means grass abundance tends to be low in locations where NDVI is high and vice-versa.**
>
> T.N.C. VIDYA
> Evolutionary and Organismal Biology Unit, JNCASR

The NDVI is a simple indicator which tells how much of the ground is covered with vegetation. It basically calculates the difference between the red and near infrared components of light reflected by objects, from, say, a satellite. Since healthy vegetation strongly absorbs red and reflects near infrared light, this difference can indicate the presence of healthy vegetation and map it into a colour code.

Negative correlation

"We found that NDVI was negatively correlated to grasses. This means grass abundance tends to be low in locations where NDVI is high and vice-versa," says Dr Vidya. Though this is counterintuitive, she explains why this occurs: "While canopy cover and shrub abundance contribute positively to NDVI, they negatively affect grass abundance. Because of the poor correlation, NDVI cannot be reliably used as a measure of forage abundance in a multi-storeyed forest with a low proportional abundance of food species." Grasses form a large component of food of elephants and also ungulates (hoofed animals) like deer, sambar and gaur.

"NDVI is extremely useful... and has been used to inform the ecology of various species, from elephants and red deer to mosquitoes and birds. But it is known to perform badly to help assess changes in primary productivity of plants under a dense canopy," says Nathalie Pettorelli, a conservation ecologist from Zoological Society of London and an expert on remote sensing and management of natural resources. "The results do not surprise me... this pattern was shown in other settings [in Poland, in deciduous forests]," she adds.

Towards mindfulness

ASHWIN SHANKER

It happened during yet another terrible day at work. I was frustrated with my boss, who simply wouldn't listen to my suggestions to better the code we were cracking, and would favour my partner's opinion over mine. Despondent thoughts crept into my mind – the politics, the favouritism, the bullying, all of which seem to come to no end. I thought I was about to explode, and I quickly retreated to the washroom. I closed the door behind me and pulled the lid down to sit on the commode. I wanted to tear up, but the rage wouldn't let me give in to my vulnerability.

It was at that moment when I observed the slow ticking of the second hand of my watch.

It was the right kind of rhythm that my mind needed amid the chaos around my work life.

I thought about how the deliberate and irreverent movement of time, captured in this tiny device, would have witnessed both the happiest and the saddest periods of my life. The slow, rhythmic movements of the second hand tell me that this too shall pass. All I had to do was to hold on.

Regardless of how uplifting or upsetting that particular moment is in our life, there is no option but to accept the fact that things could change for the better or for the worse in the very next second. The moment cannot be controlled, but the mindset can be.

The calming realisation woke me up from my mindless slumber, and as I walked back to my desk I realised that most people around me are living their lives asleep.

I am glad that I listened to the timeless advice that my watch gave me, instead of reacting to my impulses. The ticking helped cut off the emotional time bomb.

The second hand is all about bringing your mind from a state of chaos to one of order. The minute hand will, however, sharpen your focus by bringing your attention to a dial that almost looks stationary, but is also moving forward, every minute. It has a hypnotic effect.

Have you ever wondered how many times a day you check the time? A study by a U.S. newspaper showed that Americans on an average check their watch once every 12 minutes. What if you could convert those moments into those of mindfulness?

By simply observing how each second passes by, we could reach a certain calm state. Then every moment would not be just about knowing what time it is, but about what best we could make of that time gifted to us.

Zen master Osho believed that by simply observing and moving our attention to one thing, we could raise our state of self-awareness; it morphs to a form of mindfulness.

Remember that mindfulness can never be something to be achieved or something to be desired for, because every desire has a chance of being a disappointment if not met.

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Why we often get it wrong

Snap judgments made intuitively on the basis of limited information invariably lead you to trouble

BADDAM ARAVINDA REDDY

A few years back I used to experience thumping palpitations in my heart whenever I climbed steps. This condition came about suddenly without any advance warning. I consulted a noted physician in my town, and after doing blood and other tests he diagnosed my problem as rheumatic heart disease. He prescribed drugs and warned me that I had to be on lifelong medication. I was totally depressed. Friends and relatives suggested that l should consult another doctor for a second opinion. The second doctor was a cardiologist. He ordered an echocardiogram test and found a lump of tissue in my left atrium. I had left atrial myxoma. After the tumor was surgically removed, my problem was gone.

Not long ago I purchased a piece of land in a bustling town. The purchase decision was made without much thought, on the advice of a friend.

Those days real estate prices were shooting up by the day and l was in a tearing hurry to get on to the real estate bandwagon. After the purchase was made, I realised that the land had no proper access and that the seller had a previous agreement with another buyer. With great difficulty and some financial loss I could finally get rid of the land.

Daniel Kahneman, economist and psychologist, a Nobel prize winner, in his book, *Thinking Fast and Slow*, slots the human thinking process into two categories. System 1 thinking wherein the brain takes snap and intuitive judgments based on limited knowledge. System 2 thinking is a deliberate thinking process in which lot of information is gathered and options are considered. If we analyse the two cases mentioned above, the first case was an outcome of System 2 thinking. Options were searched and the better option was chosen. The second case is an example of System 1 thinking. A snap judgment was made on the basis of a limited amount of information and this led to lot of trouble. System 1 thinking was best suited when human beings were wandering in the African savanna. He had to make a quick judgment whether the figure lurking behind a bush was a lion or a harmless deer. In his daily life he had neither the time nor the security to think through things.

But modern life affords humans the luxury of security, time and abundant information to use System 2 thinking. Unfortunately for many of us, System 1 thinking is the default thinking mode. We use it constantly and make many mistakes.

Rolf Dobelli, the Swiss author, in his book *The Art of Thinking Clearly*, puts together a hundred biases in human thinking which lead to wrong judgments. The list of biases include the contrast effect, the fear of regret, loss aversion, reciprocity, the anchor effect, the sleeper effect, story bias, the halo effect, the availability bias and so on.

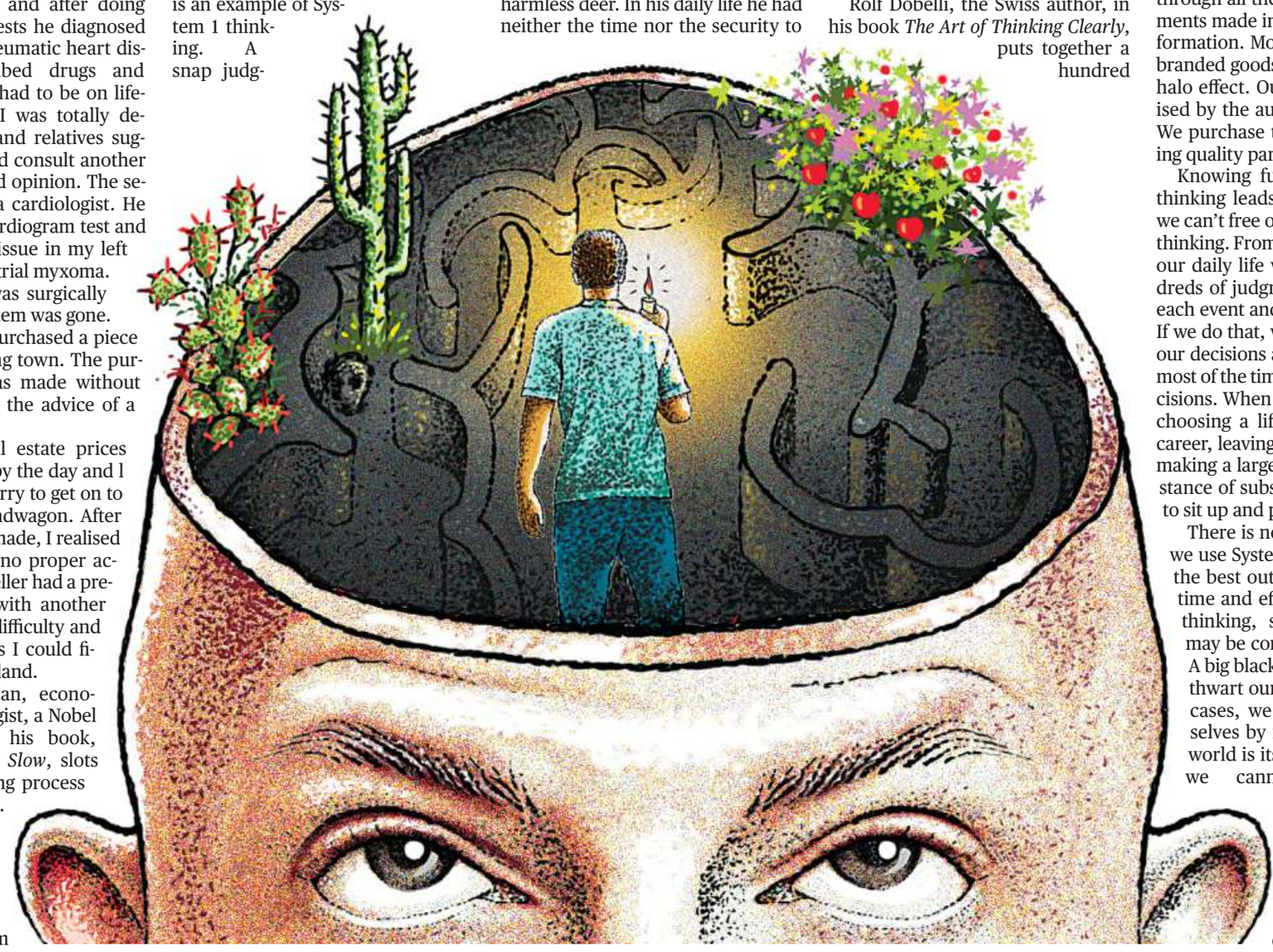

ILLUSTRATION: J.A. PREMKUMAR

The common theme running through all these biases is snap judgments made intuitively on limited information. Most of our purchases of branded goods are influenced by the halo effect. Our minds are mesmerised by the aura built around them. We purchase them without examining quality parameters.

Knowing full well that System 1 thinking leads us to make mistakes we can't free ourselves from System 1 thinking. From morning to evening in our daily life we have to make hundreds of judgments. We can't sit on each event and ponder over options. If we do that, we'll be stuck. Many of our decisions are snap decisions and most of the time it is ok with these decisions. When it's a big event such as choosing a life-partner, choosing a career, leaving a job, buying a home, making a large investment or any instance of substantial stake, we have to sit up and play System 2 thinking.

There is no guarantee that when we use System 2 thinking, we'll get the best outcomes. In spite of the time and effort put into System 2 thinking, sometimes the result may be contrary to expectations. A big black swan may come up to thwart our expectations. In such cases, we have to console ourselves by remembering that the world is its own master and that we cannot control it. Life could throw up surprises. We have to take them in our stride and move on.

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A lone golfer waiting for a weekend game

What could have been a blissful time on the course...

T.P. KANNAN

After a busy week in the office, the least that a golfer worth his salt may look forward to at the weekend is a round of golf. Blissful four hours, devoid of the bane of the stressful office and domestic preoccupations. The blue sky above, just green grass below, a cool breeze...

But try getting a game-slot on a Saturday or Sunday on your own. This is what will happen.

You couldn't book one because the slot booking rules demanded that you give at least three players' names, but you are a loner. You go to the course around 1.30 and tell the marshal you would like to play. He asks you to wait as there are several four-ball groups. One three-ball, the last group, is scheduled to tee off at 2.34 p.m., and you may perhaps join them.

You sit on a bench under the shade watching team after team tee off. The first few minutes of watching are interesting – two OBs, one water hazard, two hitting the trees and one powerful air shot with intermittent fairway shots. But as time passes you get restless. The shade is not of much help. It's a hot day. The penultimate group on the tee box leaves. And the last group you are to join is nowhere to be seen.

The tee box is now deserted. You are sitting there all alone on the bench getting anxious, with only a skinny dog that is enjoying an afternoon nap under a nearby tree for company. The breeze seems to have stopped. Exasperated, you go up to the marshal, who hates coming out of his cabin, and ask, "Where are they?"

He looks towards the car park through the window and announces, "They've arrived, sir." Ah, finally! You get up with a sigh of relief, flex your muscles and, pulling out the driver, take practice swings.

The three senior gentlemen, all well past their seventies, are however in no hurry to reach the tee box. They are in fact always the last to tee off. With no group behind, they play the game at their own leisurely pace. While walking they talk about their grandchildren, the annual baby-sitting trips to San Jose or Atlanta or New Jersey, President Trump and local politics, stopping in between to say 'good shot' when one of them hits a 100-yard drive.

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

"Good shot! Straight and long. Must be easily 100 yards."

"What do you mean 100 yards? It must be a minimum of 280 yards. I can't even see the ball."

"That's because you have cataract."

Presently they are strolling towards the first tee box. Looking at their tired walk, one would think they have just finished playing 18 holes.

The marshal walks up to them and asks, "Sir, that gentleman over there, he is alone and wants a game. Can he now join you?"

They stop where they are, to take a good look at you, now doing your pre-game stretching exercise – you in your early-40s, neatly tucked T-shirt with matching shorts, branded golf shoes and black cap with a premier logo. They also see your new expensive golf bag leaning majestically on its stand. As they watch, you take a practice swing with your arms fully stretched and the hip turning ninety degrees. The club hits your back as you complete the swing. A typical pro-like golf swing.

They exchange glances with 'Are-you-thinking-what-I-am-thinking?' kind of expression on their faces. Decision made but still they had a question.

"What is his handicap?" one of them asks.

"He says twelve," replies the marshal.

The marshal starts towards you. Seeing him come, you climb up the tee box and place the tee, not wanting to lose a minute more after the one-hour wait. You are all geared up to hit the tee shot. You see the threesome approaching you, and giving them a friendly smile, you extend your hand. "Good afternoon, gentlemen. I am..."

That's when the marshal would interrupt you to say, "Sorry sir, their fourth ball is joining them after two holes. And at weekends you cannot play alone."

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Live and let live: some thoughts on a sustainable future

Humans are not what they imagine themselves to be

VIDULA CHOPRA RASTOGI

Anyone who has ever bought a plant from a nursery, watered it every day and watched in dismay as it failed to thrive, knows that gardening isn't easy. Even if you manage to grow a plant successfully, growing food is another ballgame altogether. Vegetables such as bitter gourd and tomato grow almost like weeds, but others are trickier. They have varied water needs, soil requirements and temperature and sunlight preferences. In the event you get all of this right, you still need to protect them from pests. Finally, after weeks or months of care and patience, your plants may yield just a few kilograms of vegetables.

Recently, I watched in astonishment as a vine took root in my balcony, sprouted leaves and filled up the entire length of my planter in a matter of days. Flowers blossomed, and before long I spotted a tiny pumpkin, as big as an avocado. The children were beside themselves with excitement.

ILLUSTRATION: SATWIK GADE

We watched it grow each day, and I helped it along by cutting back the vine and snipping off the browning leaves. When we finally cut it off, it weighed a good 4 kg.

In our home of seven, the fruit of our labour didn't last long, but the children were convinced it tasted better than any they had ever tasted. Not a crumb was wasted.

If only we looked at all food in the same manner, for every fruit or vegetable that makes its way to us has been grown painstakingly by some farmer somewhere. One bad monsoon can ruin a crop, but we always have food on our tables and find it difficult to imagine that a day may come when we may not. The truth is, that day may arrive sooner than we think.

There was a book I read to my daughter, titled *Millions of Cats*. It's an old classic, printed as far back as 1928. Although the book's subject matter deals with aesthetics, a few lines stood out in my mind. A very old man was returning home with millions of cats. They came to a pond. Each cat took a sip, and the pond was gone. When they were hungry, each ate a mouthful of grass on a hill, and not a blade was left.

Humans have been around for an estimated two lakh years by some accounts. Think about it. It took thousands of centuries to reach the level of a billion people, and today we are at 7.5 billion. Have we ever wondered just how many people earth can take? How many can it feed before there's just a mouthful left for each of us?

We presume we have an endless supply of food, but the truth is that the quality of our soil is deteriorating thanks to the large-scale use of pesticides and toxins that enter the soil and water through garbage disposal. Dead zones – areas in the ocean that can no longer sustain growth – are gradually increasing. Species are growing extinct at an alarming rate. More and more of marine life are being found with plastic in their bodies. Fish is getting progressively unsafe to eat and pregnant women are cautioned against eating many forms of seafood because of concerns about the mercury level in them. If our water is growing unfit to support marine life, how will it support us?

We buy things we don't need, often tire of them, and throw them away, without a thought to all the resources it took to make them. The numerous artefacts we gift each other make no sense, serve no purpose and destroy the environment. Everything, from fast fashion to fast food, is a burden the earth shouldn't have to bear.

We can do a lot to help – not just the earth but ourselves – by gardening, composting, planting trees, avoiding single-use plastic such as straws and plastic water bottles. Eating locally grown, organic foods and reducing meat consumption will go a long way in addressing environmental concerns.

A few nights ago, when debating the advantages and disadvantages of a vegetarian diet, a friend declared that, much like the beautiful lion, we are at the top of the food chain and can eat whatever we want. The survival-of-the-fittest argument is old and tired. We don't eat meat for survival, we eat it for pleasure. But that aside, there is a fundamental difference between lions and humans. The lion is a predator. It takes what it needs without destroying the environment. On the other hand, a tapeworm lives in our intestine, sucks nutrition and slowly destroys us – and itself.

It's time we realised that we should change; we're not the magnificent predators we imagine ourselves to be. We're actually the parasites.

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More on the Web
thehindu.com/opinion/open-page

The visual carnival
The days of voyeuristic reading are here, with words seemingly overshadowed by pictures
P. DALAI

A profession and a passion
The portrait of an acclaimed artist in an unlikely life-setting
UMESH PATRA

Perils of excessive screen-time
Why early action by vigilant elders could help youngsters avoid the digital trap
RAJESH KRISHNAN

Shami's hat-trick seals it for India in a sensational finish

Kohli and Jadhav hold the innings together with half-centuries; Nabi's valiant effort goes in vain for Afghanistan

ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP ENGLAND & WALES 2019

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
SOUTHAMPTON

After high-scoring ventures, the World Cup seems to have taken a turn towards the relatively modest total and the attendant nervous chase when palms turn sweaty and throats get parched. The trend was evident at a sunbathed Hampshire Bowl here on Saturday.

On a sluggish surface, India scored 224 for eight and bowled out Afghanistan for 213 in 49.5 overs. Fringed by the woods on one side, a golf course on the other, the sea of blue at the packed ground erupted in joy when India won by 11 runs.

Afghanistan needed a good start but openers Hazratullah Zazai and Gulbadin Naib were in a rush and the former lost his timber after doing an across-the-line hoick against Mohammed Shami, who replaced the injured Bhuvneshwar Kumar in the Indian eleven. Meanwhile, Naib, who clattered Hardik Pandya repeatedly to the mid-wicket fence, miscued a pull off the Indian all-rounder and Vijay Shankar waited for eternity and caught well.

Captain's knock: Virat Kohli played the most fluent innings of the match on a sluggish pitch. ▪ AP

Twin-blow

Afghanistan was 64 for two and briefly hope floated as Rahmat Shah and Hashmatullah Shahidi displayed assurance. Just as the Indian fans turned anxious, Jasprit Bumrah inflicted a twin-blow in an eventful 29th over. Rahmat survived a massive shout for lbw but top-edged a pull off India's spearhead. Shahidi too fell immediately, popping a leading edge back to the bowler. Afghanistan at 106 for four and India was in with a sniff.

Mohammad Nabi (52, 55b, 4x4, 1x6), however, kept the flame alive, launching the odd hit – a mighty six off Bumrah, getting a successful review against an lbw appeal from Shami to enthuse the sprinkling of Afghans in the audience. Virat Kohli, M.S. Dhoni and the bowlers constantly discussed strategy and it boiled down to 16 from the last over bowled by Shami. Nabi struck a four, refused a single off the next, found the fielder on the ropes in the third and then Shami dismissed the last two to register a pulse-pounding hat-trick.

Adhesive web

Earlier, Kohli elected to bat on winning the toss and it was left to him (67, 63b, 5x4) and Kedar Jadhav (52, 68b, 3x4, 1x6) to hold the innings together while the rival spinners spun an adhesive web. Openers Rohit Sharma and K.L. Rahul had to cope with the slow art as off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman wheeled in the first over. In a while, Rohit played inside the line to a carrom ball from Mujeeb, and got castled in the fifth over.

Soon a turgid phase of consolidation followed as Rahul and Kohli buckled down for their 57-run second-wicket partnership. Rahul punched a four off Aftab Alam and the seamer also faced the scorching heat of Kohli's blade. Yet, largely, it was all about the watchful gaze until Rahul tried to be impish and perished.

The opener uppishly reverse-swept off-spinner Nabi straight to the fielder at short third-man. Finally Shankar stepped in at number four, a slot the chairman of selectors M.S.K. Prasad promised in the run-up to the World Cup. Shankar adroitly played second fiddle to his captain as a 58-run third-wicket alliance took shape.

Naib pressed Rashid Khan into service from the 20th over and Kohli drilled the leg-spinner's first delivery for four past cover. Shankar too dished out the lofted shot but found a mixed bag in reviews. An appeal for lbw which was upheld got reversed but when another struck Shankar's pad, there was no respite.

Kohli continued unhindered but, against the run of play, his uppish cut off Nabi proved fatal. It was left to Dhoni and Jadhav to revive India from 135 for four and the two preferred patience but were not averse to using the long-handle sporadically.

Jadhav slog-swept Rashid and Dhoni tucked into Naib. Still, the run rate stayed below five while the 57-run fifth-wicket partnership evolved. In the slog, Dhoni got stumped off Rashid, Pandya failed but Jadhav, who once escaped being run out, hung in till he succumbed during the last over. India by then had mustered just about enough to stay alive in a humdinger.

Next assignment

INDIA: June 27 vs **West Indies,** *Old Trafford, 3 p.m.*

AFGHANISTAN: June 24 vs **Bangladesh,** *Southampton, 3 p.m.*

STAT SPHERE

1 **Mujeeb** is first spinner to get a wicket against India in this World Cup

The ones who have gone wicketless: Tahir, Shamsi, Maxwell, Zampa, Imad, Malik, Hafeez and Shadab

2 Shami second Indian bowler to take a hat-trick in the World Cup after Chetan Sharma (vs New Zealand, 1987) and this is the 10th instance in the quadrennial event

Hat-tricks in World Cup
- Chetan Sharma, 1987
- Saqlain, 1999
- Vaas, 2003
- Lee, 2003
- Malinga, 2007 (4 in 4)
- Roach, 2011
- Malinga, 2011
- Finn, 2015
- Duminy, 2015
- Shami, 2019

3 Number of consecutive half-centuries for Kohli in this WC

50 No. of wins India has recorded in the WC (in 79 games), the third team after Aus (67 in 90) and NZ (52 in 83) to reach the milestone.

INNINGS SCAN

IND		AFG
1	Maidens	3
15	Fours	15
1	Sixes	1
58 (3rd)	Best stand	44 (2nd)
4.48	RR	4.27

PROGRESSION

IND		AFG
41/1	10 overs	37/1
86/2	20 overs	71/2
133/3	30 overs	107/4
175/4	40 overs	157/5
224/8	50 overs	--

TOP SHOWS

For	Batting	Bowling
India	Kohli 67 (63b, 5x4)	Shami 4/40 (9.5)
Afghanistan	Nabi 52 (55b, 4x4, 1x6)	Nabi 2/33 (9) Naib 2/51 (9)

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

K.L. Rahul c Zazai b Nabi 30 *(53b, 2x4)*, Rohit Sharma b Mujeeb 1 *(10b)*, Virat Kohli c Rahmat b Nabi 67 *(63b, 5x4)*, Vijay Shankar lbw b Rahmat 29 *(41b, 2x4)*, M.S. Dhoni st Ikram b Rashid 28 *(52b, 3x4)*, Kedar Jadhav c sub b Naib 52 *(68b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Hardik Pandya c Ikram b Alam 7 *(9b)*, Mohammed Shami b Naib 1 *(2b)*, Kuldeep Yadav (not out) 1 *(1b)*, Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (w-7): 7; Total (for eight wkts. in 50 overs): 224.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-7 (Rohit, 4.2 overs), 2-64 (Rahul, 14.2), 3-122 (Shankar, 26.1), 4-135 (Kohli, 30.3), 5-192 (Dhoni, 44.3), 6-217 (Pandya, 48.4), 7-222 (Shami, 49.3), 8-223 (Jadhav, 49.5).

AFGHANISTAN BOWLING

Mujeeb 10-0-26-1, Aftab 7-1-54-1, Naib 9-0-51-2, Nabi 9-0-33-2, Rashid 10-0-38-1, Rahmat 5-0-22-1.

AFGHANISTAN

Hazratullah Zazai b Shami 10 *(24b, 1x4)*, Gulbadin Naib c Vijay 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 Chahl 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)*, Ikram 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; Total (in 49.5 overs): 213.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-20 (Zazai, 6.3 overs), 2-64 (Naib, 16.5), 3-106 (Rahmat, 28.4), 4-106 (Shahidi, 28.6), 5-130 (Afghan, 34.6), 6-166 (Zadran, 41.3), 7-190 (Rashid, 45.4), 8-213 (Nabi, 49.3), 9-213 (Alam, 49.4).

INDIA BOWLING

Shami 9.5-1-40-4, Bumrah 10-1-39-2, Chahal 10-0-36-2, Pandya 10-1-51-2, Kuldeep 10-0-39-0.

Toss: India. **MoM:** Bumrah.

India won by 11 runs.

We had belief in our fast bowlers, says Jadhav

Kedar Jadhav. ▪ AFP

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
SOUTHAMPTON

Kedar Jadhav had to bide his time for a long batting stint. Playing in the lower middle-order in a team that has batting riches atop the pole, means that Jadhav gets just a few overs to settle in and biff around the park.

But on Saturday in the World Cup game against Afghanistan here at the Hampshire Bowl, the diminutive and stocky batsman walked in during the 31st over after Virat Kohli got dismissed. Jadhav scored a valuable 52, that hauled India past the 200-mark on a difficult pitch, and eventually the score proved difficult for the rival to chase.

"The wicket was on the slower side and the ball was turning, our actual plan was to look for 250 to 260 but we fell short by 20 to 30 runs. We made up for it in the field and the bowlers did well.

"Obviously we had belief in our death-specialist bowlers, we had (Jasprit) Bumrah and (Mohammed Shami) and we knew we were just one wicket away," Jadhav told the media.

"We had belief in both our fast bowlers and we know that one boundary will always go in the death over. It could either be a good shot or an edge," he added.

Conscious

Asked about his batting-approach, Jadhav said: "Our top-order is very good and we usually get very less time. But today we were conscious about getting more balls and I came at six and we needed to assess and plan the innings. So it was important to face those extra deliveries upfront and plan the ideal score.

"The pitch played slightly slower in the first half. I try to learn a lot from how Dhoni-bhai bats, the wicket wasn't flat and we had to take time and they had quality spinners."

Naib doffs his hat to Nabi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SOUTHAMPTON

Gulbadin Naib lauded Mohammad Nabi, who almost got Afghanistan to the brink of a famous victory over India in the World Cup game at the Hampshire Bowl here on Saturday. Nabi may have failed to cross the finish line but his skipper backed his stupendous effort. "Nabi played really well but (Jasprit) Bumrah, the number one bowler, and (Mohammed) Shami bowled well. Nabi had a problem in his left leg but he did his job but that wasn't enough. Credit to the Indian team and we struggled against short of length balls," Naib told the media.

However, Naib felt that the thriller against India and even the one-sided game involving England, would breed some confidence within his men: "Yes, we will take some confidence. We are getting better day by day. Against England and India, the two favourites, we had our moments."

Naib stressed that the partnership between M.S. Dhoni and Kedar Jadhav was crucial: "Dhoni is a very experienced player, a legend. He and Jadhav had a good partnership and they took the game away from us. At one point we thought they will score 170 or 180."

Mohammad Nabi. ▪ ALEX DAVIDSON/GETTY IMAGES

Asked about the emotions surging through him, Naib paused a bit, there was a wistful look in his eyes and then he smiled and said: "At one time we thought we could win and we got emotional. India is my favourite team, (Virat) Kohli is my favourite player and we missed a chance to beat them."

Williamson rescues New Zealand once again

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
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 here on 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 was off to a disastrous start.

Negating a sluggish track and some testing initial fast bowling spells from the Windies, 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 was in for a shock when left-arm pacer Sheldon Cottrell (four for 56) sent back both the openers – Martin Guptill (0) and Colin Munro (0) – in the first over of the match.

West Indies' joy did not last long as Williamson and Ross Taylor (69 off 95 balls) dug deep to put up a 160-run partnership, which steadied the Kiwi ship.

Playing with extreme caution, Williamson and Taylor 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.

The team's 50 came in the 15th over with Taylor smashing a short one off 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.

Chris Gayle's part-time off spin broke the partnership which was threatening to take the match away from the West Indies.

Thriving under pressure: Kane Williamson's career-best 148 steered the Kiwis to a competitive total against West Indies. ▪ CLIVE MASON/GETTY IMAGES

West Indies in trouble

- West Indies was 168 for seven after 30 overs, chasing a target of 292. Roach (2) and Brathwaite (16) were at the crease.

SCOREBOARD NEW ZEALAND VS WEST INDIES

NEW ZEALAND

Martin Guptill lbw b Cottrell 0 (*1b*), Colin Munro b Cottrell 0 (*1b*), Kane Williamson c Hope b Cottrell 148 (*154b, 14x4, 1x6*), Ross Taylor c Holder b Gayle 69 (*95b, 7x4*), Tom Latham c&b Cottrell 12 (*16b*), James Neesham c Cottrell b Brathwaite 28 (*23b, 1x4, 1x6*), Colin de Grandhomme run out 16 (*6b, 1x4, 1x6*), Mitchell Santner c Cottrell b Brathwaite 10 (*5b, 1x6*), Matt Henry (not out) 0 (0b); Extras (lb-4, nb-1, w-3): 8; Total (for eight wkts. in 50 overs): 291.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Guptill, 0.1 overs), 2-7 (Munro, 0.5), 3-167 (Taylor, 34.3), 4-210 (Latham, 41.5), 5-251(Williamson, 46.3), 6-270 (de Grandhomme, 48.1), 7-291 (Santner, 49.5), 8-291 (Neesham, 49.6).

WEST INDIES BOWLING

Cottrell 10-1-56-4, Roach 10-2-38-0, Holder 7-0-42-0, Thomas 6-0-30-0, Brathwaite 6-0-58-2, Nurse 9-0-55-0, Gayle 2-0-8-1.

Toss: West Indies.

Where they stand

Team	Mat	Won	Lost	NR	PTS	NRR
Australia	6	**5**	1	0	**10**	0.849
New Zealand	5	**4**	0	1	**9**	1.591
India	5	**4**	0	1	**9**	0.809
England	6	**4**	2	0	**8**	1.457
Sri Lanka	6	**2**	2	2	**6**	-1.119
Bangladesh	6	**2**	3	1	**5**	-0.407
West Indies	5	**1**	3	1	**3**	0.272
South Africa	6	**1**	4	1	**3**	-0.193
Pakistan	5	**1**	3	1	**3**	-1.933
Afghanistan	6	**0**	6	0	**0**	-1.712

**till the India-Afghanistan match on June 22*

S. Africa, Pakistan strive to restore pride

Both teams in a must-win situation as Lord's hosts its first game of the tournament

WORLD CUP

SHAYAN ACHARYA
LONDON

A lot can change over the course of a week, and who knows it better than the Pakistan cricket team. Following an 89-run defeat to India at Manchester last Sunday, the team has drawn heavy criticism from fans and former cricketers.

The flurry of blessings and good wishes that the team received prior to the marquee World Cup fixture has now been replaced by calls for change in leadership and even petitions to disband the team!

It will be under much pressure that the team plays South Africa at Lord's on Sunday.

The is a must-win fixture for Pakistan. With three points from five games, it needs to win all its remaining games to qualify for the semifinals. And to do that, firstly, it has to fix its batting department.

Time to perform: Despite the heavy criticism that the Pakistan team has been subjected to, the players seem to be in a happy mood during practice. ▪ AFP

Batting failure

After contrasting results in its first two games, Pakistan's performance has dipped, mainly because of batting failure. Against Australia, the top batsmen flattered to deceive, as the team crashed to a 41-run defeat.

In Manchester last Sunday, an inconsistent Pakistan failed in all the three departments against a star-studded India. Now as Lord's hosts its first game of the tournament, there are chances of the seasoned Shoaib Malik – who has been off-colour – being replaced with Harris Sohail.

On the other hand, South Africa too has been an under-performer. Following its narrow defeat against New Zealand at Edgbaston, the Proteas' hopes of making it to the last-four stage is as good as over.

Huge letdown

Though its bowlers have troubled the opposition, batting has been a huge let down.

"When you look across the World Cups in the past, when the teams have won, their experienced players have performed. Our experienced players haven't stood up," South Africa coach, Ottis Gibson, said after the team's last outing against New Zealand.

And the weather is expected to play nice – partly sunny, partly cloudy, but no rain – as the two sides try to restore their pride at Lord's on Sunday.

THE FACE-OFF
Pakistan vs South Africa
LORDS
HEAD-TO-HEAD

SARFARAZ — DU PLESSIS

	Matches	Pak	SA	Tied	NR
Overall	78	27	50	0	1
World Cup	4	1	3	0	0

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 (SD & HD) AND SELECT 1 (HD), 3 P.M.

Markram not focusing on captaincy

SPORTS REPORTER
LONDON

Aiden Markram is the only South African captain to win a World Cup – he led the under-19 side to victory in 2014. Markram is rightly considered the future leader for South Africa. But he refuses to pay too much attention to it.

"There's not been a lot of focus on it. I'm really just trying to keep my spot in the side, scoring loads of runs and saving as many as I can in the field," Markram said.

South Africa will look for a smooth transition as quite a few seniors are set to retire after the World Cup. Markram feels staying in an environment for long makes you ready for the top job.

"I think naturally once you're in an environment for a period of time, you do think with your leadership reign and how things could be better and what we have really done well and what's worked and what hasn't.

"I think that's just a natural thing." he said.

Sarfaraz lashes out at former cricketers

SPORTS REPORTER
LONDON

After Pakistan's defeat to India last week, former cricketers slammed the team and it's captain Sarfaraz Ahmed. On Saturday, Sarfaraz lashed out at them.

"If I say anything about them, it will become an issue, so I say nothing. They think we are no players. So, if we reply to them, they take offence. *Khuda ban ke TV pe baithe hain* (They appear on television, thinking they are gods)," Sarfaraz said.

A couple of days ago, a video went viral on social media, where a fan body-shamed Sarfaraz at a shopping centre. "You can say anything. Family and people at home see it and (then ask you.) Pakistani fans, we know are *jazbaati* (emotional) and their anger is justified! We feel more sorry than they do, we are more disappointed," the captain said.

Sarfaraz also refuted claims of division in the team, saying: "There is no group *panti* in the team. If you win, nothing of the sort is said."

Sarfaraz Ahmed. ▪ AFP

The last one week has been tough for the Pakistan team and the captain admits that now the focus is solely on the game against South Africa.

"Definitely it is a tough thing for us. But after the match (against India), we gave two days of rest to the players. But for the three days, we are practising hard. So morale is very high for us," he said.

"The tournament is open now, so we have a chance. So we are focusing match by match. So hopefully we will win tomorrow's match," Sarfaraz said.

Zimbabwe cricket body suspended

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
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, according to a press release on Friday.

The SRC move comes 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 constitution, as well as "various other controversies".

India finishes third

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MANILA

The Indian women's team claimed a historic first-ever international rugby 15s victory – a 21-19 win over Singapore – to finish third in the Asia women's (Division 1) championship here on Saturday.

The tournament is one of the qualifying rounds for the 2021 women's rugby World Cup to be held in New Zealand.

China won the event with a 68-0 victory over the Philippines.

Indian women secure Olympic qualifiers berth

Gurjit's brace fetches handsome victory over Chile

WSF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HIROSHIMA

Drag-flicker Gurjit Kaur scored a brace as India secured its place in the final round of the Tokyo Olympic qualifiers by beating Chile 4-2 in the semifinals of the women's FIH Series Finals tournament here on Saturday.

The top two teams from the tournament have secured berths in the Olympic Qualifiers to be held later this year.

Gurjit (22nd, 37th minutes) struck twice, while Navneet Kaur (31st) and skipper Rani Rampal (57th) were the other scorers for India. Carolina Garcia (18th) and Manuela Urroz (43rd) scored the goals for Chile.

India will take on Japan in the summit clash on Sunday.

Japan beat Russia 3-1 in a penalty shoot-out in the other semifinal after the teams were locked 1-1 at the end of regulation time.

World No. 9 India was in for a surprise three minutes into the second quarter when Carolina scored a field goal on a counterattack.

Stunned by the goal, the Indians went on the offensive and drew parity four minutes later when Gurjit converted a penalty corner. The teams went into the break locked 1-1.

A minute after change of ends, India took the lead through Navneet, who picked up the ball from just outside the 25-yard circle, ran into the striking circle and slotted home with a powerful shot.

Six minutes later, India extended the lead through another penalty corner conversion by Gurjit.

Chile did not give up and earned two penalty corners in quick succession towards the dying stages of the third quarter but failed to capitalise on them.

In the 43rd minute, though, a poor clearance saw Chile regain possession and Urroz reduced the margin from a Denise Krimerman feed.

The fourth and final quarter witnessed a good fight till the 57th minute when Rani scored with a reverse hit off a pass from Lilima Minz.

Delighted! The Indian women's hockey team celebrates the victory over Chile. ▪ COURTESY HOCKEY INDIA

Dedication

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HIROSHIMA

India women's hockey team captain Rani Rampal dedicated the win over Chile on Saturday to teammate Lalremsiami's father, who passed away on Friday.

Rani lauded the young striker for showing great courage in the face of adversity by staying with the team instead ofreturning home after hearing about her father's death. "One of our teammates Lalremsiami lost her father yesterday so this victory is dedicated to her father. Hope he rests in peace. She did really good and we are so proud of her. She was with the team and didn't return home," Rani said.

Germany in last eight

After a hard-fought win over Nigeria

WOMEN'S WC

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
GRENOBLE (FRANCE)

Germany became the first team to secure a place in the last eight of the Women's World Cup football after Lea Schueller's late strike completed a hard-fought 3-0 win over Nigeria on Saturday.

VAR comes into play

The two-time world champion had VAR to thank for its first two goals in a physical encounter, before striker Schueller sealed the win eight minutes from time.

Martina Voss-Tecklenburg's side is yet to concede a goal in its four games so far. Captain Alexandra Popp gave Germany the lead on 20 minutes, nodding Lina Magull's in-swinging corner inside the far post.

Magull was involved again as Germany doubled the lead minutes later. The midfielder was caught on the knee as Nigerian left-back Evelyn Nwabouku attempted to clear a loose ball in the area.

After reviewing the incident on the touchline, the referee awarded Germany a penalty, and striker Sara Daebritz made no mistake from 12 yards.

Three yellow cards were awarded in the second half as the Nigerians were unable to battle their way back into the game.

Schueller put paid to Nigeria's hopes in the 82nd minute, pouncing on a mistake from Halimat Ayinde and smashing the ball into the bottom corner.

Germany will face either Sweden or Canada, who play on Monday, in the quarterfinal next weekend.

The result: Germany 3 (Popp 20, Daebritz 27-pen, Schueller 82) bt Nigeria 0.

Into the goal: Sara Daebritz of Germany made no mistake in converting a penalty. ▪ ELSA/GETTY IMAGES

Federer to meet Goffin

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HALLE

Roger Federer's Wimbledon preparations continue to run smoothly after he reached the final of the ATP event in Halle for a 13th time with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Andy Murray's new doubles partner Pierre-Hugues Herbert on Saturday.

He will face David Goffin in the final, after the Belgian beat rising Italian star Matteo Berrettini earlier on Saturday.

The results: Halle: Semifinals: Roger Federer bt Pierre-Hugues Herbert 6-3, 6-3; David Goffin bt Matteo Berrettini 7-6(4), 6-3.

Queen's Club: Semifinals: Gilles Simon bt Daniil Medvedev 6-7(4), 6-4, 6-3; Feliciano Lopez bt Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-7(3), 6-3, 6-4.

Quarterfinals: Lopez bt Milos Raonic 4-6, 6-4, 7-6(5); Medvedev bt Diego Schwartzman 6-2, 6-2; Simon bt Nicolas Mahut 7-6(5), 5-7, 7-6(3).

Mallorca: Semifinals: Belinda Bencic bt Angelique Kerber 2-6, 7-6(2), 6-4; Sofia Kenin bt Anastasija Sevastova 6-4, 4-6, 6-2.

Quarterfinals: Kerber bt Caroline Garcia 6-3, 7-6(5); Sevastova bt Wang Yafan 6-2, 6-1.

Birmingham: Semifinals: Ashleigh Barty bt Barbora Strycova 6-4, 6-4; Julia Goerges bt Petra Martic 6-4, 6-3.

Quarterfinals: Julia Goerges bt Yulia Putintseva 6-3, 6-2; Petra Martic bt Jelena Ostapenko 6-7(4), 7-5, 6-1; Barbora Strycova bt Kristyna Pliskova 6-2, 6-4; Ashleigh Barty bt Venus Williams 6-4, 6-3.

SUDOKU

		7			3		4	1
		9				6		
	5				6	9		
		2	5			4		
7			2		1			6
		4			9	1		
		5	8				9	
		8				3		
2	4		3			5		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

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Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	9	4	1	6	8	5	7	3
8	7	1	3	9	5	6	2	4
6	5	3	4	2	7	8	1	9
4	3	2	9	5	6	1	8	7
9	8	7	2	3	1	4	6	5
1	6	5	8	7	4	3	9	2
7	4	9	6	8	3	2	5	1
3	2	6	5	1	9	7	4	8
5	1	8	7	4	2	9	3	6

Sanchez sends Chile into quarters

Ecuador left staring at an early elimination

COPA AMERICA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SALVADOR

Alexis Sanchez put a miserable club season with Manchester United behind him as he sent Chile into the Copa America quarterfinals with the winning goal in Friday's 2-1 win over Ecuador.

Jose Fuenzalida gave Chile an eighth-minute lead but Enner Valencia equalised for Ecuador from the spot.

Sanchez bagged the winner but Chile finished with 10 men after Gabriel Achilier's red card a minute from time.

The 30-year-old Sanchez started only nine Premier League matches, scoring just once, in an injury-interrupted season for the Red Devils in which he struggled to make an impact when he did play.

But he scored for the second game running in Salvador as Chile joined Colombia as the only teams to qualify for the knockout stages after their first two games.

Decisive: Alexis Sanchez put behind his below-par club season to once again prove crucial for Chile. ▪ AFP

Perfect six

Chile tops Group C with a perfect six points ahead of its clash with Uruguay at Rio's iconic Maracana on Monday.

Ecuador is left staring elimination in the face after a second straight defeat, knowing it must beat Japan in Belo Horizonte on Monday to stand any chance of progressing. Ecuador was bossing possession but was toothless up front, while Sanchez and Eduardo Vargas provided far greater cut and thrust for Chile.

The result: Group C: Ecuador 1 (E. Valencia 26-pen) lost to Chile 2 (Fuenzalida 8, Sanchez 51).

Lewis Hamilton powers to pole

Beats teammate Bottas with a blistering late effort

FORMULA ONE

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
LE CASTELLET (FRANCE)

Lewis Hamilton timed his best lap to perfection on Saturday when he took pole position ahead of Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas with a blistering late effort at the French Grand Prix.

The five-time world champion, who had struggled to match the Finn's pace in the previous two practice sessions, reeled off the fastest lap of one minute 28.319 seconds. Hamilton was 0.286s quicker than Bottas.

It was Hamilton's 86th pole and a record-increasing 63rd front-row lock-out for Mercedes.

It was a master-class from the dominant Silver Arrows team while its rivals laboured in pursuit, with Monegasque Charles Leclerc taking third for Ferrari ahead of Max Verstappen, fourth for Red Bull.

"It's not an easy track," said Hamilton. "It's very technical and Valtteri has been very quick all weekend."

Dominant: Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes reeled off the fastest lap of one minute 28.319 seconds. ▪ AP

The starting grid:

First row: Hamilton (Mercedes); Bottas (Mercedes).

Second row: Leclerc (Ferrari); Verstappen (Red Bull).

Third row: Norris (McLaren); Sainz Jr. (McLaren).

Fourth row: Vettel (Ferrari); Ricciardo (Renault).

Fifth row: Gasly (Red Bull); Giovinazzi (Alfa Romeo Racing).

Sixth row: Albon (Toro Rosso); Raikkonen (Alfa Romeo Racing).

Seventh row: Hulkenberg (Renault); Perez (Racing Point).

Eighth row: Magnussen (Haasi); Grosjean (Haas).

Ninth row: Stroll (Racing Point); Russell (Williams).

10th row: Kubica (Williams); Kvyat (Toro Rosso).

TV PICKS

ICC World Cup: Star Sports 1, 2 & SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 3 p.m.
Formula One: Star Sports Select 2 (SD & HD); 6.30 p.m.
FIFA Women's World Cup: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD); 9 p.m.
Halle Open: Sony ESPN HD; 4.30 p.m.
Queen's Club Championship: Sony ESPN; 6 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Juventus on the prowl for Ajax star de Ligt

THE HAGUE

Italian powerhouse Juventus is on the hunt for star Dutch defender and Ajax captain Matthijs de Ligt and is reportedly prepared to pay more than €70 million, according to *De Telegraaf* newspaper. The teenage centre-back has previously been linked to a possible transfer to Paris Saint-Germain, but Juventus "are seducing the Ajax defender with a contract almost impossible to refuse, and star player Cristiano Ronaldo's charms", the paper reported. Should de Ligt decide to move to the Italian club he could rake in between €15 to 20 million annually. AFP

Ospina leaves squad to be with ailing father

BOGOTA

Goalkeeper David Ospina will miss Colombia's final Copa America group match against Paraguay on Sunday for personal reasons, the Colombian Football Federation said on Friday. The 30-year-old was given permission to return to Colombia to be with his ailing father in his home city of Medellin. Hernan Ospina has been in hospital for several weeks and his condition has worsened in recent days. Either Camilo Vargas or Alvaro Montero will stand in for Ospina. IANS

Giampaolo hoping to turn the clock back

MILAN

New AC Milan coach Marco Giampaolo said on Saturday he was ready to seize the opportunity to turn the clock back for former European great AC Milan days before taking over at the San Siro. The 51-year-old former Sampdoria boss replaces Gennaro Gattuso on a two-year deal reported to be worth €2million. "I worked really hard to get this chance," Giampaolo, who will take over on July 1, told Milan TV. "Milan are the most successful and one of the most important clubs in Europe. This is a great opportunity for me," he said. AFP

Dhruv makes a strong impression

Along with teammate Karthik staves off Arjun's challenge

INRC

RAYAN ROZARIO
COIMBATORE

Dhruv Mohite of Volkswagen Motorsport stamped his class winning the opening race of the premium Indian Touring Cars (ITC) class with ease in the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship at the Kari Motor Speedway in Chettipalayam here on Saturday.

It was the kind of start that the VW team wanted as it could build the confidence of the young boys for the rest of the season.

Pole sitter Dhruv, the Ameo Cup winner last year, got off to a cracking start and so did his teammate Karthik Tharani.

The duo was aware that the seasoned campaigner Arjun Balu (Race Concepts), who started third on the grid, could upset their plans.

But Arjun slipped a gear at the start and was pushed to fourth place. He did not give up and moved rather quickly to third.

Super show: Dhruv Mohite's Volkswagen hugs a curve on way to victory in the Indian Touring Cars class on Saturday. ▪ M. PERIASAMY

Braking problems

The top three moved at great pace even as the skies threatened to open up. But the VW duo smartly maintained its position all the way to the flag.

For Arjun, his brakes let him down midway through but he managed it all hand-braking to the third position.

"I have never driven an ITC car before nor had I been part of the testing process.

"For me, it was just a learning curve and whatever results we are getting is surely because of the efforts that the team has put in," said Dhruv.

"We knew we were in a comfortable position to challenge the experienced drivers in the fray. Arjun has been racing more than my age.

"It always stays on the back of your mind but luckily everything worked the way we wanted," he added.

Earlier, Jeet Jhabakh chalked up a fluent lights-to-flag victory after starting from pole position, in the Volkswagen Ameo Class race, while Bangladesh's Aiman Sadat topped the junior class.

Unfortunately, the day's schedule came to a screeching halt due to heavy showers. That eventually led to the cancellation of the Formula LGB 1300cc races soon after Race Concepts team made a clean sweep in the Super Stock race with Rithvik Thomas, Prateek Benya and R. Rajashekar finishing in that order.

The results (provisional, all 15 laps unless mentioned): Indian Touring Cars: Race 1: 1. Dhruv Shivaji Mohite (VW Motorsport) 17: 20.105secs; 2. Karthik Tharani (VW Motorsport) 17:27.062; 3. Arjun Balu (Race Concepts) 17:44.280.
VW Ameo Class: Race 1: 1. Jeet Jhabakh 17:48.937; 2. Anmol Singh Sahil 17:52.579; 3. Saurav Bandyopadhyay 17:55.182. **Junior:** 1. Aiman Sadat (Bangladesh) 18:14.077; 2. Viraj Jairaj Jhala 18:15.882; 3. Chetan Surineni 18:04.139, 14 laps).
Super Stock: Race 1: 1. Rithvik Thomas (Race Concepts) 22:21.408; 2. Prateek Benya (Race Concepts) 22:23.462; 3. R Rajashekar (Race Concepts) 22:24.390.

Haryana eyes a team double

Team championship is making a comeback after nearly four decades

TABLE TENNIS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SONEPAT

Thanks to its 'imports' from Bengal, Haryana starts as favourite to claim the honours in the re-introduced team events for northern states in the National ranking (North Zone) table tennis championship commencing on Sunday.

The team championship is making a comeback in the zonal championship after nearly four decades. Since the National team titles are virtually monopolised by Petroleum, the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) is looking cheer up the state teams at the zonal level.

Ghosh back

Back from suspension, former National champion Soumyajit Ghosh will return to lead second seed Haryana.

Left-hander Zubin Kumar and Sourav Saha give the team a look of invincibility, considering the quality of opposition in the eight-team field.

Jeet Chandra and Gourang Shakreja complete the line-up.

Since the seedings are based on the performances in the last National championship, Delhi is seeded one. Delhi comprising Utkarsh Gupta, Payas Jain, Parth Virmani and Aadarsh Om Chetri seems to lack the resources to match Haryana.

Whether Yashansh Malik or Sameer Sahni completes the squad should not impact Delhi's prospects in the two-day competition.

Other teams in the fray are, Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Chandigarh and Jammu & Kashmir.

In the women's section, too, Haryana is the favourite despite being seeded fourth.

Spearheaded by the 2018 National champion Suthirta Mukherjee, Haryana is expected to ease past the opposition without much ado. The quartet of Suhana Saini, Anjali Rohilla, Riti Shankar and Oishwarya Deb are set to play the supporting roles around Suthirta in the one-day competition.

Again, top seed Delhi is likely to be the second best team in the competition. Garima Goyal, Vanshika Bhargava, Ishita Gupta, Kritika Malik and Tamanna Saini seem good enough only to reach the final.

The six-team competition sees Delhi and second seed Rajasthan enjoy first-round byes, The winner of Chandigarh-Punjab faces Delhi in the first semifinal.

In the bottom-half of the draw, Rajasthan will take on the winner of Haryana-Uttarakhand match in the second semifinal.

The individual events will commence on the second day of the championship.

Tomar shoots down two gold

Wins the men's and junior events with a touch of assurance

SHOOTING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar came up with a classic double in the 50-metre rifle 3-position event in the 19th Kumar Surendra Singh shooting championship at the Dr. Karni Singh Range on Saturday.

The 18-year-old – coached by former world record holder and Olympic finalist Suma Shirur for the last two years – was not too pleased with the qualification score of 1160, but shot both the men's and junior final with a touch of assurance to bag both gold medals.

Tomar shot 453.5 in the men's final to beat Kailash Chand of Army by 0.7 point. Sanjeev Rajput, who topped qualification with 1165, finished fourth behind Ashish Gautam of Air Force.

Focused: Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar eyes the target during the competition. ▪ KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Akhil Sheoran was fifth while other leading shooters like Gagan Narang, Deepak Kumar and Ravi Kumar placed sixth to eighth in that order.

In the junior final, Tomar won with 454.1 four points ahead of Harshit Binjwa.

"It was good in prone and standing positions, but the kneeling score was not good," said Tomar. "I did not expect to win both gold medals."

Meanwhile, in the junior men's sports pistol, World junior champion Vijayveer Sidhu pipped Adarsh Singh after both shot an identical 586.

In women's air rifle qualification, Mehuli Ghosh shot 631.3, 0.2 point ahead of Aayushi Gupta.

Shakti Chandra, Shreya Agrawal, Ayonika Paul, Shriyanka Sadangi, Aditi Shula and Meenakshi were the others to make the women's final.

The results: 50m rifle 3-position: Men: 1. Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar 453.5 (1160); 2. Kailash Chand 452.8 (1157); 3. Ashish Gautam 441.0 (1157).

Junior men: 1. Tomar 454.1 (1160); 2. Harshit Binjwa 450.1 (1140); 3. Surya Pratap Singh Banshtu 432.2 (1133).

25m sports pistol: Junior men: 1. Vijayveer Sidhu 586; 2. Adarsh Singh 586; 3. Udhayveer Sidhu 584.

Daruvala wins feature F3 race in France

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LE CASTELLET (FRANCE)

India's Jehan Daruvala on Saturday stormed to back-to-back victories in the FIA Formula 3 Championship after starting second on the grid. It was the first time that the Mumbai-based driver won the feature race of the championship after qualifying behind Jake Hughes.

Formula 3 is now a support series to Formula 1 with the French Grand Prix scheduled for Sunday.

Daruvala, representing Prema Racing, had won the sprint race in Barcelona last month. There was heartbreak for polesitter Hughes, who lost P1 to the Indian, before making contact with Marcus Armstrong and dropping to the back of the grid.

Paes & Daniell enter final

SPORTS BUREAU
ILKLEY (ENGLAND)

Leander Paes and Marcus Daniell of New Zealand defeated fourth seeds Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Purav Raja 6-3, 7-6(4) in the doubles semifinals of the €137,560 Challenger tennis tournament here.

The results:
€137,560 Challenger, Ilkley: Doubles (semifinals): Marcus Daniell (NZ) & Leander Paes bt Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Purav Raja 6-3, 7-6(4).
$25,000 ITF men, Harare: Semifinals: Takanyi Garanganga (Zim) bt S.D. Prajwal Dev 6-4, 6-3.
Doubles (final): Prajwal & Rishi Reddy bt Martin Beran (Can) & Joshua Paris (GBR) 7-6(5), 6-4.
Semifinals: Prajwal & Rishi bt Benjamin Lock & Courtney John Lock (Zim) 7-5, 7-6(4); Beran & Paris bt Anvit Bendre & Aryan Goveas 6-3, 6-7(5), [11-9].

After hockey and athletics, Odisha now sets sight on weightlifting accolades

GENERAL

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

The Odisha government has taken the tag of being the sports capital of India quite seriously. While hosting big-ticket events is one aspect of it, the government has also tied up with several organisations and corporates to promote sports at the grassroots.

Setting up High Performance Centres across the State is is part of the same with the new weightlifting HPC, in association with Anil Kumble-promoted TENVIC, being one of them. The centre, sponsored by KJS Ahluwalia Group and situated within the KIIT campus in Bhubaneswar, currently has 12 girls and nine boys training under Iranian-British coach Kazem Punjavi.

Hard work: A trainee at the weightlifting centre goes through his schedule. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Odisha has been performing well in weightlifting and we have good potential to create medal winning international lifters, so the State government decided to give priority to weightlifting and provide a proper training arena. There will be scouting for a second set of trainees soon across multiple centres in the state," Odisha sports director Vineel Krishna told *The Hindu*.

While the government provides the infrastructure – there are plans to move out to a bigger centre in the coming months with more equipments, better facilities and increased lifters – TENVIC takes care of the rest.

"We take care of their accommodation, food, diet and coaching. We also handle procurement of stuff like weights, jerseys etc. At the same time, we understand that only lifting weights all day can be stressful and tiring, both physically and mentally and try to ensure they have other interests to relax.

TENVIC would also be taking care of their education and most of them would be admitted to schools and colleges by the end of June," TENVIC's scouting in charge Soumya Mitra explained.

The centre, which was inaugurated in February, is still in its infancy but Punjavi has his programme chalked out. Here on a three-year contract and previously with the British national team, Punjavi has prepared an individual training and diet chart prepared for every lifter depending on his/her weight category, potential and weaknesses.

"The youngest girls here are 10 (Tiki Mohini) and 12 (Thulsi Sahu) so these will be at the next Commonwealth Youth Games. Most of them are 15-16 years and are quite strong at the junior level with plans to compete at the Junior Nationals and we hope some of them would make the cut for the national side," he said.

The only thing he was missing, he rued, were enough lifters. "While the initial phase of training focussed on building strength and fitness, the next would be tougher, concentrating on techniques and conditioning. I want more lifters to train. I am losing time and I want results," he said.

Anjeze in pink of condition

BENGALURU: S. Attaollahi's Anjeze who holds an unbeaten record and kept in pink of condition may score an encore in the Fillies Championship Stakes (1,600m), the first classic event of the season to be held here on Sunday (June 23).
There will be no false rails.

1 SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA CUP (Div. II), (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2-00 pm: 1. Star Envoy (1) A. Imran 56, 2. Strategist (2) Koushik 56, 3. Super Gladiator (7) Rayan 56, 4. Tapatio (9) A. Vikrant 56, 5. Kionia (5) Dhanu Singh 54.5, 6. Queen Regnant (4) Bhawani Singh 54.5, 7. Rosina (6) Trevor 54.5, 8. Sasakwa (8) N.S. Parmar 54.5 and 9. Sky Moon (3) Vivek 54.5.
1. ROSINA, 2. KIONIA, 3. TAPATIO.

2 SWEET MEMORIES PLATE (Div. II), (1,100m), rated 15 to 35, 4-y-o & over, 2-35: 1. Grecian Light (5) A. Qureshi 60, 2. Nawabzaadi (7) T.S. Jodha 59.5, 3. Queen Isabella (11) A.S. Peter 59.5, 4. She's Stylish (10) Arshad 59.5, 5. Bold Runner (8) S. Mubarak 59, 6. Paradiso (9) Mark 58.5, 7. Shaktiman (4) Dhanu Singh 58.5, 8. Zafrina (3) A. Merchant 58.5, 9. Amalfi Coast (1) P.S. Chouhan 58, 10. Firing Line (2) Raghuveer Singh 58 and 11. Capstone (6) M. Prabhakran 55.5.
1. NAWABZAADI,
2. AMALFI COAST, 3. GRECIAN LIGHT

3 SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA CUP (Div. I), (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3-10: 1. Buzz Light Year (4) A. Vikrant 56, 2. Linewiler (9) Suraj 56, 3. Silver Eclipse (1) Rayan 56, 4. Unstoppable (5) Kiran Naidu 56, 5. Yours Forever (7) P.S. Chouhan 56, 6. Giethorn (8) B. Harish 54.5, 7. Harbour Sunrise (3) Trevor 54.5, 8. Hokkaido (2) Akshay K 54.5 and 9. Ice Floe (6) David Allan 54.5.
1. ICE FLOE, 2. HARBOUR SUNRISE, 3. HOKKAIDO.

4 A.M.C. GOWDA MEMORIAL TROPHY (2,000m), rated 45 to 65, 3-45: 1. Dr Logan (1) A. Qureshi 60, 2. Striking Grey (2) Darshan 57.5, 3. Secretive Force (6) Zervan 56, 4. Play Safe (5) Bhawani Singh 53.5, 5. Salvador Dali (4) Sandesh 53.5 and 6. Royal Crystal (3) Neeraj 53.
1. SECRETIVE FORCE,
2. SALVADOR DALI.

5 FILLIES CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES (1,600m), 3-y-o fillies, (Terms), 4-20: 1. Anjeze (3) Trevor 56, 2. Cape Kidnappers (9) A. Imran 56, 3. Cosmic Bay (6) Sandesh 56, 4. Hunt For Gold (1) David Allan 56, 5. Missing You (7) Suraj 56, 6. Princess Annabel (5) S.A. Amit 56, 7. Roll Call (4) Akshay K 56, 8. Thailand (2) P.S. Chouhan 56 and 9. Well Connected (8) Zervan 56.
1. ANJEZE, 2. HUNT FOR GOLD,
3. MISSING YOU.

6 NANOLI STUD PLATE (1,200m), rated 30 to 50, 4-55: 1. Venus Bay (1) Sai Vamshi 60, 2. Harmonia (3) P.S. Chouhan 57.5, 3. Mega Ikon (9) Vivek 57.5, 4. Roma Victor (2) Akshay K 57, 5. Reczai (8) Raghuveer Singh 56.5, 6. Supernormal (6) Sandesh 56, 7. Karadeniz (4) A. Imran 55.5, 8. Triggar (7) A. Ramu 55.5, 9. Animal Queen (5) Yash 53.5, 10. Bluejack (12) A. Merchant 53.5, 11. Desert Rose (10) Trevor 53.5 and 12. Tonys Pet (11) Darshan 52.5.
1. ROMA VICTOR, 2. MEGA IKON,
3. DESERT ROSE.

7 SWEET MEMORIES PLATE (Div. I), (1,100m), rated 15 to 35, 4-y-o & over, 5-30: 1. Stars In His Eyes (1) Mark 60, 2. Touch Your Destiny (10) P.S. Chouhan 59, 3. Varcasva (5) Trevor 59, 4. Emidio (2) Dhanu Singh 58.5, 5. Fantastic App (8) R. Pradeep 56, 6. Perfect King (7) Irvan 55.5, 7. Winning Force (6) Yash 55.5, 8. Fierce Fighter (3) Bhawani Singh 55, 9. Bella Mamma (4) M. Prabhakaran 53.5, 10. Island Pearl (11) A.S. Peter 53.5 and 11. Lucky Isabella (9) A. Merchant 53.5.
1. EMIDIO, 2. VARCASVA,
3. PERFECT KING.
Day's best: **ICE FLOE**
Double: **SECRETIVE FORCE – ROMA VICTOR**
Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

Areca Legend wins the Stewards Cup

BENGALURU: Areca Legend (Suraj up), won the Stewards Cup, the feature event of the races held here on Saturday (June 22). The winner is owned by Mr. Ronak J. Kimmane & Mr. Jairam G. Kimmane and trained by Prasanna Kumar.

1 CAPE DANCE PLATE (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): **IDEOLOGICAL** (Chetan K) 1, Legendary Princess (Sandesh) 2, Silent Guardian (Suraj) 3 and Love Music (P.S. Chouhan) 4. Not run: Scorcher. 5, Nk and 6-1/4. 1m 06.35s. ₹99 (w), 13, 12 and 10 (p), SHP: 17, THP: 97, FP: 383, Q: 123, Trinella: 400 and 101, Exacta: 1,779 and 1,425. Favourite: Silent Guardian. Owner: Mr. Gautam Makhija. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

2 MALENAHALLI PLATE (1,600m), rated 00 to 20: **SMILE OF JOY** (P.S. Chouhan) 1, Scarlet Princess (Raghuveer Singh) 2, Aleef (Arshad) 3 and Winx (T.S. Jodha) 4. 12-3/4, Lnk and 3. 1m 37.77s. ₹29 (w), 11, 14 and 23 (p), SHP: 40, THP: 42, FP: 108, Q: 61, Trinella: 488 and 350, Exacta: 1,511 and 759. Favourite: Smile Of Joy. Owners: Mr. G.S. Reddy, Mr. Kevin Cherian & Mrs. Prabha Dominic. Trainer: S. Dominic.

3 PADDIWICK PLATE (1,600m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): **KNIGHT TEMPLAR** (Sandesh) 1, Sir Supremo (Suraj) 2, Tenno Sho (Trevor) 3 and Speaking Of Stars (Zervan) 4. Not run: Heavenly Angel. 2, 1-1/2 and 3/4. 1m 37.15s. ₹21 (w), 12, 12 and 13 (p), SHP: 34, THP: 36, FP: 51, Q: 26, Trinella: 75 and 34, Exacta: 192 and 124. Favourite: Knight Templar. Owner: Mr. C. Aryama Sundaram. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

4 V. VENUGOPAL NAIDU MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 45 to 65: **SNOWDON** (Zervan) 1, Into The Groove (Trevor) 2, Agni (Sandesh) 3 and Blazer (Suraj) 4. 1, 1/4 and 1-1/2. 1m 24.95s. ₹60 (w), 16, 11 and 13 (p), SHP: 34, THP: 40, FP: 130, Q: 46, Trinella: 267 and 146, Exacta: 556 and 249. Favourite: Into The Groove. Owners: Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt Ltd rep by. Mr. Zavaray S. Poonawalla & Mrs. Behroze Z. Poonawalla, Mr. V.N. Babu & Mr. V. Arjun. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

5 STEWARDS CUP (1,200m), rated 60 & above: **ARECA LEGEND** (Suraj) 1, Haedi's Folly (Irvan) 2, Spiritous (Antony) 3 and Regal Music (A. Qureshi) 4. Not run: Louisiana. Nk, 1-3/4 and 2-1/2. 1m 12.01s. ₹14 (w), 11, 17 and 12 (p), SHP: 40, THP: 36, FP: 64, Q: 53, Trinella: 98 and 35, Exacta: 1,302 and 1,413. Favourite: Areca Legend. Owners: Mr. Ronak J. Kimmane & Mr. Jairam G. Kimmane. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

6 CAMINETO PLATE (1,800m), rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over: **COSMOS** (Zervan) 1, Foi Et Amour (Sandesh) 2, Velocidad (P.S. Chouhan) 3 and Prince Charmo (M. Naveen) 4. Nose, Lnk and 1-1/4. 1m 53.36s. ₹21 (w), 11 and 23 (p), SHP: 34, THP: 39, FP: 82, Q: 57, Trinella: 93 and 28, Exacta: 240 and 295. Favourite: Cosmos. Owners: Mr. Rienzie M.K. Edwards & Mrs. P.P.M. Edwards. Trainer: Darius.

7 HONEYDAY PLATE (1,400m), rated 15 to 35: **ADVENTURER** (Arshad) 1, Chantelle (Trevor) 2, Musterion (Sandesh) 3 and Speedster (Zervan) 4. 1, 1 and 7. 1m 25.88s. ₹32 (w), 14, 15 and 12 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 55, FP: 206, Q: 139, Trinella: 278 and 73, Exacta: 1,868 and 1,868. Favourite: Musterion. Owner: Mr. A. Muniraja. Trainer: G. Nityanand.

Jackpot: ₹1,578 (371 tkts); Runner up: ₹179 (1,401 tkts); Treble (i): ₹383 (49 tkts); (ii): ₹. 79 (439 tkts).

IN BRIEF

J.J. Abrams to write *Spider-Man* miniseries

LOS ANGELES

Filmmaker J.J. Abrams, along with son Henry, will pen a new *Spider-Man* comics miniseries. They will also launch a new villain, Cadaverous, in the series arriving in September. The story will follow Miles Morales as Spider-Man and how Cadaverous will create problems for him. PTI

Arundhati Roy's book to hit the stands soon

NEW DELHI

Author Arundhati Roy's new book will hit the stands soon across India, said Penguin publishing house on Saturday. *My Seditious Heart* is a collection of her entire body of political essays spanning over two decades. She is best known for her debut novel *The God of Small Things*, which won the 1997 Man Booker Prize. PTI

Microsoft, NASA to offer space lessons to children

SAN FRANCISCO

Microsoft's education arm and NASA have come together to create online lessons to get school students interested about space. The eight online lesson include 3D design challenges, Virtual Reality (VR) experiences and data analysis. Most of the courses would require three or four 50-minute time commitments. IANS

ASEAN vows to tackle ocean waste

Leaders are expected to sign a 'Bangkok Declaration' on fighting maritime trash

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BANGKOK

With Southeast Asia awash in rubbish, from plastic-choked whales to trash-clogged canals, leaders are planning to push through a deal to fight maritime debris at a regional meeting this weekend.

Just five Asian countries – China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand – dump more than half of the eight million tonnes of plastic waste that end up in oceans every year, according to a 2017 Ocean Conservancy report.

The region has come under fire for not doing enough to tackle its mounting trash troubles, with single-use plastic and sub-par waste management adding to the problem.

Leaders at a weekend meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are expected to sign a "Bangkok Declaration" on fighting maritime waste – a first of its kind – which promises to "prevent and significantly reduce marine debris," according to a draft. But activists are worried the agreement doesn't go far enough.

Green move: Climate activists protesting outside the Foreign Ministry in Bangkok on Thursday. ▪ AP

No penalties

"If we are not reducing single-use plastic at the production process, this 'Bangkok Declaration'... will not succeed," said Tara Buakamsri of Greenpeace in Thailand.

The agreement also omits penalties for the worst offending companies or countries, and fails to specify measures to tackle the problem.

ASEAN summit host Thailand billed the forum as environmentally friendly, handing out recycled paper notebooks and tote bags and food containers made from reused plastic.

But venue meetings in giant air-conditioned hotels and rows of plastic water bottles next to signs promoting "green meetings" had some wondering how dedicated the hosts really were. In addition to spewing out billions of tonnes of trash, these nations are among the world's top importers of trash from developed countries like the U.S. and Canada.

Activists have urged countries to stop accepting rubbish, which can end up in landfills and waterways if not properly processed. Mr. Buakamsri said the marine waste declaration should be broadened to include the thorny issue of banning plastic imports. "We don't expect them to actually incorporate this issue into the summit because there is no political will," he said.

Alarming images of polluted canals in the Philippines, plastic-laden Vietnamese beaches, or whales, turtles and birds choking on plastic debris have thrust Southeast Asia's plastic problem into global headlines. Some private firms in Thailand and Vietnam have started replacing plastic products like bags and straws with recyclable materials, but government policies are yet to catch up.

Jumpin' Jack Flash Jagger back on stage after surgery

The band opened its tour in Chicago to a sold-out crowd

REUTERS
CHICAGO

Singer Mick Jagger swaggered back to the stage on Friday in his first concert after undergoing a heart surgery in April as the Rolling Stones kicked-off a delayed North American tour.

The veteran British band opened its No Filter tour in Chicago at the city's 61,500 seat Soldier Field stadium, after delaying the 17-day U.S. and Canada tour to allow for the frontman's medical treatment.

Opening to a sold-out crowd, the band kicked-off with its classic hit "Street Fighting Man" as Mr. Jagger, strutted across the stage, singing and pumping his fist.

Mr. Jagger, 75, underwent a heart valve replacement surgery in New York in April, and in May reassured fans that he was back in shape by posting video on Twitter.

Making a comeback: Mick Jagger, 75, underwent a heart valve replacement surgery in New York in April. ▪ AP

"He (Jagger) went through it very easily," guitarist Keith Richards told the *Toronto Sun* in an interview ahead of the Chicago concert. "He's in great shape rocking. As I say, it seemed to be no problem at all really."

The 1960s band, whose current members Jagger, Richards, Ronnie Wood and Charlie Watts are now all in their 70s, has played more than 40 tours, making the quartet one of the most enduring and successful rock musicians of all time.

The Rolling Stones kicked-off the No Filter tour in Europe in September 2017, which grossed $116 million , according to *Pollstar*, making it the 10th biggest worldwide last year.

From Japan, a museum of peace built on memories of war

Marks 75th anniversary of the Battle of Imphal in which thousands died

RAHUL KARMAKAR
IMPHAL

Japan on Saturday gifted Manipur a museum of peace built on the memories of one of the fiercest battles of the Second World War.

The inauguration of the Imphal Peace Museum at Red Hill, about 20 km southwest of Manipur's capital Imphal, marked the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Imphal.

Some 70,000 Japanese soldiers, alongside those of Subhash Chandra Bose's Indian National Army, died in battles with the British-led Allied forces in areas around Imphal and Kohima from March to June 1944. The last of these battles was fought at Red Hill, where the Japanese War Memorial was built in 1944 to mark the 50th anniversary of the battle.

"While Imphal Peace Museum is a living memory of the tragic war, I sincerely hope that it will be a bridge to connect the past and the future for a lasting peaceful world for all times to come," said Yohei Sasakawa, chairman of the Nippon Foundation that funded the museum. The 80-year-old Mr. Sasakawa recalled the suffering of war when he survived the Tokyo air raid in March 1945. He said that worst sufferers of in the Battle of Imphal were the local people who had little or nothing to do with the war.

Diaries donated

Hitoshi Tsuchiya, 64, was lucky to see his father Denkichi Tsuchiya who returned to Japan after the war. He paid his first visit to Manipur with his son Jumpei to donate the diaries and other memorabilia of his father to the Imphal Peace Museum.

Retracing footsteps: Hitoshi Tsuchiya with his son Jumpei at the Imphal Peace Museum. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Dominic Asquith, British High Commissioner to India, said, "This museum symbolises the reconciliation between Japan and Britain and Japan and India. It is to reinforce the message that history changes and makes us learn from the past."

His Japanese counterpart Kenji Hiramatsu agreed. "The Japanese know of the tragic past of the people of Manipur. But we have come to a point when we need to look at the future," he said.

One of the highlights of the museum is a framed calligraphy by Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. It reads 'heiwa' – meaning peace – in Japanese. Few would know this better than Nobuo Abe, a 77-year-old farmer turned collector of bones of fallen Japanese soldiers. His father Soichi Abe died at Red Hill on April 16, 1944, at the age of 30. "I was two-and-a-half years old when he died, and I do not remember his face since he left us for the war when I was one year old. Manipur will always be special to me because this is where my father died," he said.

According to Nippon Foundation's Yosuke Ishikawa, a person's bones are highly valued in Japanese culture.

THE HINDU

HYDERABAD

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Sunday, June 23, 2019

Magazine

60 MINUTES
Raghu Rai feels a picture has to stand the test of time, says his daughter, director Avani Rai p3

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How the famously gleaming metal mirror from Aranmula emerges from soot and mud p16

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A weekly round-up of essays, reviews, interviews and more p18-25

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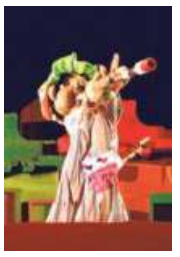
Meet Tal Betal, a puppet troupe that draws in children and adults with its universal themes p9



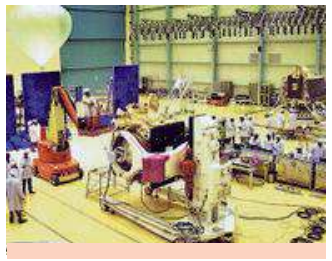
A visit to the ancient trading centre in Tamil Nadu that was once the place where Romans would buy fine cotton togas and steel for their swords p6

Roman holiday

First mass Notre-Dame Cathedral held its first mass since the devastating April 15 fire that destroyed its roof and iconic spire. The service was led by Paris Archbishop Michel Aupetit, who wore a hard hat for safety as the church is still extremely fragile.

Cop convicted Sanjiv Bhatt, the former Gujarat IPS officer who filed an affidavit alleging then Chief Minister Narendra Modi's involvement in the 2002 Gujarat riots, has been sentenced to life by the Jamnagar Sessions Court. He was convicted in a 29-year-old custodial death case.

Massive blackout Several countries in South America, including Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay, were hit by a massive blackout that left over 44 million people without electricity for a day, taking a toll on public transport and healthcare.



Chandrayaan-2 in Sriharikota The mother orbiter spacecraft of the moon mission Chandrayaan-2 reached the launch port of Sriharikota from Bengaluru and will soon be joined by its lander and rover companions. The orbiter is set to be launched on July 15 to explore the lunar surface.

Prehistoric wolf A well-preserved head of a prehistoric wolf, estimated to be 40,000 years old, was discovered in eastern Siberia, along with a massive mammoth's foot. This is the first adult frozen carcass to be found, which allows for more research using the wolf's DNA.

No to extradition A wave of protests swept through Hong Kong in response to a law proposed by the city's top official, Carrie Lam, which would allow the extradition of people to mainland China. Lam has since delayed the bill and issued a public apology, but demonstrators dismissed it as too little, too late.

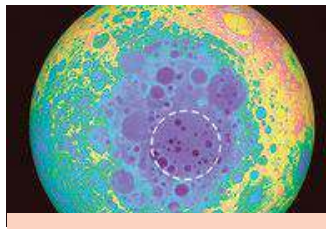
Dry run After four of Chennai's reservoirs dried up,the city's officials began scrambling for other sources of water in quarries and borewells. Chennai has endured the longest dry spell in a decade this year, with no rains for over 190 days since the northeast monsoon last year.

Gloria Vanderbilt dies One of the biggest names in the fashion world, Gloria Vanderbilt, died at 95. The U.S. icon — designer, artist, author — died at home surrounded by loved ones, according to her son, CNN anchor Anderson Cooper.

Out of Africa An aircraft built in three weeks, by South African teenagers as young as 15,took off from Cape Town and is headed for to Cairo. Piloted by the 17-year-old Megan Werner, the plane made its first stop in Namibia.

Puppy-dog eyes A study revealed that dogs evolved new facial muscles specifically to rouse a nurturing response from humans. Researchers made this discovery by comparing domesticated dogs to wolves, and found the 'puppy-dog eyes' facial muscles present only in the former.

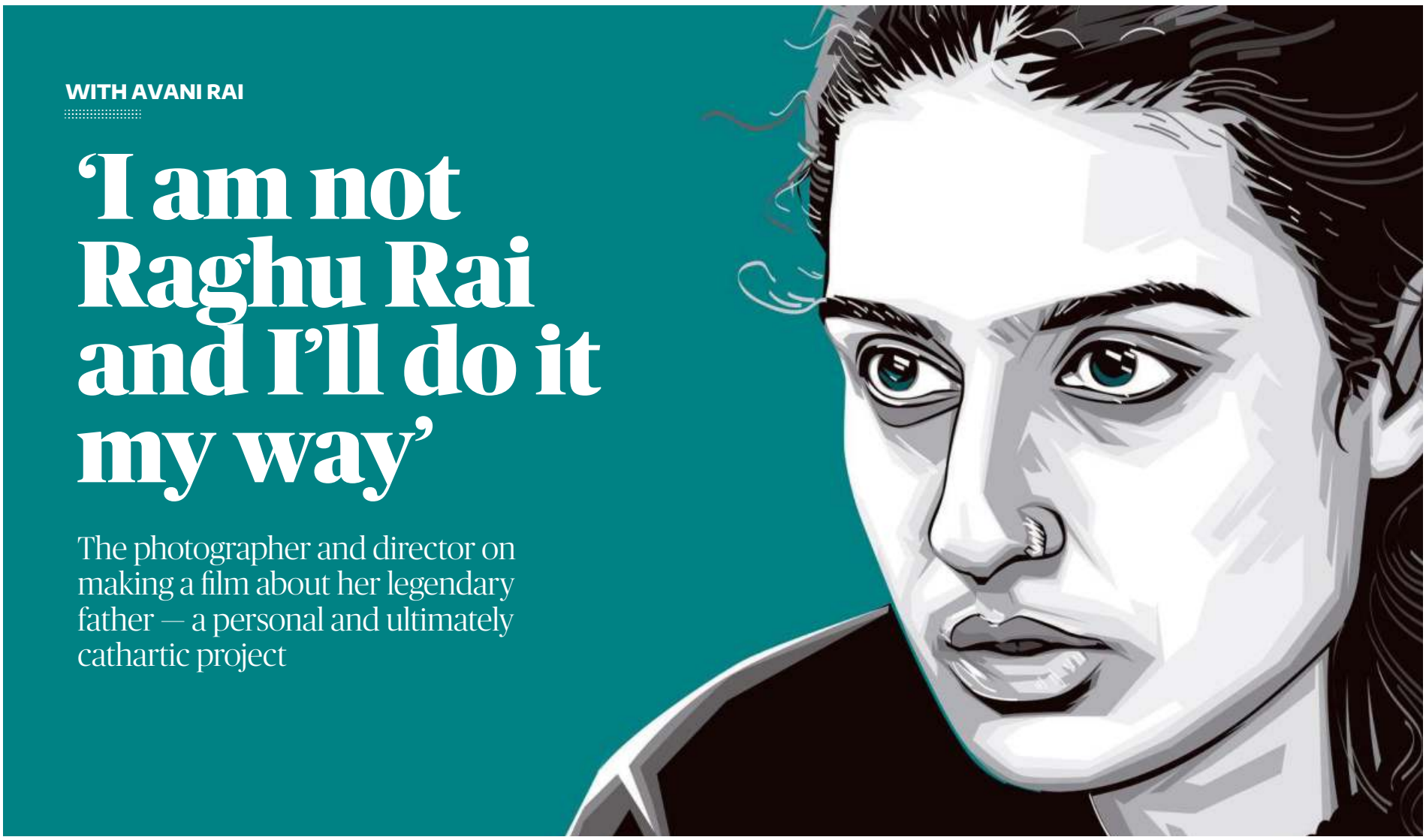
Magician disappears Chanchal Lahiri, aka Wizard Mandrake, died while attempting the famous Houdini trick. Lahiri was chained up and lowered into the Ganga, but never surfaced. Rescue workers later discovered his body.



Far side of the moon Researchers discovered a massive 'mystery blob' underneath the far side of the moon, with mass akin to a pile of metal five times the size of the Big Island of Hawaii. The structure could be the remnants of an ancient impactor's metal core, said Peter James, co-author of astudy.

Unicorn mantis Researchers exploring Brazil's Atlantic forest came across a new species of praying mantis: the unicorn mantis. This insect has a mysterious, hornlike structure on its head, which team leader Leonardo Lanna assumes is meant for camouflage.

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH



WITH AVANI RAI

‘I am not Raghu Rai and I’ll do it my way’

The photographer and director on making a film about her legendary father — a personal and ultimately cathartic project

DURGANAND BALSAVAR

Avani Rai’s film *Raghu Rai: An Unframed Portrait* captures the experiences of her father, one of the most celebrated of photographers, who has chronicled India over the past five decades. Father and daughter were in Chennai for a screening at Goethe-Institut/ Max Mueller Bhavan early this year as part of the Chennai Photo Biennale.

- Studied journalism in Mumbai, where she continues to be based
- Has worked as a cameraperson for a number of short films, such as *Uski Baarish* (2013)
- Has contributed as a photographer to several leading publications
- *Raghu Rai: An Unframed Portrait* has been shown at numerous documentary festivals and competitions around the world, including the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam

A film on one’s father can be paradoxical, since it requires a certain detachment. How did the idea emerge?

■ I didn’t really set out to make a film about my father. There were a few cameras at home that I picked up and started filming with. I was capturing these moments for myself, with no idea of making a film. While I was filming him, he would either correct me or say I was wasting my time. I was at college in Mumbai, doing a journalism course. Making films was never on my mind. It was a few years later that the idea emerged. Anurag Kashyap promised to support me as long as I did it on my own. It’s when I discovered a Finnish producer, a Dutch editor, and an Austrian distributor that Raghu Rai began to take this seriously.

Rai’s photographic oeuvre, more than five decades long, runs alongside the unfolding of India’s history, also recalling memories of Indira Gandhi, Mother Teresa and the Dalai Lama.

■ He had a very different relationship with Indira Gandhi. There existed both closeness and a distance. He always felt that a picture had to stand the test of time. When I look at that phase from today’s perspective... For me politics is important as well, but today I don’t think I can attempt the same, with the kind of protocols and security in place.

In our times, we seem to be regressing. Journalism needs to be respected, be more objective and responsible. We are in a zone of hype and infotainment, fake propaganda and biopics, Bollywood-like news, etc. That era of the 70s, before I was born, looks so different. It appears as if media at that time was not so obsessed with the glitz we see today.

This film had to be through my eyes. Of course, I was not going to tamper with his way of looking at India over the past five decades, but we decided it was a personal film, not something distant. So it’s not only about Raghu Rai, but also about how I see him. It’s a reflection of him, a reflection of India, as I perceive it. It has layers of many incidents – the lives of Indira Gandhi, Mother Teresa and the Dalai Lama. Kashmir has often been misrepresented, so I did feel a responsibility to represent that reality through the camera.

Rai has had deep, but very different, relationships with Mother Teresa and the Dalai Lama.

■ If he had not met the Dalai Lama or Mother Teresa, I think he would probably look at things very differently. It changes the way we see and understand life. I do feel connected to the Dalai Lama as well. I think it’s a lot to do with our own lives and our inner energies, rather than religion per se.

There is a paradox when a photographer documents war, civic strife, or disaster. Rai has often referred to himself, metaphorically, as the photographer of the street. At a human level, a photographer desires to reach out and help — but as a photographer he needs to be an objective chronicler of the strife he sees.

■ He has balanced his roles in these difficult situations, often helping people and reaching out whenever he could. At the same time he believes his responsibility is to film the moment of truth and share it with the world at large. So often, when he is in a situation where there are doctors around, he cannot interfere and play a doctor’s role. It just doesn’t make sense. But at other times, in Kashmir, when there is nobody around, he reaches out to people in moments of strife.

You have to make a choice while being sensitive to the circumstances. A photographer has a responsibility to be the eyes of the rest of the world.

Anurag Kashyap says at 18, you probably did not really know your father. And through the process of the film, you evolved to see Rai differently.

■ My father has reached a certain pinnacle and is now sure of himself. On the other hand, I was doing this film when I was 18. A lot of things were happening in my life. When the camera is rolling, you have to look into the viewfinder; you have no choice. So when you look at your father through a viewfinder, you intuitively observe many different things that you normally don’t notice.

I think there has been a transformation, both personally and professionally. Personally, it happens naturally as you go from teenager to adult, with all the emotions. But professionally, there was a kind of rebellion where my father would tell me to do something in a certain way and I wouldn’t want to do it that way. I am not Raghu Rai and I’ll do it my way. So I had to find my way. I could not get away with hollow arguments, but had to search for what I really wanted. I figured out where we were similar, where we were different, and our different perspectives on life.

What does the future hold?

■ When the film was released, there was a feeling of completion within myself too. I could start afresh. I had said whatever I had to say to my father. I had seen him closely at work through this film. Maybe others will make more researched documentaries about him, but that was not my objective. It was a personal viewpoint. So for me it’s now a clean slate in my mind, to begin anew. I am free to think what to do next and how I want to do that.

The writer is an architect and academician.

HYDERABAD THE HINDU Magazine
Sunday, June 23, 2019

WASHINGTON

The rise of 'deep-fakes' and threats to truth

Imagine watching a familiar video of yourself on Twitter in which you are, say, speaking at a conference. A few sentences in, you realise that the 'you' in the video is saying all sort of crazy things (that you did not say). Soon, all your devices are beeping and chiming and you've got hundreds of Twitter notifications as the post goes viral. This is the world of 'deep-fakes' – audio and visual-media manipulation taken to a new level altogether, assisted by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the latest advances in software.

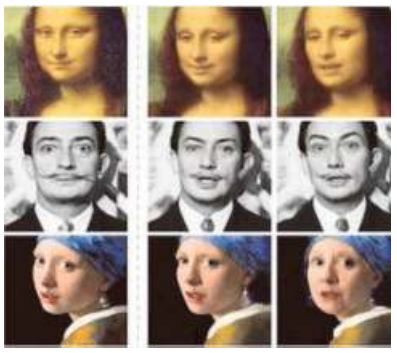
There is no clear definition of 'deep-fake', but the term is broadly used to refer to media manipulation rooted in deep neural networks (a form of AI). While the technique can be used to have some harmless fun, it is rife with possibilities of misuse. From creating fake pornographic videos to making politicians appear to say things they did not, the potential for damage to individuals, organisations and societies is vast.

With the 2020 presidential elections looming, lawmakers and other stakeholders in the U.S. are sitting up and taking note. The Pentagon is also involved via its Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. The Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence held a hearing on challenges of AI and deep-fakes on June 13. "A state-backed actor creates a deep-fake video of a political candidate accepting a bribe with the goal of influencing an election. Or an individual hacker claims to have stolen audio of a private conversation between two world leaders, when in fact no such conversation took place," said Intelligence Committee Chair Adam Schiff, describing some hypothetical scenarios.

Hardware has become cheaper and more powerful and software more accessible and capable. The incorporation of AI in software has made it "dramatically" easier to manipulate media, Jack Clark, of OpenAI, a research and technology organisation that focusses on the safe use of AI, told the House panel. The ability for social media to make things viral compounds the problem.

A few weeks ago, a video of House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi was altered to make her appear drunk by manipulating the audio so that her speech sounded slurred. While this was not deep-fake technology at work, it highlighted the danger of such videos.

The Pelosi video also highlighted something else: the different responses across social media platforms, which enjoy considerably freedom from liability. YouTube removed the video and Facebook kept it on there, marked it as "false", and slowed the speed at which it was distributed.



Deep-fake, a term that refers to media manipulation rooted in AI, has the potential of causing immense damage to individuals, organisations and societies

Relevance for India

The discussion on deep-fakes in the U.S. has much relevance for India. Witnesses providing testimony at the House hearing cited India in their examples to illustrate the dangers of misinformation. For instance, the panel heard how a prominent Indian journalist was at risk after her face was transposed onto a deep-fake pornographic video that went viral.

But individuals are not the only ones at risk, Danielle Citron, a law professor whose expertise includes AI issues, told the House panel. Ms. Citron described a hypothetical scenario of a video that is manipulated so it appears that a company CEO is admitting that the company is insolvent, the night before an IPO. This could derail the company's IPO.

"There's no silver bullet. We need a combination of law, markets and really, societal resilience to get through this," Ms. Citron said.

The Deepfakes Accountability Act, a Bill working its way through the House, seeks to ensure that those creating deep-fake media include with it appropriate disclosures such as watermarks and descriptions; the right of victims to sue creators; and means for victims to protect their reputations when creators cannot be brought to court (e.g., foreign governments). It additionally endeavours to update existing laws around ID theft as well as promote federal research to develop technologies that detect deep-fakes.

Time is of the essence though, and Mr. Schiff summed this up at last week's hearing. "Now is the time for social media companies to put in place policies to protect users from this kind of misinformation, not in 2021 after viral deep-fakes have polluted the 2020 elections. By then it will be too late."

Sriram Lakshman is *The Hindu*'s Washington correspondent.

BEIJING

The Central Asian nodes in Belt and Road project

Ahead of the recently concluded summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), Chinese state media provided extensive coverage of Beijing's recent forays into Central Asia, including into Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

On its website, the state-run Xinhua news agency splashed pictures of the Irkeshtam pass, one of China's gateways to Kyrgyzstan, a few days before planes ferrying leaders of the eight SCO member countries, apart from observers, flew into Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan's capital.

The lofty Irkeshtam pass, perched at a height of 2,950 m, is a geographic marvel. It is a deep gorge at the junction of the southern edge of the Tian Shan and the mighty Pamir mountains. From its impressive elevation, the pass commands several trade routes that jostle their way towards the steppes of Central Asia.

Re-imagining an ancient route

One of them weaves its way from Kashgar, a major trade node along the ancient silk route in China's mountainous Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR). This route heads westwards into the bone-dry Tarim basin.

There, the sands of the forbidding Taklamakan desert, a graveyard in the past of traders and their fellow travelers who once dared to caravan along the ancient silk road, overwhelm the area. On either side, the majestic Kunlun and the Tian Shan mountains wall the route, as it opens towards the Irkeshtam pass.

Under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the ancient route towards the Irkeshtam pass will now provide the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a critical node into Central Asia. The CPEC runs from the Arabian Sea coast at Gwadar towards Kashgar, passing through the extremely challenging terrain of Pakistan's Balochistan province.

Across the Irkeshtam border post, which straddles the pass, the road heads towards the northwest in the direction of the Kyrgyz city of Osh, 250 km away. Osh is located inside the famed Fergana valley. Its abundance of fruit and grain is legendary. The first Mughal emperor Babur, who was born in the nearby Uzbek city of Andijan, spent time in Osh, where he built a mosque atop the Sulayman mountain, a world heritage site.

The road from Osh leads westwards towards the Uzbek border, which is only 5 km away. Osh is also the fulcrum of other strategic routes that the Chinese are opening up in the region as part of the BRI. A brand new north-south motorway will soon link Osh to capital Bishkek in the north. Once the 250 km-road, being built by the China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), is completed by 2021, the spanking new highway will connect Osh with Kazakhstan's Almaty. Eventually, the $698-million project, bankrolled by China's Exim Bank, will interlink Pakistan, China and Kyrgyzstan, with strategic nodes extending to Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan.

Beijing's forays into the region plan to touch Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, eventually connecting China to Europe

Focussing on Osh, China's telecom giant, Huawei Technologies, has recently unveiled an ambitious plan. In partnership with China Telecom, it plans to transform Bishkek and Osh into "smart cities", powered by fast Internet and cyber monitoring systems.

Apart from highways and power projects, China is concentrating on railways in its bid to open up Central Asia and beyond as part of BRI. For instance, Osh sits along China's West passage-3 railway project. After passing through Kashgar and Osh via the Irkeshtam pass, the railway spears towards Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran, Turkey, and beyond.

Separately, West Passage 1 enters Kazakhstan through Alashankou in Xinjiang. From there it hooks up with Russia's Trans-Siberian Railway and enters Belarus before reaching out to the European Union.

Similarly, the exit point of West Passage 2 is Xinjiang's Alashankou. Kazakhstan, in this case, becomes the gateway to Turkmenistan, setting the stage for a railway link-up with Iran, Turkey and possibly Europe. China is also working on East Passage 1. This route connects Erenhot in its Inner Mongolia province, with the Trans-Siberian railway on the way to Europe.

All cross-border initiatives on infrastructure feed into China's 'go-global' policy. This is a joint initiative of China's central planners and provincial administrations to shift sections of Chinese capital and supply chains overseas.

Atul Aneja is *The Hindu*'s Beijing correspondent.

DHAKA

Stuck in refugee camps, they draw their hopes

Sabuku Nahar, 8, a Rohingya child now residing in Cox's Bazar as a refugee, dreams of becoming a pilot, with a mission to bring back her uncle from Malaysia to Myanmar, their birthplace. She has drawn three multicoloured planes to portray her hidden dreams. Her story plays out in an exhibition in Dhaka, about 400 km away from the overcrowded refugee camp where she lives now. Ironically, she cannot visit the exhibition as there is a government restriction on the movement of Rohingya refugees.

When hundreds of thousands of terrified Rohingya refugees – 60% of whom were children – began flooding onto the beaches and paddy fields of southern Bangladesh in August 2017, they brought with them accounts of the unspeakable violence and brutality that had forced them to flee. By April 2019, around 9,10,000 Rohingya had settled in Cox's Bazar. They joined the around-3,00,000 people already in Bangladesh from the previous waves of displacement, effectively forming the world's largest refugee camp.

The exhibition organised by Amnesty International deals with a fundamental question: what do the children want to become when they grow up? The five-day event, supported by UNICEF and EMK Center, is the outcome of a two-day art camp in Cox's Bazar where the Rohingya children, with the help of six cartoonists, sketched their aspirations.

The path of teaching

One common pathway the children want to explore to get out of their miseries is to become a teacher. For instance, nine-year-old Enamul Hasan, who wishes to teach English and Burmese alphabets, has sketched out a classroom with a teacher in the middle, surrounded by students.

"We have seen that many Rohingya children wish to become teachers and doctors based on the very practical needs that they have experienced in the camps. Many have shared about disease outbreaks that doctors have helped prevent in the camps and they wish to help others when they grow up," said Saad Hammadi, South Asia campaigner at Amnesty International.

The art camp and exhibition are part of Amnesty International's campaign to increase local and international support for the education of Rohingya children.

"Childhood is the most formative period in the life of a person. We all have a responsibility to afford these children the opportunity to chase their dreams," said Mr. Hammadi.

Close to one-third of the children do not have access to education and the remainder have access only to informal education. UNICEF, together with the country's education sector, introduced a framework in January to provide more structured learning that matches international standards.

Rohingya children, who form a major portion of refugees in Cox's Bazar, have taken to sketching to express their aspirations for a better future

However, restrictions in Bangladesh mean that Rohingya children's education will continue to be informal for now. "UNICEF is exploring pathways to an accredited curriculum with higher-level institutes... Our goal is to ensure this generation of children have the knowledge and skills they require to lead healthy, productive lives, and contribute to their communities in the future," said Dara Johnston, UNICEF's acting deputy representative.

Amnesty International said ensuring a quality education for Rohingya children is not at odds with repatriation. However, delayed and informal education limit their opportunities. The safe, voluntary and dignified return of the Rohingya refugees to Myanmar is the great hope that sustains many living in Cox's Bazar. And artworks act as a new conveyor of emotions.

When the Rohingya children started drawing, they had concentrated only on red, grey and black to turn their dreams, often nebulous, into works of art. With time, they turned to a rainbow of colours, indicating a big change in their mind, said Japanese Ambassador Hiroyasu Izumi, who has visited Rohingya camps 10 times since his arrival in Bangladesh in September 2017.

Today's world is defined by state egotism, by the 'me-first' mantra propagated by stronger nations, said Mr. Izumi in his speech at the inauguration of the exhibition on June 20. "What about the weaker? What can the weaker people do?," he asked. These words draw broader attention to the plight of the Rohingya stuck in a crammed corner of the world.

Arun Devnath is a journalist based in Dhaka.

THIMPHU

Sunlight on Bhutan's rainbow laws

"When I was a teenager, my uncles tried to teach me to walk like a man, my classmates would call me *chhakka* (slur word for gay)," says Tashi Tsheten, a 26-year old lab technician who leads one of Bhutan's most prominent LGBTIQ groups, Rainbow Bhutan. The Himalayan Kingdom has never punished homosexuality, he explains, but most in their religiously conservative society would rather not talk about it. As a result, while Bhutan has had two Sections (213 and 214) in its Penal Code that ordered imprisonment for "unnatural sex" for decades, no one was ever actually prosecuted under the law. Instead, Mr. Tsheten and other activists in the gay rights movement say they faced bullying and heckling from classmates, and the odd family elder trying to make them more "manly".

This month, with Bhutan's new government initiating the process to repeal the two Sections, Mr. Tsheten says he hopes even that sort of harassment will come to an end. On June 7, Parliament's lower house, the National Assembly, passed a Bill to repeal section 213 (and consequently 214). The Bill is expected to be taken up by the upper house, the National Council, in six months. Once it passes, the Act will be presented to the 39-year-old King, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, for approval.

"This was an arcane law and has never been implemented in Bhutan and so we felt that the time had come to dispense with it," says Tashi Wangyal, a member of the National Council. "In Bhutan, we may be religiously conservative, but we are socially liberal, as can be seen from our attitudes and open acceptance when it comes to divorce or children born out of wedlock, or rehabilitation of prisoners."

Bhutan also has fairly progressive laws on gender equality. Women form a large part of the workforce, and in 2018 elections, seven of the 10 women contestants won. At clubs in downtown Thimphu that can stay open till 5 a.m., the openness of Bhutanese society is plain to see: girls and boys mix freely, women's safety is not a concern, and alcoholism and drugs, not sexual freedoms, are bigger issues for the youth.

Bhutanese pride themselves on prioritising "Gross National Happiness" over GDP wealth, and approve of the country's freedoms and tolerant values, which they say flow from the Buddhism practised by a majority in the country.

But the leap from gender equality to equality for transgenders and homosexuals will take longer, say activists. One of the reasons is the culture of "strong manhood"

Bhutan's new government has initiated the process to repeal two Sections in the country's Penal Code that criminalise homosexuality

which pervades Bhutanese society and is expressed through the prominence of phallic symbols everywhere: on doors, public walls and carpets and rugs inside homes. Traditional attire is also enforced in offices and schools, which means men must wear the shorter wraparound tunic-like *koh*, while women wear long skirts or *kiras*.

According to Mr. Tsheten, refusing to fit in with those cultural mores is hard in a small society. "Sex is not a taboo, but being less manly definitely is, and everyone has an opinion about you," he says. His partner Pema, 27, who has lobbied for the legal amendments, faced more direct bullying, being roughed up in toilets and threatened with violence.

Lack of spaces

Another issue was the lack of spaces for LGBTIQ people to meet. Mr. Tsheten says the community was eventually built because of government and international funding in HIV/AIDS prevention activities that drew in the more vulnerable homosexuals for testing. In 2009, the Bhutan Network for HIV Positive People was started, and a civil society organisation called Lhak-Sam was registered in 2010.

At the time, Mr. Tsheten remembers, Bhutanese officials would state at international conferences that the country had no homosexuals at all. In 2015, an activist Passang Dorji "came out" for the first time on national television, which was considered a watershed moment. Soon, groups like Rainbow Bhutan and LGBT Bhutan started up.

Significantly, Mr. Tsheten says he himself never actually came out, as he felt it was unnecessary to go public on what he considers a private issue. He lives with his partner at home along with his parents, but says they follow a strict "don't ask, don't tell" policy. It's a policy that appears to suit all.

Suhasini Haidar works with *The Hindu*.

HYDERABAD THE HINDU Magazine
Sunday, June 23, 2019

TOGA TOWN

Kodumanal: the city that clothed Rome

The nondescript village of Kodumanal has a remarkably strategic location, which explains why it was such an important centre of commerce in ancient times

Monolith One of the menhirs; (facing page, top) some finds from the site; and (below) Ramachandran with his excavation album. ZAC O'YEAH
Cover photo Two imposing menhirs and three deep cist tombs have been left in situ at Kodumanal for visitors to inspect. ZAC O'YEAH

ZAC O'YEAH

Feeling slightly lost, I get off the train at Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu's heartland. Pankaj Mishra, the only other travel writer to set foot here (as far as I know), dismissed the town as being "to underwear what Sivakasi was to firecrackers" in a couple of hours and as few pages in his 1990 travelogue *Butter Chicken in Ludhiana*, before scuttling on to a bus bound for Kerala.

It's one of those places where no tourists go, there's virtually no information online, no guidebook recommends it, my trusty TTK road atlas only knows it as 'famous for hosiery products' and it never occurs to my bucket-listing friends, who go fashion hunting in New York City, to stop and shop in India's world-famous 'Banian City'.

The streets are lined with export surplus showrooms with chic names like Homme & Femme or Tee Totaller, interspersed with low-budget business lodges, which I guess is Tiruppur in a nutshell. At any point of time, garment importers from scores of countries are visiting the thousands of manufacturing units here that employ half a million labourers (practically the entire population of Tiruppur). They produce knitwear, innerwear and sportswear for the likes of iconic American brand Ralph Lauren, trendy Scandinavian H&M, dowdy Marks & Spencer of the U.K., and youthful Italian fashion house Diesel, to the value of a billion dollars per year, which constitutes about half of India's total knitwear exports.

In historical times, the methods for producing iron were an industrial secret and high-grade Indian steel was sought for its quality

Harish Damodaran states in *India's New Capitalists* (2008), in a chapter analysing this unheralded wonder, that Tiruppur "has displaced traditional knitwear export clusters such as Mumbai, Ludhiana and Delhi to storm into the numero uno position." Hold that thought. A curious coincidence is that a pristine Roman coin from the reign of Julius Caesar (mid-1st century BCE) was once dug up in Tiruppur, and it has further been concluded that two millennia ago, the village of Kodumanal, 20 km downriver, was a prominent exporter of cotton which clothed Rome, maybe even supplying the fabric for those togas they wore when they partied. This area was numero uno already then.

On the radar

Despite that, few people in Tiruppur know of Kodumanal – neither my hotel manager nor the taxi driver he books for me have heard of it. Luckily, I've been in touch with Prof. K. Rajan at Pondicherry University, the eminent archaeologist who excavated the site, and he suggests I seek out Ramachandran who owns the actual farmland where ancient Kodumanal was situated, about one kilometre

southeast of the modern village by the same name. Rajan explains in his email: "The entire excavations carried out in several seasons constitute merely 1% of the site. In that sense, our understanding about the site is just 1%. Irrespective of these limited works, the site yielded voluminous data on gemstone technology, textile technology, copper technology, iron and steel technology, conch/ shell technology and many others."

Although it's been on the radar since the 60s when test digs by the Archaeological Survey of India established its antiquity, it was only decades later that scholars identified it with the Kodumanam mentioned in the classical Sangam literature of Tamil Nadu. During the excavations that have been going on intermittently since the 80s, after Rajan first visited Kodumanal, his team has reported finds of cotton material, terracotta weaving implements, ornaments of various kinds and, most importantly, evidence of iron manufacturing such as crucibles and furnaces. In historical times, the methods for producing iron were an industrial secret and high-grade Indian steel was sought for its quality, especially to forge swords for the Roman empire.

Dressed to kill

Simply put, Kodumanal saw to it that the ancients were dressed to kill and armed to the teeth. Hence, every Indian historian worth her salt writes about Kodumanal, from Romila Thapar ("an important inland centre... with excavated evidence of working semi-precious stones" in *The Penguin History of Early India*) to Upinder Singh ("Kodumanal gives important evidence of the transition to the early historical phase in South India, especially with reference to the beginnings of literacy and the development of centres of craft production" in *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India*). The latter also discusses Prof. Rajan's findings at length.

Eventually, my driver finds his way to Kodumanal, thanks to Google Maps. After half an hour's driving past ginning mills and curious shrines full of terracotta horses, we're in the village of about 1,100 people and two small temples. Ramachandran awaits us. He cheerfully tells me that I just missed the excavators who packed up and left two months ago. He hops into the taxi and we drive out to his fields, where he grows maize.

My first observation as I get out of the car is that despite it being inhabited since at least 400 BCE and well known as one of the most important prehistoric industrial sites ever excavated, Kodumanal keeps a curiously low profile. There's no site museum or even signposting at the spot where one set of three deep cist tombs and two imposing menhirs have been left in situ for visitors to inspect. The granite slabs that make up the underground tombs are colossal. Says Ramachandran, "They've been here for 2,500 years."

Were there any skeletons, I ask, as I peek down into the pit of death.

"Only bone fragments, coal and pearls," Ramachandran says.

Hundreds of similar tombs lie hidden under the earth, covering tens of acres, and nearby, on the north bank of the Noyyal river, remains of an equally big town have been excavated. We continue down the road and I stare at an empty field, doing my best to picture the industrial units it housed – the spinners and weavers who perhaps ran clothing stores where Romans picked up togas, jewellers' shops surrounded by gemstone polishers and artisans who cut bangles out of conch shells that Romans might purchase for their wives, and, of course, the multiple furnaces at which, braving the blazing heat, ironsmiths forged steel known in Tamil as *ukku* (Anglicised as 'wootz'), a procedure described in the *Purananuru*, one of the eight great anthologies of the Sangam age, as "*the anvil which combats the hammer brought down on it with great force by a blacksmith with his strong hands trying to mould iron!*"

Some say that the famously incorruptible Iron Pillar in Delhi must have originated here, although that's mere speculation, but it is known that swords of South Indian steel were coveted in the West already in 400 BCE, as related by E.H. Warmington in *The Commerce Between the Roman Empire and India*.

It's curious how one of Asia's foremost industrial sites can vanish with so few traces; a humbling thought, but as Ramachandran explains, the houses in those days were very basic. So there are hardly any ruins to speak of.

Back to the present

When the archaeologists first came to the village, there was nothing in Kodumanal, says Ramachandran, not even a tea stall, but now after over three decades of what may possibly be one of the most important and extensive archaeological excavation projects in the history of independent India, there are multiple daily bus services to the outside world, a telephone exchange and a small shop: one might say that archaeology brought the village from the past to the present.

So many visit, declares Ramachandran in his modest manner: government officials, scholars, students from as far away as Japan – and he has met them all, shown them around, served them tea in his home. "Free service," he quips.

Back at Ramachandran's house in the village, he shows me an album with pictures from the excavations – images of necklaces, terracotta spindles for weaving, a toy tiger with inlaid gemstones, a skeleton seated in a meditation posture, pottery shards full of Brahmi graffiti giving a wealth of information about who lived here (several were North Indians judging by their names) and, most remarkably, what he calls the head of a Roman soldier. I later track it down to a private museum in Erode, the Kalaimagal Kalvi Nilayam's archaeological collection.

The staff tells me that students found the head many years ago during a field trip to Kodumanal, where they saw a boy using it as a football. Some scholars identify it as the head of Greek god Apollo, patron of music and literature, but as I examine the 17-cm-tall head, I can't quite perceive any similarities between it and statues I've admired in museums in Italy and Greece, where the god is usually depicted as a young, beardless man. This dude has a punk hairdo and beard. However, its presumed antiquity is swiftly debunked by Prof. Rajan, who says in an email, "The terracotta figurine collected from the surface at this site is presumed to be a Roman soldier. However, the thermo-

Tiruppur's textile barons ought to find it in their interest to sponsor a heritage centre to highlight Tamil Nadu's early textile industry and other contributions to the world

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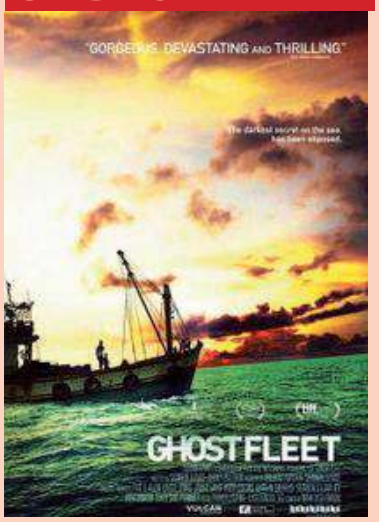


Ghost Fleet

SHANNON SERVICE & JEFFREY WALDRON, 90 MIN

Focusing on Thai abolitionist Patima Tungpuchayakulis, this film follows a small group of activists who risk their lives on remote Indonesian islands to help the enslaved fishermen who feed the world's appetite for seafood.

Emanuel

BRIAN IVIE, 90 MIN

On June 17, 2015, a white supremacist gunned down nine African Americans at a church in Charleston, South Carolina, sparking a national debate on gun violence. The film focuses on the grief — and forgiveness — of the victims' relatives.

Thariode

NIRMAL BABY VARGHESE

This Malayalam documentary tells the story of gold mining in Thariode, a village in Wayanad. Set to be released after more than five years of investigation, the film examines the industry's impact on development, local livelihoods and the environment.

Kodumanal: the city...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

luminescence analysis carried out by Michael Vickers of British Museum suggests that it is only 200 years old."

When my taxi ferries me around the countryside, I realise that the seemingly nondescript Kodumanal had a remarkably strategic location, surrounded by exceptional geological wealth: one hillside 15 km downriver was so rich in iron it could virtually be skimmed off its surface, another neighbouring place called Padiyur was full of high-quality beryls that foreigners coveted (the mines were active until the 1810s), unusually pure quartz deposits were found at a hill only 5 km away, and a fourth hill, Sivanmalai, which I ascend from the southern side of the Noyyal, yielded masses of sapphires.

I don't spot any glimmering gems on the surface of the hillock, but from the peak that is crowned by a Murugan temple, I get a splendid overview of the area, which is largely flat and seems easy to traverse. By contrast, I make out the prohibiting shapes of the ghat mountains in the northwest. The landscape looks dreary and parched, which is probably why the locals have always been industrious rather than merely relying on agriculture.

Easy access

Besides, Kodumanal sits on a riverbank that connected it with South India's great Cauvery and the Bay of Bengal, and was easily accessible from the west coast too via the Palakkad Gap. The low mountain pass, only 100 km away, was the route of the historical highway maintained by the erstwhile Chera and Chola rulers to connect Muziris, the recently excavated harbour near Kodungallur in Kerala, to the antique inland capital Karur (known as Karoura to the classical Alexandria-based geographer, Ptolemy), and that same highway passed through Kodumanal. It's perhaps no wonder that most of the Roman coin hoards have been found in places along that road, marking out a virtual trail of commerce.

I may be the only tourist to visit this area since Mishra and the Romans, but with a museum to showcase select finds, and the right information for visitors to interpret the site, Kodumanal could easily become an important site. One thinks Tiruppur's textile barons ought to find it in their interest to sponsor a heritage centre to highlight Tamil Nadu's early textile industry and other contributions to the world. For example, it is a remarkable but little-known fact that their old links left a lasting mark on the European food lexicon: the word for rice (*riso* in Latin) is from Old Tamil *arici*, and *iñciver* became ginger (*gingiber*), while the word pepper (*piper*) of course has its roots in *pippali*.

On my last evening in Tiruppur, I browse the surplus shops. Not unexpectedly do they not sell togas, but I pick, after dismissing the ₹5 stuff, something from the 'fancy' selection: a Star Wars branded T-shirt. I presume it must be a leftover from the Reagan presidency when America planned to start wars in outer space. Anyway, it's only ₹140 and I am assured it is pure cotton. I wear my new tee to dinner, but quickly realise that it's made of a kinky latex-vinyl mixture that doesn't let the skin breathe. I'm sweating like a fountain, virtually showering other diners with perspiration and, for social reasons, have to beat a hasty retreat. Maybe, I think to myself, some things were better in the olden days.

God or fraud? An ancient pot excavated at the site; and (left) the controversial terracotta head ('Apollo') found at Kodumanal.
ZAC O'YEAH

The entire excavations carried out in several seasons constitute merely 1% of the site. In that sense, our understanding about the site is just 1%

The travel writer lives to eat strange things and poke his nose in antique potholes.

PUPPET MASTERS

Puppet troupe Tal Betal aims to engage both children and adults by addressing "eternal issues"

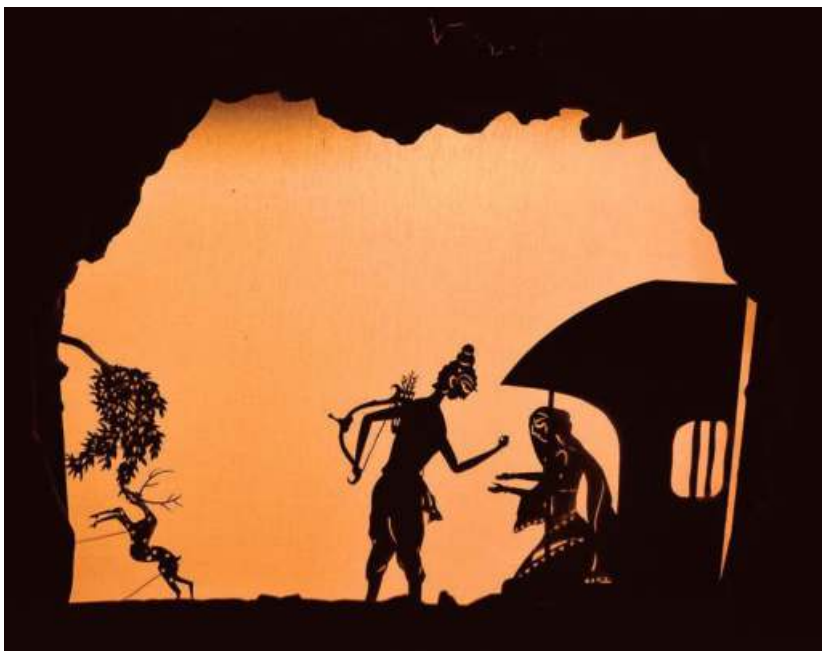
THE KID GLOVES ARE OFF

NIVED DHARMARAJ

"Alive and alive and alive, it's me!" cries the runaway doughnut as he escapes from being eaten once again. The puppet's joy is met with cheers from an audience quite happy to trade in a weekend evening to catch one of Tal Betal's only English performances. And it is here, says Subhasis Sen, founder of the Kolkata-based puppet troupe, that the puppet truly comes alive – in the audience's applause and laughter. "You send a stimulus to the audience and get their feedback – it may be silence, a hum, claps. They fill in the gaps and the puppet comes to life."

Tal Betal was in Chennai for a two-week puppetry festival, and showcased two English performances, *A Runaway Doughnut* and *Bhabam the Barber*. The first, a take on the popular Gingerbread Man tale, revolves around a doughnut who flees after learning that everyone wants to eat him, until he is finally rescued by a fairy. The second is based on a Bengali folktale that follows Bhabam the barber who finds out that the king has horns while cutting his hair, and is ordered to keep it a secret. Both performances were preceded by workshops for children that unravelled the behind-the-scenes secrets of puppeteering.

Hand in glove (Clockwise from below) The runaway doughnut with a sly fox; Tal Betal's take on the pied piper tale; shadow puppetry is also part of the troupe's repertoire. TAL BETAL



The group's regular repertoire includes shadow puppetry and bunraku, but in Chennai, they showcased glove puppets, each one as colourful and captivating as the stories.

On and off rhythm

When I reached the set some hours before a performance, the group was still setting up. Even in the dark, you could easily identify Sen, 62, sitting shadowed in the back, calling out cues and directions. Sen started Tal Betal (meaning 'on and off rhythm') in 1973, with his parents and sister. Today, he's the only original member left, but many new artists have signed up.

Sen had had his epiphany in boarding school, where he first encountered puppets. His eyes fill with wonder as he recalls that moment. "I was taken aback, shocked. It haunted me and filled me with happiness. No, not happiness but ecstasy. Like when you see god, you're dumbfounded." The magic endured. Many years later, inspired by his father, he would leave a stable banking job to take up puppetry full time.

A Runaway Doughnut and *Bhabam the Barber* deal with issues of autonomy and truth, but in simple and entertaining ways, with props and music softening the serious

If puppets are his passion, it's children who are his inspiration. "When a child cries for me, wishes that I stay back for him, that is highly rewarding. Not applause, not money, nothing will stay. The only things that stay are the child's laughter, involvement, attachment."

Sen sees himself as educator more than entertainer. He prides himself on being able to teach children who may be seen as 'below-average' students in the traditional academic sense. Leaning over conspiratorially, he tells me in a stage whisper, "I was dismissed as an average student. But now I've realised that I was not. I was just not interested in certain subjects. The real task of a teacher is to create interest in the subject." And for Sen, puppets have proven to be the most effective means of creating this interest. He grins as he recounts how teachers have come up to him astonished, asking how he manages to get all the backbenchers to be so proactive during his sessions.

Deeper thoughts

Tal Betal's performances, however, aren't necessarily just for children. A quick glance around the theatre reveals seats filled with as many adults and adolescents. This, says Sen, is quite common. "In fact," he chuckles, as he strokes his chin, "Adults actually like the performances more. I think they find depth in the stories."

Tal Betal achieves such depth by centring its stories around what Sen calls "eternal issues". The story and characters may change depending on the setting, but the issues remain constant. "For instance," says Sen, "During the elections, we saw our leaders speaking in such filthy ways. Why? Because as human beings, they are greedy for power. Power was there in the Stone Age, and will be there when the earth is destroyed. Only the manifestation has differed." Thus, older audiences can connect tales that seem innocent and innocuous to the large and political. *A Runaway Doughnut* and *Bhabam the Barber* deal with issues of autonomy and truth, but in simple and entertaining ways, with props and music softening the serious.

When you have 'eternal issues' at the crux of a performance, it encourages the audience to pay close attention to the shows. And, says Sen, such attention is what is needed for theatre to succeed. Light glints off his gold-rimmed glasses as he rearranges himself in his chair before stating with an air of finality, "An artist wants his work not to be appreciated but to be seen attentively. Let them criticise us thoroughly and say bad words. I accept it, so long as you have been attentive."

HYDERABAD THE HINDU Magazine
Sunday, June 23, 2019

BIG SCREEN

Simmering in a repertory

Acting, writing, directing — Girish Karnad shone in the golden age of parallel cinema

ASEEM CHHABRA

There is a scene towards the middle of Shyam Benegal's *Nishant*. A very frustrated and exhausted Girish Karnad, a schoolteacher, returns to his village. He has spent the day appealing to the police, government officials, lawyers and journalists to take action against the four evil landlords who have kidnapped his wife Sushila (Shabana Azmi).

All attempts fail and the teacher is not able to shake up the fear that the landlord brothers (played with terrifying intensity by Amrish Puri, Anant Nag, Mohan Agashe and Naseeruddin Shah) have spread among the villagers and even those with power in a nearby city.

In a fit of anger Karnad lets out a loud cry, and starts slashing at wild bushes with his umbrella as he walks back home. It is a devastating scene.

Nishant was released in 1975, the same year as Ramesh Sippy's *Sholay* and Yash Chopra's *Deewar*. But the college student in me was far more interested in seeing Benegal's new film with its large ensemble of trained actors. A year earlier while I was in school I had seen Benegal's *Ankur* at Delhi's Regal Theatre, and experienced the power of cinema beyond what my young mind had imagined possible. I was blown away by Azmi's acting skills and her beauty, and shaken up by her outburst towards the end.

In *Nishant* I discovered Karnad, tall, elegant and handsome even when he was mostly scowling and looking frustrated. (I did not know much about him before I saw *Nishant*. Years later I would see *Samksara* in New York, his first film as an actor.) In *Nishant* I also discovered two other actors who would change my life, how I would view cinema and my perception of what talented performers were capable of doing in front of the camera. I am talking about Shah and Smita Patil.

A magical time

What a magical and special time it was. In the 1970s, Benegal, supported by very able producers, was on a roll. Every year he would make a new film, each an event by itself, each an exploration of the class/ caste divides in India or on patriarchy and strong-willed women fighting for space in a world defined by men. *Nishant* would be followed by *Manthan* (1976, with a simmering Karnad, Patil, Shah and Nag); *Bhumika* (1977, Patil, Nag, Shah and Amol Palekar); *Kondura* (1978, Patil and Nag), and *Junoon* (1979, Shashi and Jennifer Kapoor, Azmi and Shah).

If Karnad wasn't acting in one of Benegal's films, he would be writing part of the screenplay. He is credited as one the co-writers on *Bhumika,* which won the National Film Award for its screenplay. He also co-wrote the scripts of *Kondura* and *Kalyug* (1981).

But Benegal was not the only one who worked with this repertory of actors. It was the the peak of the parallel film movement, and many young filmmakers were churning out a range of films dealing with social issues. And the same set of actors would work in different projects with filmmakers like Saeed Akhtar Mirza (*Arvind Desai Ki Ajeeb Dastan*), Muzaffar Ali (*Gaman*), and M.S. Sathyu (*Garam Hawa*). Some of these actors also graced the screen in Satyajit Ray's first Hindi film, *Shatranj Ke Khilari* (1977).

Much of my initial understanding of inequality, caste politics, and rural India came from these films. It was an important education that I would not have received from any degree course.

Tughlaq at Purana Qila

In the mid-1970s, Karnad's talent was even more evident on stage. There's one performance of his play *Tughlaq* that I'll never forget. Directed by Ebrahim Alkazi, it featured the late Manohar Singh playing the lead character amid the ruins of Purana Qila. I saw another performance last year at a Delhi theatre, but the Purana Qila setting had made the anti-authoritarian play so much more impactful.

Every year Shyam Benegal would make a new film, each an exploration of class/ caste divides or patriarchy and strong-willed women fighting for their space in a world defined by men

Ever elegant (Clockwise from left) Shabana Azmi and Girish Karnad in *Nishant*; Amrish Puri, Anant Nag and Naseeruddin Shah in *Nishant*; (facing page) Smita Patil in *Manthan*; and Karnad in *Manthan*.

Karnad was back on screen in 1977 in Basu Chatterjee's *Swami*, with the haunting thumri *Ka Karoon Sajni*. Here he plays a patient husband to Azmi's rebellious Saudamini, who is resentful of her family forcing her into an arranged marriage.

The film ends with a beautiful – albeit predictable – scene. Saudamini has decided to run away with her former boyfriend. But then she changes her mind and falls at her husband's feet as he (Karnad) says, '*ghar chalo Mini*' (come home, Mini).

Ancients and moderns

That same year, Karnad would also team up with B.V. Karanth to co-write and co-direct *Godhuli* (with Shah, Om Puri and Kulbhushan Kharbanda) – a clash of old and new ways in a village as the headman's son arrives from the U.S. with his American wife. And in 1979, Karnad directed a stunning period film in Kannada depicting ancient Indian martial arts, a homage to Akira Kurosawa's samurai films – *Ondanondu Kaladalli* (with Shankar Nag).

Many of the players from that era have left us. Patil died tragically in 1986, Shankar Nag in 1990 and Farooq Shaikh (*Garam Hawa* and *Gaman*) in 2013. Some of other key players in Shyam Benegal's repertory group are also gone – Vijay Tendulkar (playwright and scriptwriter for *Nishant* and *Manthan*), Amrish Puri, Om Puri, Shashi and Jennifer Kapoor, Jalal Agha and now even Karnad. The bigger tragedy was that through the 1980s the parallel cinema movement also slowly died down.

Having lived in the U.S. since 1981, I never got a chance to meet Karnad. But I tried to interview him for a book I wrote on Shashi Kapoor in 2016. Karnad had directed *Utsav* (1984), produced by Kapoor. I had heard from someone that things were fraught between the producer and the director since the film had gone way over budget. Plus, Kapoor had already lost money on his previous productions.

Karnad sent me an email in response to an interview request I had sent through a common friend. The email read: "While the film *Utsav* was being made or since the day it was released, I have not said a word about my experience of making the film or of Shashi as a producer and actor, preferring to let him have his say. I should like to continue the arrangement."

I am heartbroken that I will now never interview Girish Karnad.

The author is an independent writer, film festival programmer and the author of *Shashi Kapoor: The Householder, The Star*.

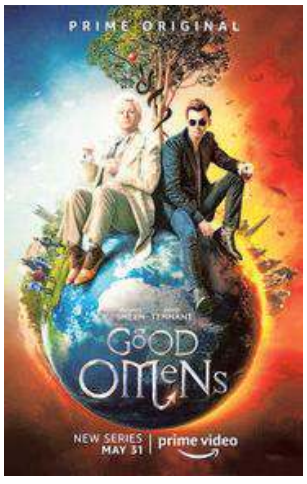
BINGE WATCH

The gods must be macho

God doesn't wear a halo in today's web series. He's more likely to be a muscle-flexing Rambo

If you, like this writer, are a big fan of god being used as plot device – or even better, a character – in films and TV/ streaming shows, these are interesting but also confusing times to live in. God no longer has a halo, he likely wields a harpoon instead.

In the recent Amazon Prime release, *Good Omens* (based on the novel of the same name by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett), we see the forces of both Heaven and Hell rooting for the Antichrist (reincarnated on earth as a mortal boy), so that he can usher in the End of Days – and Heaven and Hell can have the decisive, no-holds-barred battle they always wanted. 'Tis all, as the Archangel Gabriel (Jon Hamm) says several times, part of god's plan. The Netflix show *Lucifer* has an equally trigger-happy god, who has no qualms about sending (divine) goons after his own son or banishing his wife (goddess) to Hell. As god's beloved son Amenadiel says, "He (god) has a bit of an overreacting problem." *American Gods*, another Gaiman adaptation, is all about the old gods (Odin, Loki, Kali and so on) fighting the new gods (Technology, Media, 'Mr. World' aka Globalisation) in an apocalyptic showdown.



No holds barred Poster of *Good Omens*.

Mighty smiters

Clearly, we're having a cultural moment where god needs to be more John Rambo than loving shepherd. Gone are the days of the hippie Jesus posters; you're far more likely to come across a authoritarian, muscle-flexing god in films and on TV/ streaming shows. The world has never been more in thrall to the military industrial complex than it is today – this much is well-documented by now, especially through (non-fiction) books like William Hartung's *Prophets of War*. And there's nobody better than god when it comes to providing moral and theological justification for acts of unilateral aggression – almost everybody running for public office in America remembers the words 'One nation under god', right?

In India, however, visual representation of god is a bit of a contentious issue. And you can't just hire Frances McDormand's remarkable voice and hope for the best (as *Good Omens* did). People who play god are often trapped in that image – the actor Nitish Bharadwaj played Krishna in B.R. Chopra's 80s TV show *Mahabharat*. In 1996, he contested the Lok Sabha elections from Jamshedpur and won on a BJP ticket. There are still long-running Delhi plays where Bharadwaj dons the old Krishna gear and waxes eloquent about dharma for the zillionth time.

Desi Guantanamo

The pairing of god and authoritarianism isn't far from Indian screens, however. Two Netflix India shows in recent times have placed Hindutva-based dystopias as backdrop for the stories they want to tell. *Ghoul*, released last year, was a supernatural thriller set in a desi Guantanamo Bay of sorts, where Muslim 'undesirables' are 'rehabilitated' until they fall in line. And last week, Deepa Mehta's *Leila* was released – this is based on Prayaag Akbar's 2017 novel of the same name, the disturbing story of a mother searching for her estranged daughter in the not-too-distant future. *Leila* is perfectly timed, for several reviewers have noted the terrifying similarities between present-day bigotries and the kind of dystopian setpieces the show employs. And much like how a lot of Republican politicians cloak religious beliefs under the tag 'will of the American people', the authoritarians of *Leila* apply the tag 'Aryavarta' to a lot of things that are actually Hindutva spawn.

In an old episode of *That '70s Show* I was rewatching recently, Fez (William Valderrama), the only Latino character on the show, tells his white friends, "I bet my god can kick your god's ass" – this seems to be the dominant mode in which we engage with all matters religious these days.

Aditya Mani Jha is a writer and journalist who is working on his first book of non-fiction.

In sync Marar (centre) was a regular at the famous Thrissur Pooram, anchoring around 150 panchavadyam concerts each season. AKSHAY SHENOY

TRIBUTE

The last drumbeat

Annamanada Parameswara Marar and his timila towered among Kerala's famous percussionists

SREEVALSAN THIYYADI

"You want to learn some art?" Annamanada Parameswara Marar posed the question to his son when he was in middle school.

The father's mastery of the timila was unquestioned, his views on the instrument deeply rooted in classicism, but he wasn't one to be bound by the convention of passing down the lineage, father to son. The boy was able to choose freely, and he opted for a different traditional Kerala drum, the chenda. This meant a potential disruption to the household's standing in the timila-led *panchavadyam* ensemble, which doesn't feature the chenda. The maestro took it in his stride – and his son, Kalamandalam Harish, went on to become a noted percussionist in his own right.

Marar (1952-2019) always followed his own path in a life marked by an early bloom and a quick rise to professional glory, says Harish. Above all, he was resolute – a trait that was in evidence until his death aged 67 this month, the end of a half-century's career that had wobbled of late due to ill health. Even with acute diabetes hindering the free movement of his bruised fingers, which refused to heal, the doyen anchored a 90-minute *panchavadyam* in a south Malabar town just five weeks before he succumbed to multiple diseases.

"I was at that concert, playing the edakka," recalls Harish, 35, referring to the hourglass-shaped drum that finds its place at one end of the two long rows where timila and maddalam artists face each other as the main percussionists of the *panchavadyam*'s five-instrument ensemble.

What turned out to be Marar's farewell show, though, was a smaller version of what his guru had once envisaged as a pyramidal symphonic structure. Such a *panchavadyam* would span no less than 150 minutes.

Rhythmic novelty

This innovative teacher, too, was a Parameswara Marar (1908-89) from the heritage village of Annamanada, 40 km from Thrissur, Kerala's cultural capital; and the disciple thus acquired the epithet 'junior'. The senior Marar had gained fame from the 60s onwards with a rhythmic novelty that redefined *panchavadyam*, developing a meditative slowness after the introductory passages. For a vibrant ensemble with 60-odd performers, this deepening of the base further embellished the kind of *panchavadyam* its first-wave reformers had conceived in the 1930s. The younger Marar was among the first students to really imbibe and incorporate this development.

The senior Marar taught timila at the prestigious Kerala Kalamandalam where the younger Parameswaran – a nephew of sorts – enrolled in the first batch in 1965, while in his early teens. He completed the four-year course and rejoined the institution in 1971 as a teacher. The stint was brief – the youngster had sensed that performance was his forte.

Excelling in his art, Marar went on to hone his skills alongside young masters of other schools of *panchavadyam*. In the 1970s, he

You need to keep fellow artists in good humour, pay them well. Be generous first, to earn well yourself, Marar would say

SCANNER

Mona Lisa: beyond the glass

In celebration of Leonardo da Vinci's 500th death anniversary, the Louvre is holding its first ever virtual reality show. The VR work will give museum goers "the rare chance to be immersed into the world's most iconic painting." The exhibition will also show other Leonardo works.

Abhinandan Team India

Sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik's latest creation is a tribute to the Indian men's cricket team that won over Pakistan in the ongoing World Cup, as well as a retort to a Pakistani ad that featured IAF wing-commander Abhinandan Varthaman.

interacted closely with the illustrious Pallavur trio of eastern Palakkad. His tapping and rolling drills, alongside brothers Pallavur Maniyan and Kunjukuttan under the supervision of their eldest sibling Appu Marar, made Parameswaran's artistry eclectic. As Harish says, quoting experts, "It was a blend of Maniyan's musical approach and Kunjukuttan's mathematical precision."

Great leader

Marar's heyday as a performer spanned four decades, during which he was a regular at the famous Thrissur Pooram, anchoring around 150 *panchavadyam* concerts each season. "You need leadership qualities to head a big ensemble," says Harish. "You need to keep fellow artists in good humour, pay them well. Achhan used to say, 'Be generous first, to earn well yourself.' Come festivals like Onam or Vishu, he would gift colleagues with *pudava* (clothes) and *kaineettam* (cash gifts)."

Marar's troupe would at times feature up-and-coming artists as well. "Even so, he had the capacity to make that *panchavadyam* sound first-rate," says Harish, who teaches chenda at RLV College in Tripunithura, Kochi.

Marar's daughter Kala Sunil is a classical vocalist. "Our grandmother, Parukutty Marasiar, used to sing. Achhan avidly followed Carnatic music," says Harish. "M.D. Ramanathan fascinated him. From there to Sanjay Subrahmanyan to Abhishek Raghuram of the new age, he wouldn't miss any concerts."

Marar's Kalamandalam stint kindled in him a special interest in Kathakali. "To him, only two faces best express all emotions: Kalamandalam Gopi and Kottakkal Sivaraman."

Harish's chenda-playing wife Nandini Varma recounts how Marar used to encourage her percussive pursuits long before she joined the family. "On spotting me at temples amid festival crowds, he'd call me out and give me tips on bettering my tayambaka," she says. This, when orthodoxy has long slotted chenda as a male domain.

Marar's swansong at Angadipuram on May 4 turned out to be part of a family pilgrimage. "Achhan took us all to a string of shrines around Angadipuram," says Harish. They stayed in the family home at Kodakara, 20 km north of Annamanada. "In hindsight, it seems surreal."

The writer is a keen follower of Kerala's traditional performing arts.

POP-A-RAZZI

My doctor, my friend

The Great Bengali Dream takes a beating


GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK

Once Mamata Banerjee as a can-do rail minister organised a special train from Kolkata to Bengaluru for students stranded by an Air India strike. The students were heading out there for medical college examinations. At that time, Bengal had 1,205 medical seats on offer. Karnataka, despite a smaller population, had 4,500.

I don't know if the irony of organising an exodus from Sonar Bangla struck Banerjee at all. Now, it feels doubly ironic that Didi who likes to think of herself as the guardian angel of all things Bengali should be presiding over the slow-motion shattering of a cherished Bengali dream: a child becoming a doctor.

Ever since I can remember, all middle-class Bengalis have dreamed of a doctor in the family. If not a son, at least a son-in-law. In these more modern times, daughters were also allowed into the dream. Doctor, lawyer, engineer were all desirable but a doctor in the family was at the head of the list.

Family pride

My parents' and grandparents' generation knew the names of famous doctors the way we know the names of rockstars. Cardiologist Sunil Bose. Surgeon Panchanan Chatterjee. Gynaecologist Sarat Mitra whose famous 'twilight sleep' injections would entice even memsahibs to come from England for delivery. Bidhan Chandra Roy, doctor and Chief Minister. My great-great-grandmother's sister was married to doctor and philanthropist Sir Nil Ratan Sircar. It was a matter of great pride in the family. Now NRS is better known as the hospital where truckloads of angry people attacked junior doctors, leaving an intern with a head injury that could keep him on epileptic medicines all his life.

I didn't become a civil engineer like my father because he couldn't go to anyone's house without being shown a leak in the ceiling. I certainly didn't want to become a doctor and have some uncle corner me at a family wedding, pull up his dhoti and show me some weird rash on his leg. When you are a doctor, there is never a free dinner but there is always a free consultation. It doesn't matter if you are a neurosurgeon. You are expected to be an expert in the digestive woes of sundry aunts.

A couple of my closest friends did become doctors. My only contribution to their slog was doing a few of their histology diagrams for some project. But when my mother fell sick while I was abroad, my doctor friend assumed all responsibility and risk. When my father had a heart attack, the medical college friends kept vigil at hospitals, talked to their "sirs" and "ma'ams", and deciphered test results and X-rays.

It doesn't matter if you are a neurosurgeon. You are expected to be an expert in the digestive woes of sundry aunts

On our school WhatsApp group, it's the doctors who have deservedly become the Most Valuable Alumni, not long-ago class toppers. Everyone needs a "doctor friend" especially as parents age. I am just lucky that my doctor friends were always friends first and then doctors.

Justified frustration

It is perhaps a sign of the failure of our healthcare system that it is so important to know a doctor up close. In an ideal world, every patient walking into a hospital should warrant the same attention, the same service. But in an overstretched system, it is a reality that your doctor friend gets you that coveted appointment with the busy specialist or extra care in the hospital.

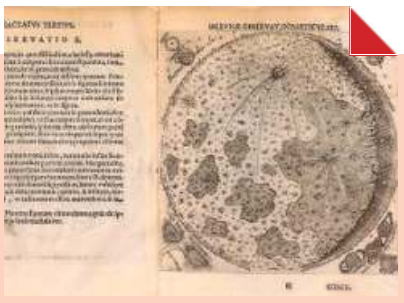
That is the source of the justified frustration of those who don't have a doctor cousin/ friend on speed dial, those who have to depend on the whims and vagaries of an overburdened system. However, that can never be an excuse for thrashing junior doctors or for political silence on the assault. That doctors should have to march on the street with placards reading 'Stop Violence Against Doctors' is shameful. That a Chief Minister should compare a doctor's job with a policeman's is preposterous. Self-defence is not part of the MBBS curriculum yet.

This week, Banerjee finally played kindly Didi, instead of bullying Big Sister, and ended the strike. "I know a thing or two about hospitals because I've been beaten enough in my life," she said, disarmingly. But there is more healing to be done. As a doctor noted bitterly, the Chief Minister rushed to the rescue of a statue with a broken head but not to the bedside of a young man left with a dented skull. Thankfully, she's done that now. But the Hippocratic oath about doing no harm might need a new corollary of doing no harm to the doctors as well.

Sandip Roy is the author of *Don't Let Him Know*, and like many Bengalis likes to let everyone know about his opinions whether asked or not.

South Asia in focus

The Grosvenor Gallery in London presents a seminal show of South Asian modern art. In an attempt to start a conversation on the underrated Indian Modernist movement, the exhibit looks at notable figures such as Souza, Ram Kumar, M.F. Husain and J. Swaminathan.



Apollo's muse

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, the Met will host an exhibition that traces visual representations of the moon from the beginning of photography to the present. Photos apart, the show will feature drawings, prints and astronomical instruments.

HYDERABAD THE HINDU Magazine
Sunday, June 23, 2019

GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK

HELPING HANDS

The interpreters of injuries

At a Dilaasa centre, survivors of domestic violence get medical help. But also a friend they can turn to

JYOTI SHELAR, RAHUL KARMAKAR & SHIREEN AZAM

Thirty-two-year-old Sumita Chavan* never saw her husband's everyday assaults as a form of violence until she walked into Room No. 101 at the OPD in Mumbai's K.B. Bhabha Hospital. "My husband loves me very much," a visibly bruised Chavan told the counsellor, "but he just can't control his anger."

A mother of two, Chavan was referred here from the hospital's casualty department where she sought pain relief for multiple contusions on her body. Chavan was reticent at first, but when she finally began talking to the counsellor, what emerged was a long history of verbal and physical abuse over 10 years of marriage.

She spoke of doing housework from morning to midnight; she was not allowed to visit her parents or even step out for a walk; her husband would beat her for the slightest reason – if he was not served food on time, if the food was not hot enough, if his mother was not served fresh rotis or if she happened to talk to her relatives. But he also bought her clothes, gave her enough money to run the house. "So Sumita did not realise her husband's behaviour was abusive," said counsellor Chitra Joshi.

Room No. 101 was the country's first Dilaasa crisis centre for domestic violence, which was set up in 2000 in collaboration with Cehat (Centre for Enquiry Into Health and Allied Themes). Here, counsellors are trained to help women open up about the violence they may face in their homes – abuse they often don't recognise as abuse. The counsellors work closely with doctors and hospital staff, who are sensitised to detect possible traces of domestic abuse – whether in seemingly mundane ailments like a recurring urinary tract infection or something more serious like frequent miscarriages. They are trained to ask questions, but to never press; then, if needed, to discreetly refer the women to a Dilaasa counsellor.

Hidden phenomenon

According to recent National Family Health Survey data, one in three Indian women is subjected to physical, sexual or emotional abuse by her husband at some point in life. And yet, domestic violence remains a hidden phenomenon, and few women ever seek help. Today, nearly a decade after the Dilaasa centre at K.B. Bhabha Hospital was set up, the model has been replicated in 12 other civic-run hospitals in Mumbai and in 30 centres in Kerala, Meghalaya, Gujarat, Haryana and Goa.

"We have created a place that is non-threatening. A place where women can simply sit and vent their heart out," said Joshi, who is in charge of Mumbai's Dilaasa centres. Joshi, however, notices a disquieting tendency among women to rationalise the abuse. "They tell us they were beaten because they did something wrong: 'I did not cook on time, I made tasteless food, I did not clean the house well'." This also explains why a mere 10% of women who come to Dilaasa centres file complaints of domestic violence. "We have to explain to them that nothing is an excuse for violence."

Counsellors notice a disquieting tendency among women to rationalise the abuse

In the one year since Dilaasa became operational at the bustling Hospicio hospital in Margao, Goa, 182 cases have been referred to it. Apart from referring female patients with inexplicable injuries, doctors also lean on the centre for medico-legal advice in cases of sexual violence. "As doctors, we are afraid of getting caught up in legal tangles," said Lawrence Gomes, a junior gynaecologist at Hospicio, who helped set up the centre. "But a course by Cehat changed this mindset." It also streamlined the process of examining sexual violence survivors.

In this small, unremarkable room with bare walls, a table, and two chairs, a session lasts around 40 minutes, and follow-ups are encouraged, though they happen too rarely. The centre has to maintain a fine balance: it seeks to help, but must also ensure that its efforts do not result in further violence against the women.

"Some women first deny that their husband beat them, but if their

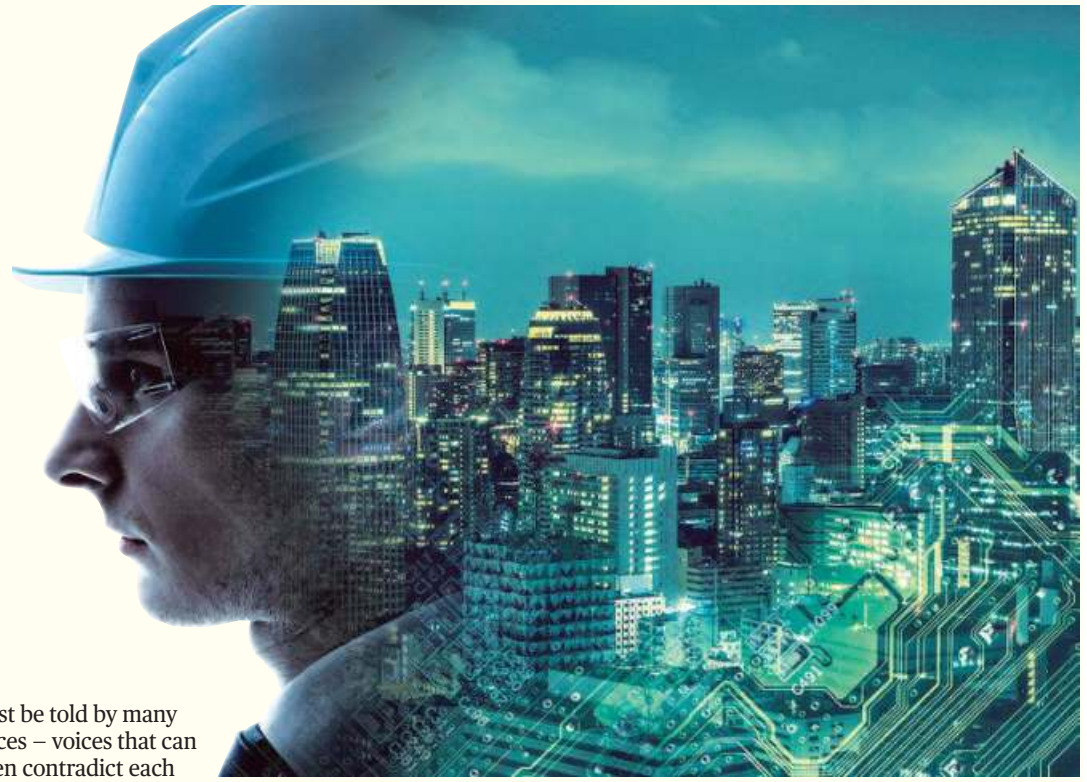
Soul talk Counsellors talk to a survivor at a Dilaasa support centre in Shillong. RITU RAJ KONWAR

PLACE, WORK, FOLK

A competition that can't be won

Winning design entries are never actualised as they are produced in total abstraction, divorced from ground realities

GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK



MATIAS ECHANOVE & RAHUL SRIVASTAVA

A butterfly garden in New Delhi? A cultural hub in Paris? A waterfront in Brooklyn? Lets call for an international competition and select the best entry! Sounds like a good idea in theory, but in practice it is complicated.

First, designers rarely have the information they need to create a good design. They may have site plans, purpose, details of users, budgets. But design competition briefs rarely include the kind of qualitative information essential for an architectural or urban design project to relate to its context meaningfully.

How is the site used? How open are local residents to the project? Is the project just the friendly face of a predatory real estate venture? Who its main proponents? Dozens of parameters that are difficult to include in a design brief will in the end make the design either relevant or not. Countless winning design entries are never actualised because they were produced in total abstraction, divorced from ground realities.

Le Corbusier said that to produce a good design, one needs talent, but in order to produce a good *programme*, one needs genius. The programme is what comes before design.

It is virtually impossible to produce a meaningful design project without it. It is the storyboard of the project – where it is located, what it will do, who will use it and in what ways, who will pay for it, how it will be developed. It can include data about surface areas, heights, density, cost, but it goes far beyond the quantitative.

A good programme doesn't emerge from the mind of a single individual. It comes from explorations, discussions and immersion. Most importantly, it is a collective process. The story of a place to be designed and built must be told by many voices – voices that can often contradict each other. A talented architect feeds off these contradiction and finds ways to resolve them creatively.

Still, even with a fantastic programme, which expresses the characteristics of a specific context and conveys a multiplicity of perspectives, design competitions remain wasteful affairs.

Tired and broke

Dozens, sometimes hundreds, of designers work from their studios for weeks in the hope of winning a prize. A handful of winners get rewards and perhaps a commission. Scores of others only get tired and broke. What if all the energy that goes into a competition was used to think about the project in all its complexity, along with stakeholders, neighbours, future users, and fellow designers?

Le Corbusier said that to produce a good design, one needs talent, but in order to produce a good programme, one needs genius

Instead of banking on the creative genius of an individual that stands above all others – we would be better off harvesting readily available local knowledge and nurturing collective creativity. There is nothing that stimulates imagination more than a healthy immersion into local realities.

When a genuine interest for people and their context drives design, there is much more chance that the public sees the project as meaningful and legitimate. Projects that land from outer space are rarely met with much enthusiasm locally and are often opposed by those they are supposed to serve. Instead of wasting competition money on projects that float above ground realities, let's use these resources to invite enthusiastic designers to locations so they can brainstorm and ideate with the public, in situ. This will produce projects that are not only qualitatively better, but also more relevant and feasible.

If this sounds like a new idea to some, it isn't. About a century ago, Patrick Geddes, a visionary Scottish urbanist who spent part of his life in India and Israel, organised 'civic pageants'. These events aimed at engaging the common man in urban affairs. Even today, this remains a better idea than competing with peers.

The writers are co-founders of urbz.net, an urban network in Mumbai, Goa and beyond.

husband does so again, they remember that we offered to listen, and they come back," says a counsellor. "We are like a friend they can turn to," said Celine Miranda, a paediatrician and the point of contact for both counsellors and doctors with Dilaasa in Margao. She is now making 'emotional treatment' a priority. "Whenever there is an illness or injury, we generally just look at medical aid, not at the possible emotional impact."

Emotional succour is exactly what is offered to the 25 survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse who gather once a fortnight in a nondescript centre at a hospital in Shillong, to meet Dhanmaya. She isn't a professional counsellor, but the women relate to Dhanmaya more than anyone else, and she to them: she sees her past in their stories. Dhanmaya works at Iohlynti, a support centre set up by NGO North East Network (NEN) with Dilaasa's help at Shillong's Ganesh Das Maternal and Child Health Hospital.

The centre has to maintain a fine balance: it seeks to help, but must also ensure that its efforts don't result in further violence

No insulation

Meghalaya's three principal communities – Khasi, Jaintia and Garo – are matrilineal, but that does not insulate their women against violence. Police records say the cases have increased from 172 in 2007 to 594 in 2017. "Cohabitation without having to get married has been a major cause of violence. In rural areas, 15-year-olds get pregnant and live with the man who has no obligation to support her, who can walk out, or get married to someone else," said Joy Grace Syiem, the programme manager for the Meghalaya unit of NEN. Between 2011 and 2018, Iohlynti handled 398 cases of domestic violence. Four or five cases of physical, verbal, and financial abuse are reported here every day.

But the interventions by Iohlynti and fieldworkers of associated government departments have increased awareness tremendously. "Domestic violence continues, but unlike in the past, women do not take years to report. The tolerance to violence has reduced – and that's been our biggest impact," said Syiem.

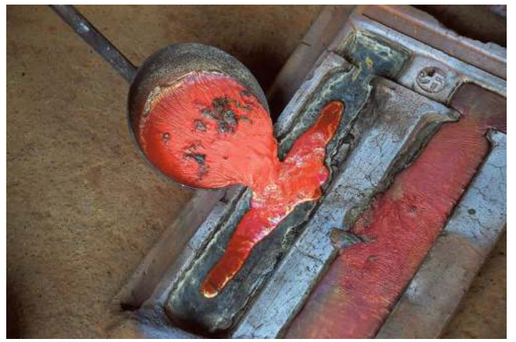
**Some names changed to protect identity.*

Shireen Azam is a freelance writer based in Goa.

In the mould A worker at a forge mixes clay from paddy fields to make moulds for the famed mirror.

In touch The mould is shaped by hand.

Magic metal Tin and copper, in a specific ratio, are heated to create an alloy disc.



Red hot The heated mixture is poured onto a terracotta surface.

Square pegs, round holes The alloy is fitted into the clay mould.

Fired up The mould with the alloy is heated again.

REFLECTIONS

Smoke and mirrors

Out of soot and mud emerges the famous Aranmula mirror

IMAGES AND TEXT BY THULASI KAKKAT

As a little boy, Rajeev Manikandan vividly recalls watching the Aranmula *kannadi* (mirror) emerge bright and shining from his grandfather's forge every day. Now 38, Manikandan is one of the few people who know the alchemy behind the hand-made alloy mirror, which, with its GI tag, has made the small town of Aranmula in Kerala's Pathanamthitta district famous.

Manikandan would watch wide-eyed as his grandfather made moulds from clay, forged an alloy and polished it for days until it had the right shine that gave the surface its distinctive mirror-like surface. Manikandan learnt the craft by watching and began working with his father when he was 18. Today, his is one of just five families in Aranmula that are keepers of the secret behind the metallic mirror. He owns Manikanda Handicrafts at an entrance to the Aranmula Parthasarathy temple, one of 24 such units owned by the five families.

Manikandan's day begins early. After prayers at the temple, he enters his forge by 7 in the morning and works till 4 in the evening. Work is never easy – there is fire, soot and grime. As the demand for the mirror has grown, he has had to ramp up production.

Last year, the floods unleashed misery, inundating the units for four days. The alumni of Maharaja's College, Ernakulam, helped them begin production within a month. Manikandan considers himself lucky to be able to practise the centuries-old craft. He hopes the magic of the golden-hued mirror, with a unique hologram to distinguish it from cheaper imitations, will continue to be forged by the younger generation.

Polish off The metal disc is ready for polishing.

Shine on An Aranmula mirror, with its distinctive surface, is ready.

Mirror, mirror The Aranmula *kannadi* in full glory.

Like a dream
Stairs make a recurring appearance in AKR's diaries. (Facing page) The poet.
GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK & T.A. HAFEEZ

MUSINGS

The bewilderment of ecstasy

AKR's diaries are full of self-doubt and existential questions. But the biggest takeaway is the insight they give into a poet's search for the mainspring of his creativity

ARUNDHATHI SUBRAMANIAM

It is easy to see why A.K. Ramanujan's presence in Indian letters is canonical. Culturally sophisticated, intellectually exploratory, never doctrinaire, he is both pathfinder and trailblazer. Always a step ahead of his reader, his essays, translations and poems continue to point to a tantalising spectrum of traditions, approaches, possibilities. "Look," his work seems to say, "There's more. There's more."

But it was when revisiting his translations of the mystic, Nammalvar, that my admiration turned to awe. It takes an accomplished poet to make a long-dead poet relevant in translation. It takes an extraordinary poet to make a thousand years seem a mere heartbeat away. Ramanujan (AKR) infuses living sap into Nammalvar. Green, wetly alive, *Hymns for the Drowning* would probably rank among my top five volumes of mystical poetry in the world.

Although he died prematurely at the age of 64 in 1993, AKR's work endures. And the work is plenty. Which made me approach his recently published diaries (*Journeys*: *A Poet's Diary*) with some anxiety. Would this mean wading through reams of leaden prose – or what modern-day lingo so succinctly terms TMI?

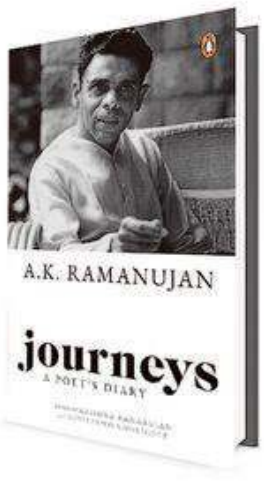
Thankfully not. Jointly edited by AKR's son, Krishna, and scholar, Guillermo Rodriguez, this compilation of diaries from over five decades will interest poets, researchers and AKR aficionados. Its greatest contribution is to reveal how Ramanujan's impressive oeuvre was yoked to an unrelenting quest for self-discovery – indeed, for wholeness.

He writes: There are hundreds of young men like me in India. We are futile. We have no purpose, no politics

Why does this book tick? Several reasons. One is the simple consolation of knowing that corrosive self-doubt can assail even the most fêted writers. AKR is not merely candid and unsparing; he can be positively self-flagellating. In 1951, he rues: "I'm neither regular nor daring. I'm morally feckless too…" Ten years later, he describes himself "as serious, often humourless, intense, inept". He writes: "There are hundreds of young men like me in India. We are futile. We have no purpose, no politics." Or again: "Why am I not impressive, witty, handsome, skillful…? O to be …self-certain in everything one does. To live at the core of oneself…"

Nagging tensions

He is acutely aware that his erudition runs the risk of turning into mere bookishness: "Ratna… said… that nothing to me is valid unless I can find a great writer to have said it earlier." Or again: "GS Rao… tells me that I've read too much, asks me to think for myself. How to?"



The tension between ambition and idealism is a nagging one. In 1978, he berates himself for "serious self-doubt, passivity". And in 1979 he declares: "As a writer or thinker, I'm quite an amateur. At fifty this is appalling, because I'm surrounded by professionals whom I envy, admire… Things I've talked about for years don't get written – others discover the same things… and write them up rapidly and well… One of the first fears of ageing… of being unexpressed, of having missed the boat…" (Interestingly, this savage self-critique is written three years after he received the Padma Shri!)

The desire for self-improvement is unflagging. In 1951, he writes: "Learn two languages/ Read Indian history/ Build a firm physique, and good/ habits/ Cultivate an art." And 32 years later, he is still at it: "1. Keep a journal handy 2. Work on poems every day 3. Cut down the chatter, reject most conferences, lectures, papers…" At age 60, we still find him ruefully reflecting on what has yet not been achieved: "writing a good novel, and becoming a Jungian therapist."

Apart from the fastidious, almost nit-picking quest for authenticity, there is a gnawing sense of inadequacy about translating life into language. "…I look at things avidly, feel insensitive and rage at my insensitivity… The world looks like a woman, beautiful and inviting, but already someone else's wife." There is also a poignant note of regret about being celebrated more as scholar-translator than poet (despite the latter being his primary self-definition).

The diaries are also significant as a testament of an artist's evolution. From the man who quotes others to validate his insights, we see him growing into the poet capable of dryly asserting: "I must seek and will find/ my own particular hell only in my Hindu mind". From the young academic trying to reconcile a piecemeal inheritance, we see the confident translator capable of asserting that he is "an alternating multiple monolingual, rather than a multilingual."

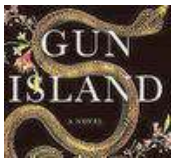
We also see the artist articulating complex stances: never narrowly parochial, and yet deeply concerned with belonging. Speaking of his ilk in 1960, he writes, "We dream of England, of meeting Albert Schweitzer and Aldous Huxley (to discuss Hindu thought and to ask whether he writes every morning before breakfast): we have hardly seen our own country… [The problem is] we have uprooted ourselves without the advantages of exile…"

No easy labels

AKR described himself pithily as "the hyphen in Indo-American studies". This meant a lifetime of intellectual negotiation, as he sought to maintain a creative tension between rootedness and cosmopolitanism. He refused to fall into the easy categories of alienated Indian artist or cultural chauvinist. "It's RK Narayan… who writes the best fiction in English, not any of the better-read Oxford-accented, foreign-returned, allusive young men," he asserts at one point. And yet, he refuses to settle for any simple-minded notion of Indianness. "This is no reversion to patriotism; patriotism is a primitive evil."

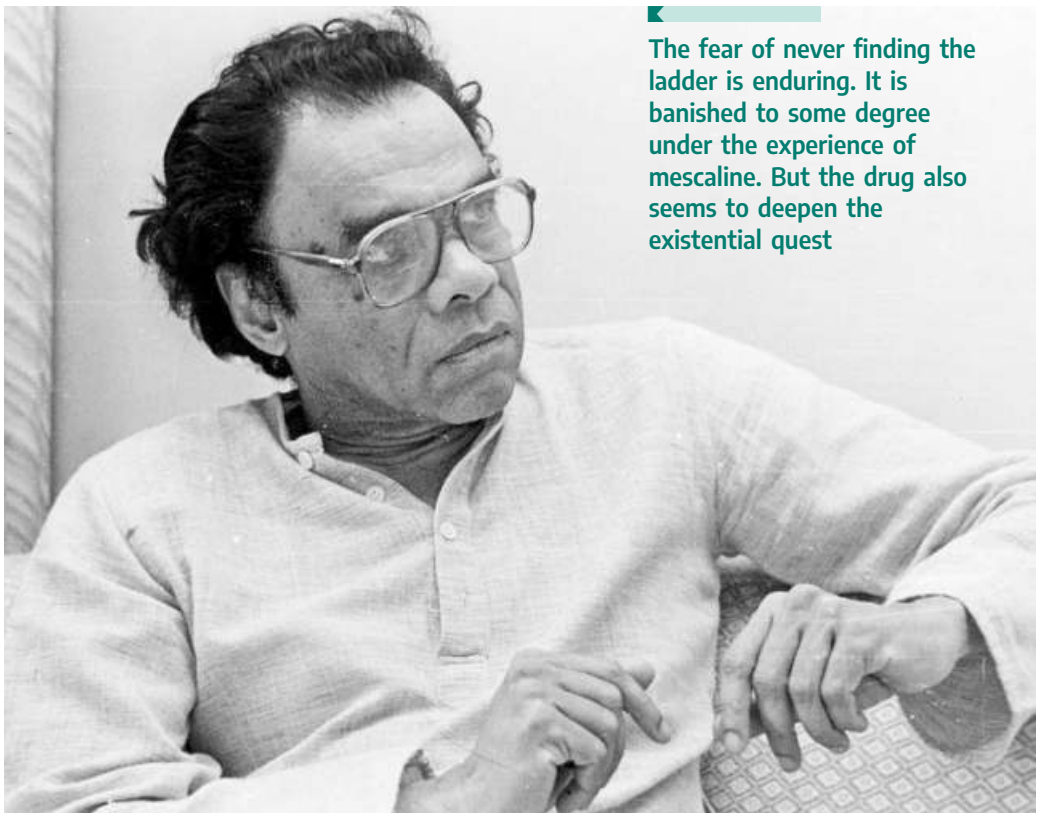
The diaries also offer the intermittent pleasure of anecdote. AKR's ambivalent reflections on spiritual writer Eknath Easwaran in 1959 are particularly enjoyable. There is admiration, but AKR is honest enough to admit to possible envy: "[Easwaran] craves for nothing, isn't nervy, does everything he wants – he says it's because of his mystic prayers, I think it's because of his financial security."

Particularly valuable are the flashes of insight into the creative process. Poem fragments surface in their nascent avatars. Certain tropes surface recurrently too – grace; the hyphen; houses; ladders; stairs. There are persistent preoccupations as well, particularly the need for self-discovery through dream journal and introspection. Is there only "a shared waking"? Can there also be "a shared



Amitav Ghosh's new novel throws itself at climate change with all the urgency of a Quixote p22

Siyasi Muslims tries to study how contemporary notions of Muslim identity are produced and sustained p24



The fear of never finding the ladder is enduring. It is banished to some degree under the experience of mescaline. But the drug also seems to deepen the existential quest

dreaming"? These are the existential questions that churn at the heart of his meticulously-recorded mescaline experiences in 1971 (undeniably one of the book's high points).

More personally, reading these diaries meant uncovering unexpected symmetries. When I met the poet Gieve Patel in May this year, he happened to mention AKR's dream journals. Reading the diaries that night, I discovered that AKR had met Patel in May exactly 21 years ago! They had discussed dream journals then too. It felt like an inter-generational poets' conversation was under way. The synchronicity was oddly pleasing.

The recurrent image of stairs intrigued me. Recording a dream in 1971, AKR writes "... A great mansion... a narrow spiral staircase on which I go higher and higher, fearful of the height... Supposed to be going for a poetry reading of my own poetry..., and never seem to get [there]..." In 1979, the image recurs. He recalls reading the *Symposium* where Plato speaks of "how one goes up a ladder of abstractions... to Beauty, singular, capital, out of this world. I could never find that ladder."

New possibilities

The fear of never finding the ladder is enduring. It is banished to some degree under the experience of mescaline. But the drug also seems to deepen the existential quest. AKR's dogged commitment to self-improvement is now accompanied by a growing curiosity about self-transformation. His poetry recognises (even before his prose) that this radical shift cannot be achieved in incremental steps, but only in the leap. And so, in 'Chicago Zen', there is a glimpse of a new possibility: a stair that never was, and never needed to be. "Watch your step," the poet says, "watch it, I say,... watch/ for the last/ step that's never there."

Girish Karnad's blurb draws attention to AKR's intellectual versatility, which is in abundant evidence. But the deeper legacy of the diaries is the insight into an artist in search of the deeper mainsprings of the creative enterprise. When AKR speaks in the Mescaline Notes of the "final dissolution and ecstasy –/ so much longed-for," he seems to channel the mystic poets who fascinated him, including the god-crazed Manikkavachakar (whom he translated so memorably in *Speaking of Siva*): "unswerving, I lost my cleverness/ in the bewilderment of ecstasy." It is here that one finds AKR's deepest level of quest: how to deepen passion into "possession". How to integrate the contemplative with the ecstatic, the Apollonian with the Dionysian, without giving way to "irony or melodrama". How to yoke self-possession with self-forgetfulness.

Between the horizontal hyphen and the vertical ladder, AKR's diaries retrace a deeply human journey where balance and aspiration are not frozen ideals but dynamic states that have to be worked out every single day. They are testimony to an artist who knew that without obsession, possession is an impossibility. Who knew that you have to keep looking for ladders until one day, if you are lucky, in a flash of unbidden grace, they find you.

And then comes the 'aha' – the moment when the traveller realises, however fleetingly, that journeys never end; that "the speed, the slowness, the interval" remain. It is the moment that makes AKR exclaim in a soaring octave of discovery and homecoming in one of his startling 'Soma' poems: "The great ladder now has rungs."

The author is a poet and writer.

THOUGHT FOR FOOD

Biryani banter

Can such a thing as a vegetable biryani be taken seriously?

RAHUL VERMA

Social media forwards tend to be repetitive. Some of the jokes, in fact, come back so often that my WhatsApp platform seems like a revolving door. Once in a while, though, I do get a new post that fills me with joy. One such was a cartoon that arrived last week from a friend holidaying in Kerala.

It shows a battlefield. Two men in armour are looking at scores of men, riddled with arrows, lying on the field. How do we know they are dead and are not pretending, one man asks the other.

The second man announces solemnly: 'Vegetable biryani is actually good.'

Immediately, the soldiers playing dead begin to laugh.

I laughed too, for the debate over vegetable biryani has been raging on social media for quite a while now. Some months ago, I met one of the initiators of the debate, lawyer Sanjay Hegde, at a lunch. "What do you think of vegetable biryani," was almost the first question he asked me.

It turns out some people do believe that a vegetable biryani can be tasty. And some – like the not-so-dead soldiers – laugh derisively at the very thought of it.

Now, I believe some ardent foodies have decided that June 25 should be known as International Pulao Biryani Day. Fair enough. There's Father's Day and Doctor's Day. Why not a day be devoted to pulaos and biryanis? The Indore Bloggers Association celebrated the day with great gusto (and some great rice dishes, too, I am sure) two years ago.

On food blogs and social media, however, the great biryani debate carries on. Did it come to India from Persia, as many believe, or did it, as some hold, originate in India? I remember that an ardent South Indian chef told me many years ago that references to rice-and-meat dishes can be found in Sangam literature.

Perhaps. But the Mughals did their bit, too. My go-to biryani person is Pratibha Karan, whose book *Biryani* (2009) is my bible. She writes: "The Indian subcontinent owes a deep debt to the Muslim community, for it is they who introduced the gamut of biryanis and pulaos to us."

There's a Father's Day, and a Doctor's Day. Why shouldn't a day be devoted to pulaos and biryanis?

GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK

Regional variations

If you are a biryani-pulao enthusiast and like to cook them at home, you should try out her recipes. She refers to regional differences (the use of mustard seeds in Bengal, chillies in South Maharashtra, the local kaima rice in Kerala, and kala bhaat in Hyderabad, for instance) and goes on to cite various kinds of dishes and recipes.

Lucknow has its ananas biryani – cooked with lamb and pineapple – and rose biryani, prepared with meat, flavoured with rose water and garnished with dried rose petals. Delhi has an orange biryani and Hyderabad, a doodh biryani of mutton and milk.

"Though Tamil Nadu cannot boast of any significant Muslim dynasty, many of its towns are famous for their biryanis," she writes and mentions the Dindigul, Salem and Ambur varieties. "And, yes, each town is fiercely proud of its own biryani," she adds.

There are some nice rice recipes in Madhur Jaffrey's *A Taste Of India: The Definitive Guide To Regional Cooking*. She writes about "a tiny Moplah lady... (who) leads me into her kitchen where she will prepare my lunch." And then she goes on to describe the prawn pulao which, she is told, must be eaten with fried prawns.

Prawn pulao can be delightful, but what about vegetable biryanis? Are they, to come back to the debate, any good? "Despite the overreaching dominance of Mughal culture over much of North India, especially Lucknow, it is home to some wonderful vegetable biryanis. Beans, peas, cauliflower and carrots are cooked with rice to create this delicious dish," Karan writes.

To each, her own. Eat, and let eat, I say.

The writer likes reading and writing about food as much as he does cooking and eating it. Well, almost.

IN CONVERSATION

‘I rewrote it 200 times’

Abdullah Khan, the author of *Patna Blues*, on his Motihari connection and the long struggle to become a writer

DEBORAH CORNELIOUS

Someone had once asked Abdullah Khan, the author of *Patna Blues,* which team he rooted for during an India-Pakistan cricket match. The thoughtless query is par for the course for most Muslims in the country. “I was born in a Muslim family, so I’m Muslim; I was born in India, so I am Indian. The two don’t have to be contradictory: I am both Muslim and Indian,” Khan remembers answering.

This is one of the many instances where the author and banker had been made to realise his status as a minority. I meet Khan at an al fresco café a few metres away from an Axis Bank branch in Mumbai where he works in the compliance department. We discuss his debut novel, *Patna Blues,* published last year, that had taken two laborious decades to finish. It’s the tale of Arif Khan, a young Bihari Muslim who dares to desire a Hindu woman. Running through this love story are strands of caste, discrimination and nationalism. Born in Pandari, a village near Motihari in Bihar, the author studied in an Urdu-medium school before encountering English at the age of seven. But he was so bewitched by the language that he took it upon himself to write a novel in English. Excerpts from an interview:

When did you first encounter stories?

■ I was always hungry for stories. If an aunt would visit, the first thing I would ask is if she knew any stories. If they didn’t have anything ready, they’d make something up with Sheikh Chilli, a fictional character who was a mischief-maker. When I was seven or eight, my father gifted me a Hindi *Bal Bharti*. I thought it was a text for the next academic year, but then he explained it was a book of stories.

What sparked the desire to become a writer?

■ I was helping my brother with an English assignment and I came across an excerpt from George Orwell’s *Animal Farm*. I started thinking that since such a great writer was born in my home town, I must follow in his footsteps. I must have been 21 then: I felt a great urge to be a writer.

How did Patna Blues happen?

■ It was the day Arundhati Roy’s *The God of Small Things* won the Booker Prize in 1997. The same day, I purchased a fancy spiral-bound notebook and a fountain pen. The first chapter was mostly inspired by Amit Chaudhuri’s writing style (chuckles). I was able to finish five to six chapters quickly. I got it typed for ₹25 per page and sent it to Mary Mount, an editor at Picador, by registered post, for ₹90. She wrote back saying, “You have fire in your writing, but it’s not ready for publication and you should work hard.”

Why did Patna Blues take so long to reach the bookshelves?

■ I stopped writing after getting a job in Bank of Baroda. After my wedding in 2002, my wife was dusting the house one day and she found my [manuscript] and the newspaper cuttings of old articles. And she almost blackmailed me to continue. I used to write long-hand with pen and paper and she would type it out. I then wrote to literary agent and author Noah Lukeman, who wrote back and told me about Joseph Conrad who didn’t know English till the age of 20. Lukeman said only those people are published who work hard and persevere. It was 2005 and I kept rewriting the first few chapters – I rewrote it 200 times. I would finish writing, then I would read something by a big writer and feel low. In 2009, I finished the first draft of the book. I sent it to [literary agent] Kanishka Gupta. The feedback I got was devastating. Finally, I signed a contract with Juggernaut in 2016. The book was published in September 2018.

There’s now news of Patna Blues being adapted into a web series...

■ A big Bollywood director called to tell me that he loved the book and

Storyteller Author Abdullah Khan.
EMMANUAL YOGINI

It is the tale of a young Bihari Muslim who dares to desire a Hindu woman. Running through this love story are strands of caste, discrimination and nationalism

BOOKMARK

Guthli has wings

Tulika’s latest release, *Guthli Has Wings* by Kanak Shashi, tackles gender identity head-on. Just in time for Pride Month, the story follows the ups and downs Guthli and her family go through. The book has vibrant cut-out illustrations and was first published in 2015.

The Edible Woman

After the success of *The Handmaid’s Tale*, Entertainment One has picked up Margaret Atwood’s 1969 debut novel, *The Edible Woman*, to be adapted into a TV series next. It revolves around Marian McAlpin’s strange case of being unable to eat ever since getting engaged.

wanted to make a web series for an international streaming platform. It's in the works. The contract is such that I can't talk about the details of the project – it's under consideration.

You've also written for television and the big screen. How did that happen?

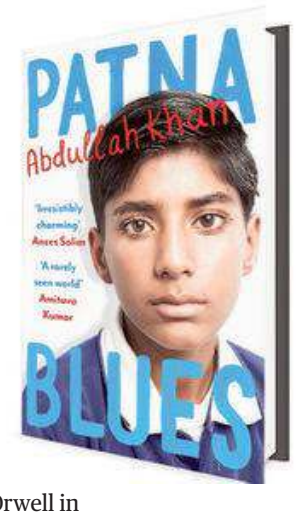
■ I've always been interested in films and I've also tried to get into acting – tried to become a hero when I was in college. In 2015-16, a well-known author posted on Facebook about a Channel V project, which was planning to adapt classics for Indian television – Shakespeare, Charles Dickens, Jane Austen, etc. Mine was called *Rehaan meets Jamila* based on *Romeo and Juliet*. They liked three stories, one of which was mine. I started staying in touch with producers and directors. In a stroke of bad luck, the channel head left and the project was scrapped. Now, people get in touch with me. Earlier, I used to chase them.

What have you worked on so far?

■ I wrote a project for Shashanka Ghosh (director of *Veere Di Wedding*); I've worked on a spy thriller for Ekta Kapoor, but nothing worked out in the end. I wrote the story for the movie *Viraam* (2017), which my brother, Ziaullah Khan, directed. It was released in 400 to 500 theatres, but didn't do very well.

What are you currently working on?

■ Right now, I'm working on a web series about an American ex-commando who's half-Scottish and half-Indian. He falls in love with a Bihari journalist when she lands up in Goa. There are two-three other projects that are under consideration. And I'm working on my next book, *Aslam, Orwell and a Porn Star*. It's about a man who was born in the same room as George Orwell in Motihari. But people are already objecting to the title.



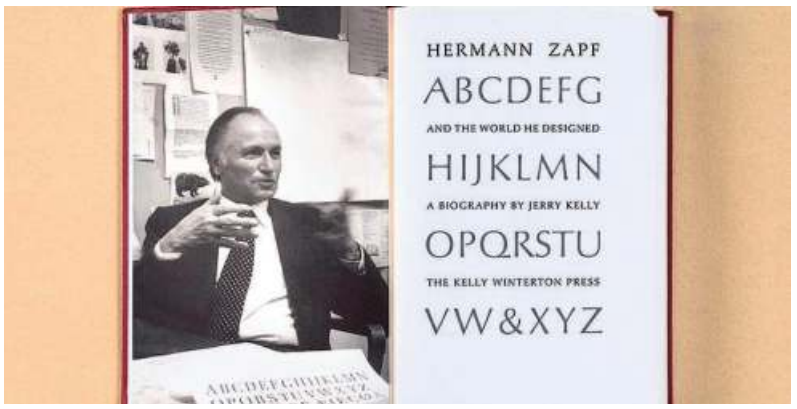
Why?

■ I'm not really sure. There have been so many films made on courtesans, they're human beings. I'm writing about their human side. I'm not writing pornography (laughs). It's the truth of life, and they exist.

A TYPOPHILE'S NOTES

The man behind Zapf Dingbats

He devoted his life to making letterforms as beautiful and useful as they could be



Letter man The title page of the new book on Hermann Zapf. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

PRADEEP SEBASTIAN

The first ever biography of calligrapher and type designer Hermann Zapf is a handsome book, designed by the biographer, Jerry Kelly, himself. His overarching personal collection of Zapf material is virtually an archive, prompting even Zapf to say once, "You know my work better than I do." Kelly demurred modestly, but his *Hermann Zapf and the World He Designed* shows how spot-on Zapf was. This heavily illustrated biography explores Zapf's prodigious work intimately, while warmly evoking his life.

For those not familiar with Zapf, he was the greatest type designer the modern world has ever known, and an equally elegant calligrapher and book designer. Kelly first met this towering lettering artist in July 1979 when he signed up for a summer course in calligraphy that Zapf had initiated at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Reflecting over this in the biography, Kelly comments that if you had told him then, as he waited outside that first day of class for an early glimpse of the Master, that he would go on one day to become Zapf's friend, colleague and finally his biographer, he "would have thought you truly mad."

Kelly and his wife, Nancy, would become lifelong friends with Zapf and his wife, Gudrun, who is also a fine calligrapher, type-designer and bookbinder. One of my favourite illustrations in the book is a personal holiday card of the Zapfs: the greeting is printed in Gudrun's Ariadne initials and Diotima italic (which Kelly feels is "one of the most beautiful italic typefaces" out there) and typographically arranged by Zapf. It was their own personal favourite among the things they designed.

Zapf's story properly begins in 1935 when he was 16 and chanced on a calligraphic exhibition in Nuremberg of the German master, Rudolf Koch. Then and there, Zapf decided to become a calligrapher. He came from a poor family, but with the meagre pocket money he had, he bought lettering manuals and taught himself calligraphy. Soon, he was writing out calligraphic manuscripts; one of the most striking was written in gold and silver ink on a Japanese paper dyed purple. His stellar career in type design began when he was just in his 20s, for the Stempel type foundry in Frankfurt. One of them was Palatino, a widely used and admired typeface today. Kelly says Zapf loved arranging specimens of type in inventive ways, and in 1954 came his masterpiece, *Manuale Typographicum*, a gorgeous display of the complete alphabet in various typographic arrangements. Published as an oblong 12"x9" folio, it was an entirely new kind of type specimen book, says Kelly.

Printer's art

Zapf set some rules for himself: each page had to show a complete alphabet (A to Z) and it would be only in two colours, red and black, and the text used would be evocative quotations related to the felicity and beauty of letters. It was printed on a paper that had "a sensuous, textured surface". Kelly hails *Manuale Typographicum* as "a masterpiece of the printer's art. It will forever rank among the greatest works of typography and printing."

Typophiles, and even Zapf scholars, will find the biography of immense value for the intricate details Kelly provides for every form of lettering and bookmaking created by him: several key Zapf typefaces, for instance (whether metal, photo-set or digital), get a blow-by-blow account of how they were accomplished, from trial drawings to their commercial release. He designed more than 200 exceptional typefaces, and everyone has her favourites; mine are Zapf Civilite, an enchanting calligraphic typeface cut in metal, and Zapf Renaissance, a digital face with flourished swash characters.

The biography also devotes chapters to the great companionship and working life Zapf and Gudrun shared in their marriage. Over the decades, Kelly and Nancy often made trips to their beautiful book-lined home in Darmstadt, Germany, right up to a few months before Zapf's death in 2015. (Gudrun is 101, and released her first digital font last year). Rather than a dense, overwrought biography, *Hermann Zapf and the World He Designed* is a deft, affectionate, and finely drawn portrait of a magnificent, gentle artist who devoted his life to making letterforms as beautiful, useful and legible as they could possibly be.

Pradeep Sebastian is a bibliophile, columnist and critic.

Publishing conclave

The third edition of the OUP South Asia Conclave will be held in New Delhi on July 11. The one-day event will discuss issues pertaining to South Asia. The panels, as in the past couple of years, will be structured around significant titles published by Oxford University Press.

Online auction of first editions

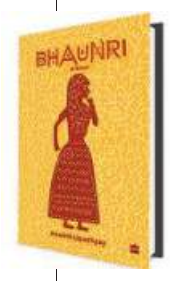
StoryLTD's auction dedicated to first editions, signed and limited edition books returns for its second iteration with a 24-hour online auction on June 25 (visit storyltd.com). Items include first editions of Gandhi's *My Experiments with Truth* and a collection of 26 signed works by Rushdie.

BROWSE FICTION

Colours of Loneliness and Other Stories
Paramita Satpathy, trs Snehaprava Das
Oxford University Press
₹750

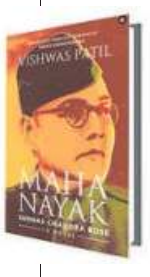
• In this collection of stories, we have characters like Maya, whose life seems to upend the moment spots appear on her body. There is Babula, the orphan, who has to bear constant abuse. Some try to break out of societal shackles; others need that gentle push from loved ones.

Bhaunri: A Novel
Anukrti Upadhyay
Fourth Estate
₹299



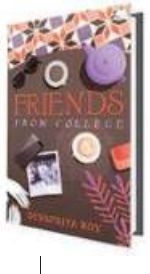
• Bhaunri is married, as is the custom in her tribe of nomadic blacksmiths, when she is still a child. When she is finally sent to her husband's home as a young woman, she finds herself drawn towards the gruff and handsome Bheema. When he strays, Bhaunri's love for him begins to fester and grow into something dark.

Mahanayak Subas Chandra Bose: A Novel
Vishwas Patil, trs Keerti Ramachandra
Eka
₹799



• In this translation of the 1998 novel, Marathi writer Vishwas Patil unfolds the life of a man who was once president of the Congress, and quit in disgust to form the Indian National Army. *Mahanayak* traces Netaji's steps to paint a portrait of a man of strengths and failings.

Friends from College
Devapriya Roy
Tranquebar
₹299



• This is a love letter to the Calcutta of the 90s when Gen X grew up, made friends, became lovers, drifted apart, and sometimes left the city for good. The protagonist, Charulata Ghosh, lives in London and returns to Calcutta for a family wedding. When she meets her ex there, sparks fly and heartbreak follows.

The Broken Amoretti
Sudipto Das & Aparajita Dutta
Niyogi Books
₹450•

The story revolves around a 'cryptic poem'. It is about a journey of discovery for Parush and Saoli, who embark on a quest to decode the past and discover their real identities, while battling a broken marriage, a topsy-turvy career and an unrequited love affair. The cryptic poem is the answer to all their questions.

GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK

MAGIC REALISM

The Bengali *merchant in Venice*

Amitav Ghosh's new novel throws itself at climate change with all the urgency of a Quixote, and with possibly as much effect

VAISHNA ROY

The Gnanpith this year reaffirms Amitav Ghosh's status as one of the leading storytellers of our age. He has produced a solid body of excellent works, each one establishing his linguistic mastery, the depth of his historical research and the vast span of his novelistic reach.

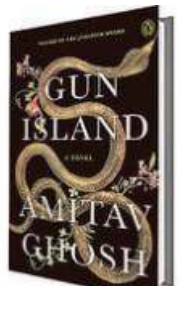
The books have explored not just characters and their stories but an age, a phenomenon, a singularity. Books like *The Glass Palace* (2000) teem with so much detail they could well be history and not fiction at all. And Ghosh has revelled in this blurring of lines, using it to deliver a crystal-clear fictional vision.

Then, with the publication of *The Great Derangement* in 2016, a non-fiction work about the imminence of environmental catastrophe and our blindness to it, Ghosh seemed to reach what we can now mark as a turning point in his creative journey. While nature, floods and tempests have been recurrent motifs in his works, possibly guided by his subconscious preoccupations, in this new novel, Ghosh picks up the gauntlet he threw down in *The Great Derangement* when he asked why art and fiction have ignored climate change.

Seeking to rectify this, *Gun Island* travels, with characteristic flamboyance, from the Sundarbans to Venice, arches over the past and the present, tangles myth with fact to bring home to readers that the world as we know it is in the grip of unprecedented change and in our wilful ignoring of it possibly lies our end.

Unsettling visions

The narrator, Deen, a rare books dealer based in Brooklyn, visits Kolkata and is compelled by the intriguing tale of a shrine dedicated to Bonduki Sadagar, the Gun Merchant, to visit the Sunderbans. There, in an ancient brick sanctuary whose panels still recount the legend of the Gun Merchant's feud with the Snake Goddess, Manasa Devi, a string of occurrences unspools when the young Tipu is bitten by a king cobra. Tipu lives, but is visited by unsettling premonitions, which link the ancient world with the modern, east with west, and human with non-human, until finally it all ends in an awkwardly engineered finale.



Gun Island
Amitav Ghosh
Penguin Hamish Hamilton
₹699

The environmental devastation that the world is in the middle of today is possibly irreversible, and Ghosh is clearly conscious of it. In the face of such inevitability, Ghosh seems to have decided to throw himself at the windmills with all the urgency of a committed Quixote. *Gun Island* has bits of everything – magic, myth, history, science, zoology, etymology. It's about climate change, but suddenly it's also about migration and trafficking, and with the feeblest linkages. The result is not so much a Persian carpet as a patchwork quilt.

Fiction is a jealous mistress, demanding a writer's fidelity. As soon as she smells a rival, in this case the 'cause', she ups and leaves. By committing himself so strongly to writing an 'environmental' novel, Ghosh has fallen foul of her. At every turn, his theme dominates,

overriding the storytelling. You are not invested in the characters because they never become anything more than purveyors of information. The narrator Deen is vapid, once saying, with complete accuracy, that he doesn't know what Cinta, his Italian friend, sees in him. Piya returns to this book from *The Hungry Tide* (2004), but brings nothing of that book's vitality, fulfilling a flat 'marine biologist' trope instead. Cinta remains a construct, the Jungian 'sage' archetype, unleavened even by a back story that tries hard to be poignant.

Like set pieces

Lives and events don't evolve with inevitability, but are forced forward, obliged to make a point. An evening walk ends with Cinta and Deen swamped by shipworms, a creature that is proliferating because of warming sea waters and is now eating up Venice's wooden pilings. A beach visit sees the abnormal appearance of a deadly yellow-bellied sea snake. One might argue that these occurrences are essential in a novel about climate change, but they are arranged like set pieces, stilted and obvious, exposing the novel's compulsion to bring together as many uncommon natural phenomena as possible.

In *The Great Derangement*, Ghosh had mused that staging a tornado in a novel might look contrived, and had asked if realism would have to be replaced by pre-modern narratives, like *The Arabian Nights*, using the improbable and the magical, to talk of something as unparalleled as climate change. But he had asked too if drawing something as frighteningly real as global warming with the brush of magic realism might rob it of its urgency.

Gun Island sees Ghosh wrestling with this dilemma. Magic fights with the mundane, and the latter wins. Ghosh tries to draw upon the surreal but with characters who are too tepid to pull it off. His bet on the unknown is half-hearted, always hedged by data and factoids.

Yet, he had his story right there – in the mysterious Sundarbans, in the sucking mud, the green waters. When Tipu is in the throes of his first vision, you are gripped by foreboding. Tipu and Rafi's connect is uncanny and moving. The tracing of an ancient legend to its mysterious modern manifestations is as mesmerising as any account of the Illuminati. Ghosh should have simply let Manasa Devi lead him on.

We're confronting portents today of something beyond our understanding – tsunamis and tornadoes, beached whales, melting ice, dying birds. And art indeed needs to find a way to respond to this the way it has to war or terror. Ghosh has taken a tentative first step on this journey, but he really needs to brush up his magic spells.

Fiction is a jealous mistress, demanding a writer's fidelity. As soon as she smells a rival, in this case the 'cause', she ups and leaves

MYSTERY

The case of the missing royals

Perveen Mistry is taken out of her comfort zone in the city and dropped in the middle of a *saas-bahu* conflict

R. KRITHIKA

Halfway into Sujata Massey's second Perveen Mistry mystery, I couldn't help thinking that the situation has great potential for the kind of *saas-bahu* conflict beloved of our television serials. Take a look: the maharaja of Satapur dies of cholera and his teenage son and heir soon follows in a hunting accident. The new king is a 10-year-old and the state is being governed by his uncle in consultation with the British agent, Colin Sandringham. The king's mother and grandmother are fighting about how he should be educated. The former wants to send him to a school in England; the latter wants him to be taught in the palace itself.

As if this weren't enough, you have the grand setting of a palace in the Sahyadri mountains surrounded by jungles, murky pasts, purdah, poisons and murder.... Mistry, who was introduced in *A Murder on Malabar Hill*, is taken out of her comfort zone in the city and dropped into a feudal set-up where what looks like a straightforward case of conflict resolution soon turns into power struggles and paternity issues.

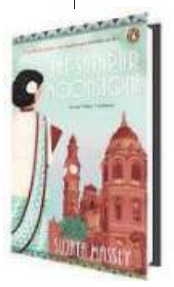
Massey does a marvellous job of setting the stage in the first section. With a few deft touches, she paints a portrait of India in the 1920s, when the nationalist movement is still nascent, and gives us an idea of Mistry's background, the constraints she's working under, and her support for Gandhi's activism versus the realisation that her father's law firm needs the support of the British. Once the action moves to Satapur, there are vivid descriptions of the rugged mountains and thick jungles, animals and people, as Mistry talks to the two women and the various other players to broker peace in the palace.

Fleshed out

As Mistry unravels the truth of who was at the bottom of the deaths, a full pageant of well fleshed-out characters – Mistry and Sandringham; Vandana caught in her son's nefarious plans; Mirabai and her children, Jiva Rao and Padmabai; Putlabai, the dowager queen; the arrogant Prince Swaroop; Aditya, the court buffoon; and Rama, Sandringham's employee – hold centre stage and the reader is invested in them and the reasons behind their behaviour. At the palace, Mistry comes up against the caste system and the jostling for power not just among the royalty but also its trickle-down effect among the courtiers and servants.

Apart from the external mess, Mistry has to deal with inner ones as well: her desire for an independent India has her lashing out occasionally at Sandringham as the representative of colonial power. She's also attracted to him but she is separated from an abusive husband and, under Parsi law of the times, cannot get a divorce because "his abuse was not severe enough". And then there's social disapproval to contend with. At the end, Massey leaves one wondering if the two do in fact have a future together.

When writing about food, Massey evokes images with a few simple words. Take this example from the first chapter where Mistry is having breakfast with Sir David Hobson-Jones at the Royal Western India Turf Club. As he presses her to try a kipper, Massey writes that it is "A tiny bony local fish that she considered bait, not good eating." You can almost see the wrinkled nose. Later there are descriptions of a "smothered chicken" that Rama makes, kande pohe at Vandana's place, and a formal meal at the palace. There are also some sumptuous descriptions of clothes. Mistry's saris seem positively drool-worthy and there's a nice bit about differing views when the dowager maharani dismisses Mistry's sari as "gaudy" because she's a Parsi. "Gaudy? The colourful Shanghai-embroidered birds and vines on the lustrous sari were considered tasteful in Perveen's community."



The Satapur Chronicles: Perveen Mistry Investigates
Sujata Massey
Penguin Random House
₹399

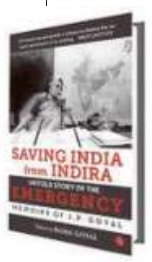
Despite the quick pace and taut and crisp writing, the denouement comes as a surprise. I spent quite some time suspecting the wrong person. There are a couple of loose ends that seem to have been forgotten – the lost camera and the mysterious Roderick Ames are left hanging. And for someone who seems to be constantly worrying about what people will say and think about her, Mistry manages to move around quite freely and do stuff that most women in those times would not be allowed to.

HYDERABAD THE HINDU Magazine
Sunday, June 23, 2019

BROWSE NON-FICTION

Mapping the Elite: Power, Privilege, and Inequality
Edited by Surinder S. Jodhka & Jules Naudet
Oxford University Press
₹1,495
• This volume seeks to understand the processes of formations and transformations of the Indian elite. The contributors explore the emergent elite spaces, which are the new idioms of power and inequality. They do so by using the sociological frames of caste, class, gender, community.

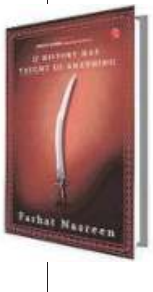
Saving India from Indira: Memoirs of J.P. Goyal
Edited by Rama Goyal
Rupa
₹500
• J.P. Goyal, a key lawyer for Raj Narain in the election case against Indira Gandhi, and his colleagues waged a battle in the Allahabad High Court and the Supreme Court to defend the constitutional rights of citizens. His memoir is a sharp look at the Emergency era.



Kuknalim: Naga Armed Resistance
Nandita Haksar, Sebastian M. Hongray
Speaking Tiger
₹599
• Leaders and members of 10 Naga tribes spread across India and Myanmar speak about their childhood experiences, reasons for joining the armed struggle, giving us a glimpse of the world of Naga insurgency. In 1997, the NSCN (IM) entered into a ceasefire agreement and began peace talks.

Miracle Men: The Greatest Underdog Story in Cricket
Nikhil Naz
Hachette India
₹399
• Winning the 1983 Prudential Cup was a turning point, with an underdog team beating the mighty West Indies. Naz brings alive the journey to that historic win with the help of first-hand accounts by Kapil Dev's players, complete with dressing-room disagreements and on-field strategies.

If History Has Taught Us Anything
Farhat Nasreen
Rupa
₹295
• The writer sifts through history to bring us stories that can help us learn from it. As historian Irfan Habib writes in the foreword, "...pursuit of history is justified only if it can affect our practice." Nasreen reintroduces us to famous figures with tales of bravery, ambition and wisdom.



SOCIETY

Fractured identity

Politics or religion? What is the cause of negative Muslim portrayals and violence against the community?

A. FAIZUR RAHMAN

Siyasi Muslims by Hilal Ahmed is an attempt to study how notions of Muslim identity in contemporary India are produced and sustained. Ahmed justifies the adjective 'siyasi' (political) on the basis of the perception that Muslims today are collectively portrayed as a politically reactive community even as some groups and individuals within it are labelled *siyasi* or deceitful (in another sense) for selfishly exploiting politics.

He reckons that both these meanings characterise the community "as an informed and conscious group of people who are untrustworthy and disloyal to the nation." Ahmed, however, dispels such a belief saying it does not determine the aspirations of Muslims because, they, like any other socio-religious community, prioritise the issues of poverty, employment and education.

Political consciousness

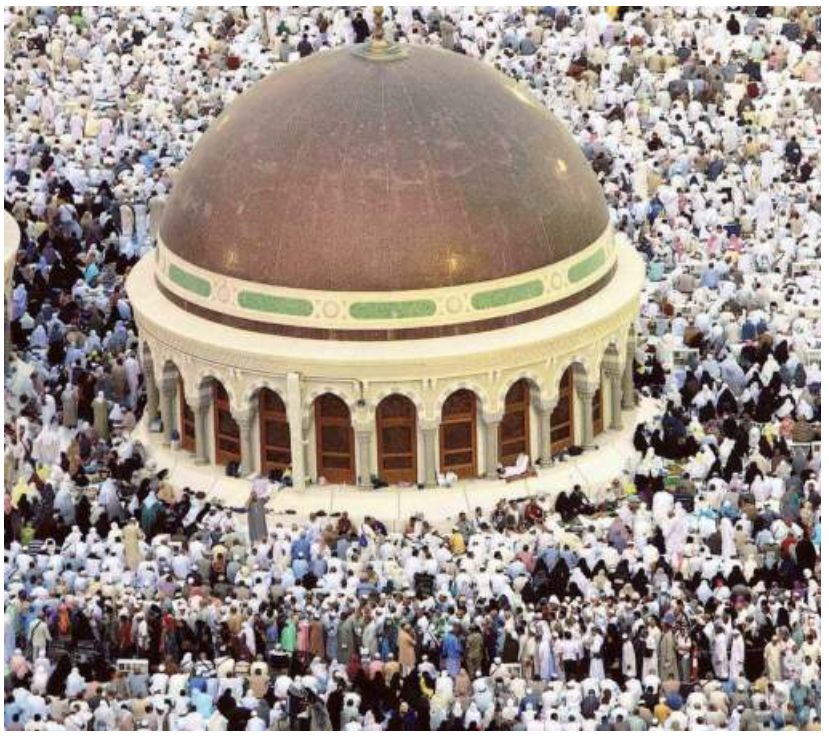
Interestingly, Ahmed's own analysis negates his presumptions and conclusion.

To begin with, he does not give any evidence to show that political consciousness is the reason for Muslim loyalty being suspected. On the contrary, his chapter on Hindutva explains why this rightist ideology needs Muslims for its survival and proves that it is "the historically constituted, anti-Muslim rhetoric" which is really the cause of negative Muslim portrayals and violence against the community.

Ahmed ignores the fact that after Partition Muslims have hardly shown any sign of political consciousness which is an important indicator of a community's social evolution and democratic participation. Nor have they done anything concrete for their socio-economic development. Thanks to the divine fear that decades of religious indoctrination instilled in their minds, Muslims have seldom looked beyond attaining empyrean rewards for their ritualistic acts.

This is evident from the amount of time and money even lower middle class Muslims spend in seeking divine proximity through the performance of non-obligatory rituals especially umrah, the minor pilgrimage to Mecca.

The *Saudi Gazette* reported that between October 2018 and March 2019 more than 4.72 lakh Muslims from India went on a pilgrimage to Mecca. AP

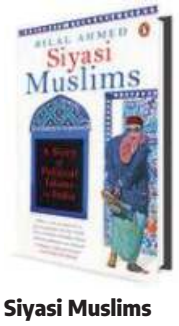


Prayer call The *Saudi Gazette* reported that between October 2018 and March 2019 more than 4.72 lakh Muslims from India went on a pilgrimage to Mecca. AP

2019 more than 4.72 lakh Muslims from India performed the umrah. This would have cost them more than ₹3,500 crore at an average of ₹75,000 per umrah. If extrapolated to 12 months, the amount would exceed ₹7,000 crore.

What's more, the year 2017 saw 4,48,268 Muslims applying for Hajj which proves that lakhs of middle class Muslims have the capacity to spend more than ₹11,000 crore (at ₹2.5 lakh per person) on a ritualistic pilgrimage meant only for the rich.

Simply put, a whopping ₹18,000 crore (not including zakat funds) is available with Muslims every year in the form of hard cash even a small portion of which Muslims are not conscious enough – politically or otherwise – to earmark for their socio-economic development.



Siyasi Muslims
Hilal Ahmed
Penguin/Viking
₹599

Problematic argument

Siyasi Muslims suffers from what sociologists Woolgar and Pawluch call 'ontological gerrymandering' by which theoretical statements and empirical studies of social problems manipulate a boundary, making certain phenomena problematic while leaving others unproblematic. In his eagerness to make sense of "the story of Muslims as numbers" in postcolonial India, and flag intra-Muslim heterogeneity (such as the existence of caste among Muslims), Ahmed ignores Louis Wirth's insightful definition of a minority.

In his 1945 paper *The Problem of Minority Groups* Wirth describes minorities as "A group of people who, because of their physical or cultural characteristics, are singled out from the others in the society in which they live for differential and unequal treatment, and who therefore regard themselves as objects of collective discrimination."

This is more or less the case with the Muslim 'minority' in India today. In other words, majoritarian perceptions or attacks on Muslims have very little to do with their internal caste systems or class structure as argued by Ahmed. These issues are part of a separate topic of discussion altogether.

Ahmed also contradicts himself at several places. For instance, after having rightly decried attempts to project triple talaq as the "ultimate issue that plagues Muslim women," he goes on to introduce an 18-page chapter on the subject wherein he tries to justify and endorse "the nuanced arguments" of some Muslim women's groups instead of calling them out for prioritising a non-issue and continuing to be obsessed with it to the extent of supporting its criminalisation without any legal basis.

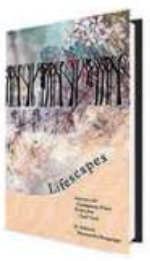
The book does little, in sum, to add to our understanding of the subject it holds forth on. A better thesis to explore would have been the idea of *Mazhabi Muslims* (Religious Muslims). If anything it is the pietistic religiosity of Muslims which prevents them from becoming conscious of their political rights and responsibilities, or their all-round backwardness.

GENDER

Giving voice to silences

A host of women Tamil writers on life and work, and how they make themselves heard

A. MANGAI



Lifescapes: Interviews with Contemporary Women Writers from Tamil Nadu
Edited by K. Srilata, Swarnalatha Rangarajan
Women Unlimited
₹375

Seventeen women writers from the gamut of the Tamil literary world have narrated their experiences of how they create a bodyspace in this volume edited by two sensitive, creative writers and critical thinkers based in Chennai. The title takes its cue from the idea of *tinai*, which in classical Sangam poetics linked the geo-space and mental state of being. Of course, they have questioned the binary nature of *tinai* classification. Therefore, the landscape, the interior and exterior location and the mindscapes of these writers are shared with us in an unassuming fashion.

Select works of the writers are included in English translation along with their interviews as samples. Apart from established voices including the likes of Bama, Kutti Revathi, Malathi Maithri, Salma, Sukirtharani, senior poets like R. Meenakshi and Vatsala, novelist and social activist P. Sivakami and academics like Thamizhachi and Perundevi, the collection also finds space for works by poets from diverse backgrounds such as Ilampirai, Kavin Malar, Brindha, Manushi Bharathi, Thi. Parameswari, Sakthi Arulanandam and Sakthi Jothi. Barring a few, all the poets emerged during the 1990s, when a wave of women poets in Tamil Nadu reclaimed their body politic through their work.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

No single definition

Ilampirai talks of how there is no single definition of 'woman' we can ascribe to. Kavin Malar in her poem titled 'Mugavari Arraval' explicates how a woman has to be "address-less" even when she is in solidarity with the Left and progressive groups that are predominantly male-centred and patriarchal. Manushi expresses her displeasure against the formation of cliques among literary people. Perundevi insists on "listening to the silences and the interstitial gaps between silence and speech."

The most inspiring is the narrative of Sakthi Arulanandam on 'Fixing Machines and Writing Poetry'. Her working-class context, respect for the dignity of labour combined with her passion for painting, poetry and the world of ideas is enthralling. Vatsala, in her interview, is movingly honest in talking about how she found solace in writing when life events threw her off balance. This collection is a rich resource for anyone exploring women's writing as both feminine *ecriture* and feminist consciousness.

Since the methodology followed in the interviews allowed certain flexibility and flow, the discourse is quite varied. These are documents of their writing selves as women and writers. In the Tamil literary context, we still have either benevolent ghettoisation of women writers as a category or strident attacks on them, accusing them of being lesser than the worst of the male authors for some reason best known to those pointing fingers.

It would have further strengthened this collection if the editors had taken into account the sources available in Tamil on women's writing as well. Anglophone criticism cannot remain our benchmark.

SCIENCE

Sparks from lives in science

On Marie Curie, and other less famous women achievers who made a difference

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

In writing *10 Women Who Changed Science and the World*, Catherine Whitlock and Rhodri Evans embark on a journey of describing the lives of women scientists whose work has made a difference to science from the 19th century to the 21st century.

It cannot have been an easy task to shortlist 10 among the many worthy candidates. Vera Rubin, for one, is conspicuous by her absence. But while the choice of 10 can always be contested, the authors more than do justice to their chosen subjects, balancing missions by the variety of specialisations ranging over astronomy, medicine, physics and chemistry, environment etc.

Even the opening pages reveal how little is known about women achievers in science.

The book is about famous scientists such as Rachel Carson, Marie Curie and Lise Meitner, but also about others much less so. Each chapter contains a story that is as inspiring as it is touching. Even when the narrative is a bit slow – as in the chapter on Virginia Apgar – it carries the spark of a life pervaded by the spirit of science. In many cases, there is an interesting story of discovery – of radium and polonium in the story of Marie Curie or the love of writing in the case of Rachel Carson, for example – that livens it up.

Passionate Marie Curie at work in her laboratory. WIKI COMMONS

Working amid prejudice

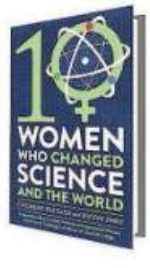
Perhaps the most famous name in the list is Marie Curie. The authors of the book observe, "If you were to ask the public to name a female scientist from history, they would probably name Marie Curie."

Despite the truth in this statement, a large section of the people who know her name and that she received the Nobel Prize twice, would not know the sequence of events that led to the discovery of radium and polonium and, eventually, the prizes.

'Madame' Curie, as she is referred to even when successful (instead of Professor Curie), had to work on an average salary and contend with prejudices for being a woman in a male-dominated field.

One could argue that this was in the last century and before, but women in science will recognise vestiges of that bias from their day-to-day experiences. In that sense, there are lessons to be learnt from stories of how ten women managed to break through such shackles and scale the heights.

The book is a must read for all men and women in science and also for those interested in the subject.



10 Women Who Changed Science and the World
Catherine Whitlock, Rhodri Evans
Hachette India
₹599

HYDERABAD THE HINDU Magazine
Sunday, June 23, 2019

NOSHTALGIA

DIAL D FOR DINNER

The family asked me how often my mother cooked pasta. Apart from mac and cheese, never. Now we not only get pasta in every shape, but every sauce from ragu to pesto

GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK

VASUNDHARA CHAUHAN

The sheer variety and convenience of food shopping today is mind-boggling. As Neelam says, "If you have a phone and money in your pocket, meals aren't a problem." True. One can order in or eat out. Home delivery, which started with pizza, expanded to Chinese cuisine, Thai, sushi. Even a single cup of tea.

That's for the finished product. But for actually cooking in my own kitchen, provisioning has changed, gradually and radically, from the basics upwards. I've been going back to early memories. Fifty years ago, in my parents' home, atta wasn't bought as atta; 'good quality' wheat was bought, washed, dried in the shade, and collected in a vast galvanised iron drum kept on a sturdy stone shelf. There was a small window near its base with a cover that could be vertically slid off or back on. The month's requirement was allowed to pour out, taken to the *chakki,* and ground coarsely.

Today, when we need atta, I phone the chap and order it. But first I have to negotiate the choices: MP wheat, with bran or without, and mixed with soya bean, chana ka atta, bajra or not. A branded mixed atta, neatly packed in a 10 kg carry bag, is delivered. Buying rice is similar. I have to choose between not just the basmati and sela of the past, but between brown, jasmine, sticky, Joha, Gobindbhog and several other varieties. The only rice I cannot get is real basmati – the market is full of pretty, long-grained white rice that costs as much as precious metals, but lacks flavour. I remember when Ashok used to bring us the basmati he grew, the moment he entered our house I could smell it, packed and as yet uncooked.

Salad dressings used to be a squeeze of lime or a basic French vinaigrette. Now there's 'Ranch style', chipotle, Caesar, blue cheese

Milk in plastic pouches

Milk was in limited supply, probably linked to ration cards. At the crack of dawn someone had to queue up for a limited number of bottles, and the different colours of the shiny foil caps signified the fat content. *Khoya* was taken off the market in summer. Of course if you had a *gwala*, a buffalo owner who delivered milk to your doorstep, there was no limit – he could add as much water as necessary. Now with Mother Dairy, the mechanical cow, and the White Revolution, we get unlimited plastic pouches of any kind of milk.

We only ate seasonal fruit, and juice was a luxury. Now I see tetra-packs of every flavour, with and without sugar, in combinations we never made, like pear and nectarine, kiwi and grape. I know fruit comes from other countries and States, so we have oranges, guavas, watermelons and apples around the year. The cold chain has improved to such an extent that the apples are crisp, bursting with juice and flavour, even in summer. There was a time when only Golden Delicious and dark red apples from Kinnaur had these qualities; little plastic stickers appeared later, the badge of 'imported', implying quality and justifying the price.

Almost all varieties of vegetables, as I have long bemoaned, are available around the year, so from a family menu you can't tell whether it's summer or winter. Here, in the North, there used to be a clear demarcation of seasons. We started eating cauliflower only after Dussehra, and lauki and bhindi only in high summer. But the pleasant change is that we're getting 'exotic' vegetables like lettuce, baby corn, coloured bell peppers and zucchini in the local shops. I remember the time when even mushrooms were so unusual that they were reserved for special meals.

Pasta in different shapes

We were talking about tonight's menu – we're doing spaghetti alla Gricia, with streaky bacon and Pecorino cheese – and the family asked me how often my mother cooked pasta. Apart from macaroni and cheese, never. Now I can not only buy dried pasta in different shapes and thickness, I can choose a readymade sauce to go with it. The store shelves are packed with tomato, ragu and pesto.

It's a different matter that I like to make my own – but I don't really have to. Sandwich 'spreads' abound. I have no idea what they're made of, but I imagine it must be flavoured, coloured vegetarian mayonnaise, whipped-up hydrogenated fat. Salad dressings used to be a squeeze of lime or a basic French vinaigrette. Now there's 'Ranch style', chipotle, Caesar, blue cheese.... From hummus, plain or spiked, to pâté, duck or goose liver, to bread, walnut-raisin or sourdough, almost every food any Western supermarket sells is available at a

price. Amul cheese was what we grew up with. Now my local grocery store stocks six brands of feta. Olive oil was just about heard of, but we thought bread had to be eaten with butter. Not this pretentious dribble of balsamic vinegar in extra virgin oil.

Ham and salami

There used to be, in the middle circle of Connaught Place, an outlet of the government owned Central Dairy Farms. It was then said to be the only place where pork was safe. So, once in a blue moon, we'd buy ham and salami. Entire Christmas hams were bought by fancier cooks, marinated, boiled overnight and glazed, and finally coated with mustard and pineapple rings, if that was what you desired. Now a visit or phone call to the neighbourhood shop with a refrigerator, and the bacon is brought home to you. Or chicken ham, the strangely popular reconstituted creation that I avoid. For an entire roast ham a little planning is needed, but it can be ordered from the better delicatessens.

The neighbourhood shops are particularly well stocked with vegetable and chicken patties. Obviously, homemade hamburgers are the flavour of the decade.

Shopping made easy

From the days when my mother drove weekly to INA market, hired a young lad to follow her from vegetable shop to eggs and poultry, carrying a basket on his head, to today, shopping is definitely much easier.

Most everything is available either around the corner or on the phone. I tried online grocery shopping once but they didn't have the tea I wanted nor even the atta, so I gave up. And it's not just the convenience that is amazing, it's the variety. It's as easy to produce a meal of smoked salmon, baked Camembert, a salad of mixed leaves with a dessert of cheesecake with frozen blueberry topping as of matar-paneer, dal bukhara and Kerala parotta: the ingredients of both meals are as easy to procure as for basic dal-sabzi-chawal.

From the once-forbidden joy of eating eggs to the ingratitude of guests, the writer reflects on every association with food.

vasundharachauhan9@gmail.com

SUNDAY RECIPE

CHILLED COTTAGE CHEESE PIE CAKE

Serves 8

INGREDIENTS

Biscuit crust:
1 cup Marie (or Digestive biscuit or Graham-Cracker) crumbs
2 tbsp powdered sugar
1/4 cup butter, melted
Filling:
1/2 cup sugar
1 envelope (half tbsp) unflavoured gelatine
1/4 tsp salt
1 cup milk
2 eggs
1 tbsp grated lemon zest
2 cups creamed cottage cheese or soft home-made paneer made of whole fat milk

METHOD

1. Make biscuit crust by combining, in a small bowl, crumbs, sugar and butter. Stir well with a fork to mix well.
2. Reserve 1/4 cup of crumb mixture for sprinkling later on top. Spread the rest of the crumb mixture on the bottom and side of a 9-inch pie plate. Use the back of a metal spoon to press crumbs till the edges and on the sides. Refrigerate plate.
3. To make filling, combine milk, eggs, sugar, salt and gelatine in a small saucepan. Cook on medium heat, stirring continuously with a metal spoon. In about five minutes the custard will thicken enough to coat the back of the spoon.

4. Remove from heat and stir in lemon peel. Transfer to a large bowl and refrigerate for about 40-50 minutes. It should become just solid enough to mound slightly when dropped from a spoon.
5. Add cheese. With electric hand mixer (or in large bowl of electric mixer) beat at high speed for three minutes, until light and fluffy. (If the mixture looks runny, refrigerate for 10 minutes.)
6. Pour onto biscuit crust in pie plate. Sprinkle reserved crumb mixture on top, around edge of pie. Refrigerate overnight or for at least 3 hours. Serve chilled.

(This recipe was devised by my mother back in the day when we had no access to Digestive biscuits, Graham-Crackers, cottage cheese, or gelatine in envelopes. But it worked as well without.)

Public sentiment A poster of *Placebo*, and (below) a still from *Munna Bhai M.B.B.S*.

OFF-CENTRE

Good doc, bad doc

A medical reporter on how Hindi cinema taught her to see doctors without their halos

SOHINI CHATTOPADHYAY

The documentary *Placebo* (2014) was made in search of answers to an act of impulsive violence that its executor could not explain. Sahil Kumar, an MBBS student at All India Institute of Medical Sciences punched his right hand through a window pane, damaging his nerves so badly that he needed two surgeries and eventually had to learn how to write with his left hand. What brought on this moment? Sahil's brother Abhay Kumar entered his hostel, initially for a period of three months, to understand what drove his high-achieving brother to this act of savage self-harm. Three months became a couple of years, during which no one at AIIMS realised they had an outsider among them. The film explores this numbness, this unseeing that the hallowed corridors of a prestigious medical school produces.

"In *Julius Caesar*, Brutus' wife Portia commits suicide and Brutus says that everybody dies some day or the other. She died today. As I've gotten into this career, I have become more and more stoic. I feel less afraid of death... I feel a kind of indifference," says Sethi, a student Kumar follows in the film. At one point, Sahil says that he felt "all the sadness of the world had crept up and filled into him" when he smashed his fist.

Does medical education deaden students? Does the near impossibility of getting into medical school produce disdain for those who are not medical students? Does this mix of detachment and triumphalism thicken into that waxy mask many doctors in India wear?

The companion piece to *Placebo* is the 2003 film *Munna Bhai M.B.B.S.*. Here too, the title character is a trespasser in a medical school, who has cheated his way in. In the first classroom scene, the dean tells the students that a patient should mean nothing more than a sick body to them. In response, Munna asks: "When a patient is dying in the casualty ward, is it necessary to fill a form?"

If cinema is a lens to society, these two films tell you a couple of things – why doctors evoke such dislike, and why they appear dehumanised and alienated, out of love with the work they have spent so many years training for. The terrific success of *Munna Bhai* suggested that it acknowledged a long-held public sentiment. After *Munna Bhai*, the doctor has largely been a negative character in the Hindi film: In *Andhadhun*, the doctor is a mild-mannered organ trafficker; in smaller films like *Rahasya*, *Waiting* and *Ankur Arora Murder Case*, doctors are murderers, racketeers, adulterers and megalomaniacs.

But even earlier, the Hindi film doctor was alienated and disillusioned, sometimes corrupt and unfeeling. Perhaps Bollywood's most famous doctor is Amitabh Bachchan's Dr. Bhaskar Banerjee in *Anand*. He spends his evenings drinking and writing. He is bored of his rich, hypochondriac patients. Bachchan played another leading role as doctor in *Bemisal*. His friend, played by Vinod Mehta, is a money-minded

Even before *Munna Bhai*, the Hindi film doctor was alienated and disillusioned, sometimes corrupt, and unfeeling

gynaecologist who performs abortions without permission and adequate care. When a patient dies and a criminal case looms, Bachchan's character (a paediatrician) takes the blame and goes to jail because he owes his friend's family a childhood debt. Already, one image of the doctor is a corrupt, criminal professional.

In *Ek Doctor Ki Maut*, based on the life of Dr. Subhash Mukhopadhyay, who pioneered IVF treatment in India in the 1970s, we see what happens to the good, research-obsessed doctor caught in a petty establishment. In the movie, a doctor (played by Pankaj Kapur) invents a vaccine for leprosy, working without institutional support, storing a test tube in his home refrigerator. But the government and his medical colleagues discredit his work, and later, American doctors are credited with the discovery of a leprosy vaccine. The real-life Dr. Mukhopadhyay killed himself when his research was labelled fraudulent.

Does this mix of detachment and triumphalism thicken into that waxy mask many doctors in India wear?

We see the uncomplicated doctor as hero between the 40s and 60s, in *Dr. Kotnis Ki Amar Kahani* where V. Shantaram plays a real-life doctor who served Indian soldiers injured in China during WWII; and *Dil Ek Mandir,* where a surgeon played by Rajendra Kumar saves his former girlfriend's husband. In both, the doctor dies, but these are heroic deaths.

In a sense, Amitabh Bachchan's career draws the arc of the Hindi film doctor – from the disillusioned Dr. Banerjee in *Anand* to the guilt-ridden Dr. Jekyll to Mr. Hyde in *Bemisal* to the Bhaskor Banerjee in *Piku* who only trusts a homeopath to understand the problems of the body. It is interesting that Hindi cinema has read the relationship between doctors and society so astutely.

I remember being undercover at a maternity ward in a government hospital, and seeing medical students bark at birthing mothers even though there were only two deliveries taking place. They snapped at the families of patients. "All of you are called Najma bibi. Which Najma bibi?"

Reporting on HIV, I have seen activists worry about how best to approach doctors about drug shortages so that they don't lose their temper. Interviewing doctors about drug shortages, I've heard them complain that HIV patients write too many emails.

We are probably too awed by doctors as a society, too dependent on them in our individual crises, to perceive them as they are – products of a flawed, monstrous system. Strangely, it was Hindi cinema that gave me the perspective to report what I saw before me.

Like every one of us, I know outstanding doctors too.

The Kolkata-based independent journalist writes on public health, politics and film.

ALLEGEDLY

GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK

Journalists are losing jobs so fast it's time they went into entrepreneur mode

Should I become an entrepreneur? Not the pakoda-making type. I mean a proper, full-blown entrepreneur with complete Series A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, and last but not the least, Z funding. Don't ask why a top-class journalist like me is having such thoughts. You know how bad things are for media people. Journalists are losing jobs faster than Opposition is losing MLAs. Everyone and his uncle is firing journalists. Even people who don't own a media platform are firing journalists. They simply use guns. Either journalists are getting killed or their jobs are. If not killed, they're getting arrested for things like tweeting, cracking jokes, or taking their job seriously enough to actually do it. In my opinion, only the last constitutes an offence serious enough to merit instant termination.

But so many journalists have lost their jobs in the last few weeks, it's clear something else is going on. They would have lost their jobs even if they had stayed true to their time-honoured professional legacy of manufacturing consent by means fair or foul. Perhaps the reasons are economic.

No demand

Most people are smart enough not to want to pay for what wants to reach them anyway. Who do you think is more desperate: a pair of eyeballs in search of distraction or a 400-word distraction in search of eyeballs? If one major problem is that there is no demand for expensive, paid-for journalism, it's complicated by the fact that it's never been easier to do journalism. Anyone can do it, even you. All you need is a website name. Press releases and propaganda will rain down on you like a shower of cow urine.

Content is not king, it is dust. Like the dust in Delhi, it's everywhere, enveloping everyone in its dry, choking embrace from which there is no escape. What do we need journalists for anyway? To curate and organise dust particles into value-added mud? And then sell it as a special kind of compost that will germinate the organic crop of wisdom in the mind of the idiot-consumer so he can make the sagacious choice of voting for Gau Mata in the general election?

Saving the masses

In India, there has always been, and will only ever be, just one person who can save the masses: the Great Leader. It's no different for journalists. Because of their hubris, some of them take their time reading the headline on the wall. But they must acknowledge that their future is nothing but a microscopic drop of the divine grace emanating from the infinite compassion of the Great Leader.

As my father said to me recently, "*Dei*, your bylines are numbered!" He is convinced journalism has no future. So he forced me to attend a workshop organised by the son of a relative of a relative, a self-proclaimed "life coach". The workshop promised to unleash the entrepreneur hiding inside me, much like the PM hiding inside every chaiwala.

It was a day-long affair at a sad four-star hotel. Some 200 people had signed up. I couldn't tell how many were unemployed. But they were all there only because, as the trainer informed us, the era of jobs was over and you don't have to be an 'Apple' to realise that, haha. There were only two kinds of people in this world: those who get a salary, and those who pay salaries. Which one did we want to be? The payer or the payee? Master or slave? Leader or follower? Hunter or hunted? Chowkidar or Pappu? The rousing answer from the participants was unanimous: "Chowkidar!"

"In that case," the trainer said, "All of you apply for jobs as security guards." I was joking. He didn't say that. Instead he said, "Absolutely. Each one of you is the Chowkidar who has the key that can unlock a glorious future of limitless success, limitless wealth, and asafoetida." And what's this key? "Leadership! Just as there is an entrepreneur in each one of you, there is a leader in each one of you." Nobody asked: if everyone is a leader, that would mean no one is a follower, and if no one is a follower, how can anyone be a leader? Anyway, just remember that leadership is the master key that can unlock the treasury of entrepreneurship and drown you in limitless success, limitless wealth and asafoetida, or something like that. I again couldn't catch the last word, however hard I tried.

But I'm OK with limitless asafoetida so long as I get the other two as part of the deal.

G. Sampath is Social Affairs Editor, *The Hindu*.

BROWN PAPERBAG BY SAILESH GOPALAN

FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND

F MINUS BY TONY CARRILLO

THE ROMANTICS BY VASINI VARADAN

GOREN BRIDGE

Fate

North-South vulnerable, South deals

BOB JONES

NORTH
♠ Q 10 9 5
♡ J 9 8 6 5
◇ 10 7
♣ K 3

WEST
♠ J 8 4 3
♡ Q 3
◇ J 3
♣ Q J 10 8 7

EAST
♠ K 7 6
♡ K 4 2
◇ Q 5 2
♣ A 5 4 2

SOUTH
♠ A 2
♡ A 10 7
◇ A K 9 8 6 4
♣ 9 6

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1◇	Pass	1♡	Pass
3◇	All pass		

Opening lead: Queen of ♣

The auction had been routine, but when dummy's king of clubs proved to be worthless, the contract had little chance of success. The opening club lead was covered by the king and ace. East, fearing a possible club ruff in dummy, shifted to a low trump.

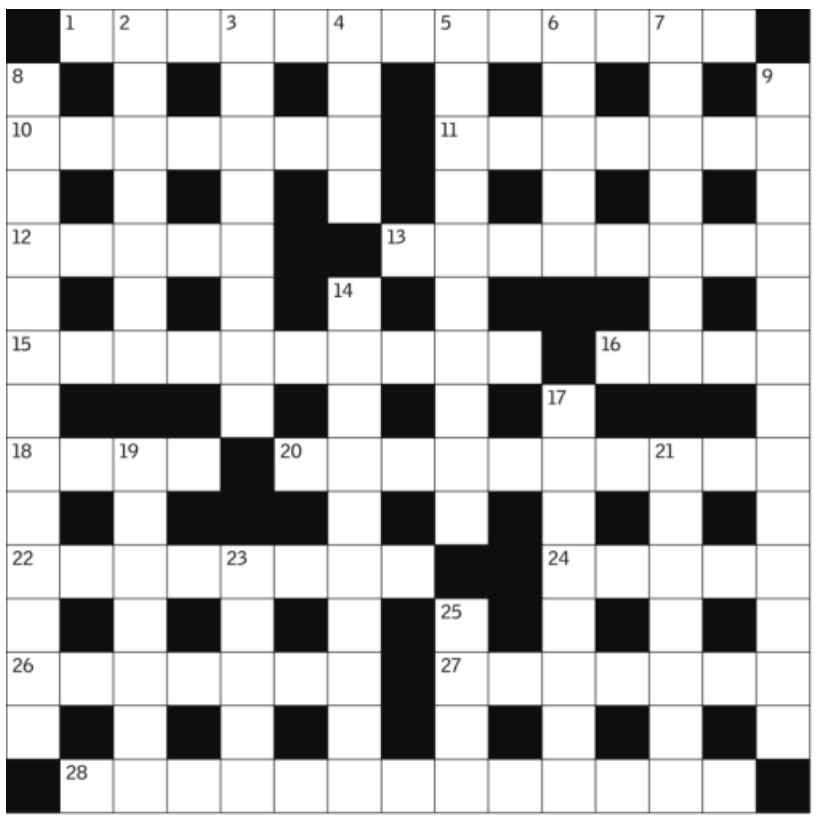
This was ducked to West's jack. West cashed the jack of clubs and East's count card told him that there was no club ruff coming, so it wasn't necessary to lead another trump, but that was his only safe exit.

West made the attacking shift to the queen of hearts. This would have been a winner if his partner held the 10 of hearts, but it was not a winner on this deal. South won with his ace, drew trumps in two more rounds, and then led the 10 of hearts. East ducked this, of course, but he couldn't escape his fate.

South cashed all three of his remaining trumps, forcing East to come down to the doubleton king of spades and singleton king of hearts. Declarer exited with a heart to East's king. In this two-card ending, East had to lead a spade away from his king and declarer had his contract. Well played, even if there was a little bump in the defense.

BAKER STREET

THE SUNDAY CROSSWORD NO. 3053



Across

1 Nation excited with charmer like Justin Trudeau (5,8)
10 Umpteenth US evangelical stifles praise (7)
11 Local's stripped down to nothing in Spain, giving patriotic song (1,6)
12 Illicitly loots workman's implements (5)
13 Time lag I suffered to overcome this? (3,5)
15 Nervously hint at lawsuit, then (2,4,4)
16 Former prime minister – no leader – in retreat (4)
18 Teas consumed? (4)
20 Deign to advance one letter, with organ enclosed in posting (10)
22 Mountain folk live among giants (8)
24 American poet finds path around lake (5)
26 Composer with some dross in Italian (7)
27 To make up story about king, head of Númenor: this author did! (7)
28 Rising sun soon heated coastal resort (8-2-3)

Down

2 Declines surgery: pets only half sedated (4,3)
3 72 hours or so ago, child born then has far to go (8)
4 Does away with lines on a graph (4)
5 Old, anguished, wretched: there's nothing to add (6,4)
6 Criminal lawyer hides after considering everything (2,3)
7 In AA, I mean to raise condition (7)
8 Direction borders on conservative in Romeo and Juliet adaptation (4,4,5)
9 Pursuit in which diet is foiled? (6-3,4)
14 Measure that monitors monitors? (6,4)
17 Zane's gutted, with chafed nipple in airship (8)
19 A billion tacos cooked with this condiment? (7)
21 Suppose I'm a gin enthusiast primarily (7)
23 Playing whist, void of hearts, trump's opening: another card, please (5)
25 Suitor that's utterly desirable at first? (4)

Solution No. 3052

QUIZ

Easy like Sunday morning

'Icelanders spend their time improving knowledge of others' deeds...'

BERTY ASHLEY

1 Founded on June 23, 930 AD, The *Alþingi* (Althing in English) in Iceland is the oldest of its kind. It has been functioning for the last 1089 years and currently has 63 seats with Steingrímur J. Sigfússon presiding. When it was started it was a general assembly where parties involved in legal disputes, traders, craftsmen, storytellers and travellers too part. One 'Lawspeaker' sat on a rock and recited the laws in effect at that time. What is the Althing one of the oldest of?

2 A group of raiders from Norway settled in Iceland sometime in the 800s. This fact makes Iceland a fairly young country. These raiders gave both Iceland and another country they founded their names. They purposefully misnamed them both so that their enemies would hopefully go to the ice-covered country instead of following them to the fertile land where they actually settled, which was Iceland. Who were these raiders and what is the name of the other country?

3 *Þingvellir* National Park is a Unesco World Heritage Site which is one of only two places in the world where you can see two certain geological features above the earth's surface. The other is in Africa and in the gap between these two features (which has been moving apart over history at the rate of 2 cm per year) there is a lake where you can go diving. The features are known as 'North American' and 'Eurasian', and in other places when they usually move they cause natural disasters. What are these features that are responsible for the world looking how it is today?

4 This place, the name of which means 'Island Mountain Glacier' is tough to pronounce for those who don't know Icelandic. It has been doing its thing since the beginning of the century but the most recent event was in 2010 when because of its activity it caused major traffic issues in Europe. One of the unfortunate issues it posed was the inability of news anchors in pronouncing the name right. What is 'Island Mountain Glacier'? (Just say what it is, but extra points if you give the actual name.)

5 Iceland is one of the most eco-friendly on the planet as they use very little fossil fuels. They even have some hydrogen-run buses in their capital. Their main source of energy though is, thanks to the country's unique landscape. What is the main source of energy in Iceland (which is ironic considering the name)?

6 Since 1918, a particular thing has been in use in Iceland officially. The entity has three colours which represent what make up the island. X is the fire produced by the island's volcanoes, Y recalls the ice and snow that covers Iceland and Z is for the mountains of the island. What is this entity and what are the three colours?

7 Since 1991, Icelanders who had to do a process (which is usually once in a lifetime) had to get permission from a central government committee. This committee has been criticised harshly and often sparked controversy with its verdicts. Its objective is to protect

Very less fossil fuel One of the most eco-friendly places on earth.
GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK

Icelandic tradition by conforming to pronunciation and grammatic rules but many people find it too strict and sometimes unfair. What does a Icelander couple need to do which might seem unusual to us?

8 Until 1983 a certain restriction was in place in July by the Icelandic government which was put in place to ensure that citizens would go out and socialise more during summer. What couldn't you do there in July which families in India do till late at night?

9 The entire population of the country of Iceland is around 300,000 (which is less than T.Nagar in Chennai on a weekend) but interestingly one in 10 people will do something that is quite rare in India. The phenomenon is described in Icelandic as 'ad ganga med bok I maganum' which means everyone "has a __ in their stomach." What do Icelanders do more of than pretty much everywhere else in the world, which ensures their thoughts are captured for generations to come?

10 Iceland is one of the few inhabited places on Earth where a certain universally hated species of animal is not found thanks to the rapid climate changes. If a child or researcher wanted to see one of these, they would have to go to the Icelandic Institute of Natural History and see one single specimen which a scientist caught inside a plane and preserved in a jar of alcohol. What animal is this that is the bane of all Indians?

A molecular biologist from Madurai, our quizmaster enjoys trivia and music, and is working on a rock ballad called 'Coffee is a Drink, Kaapi is an Emotion'. @bertyashley

Answers
1. Parliament
2. Vikings, Greenland
3. Tectonic Plates
4. The Volcano – *Eyjafjallajökull*
5. Geo-thermal
6. Flag of Iceland – Red, White and Blue
7. Get permission to name their children
8. Watch TV. There were no broadcasts on the National TV in July
9. Publish books
10. Mosquitoes

LETTER FROM A CONCERNED READER

No cricket commentary!?

Respected Madam/ Sir,

When a respected person is retiring from Bank of India after decades and decades of meritorious service what is the expectation? Rolls Royce car? No. Five star hotel? No. Foreign trip? Never. Any luxurious lifestyle? No no thousand times no.

Real expectation is first of all good night sleep. Wake up between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. Nice bath. Then simple breakfast. After that sit in the living room under ceiling fan and read some newspaper, novel, see some TV programme. Then lunch time. Simple lunch, no need for complication, whether I am Sultan of Brunei? Then go for walk, meet some friends, tea or coffee. Then evening come back home. Mingling with family members. Dinner. Switch on TV. News anchor will shout at me. I will shout at news anchor. Then Mrs. Mathrubootham will shout at me, then we will together shout at TV, then neighbour shout through balcony, then we will give back with interest, like that after 30 minutes, mind and body is relaxed and we go to sleep.

This is the expectation. When I was working and working nonstop in the bank I used to dream of this retired lifestyle only. Sometimes customers will come and ask very intelligent and relevant question like, excuse me, Mr. Mathrubootham, whether housing loan is only for home or I can also use for buying car or fridge or Tata Sky connection. I said, no no, please don't do such things. We are providing different service it is called auto loan.

Then customer will think like C.V. Raman and say, oh no, what nonsense you are talking, I want car for the family, Mr. Mathrubootham, what I will do with auto? Then I will say please give me three minutes I will check some details about loan and come. Then I will go to strong room where one poster is there with message: "Customer is King." I will remove sandals and slap this poster 10-15 times and then go back to customer to give service.

Why I did this self-torture? Madam/ Sir, because I thought, one day I can retire and live relaxed lifestyle with pension.

Instead what happened yesterday? First of all, no water for bath. Second of all, fan is not working because of some short circuit. Third of all, Kamalam suddenly said, oh no, forgot about Ladies Association meeting, please manage your breakfast. Also downstairs Nalini's son is coming for some tuition in economics. Will you please give company for half an hour? I will come very quickly old man.

So I made one cup of tea and took some biscuits and banana and sat in living room. After some time Nalini's son came. One 15-year old ruffian type fellow. I said, "Hello do you want tea or some snacks." He said, "No thanks, uncle, I am fine." I said, "Do you want to watch World Cup highlights on TV?" He said, "Why not, it will be good timepass."

Suddenly while highlights are going on ruffian picked up the remote and put TV on silent. I said, "What happened you don't like commentary?" He said, "Uncle who will listen to this nonsense except someone who is trying to get ear cancer?" Ball is gone to the boundary it seems. I thought hippopotamus has gone to supermarket. Fools I can see no?

Then immediately he took out one iPad and started looking. I said, "What are you doing Twitter or Facebook? Please give full details."

Madam/ Sir, what and all children will do online these days, who knows? I thought if he is using my internet for some illegal activities then imagine humiliation when my photo is in your esteemed newspaper tomorrow under cybercrime section.

He said, "Uncle, Twitter and Facebook and all what nonsense. I went to Malaysia. I am eating ice cream on mountain. Whether anybody cares? Nonsense. I am watching TV programme called Chernobyl. Have you seen? It is amazing." I said, "Young man, I am very open-minded these days, but is it some adults-only programme for youths?"

He said, "Ha ha uncle, some I will show you."

Madam/ Sir, together we sat and watched one episode. Thrills are still going through my body. After that I said, "Shall we quickly watch news highlights?" He said, "Uncle if you want to watch, you watch, I don't watch news." I said, "Young man if you don't watch news how will you know what is happening in the world. Without general knowledge what you will achieve in life? Whether any advancement will happen?"

He said, "Uncle, you are watching news everyday? Have you ever seen anybody with general knowledge on the TV? Even single person?"

Madam/ Sir, people are always saying what will happen to India, future is black and all. I am saying don't worry. Young people are there. Give one chance.

Still how can you watch cricket without commentary? It is konjam over no?

Yours in positive expectations,
J. Mathrubootham