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HURRIYAT CHIEF RESPONDS TO J&K GOVERNOR'S SIGNAL If talks are initiated, there will be positive response: Hurriyat

Mirwaiz says meaningful dialogue only way forward; NC & PDP welcome move

NAVEED IQBAL
SRINAGAR, JUNE 23

A DAY after Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik said that Hurriyat leaders were ready for talks with New Delhi, Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said Sunday that if "meaningful" talks are initiated, "there will be a positive response".

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Mirwaiz said that they have always been ready for a meaningful dialogue to resolve the Kashmir issue. "We are convinced that a way out can only be achieved through talking," he said.

"I can tell you that if meaningful talks are initiated, there will be a positive response. Dialogue is the only way and that is our consistent stand," he said.

"Hurriyat has always been in favour of talks as the means of resolution. We have not said anything new. We have always been saying this. As the most affected party with daily killings of our young, we would naturally want peaceful resolution of the issue."

He said, "From the time when all parties came together under one umbrella to form Hurriyat, (we) have maintained and reiterated that engagement and dialogue among stakeholders is the best and most peaceful means of resolution of the Kashmir issue and not (use of) force".

Mirwaiz also said that the "Hurriyat has engaged with both India and Pakistan in the past" and "are always ready to engage".

His remarks came after Governor Malik, in the presence of Union Minister for

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Security personnel near the encounter site in Shopian, J&K, Sunday. Express

4 militants linked to al-Qaeda affiliate killed in J&K gunfight

ADIL AKHZER
SRINAGAR, JUNE 23

FOUR MILITANTS affiliated to the Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGH) were killed Sunday in a gunfight with security forces in South Kashmir's Shopian district. The AGH claims to be an affiliate of al-Qaeda.

According to the Jammu and Kashmir Police, the encounter broke out at the Panzar area of Shopian in the morning after security forces launched a cordon and search operation following reports that militants were present in the area.

"During searches, terrorists fired upon the search party. The fire was retaliated leading to an

encounter," said police. In a statement, Colonel Rajesh Kalita, Srinagar-based defence spokesperson, said: "Total four terrorists eliminated... weapons recovered."

The militants killed in the encounter were identified as Rafi Hassan Mir of Kralchak, Shopian; Suhail Ahmad Bhat of Batmuran, Shopian; Showkat Ahmad Mir of Rajpora in Pulwama; and, Azad Ahmad Khanday of Bamnoo, Pulwama.

Police sources said that the operation took place in an orchard and the gunfight began at around 6 am. "...no collateral damage happened during the encounter," said police.

In a statement, police said that among the four killed mili-

itants, Showkat had a "long history of terror crime records since 2015". "He was initially part of the proscribed terror outfit HM (Hizbul Mujahideen)," police said, adding that several cases were registered against him.

According to police, Showkat Mir was also instrumental in recruiting "Azad Ahmad, Rafi Hassan and Suhail Ahmad who had recently joined the terrorist fold". Recently, pictures of Suhail and Rafi holding weapons surfaced on social media in the Valley, which also mentioned that the duo had joined the AGH outfit.

A senior police officer in South Kashmir told *The Indian Express* that they believe

India scraps Israel anti-tank missile deal after DRDO says will deliver \$500-mn deal was for Spike missiles

AMITAVRANJAN
NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

INDIA HAS scrapped a \$500-million deal with Israel for the purchase of Spike anti-tank missiles from defence contractor Rafael Advanced Defense Systems after indigenous developer Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) claimed that it could deliver an alternative within two years.

Government officials associated with the approval of the deal said Israel has been informed about the contract being abandoned in favour of DRDO, which claimed that it was developing a similar missile at a lower price in partnership with VEM Technologies Ltd.

Officials said domestic production of the missile was favoured as DRDO's effort in creating a man-portable anti-tank

guided missile (MPATGM) was "progressing fast" with the second stage of testing concluded. The DRDO claimed it successfully test-fired the MPATGM at the Ahmednagar range last September.

Although Army officials were sceptical of DRDO's claim on meeting its promised deadline and operational requirements, the Defence Ministry opted for DRDO as it would fulfil the government's "Make-in-India" initiative. The ministry, said officials, now prefers a home-grown anti-tank missile rather than depend on time-consuming imports.

Officials said India last year delayed the purchase of Spike missiles from Rafael for fear of being dragged into another controversy at a time when the purchase of the French fighter jet Rafale was being disputed by the main Opposition Congress party

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CUTTING FLAB NOT EASY FOR PAK ARMY
BY AYESHA SIDDIQA
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BUSINESS AS USUAL



Ansal U-turn on loss of cheques: PDCs issued, regret error

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

FOUR DAYS after it denied that Ansal Hi-Tech Townships had issued post-dated cheques (PDCs) to secure investments by Peninsula Brookfield through subscription of non-convertible debentures (NCDs), the Ansal Group has accepted that the PDCs were indeed issued and that it "regretted" the "error".

On June 13, *The Indian Express* reported that a firm linked to IL&FS had mysteriously "lost" PDCs issued by Ansal Hi-Tech Townships against investments of around Rs 200 crore by PenBrook Capital in 2014-15. IL&FS Trust Company Ltd — now called Vistra ITCL, post-acquisition by Vistra in 2016 — was the trustee company that held these cheques.

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Mystery loss of post-dated cheques: one more Ansal, IL&FS link

SANDEEP SINGH
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

IL&FS FINANCIAL Services MD
Ramesh Bawa allegedly bending

Express report on June 13

13 yrs later, 15 families back in Bastar: 'Happy but leave us alone'

DIPANKAR GHOSE
MARAIGUDA (SUKMA), JUNE 23

TO HIS left, is his past. All that remains is a wooden stump, charred black and lifeless. To his right, a hundred metres away, is a fresh start. The wood is fresh and brown, and his hut is well on its way to becoming a home. Thirteen years ago, he had fled, taking his family with him. He has now returned, happy but hesitant. He is one of the refugees of Maraiguda in Bastar, his life governed by fear, then and now.

The year was 2006, the month escapes his memory. But that day, as he walked back from the forest, firewood in one arm, his wife behind him, he remembers the smoke rising from the village. "The Salwa Judum had come to



Site of a home burnt in Maraiguda. Dipankar Ghose

the village. The *dadalog* (Maoists) were there too, and there were gunshots. Our house was among the many that were burning. We ran, until we couldn't run

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Despite its rules, BSP gives top jobs to Maya kin

AVANEESH MISHRA
LUCKNOW, JUNE 23

A YEAR after announcing amendments to her party's constitution that no relative of the national president would hold party positions, BSP chief Mayawati Sunday appointed her brother Anand Kumar as the party's national vice-president and his son Akash Anand as its national coordinator.

The decision was taken at an all-India meeting of BSP leaders in Lucknow that included most party office bearers, members, legislators and MPs.

Anand was appointed BSP vice-president after the 2017 assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, but in May 2019,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Rlys removes 20-year hitch: Smoother travel now on premium trains

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

TWO DECADES after the German-made Linke-Hoffmann-Busch (LHB) coaches were introduced, the Railways has managed to get rid of the all-too-familiar jolts and swaying that passengers experience while travelling on board even premium trains.

The solution: retrofitting a new version of the Centre Buffer Couplers (CBC), the equipment used to link coaches in a train. By late April this year, the Railways managed to retrofit all its LHB stock — over 5,000 coaches, including all the 42 Rajdhani rakes.

Premium trains running with the LHB stock, like

Rajdhanis, have been notorious for the jolts that passengers experienced, especially at high speeds and also while braking, taking away the comfort such trains promised.

From teacups spilling over to passengers being jolted from berths and even losing balance while walking in the aisles of Rajdhanis, these are among the common complaints on board these trains. For decades, they have been attributed to a fault in the couplers with no solution in sight. The unstable nature of the couplers also posed a safety issue. The issue had even led to questions being raised in both Houses of Parliament and its committees.

The solution eluded Railways for 10-15 years, Rajesh Agrawal,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

In Muktsar, fight against plastic bags starts with ₹5

Team of residents, led by a doctor, is making a difference in vegetable markets, dairies and langars

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

RAAKHI JAGGA
MUKTSAR, JUNE 23

IN PUNJAB'S Muktsar, the people's fight against plastic is all about a number: Rs 5. That's what a team of five residents, led by a doctor and assisted by two college students, is asking dealers at vegetable markets to pay for every cloth bag it distributes to replace plastic bags.

The money goes into expanding its drive against plastic bags and plates to dairies and langars, and on Facebook and YouTube. So much so, local offi-

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Dr Seema Goyal (right) distributes cloth bags at a vegetable market in Muktsar. Gurmeet Singh

polybags are a great headache as they cannot be disposed of and lead to the death of cattle that eat garbage in these bags at dumps,"

says Dr Seema Goyal, a medical officer at the civil hospital, who is the face of this campaign.

Also on the team are govern-

ment teachers Harpinder Kaur Rana and Navdeep Sukhi, and shopkeeper Gursewak Singh. On call are Jashandeep Jimmy and Anurag Sharma, the students who help the group reach out on social media through Facebook Live sessions and YouTube videos. "We got the first batch of cloth for free from a Bathinda tent house and a Muktsar trader. We got multi-compartment bags stitched and charged a nominal price — only so that people don't take us for granted. So far, we have distributed over 10,000 bags after making people aware of the harmful effects of plastic," says Rana.

Today, district officials say, the use of plastic bags in the city

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WEB EXCLUSIVE



FIVE BANGALORE GIRLS TO REPRESENT INDIA AT FOOTBALL EVENT IN FRANCE

The youngsters will participate in Festival19, a 10-day event scheduled to be held during the semi-final stages of the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup in Lyon. Festival 19, which coincides with the ongoing FIFA Women's World Cup in France, seeks to empower women and girls through football.

VIDEO OF THE DAY



LGBT PRIDE: ELTON J FERNANDEZ JOURNEY

Since he came out to his parents at 21, his life has seen ups and downs

FULL COVERAGE



MAYA'S FAMILY GET PLUM POSTS IN BSP

Nephew gets post as well, Danish Ali named Lok Sabha leader

EXPRESS AUDIO

Understanding the Chennai Water Crisis

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In this episode of 3 Things, we look at how the city has dealt with poor monsoons before, the problems that people are facing and what the government plans to do about it

DABHOLKAR MURDER CASE

Punalekar quizzing gave relevant info: CBI to court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PUNE, JUNE 23

THE CENTRAL Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Sunday submitted before the special court in Pune that they interrogated lawyer Sanjiv Punalekar, an accused in the murder of rationalist Narendra Dabholkar, in connection with the information recovered from his laptops. The CBI claimed that Punalekar's "interrogation has yielded some information relevant to this case", while asking the court that he should be sent to judicial custody.



CBI interrogated Punalekar in connection with the information recovered from his laptops. File

The court remanded Punalekar to judicial custody till July 6. The court said it will hear his bail application on June 25.

Punalekar and his aide, Sanatan Sanstha seeker Vikram Bhawe, were arrested by the CBI in the Dabholkar murder case on May 25. He was in the CBI's custody till June 4. Dabholkar was shot dead during his morning walk in Pune on August 20, 2013. His alleged shooters — Sharad Kalaskar and Sachin Andure — are both under arrest. Punalekar has been accused of

advising Kalaskar on how to dismantle the firearm used. According to the CBI, Kalaskar, who is also an accused in the 2017 murder of journalist Gauri Lankesh, had followed the lawyer's advice and dumped four pistols, including the one used to kill Lankesh, in Thane creek. Punalekar filed an application seeking bail, which was opposed by the CBI.

While the arguments on Punalekar's bail application were yet to conclude, on June 19, the CBI filed an application before the court seeking his custody for investigation into data retrieved from his laptops.

MP youth kills sister for marrying outside community, abettors flee

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BHOPAL, JUNE 23

THE INDORE police are looking for two youngsters for allegedly instigating a 17-year-old to shoot his sister for marrying outside the community.

The teenager surrendered before the police on Saturday after killing 21-year-old Bulbul who had married Kuldeep, 22,

months ago. Due to opposition from Bulbul's family, the couple had left Rawad village. Depalpur sub-divisional police officer Ramkumar Rai said they had returned to the village on Saturday. Two youngsters who lived nearby, tipped off the teenager of the couple's arrival said a police officer.

Rai said both the youngsters were booked for criminal conspiracy but are still at large.

FROM PAGE ONE

Militants killed

Showkat had shifted to the AGH recently. Last month, Zakir Rashid Bhat, alias Zakir Musa, considered the head of the AGH, was killed in a gunbattle in Pulwama district.

Though AGH's presence has diminished after Musa's death, the outfit is trying to attract more young men, said police. "There is a very minimal presence of AGH on the ground. Recently, we saw Suhail and Rafi announcing that they joined Ansar, which is an indication that AGH is trying to recruit more men," said a police officer. There has been an increase in anti-militancy operations in the Valley. While one militant was killed Saturday in an encounter in Baramulla district, earlier this week, a Jaish-e-Mohammad militant, who owned the car that was used in February 14 suicide bombing attack on a CRPF convoy in Pulwama, was among two militants killed in a gunbattle in Anantnag district.

Missile deal

Ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. At the time, the reason given was that the Spike missiles needed to undergo additional tests to prove its infrared system in the country's high temperature environment. The Army was said to be sceptical of the missile's performance in the hot western deserts adjoining Pakistan.

However, the DRDO offered to deliver thousands of indigenous MPATGM by 2021, almost the time it would take Rafael to deliver its missiles, said officials.

India's deal with Israel for 321 Spike launchers and 8,356 missiles was initially struck in October 2014 after the Defence Ministry selected Spike over the US-made FGM-148 Javelin. But it was scrapped in December 2017 in favour of DRDO.

It was "reauthorized" in January 2018 following Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to India and Rafael opened a production facility in India last August with local partner Kalyani Group.

RBI to DRI

In May 2016, the then Revenue Secretary, Hasmukh Adhia wrote to the chairpersons of SBI and BoB asking the banks to co-operate with the DRI investigation. At that time, then SBI chairperson Arundhati Bhattacharya declined to share the documents from the Singapore branch.

Subsequently, the DRI escalated the matter of non-cooperation by public sector banks to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), which issued an office memorandum to the secretary of Department of Financial Services (DFS). On September 23, 2016, the DFS informed PMO that it has asked the RBI to look into the issue. Since then, the DRI has written to the RBI multiple times - the last communication was in September 2018. In its reply on May 24, the RBI has asked DRI to explore diplomatic or legal channels to get the information from the banks.

Interestingly, the DRI probe into the alleged overvaluation of coal imports began in December 2014, under the then revenue secretary Shaktikanta Das, who is now the Governor of RBI. However, the agency's probe has not progressed since 2014 due to non-cooperation of the banks.

Adhia, who had once actively pursued the matter with SBI and BoB, was appointed as chairman of BoB in March. The bank, however, is yet to share information with the DRI.

The DRI's attempt to gather information through legal and diplomatic channels such as issuance of letter rotatory (LR) for gathering information abroad has also been halted after Adani Enterprises Ltd, challenged the procedure of issuance of LRs in the

'There will be positive response'

Information & Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar and Minister of State in the PMO Jitendra Singh, said at an event in Srinagar Saturday that separatist Hurriyat leaders were ready for talks.

Former Chief Minister and National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah told The Indian Express that they would welcome any initiative to break the deadlock. "The JKNC has been consistently and constantly advocating for a dialogue between the Centre and the various stakeholders in the state. We hope that the solid mandate PM Modi received

will encourage him to look at treating J&K differently this time as compared to his first term." Stating that the iron fist in the iron glove has only served to further alienation, Abdullah said, "This policy needs to be balanced out with a willingness to engage with those who are willing to talk rather than use violence to address the issue. Though we have seen Governor Malik's statement and Mirwaiz's advocacy of dialogue, we've seen no indication from the Centre to suggest a change in approach and that is what we will be looking for in the days ahead."

The PDP, too, supported the move. PDP leader and former member of the Mehbooba Mufti Cabinet, Naem Akhtar said: "We have always been for dialogue, but it has to be purposeful. An opportunity was lost in 2016 but this is the only way forward, talking to all stakeholders, while J&K's identity is preserved with regard to special status."

He also said that with sincerity and Modi's renewed mandate, "nothing is impossible and the PM can solve this problem once for all. The Constitution of India has enough room to provide not

just what is promised but guaranteed".

Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement president and former bureaucrat Shah Faesal said that this is "very healthy development" and expressed the hope that since the elections are now over, missing conversations can be picked up again.

"Dialogue has been a critical missing ingredient from the central government's Kashmir policy in the last five years, and now that the present government has the benefit of hindsight, we hope that dialogue can resume now."

Ansal U-turn: PDCs issued, regret error

Responding to an email from The Indian Express on June 12, the Ansal Group said: "No PDC was issued by Ansal Group to secure the NCDs of Rs 200 crores issued and allotted by Ansal Hi Tech Townships Limited."

However, on June 14, when this newspaper provided proof that the PDCs were issued, the Ansal Group said: "This is for your kind clarification that while going through our old records, we have also traced

copy of PDCs, which were issued by Ansal Group to Debenture Trustee to secure the NCDs of Rs 200 crores issued and allotted by Ansal Hi Tech Townships Limited. The said information of PDCs was also given to the Stock Exchange today only. This matter was related to earlier period and our intention was not to provide any wrong information. Error caused is regretted."

The Indian Express has also accessed the Debenture Trust

Deed signed between IL&FS Trust Company Ltd, Ansal Hi-Tech Townships Ltd, Ansal Properties and Infrastructure Ltd and Sushil Ansal and Pranav Ansal (promoters of Ansal Group) among others on June 18, 2014.

The deed states that the "issuer has, pursuant to an agreement dated June 12, 2014, amongst the issuer and the Debenture Trustee appointed the Debenture Trustee to Act as the trustee on behalf of and for

the benefit of the Debenture holders.

One of the terms of issuance of the Debentures is that the Obligations in respect of the Debentures be secured by way of Security created in favour of, and to be held and administered by, The Debenture Trustee for the benefit of the Debenture holders".

It also specifies that the debenture holder is Peninsula Brookfield, which proposes to subscribe to the debentures.

Bombay High Court and obtained an interim stay.

The DRI probe into the imports of Indonesian coal began in December 2014. In March 2016, the agency issued a general alert to its field formations across India, outlining the modus operandi of over-invoicing of coal imports from Indonesia.

The DRI alleged that money was being "siphoned" outside the country and the electricity-generating firms were availing of "higher tariff compensation based on artificially inflated cost of the imported coal".

The DRI alleged that Indonesian coal was directly imported from ports in that country to India while import invoices were routed through one or more intermediaries based in Singapore, Hong Kong, Dubai and British Virgin Islands to artificially inflate its value.

Bastar families

any more. And for years, we never looked back," he said.

Today, the refugee will not say who set the fire to his home — the answer is the difference between life and death. He cannot be named either — for the same reason. The Salwa Judum conflict, for which the Supreme Court came down heavily on the state in a judgment in 2011, ordering the disbanding of the deployment of tribal youths as SPOs, was one of the most violent periods of Bastar's bloody history. Many were killed in the conflict, homes burnt, and thousands fled their homes.

There were many such families from Maraiguda, too, deep inside South Sukma. And 15 of them arrived at Kannapuram in Andhra Pradesh. "In Maraiguda, we had land and farming. In Kannapuram, we had nothing. We were forced to live as daily wage labourers, and plucked red chillies in the fields. We went back to our village sometimes, but only fleetingly, afraid of the Maoists. But we always wanted to return. So when the activists spoke to us about it, we said we wanted to go back," the refugee said.

Shubranshu Choudhary of CGNet Swara, the voice-based online news portal that facilitated the process, said, "We first got in touch with the families during a peace padyatra in October 2018...99 per cent people don't

want to go back to their original villages, which is why we are working towards their forest rights and other related issues. Nine of them from Maraiguda joined us for a second yatra this February. They wanted to go back immediately."

On April 28, 25 members of the 15 families from Kannapuram returned to the village. They came in a bus, and as he stepped out, he saw the 68 families that had remained, smile at him welcomingly. "To me, it felt I finally belonged again. We sang and danced that night. And the next day, began to rebuild our homes, and clear the space for our fields," he said. Chandan Kumar, District Collector, Sukma, said, "The main challenges are to provide basic facilities, basic government schemes, so that people can stay there. We are undertaking several measures, such as ensuring job cards under MNREGA, health camps. People that have returned are being shown their piece of land under government records so that they can begin to farm."

But soon, however, there was a demonstration of just how complex any rebuilding is in Bastar. Maraiguda is deep in South Sukma, an 8-km journey down an almost unmotorable road from Errabore on the main road. The return of the families brought sudden attention, unwanted by the Maoists.

"They said they had no problem with us coming back, but that too many people were following," a resident of the village said. Soyam Bajari, the sarpanch who now lives in Errabore out of fear, said, "They said that anyone who asks the government for work, or land, will be killed. I cannot go back because they think I am responsible."

Then, in May, 25-year-old Kadti Ganga was pulled out of his home and killed. Officials say they are still investigating the killing. "He was killed on the pretext that he was an informer. But the message was clear: To spread fear that they were in charge," a resident said. Choudhary of CGNet Swara said, "What happened in the meantime, was that a police team went to the village. They issued a press note saying we welcome them. Maoists came, cut the throat of one man, and from what we think, it was done to induce fear. Then they issued a press note,

saying that whoever talks about land, they will kill them. Immediately, all government work stopped," he said.

Kumar, the District Collector, said, "We are very serious about rehabilitation, whether it is organic or artificial. In other areas as well, people are returning to their homes such as from camps in Jagargunda and Bheji (in Bastar), which are arguably even more left-wing extremism affected."

However, there are also questions being asked about the "haste" in the process.

"These are sensitive matters, and the consequences are dire. We had asked for more time. These things need to happen over time. If no help had been offered, it would have been said that nothing was being done. The police goes to these villages generally to do patrolling and get people on their side. That is their job," a senior police officer said. In Maraiguda, the refugee is constantly looking at a man in a white vest, sitting in the vicinity. As the afternoon turns to evening, he walks to his brother's home. Out of earshot, he turns around, motions to the man in the vest. "He is the dadalugi's man. Please leave. I am happy to be back, but we need to be left alone."

Mayawati

Mayawati announced that her brother had resigned from the post to counter allegations of nepotism.

The BSP also announced Sunday that its Amroha MP Danish Ali was appointed leader of the BSP in Lok Sabha and named Nagina MP Girish Chandra the party whip. Earlier, Ali was named chief whip and Chandra the party leader in the LS.

When Chandra, a Dalit, was made the party's leader in Parliament, it was after nearly 15 years that the BSP had chosen a Dalit MP as floor leader in the House. Confirming the development, a party leader said that the objective of the change was to give representation to minorities. The BSP also directed Ali and Rajya Sabha member Satish Chandra Misra to tour all Scheduled Castes-reserved assembly segments across UP after the Parliament session and hold mass contact programmes.

In a statement, Mayawati said that the BSP meet was organised

of allowing internal movement that amplified into jolts and swaying, the new balance draft gear is equipped with shock-absorbers.

Wear and tear also causes a gap between two couplers fitted together. To get rid of that, engineers have fitted shims in them. And now, the Research Designs and Standards Organisation has been asked to work on a new design of couplers that do not allow the gap to develop even after wear and tear. In addition, train drivers are being counselled not to use air-brakes (that involve the brakes of coaches) at high speeds. Instead, they have been asked to use the dynamic regenerative braking of the engine as far as possible.

The matter has been serious enough for the Railways to insert this program into its Rs 1 lakh crore Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh or special safety fund of the government.

Over the last few months, before the previous NDA government ended its term, Railways marshalled all its resources to get hold of its rakes and complete the retrofit in coaching depots across India.

Muksar

has sharply dipped.

"Last year, the total use of plastic bags was approximately 3,850 kg per month, which has now reduced to 1,780 kg. Wholesale dealers have started placing orders for disposable jute bags. Our estimate is that approximately 1,290 kg of jute bags have replaced plastic bags. Now our concern is the plastic bags that are still being used... we have instructed wholesalers to not sell polybags of less than 11 microns in the market," says Paramjeet Brar, sanitary inspector, Muksar Municipal Council.

"The awareness driver has started giving results. Earlier, I used to spend nearly Rs 500 every month on plastic bags, which has come down to Rs 150. A number of buyers come with cloth bags these days to purchase vegetables," says Ashok Garg, president, Muksar sabzi mandi association.

Team member Sukhi says the campaign has spread to dairies where vendors are asking customers to use metal containers. "A number of dairies sell unbranded milk in plastic bags tied with rubber bands. We told them that milk stored in plastic bags can be cancerous. Now many vendors display our message outside their dairies — 'Let us hold the milk can again, let us not take milk in plastic bags'. Many of them are offering an extra 50 ml per litre free to those who bring their own utensils," says Sukhi.

The campaign's latest focus is on how to reduce the use of plastic plates and cups at langars. "We have started 'Shudh Patar' (Clean Utensils) for which we have produced 500 steel plates. They will be given on rent to organisations that set up langars, at Re 1 per plate," says Goyal.

"Last year, our team held a signature campaign against snacks packed in cheap plastic bags. We collected a total of 20,000 signatures from schoolchildren asking the Prime Minister to ban such packaging material," she says.

For the initiative, the team says it doesn't accept donations and mostly dips into its own pockets or "contributions in kind from a network of around 100 friends".

"For instance, one friend sponsored the steel plates," says Goyal, adding that she has spent about Rs 20,000 of her own so far. Says Deputy Commissioner MK Aravind Kumar: "We have already started a drive to end the clutter of plastic in Muksar for which regular checks are done at shops. It is really appreciable that a few residents have initiated such a strong campaign that has helped our drive."

The retrofit solution to eliminate the jolts involved replacing the single pack draft gear or floating plate draft gear with balanced draft gear in the Centre Buffer Couplers. While CBCs had a fault

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3 THE CITY

UNDER UNION HEALTH MINISTER'S 100-DAY AGENDA

New 300-bed RML wing among plans for Centre-run hospitals

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 23



The NDMC will construct the 300-bed super-specialty wing of Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital at Moti Bagh

CENTRAL DELHI'S Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) hospital is soon expected to get another campus at Moti Bagh. Part of Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan's 100-day agenda, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) will construct a 300-bed super-specialty wing of the hospital at Moti Bagh.

It will be built on 3.2 acre land that houses the NDMC veterinary hospital and a school, which will be shifted. "Our super-specialty wing will then be shifted there. Initially, the cancer institute will be moved to the Moti Bagh campus and other super-specialty departments will be shifted gradually. The project will be ready in two years," Dr VK Tiwari, medical superintendent of RML hospital, told *The Indian Express*.

The hospital sees around 7,000-8,000 patients daily in its out-patient department and more than 1,000 patients in its

said Dr Sunil Gupta, medical superintendent of Safdarjung Hospital. The hospital caters to around 8,000-10,000 patients in a day.

Starting an OPD clinic at RML hospital is also on the agenda.

For the country's top medical institute, the Centre plans to start MBBS courses at six new campuses in other states. Work on the surgical block at AIIMS will soon be kicked off, said officials.

With a capacity of 200 beds and 12 fully equipped operation theatres, the block will come as a relief to hundreds of patients in the long waiting list.

According to sources, other projects at AIIMS will be made functional within 100 days. In reply to a question asked in the Lok Sabha on June 21, the Ministry said that new facilities/blocks such as surgical blocks, National Cancer Institute at Jhajjar, mother and child block, new private ward, geriatrics block and new OPD block have been approved to cater to the increasing demand of patients.

emergency ward.

The agenda also includes a new surgical block at AIIMS, and an evening OPD clinic as a pilot project at Safdarjung Hospital.

Vardhan, who took charge of the post on June 3, has laid the outline of his plans for the three Centre-run government hospitals in Delhi, as the state goes to polls early next year. Safdarjung Hospital is also expected to start

robotic surgery, for which purchases are in process.

"We have communicated to the Ministry about the need to have an evening OPD clinic. The facility will be helpful for several daily wage workers who have to skip work to visit a morning OPD... We will observe it for a while and the initiative will then be extended by the government to other hospitals,"

Man arrested for threatening Manoj Tiwari

New Delhi: Police Sunday arrested a 25-year-old for allegedly sending a death threat to Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari.

Police identified the accused as Guddu and said he allegedly got Tiwari's number from the internet.

He sent the death threat to get attention, police said. In his message, Guddu said he wanted to kill Tiwari out of "compulsion". Guddu is a resident of Buxar in Bihar. **ENS**

Ex-journalist shot at in East Delhi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

A FORMER TV journalist was injured after being shot at multiple times by two unknown assailants in East Delhi's New Ashok Nagar just after midnight on Sunday.

Police said the incident took place on Dharamshila Road near Vasundhara Enclave, when Mitali Chandola (38) was driving through the area in her car around 12.15 am.

DCP (East) Jasmeet Singh said another car with two unidenti-

fied persons overtook Chandola's car on a bridge before firing three shots at her. Police have recovered three empty cartridges from the crime scene.

"They first threw eggs on the driver's window to the right... prompting Chandola to stop. Within seconds, three shots were fired at her car... two pierced through the windshield and one hit her on the right upper-arm. It is an entry and exit wound, but not life threatening," Singh said.

A passerby called police and took Chandola to Dharamshila

Narayana Superspecialty Hospital, the DCP said.

Hospital staff said she was discharged around 4 am. When *The Indian Express* contacted her, Chandola said she was being wheeled in for surgery.

A case has been registered under IPC section 307 (attempt to murder) at New Ashok Nagar police station.

"We are investigating this from all possible angles, whether it is a personal issue or a possible robbery bid," DCP Singh said.

Police said there are no CCTV cameras covering the stretch.

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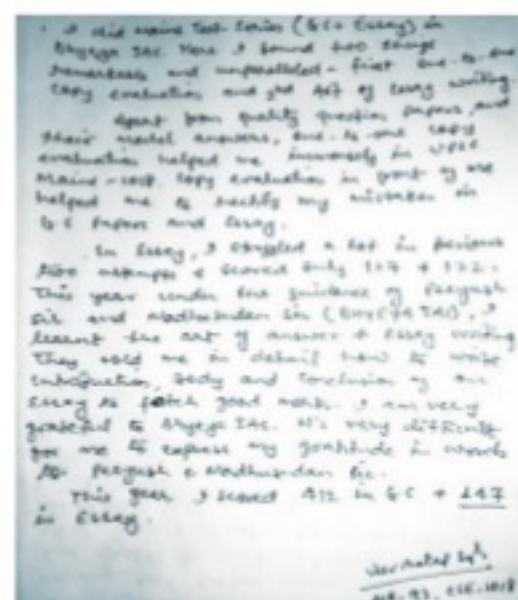
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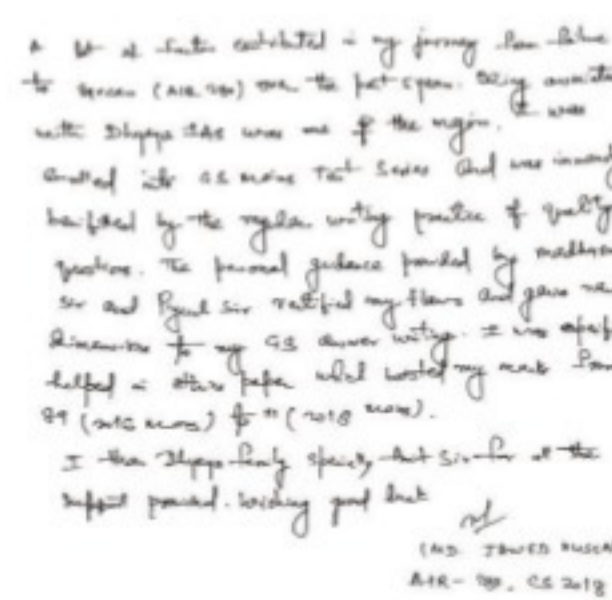
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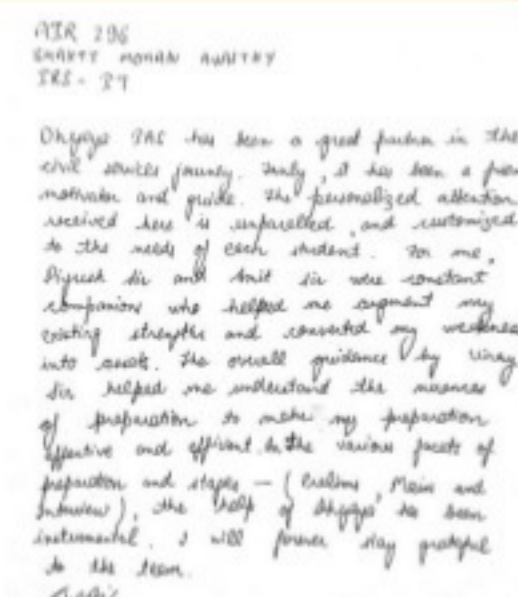
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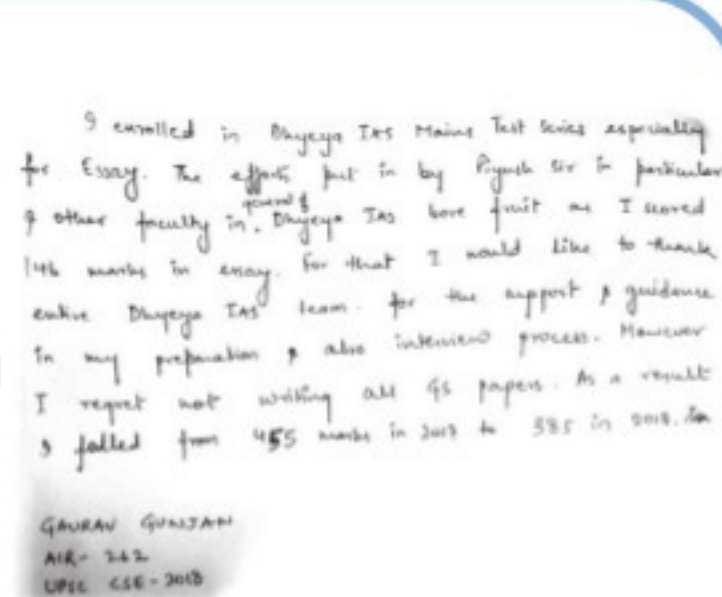
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ESSAY - 146





PATIENTS, PATIENCE AT AIIMS

The assault on doctors at a West Bengal hospital has exposed fault lines between an overburdened healthcare set-up and desperate patients. Spending a day with an AIIMS doctor, and a patient, suggests each side is well aware of struggles of the other

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

IT'S 8 am on Friday and several pink files have started to pile up on his desk. Dr Sunil Kumar, associate professor of surgical oncology at the country's top medical institute, AIIMS, is going through a list of patients who could possibly be scheduled for operation on Monday. A visit to the in-patient department, follow-up with patients who have been operated on, attending a four-hour OPD clinic, performing surgeries and pursuing academic projects is what makes up the day for most faculty members and doctors at Dr B R Ambedkar Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital in AIIMS.

The institute, while providing affordable medical services to patients, also has the responsibility of discovering new techniques in an ever-evolving healthcare system. Teaming with patients, the cancer institute witnesses a footfall of around 1,000 people per day. It has close to 210 beds, of which 45 are dedicated to cancer surgeries and six to the ICU. There are 70 faculty members and 100-120 trainee doctors.

Dr Kumar, who joined the institute as an MBBS student, has witnessed qualitative and quantitative changes on campus. And like almost every doctor, he has seen his fair share

of stirs over violence against doctors.

"Sometimes, patience among patients is missing. But it's not their fault. Everyone who is agitated or upset at the hospital has a reason. Violence happens because sometimes, the extent of delivery fails to meet expectations. But the problem is deep-rooted and not as simplistic as it looks from the outside. It is important to understand why someone is angry, but also why the person sitting on the opposite chair is not screaming," he says.

A meeting with a team of doctors is slated after an hour. "Generally, this time of the day, with the OPDs, is the busiest. Today, I have a clinic from 2 pm to 6 pm, so before that, I have to look after patients who are already admitted, and those requiring special attention," says Dr Kumar, leaving for a radiology meeting.

Around 9.45 am, nine doctors sit across a table examining CT scans, MRIs and other medical reports. One by one, reports are displayed on a screen, with each doctor expressing his or her opinion on the course of treatment for each patient. The meeting lasts an hour, and the green signal is given for five patients to be operated upon on Monday. "It's time to visit the patients," says Dr Kumar, moving towards the wards.

"Theek hain? Koi taqleef toh nahin paani peene mein? Nigal pa rahe hain na? (Are you facing any trouble while drinking water? Are you able to swallow?)" he asks a 50-year-old patient, who recently underwent surgery for oral cancer. A communication gap, he says, partly explains increasing friction between doctors and patients.

"All said and done, patients have huge respect for doctors. All they need to know is that there are people available to help them. Any patient waiting outside the OPD for hours will be agitated if not communicated with. Each patient should be explained, realistically, without hiding facts," he says.

The next hour is spent in four wards on the second floor. At each bed, he tries to explain the patient's condition, spending 10-15 minutes. A group of junior doctors walk with him, noting down observations and suggestions. "Teaching and learning are not confined to a classroom. We all are learning every day with the number of diverse cases coming to AIIMS. There are many things not explained in books, but we learn about them while dealing with the human body," he says.

Talking about the emotional breakdown of several patients, he explains how mentioning the word "cancer" frightens almost everyone. Every doctor at AIIMS clears rigorous entrance tests after beating thousands of competitors across the country. According to doctors, 95% of patients visiting the hospital cannot afford facilities at private institutes. "The cost of cancer treatment is huge and not everyone can meet the expenses. Plus it's not just the money but the kind of expertise doctors at AIIMS have. Given a choice, every doctor would want to join the top medical institute as it gives freedom of intellectual

expression and research opportunities. Of course, money is not equivalent to what is paid in a private set-up, but then people have a choice to make," says Dr Kumar, walking to the ground floor to attend the OPD, which is already packed with hundreds of patients.

The cancer institute has a special clinic for every organ, each managed by a surgeon along with three specialist doctors. As the clinic starts at 2 pm, the rush outside the OPD is massive, especially since facilities were shut recently when AIIMS doctors joined nationwide protests against the assault on two junior resident doctors at Kolkata's NRS Medical College.

There are three-four patients inside the clinic at a time, and around four-five minutes are spent on each. "Achi baat hai, you are lucky," Dr Kumar tells a patient who was suspected to have lung cancer till tests ruled it out. After 10 minutes, a stack of a patient's records is brought in. As two people try to enter, doctors request them to send only one. "But sir, he is my father, let him come inside," says a woman in his late 30s.

"Bohot bheed hai, hum sabko dekhenge. You come first, we'll explain the situation and call your father if need be," says Dr Kumar.

"If it is a follow-up, we ask one person to come inside so we can explain the situation," he says. "A doctor is equally keen on giving more time to a patient. But giving extra time to one will reduce time slotted for the next. There is a huge gap between demand and supply in the health system, and specific infrastructure is required to tackle the load."

Waiting time for getting a surgery date, for instance, is almost three months.

An hour into the OPD consultation, a 50-year-old patient and a guard get into an argument. Troubled by the shouting, Dr Kumar calls the patient inside. "I don't have a valid document; will the doctor not see us? I have come from Bihar and the guard is not letting us in," says the patient, holding a sheaf of papers.

Dr Kumar writes something on the OPD card and hands it to the man: "I have given him an exemption so that doctors from our department can have a look at him. We have to take such decisions to avoid confrontations."

Dr S V S Deo, professor and head of department of surgical oncology at AIIMS, says: "Earlier, values among people were based on trust and respect for doctors, but the trend has changed in the last two-three decades. Volume and quality of time is a huge problem in India. The structure of hospitals is such that everything is left on doctors. There should be a support system in place. At times, we have to enter the OPD with a security guard. The government should work towards strengthening the peripheral system."

At 4 pm, Dr Kumar leaves one clinic and moves to another, where he is greeted by more patients. "Namaste baba ji, ab tabiyat kaisi hai?" he asks a patient, the first of many he will see over the next two hours.

ACROSS THE TABLE

'The whole world comes here, some difficulty understandable'

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

IT COULD WELL BE an unremarkable journey between a western Uttar Pradesh hamlet and the national capital, separated by a few hundred kilometres and seven hours — for a day job, college admission, or a wedding.

Except, the destination for this particular journey is the cancer wing of AIIMS. And the traveller a patient of advanced stage breast cancer, 70-year-old Kamalesh Devi.

On June 21, *The Indian Express* spent the day with Devi and trailed her youngest son Hemraj Chauhan (34) at the OPD registration counter of the cancer wing to understand the challenges patients face at the country's most prestigious Centre-run hospital.

The arrival: A resident of Bijnor district's Mirza Alipur village, Devi left home around 6.30 am Friday, covered around 200 km in a hired car, and reached AIIMS at 1 pm, accompanied by her son Prem Raj Chauhan (45) and grandson Ashish (19).

It took another two hours for her to get an audience with the on-duty OPD specialist Dr Atul Batra, treating her since January 2019 — the first time she was brought to AIIMS following trips to the hospital's Rishikesh branch and a few local hospitals.

By the time Devi arrives, the queue outside the cancer OPD has spilled onto the road outside the Dr B R Ambedkar Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital, a seven-storey facility with a capacity of 210 beds, inaugurated by the late PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2003.

It takes around 30 minutes for Ashish to arrange a wheelchair for his grandmother. "They ask for Aadhaar before giving a wheelchair. Or any other valid ID," he says.

While the medical expenditure isn't much, Prem points out that travel expenses, Rs 4,000 for a round trip between Bijnor and Delhi, can be prohibitive, especially considering that the family has made seven such trips since January.

"A CT scan cost us Rs 700, bone scan was for Rs 600, while we were not charged for the biopsy. We have no complaints with the healthcare facilities. Saari duniya



(Top) At Dr B R Ambedkar Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital in AIIMS. It has a special clinic for every organ, each managed by a surgeon along with three specialist doctors; (above) Kamalesh Devi (70), who has advanced breast cancer, waits to see the doctor. Photos: Tashi Tobgyal

aa rahi hai idhar, thodi dikkat toh hogi hi (the entire world is coming here for treatment, a little difficulty is nothing unusual)," Prem says.

The wait: Outside, the temperature is within touching distance of 40 degrees Celsius. But Devi has nowhere to go. The waiting hall, with a low ceiling and barely adequate central air-conditioning, is packed with patients and their kin from across India, and even Nepal and Bangladesh.

Having found no space inside, a few families position themselves under ceiling fans

outside the waiting hall. Devi's wheelchair sits on steps leading to the drinking water taps outside.

She is exhausted, visibly short of breath, and in pain. A few red bangles hang loosely from her hands, the cotton *salwar kameez* barely fits her, but streaks of grey have failed to overshadow her thick black hair.

But until Hemraj arrives from Gurgaon, where he is employed with the technical team of a private insurance firm, Devi has no option but to wait. "Hemraj handles all the paperwork. He will get the *parchi* (slip)

required for a follow-up appointment," Prem says.

The unrelenting heat is making Devi nauseous. She has had one round of radiotherapy and since then, she's been put on medicines, her family says.

At 2.30 pm, she reaches out to Ashish for water, who fills a steel glass they carried along with some *namkeen*, a pillow, a torn cloth and a bundle of clothes.

Devi fails to take even a sip. "Khana toh dur ki baat (Food is out of question)," Ashish says.

A little later, Devi gestures that she wants to get off the wheelchair and sit on the ground.

Ashish and Prem help her sit on her haunches, reclined against a pillow. A few minutes later, she expresses her desire to lie down, prompting Ashish to lay out the torn piece of cloth.

The queue: The waiting lounge on the ground floor of IRCH is buzzing. Private security guards, equipped with portable microphones for them to be audible, are busy maintaining discipline and order, shouting dos and don'ts every few seconds.

An information desk is to the right, followed by a help desk and 10 counters — for general enquiry, submission of reimbursement forms, collection of certificates, familial cancer care, new cases, old cases, revisits, disbursement of investigation reports, and day-care appointments.

On the left is the 'board room', which houses the breast cancer OPD, followed by the chemotherapy unit, the CT scan ward and two toilets.

Since Devi's case is a revisit, Hemraj walks straight to the counter, which continues to be crowded well after 2 pm as many appointments were rescheduled to Friday in the wake of the recent doctors' strike.

The slip he is handed reads 92. "But it hardly means anything — patients are not called as per the number. Communication is a major area of concern for patients. Many, especially first-timers, are confused about the counters they should queue up at. Guards are also under a lot of pressure but they should be trained not to act rude and to talk politely, with empathy," Hemraj says.

At 3.35 pm, the guard stationed inside the board room calls out Devi's name. Hemraj rushes outside to fetch her, but by the time she is wheeled inside, the guard has shut the door to the OPD. "Aapko jab bulaya gaya aap nahi aaye, ab intezar kijiye, andar bohot bheed hai (You didn't come when your name was called, now you wait, it is very crowded inside)," the guard says.

Twenty minutes later, the doors open again, and Devi is taken inside.

Congratulations Delhi!

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

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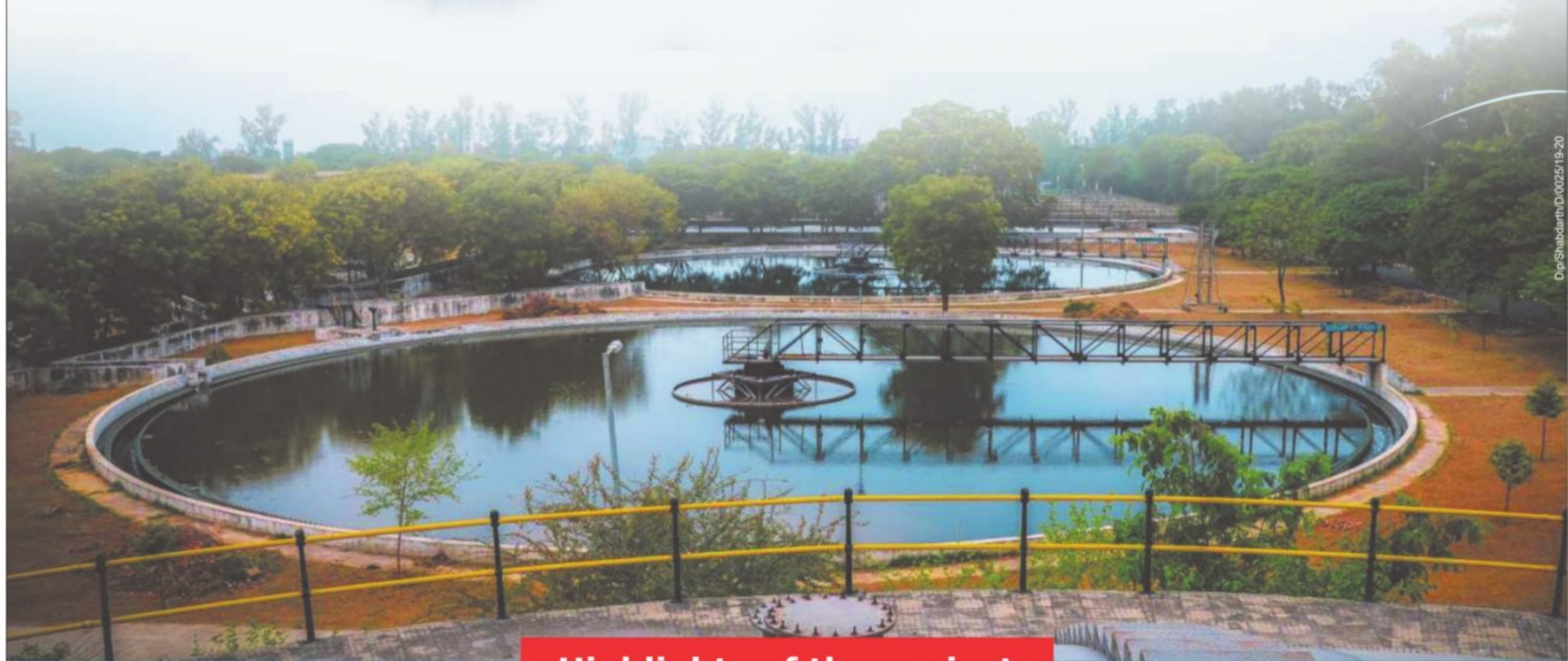
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- Completion of work will provide better living conditions to the public.
- Total cost of project is approx. Rs. 599 Crore and is to be completed in 3 years.

7 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



ZOOMING IN ON CAMS

CCTV POLITICS is in the air. As Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal gears up to install CCTVs in the national capital, and BJP's East Delhi MP Gautam Gambhir took a dig at the AAP chief after installing these cameras in his constituency, it was Railways Minister Piyush Goyal's turn on Sunday to flaunt the power of CCTVs in trains. Goyal tweeted that with the help of the footage captured in CCTVs in a train, the Railway Protection Force was able to nab within 48 hours two thieves who were allegedly stealing mobile phones of passengers.

APPEAL FOR TEMPLE

BEFORE THE Lok Sabha polls, RSS and Vishwa Hindu Parishad leaders had been aggressively demanding a law to enable building of Ram temple in Ayodhya. After the polls, in which the BJP secured a mandate even larger than in 2014, the VHP, which held the first meeting of its kendra margdarshak mandal in Haridwar last week, is yet to demand a Bill or ordinance on the issue. The organisation's argument is that any new law will be challenged in court. The VHP has now passed a resolution appealing to the Chief Justice of India and the government to make way for building Ram Mandir in Ayodhya at the earliest.

LEADING FROM FRONT

WHILE HE has been assigned organisational responsibility in the party, the BJP's new national working president, Jagat Prakash Nadda, seems all set to lead from the front as a legislator in Rajya Sabha as well. Nadda, in fact, has been listed to lead the party in the Upper House on Monday to initiate discussion on the motion of thanks to the President's Address. In Lok Sabha, the task has been assigned to first-time MP from Odisha and Union Minister of State for Animal Husbandry Pratap Chandra Sarangi.



Union Home Minister and BJP chief Amit Shah and the party's working president J P Nadda pay tribute to Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his death anniversary, in New Delhi on Sunday. Prem Nath Pandey

SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE'S DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Nehru didn't order probe into Mookerjee's death: Nadda

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

BJP WORKING president J P Nadda on Sunday said Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee had died under mysterious circumstances but history is witness to the fact that then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru did not order a probe despite demands for inquiry by his mother and people across the country.

Addressing BJP workers after paying tributes to Mookerjee on his 66th death anniversary, Nadda said that Mookerjee's sacrifice will not go in vain, and that the BJP is committed to fulfilling his vision. Paying tributes to Mookerjee at the BJP headquarters, BJP president Amit Shah said that it is due to Mookerjee's sacrifice that people from other states can today travel to Jammu and Kashmir without permit, and that West Bengal is an integral part of India. The BJP organised events in

different cities to pay tributes to Mookerjee, who was the first Union Industries minister.

Speaking in Bengaluru, former Karnataka chief minister and BJP state president B S Yeddyurappa also charged the Congress with not investigating the "mysterious" death of Mookerjee, PFI reported. "He (Mookerjee) died under mysterious circumstances. The Congress government under Jawaharlal Nehru did not do any investigation. Nehru did not respond to the letter by Mookerjee's mother to probe her son's death."

The BJP leader alleged that Nehru "victimised" Mookerjee — like he did to the architect of Constitution Dr B R Ambedkar and the country's first Home Minister Vallabhbhai Patel. Union minister and Lok Sabha MP from Udhampur Jitendra Singh, alleged that former Jammu and Kashmir CM Sheikh Abdullah had illegally detained Mookerjee for 44 days in a jail in the state in 1953, reported PFI.

Mookerjee had died in police custody in Srinagar in 1953 after he had entered J&K, defying requirement for obtaining a permit. The then government had said he had died due to medical reasons after his health conditions deteriorated in custody. The Jana Sangh had suspected foul play and sought a probe.

At the BJP headquarters in Delhi, Nadda said that Mookerjee had resigned from the Union Cabinet to protest against Nehru's appeasement policy, and the "Nehru-Liaquat Ali pact".

The 1950 agreement between Nehru and his Pakistan counterpart, Liaquat Ali, was to safeguard the rights of minorities in both countries.

Nadda said that when Mookerjee died under mysterious circumstances, questions were raised across the country about his death, given that the Jana Sangh leader was completely healthy while entering Jammu a month before that.

"Mookerjee made a sacrifice. His sacrifice will never go in vain, and the BJP is committed to that," Nadda said.

Nadda also said that Mookerjee brought Jammu and Kashmir into the country's mainstream. "We are taking this agenda (bringing J&K to the mainstream) forward under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The party has moved ahead with complete strength on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

According to Jitendra Singh, when Nehru and then Union Home minister K N Katju arrived in Srinagar as Sheikh Abdullah's guests on the May 24, 1953, none of the three bothered to inquire about Mookerjee, who was lodged in a jail just a few kilometers away. Even when Mookerjee died "under mysterious circumstances" at 3.40 am on June 23, 1953, the news of his death was held back for several hours and was broadcast on All India Radio only at 12.50 pm, Singh maintained.

No locus standi: MEA on US state dept report on religious freedom

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

INDIA ON Sunday rejected a US State Department report which criticised the status of minorities here, saying it has "no locus standi" to "pronounce on the state of our citizens' constitutionally protected rights".

In response to a query on the latest 'Report on International Religious Freedom' published by the State Department, the Ministry of External Affairs official spokesperson Raveesh Kumar underlined that India is a vibrant democracy where the fundamental rights of all its citizens, including minorities, are protected under the Constitution. "We see no locus standi for a foreign entity/government to pronounce on the state of our citizens' constitutionally protected rights," he said.

Significantly, the report was released just ahead of US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's visit to India from June 25. "India is proud of its secular credentials, its status as the largest democracy and a pluralistic society with a longstanding commitment to tolerance and inclusion," Kumar said. "The Indian Constitution guarantees fundamental rights to all its citizens, including its minority communities," the MEA spokesperson said.

"It is widely acknowledged that India is a vibrant democracy where the Constitution provides protection of religious freedom, and where democratic governance and rule of law further promote and protect the fundamental rights."

The US State Department report stated, "Some senior officials of the Hindu-majority Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) made inflammatory speeches against minority communities. Mob attacks by violent extremist Hindu groups against minority groups, especially Muslims, continued throughout the year amid rumors that victims had traded or killed cows for beef."

It added, "The central and state governments and members of political parties took steps that affected Muslim practices and institutions. The government continued its challenge in the Supreme Court to the minority status of Muslim educational institutions, which affords them independence in hiring and curriculum decisions. Proposals to rename Indian cities with Muslim provenance continued, most notably the renaming of Allahabad to Prayagraj."

The BJP had reacted strongly to the report on Saturday, saying that it "shows clear bias against the Modi government and BJP". Drawing on the slogan "sabka saath, sabka vikas," the party said that its "mega-schemes" have cut across castes and religion.

CJI writes to PM for removal of HC judge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

MONTHS AFTER an in-house panel found Allahabad High Court Justice S N Shukla guilty of misconduct by an internal probe, Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to initiate a motion for his removal.

A three-judge in-house committee had in January 2018 concluded that there was sufficient substance in the allegations contained in the complaint against Justice Shukla and that the aberrations were serious enough to call for initiation of proceedings for his removal.

Following the committee's report, the then CJI Dipak Mishra, in accordance with the relevant in-house procedure, advised Justice Shukla to either resign or seek voluntary retirement forthwith.

After he refused to do so, the then CJI had asked the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court to withdraw judicial work from him with immediate effect, after which he reportedly went on a long leave. On March 23, Justice Shukla wrote a letter to Gogoi which was forwarded by the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, requesting that he be allowed to discharge judicial work in the high court.

"As the allegations against Justice Shukla were found by the

committee to be so serious as to warrant the initiation of proceedings for his removal, he cannot be allowed to resume judicial work in any high court. In these circumstances, you are requested to consider further action," Gogoi wrote to the PM.

When the CJI writes to the President and the prime minister for removal of a high court judge, the Rajya Sabha chairperson appoints a three-judge inquiry committee in consultation with the CJI under the provisions of the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 to look into the allegations. The committee appointed by the Rajya Sabha chairperson would examine the evidence and records, and opine if the same formed the basis for whether or not removal motion must be debated in Upper House.

Justice Shukla, who was heading a division bench in the high court, had allegedly defied the restraint orders passed by a CJI-led bench of the apex court last year to permit private colleges to admit students for the 2017-18 session.

Surjewala slams Yogi govt over law and order situation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

THE CONGRESS on Sunday slammed the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh over alleged atrocities against women and girls, alleging that a "jungle raj-like eclipse" has been cast over law and order in the state.

Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala alleged that under the Yogi Adityanath government, trend of atrocities against women and innocent girls continues.

"Under the BJP rule in Uttar Pradesh, jungle raj-like eclipse has been cast over law and order," he tweeted in Hindi, tagging a media report on the alleged rape of a four-year-old girl in Aligarh.

"Let alone getting justice for the victims, the UP government is sitting like Dhritrashtra with a blindfold," he said. Surjewala also slammed the UP government over the killing of a Dalit girl in Unnao and alleged that law and order have collapsed in the state.

"The Ajay Singh Bisht rule has become synonymous with Dalit atrocities and heinous crimes," he said in another tweet.



Randeep Surjewala

"The law and order situation has collapsed due to the incidents in Kushinagar, Pratapgarh, Muzaffarnagar, Gorakhpur," Surjewala said, referring to recent crimes in the state. "Is this jungle raj or not," he asked.

Surjewala's attack comes days after Congress general secretary in charge of eastern Uttar Pradesh, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, cited several reports of killings and rapes in Uttar Pradesh, saying innocents were being subjected to cruelty, but the government was not concerned.

"In Uttar Pradesh, innocents are being subjected to cruelty. Women are being pushed to an atmosphere of fear, but the UP government is not concerned," she had said in a Twitter post.

Rape-accused BSP MP now booked for 'false' poll affidavit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, JUNE 23

HOURS after newly elected BSP MP Atul Kumar Singh, alias Atul Rai, surrendered before a court in Varanasi in connection with a rape case, police in Mau lodged an FIR against the Ghosi MP for allegedly hiding information about the number of criminal cases against him in his affidavit submitted during the Lok Sabha polls.

BJP candidate Hari Narayan, who lost by over 1.22 lakh votes, had lodged a complaint against Rai to the District Magistrate of Mau before the poll results were declared. Narayan had alleged that Rai hid details of some of the criminal cases against him.

"In the affidavit submitted to the Election Commission, Atul Kumar Singh had stated that there were 13 cases against him. The report sent by DIG, Election Cell, informed us that there are 24 cases against him. On the basis of a complaint by Assistant District



Ghosi MP Atul Kumar Singh

Election Officer Shabir Ahmed, an FIR was lodged against Atul Kumar at City Kotwali police station on Saturday," said Circle Officer, City (Mau), Raj Kumar.

Rai had been booked under IPC sections 177 (furnishing false information), 181 (false statement on oath or affirmation to public servant or person authorised to administer an oath or affirmation), 419 (cheating by personation), 467 (forgery of valuable security, will, etc.), 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating), 471 (using as genuine a forged document or electronic record), said Station House Officer, City Kotwali police station, (Mau)

Pankaj Kumar Singh.

Police have invoked 125 Representation of People Act against the BSP MP, who is currently lodged in Varanasi district jail.

The complainant Hari Narayan said he came to know about 32 criminal cases against Rai from media reports.

Rai was booked in a rape case on May 1 at Lanka police station in Varanasi after a 30-year-old woman alleged that the BSP leader had been sexually harassing her since March last year.

After Rai could not be traced, Varanasi police moved court and obtained a non-bailable warrant against him on May 3. On a request by police, the court later declared him a proclaimed offender.

Earlier, Rai had claimed that he was being falsely implicated and alleged that the complainant had taken money from him, and when he asked her to return it, she threatened to implicate him in a false case. On Saturday, Rai appeared before a local court which sent him to judicial custody for 14 days.

BJP looks to enter Durga Puja committees to boost 'Bengali' image

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA KOLKATA, JUNE 23

BOLSTERED BY its Lok Sabha success, the BJP now wants to be part of Durga Puja in a big way throughout West Bengal. Party leaders are approaching puja organisers to be a part of respective committees in an effort to steal the show from Trinamool Congress.

Leaders are also learnt to have expressed interest in getting sponsors and top national leaders for inauguration of these pujas.

This year, Durga Puja is scheduled to be held from October 4, and organising committees are at present being formed at many places.

While Left Front leaders did not associate themselves with the organising committees, TMC leaders were at the helm of big

Durga Pujas in Kolkata and the districts even before 2011. Since assuming power, TMC leaders have become patrons or presidents of most big Puja committees. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee last year inaugurated dozens of pujas in Kolkata, most of which had TMC leaders in the organising committees.

The TMC government also organises a Durga Puja carnival on Red Road in the state capital after the festival is over.

BJP leaders said that they are getting calls from puja committees in localities of constituencies that sent BJP representatives to Parliament for their active participation.

"Our party leaders and workers will be part of Durga Puja throughout Bengal. I will inaugurate pujas," Lok Sabha MP from Medinipur and state BJP president Dilip Ghosh said.

Dinesh Pandey, BJP president



Dilip Ghosh

of North Kolkata district, said: "We have asked all party leaders, portfolio holders and workers to approach puja committees and clubs. It is the biggest festival of Bengal and we want to be part of the organising committee. But unlike TMC, we don't believe in controlling it (puja). We have promised these clubs and committees that if they want, we can get them good sponsors. We can

EXPLAINED Aimed to counter TMC's 'Bengali' image

THROUGH THIS, BJP plans to combat TMC's push to build up a 'Bengali' image in the state that goes to the polls in two years. Since the Lok Sabha polls, Mamata Banerjee's party has put up busts of several Bengal luminaries, including Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, whose bust was vandalised during BJP chief Amit Shah's roadshow in Kolkata, and Swami Vivekananda.

Pitching itself against "outsider" BJP, TMC MPs raised slogans of "Joy Bangla" and "Joy Ma Kali" during the recent Lok Sabha swearing-in event. Banerjee also asked Hindi-speakers to learn Bangla. By focusing on Durga Puja, which the Banerjee government claims to have put special focus on, the saffron party hopes to take the wind out of TMC's Bengali identity sails.

also request national party leaders to inaugurate Durga Pujas."

Sources said the party is keen to bring in the likes of Amit Shah, Smriti Irani and Yogi Adityanath,

among other national leaders, to inaugurate these pujas across the state.

The BJP, which is known to participate and organise Ram

Navami and Hanuman Jayanti across West Bengal, had earlier got little space to be part of Durga Puja committees. Party leaders led rallies across the state even during Ram Navami celebrations during the Lok Sabha polls in April.

"After the Lok Sabha polls, we are getting calls from various clubs and community pujas to be part of the festival. We are willingly accepting such proposals," said Subir Nag, Hooghly district BJP president — BJP's Locket Chatterjee defeated two-time TMC MP Ratna De Nag in Hooghly.

Debashish Chakraborty, BJP president of Jalpaiguri district, said, "I am part of the puja organising committee in my neighbourhood. Many of our workers and leaders, who were earlier not allowed to take part, are now getting calls from organisers and clubs." BJP's Jayanta Kumar Roy won from Jalpaiguri.



NORTH

Five killed in three separate accidents in Jammu

Jammu: Five people were killed and 31 others injured on Sunday in three separate road accidents across Jammu region. Five people were killed and an equal number of people injured when a tempo traveller skid off the road and fell into a 400-foot gorge in border Rajouri district. Seventeen people were

injured when a van turned turtle on the road near Janderli in Kathua district, and nine others were injured when a cruiser turned turtle on the road on Bandarkot-Kishtwar road. The vehicle was on way to Kishtwar, and the injured people were taken to hospital, it was informed. **ENS**



Stuntmen rehearse ahead of the annual Rath Yatra, in Ahmedabad on Sunday. The 14-day yatra is set to begin on July 4 this year. **PTI**

WEST

Robbers decamp with ATM machine carrying Rs 30 lakh

Pune: A gang of robbers entered an ATM kiosk of the SBI in Pune district and decamped with the cash machine, a police official said on Sunday. There was nearly Rs 30 lakh cash in the ATM when the heist took place around 1.45 am in Yavat area, about 60 km from the city, the official said. The unidentified robbers used

a rope and a sports utility vehicle to uproot the cash dispensing machine from the kiosk, the senior police official said. "They first blackened the CCTV installed at the ATM centre by using a black spray and then tied the cash vending machine to a rope and pulled it away with the help of an SUV," he added. **PTI**

EAST

American aid worker arrested in Meghalaya for 'assault'

Guwahati: An American social worker, engaged in the education sector in rural Chhattisgarh and with a non-profit organisation for visually challenged people in Meghalaya, was arrested in Shillong after he allegedly assaulted a judicial magistrate and her mother, landlady of the property where the NGO is housed, police

said on Sunday. Theodore M Moallem was helping establish a non-profit in Meghalaya. "He was arrested after a verbal altercation broke out between him and the landlady and her family. Altercation gave way to exchange of blows and then both parties registered complaints against each other," a police officer said. **ENS**

SOUTH

81 former prisoners in Telangana secure jobs

Hyderabad: As many as 81 released prisoners across Telangana have been placed in various jobs, including as marketing executives and technicians, with salaries ranging from Rs 10,000-30,000, through the efforts of state Prisons Department. They were part of 129 released prisoners who at-

tended the 'Job Mela-2019' organised by the department on Saturday, in which eight companies took part. Others landed jobs as drivers, house-keeping, data entry operators, electricians, helpers, an official told mediapersons, adding that their salaries also ranged between Rs 10,000 and Rs 30,000. **PTI**

Barmer: pandal collapses in storm, 16 killed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, JUNE 23

AT LEAST 16 people died of electrocution and nearly 50 others were injured when a pandal collapsed due to strong winds during 'Ram Katha' at a Barmer village on Sunday afternoon, police officials said.

"As many as 16 people, including two women and a 15-year-old kid, died when a gale hit the tents in Jasol village where the *katha* was being organised. The collapsing pandal damaged electricity wires, which electrocuted several listeners," Inspector General, Jodhpur Range, Sachin Mittal said.

Mittal said 25 people were undergoing treatment in Balotra. "At least 16 people have died

in the incident and about 50 are injured. Reasons of the deaths will be clear after postmortem," Additional Superintendent of Police, Balotara, Ratan Lal Bhargava said.

The incident took place in Jasol village in Barmer's Balotra. The *katha* was organised by Rani Bhatiyani Temple in the village, and a large number of people had come to listen to 'Katha vachak' Murlidhar Maharaj.

In one of the videos of the incident, Murlidhar Maharaj can be seen looking around while reciting the *katha* as the pandal swerves around him. The video shows him stopping and remarking, "The wind is strong...will have to stop the *katha*." As a part of the pandal uprooted, which was not captured by the video, Murlidhar



The incident took place in Balotra. The *katha* was organised by Rani Bhatiyani Temple, Jasol, and a large number of people had come to listen to 'Katha vachak' Murlidhar Maharaj. **PTI**

said, "Bahut tez hai, pandal udd raha hai. Log khali kar dije, nikaliye bahar sabhi (The wind is strong and the pandal is flying off. Please vacate the pandal)."

Within seconds, Murlidhar left his place and the pandal collapsed behind him, the video shows. No immediate information was available about his condition.

A local shopkeeper said residents who rushed to rescue the victims felt current flowing in the structure of the pandal. They rescued those trapped inside and took them to hospitals in private vehicles and mini-vans, he said.

Expressing his condolence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted, "Collapse of a 'Pandal' in Rajasthan's Barmer is unfortunate. My thoughts are with the bereaved families and I wish the injured a quick recovery."

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot expressed his grief over the deaths and announced an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh to kin of each of the deceased, and up to Rs 2 lakh to the injured. He also directed Jodhpur's Divisional Commissioner, B L Kothari, to probe into the incident. Gehlot tweeted that the local

administration was carrying out relief work.

Union Minister of State for Agriculture Kailash Chaudhary, who is the local MP, said he was leaving for Barmer from Delhi to meet the families of the victim and the injured.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah tweeted: "Pained to know about the loss of lives due to collapse of a Pandal in Barmer, Rajasthan. I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families. May the injured recover quickly."

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee also condoled the deaths and tweeted, "Saddened at the deaths after the tent collapse in Barmer, Rajasthan. My condolences to the grieving families. Our prayers that the injured recover quickly."



The ICU at Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital in Muzaffarpur. **Ritesh Shukla**

AT GROUND ZERO OF BIHAR'S AES CRISIS

'Heat, humidity, malnutrition make Muzaffarpur susceptible'

THE ACUTE Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) outbreak in Bihar's Muzaffarpur has claimed the lives of over 130 children so far, with two more deaths reported on Sunday. **Dr G S Sahni**, head of the department of paediatrics at Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital (SKMCH), Muzaffarpur, speaks to **SANTOSH SINGH** on the reasons for the spurt in the number of cases and what is distinct about the climate of Muzaffarpur that makes its residents susceptible to AES. Excerpts:

Is there anything distinct about AES cases this year?

This year, of over 450 AES registered at SKMCH so far, 90 per cent are cases of hypoglycaemia (low blood sugar levels). In previous years, such cases were 60-70 per cent of the total. That apart, the pattern has been more or less the same. The disease is characterised by high or no fever; vomiting and convulsions. Hypoglycaemia and electrolyte imbalance are common reasons for the deaths.

Heat and humidity are often linked to AES. But why did it break out so severely in Muzaffarpur when the weather conditions are common across the state?

Temperature in excess of 38 degrees Celsius coupled with 60 per cent humidity — not just during the day but also at night — make Muzaffarpur distinct and susceptible to AES. While places like Jaisalmer are hot at daytime, the nights are cool. After the 1934 earthquake, Muzaffarpur and some adjoining north Bihar districts became low-lying areas, often becoming bowls of humidity...



Dr G S Sahni, HoD of Paediatrics at SKMCH

When I joined the hospital in 2005, there was an AES outbreak. During treatment over the years, heat, humidity and malnutrition were found to be common factors.

What is the difference between AES incidence in Gorakhpur and Gaya and Muzaffarpur?

Gorakhpur and Gaya have mostly reported Japanese Encephalitis (JE) cases. Muzaffarpur's AES cases can be categorised under encephalopathy, characterised by seizures, declining ability to concentrate and personality change. But there is no inflammation of the brain, as in JE. Members from the National Institute of Virology, Pune, Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta and Christian Medical College, Vellore, which have visited Muzaffarpur in the past, have also concluded that cases here are encephalopathy. They have backed our observation on heat, humidity and malnutrition.

What were the test results of blood samples taken from Muzaffarpur?

The tests found it is not a viral infection. Only symptomatic treatment can be provided to AES patients. The sooner a patient

reaches hospital, the more is the chance of survival. Convulsions mean brain cells are being damaged. Awareness of AES management with oral glucose (ORS) at home and intravenous glucose at the PHC or the nearest available doctor can help. SKMCH has high AES mortality rate only because several patients are brought late.

Is there any connection between litchi and AES?

My first-hand experience shows there is little connection. We have reported a one-year-old child's death due to AES. Could he eat litchi? Most deaths are in age group of two-to three-and-a-half years, when children can hardly eat litchi by their own. Also, litchi toxin can increase SGPT (a liver toxin) level abnormally, but AES patients' SGPT levels were found marginally high. Litchis are not available after the second week of June but AES cases can be reported till mid-July if there are no rains.

What are the health effects on AES survivors?

We have found about 3 to 4 per cent cases of memory impairment and temporary loss of eyesight.

How can SKMCH be better prepared to deal with AES?

We have only a 14-bed paediatric ICU. We have converted one ward into ICU and used other ICUs to prepare 66 beds. We are happy that the Central government has sanctioned a 100-bed ICU, which should be ready by next summer. Also, PHCs have to be improved.

Jharkhand man dies days after he was assaulted for 'theft', made to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'

ABHISHEK ANGAD
SARAIKELA-KHARSAWAN (JHARKHAND), JUNE 23

DAYS AFTER a mob tied him to an electricity pole, beat him up and allegedly forced him to chant "Jai Shri Ram...Jai Hanuman" after accusing him of committing a theft, Tabrez Ansari (22) died on Saturday.

A video of the incident, which took place in Dhatkidih village of Jharkhand's Saraikela Kharsawan district early on Tuesday, shows the mob beating Ansari and asking him to chant "Jai Shri Ram" and "Jai Hanuman". Ansari is seen chanting and pleading with the mob to stop the assault.

On Saturday morning, Ansari, who was in judicial custody for theft, complained of ill-health and was rushed to Sadar Hospital and then to Tata Main Hospital, Jamshepur, where he was declared dead on arrival.

Sadar Hospital Civil Surgeon A N Dey said Ansari could have died of a "heart attack or blockage", but added that the exact cause would be ascertained after post-mortem. Ansari's family members alleged he died because he was "mercilessly beaten" for four hours.

Police reached the spot where Ansari was tied up around 6 am, SP Chandan Sinha said. Ansari was then taken to a police post. According to court documents, his statement was recorded at 9.30 am when he admitted that he had committed the theft with two other men. Thereafter, he was produced in court and remanded in judicial custody.

Police said a case was registered against Ansari under IPC



Tabrez Ansari. Video grab

Sections 457 (lurking house-trespass or housebreak by night), 380 (theft), 411 (dishonestly receiving stolen property) and others.

Complainant Kamal Mahto has told police that he and his family members woke up to a sound and found three men on the rooftop of his neighbour's house around 2 am on June 18. Mahto complained that when they raised an alarm, the three jumped from the roof. Two of them escaped but Ansari hurt his leg and could not run — he hid in a bush where the villagers found him, Mahto has said.

The complaint states that the villagers found in Ansari's possession a motorcycle without a registration number, wallets and a phone later identified as stolen. It says police were informed and Ansari was handed over to them. However, the statement and the FIR do not mention the assault.

Ansari's uncle Maqsood Alam said his nephew did not have any criminal record. "Let us assume he was caught for theft, but tying him up and beating him for hours and then asking him to chant Jai Shri Ram is shocking," Alam said. "His mistake was that he was a Muslim, otherwise he would have been alive."

3 more held for plotting Gadchiroli IED blast

SRINATH RAO
MUMBAI, JUNE 23

THE GADCHIROLI Police arrested three more suspects on Sunday for their alleged involvement in planting the Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in which 15 policemen and a civilian driver were killed last month, a senior officer said.

The suspects — Sonsai Madavi,

Sakaru Gota and Kishan Hidami, natives of Lavari village in Kurkheda Taluka — were arrested during an operation on Sunday evening. The latest arrests take the total number of suspects caught in connection with the attack to seven.

A senior police official claimed there was sufficient evidence to prove the role of the three from Lavari in the conspiracy. "The men have been sup-

porting the Maoists for several years covertly," claimed the official. Earlier this month, the police had arrested senior Maoist leader Narmada and her husband Kiran in Sironcha. The couple is accused of planning the blast.

The attack took place on the Kurkheda-Korchi Road on May 1. A total of 15 Quick Response Team (QRT) men and their civilian driver were killed because of the explosion.

PROPOSAL SENT TO GUJARAT GOVT

Plan to bar begging at 10 religious sites

PARIMAL DABHI
GANDHINAGAR, JUNE 23

IN ORDER to curb begging at 10 renowned religious sites in Gujarat, the state's Social Justice and Empowerment Department has proposed to notify these locations under the Prevention of Begging Act.

The proposal has been sent to the state government to accommodate it in the upcoming Budget session of the Assembly, scheduled to begin on July 2.

The 10 places that have been proposed to be notified are Pavagadh (in the Panchmahals district), Palitana (Bhavnagar), Junagadh and Becharaji (Mehsana), Shamlaji (Aravalli), Sidhpur (Patan), Ambaji



An aim to help tourists

WITH THE 10 places under consideration being popular destinations for religious tourism, and begging being particularly prevalent there, the proposal to notify them under the Prevention of Begging Act is seen as going a long way in helping tourists and keeping them interested. Along with Somnath and Dwarka, the other places on the list also receive heavy tourist footfall — in fact, Gujarat's tourism sector is dominated majorly by religious destinations.

(Banaskantha), Prabhas Patan, where the world-famous Somnath temple is situated, in Gir-Somnath district, Dwarka (Jamnagar), and Dakor (in Kheda district).

At present, five major cities of Gujarat — Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Surat, Vadodara and Rajkot — are notified under the Act, prohibiting begging in these cities, an official said.

Sources said that the department has proposed to start seven new beggars' admission centres, or beggar homes, at a cost of approximately Rs 3.40 crore to cater to these 10 sites. As per legal provisions, after beggars are rounded up, they are sent to these centres.

At present, Gujarat has six beggar admission centres, one each in Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot and Gandhinagar, and two in Ahmedabad.

An official from the Social Justice and Empowerment Department said the proposal has been sent to the state government and budget for building new beggars' home is not a big issue since the department has enough land to build seven new homes.

Sacrilege-accused Dera man's killing: family refuses to cremate body

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 23

DERA SACHA Sauda followers and the family of Mohinder Pal Bittu (49), the main accused in the 2015 Bargari sacrilege case, refused to cremate his body on Sunday, a day after he was assaulted and murdered, allegedly by two inmates, in Punjab's high-security Nabha jail. Among the demands put forth, Bittu's son said that before cremating him the family wanted his name cleared of "false charges" in the sacrilege cases.

At least 23 Dera Sacha Sauda followers have been arrested till now by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by DIG Ranbir Singh Khatra for three sacrilege

incidents in Moga, Bathinda and Faridkot districts.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Bittu's son Arvind Kumar said: "It was not just an attack...it is a deep conspiracy. My father was killed with a motive and there might be some influential people behind it...Till the entire conspiracy is not exposed and police doesn't probe the case properly, we will not cremate the body."

Faridkot Deputy Commissioner Kumar Saurabh Raj said Dera representatives demanded that FIRs against their men be cancelled. Ferozepur range IG Mukhwinder Singh Chhina, who also attended the meeting, denied such demands were made. "They are awaiting some relatives for cremation. They have not discussed any demands with us," he said.

UTTAR PRADESH

Body of missing 6-yr-old found, 21-yr-old arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JUNE 23

HOURS AFTER a highly decomposed body of a six-year-old girl, suspected to be a rape victim, was recovered in Rampur, the police on Sunday claimed to have arrested a man following an exchange of fire in which he suffered three gunshot injuries.

The girl had gone missing from outside her house on May 7 and her highly decomposed body was recovered from a dilapidated building on Saturday.

According to police, the accused — 21-year-old Nazil — was injured in an exchange of fire with the police team around 8.30 pm Saturday.

"Nazil was shot at when the police team went to arrest him

and he fired at the policemen with a country-made pistol. Police retaliated and Nazil sustained three gunshot injuries in his leg and thigh. He has been admitted at a government hospital in Meerut. No policeman was injured in the firing," Rampur SP, Ajay Pal, told *The Indian Express*.

The SP said that they went to search for Nazil on Saturday evening after the body was recovered as the residents had earlier informed them that the accused was seen carrying the girl on his motorcycle the day she had gone missing.

"The accused raped the girl and then strangled her," Pal said. Nazil has been booked under IPC Sections 376 (rape) and 302 (murder), and under relevant Sections of the POCSO Act.

4 escape from MP jail, 6 officials suspended

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BHOPAL, JUNE 23

FOUR INMATES, including two from Rajasthan, escaped from Neemuch district jail in Madhya Pradesh in the early hours of Sunday by breaking open the barack's iron grille and scaling the outer wall with a rope thrown from outside, the police said.

Six jail officials - a district jail superintendent, an assistant jail

superintendent and a head constable, among them - have been suspended. A reward of Rs 50,000 each was announced for information leading to arrest of the four prisoners, police said.

According to the police, the escape was facilitated by at least three or four outsiders, who tied the rope to an electric pole close to jail wall and threw the other end inside. One of the prisoners was reportedly carrying a mobile phone and was in touch with

those outside by sending and receiving texts messages.

Located a few kilometers from the district headquarters, the prison used to be a sub-jail before it was upgraded to a district jail, although the infrastructure remained the same. The jail houses many prisoners booked under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Neemuch, Mandasaur and part of Ratlam are the only areas in Madhya Pradesh where

opium is legally grown. There is a parallel illegal market for it.

Two of the four who fled were booked under NDPS Act and one person was booked for rape. Sources said Lekh Ram, booked under NDPS and in a case of murder, was the main conspirator. The police have recovered a phone, a rope and a cutter. DG (Jail) Sanjay Chaudhary told *The Indian Express* that an administrative inquiry has been ordered.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Teen raped by six over five days: Police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA AMARAVATI, JUNE 23

A 16-YEAR-OLD girl was allegedly raped for five days by six people, including three minors, after being locked up in a room in Ongole town, the police said on Sunday.

All those accused of allegedly raping her have been apprehended from different parts of the

state and the police are investigating further. The incident stirred up a row over safety of women in the state, with Home Minister M Sucharita promising stern action.

Prakasam District SP Siddharth Kaushal said one of the accused befriended the girl when she was waiting for her friend at the RTC bus station in Ongole on June 17. She was then

taken to his room, where he and five of his friends allegedly raped her for five days, the DSP said.

The girl, who hails from a neighbouring district, escaped from and reached the bus station on Saturday evening when an on-duty home guard, Venkateswarlu, and Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police Babu Rao spotted and rescued her, he said. She was admitted to the gov-

ernment hospital for treatment; her condition is stated to be stable.

One of the accused was nabbed in Nellore district while he was trying to board a train, Kaushal said. Condemning the incident, Andhra Pradesh DGP Gautam Sawang said safety of women and children and prevention of crime against them would be given high priority.

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कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि संगठन

(श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, दिल्ली (पूर्व/3)

डी एस आई आई डी सी काम्प्लैक्स, झिलमिल औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली 110095

नोटिस

सभी संबंधितों के संज्ञान में यह लाया जाता है कि कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि संगठन, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, दिल्ली (पूर्व) में क.भ.नि. एवं प्रकीर्ण उपबंध अधिनियम 1952 की धारा 14बी एवं 7 क्यू के अंतर्गत चल रही जांच के दौरान निम्नलिखित स्थापनाओं की ओर से कोई भी उपस्थित नहीं हुआ है।

क्र.सं.	स्थापना का नाम एवं पता	पी.एफ.कूट संख्या	जाँच की अवधि	अगली सुनवाई की तारीख
1	जय बाला जी एंड एसोसिएट्स ए-1, एएलआई एक्सटेंशन बद्रपुर नई दिल्ली, दिल्ली, नई दिल्ली, 110044	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/1031222	01/04/1996 से 30/05/2018	28.06.2019
2	ऑटोमोबाइल स्टलिंग (इंडिया) प्राइवेट लिमिटेड अपोजिट दिलाशाद गर्देन, मेट्रो, जी.टी. रोड, शाहदरा, नई दिल्ली, 110095	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/1309535	01/02/2015 से 31/12/2017	28.06.2019
3	युशान्ट इंटरप्राइजेज एफ-378/20, मोलराव, कांची कॉलोनी, टिस्का 60, फोटा रोड। बादरपुर, नई दिल्ली, 110044	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/29472	01/03/2004 से 17/12/2015	28.06.2019
4	अमरदीप डिजाइन इंडिया प्राइवेट लिमिटेड ए-18/बी-11 एक्सटेंशन। मोहान सहकारी, औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली, 44	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/1599616	01/04/1996 से 30/05/2018	28.06.2019
5	अमित इंजीनियरिंग आई-ब्लॉक, गली नं. 12, हाउस नं. 193 हरी नगर एक्सटेंशन बद्रपुर, दिल्ली 110044	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/31932	01/06/2006 से 28/02/2018	28.06.2019
6	शोपान मार्केटिंग प्राइवेट लिमिटेड 1548, गली नं. 53 बी, ग्राउंड फ्लोर मोलार बांड एक्सटेंशन बद्रपुर, दिल्ली, 110044	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/1378424	01/07/2015 से 31/10/2017	28.06.2019
7	वी के इंटरनेशनल बी-105-106, विस्वाकर्मा कॉलोनी, पुरु पहलादपुर, नई दिल्ली 110044	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/32144	01/09/2015 से 30/09/2018	28.06.2019
8	जेम एन पी प्राइवेट लिमिटेड बी-2/11, मोहन सी.ओ.-ओ.पी इंडस्ट्रियल एस्टेट बद्रपुर नई दिल्ली, 110044	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/935183	01/09/2015 से 30/09/2018	28.06.2019
9	स्मार्ट पॉवर ग्रिड लिमिटेड A-26/3 मोहन सीओ ऑपरेटिव, औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली, 110044	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/1566399	01/01/2016 से 30/09/2018	28.06.2019
10	सील फ्रीइन्ट फोवार्डिस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड के-30, सरिता विहार, नई दिल्ली, 110044	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/28864	01/03/2004 से 30/11/2017	28.06.2019
11	परताप सिम्क्योरिटी ह-3/12, ग/फ, चौधरी धर्मवीर मार्किट, मैन मथुरा रोड, बद्रपुर, दिल्ली-44	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/29239	01/06/2004 से 31/12/2014	28.06.2019
12	जमशेद अली एंड संस 12 पश्चिम लक्ष्मी बाजार, कृष्ण नगर, दिल्ली, 110051	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/1484725	01/04/2016 से 30/06/2018	28.06.2019
13	टू कॉसेप्ट एक्सीलियंस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड प्लॉट नंबर 27, खसरा नं. 309, लाल, कुआं नई दिल्ली, नई दिल्ली, 110044	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/1479349	01/05/2016 से 24/03/2017	28.06.2019
14	आकाश इंजीनियरिंग एंड कंस्ट्रक्टर 3325, स्ट्रीट नं. 73/इ, मोलारबांड एक्सटेंशन, बद्रपुर, नई दिल्ली-44	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/28243	01/11/2003 से 30/06/2015	28.06.2019
15	बी. वि. एम ग्रुप 348, गौतमपुर, फेज-1, न.आर, अली विलेज, बद्रपुर, नई दिल्ली-110044	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/940085	01/03/2012 से 30/04/2015	28.06.2019
16	पीडीएस इन्फ्राटेक ए-2, शिव पुरी एक्सटेंशन, चंदर नगर, दिल्ली, 110051	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/1532164	01/08/2016 से 30/01/2018	28.06.2019
17	वेक्टरकालर टेक्नोलॉजीज प्राइवेट लिमिटेड सी-8/1, सेकंड फ्लोर, मंदिर मार्ग, कृष्ण नगर, नई दिल्ली, 110051	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/1523753	01/07/2016 से 30/04/2018	28.06.2019
18	सहज इंटरप्राइजेज पी-58, स्ट्रीट नं. 4, शंकर नगर, एक्सटेंशन पूर्वी दिल्ली, दिल्ली, 110051	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/1717623	01/09/2017 से 30/11/2017	28.06.2019
19	ए के एस इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर ए-38, स्ट्रीट संख्या 11, कान्ति नगर, दिल्ली, 110051	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/1502911	01/09/2017 से 28/02/2018	28.06.2019
20	एक्टिव ब्रानच इन्फ्रांग प्राइवेट लिमिटेड 1/5 फर्स्ट फ्लोर अपोजिट तंगा स्टैंड, श्रेल चौक गीता कॉलोनी दिल्ली-31	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/1287595	01/11/2015 से 30/06/2017	28.06.2019
21	प्रदीप जैन 6165 ए, प्रताप गली, सोना मार्केट, गांधीनगर, दिल्ली, 110031	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/1386631	01/10/2015 से 30/05/2016	28.06.2019
22	कॉमिंडब्लू सिस्क्योरिटी एंड फैसिलिटी मैनेजमेंट प्राइवेट लिमिटेड एल/210बी दिलाशाद गर्देन, नल, नई दिल्ली, 110095	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/1024337	01/10/2014 से 30/08/2016	28.06.2019
23	व्ही स्काई एमटेक 17/23, ब्लॉक-17, गीता कॉलोनी, दिल्ली, 110031	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/1547182	01/11/2016 से 30/12/2016	28.06.2019
24	शिवम इंटरप्राइजेज हाउस नं.-सी-207, पुल प्रहलादपुर, नियर शिव मंदिर, नई दिल्ली, 110044	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/33689	01/04/1996 से 28/02/2015	28.06.2019
25	सिरस मीडिया रिसर्च प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, डी-8/बी-1 लोअर ग्राउंड फ्लोर मोहन सी.ओ ऑपरेटिव इंडस्ट्रियल एस्टेट, मथुरा रोड, दिल्ली 44	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/1410363	01/10/2015 से 30/09/2018	28.06.2019
26	एस एन पी आर कंस्ट्रक्शन प्राइवेट लिमिटेड एच नं.-149, गली नं-6, शक्ति विहार मीठापुर बद्रपुर नई दिल्ली, 110044	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/940939	05/12/2015 से 29/11/2018	28.06.2019
27	वी.एस. और कंपनी 64-मौदूर पुर, बादरपुर, नई दिल्ली, 110044	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/17529	01/04/1996 से 28/02/2014	28.06.2019
28	सूर्या फिनिशिंग ग्रेड कटिंग 466, माहिला मोहल्ला, मदनपुर कठार, नई दिल्ली, 110044	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/25702	01/12/2001 से 31/07/2009	28.06.2019
29	यूनाइटेड इन्टेग्रिटेड फैसिलिटी सर्विसेस 406-डीडीए फ्लैट्स पुन, प्रहलादपुर, नई दिल्ली, 110044	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/939332	01/05/2010 से 30/04/2013	28.06.2019
30	एंजसन लैबोरेटरीज प्राइवेट लिमिटेड सी-39, फेस-1, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/13588	03/1994 से 07/2008	28.06.2019
31	ए डी एस एडवर्टाइजिंग प्राइवेट लिमिटेड ए-199, फेस-1, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/27508	04/2003 से 05/2011	28.06.2019
32	ई टेक सॉल्यूशन प्राइवेट लिमिटेड डी-99, फेस-1, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/34503	01/1996 से 04/2014	28.06.2019
33	ट्वेंटी फर्स्ट कनट्री ट्रेवल प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, ई/44/12, फेस-2, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/14874	10/1997 से 02/2003	28.06.2019
34	ब्रेव कॉम्प सिस्क्योरिटी सर्विसेस बी-74, फेस-1, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/25343	01/2002 से 05/2007	28.06.2019
35	समिता फिनिशिंग वर्क्स 7/1, मवी मोहल्ला, विलेज तहखंड, फेस-1, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/27274	05/2003 से 09/2014	28.06.2019
36	जे.के. इंटरप्राइजेज बी-164, फेस-1, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/940802	04/1996 से 09/2016	28.06.2019
37	मैसर्स डीएए प्रबन्ध इंटरनेशनल बी 12, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, फेस-2, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/28827	01/2004 से 07/2007	28.06.2019
38	मैसर्स ईआरए टी एंड डी लि। 153, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, फेस-3, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/935522	02/2014 से 09/2018	28.06.2019
39	मैसर्स बावा एम्ब्रो प्राइवेट लिमिटेड। X-43, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, फेस-2, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/28646	12/2014 से 09/2018	28.06.2019
40	मैसर्स BLUE साइन इंडिया प्राइवेट (लि) D-6/9, भू-तल, ओखला INDUSTRIAL क्षेत्र, फेस-2, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/1016175	04/2014 से 09/2018	28.06.2019
41	मैसर्स युग इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर प्रा (लि) F-33/3, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, फेस-2, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/1196133	09/2006 से 09/2018	28.06.2019
42	मैसर्स आई-डिजिटल इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स पीवीटी (लि) B-12, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, फेस-2, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/1059146	12/2014 से 09/2018	28.06.2019
43	मैसर्स हरप रिटर्न्स पी.वी.टी. (लि) सी-58/1, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, फेस-2, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/940680	04/2006 से 09/2018	28.06.2019
44	अञ्ज इंटरप्राइजेज बी-2/2, फेस-2, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/23088	04/1996 से 11/2014	28.06.2019
45	मैसर्स अपेक्स इंफॉर्मेशन सर्विसेस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड एक्स-57, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, फेस-2, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/19255	07/1997 से 10/1999	28.06.2019
46	पत्रिका इंटरनेशनल, ए-203, फेस-1, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/7194	04/1996 से 01/2016	28.06.2019
47	मैसर्स अरुण रेजिच प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, 10-डीएसआईडीसी स्कॉम-II, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, फेस-2, दिल्ली-20	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/98008	04/1996 से 12/2014	28.06.2019
48	मैसर्स इंटरनेशनल, (त्रयंकोर) पी.लि., 237, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, फेस-3, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/2677	04/1996 से 01/2015	28.06.2019
49	रैम टेक सॉफ्ट वेयर सोल्यूशन (पी) लिमिटेड, डी-4, फेस-1, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/28322	03/2003 से 06/2010	28.06.2019
50	मैसर्स नवीन प्रस यूनिट-2, 70, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/2633	04/1996 से 12/2014	28.06.2019
51	मैसर्स सुकरी धूप, 24, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, फेस-3, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/14097	07/1998 से 03/2013	28.06.2019
52	मैसर्स एलाय कार्टिंग्स, समभू दयाल बाग, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/2867	04/1996 से 12/2014	28.06.2019
53	मैसर्स अलास्का टायर्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, एफ- 26/3, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, फेस-2, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/12605	10/1995 से 03/2008	28.06.2019

क्र.सं.	स्थापना का नाम एवं पता	पी.एफ.कूट संख्या	जाँच की अवधि	अगली सुनवाई की तारीख
54	मैसर्स आर ए गार्मेंट्स, ए- 276, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, फेस-1, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/34531	04/1996 से 04/2014	28.06.2019
55	मैसर्स जुपिटर नो ब्रेक सिस्टम प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, एस- 6, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, फेस- 2, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/13226	04/1996 से 03/2014	28.06.2019
56	एलीगैस एम्ब्रायडरी कलेक्शन्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, एफ- 3/5, फर्स्ट फ्लोर, फेस-2, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/24097	04/1996 से 03/2014	28.06.2019
57	मैसर्स परसनल ग्राफिक्स विज्ञान प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, बी-20/2, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, फेस-2, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/33778	04/1996 से 04/2014	28.06.2019
58	मैसर्स इरोज इंटरनेशनल, बी-199, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, फेस-1, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/34312	04/1996 से 07/2015	28.06.2019
59	मैसर्स अनु गार्मेंट्स, ए-255, संजय कॉलोनी, फेस-2, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/34185	06/2006 से 02/2011	28.06.2019
60	एच.बी. इंटरप्राइजेज, बी-237, फेस-1, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/24864	04/2001 से 01/2012	28.06.2019
61	बी.जे. ट्रेडिंग कंपनी, ए-15, फेस-1, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/15470	11/1996 से 03/1998	28.06.2019
62	मैसर्स एसआरआईएसटीआई क्रिएशन, E-47/13, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, फेस-2, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/28279	11/2003 से 12/2012	28.06.2019
63	मैसर्स फ्रांसा, 258, ओखला औद्योगिक इस्टेट, फेस-3, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/12567	04/1669 से 08/2015	28.06.2019
64	मैसर्स इंटरटूल इंजीनियरिंग एंड बिजनेस कंपनी प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, एफ-3/3, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, फेस-1, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/31978	04/1996 से 04/2014	28.06.2019
65	ए. के. गर्ग, एसोसिएट्स, ए-35, फेस-1, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/20520	04/1996 से 04/2014	28.06.2019
66	मनोज ओवरसीज, डी-20, फेस-1, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/11835	07/1997 से 04/2005	28.06.2019
67	आउट क्लास एप्ल्स, एस-99, फेस-2, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/25171	11/2001 से 07/2011	28.06.2019
68	मैसर्स भारतीय तार कम्पनी, Z-26, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, फेस-2, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/5885	04/1996 से 03/2015	28.06.2019
69	मैसर्स संजय ओवरसीज, Z-36, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, फेस-2, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/22284	04/1996 से 04/2014	28.06.2019
70	सोलेस एक्स्प्रेस, बी-20, फेस-2, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/14204	08/1997 से 12/2012	28.06.2019
71	पेरामेट्रिक टेक्नोलॉजी इंडिया लिमिटेड, बी-52, फेस-3, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/24004	04/1996 से 03/2014	28.06.2019
72	इंटर कॉन्टि एक्सप्रेस, 2-ए / 63, श्याम नगर, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/31568	01/2005 से 04/2009	28.06.2019
73	एस एस मैनुफैक्चरिंग, डी-21/1, फेस-1, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/1035791	10/2014 से 09/2018	28.06.2019
74	कॉन्टिनेंटल इन्फोपैक्ट इंडिया लिमिटेड, बी-66, फेस-1, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/12586	09/2014 से 09/2018	28.06.2019
75	इन्टिका इंडिया लिमिटेड, बी-65, फेस-1, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/19645	09/1997 से 08/2007	28.06.2019
76	एवोल्व मार्केटिंग सर्विसेस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, एस-6, सेकंड फ्लोर, फेस-2, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/934714	03/2006 से 02/2012	28.06.2019
77	आईकॉन केबल्स लिमिटेड, ए- 291, फर्स्ट फ्लोर, फेस-1, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/11175	04/1996 से 09/2018	28.06.2019
78	इंडियन क्रिएशन, जेड-65, फेस-2, ओखला औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, दिल्ली-110020	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/15734	09/1997 से 07/2005	28.06.2019
79	मैसर्स. डी.डी.ओ. हेरीकल्चर शाहदरा साउथ जोन ई.डी.एम.सी.,जोनल बिल्डिंग, चौथा तल, शाहदरा साउथ जोन, विश्वास नगर, दिल्ली-110032	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/1520895	08/01/2011 से 09/09/2018	09.07.19
80	मैसर्स. गंगा एंड को 110091 दिल्ली 28/223	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/33414	23/11/2013 से 30/09/2018	09.07.19
81	मैसर्स. अम्युजा कंस्ट्रक्शन को., 1/10053ए, गली नं. 3, चेरट गोरक पार्क, शाहदरा, दिल्ली-110032	डी.एस/एन.एच.पी/938015	14/01/2015 से 30/09/2	



WORDLY WISE
EVENTUALLY, ALL THINGS MERGE INTO ONE,
AND A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT.
—NORMAN MACLEAN

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Cutting the flab

It is desirable, but not easy — especially in the case of the Pakistan military



AYESHA SIDDIQA

THE PAKISTAN ARMY'S public relations agency, the ISPR, recently announced cuts in the defence budget as the military's contribution to tough times. It was also stated that the money would be spent on development of the tribal areas and Balochistan without compromising the military's war preparedness. Notwithstanding the fact that the DG ISPR, a mere major general, jumped the gun by taking upon himself the authority of the current civilian government to announce how the money saved by the military would be spent, it draws attention towards the issue of how much is really needed to defend the country.

The announcement in itself does not mean anything until it specifies the total allocation for the military and exactly what cuts are being made. Surely, out of the PKR 1,100 billion for FY-2018/19, reduction cannot be brought into the 38 per cent spent on pay and personnel, 25 per cent on procurement and approximately 24 per cent as operational cost. The only element left is about 14 per cent under the head of civil works.

It is possible that like in the mid-2000s when Pervez Musharraf's handpicked prime minister, Shaukat Aziz, brought cosmetic changes to the defence budget — by putting pensions under civilian head of account that gave the impression of military expenditure being reduced — part of the civil works budget is diverted to development projects of FATA and Balochistan. In this case, the projects will be those that are closer to the army's heart. Since the days of Shaukat Aziz, about PKR 175-200 billion of military spending in the form of pensions, special projects, spending for military paid for from civilian expenditure, is not recorded as part of the defence budget, which makes it almost 3.7 per cent of the GDP.

Creating the impression that the military is cutting defence spending is vital to impress the IMF, which is the only organisation willing to provide cash to Pakistan to sustain the economy. While China is seen as a major saviour for Pakistan, funding for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) seems to have reduced in the last couple of years by approximately 54 per cent. The new MoUs

signed have not materialised in supply of cash to the Pakistani economy. Referring to the IMF, it wants the civilian government to not divert resources to non-development budget heads that are defence and debt servicing. Unlike the 1980s when General Zia ul Haq was able to shoo away multilateral aid donors by arguing that "Pakistan cannot afford any cut or freeze in defence expenditure, since you cannot freeze the threat to Pakistan's security," this time the IMF is proving more difficult. The main emphasis, however, is for Pakistan to reduce deficit spending or increase its earning. Since direct taxes have proven to be difficult, cutting costs remain the only option. While one remains unsure of how much reduction will actually be brought about, the fact remains that cutting excess fat in the government, especially the defence sector, is possible. Pakistan could comfortably reduce about 25 per cent of defence spending without a change in its current capabilities. To attain such reduction it would require preplanning a rationalised defence structure, better human resource planning, conservation of available resources, stricter controls, cutting down duplication of activities, and reducing additional pomp and show. Inter-services rivalry alone is a major source of wastage. Many of the inter-services organisations, including the ISPR, are inter-services just in name. At the present moment, the ISPR is an army-dedicated organisation with the other two services operating their own public relations wings. Similarly, money could be saved through rationalising defence production. Rationalising is easier said than done. It requires a vision to be given by a political government. The only time that happened in Pakistan was in the first two years of the Zulfikar Ali Bhutto government. In 1973 an elaborate higher defence management structure was laid out. This is not likely to happen again, certainly not under the present Imran Khan government. The other person who could rationalise de-

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TERMS OF PEACE

Direct talks between US, Iran are the only way to de-escalate tensions. A new framework, a new balance, must be found

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S last-minute decision late last week to stop a planned attack on Iran, in response to Tehran's downing of an American spy drone, provides an opportunity for Washington to take a fresh look at the deepening crisis in the Gulf. White House's second thoughts are of a piece with the conflicting signals from Trump over the last two years. Trump seemed to have sided with the Iran hawks at home to pull out of the nuclear agreement that his predecessor Barack Obama, along with other major powers, had negotiated with Iran. Israel and a section of the Sunni Arabs were egging him on. Trump then embarked on a "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran by ramping up sanctions to cover Iran's lifeline, the energy sector. This effort has been widely viewed as an attempt to overthrow the Islamic Republic.

Even as the war party in his own administration, led by the national security adviser, John Bolton, has been itching for a military showdown with Iran, Trump has presented himself as the champion of the peace faction. During his campaign for presidency and since, Trump has repeatedly criticised America's endless wars in West Asia. Much of his political base in America's heartland is unwilling to support another war in West Asia after the costly failures in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is no surprise, then, that the world has seen on the one hand a steady drift towards a military conflict with Iran, and on the other, President Trump's frequent call for an unconditional dialogue with Iran. After he reversed the decision to attack Iran, Trump said he appreciates Iran's restraint in not shooting down a spy plane with about 30 security forces that was in Iran's range along with the unmanned drone. He seemed to have encouraged the Japanese premier, Shinzo Abe, who was in Tehran earlier this month, to convey his interest in engagement with Iran directly to the Iranian leadership. But Iran has apparently turned down the offer.

Tehran is betting that it can afford to wait. Although Iran is hurting amidst new sanctions, it is playing the few cards it has with some effect. Last month, Tehran set a 60-day deadline for scaling back its compliance with the nuclear agreement, if other powers don't abide by its terms. This is deepening the divisions between the US and Europe, which has affirmed the value of the nuclear agreement. As Washington threatens to escalate the conflict vertically, Tehran has promised to escalate it horizontally — expand it to cover the regional allies of the US. This, in turn, has widened the split among the Gulf Arabs. Direct talks between the US and Iran might be the only way to de-escalate the current tensions in the Gulf, devise a new framework for a stable regional balance while limiting the four decades of conflict between Washington and Tehran. Finding the terms of that direct dialogue will obviously be a significant challenge.

RUNNING DRY

Chennai's water crisis bares the challenge for new Jal Shakti ministry — to ensure water security in growing towns and cities

AFTER A DRY spell of almost 200 days, Chennai received monsoon showers last week. But this has not mitigated the water crisis in Tamil Nadu's capital. Clashes over water have been reported from different parts of the city and firms in Chennai's Information Technology Park have asked employees to either work from home or bring their own water. The state government and the city's municipality have blamed the crisis on the deficient Northeast Monsoon in October-November last year. They are not completely wrong. However, the fact also is that in the past five years, Chennai's water supply has consistently fallen short of the city's requirement. The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board has been able to supply only 830 million litres a day (mld) as against the demand of about 1,200 mld. This year, the agency's water supply dipped to 550 mld.

Chennai is a rain-shadow city. It gets more than 80 per cent of its water from the Northeast Monsoon. In the past, this water was stored in ponds, canals and lakes which would minimise the run-off — that a coastal city is susceptible to — and recharge groundwater. Besides, according to a study by researchers at the geology department of Chennai's Anna University, the city had more than 60 large water bodies at the turn of the 20th century. Three major waterways — the Buckingham canal and the rivers, Adyar and Cooum — crisscrossed Chennai. But Tamil Nadu's capital today has only 28 water bodies, large or small, notes the Anna University study. The Pallikaranai marshland which used to sprawl over more than 6,000 hectares has shrunk to about 650 hectares. A growing body of literature has shown that urban planners gave short shrift to the imperatives of Chennai's hydrology to meet the city's infrastructural demands. A parliamentary panel that enquired into the causes of the Chennai floods in 2015, for example, reported that that real estate business had "usurped" the city's water bodies. Today, Chennai gets its water from four reservoirs, which have gone dry after the retreating monsoon failed last year. Chennai's desalination plants can barely supply a fifth of the city's water requirements.

Chennai is amongst the 21 Indian cities which the Niti Aayog fears will run out of groundwater by 2020. The city's water crisis bares a critical challenge for the new Jal Shakti ministry. It has to play a leading role in resolving the tension in India's current urban planning paradigm between the developmental needs of people and water security imperatives. The new ministry should start by coordinating with local authorities in Chennai to rejuvenate the city's aquifers.



VANYA VAIDEHI BHARGAV

ONE CAN sympathise with the conundrum faced by the Congress after its resounding defeat. To meet the sticky charge of dynasticism, Rahul Gandhi must go, it is felt, but ejecting the family will remove the "glue" that holds its myriad factions together. Yet, the Congress needs to ask why it needs the family to hold it together in the first place. Does this not reflect an ideological vacuum? Rahul Gandhi claimed that he fought an ideological battle. A certain ideology crafted by leaders of our freedom struggle was indeed defended in the campaign. But not nearly strongly enough. The Congress failed its own history, its ideals, and ultimately the Indian nation. For this, it must assume responsibility.

It is difficult to escape the conclusion that the Congress has forgotten the grand pantheon of thinker-politicians — Dadabhai Naoroji, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lajpat Rai, Bipin Chandra Pal, Sardar Patel, Maulana Azad, Jawaharlal Nehru and, above all, Mahatma Gandhi — each of whom moulded the nationalist ideology as they inspired the people of India to unite against the British Empire. The Congress had a clear stance on what constitutes Indian culture and history, on values like democracy, secularism and pluralism, on India's economic and foreign policy. It struck a morally justifiable balance between individual and community rights, had an unflinching commitment to social justice, attempted to reach decisions by consensus and articulate a largely non-masculine idea of courage and firmness. Moreover, its nationalism was sincere:

CONGRESS, KNOW THYSELF

Party must look at its own history to address the current ideological vacuum



ONE OF 800 MILLION

A VOICE, UNDER 35

Today's Congress appears to have forgotten what its core values were, and why they are still worth defending. Unclear itself, the Congress failed to convey to voters what was really at stake. To an ordinary voter, its appeals to 'Indian nationalism', 'the Constitution', 'democracy', 'inclusivism', 'diversity', just appeared to be nice-sounding words.

Many Congressmen were genuinely convinced about its moral worth, and their political actions were driven by it. Possessing clarity and conviction, Congressmen like Gandhi and Nehru could communicate this nationalism to the people of India, who comprehended it, found it reasonable, and were moved by it. While countless other factors were at play, the Congress's continued adherence to this coherently expressed nationalism explains its unparalleled popularity in politics for at least two decades after Independence.

Undoubtedly, one major reason behind the Congress' recent electoral defeat was its inability to communicate sincerely and coherently its nationalist ideology to voters, leave alone getting them to emotionally connect with it. The Congress might discuss its flawed slogans, alliances, communication, party organisation, or even its leadership, but ignoring its current ideological vacuum will be at its own peril.

Today's Congress appears to have forgotten what its core values were, and why they are still worth defending. Unclear itself, the Congress failed to convey to voters what was really at stake. To an ordinary voter, its appeals to "Indian nationalism", "the Constitution", "democracy", "inclusivism", "diversity", just appeared to be nice-sounding words. And so, the other side won the battle of ideas and values. Against a relentless campaign from the BJP, which provided a daily dose of its robust nationalist ideology to voters on their smartphones, the Congress' complacent delivery of its lazily articulated Indian nationalist narra-

tive stood no chance. If Rahul Gandhi believed this was an ideological battle, he underestimated his rival's clarity, missionary zeal, and their superior understanding of social media.

If the Indian nationalist vision so painstakingly fought for by our freedom fighters is to survive, the Congress needs to overcome its amnesia. This requires a deep, sincere study of its own rich intellectual resources and heritage. It also requires the humility to seek help from historians and political philosophers. This is not a suggestion to construct a theoretical, overly-intellectualised ideology but in fact its opposite — to weave a robust, meaningful narrative that explains to ordinary citizens the meaning of the Congress' nationalist values and why they matter. Further, the Congress must learn from its formidable opponent the skillful use of all kinds of media. It needs a communication model as creative as its rival's, albeit with different content. A media onslaught from one side can only be met by an equally passionate campaign from the other.

The stakes are terrifically high. The Congress must not endanger the nationalist vision which its forerunners so painstakingly evolved and for which they sacrificed so much. Indeed, those citizens who still understand the true worth of this vision are filled with dread at the prospect of its loss. These people deserve better. Will they be disappointed again?

The writer, 31, has a D.Phil in History from Oxford University. Her dissertation focused on Lajpat Rai's nationalist thought

FREEZE FRAME

E P UNNY



JUNE 24, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

RAJ NARAIN RESIGNS THE SIMMERING CRISIS in the Janata Party erupted with the resignation of the former health minister, Raj Narain, from the party and the deputy prime minister, Charan Singh, accusing the Janata top brass of conspiring against the BLD constituent. This is the fallout from the Janata Parliamentary Board decision directing the Haryana chief minister, Devi Lal, to seek a vote of confidence from the state legislature party. Lal, who belongs to the BLD faction, however, resigned as leader of the Legislature Party presumably in protest against what was yesterday described by his supporters as "dictatorial verdict".

CRPF STRIKES THE CENTRAL RESERVE Police Force (CRPF) jawans at the group centre at Jharoda Kalan near Najafgarh went on an indefinite strike last night in support of their demands for better working conditions and promotional avenues. After their supper, the jawans, numbering about 1,000, assembled in the stadium where their leaders addressed them. The group centre commandant, C M Pandey, failed to persuade them not to go on strike. However, senior officers at the group centre said that "everything was normal". The CRPF director general, R C Gopal, denied that there was a strike at the group centre. "We have heard that the jawans have ventilated their grievances

and we are looking into them," he said.

WEST INDIES WIN WEST INDIES DEFEATED England by 92 runs in the final of the Prudential Cup at Lords. Viv Richards scored 138 not out and Joel Garner took five wickets for 38. The West Indies reached 286 for nine in the allotted 60 overs. England, always trailing behind the clock, reached 183 for 2 but then suffered a dramatic collapse as they went recklessly for runs. In 26 minutes, the last eight wickets tumbled and England were all out for 194. Garner's performance was one to go into the cricket history books. At one stage he had taken no wickets for 37.

THE IDEAS PAGE

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"From a long-term perspective, China and the US will not persist with confrontational trade policies."

— GLOBAL TIMES CHINA

Call of New India

Women leaders must be harbingers of harmony and progress, not macho-matchers. There must be gender-parity, not fractional reservation



RAMI CHHABRA

TSUNAMI/Tsunami is how Narendra Modi's return to power is being described. Critics may be sceptical but can hope to see his post-triumph pledges to turn his back on the ugliness of the political contest, build consensus and carry all: *Sabka vikas sabke saath*, now with *sabka vishwas* to build *Naya India*? With four states going to the polls in the coming months, there will be an early test of whether campaign-mode-Modi reruns or he retains statesmanship beyond showmanship.

As one of the few women who entered the media in the late-fifties — then 18, now 80 — I stand witness that this is indeed a rare karmic moment in the nation's life, one that has come only twice before: In 1971, when Indira Gandhi rose Durga-like post-Bangladesh, arousing hopes that she would revive Jawaharlal Nehru's foundational legacy of India's Third-World leadership set-backed by the Sixties' wars and also, wipe-out poverty; again in 1984, when a nation mourning Indira's assassination gave an awesome peoples' mandate to a youthful Rajiv Gandhi diffidently accepting responsibility thrust by fate. But both times, fate also decreed otherwise. Will this third opportunity created by the nation have proverbial third-time-luck or is it destined to be frittered as before?

The minority issue is upfront and has many to canvas for what it takes to win *vishwas* with a communal-free perspective. But what about the country's largest minority — women?

As the prime minister plans actions to transform India — and politics — he needs to pay more heed to women's field-voices and needs. For the first time ever, a critical-half of voters constituted women, near-parity to male numbers with many exhibiting independent decision-making in vote-casting. This outpouring — despite 20 million women claimed as missing from voters' lists — testifies to the maturity of women's political agency. It is a self-propelled contribution to nation-building, notwithstanding lack of adequate support to women's political contestation from any major political party — other than the BJD in Odisha and Trinamool in West Bengal, which gave 33 per cent and 50 per cent of seats respectively to women-contestants.

The 17th Lok Sabha has the highest tally of women since Independence — 78. This still amounts to a mere 14 per cent of 543 members. A political environment wherein money and muscle-power dominate and women face demeaning sexist/sexualised smearing, militates for the emergence of a very different type of woman-warrior: More thick-skinned macho-clones than the softer gender-influence earlier projected as a potential uplifting force for politics. Further, as a recent study highlights, with the current rate of increase it will take 40 years for women to reach 33 per cent participation in Parliament/legislatures. (Thirty-three percent being the minimum threshold for critical-mass enabling gender impact.)

Demands to revive and pass the Women's Reservation Bill are already mak-

ing the rounds. The Bill, in any case, was a deeply-flawed proposal that sought to unseat one-third sitting members while holding the other two-thirds in perpetual jeopardy. Each attempt at its introduction saw unprecedented scenes of gross misconduct/violence blemishing the august halls, prophesying worse in the streets on its adoption. The vision of 21st century New India needs women-leaders as harbingers of harmony and progress, not macho-matchers; gender-parity not fractional reservation.

Naya India also needs to urgently put in place measures to reverse the massive drop in women's work-participation and threats to freedom of movement. A major issue identified by many pre-election surveys, perhaps a key propelling factor for voting in such large numbers, was the concern about physical security and safety. The plummeting work-force participation in past years, the resonating #MeToo movement, highlight growing insecurity for women in coming out onto the streets, in workplaces/public places, which are their birthright to access. Besides emphasising women's fundamental and constitutional right to dignity and security, bridging the gender gap in work-participation, according to a McKinsey estimate, would add \$770 billion to the Indian economy by 2025. *Naya India* cannot be built unless women hold-up-half-the-sky.

Equally, there is growing threat to women's personal and bodily integrity within homes and neighbourhoods. Building home-toilets was one key step towards women's physical security and it resonated. But cleansing the Internet and social media platforms of the pornography invading homes and turning fathers, brothers, sons, neighbours and of course, strangers into predators, is a burning issue yet left untracked. This is as much a national security-threat requiring prioritised strategic-action that brooks no further delay. Sadly, memes and morphs of political figures elicit political outrage but not the porn that bedevils ordinary women's everyday lives; rape/gang-rape has become a selective political-blame-game blunting the gruesome deadliness of rape per se.

Besides personal security which is paramount, attention to women's issues, including equitable political representation, could spearhead other vital democratic reforms desperately required to cleanse the system of the unabashed growth of money-and-muscle-power, a principal inhibiting factor for women-contestants — and equally, less-muscular-moneyed-men — in the electoral process.

Women's rights are fundamental human rights, not to be examined in silo fashion. Nor by using avante-garde Western-style models that currently dominate feminist thinking and media exposure. Demand for the *freedom from fear and the opportunity to grow* is a very different trajectory to pursue than the *freedom to slut-walk/sexually assert*. The former has widespread societal support, the latter provocative media space with societal backlash.

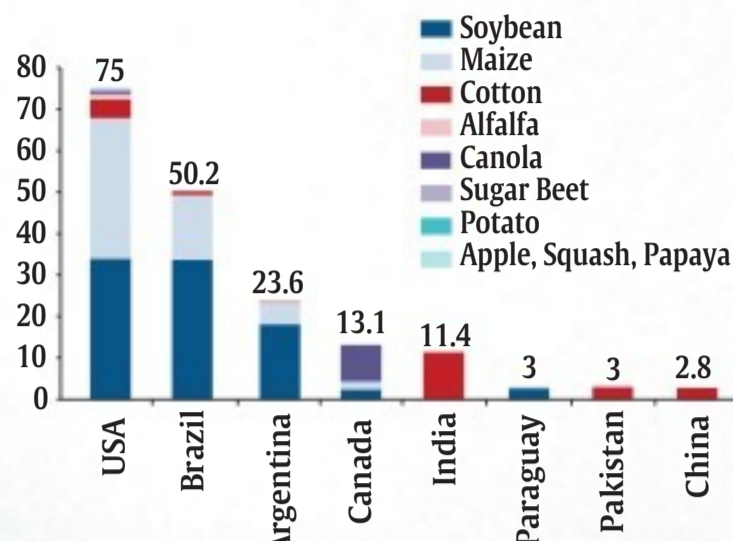
A holistic, interconnected and intrinsically Indian vision cross-cutting sectors and issues needs articulation with time-bound implementation deadlines as a major national priority. It could become the global exemplar.

The writer is a senior journalist and has been member, National Population Commission

MAJOR COUNTRIES GROWING GMO CROPS

(area in million ha, 2017)

Area under biotech crops (covering 96% of global area under biotech crops)



Source: ISAAA, 2017



Suvajit dey

A farm question for Modi 2.0

Can India emerge as a leader in bio-farm technologies, including GMO?



FROM PLATE TO PLOUGH
BY ASHOK GULATI

THE WORD SATYAGRAHA, meaning polite insistence for truth, is associated with the political movements of Mahatma Gandhi for civil rights — first in South Africa and, later, in India. The famous 24-day Dandi March (also known as the Salt March), a non-violent civil disobedience act against the British monopoly on salt in 1930, became a symbol of satyagraha.

But today, it is in the news because of the civil disobedience movement launched by supporters of the Shetkari Sanghatana (SS), a farmers' organisation, to defy the Government of India (GoI) when it comes to the planting of herbicide tolerant (HT) Bt cotton and Bt brinjal. SS was founded by the late Sharad Joshi, one of the tallest farmers' leaders in independent India. He gave up his cushy position in the United Nations to fight for the cause of farmers' freedom to choose the best farm technologies, and to sell their produce to the most lucrative markets at home or abroad.

Unfortunately, governments, since Independence, no matter how much they swear by the name of farmers, have constrained our farmers when it comes to access to the best farm technologies as well as the best markets. That's a painful fact which has meant the imposition of massive implicit taxation on the Indian peasantry, to the tune of about \$700 billion (cumulative) during 2000-01 to 2016-17, as per the OECD-ICRIER study (2018).

HT Bt cotton is not legally allowed by GoI. But the government's own committee has estimated that it is being planted on about 15-17 per cent of the cotton area. Growing any GM crop illegally attracts a five year imprisonment and a fine of Rs 1 lakh. But so far, no one

has been arrested, and the illegal trade has been thriving for several years. It speaks of not just a massive governance failure, but its connivance with unscrupulous seed companies where thieves are thriving. Farmers want that technology and are buying those seeds in the black market at prices much above those declared by the government for non-HT Bt seeds. Now, when SS supporters are openly defying government regulations, the GoI has suddenly woken up and asked for action from the Maharashtra government. Newspaper reports suggest that one farmer with HT Bt seeds has also been arrested. If the government is really serious in not allowing this, let it show its might by arresting hundreds of thousands of farmers who have already planted HT Bt cotton on 15 per cent of the crop area. And why not first arrest the fraudulent seed companies that have been selling these seeds illegally, and without any patent? Most people in this trade know who these local companies are and whose shelter they have politically. The big multinational companies, who are the original innovators of HT Bt cotton, have stayed away from this messy business. In fact, they have decided to withdraw most of their high bio-tech farm technology from India.

Let us peep into this new brave world of GMOs for better understanding. GMOs have been there on the global platform since 1996 and by 2017, for which I have the latest data, almost 190 million hectares around the world are being planted. A total of about 67 countries have accepted GM crops, of which 24 are planting and others are importing and consuming. GM crops range from soyabean, corn and cotton to papaya, brinjal, and, even apples and potatoes! There are no cases of human death, disease, or injury. And the landscape ranges from developed nations like the US and Canada to developing ones like Brazil, Argentina, India, Pakistan and China (see graph).

It may be noted that Bangladesh, not shown in the graph, has also adopted Bt brinjal and the area under that is fast catching up. Bt brinjal is an interesting case study as it was cleared by India's Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) way back in

Gujarat's 'agrarian miracle' of eight per cent average annual growth rate in agri-GDP during Narendra Modi's regime as CM from 2002-03 to 2013-14, was triggered and led by Bt cotton. And, this was the famous Gujarat development model that also helped him become the PM of India. It won't be an exaggeration to say that Bt cotton has been the secret force behind Modi's political successes.

2009, but our environment ministry, under pressure from NGOs, could not gather the courage to release it. Now that Bangladesh has taken the same technology, and is fast scaling that up, will it not be stupid on our part to presume that it will not enter the Indian side of West Bengal, if it has not already done so? GoI needs to wake up!

Almost a similar situation had arisen in March 2002, when it was found that some Indian farmers had planted Bt cotton. The Vajpayee government examined the whole issue from a biosafety perspective as well as farmers' needs. Then, it took a bold decision on March 26, 2002, to legally allow the planting of Bt cotton, the first GM crop of India and the only one so far. He extended the original slogan of 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan', given by Lal Bahadur Shastri, to include 'Jai Vigyan'. He was very clear that our agriculture should be science-based. Look at the results of this one bold decision by the late PM. Today, about 90-95 per cent cotton area is under Bt cotton, and India has emerged as the largest producer — and second largest exporter — of cotton in the world. In a much more detailed study that I did with Kavery Ganguly, we estimated that due to this "gene revolution" India gained about \$67 billion dollars of foreign exchange from extra exports of cotton and cotton yarn, and savings in imports, over the period 2002-03 to 2016-17, compared to business as usual. But, more important are the gains to the cotton farmers whose incomes doubled. And the maximum gain was to Gujarati farmers. In fact, we found that Gujarat's "agrarian miracle" of eight per cent average annual growth rate in agri-GDP during Narendra Modi's regime as CM from 2002-03 to 2013-14, was triggered and led by Bt cotton. And, this was the famous Gujarat development model that also helped him become the PM of India. It won't be an exaggeration to say that Bt cotton has been the secret force behind Modi's political successes. Considering this, can India now, under Modi 2.0, emerge as a leader in bio-farm technologies, including GMO? Only time will tell.

The writer is Infosys Chair professor for Agriculture at ICRIER

VIEW FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD



A weekly look at the public conversations shaping ideas beyond borders — in the Subcontinent. Curated by Aakash Joshi

CRICKET, A SYMPTOM

IRFAN Hussain, in his June 22 column in *Dawn*, asks the question that many in and from Pakistan have articulated since the countries seventh straight World Cup defeat to India: Why has the Indian cricket team improved while Pakistan has declined? "Compared to the agile, athletic Indian team, our boys came across as unfit and lacking focus and intensity. Our captain was all paunch and no punch," writes Hussain.

But the decline of the cricket team, as central to Pakistan's public life and political imagination as it is in India, represents failures on two fronts. First, according to Hussain, is the rot in the sport's administration and structuring: "The last 40 years or so have witnessed a steady fall in games played at school and college level. Street cricket has replaced the organised version. And while some talent has come through, by and large, we no longer produce world-class batsmen and bowlers as we once did... And it's true that for corporations and government departments to have their own teams is an anomaly that exists nowhere else as far as I know. However, if the current setup is replaced by teams representing districts and

provinces, funding would be a big concern." The second aspect, the article highlights, is far more salient. "Expecting excellence in cricket," it says, "while so much else is crumbling around us is unreasonable." Cricket is a symptom of a country where "constant squabbling between institutions, a tendency to centralise power, and a need to seek personal benefits at the cost of the common good have become the norm."

Hussain writes that "connecting the dots, at the heart of this developing crisis is the disaster our educational system has become". Since Zia ul-Haq's administration, after the nationalisation drive in education and other state institutions, two generations of Pakistanis have been subject to "Islamisation", and its effects are visible across institutions.

DEEP STATE DREAMS

MOONIS Ahmar, an international relations scholar, conjectures in *The Express Tribune* (June 21) on India's emerging "deep state". He defines the idea as "a state where some of the state institutions like the military and intelligence agencies run the affairs of the country and prevent any dissent or opposi-

tion to the state narrative. It can also be called as a state within a state." The article is in keeping with many of the newspapers recent contributions on India, theorising its imminent decline as a liberal democracy.

While in the past, India's diversity, institutions, vibrant civil society, the possibility of a deep state emerging was remote. That, argues Ahmar, has changed in the recent past. In something of a conspiracy theory, Ahmar gives three indicators — centred around a somewhat far-fetched nexus between the RSS, the Intelligence Bureau and the rise of Hindu nationalism — to substantiate his point. He also argues that the "role of the Indian Army today in the policymaking process is not submissive as it has several times vetoed the decision of its prime ministers, particularly related to Pakistan."

"With the weightage given to the Indian military and the security establishment, India is fast moving towards becoming a deep state at the expense of its democratic institutions," concludes the article.

REFUGEE DAY KUDOS

THE editorial in *The Dhaka Tribune* on June 20 is rather self-congratulatory, perhaps un-

derstandably so. Since Bangladesh began to bear the brunt of the Rohingya crisis in terms of fleeing refugees, the newspaper's editorial line has consistently made two points: One, that the Bangladesh government must not be alone in handling the crisis; the international community must chip in. And two, that pressure must be put on the Myanmar government to normalise the situation in Rakhine state, ending the ethnic violence so that those that have had to flee with their lives are able to return.

The editorial says: "The prominence with which such crises take place all over the world is saddening, and is nothing short of an insult to the humanity we owe our fellow human beings. But there are instances where humanity did come first. Nowhere is this more evident than in Bangladesh, where over a million Rohingya have taken shelter, having fled the brutality of the Myanmar army, which has used every deplorable act possible against them to ethnically cleanse the region of the Rohingya population. No doubt, Bangladesh has emerged as an example of generosity and humanity in this regard, tackling what is by any means among the greatest refugee crisis of contemporary times."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

WRONG TIME

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Pollarising' (IE, June 21). It is naive to expect the disparate parties which harbour animosity against each other, particularly after elections, to sit across the table and deliberate on sensitive issues. For any discussion to happen, a positive and conducive environment needs to be evolved. But the current milieu is one of cynicism and mistrust. Second, informed debates and meetings have been overshadowed by TV debates and social media.

Deepak Singhal, Noida

LIBERALS' BLINKERS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Once upon a time, a nation' (IE, June 19). According to the article, the country's government received its mandate due to successful story telling. What prevented the liberals from presenting their story?

Girish Das, Noida

LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

To encourage quality reader intervention, The Indian Express offers the Letter of the Week award. The letter adjudged the best for the week is published every Saturday. Letters may be e-mailed to editpage@expressindia.com or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301. Letter writers should mention their postal address and phone number.

THE WINNER RECEIVES SELECT EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS

QUESTIONS FOR BJP

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Prime man show' (IE, January 21). Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, the BJP seems to be becoming akin to the Congress of the 1970s and 1980s. However, the BJP does have a crop of

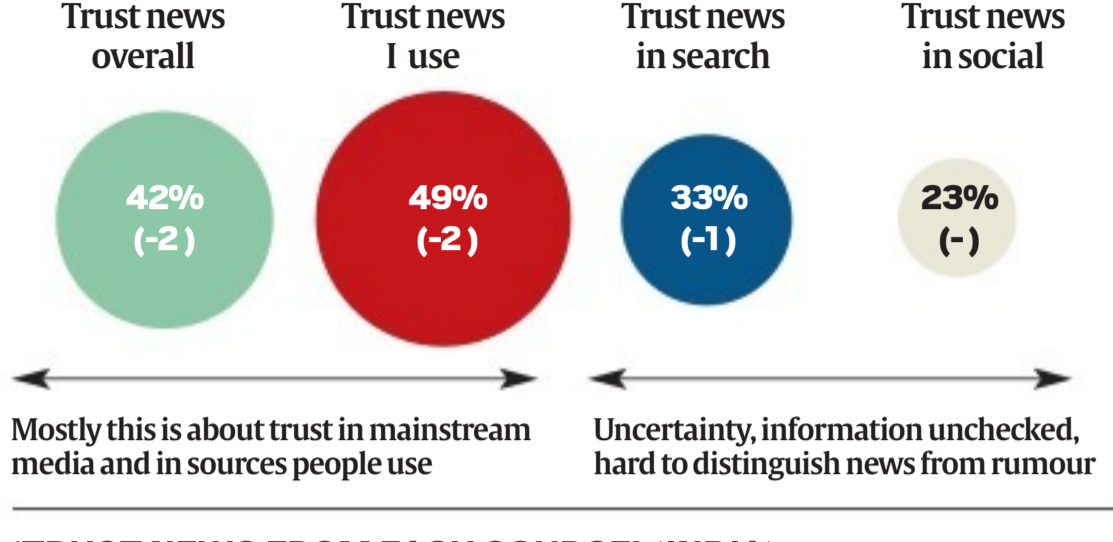
promising young leaders. Moreover, the BJP is also backed by the RSS, which sooner than later will assert itself against the centralising tendencies. The question, however, is: Will the BJP's young crop be in tune with the RSS's agenda?

Smita Pandey, Lucknow

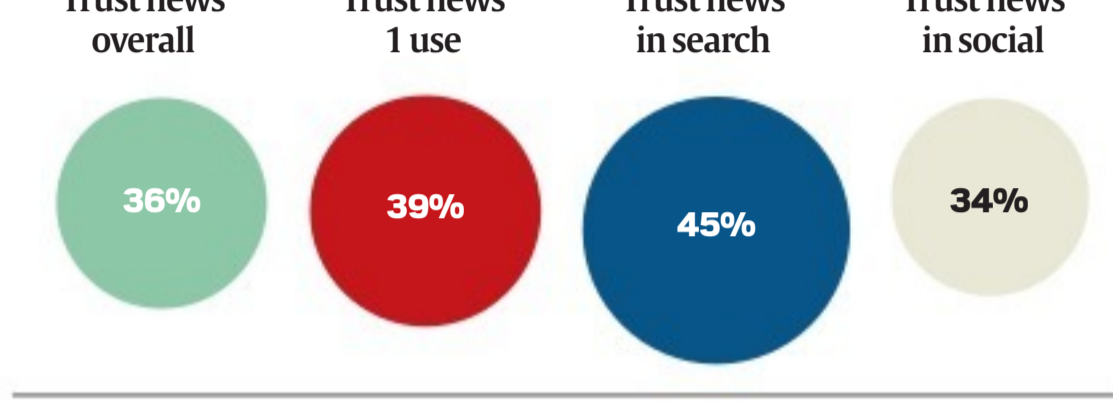
TELLING NUMBERS

Do people trust online news? How Indians, others responded

'TRUST NEWS FROM EACH MOST OF THE TIME' (38 MARKETS)



'TRUST NEWS FROM EACH SOURCE' (INDIA)



Source: Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, Oxford University

KARISHMA MEHROTRA
 NEW DELHI, JUNE 14

TWO RECENT studies have found that less than half of online users trust the news they come across. A comparison between the two suggests that English speaking users in India trust online news overall less than users in other countries do, but they trust news found in search and social media more than those elsewhere do.

Both studies were conducted by the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at Oxford University. The newer one covered more than 75,000 people in 38 markets (excluding India). The earlier one, released two months ago, was specific to India because "Internet use is not yet widespread enough there to make our online sample directly comparable to the countries covered here (in the second report)". The India study was limited to a small subset of 1,013 English speakers and online users, and was not representative of the country, the report said.

The global study also found that except in Nordic countries, "most people are not prepared to pay for online news today and on current trends look unlikely to pay in the future." Even in countries where consumers are paying for online news, they are still only limiting their subscriptions to one source, and in other countries, people are opting for entertainment subscriptions like Netflix or Spotify instead of news, it found.

In India, 36% of respondents trusted the news overall, including 45% in search and 34% in social media. In other markets, 42% of respondents trusted the news overall, with 33% trusting it in search and 23% in social media. Korea, France, Greece, and Hungary trust the news the least and Finland, Portugal, Denmark, and Netherlands trust it the most.

The India survey also found that 55% of respondents were concerned that expressing political views online could get them in trouble with the authorities.

India's English speakers were on par with other countries in misinformation and disinformation concerns. More than half (55%) in the new study were concerned about their ability to distinguish between real and fake on the Internet, with those in polarised countries such as Brazil, South Africa, and Mexico expressing more concern. In the India-specific study, 57% were concerned with this, while roughly half were concerned with hyper-partisan content.

The issue is related to challenges of "rising populism, political and economic instability, along with intensifying concerns about giant tech companies", the study says. "It is also raising new questions for journalists over how far to represent populist views, and how to satisfy a readership that no longer splits easily along traditional lines."

The global study found that populists are not more likely to use social media, but they are more likely to engage on social media, especially Facebook. The study measured populism by asking about the distance respondents feel from their elected representatives and how much they want people to make important decisions directly.

News consumers are less critical of the media's agenda-setting role (25%) and more concerned (39%) with the "negative" view that the media takes on events. Only half the respondents say the media helps them understand the news and 42% say the media fulfills a watchdog role. There were significant gaps between journalists' and consumers' perceptions.

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

One Poll: one idea, many views

Fresh push for simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly polls reopens debate over objectives it would meet, concerns it would create. What are the arguments on either side, how have previous efforts played out?

PRADEEP KAUSHAL
 NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

REELECTED PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi has renewed the idea of "One Country, One Election", announcing last week that a committee will be formed to examine the issue, and holding a meeting with leaders of political parties. Many Opposition parties are, however, against the idea of simultaneous polls to Lok Sabha and all Assemblies.

What purpose would simultaneous polls serve, if held?

There are arguments on both sides. Making polls simultaneous would address various concerns, such as reducing the cost of holding elections, and limiting all elections to a single season. At present, there is an election is close in one state or the other at almost any given time, and those who favour simultaneous polls argue that the Model Code of Conduct gets in the way of the government announcing projects or policy plans.

Against the idea, the arguments include the complexity of such an exercise, the widely held view that simultaneous polls would benefit the nationally dominant party at the cost of regional players, and the complications that would arise if any of the governments were to collapse before completing its term. Leave alone state legislatures, even the central government could fall. Of 17 Lok Sabhas since 1952, seven were dissolved ahead of schedule — in 1971, 1980, 1984, 1991, 1998, 1999 and 2004. There would also be logistical issues, requiring about twice as many electronic voting machines and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail machines.

When elections were first held in independent India, were they not simultaneous to begin with?

Lok Sabha and state legislatures went to polls together in 1952 and 1957, with the Congress initially comfortably placed all over the country. The synchronised cycle was first broken in Kerala, in July 1959, when the Centre invoked Article 356 of the Constitution to dismiss the ministry headed by E M S Nambudiripad of the Communist Party, which had assumed power after elections in April 1957. This was followed by state elections in February 1960.

As the Congress's popularity declined, it suffered major setbacks in several states — Bihar, UP, Rajasthan, Punjab, West Bengal, Orissa, Madras and Kerala — in the 1967 elections. Consequently, Samyukta Vidhayak Dal governments, comprising Bharatiya Kranti Dal, SSP, PSP, Swatantra Party, Jana Sangh and Congress defectors, came to power. Defections and counter-defections ultimately led to the dissolution of Assemblies, which separated the poll cycles of many states from the central one.

At present, Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim are held together with Lok Sabha polls.

In recent years, Assemblies have been completing their tenures, mainly because of



Varanasi on May 19, 2019. Lok Sabha polls come 2 years after one UP Assembly poll and 3 years before the next. Anand Singh

the anti-defection law of 1985 and Supreme Court judgments on invoking Article 356. The Supreme Court had held that the President can put a state Assembly in suspended animation, but cannot dissolve it without concurrence of Parliament. Further, the validity of the proclamation of President's rule may be examined by the judiciary.

Has the idea of simultaneous polls been explored before?

The Election Commission had suggested back in 1983 that such a system be worked out. The Law Commission headed by Justice B P Jeevan Reddy, in its 170th Report in May 1999, stated "we must go back to the situation where the elections to Lok Sabha and all the Legislative Assemblies are held at once".

In 2003, then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee took up the issue with Congress president Sonia Gandhi. She appeared initially receptive, but the idea did not take off from there. In 2010, BJP leader L K Advani met with then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, then wrote in his blog: "I found both of them (PM and Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee) receptive to a proposal I have been advocating for quite some time: fixed term legislatures and simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly polls." He noted that the country witnessed a "mini-general election" every alternate year, and wrote, "This is not good for the health either of our Central and State governments, or of our polity."

How have matters moved after the NDA came to power?

In 2015, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, headed by E M Sudarshana Natchiappan, compiled a report on 'Feasibility of Holding Simultaneous Elections to House of People (Lok Sabha) and State Legislative

Assemblies'. "The holding of simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and state assemblies would reduce: (i) the massive expenditure that is currently incurred for the conduct of separate elections; (ii) the policy paralysis that results from the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct during election time; (iii) impact on delivery of essential services and (iv) burden on crucial manpower that is deployed during election time," the report observed.

However, the Congress told the committee it was "impractical" and "unworkable". The Trinamool Congress said it was anti-democratic and unconstitutional, while the CPI and the NCP said it was "not feasible". The CPI(M) too pointed at "practical problems".

In 2017, in his address to the joint session of Parliament (prepared by the government), then President Pranab Mukherjee expressed concern over frequent elections. They "put on hold development programmes, disrupt normal public life, and impact essential services and burden human resource with prolonged periods of election duty," Mukherjee said, pleading for a constructive debate.

Also in 2017, in a discussion paper, 'Analysis of Simultaneous Elections: The "What", "Why", and "How"', Bibek Debroy and Kishore Desai of NITI Aayog wrote that the elections of 2009 had cost the exchequer about Rs 1,115 crore, and the 2014 elections about Rs 3,870 crore. The total spent on the elections, including the expense incurred by parties and candidates, was several times more.

Has there been an effort to address the concerns that would arise?

In a draft report on August 30, 2018, the Law Commission headed by Justice B S Chauhan held that simultaneous elections could not be held within the existing framework of the Constitution. These could be held together "through appropriate amendments to the

Constitution, the Representation of the People Act 1951, and the Rules of Procedure of Lok Sabha and state Assemblies". At least 50% of the states may ratify the constitutional amendments. The Commission recommended that all elections due in a calendar year be conducted together. Since a no-confidence motion, if passed, may curtail the term of Lok Sabha or an Assembly, the Law Commission recommended replacing the "no-confidence motion" with a "constructive vote of no-confidence" through appropriate amendments — a government may only be removed if there is confidence in an alternative government.

Last week, in his address to the joint session of Parliament, President Ram Nath Kovind said, "One Nation, Simultaneous Election is the need of the hour, which would facilitate accelerated development, thereby benefiting our countrymen."

Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora stated at a public function that simultaneous elections are "a very desirable goal, but for that, political systems of the country will have to take steps to align the life of a state Assembly with the life of Parliament".

Is there a meeting point in sight?

The Opposition is wary of a concept that would take away the regional element of state polls, and leave regional personalities overshadowed by national leaders. The hugely expanding BJP, on the other hand, included the idea in its poll manifesto. With Prime Minister Modi as its face, a single campaign and election would take care of all Assemblies and Lok Sabha. Swaraj India president Yogendra Yadav has said the idea amounts to "One Nation, One Election, One Party, One Leader".

The Opposition is likely to remain hostile to the proposal. The government will have to wait until it has the numbers in Rajya Sabha to carry through the requisite amendments.

THIS WORD MEANS: CONSTRUCTIVE VOTE OF NO-CONFIDENCE

Provision in Germany, context in 'One Poll' push

SAMPAD PATNAIK
 BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 23

IN THE debate over simultaneous elections, one question being raised is what happens to the common cycle if any one of these simultaneously elected legislatures is brought down by a no-confidence motion. The ruling BJP in Odisha (where Assembly and Lok Sabha elections already coincide) has proposed a solution — a provision on the lines of what is followed in Germany (The Indian Express, June 22). This is based on a concept

called "constructive vote of no-confidence", also recommended by the Law Commission of India in a 2018 draft report.

The provision

Article 67 [Vote of no confidence] of Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany (Constitution of the Federal Republic of Germany) sets conditions for moving a no-confidence motion against the Chancellor — the Bundestag (Parliament) may express its lack of confidence in the Federal Chancellor only by electing a successor by the vote of a majority of its members and requesting the

Federal President to dismiss the Chancellor. The President must comply with the request and appoint the person elected.

Article 68 [Vote of confidence] states that if a motion of the Chancellor for a vote of confidence is not supported by a majority of members, the President, upon the proposal of the Chancellor, may dissolve the Bundestag within 21 days. The right of dissolution shall lapse as soon as the Bundestag elects another Chancellor by a majority vote.

Its objective

Since the provision allows Parliament to

withdraw confidence from a head of government only if there is a majority in favour for a prospective successor, it narrows the scope of the Opposition to overthrow the government at will and necessitate elections before the government ends its term.

"The underlying premise is that there is a fixed five-year-tenure (for the House) and that there will be a government no matter what. The government will be presumed to have a majority unless another grouping is in a position to demonstrate that they have greater numbers," said Pinaki Misra, BJD leader in Lok Sabha.

Record temperatures: trend projected to continue, what it will take to check it

KABIR FIRAQUE
 NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

AROUND THE world, record temperatures have become more and more frequent in recent years. This month, Delhi reported its highest ever temperature of 48°C while Churu in Rajasthan crossed 50°C. Last week, the United Nations' World Meteorological Organization confirmed two very recent readings as being among the hottest on record globally — 53.9°C in Mitribah, Kuwait (2016) and 53.7°C in Turbat, Pakistan (2017). India's highest ever, too, came as recently as May 19, 2016 — 51°C in Phalodi, Rajasthan.

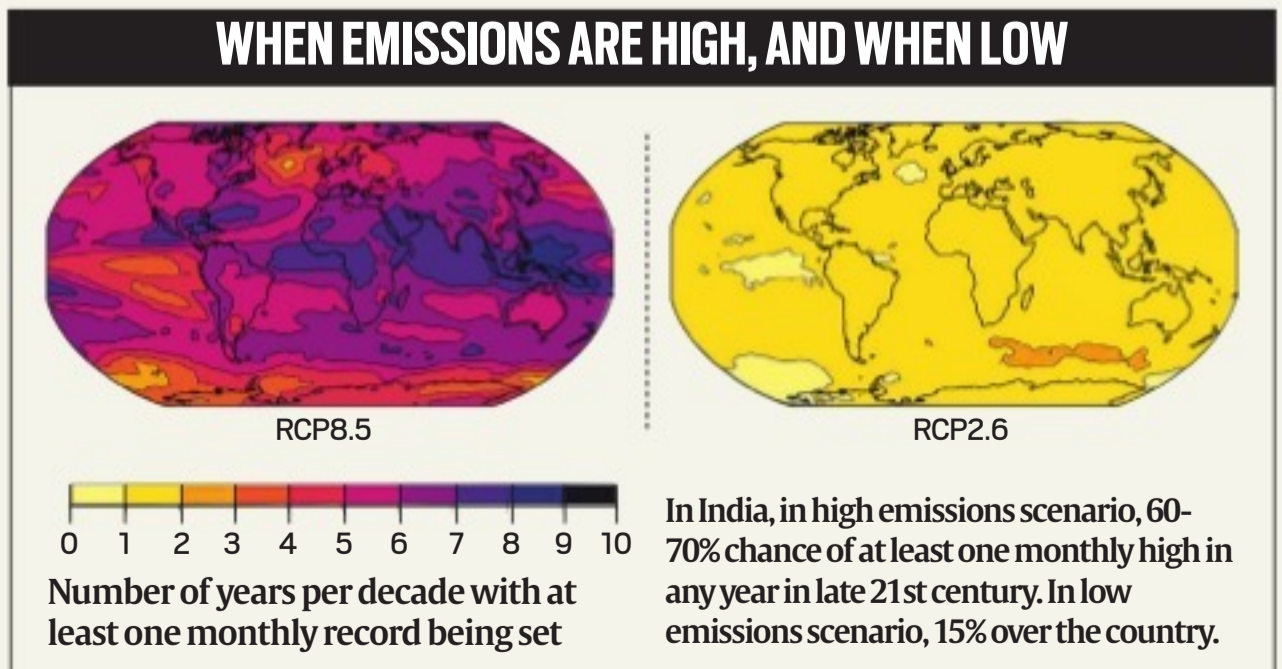
A new study has projected that the record-setting trend will continue for at least the next 20 years, and for longer unless measures are taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

From the findings, it can be inferred that India too is projected to experience the frequent occurrence of unprecedented high temperatures over the next 20 years, study author Scott Power of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology told The Indian Express by email. Power and colleague Francois Delage have reported their findings in the journal Nature Climate Change.

The big picture

Using 22 climate models from the world's leading climate research centres, the new study projects temperature trends in two possible scenarios — high greenhouse gas emissions (called RCP8.5) and substantially reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 (RCP2.6).

If the high-emissions scenario were to continue, the study found that by the end of the century, 58% of the Earth's surface



will likely witness at least one new monthly record temperature every year. In the low-emissions scenario, however, the likelihood would drop to 14%.

Source: Power & Delage/Nature Climate Change

Projections for India

In the high-emissions scenario, the likelihood of setting at least one high monthly record in any given year varies regionally

from 60% to 70% in the late 21st century, which is larger than the global average of 58%, Power said. In the low-emissions scenario, the likelihood of setting at least one high monthly record drops to approximately 15% over the whole country.

And if the projection is for frequent record temperatures over the next 20 years, "after this, the frequency will increase if greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise or the frequency will fall if large and sustained cuts are made to global greenhouse gas emissions", Power said.

Why 20 years?

Although the study looks at the benefits of reducing global greenhouse emissions by the end of the 21st century, these benefits take more than 20 years to become clear, Power said. "The likelihood of setting extreme temperature records is projected to remain at high levels for the next two decades."

Rest of world

The poorest countries are projected to witness the highest pace at which records are set, and the greatest benefits from reducing emissions on this pace. Approximately 68% of years will see records set in the world's Least Developed Countries and in Small Island Developing States by the end of the century, whereas this figure is only 54% in wealthier nations, the study said.

The authors make a distinction between temperature records being "set" and "smashed", using the latter for records being surpassed by a high amount. "Near the end of the century the likelihood of setting records that smash the records they replace by more than 1.0°C," Power said, "is eight times more likely if global greenhouse gas emissions are not markedly reduced, and are over twenty times more likely than would be the case if anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions had not occurred at all."

13 THE WORLD

TOPOF THE WORLD



Maithripala Sirisena

SRI LANKA
Sirisena calls for repeal of 19th Amendment

Colombo: Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena on Sunday called for repealing the 19th Amendment to the Constitution which has curtailed presidential powers, blaming it for the political instability in the country. 19A was the main election pledge of Sirisena when he challenged former president Mahinda Rajapaksa as the Oppn common candidate in 2015. Rajapaksa in 2010 had moved the 18A which allowed him to contest presidency any number of times by lifting the then existing two-term bar.

SRI LANKA
Six Indians arrested for smuggling gold

Colombo: Six Indians have been arrested by Sri Lankan authorities for allegedly attempting to smuggle gold worth Rs 30 lakhs to India, a media report said Sunday. The accused were arrested at Bandaranaike Airport and had concealed the gold biscuits in their luggage, pockets of the trousers they were wearing and also their rectum, the *Daily Mirror* reported. "All accused are aged between 36 and 53. They were trying to smuggle the gold to Chennai..." spokesman Deputy Director Sunil Jayaratne was quoted as saying.

PAKISTAN
Vehicle falls into river, death toll at nine

Peshawar: Nine people, including two women and three children, were killed on Sunday when a vehicle veered off a mountainous road and fell into the Indus in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, police said. SHO Hafeezur Rehman was quoted by *Dawn* as saying, "Due to bad condition of the roads, the vehicle fell into Indus River." Some people managed to jump out of the vehicle and most of them sustained minor injuries. Nine people, however, did not survive the fall, Rehman said, adding seven bodies have been retrieved so far and taken to a hospital.

Iran warns conflict may threaten US troops, Trump sees scope for deal

PARISA HAFEZI & KEVIN DRAWBAUGH
DUBAI, WASHINGTON, JUNE 23

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump said on Sunday he was not seeking war after a senior Iranian military commander warned any conflict in the Gulf region may spread uncontrollably and threaten the lives of US troops.

"I'm not looking for war," Trump said on NBC's Meet the Press program.

Trump has said he will impose further sanctions on Iran from Monday but has also indicated that he would be prepared to seek a deal to bolster its flagging economy, an apparent move to defuse tensions.

"I think they want to negotiate. And I think they want to make a deal. And my deal is nuclear. Look, they're not going to have a nuclear weapon," he added. "I don't think they like the position they're in. Their economy is absolutely broken."

Relations in the region began to worsen significantly when Trump pulled out of a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six powers and reimposed sanctions on the country. The sanctions had been lifted under the pact in return for Tehran curbing its nuclear programme.

Iran has said it would respond firmly to any threat against it and warned on Sunday of the risks of a military confrontation.

Iranian President Hassan



US National Security Advisor John Bolton with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem on Sunday. Reuters

"I think they want to negotiate. And I think they want to make a deal. And my deal is nuclear. Look, they're not going to have a nuclear weapon... Their economy is absolutely broken"

DONALD TRUMP
US PRESIDENT

"Neither Iran nor any other hostile actor should mistake US prudence and discretion for weakness. No one has granted them a hunting license in the Middle East"

JOHN BOLTON
US NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

If a conflict breaks out in the region, no country would be able to manage its scope and timing... The US must act responsibly to protect lives of American troops by avoiding misconduct..."

GHOLAMALI RASHID
IRAN MAJOR GENERAL

Rouhani accused the Americans of stoking tensions in the Gulf through what Iran has called the violation of its airspace by the US military drone, the semi-official Fars

news agency reported. Speaking on a visit to Israel, US National Security Adviser John Bolton sought to maintain military pressure on Iran. Iran is feeling the effects of

the sanctions, said Bolton. "Sanctions are biting, and more added last night," he said. "Iran can never have nuclear weapons - not against the USA, and not against the world." REUTERS

TEHRAN URGES EUROPE TO SHIELD IT FROM US SANCTIONS

IRAN MAY further scale back compliance with its nuclear deal in two weeks unless European countries shield it from U.S. sanctions through a trade mechanism, the head of Tehran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations said. "If Europeans don't take measures within the 60-day deadline (announced by Iran in May), we will take new steps," the semi-official news agency ISNA quoted Kamal Kharazi, a former foreign minister, as saying.

SPY DRONE HAD VIOLATED AIRSPACE IN MAY: MINISTER

IRAN SAID on Sunday a "spy drone" had encroached its airspace in May about a month before it downed an American drone as part of a series of escalatory incidents between Tehran and Washington. Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted a map saying the US-made MQ9 Reaper drone - also used for carrying out military strikes - had entered his country's airspace on May 26.

Ethiopia's army chief killed in coup attempt

DAWIT ENDESHAW
ADDIS ABABA, JUNE 23

ETHIOPIA'S ARMY chief of staff and the regional president of the northern state of Amhara were killed in two related attacks when a general tried to seize control of Amhara in an attempted coup, the prime minister's office said on Sunday.

Amhara state president Ambachew Mekonnen and his advisor were shot dead and the attorney general was wounded in Amhara's capital of Bahir Dar on Saturday evening, according to a statement from the office of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

In a separate but related attack the same night, Ethiopia's army Chief of Staff Seare Mekonnen and another retired general were shot dead in Seare's home in Addis Ababa by his bodyguard.

Abiy's office named Amhara state security head General Asamnew Tsige as responsible for the foiled coup, without giving details of his whereabouts. Asamnew was released from prison last year, having been given an amnesty for a similar coup attempt, according to media reports.

Early on Sunday, Brigadier General Tefera Mamo, the head of special forces in Amhara, told state television that "most of the people who attempted the coup have been arrested, although there are a few still at large". REUTERS



Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed spoke of a failed coup on Sunday. AP

EXPLAINED
E. Instability amid reform

AFTER TAKING charge over a year ago, the Ethiopian PM has undertaken unprecedented reforms such as the release of political prisoners and lifting the ban on political parties. His shake-up has also led to bloodshed with various ethnic groups, who are either disputing regional boundaries of the country or pushing for regional governments. These groups had earlier been held in check by the state's iron grip.

Hope Trump letter to Kim can restart talks, says Pompeo

North Korea described the letter as being of 'excellent content'

JEFF MASON & DAVID LAWDER
WASHINGTON, JUNE 23

US SECRETARY of State Mike Pompeo said on Sunday that he hopes a letter sent by President Donald Trump to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un can pave the way for new talks aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear programme.

Pompeo, who confirmed Trump's letter to Kim before departing Washington on a trip to the Middle East, said that the United States was ready to resume talks with North Korea immediately.

"I'm hopeful that this will provide a good foundation for us to begin... these important discussions with the North Koreans," Pompeo told reporters at Joint Base Andrews.

Earlier North Korea's state-run news agency KCNA said Kim had described the letter as being "of excellent content" but did not disclose any details about Trump's message.

The KCNA report said Kim "would seriously contemplate the interesting content".

US-North Korea talks stalled after a failed summit in February between Trump and the North Korean leader in Hanoi, Vietnam.



Reuters

"We're ready to go, we're literally prepared to go at a moment's notice if the North Koreans indicate that they're prepared for those discussions."

— MIKE POMPEO
US SECRETARY OF STATE

A US official said on Wednesday the United States had no pre-conditions for new talks, but that progress would require meaningful and verifiable North Korean steps to abandon its nuclear weapons program.

Pompeo did not discuss the contents of Trump's letter, but said the US has been working to lay foundations for discussions since the Hanoi summit abruptly ended by Trump. He added: "I think we're in a better place." REUTERS

US struck Iranian military computers this week: Officials

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, JUNE 23

US MILITARY cyber forces launched a strike against Iranian military computer systems on Thursday as President Donald Trump backed away from plans for a more conventional military strike in response to Iran's downing of a US surveillance drone, US officials have said.

Two officials told *The Associated Press* on Saturday that the strikes were conducted with approval from Trump. A third official confirmed the broad outlines.

The cyberattacks - a contingency plan developed over weeks amid escalating tensions - disabled Iranian computer systems that controlled its rocket and missile launchers, the officials said.

The action by US Cyber Command was a demonstration of the US' increasingly mature cyber military capabilities and its more aggressive cyber strategy under the Trump administration.

The cyberattacks are the latest chapter in the US and Iran's ongoing cyber operations targeting the other.

THE IRAN SIDE

IN RECENT weeks, hackers believed to be working for the Iranian government have targeted US agencies, as well as sectors of the economy, including finance, oil and gas, sending waves of spear-phishing emails, according to representatives of cybersecurity companies CrowdStrike and FireEye, which regularly track such activity.

UK PM race: Pressure on Boris after 'domestic row'

PAUL SANDLE
LONDON, JUNE 23

REPORTS OF a heated late-night row between Boris Johnson and his girlfriend sparked a debate on Sunday about whether it would hurt his campaign to be Britain's next prime minister and the front-runner's suitability for the job.

Polls conducted for the Mail on Sunday newspaper before and after front page reports of the argument showed that Johnson's lead over rival Jeremy Hunt, the foreign minister, had evaporated amongst all voters



A poster of Johnson in London. Reuters

and had narrowed among Conservatives.

Johnson declined to answer questions about the incident at a hustings event in Birmingham, in central England, on Saturday, saying that the audience wanted instead to hear about his plans for Britain three years after the country voted to leave the European Union. REUTERS

IN 'LITMUS TEST OF DEMOCRACY', ISTANBUL DELIVERS REBUKE TO ERDOGAN



■ Voters in Turkey appear to have delivered a resounding rebuke to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan by again electing an opposition candidate for mayor of Istanbul on Sunday.

■ A *New York Times* report indicated that voters delivered a stinging rebuke to Erdogan, citing reports that with 60 per cent votes counted, the opposition was leading by 55 per cent.

■ If the opposition does manage to wrest control of the city, it would be the biggest defeat of Erdogan's political career, ending his party's 25-year dominance of the city.



Jamal Khashoggi

Trump shrugs off killing of Khashoggi by Saudi agents

MICHAEL D SHEAR
WASHINGTON, JUNE 23

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump on Sunday shrugged off the dismembering of Jamal Khashoggi, a *Washington Post* columnist, days after a United Nations report described how a team of Saudi assassins called Khashoggi a "sacrificial animal" before his murder.

The UN report urged an FBI investigation into the slaying. But in an interview with NBC's "Meet the Press," Trump said the episode had already been thoroughly investigated. He said the Middle East is "a vicious, hostile place" and noted that Saudi Arabia is an important trading partner with the United States.

"I only say they spend \$400 to \$450 billion over a period of time, all money, all jobs, buying equipment," the president told Chuck Todd, the show's moderator. "I'm not like a fool that says, 'We don't want to do business with them.' And by the way, if they don't do business with us, you know what they do? They'll do business with the Russians or the Chinese." NYT

THIS IS SIGNIFICANT AS SUNLIGHT WOULD BREAK UP METHANE SOON — IT MUST HAVE BEEN RELEASED RECENTLY

Mars Rover detects puff of gas that hints at possibility of life

KENNETH CHANG
NEW YORK, JUNE 23

MARS, IT appears, is belching a large amount of a gas that could be a sign of microbes living on the planet today.

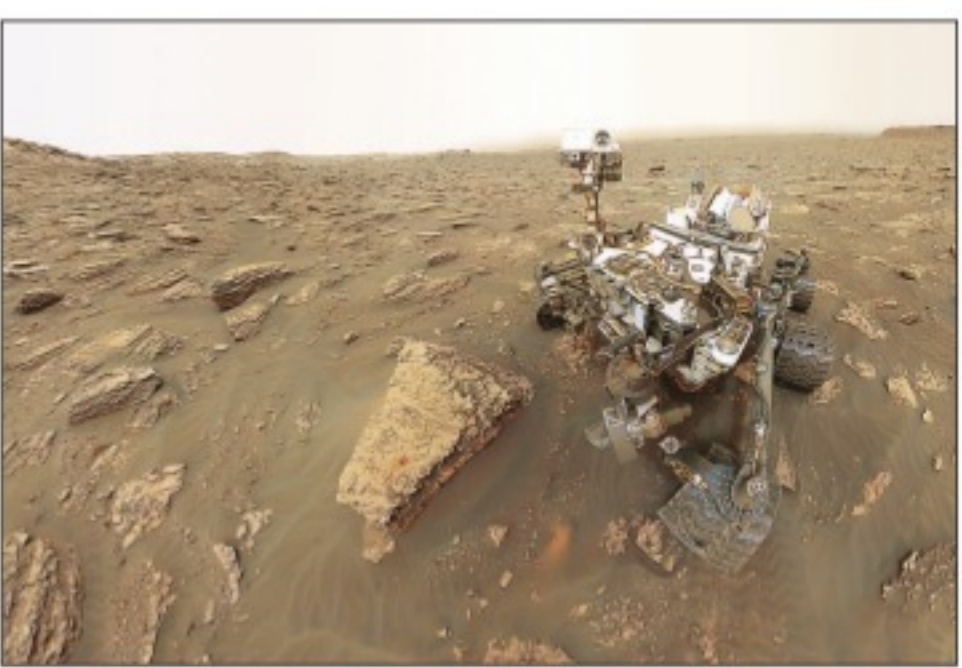
In a measurement taken Wednesday, NASA's Curiosity rover discovered startlingly high amounts of methane in Martian air, a gas that on Earth is usually produced by living things. The data arrived back on Earth on Thursday, and by Friday, scientists working on the mission were excitedly discussing the news.

"Given this surprising result, we've reorganised the weekend

to run a follow-up experiment," Ashwin Vasavada, project scientist for the mission, wrote to the science team in an email obtained by *The New York Times*.

The mission's controllers on Earth sent new instructions to the rover Friday to follow up on the readings, bumping previously planned science work.

People have long been fascinated by the possibility of aliens on Mars. But NASA's Viking landers in the 1970s photographed a desolate landscape. Two decades later, planetary scientists thought Mars might have been warmer, wetter and more habitable in its youth some 4 billion years ago. Now, they are enter-



A self-portrait taken by NASA's Curiosity rover at the Gale Crater earlier this month. NYT/NASA

taining the notion that if life ever did arise on Mars, its microbial descendants could have migrated underground and persisted.

Methane, if present in the thin Martian air, is significant, because sunlight and chemical reactions would break up the molecules within a few centuries. Thus any methane detected must have been released recently.

It is also possible that the methane is ancient, trapped inside Mars for millions of years but escaping intermittently through cracks. NASA acknowledged the methane detection in a statement Saturday but called it an "early science result." The agency's spokesperson

added, "To maintain scientific integrity, the project science team will continue to analyse the data before confirming results."

Scientists first reported detections of methane on Mars a decade and a half ago using measurements from Mars Express, an orbiting spacecraft built by the European Space Agency and still in operation, as well as from telescopes on Earth. However, those findings were at the edge of the detection power of these tools, and many researchers thought the methane might just be a mirage of mistaken data.

When Curiosity arrived on Mars in 2012, it looked for methane and found nothing, or

at least less than 1 part per billion in the atmosphere. Then, in 2013 it detected a sudden spike, up to 7 parts per billion that lasted at least a couple of months.

The methane ebbed away. The measurement this past week found 21 parts per billion of methane, or three times the 2013 spike. Even before that discovery, the mystery of methane had been deepening.

Rovers scheduled for launch next year - one by NASA, one by a Russian-European collaboration - will carry instruments designed to search for the building blocks of life, although neither is designed to answer the question of whether there is life on Mars today. NYT

14 ECONOMY

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2019

GROSS NPAs UNDER MUDRA AT ₹16,480.87 CR, AS AGAINST ₹9,769 CR IN FY18

MUDRA bad loans rise in FY19, even as NPAs decline across banking system

MUDRA NPAs at 5.28% of total disbursements in FY19, as against 3.96% in preceding fiscal

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, JUNE 23

THE GOVERNMENT'S ambitious project to finance small and micro borrowers has witnessed a surge in bad loans at a time when the system-wide non-performing assets (NPAs) have started showing signs of a decline. Gross NPAs under MUDRA, or Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Ltd, rose by 68.7 per cent to Rs 16,480.87 crore for the financial year ended March 2019 from Rs 9,769 crore a year-ago, MUDRA said in an RTI reply.

However, bad loans under the MUDRA scheme are much lower than the total system-wide NPAs. The banking sector's gross NPAs declined to 9.3 per cent in March 2019, much faster than the Reserve Bank of India's estimate and steeply down from 11.5 per cent the year before, a report by ratings agency CIBIL said.

MUDRA loans are given by commercial banks, rural reserve banks, small finance banks, cooperative banks, microfinance institutions and NBFCs to the non-corporate, non-farm small and micro enterprises. These loans are refinanced by MUDRA, with allocation from the Centre.

Cautioning the bankers and the government, in a note to the Parliamentary Estimates Committee on bank NPAs late last year, former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan had said, "Credit targets are sometimes achieved by abandoning appropriate due diligence, creating the environment for future NPAs. Both MUDRA loans as well as the Kisan Credit Card, while popular, have to be examined more closely for potential credit risk."

MUDRA LOANS: IN A NUTSHELL (₹ CRORE)			
YEAR	DISBURSEMENTS	BAD LOANS	LOANS TO WOMEN
2018-19	311,811	16,480	129,153
2017-18	246,437	9,769	100,170
2016-17	175,312	8,501	78,249

Source: MUDRA

Bankers blamed a host of reasons from demonetisation to loan waivers for the rise in MUDRA NPAs. "Loan waivers by state governments, the credit crunch in the MSME sector after demonetisation and ambitious targets to push up lending to the sector are among several factors that led to the rise in defaults," said an official of a nationalised bank. The outstanding against Kisan Credit Card has gone up from Rs 649,600 crore in 2017 to Rs 670,960 crore in 2018, according to the RBI data. Number of Kisan Credit Cards, however, fell from 7.152 crore to

6.921 crore in 2018.

Last week, an eight-member committee on MSMEs headed by UK Sinha — constituted by the Reserve Bank — submitted its report to the Governor of the central bank. The panel has reportedly proposed long-term measures, including doubling the cap on collateral-free loans to Rs 20 lakh from the current level of Rs 10 lakh, to boost the fund requirement of the MSME sector. If implemented, loan disbursements under MUDRA are expected to rise sharply. Under the aegis of the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY),

MUDRA has created three products, namely *Shishu*, *Kishor* and *Tarun*, to signify the stage of growth, development and funding needs of the beneficiary micro unit/entrepreneur and also provide a reference point for the next phase of growth.

Under *Shishu* scheme, loans up to Rs 50,000 are offered. Under *Kishor* scheme, loans above Rs 50,000 and up to 5 lakh are given to borrowers. *Tarun* scheme covers loans above Rs 5 lakh and up to Rs 10 lakh.

The MUDRA refinances the loans which are offered through commercial banks. The state level performance is being monitored by State Level Bankers Committee. In FY19, MUDRA loans worth over Rs 3.11 lakh crore were sanctioned against a target of Rs 3 lakh crore.

In fiscal 2017-18, Tamil Nadu topped with Rs 25,331.68 crore sanctions, closely followed by Karnataka with Rs 23,009.73 crore. Maharashtra stood at third with Rs 22,751.40 crore MUDRA loans. The top ten states contributed 71 per cent of total sanctions in FY18.

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW AN EXPRESS RTI APPLICATION

From Sept 1, insurers can sell standalone Own Damage cover for cars, two-wheelers

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, JUNE 23

IN A relief to vehicle owners, insurance regulator IRDAI has asked general insurers to make available stand-alone annual Own Damage (OD) covers (including stand-alone OD cover for fire or theft if opted for by the policyholder) for cars and two-wheelers. The new regulation will be applicable for both new and old vehicles.

Consequently, with effect from September 1, 2019, the issuance of bundled policies for cars and two-wheelers will not be compulsory. Owners can buy OD and third party policies separately. Further, insurers will have the option to offer package policies, in addition to stand-alone OD and third party (TP) policies. Long term stand-alone OD policy will not be permitted for the present.

A comprehensive car insurance plan has two essential components: OD premium and third party (TP) premium. OD covers loss or damage to the vehicle insured due to accident including fire and theft. TP covers any damage or injury caused by the insured, to another person or property. A TP liability cover is mandatory in India under the

As per new rules, policyholders have the option to renew Own Damage component of a bundled cover falling due on or after September 1, 2019, with the same insurer or different insurer, on an annual basis, IRDAI said

Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. Earlier, the IRDAI circular had stipulated a bundled cover, including OD insurance cover as a package product with a stand-alone motor TP insurance product — one year for OD bundled with long term TP cover for new car/ two-wheeler. Now this has been separated and vehicle owners can go for OD and third party separately. Bundling of cover for the OD portion was earlier permitted as an immediate requirement, keeping in view the date of implementation stipulated by the Supreme Court from September 1, 2018, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) said. As per the new rules, policy-

holders have the option to renew the OD component of a bundled cover falling due on or after September 1, 2019, with the same insurer or different insurer, on an annual basis, IRDAI said.

For issuance of stand-alone OD annual cover as well as for renewal of the OD component of a bundled cover, insurers will have to ensure that OD cover is offered only if a motor TP cover is already in existence or is taken simultaneously. The name of the insurer, policy number and the start date and end date of the TP policy should be indicated in the OD policy document. The stand-alone OD policy should clearly mention that the coverage is only for own damage and no other liability in connection with the vehicle.

The pricing of a standalone OD policy will continue to be that being offered for the OD component of a package policy (the same was followed for the OD component of a bundled product as well).

However, if the insured takes a third party insurance cover from another insurer simultaneously, he or she can cancel the one automatically transferred, provided proof of new insurance is shown. Needless to say, this should apply to annual package and standalone TP policies also.

BRIEFLY

Amazon pours in ₹450 cr for payments unit

New Delhi: American retail giant Amazon has infused Rs 450 crore into its payments unit in India - Amazon Pay, as per regulatory documents. Amazon Pay (India) has allotted 45 crore shares of Rs 10 each aggregating to Rs 450 crore to Amazon Corporate Holdings and Amazon.com, Inc Ltd, documents with Corporate Affairs Ministry showed.

'Govt has no business to be in business'

New Delhi: Anil Agarwal, chairman of Vedanta Resources, has told Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the Centre should privatise five mining firms including NMDC to save some of the \$400 billion that India spends annually on imports, saying the government has no business to be in the business. Agarwal was one of the three industrialists invited for a pre-Budget meeting that Modi had with over 40 economists and sectoral experts Saturday.

ASEAN leaders slam protectionism

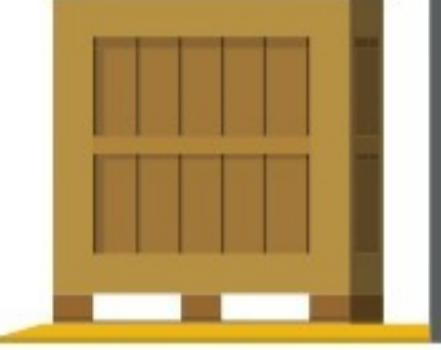
Bangkok: Southeast Asian leaders, at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit that closed Sunday in Bangkok, made an impassioned plea against protectionism, warning that a dragging United States-China trade spat could hammer their export-led economies. Leaders also called for urgency in concluding talks on a China-led trade pact this year. PTI

'Warehousing space stock to double in 4 years'

The total stock of warehousing space is estimated to double in the next four years to 344 million square feet (sq ft) in eight major cities on rising demand from third party logistics, e-commerce and automobile players, according to the report 'Indian Logistics and Warehousing: Tracing the Lifecycle' by JLL India

22% Year-on-year (y-o-y) growth seen in total stock in Grade A & B warehousing space in eight major cities; from 138 million square ft in 2017 to 169 million square ft in 2018

63% Y-o-y growth seen in 2018 in demand or absorption for warehousing space; from 19.7 million sq ft in 2017 to 31.8 million sq ft in 2018



38 mn sq ft Expected total absorption of warehousing space in 2019, of which 8.4 million sq ft is already leased during January-March quarter

"In all major cities, real estate space for the sector has seen stable growth in supply, demand and rental over the last few years. We expect the supply to double in the next 4 years, exhibiting a strong market trend for warehousing per se."

RAMESH NAIR
JLL INDIA CEO & COUNTRY HEAD

344 mn sq ft Projected total stock of warehousing space in next four years in eight major cities, namely Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune and Ahmedabad

Air India regional director suspended for 'shoplifting' at Sydney duty free outlet

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

A SENIOR Air India pilot, Rohit Bhasin, who also worked as regional director for the airline's eastern region, has been suspended after he was accused of shoplifting a wallet at a duty free shop at Sydney while being on official flying duty there on Saturday. "It has been reported by Regional Manager Australasia that you allegedly committed an act of shoplifting from a duty free shop at Sydney airport before the departure of flight AI301 of June 22, 2019, from Sydney airport for which you were rostered as one of the commanders. Without prejudice to any disciplinary action to be initiated against you and pending enquiry, you are hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect..." according to an Air India letter sent to the accused. In a statement, confirming the development, a spokesperson

said: "Air India lays the highest stress on proper conduct of its staff and has a zero tolerance policy towards acts of impropriety. There is an initial report of one of its captains Mr Rohit Bhasin, who is also working as a regional director, picked up a wallet from a duty free shop in Sydney. Air India has instituted an enquiry into this incident and has placed the captain under suspension". As per reports, the suspended commander has been flying with Air India for over three decades and comes from a family of pilots. His father was a pilot too, as are his wife and son. He is also said to have flown former President Pratibha Patil on her foreign tours in Air India's VVIP aircraft. The letter by the flag-carrier suspending Bhasin also told him not to enter the premises of Air India or leave Kolkata, his station, without permission of the airline management. He was also asked to hand over all the identity documents issued by the company.

Insolvency proceedings initiated against Jet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

INSOLVENCY PROCEEDINGS have been initiated against debt-ridden Jet Airways, which formally stopped flying on April 17 and saw lenders voting for bankruptcy earlier this month. The cash-strapped company became the first domestic airliner to go into bankruptcy after the Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) admitted an insolvency petition filed by State Bank of India on behalf of 26 lenders on June 20. "Pursuant to an order dated June 20, 2019 of NCLT Mumbai Bench, Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) has been initiated for Jet Airways (India) as per the provisions of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016," Jet Airways said in a regulatory filing Sunday. The debt-ridden carrier further said that upon initiation of CIRP, the powers of the Board of

Directors of the company have been suspended and shall be exercised by the Interim Resolution Professional. Jet Airways owes more than Rs 8,000 crore to a consortium of banks, led by State Bank of India, as well as thousands of crores more in arrears to vendors, lessors and employees. The airline formally stopped flying on April 17 and banks voted for bankruptcy on June 17. The NCLT bench comprising VP Singh and Ravikumar Duraisamy set a 90-day deadline to resolution professional Ashish Chhauchharia of Grant Thornton to conclude the resolution process, even though the bankruptcy law allows 180 days for the same, saying "the matter is of national importance." The bench also instructed the resolution professional to file fortnightly progress report and submit the first such report on July 5 when it will begin to hear the matter again.

INDIAN EXPORTS TO COUNTRIES UNDER GSP

Importing Country	2018 (\$ million)	2017 (\$ million)
EU	25,965.15	23,938.67
USA	6,307.3	5,690.8
Japan	17,19.45	1,818.40
Russia	478.68	426.56
Australia	445.76	389.74
New Zealand	29.05	27.93
Belarus	21.25	16.48
Kazakhstan	5.72	5.68

Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Even AS the United States has withdrawn preferential tariff benefits to India, provoking New Delhi to impose retaliatory tariffs on many imports of American goods, India continues to enjoy tariff preference from many countries including Australia, Russia and Japan, as well as the European Union (EU), among others. Indian exports to these countries was nearly five times the total exports to the US in 2018, with the country exporting \$6.3 billion worth of goods to the US under GSP in 2018 and availing duty concession to the tune of \$240 million last year. Effective June 5, 2019, the US terminated its preferential tariffs being granted to India under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) Scheme. However, exports to other countries offering preferential tariffs continues to grow. For instance, Indian exports to 28 countries in the EU under the GSP scheme rose to \$25.96 billion in 2018, up from \$23.93 billion in 2017 and \$20.76 billion in 2016. Within the group of countries that provided GSP benefit to India, exports to EU nations were highest, followed by the US, Japan, Russia and Australia, respectively. Exports from India to Japan under preferential tariff arrangement were at \$1.71 billion in 2018, as compared to \$1.81 billion in 2017 and \$1.61 billion in 2016. Exports to Russia rose to \$478.68 million in 2018, from \$426.56 million in 2017 and \$430.69 million in 2016. Exports to Australia were at \$445.76 million in 2018, as against \$389.74 million in 2017 and \$319.66 million in 2016. Apart from these countries, exports to New Zealand, Belarus and Kazakhstan were at \$29.05 million, \$21.25 million and \$5.72 million in 2018, respectively. "Some developed countries including European Union provide unilateral tariff preferences on exports from developing countries/least developing country under their Generalized System of Preferences Scheme," Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal had said Friday in a reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha. "As per WTO, India is a beneficiary of GSP provided by Armenia, Australia, European Union, Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, Switzerland and Turkey," he said. As a beneficiary of the GSP — one of the largest and oldest trade preference programmes by the US — since November 1975, India could export thousands of products to the US without the added

Exports of 1,900 products to now face duties burden

INDIA HAS been a beneficiary of the US' GSP programme since November 1975, under which beneficiary countries are allowed to export thousands of products to the US without the added burden of duties. As exports under GSP accounted for over 11 per cent of India's total goods exports of \$54.4 billion to the US in 2018, the withdrawal could affect India's competitiveness in exports of 1,900 items, including organic chemical raw materials, iron, steel, furniture, aluminium and electrical machinery, as duties will now be levied on these products.

FedEx misses delivery of Huawei package to US; may 'enter unreliable entities list'

KANISHKA SINGH
BENGALURU, JUNE 23

FEDEX CORP said on Sunday an operational error prevented a Huawei Technologies package from being delivered to the United States, just weeks after the US delivery company said an error led to the Chinese firm's packages being misdirected. China's *Global Times* newspaper said in a tweet later the company is likely to be added to China's 'unreliable entities list' due

to the incident, which occurred days before US President Donald Trump and China's Xi Jinping are due to meet in Japan to try to deescalate a trade war. Trade tensions between the United States and China have extended beyond tariffs, particularly after Washington put Huawei on a blacklist that effectively bans US firms from doing business with the company. "The package in question was mistakenly returned to the shipper, and we apologise for this operational error," FedEx told *Reuters* in an emailed statement. A company spokeswoman confirmed the package was US bound but declined to say what it contained. China threatened in late May

TRADE TENSIONS EXTEND BEYOND TARIFFS

Trade tensions between the US and China have extended beyond tariffs, particularly after Washington put Huawei on a blacklist that effectively bans US firms from doing business with the company. China's *Global Times* said FedEx is likely to be added to China's 'unreliable entities list' due to the incident, which occurred days before US President Donald Trump and China's Xi Jinping are due to meet in Japan

to unveil its own unprecedented hit-list of "unreliable" foreign firms, groups and individuals that harm the interests of Chinese companies. China did not single out any countries or companies, but said the list will apply to companies who flout market rules and the spirit of contracts, block supplies to Chinese companies for non-commercial reasons and "seriously harm the legitimate rights and interests" of Chinese companies, according to a report in state-run *China National Radio*.

The commerce ministry will disclose more details of the list soon, the report said. China's commerce ministry and FedEx did not respond to a request for comment on the likelihood of FedEx being added to the 'unreliable' list. *Global Times* is published by the ruling Communist Party's People's Daily. Huawei, which said it was reviewing its relationship with FedEx after the mishandling of its packages earlier, did not respond to a *Reuters* request for comment on Sunday. **REUTERS**

Huawei asks India: Take 'informed, independent decision' on 5G trials

Beijing: Huawei has urged India to make an "informed and independent decision" on permitting its 5G trials in the country as the Chinese telecom giant reeled under pressure following the US ban. The US has banned Huawei, the world's leader in telecom equipment and the number two smartphone producer, over concerns of security and Washington has been pressuring other countries to restrict the operations of the Chinese telecom firm. India, however, is yet to take a call on whether it intends to place curbs on Huawei or allow the firm to participate in the upcoming 5G trials. **PTI**

UNREST IN HONG KONG

Carrie on, for now

A policy U-turn puts Hong Kong's leader in a precarious position

JUST AS Hong Kong was digesting the impact of what may well have been its biggest street protest since China took over the territory in 1997, another far bigger one happened. Organisers said 1.9m people joined the second of these demonstrations—a turnout that was all the more remarkable given that the government, less than a day earlier, had made a humiliating U-turn to placate the protesters. Critics of the Communist Party's tightening grip on Hong Kong feel they have gained a rare advantage. The leadership in Beijing has suffered an embarrassing blow.

Hong Kong's embattled chief executive, Carrie Lam, says she will give up—at least until next year—her efforts to secure the passage of legislation that triggered the unrest: a bill to allow criminal suspects to be extradited to the Chinese mainland. But the scale of the second massive protest, on June 16th, showed that many Hong Kongers deeply distrust both her and the regime that pulls her strings.

There will be more unrest. As *The Economist* went to press, a deadline passed for the government to respond to demands made by student unions. They had asked Mrs Lam to scrap the bill and make it clearer that a smaller protest on June 12th that escalated into violence, with police firing tear gas and rubber bullets, was not, as the police called it, a riot. They had also insisted that charges be dropped against those arrested during the confrontation. The students had threatened to march to the government's offices on June 21st if their demands were not met. That protest now looks likely. The group behind the bigger demonstrations, the Civil Human Rights Front, has called for another large one on July 1st, the anniversary of China's resumption of sovereignty over Hong Kong.

This is the most sustained outbreak of unrest in Hong Kong since the "Umbrella Movement" of 2014, when protesters staged weeks of sit-ins to push for free and fair elections for the post of chief executive. The government made no concessions that time because China's leaders fear that allowing full democracy in Hong Kong might weaken their grip on the territory. On this occasion Hong Kong's officials are prepared to retreat, at least partially, because the extradition bill is not so vital to the Communist Party's interests. At a press conference on June 18th Mrs Lam offered what she called a "most sincere apology" to Hong Kongers, who, she acknowledged, had expressed their concerns about the proposed law in a "peaceful and rational manner" during the two largest protests. On the next day the government delayed the passage of a controversial bill that would punish people for deliberately insulting China's national anthem.

Central-government officials insist they did not ask Hong Kong's government to draft the extradition bill. Mrs Lam concurs, and says the need for it became urgent only as a result of a murder case in Taiwan. A man wanted for that crime is in prison in Hong Kong for money-laundering and could be released in October. Officials in Hong Kong worry he will go free unless they can revise the territory's current law, which does not allow suspects to be sent to other parts of China. Hong Kong treats Taiwan as if it were Chinese territory.

But it is likely that Mrs Lam knew that China's leaders would be keen on her proposed amendment bill. They worry about the use of Hong Kong as a refuge by people wanted for crimes on the mainland. Since he took over as China's leader in 2012, Xi Jinping has been battling corruption. This has involved trying to secure the return of suspects from other jurisdictions—an operation China calls "Fox Hunt". Agents have been sent undercover to press suspects to go back to China. The fight against corruption often relates to political struggles. Although the proposed bill does not cover political crimes, Hong Kongers fear that people sought for extradition under the proposed law might include people who have offended the party politically.



Protesters hold pictures of Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam as they march against the extradition bill in Hong Kong on June 9. AP

The party also cares about face. The reason why current legislation bars the sending of suspects to other parts of China is that Hong Kong's colonial government drafted it that way to protect people from China's arbitrary use of law. In recent weeks the party's supporters in Hong Kong have been infuriated by allegations that China's legal system is untrustworthy. It is possible that Mrs Lam introduced the bill earlier this year on the advice of her secretary for security, John Lee, says Johannes Chan of the University of Hong Kong. Mr Lee may have thought the case in Taiwan offered a chance to please the party by revising a legal anomaly, Mr Chan speculates.

Central government representatives strongly backed the bill after it was introduced. They lobbied legislators to support it. They even invited foreign journalists in Hong Kong to tea to suggest they "inject positivity" into their coverage of it. But they are likely to be relieved by Mrs Lam's willingness to take the blame for the crisis that has ensued. This year is one of huge symbolic importance for the party; it took over exactly 70 years ago. China's leaders would not want the build-up to the anniversary on October 1st to be marred by unrest blamed on their own misjudgment.

The party has continued to express support for Mrs Lam. At her news conference on June 18th she deflected repeated ques-

tions about whether she would step down, as protesters have demanded. It is possible that the party has not identified someone who it believes would do a better job than Mrs Lam, who has three more years to serve of her five-year term.

If the party wants her to go, it may wait until her term ends, and then insist that she not stand again. To change Hong Kong's leader now would be risky. It would re-open questions about how Hong Kong's leaders are chosen. Public anger over the process, which is conducted by a committee dominated by party loyalists in Hong Kong, sparked the Umbrella Movement.

Nonetheless, Mrs Lam will remain under considerable political pressure. The campaign to scrap the extradition bill has involved not only the party's usual critics, but also businessmen who do not normally defy the establishment. Concerns expressed by the latter have often focused on a part of the proposed legislation that would allow the freezing or seizure of assets in Hong

Kong in connection with crimes allegedly committed on the Chinese mainland. The American Chamber of Commerce expressed "serious" reservations about the bill. It said Hong Kong could lose its appeal as a base of operations for foreign companies if businessfolk living in the city, or passing through it, had to fret about arrest and rendition to the mainland. The chamber also worried about the abuse of the mainland's courts by local firms seeking to settle commercial scores with foreign rivals.

Hong Kong's government did not ignore these worries. It removed nine, largely financial, crimes from the bill and raised the threshold for an offence to seven years. But what it could not excise was the less tangible fear that Hong Kong's rule of law was being eroded and its judicial independence put at risk. The chances of a foreign businessman being surrendered to the mainland might be remote. But "the perception is enough," says one longtime resident. As the bill was debated, some tycoons reportedly

began withdrawing their money from the city and moving it elsewhere.

Mrs Lam also faces a backlash from politicians in Hong Kong who are loyal to the party. They had been dutifully trying to drum up support for the bill when Mrs Lam, to the surprise of many observers, announced her U-turn on June 15th. Now they face retribution from voters in District Council elections in November and polls for the Legislative Council in September 2020. Many questions are being asked about why it took Mrs Lam so long to announce her change of heart. She said one reason for it was that Taiwan would not accept the extradition of the murder suspect under the terms of the proposed law. That had been known for months.

The scale of the recent unrest, and the political blow that Mrs Lam has suffered because of it, will complicate the party's strategy in Hong Kong. It had been hoping that the territory would pass an anti-secession bill, as required by the territory's post-colonial constitution, the Basic Law. Efforts to do so in 2003 triggered a protest by hundreds of thousands of people, prompting the government to withdraw it and leading to the eventual resignation of the then chief executive, Tung Chee-hwa.

The party's interest in reviving the bill grew after the Umbrella Movement because of the support that campaign fuelled for "lo-

calists" calling for much greater autonomy for the territory. Officials in Beijing saw this as nascent separatism, and hoped that an anti-secession law would help to curb the tendency. It is now evident that any attempt to revive such a bill could trigger more massive demonstrations.

The party's frustrations are evident. Newspapers it controls in Hong Kong are full of conspiracy theories about alleged efforts by America to foment unrest in the territory as part of a cold-war strategy to "contain" China. The party will not be pleased that Joshua Wong, a 22-year-old activist who was a prominent leader of the Umbrella Movement, was freed from jail on June 17th after serving half of a two-month sentence for contempt of court. Mr Wong is very popular; his return to the streets could energise protesters.

Calls for Mrs Lam to step down will persist. But there are some who see such demands as futile: her successor will be chosen by the same party-controlled method and will be of the same pro-party stripe. "That is why we need democracy," says Martin Lee, a veteran of the pro-democracy cause. "Otherwise, whoever is chief executive, they will come across the same thing again and again."

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CANIS SAPIENS

Reigning cats and dogs

Pets have gained the upper paw over their so-called owners

THERE IS a range of theories about how *Homo sapiens* came to rule the planet. Opposable thumbs, cranial size, altruism and cooking all played a part, but central to the naked ape's success was its ability to dominate other species. Bovids, equids and, in particular, canids, were put to work by *H. sapiens*; felids always took a slightly different view of the matter, but were indulged for their rodent-catching talents.

As humanity has got richer, animals' roles have changed. People need their services less than before. Fewer wolves and bandits meant less demand for dogs for protection; the internal-combustion engine made horses redundant; modern sanitation kept rats in check and made cats less useful. No longer necessities, domestic animals became luxuries. Pet-keeping seems to kick in *en masse* when household incomes rise above roughly \$5,000. It is booming.

The trend is not a new one. Archaeologists have found 10,000-year-old graves in which dogs and people are buried together. Some cultures—such as in Scandinavia, where canines have long been both working dogs and companions—have kept pets for millennia.

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But these days the pet-keeping urge has spread even to parts of the world which have no tradition of snuggling up on a comfy chair with a furry creature.

In parts of Asia where people used to regard the best place for man's best friend as not the sofa but the stewing-pot, along with some onions and a pinch of seasoning, and where cats were made into tonics, norms are changing fast. The South Korean president, Moon Jae-in, has a rescue dog, and the mayor of Seoul has promised to shut down dog butchers. China, where dogs were once rounded up and slaughtered on the ground that keeping pets was bourgeois, has gone mad for cutesy breeds like Pomeranians, whose wolfish ancestors would have swallowed them whole for elevelenses. Traditionalists attending the annual dog-meat festival in Guangxi now find themselves under attack by packs of snarling animal-lovers.



Pip, a Yorkshire Terrier breed, at the 143rd Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York, in February 2019. Reuters

The pet business is growing even faster than pet numbers, because people are spending more and more money on them. No longer are they food-waste-recyclers, fed with the scraps that fall from their masters' tables. Pet-

food shelves groan with delicacies crafted to satisfy a range of appetites, including ice cream for dogs and foods for pets that are old, diabetic or suffer from sensitive digestion; a number of internet services offer bespoke food, tai-

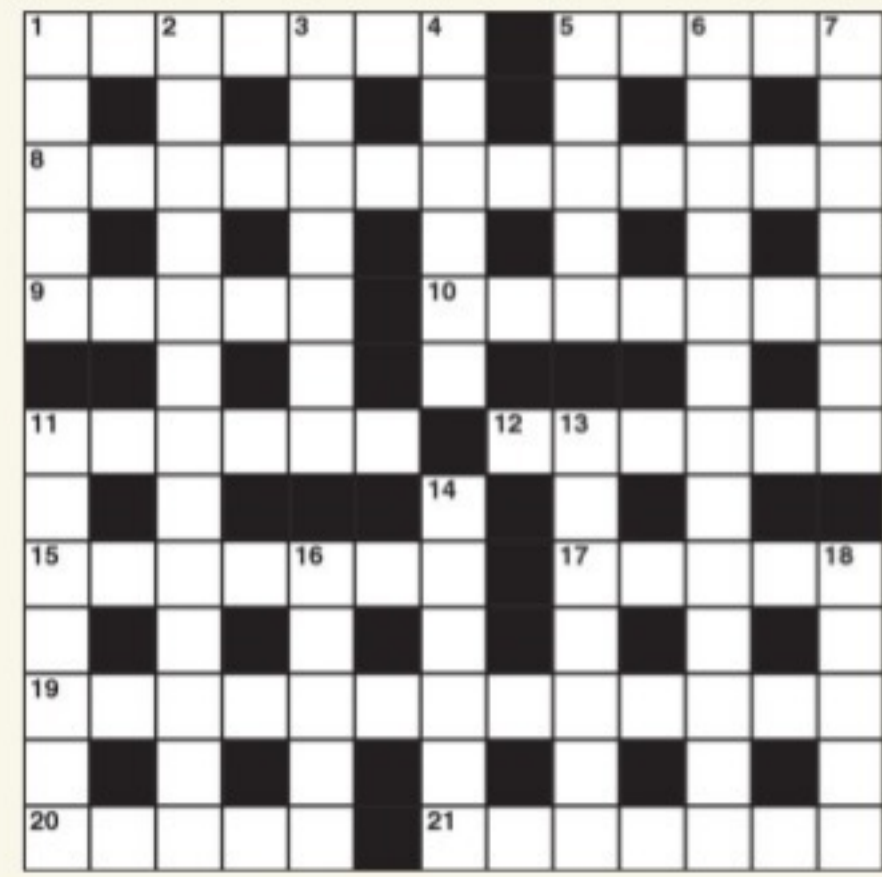
lored to the pet's individual tastes.

In the business this is called "pet humanisation"—the tendency of pet owners to treat their pets as part of the family. This is evident in the names given to dogs, which have evolved from Fido, Rex and Spot to—in America—Bella, Lucy and Max. It is evident in the growing market for pet clothing, pet grooming and pet hotels. It is evident in the demand for breeds such as the French bulldog, which, tellingly, looks a bit like a human baby.

People still assume that pets must be working for humanity in some way, perhaps making people healthier or less anxious. But the evidence for that is weak. Rather, new research suggests that canines have evolved those irresistible "puppy-dog eyes" precisely to manipulate human emotions. It has worked. The species that once enslaved others now toils to pay for the care of its pets, which lounge on the sofa waiting to be taken to the grooming salon. Sentimental Americans often refer to themselves not as cat-owners but as the cat's "mommy" or "daddy". South Koreans go one further, describing themselves as cat "butlers", pandering to every feline whim. Watch a hapless dog-walker trailing "his" hound, plastic bag in hand to pick up its mess, and you have to wonder: who's in charge now?

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CROSSWORD 3840



ACROSS
1 There's lots you may buy here (7)
5 Dig me out an insect (5)
8 Deigning to be gracious (13)
9 Girl who may feel bad about public relations (5)
10 Time of day for smoothing things out (7)
11 It makes a very fine trap (6)
12 Ridiculed for being poorly dressed (6)
15 Admitted everybody had debts (7)
17 They are used for holding coal fires (5)
19 The last job one aims for on a racecourse (9,4)
20 Girl from an Eastern isle (5)
21 Expert put to death by a cardinal (7)

DOWN
1 Bill's getting a new car, that's capital (5)
2 Danny's car ails, perhaps, but he'd need a boat to get there (6,7)
3 Sheet that doesn't stay put - it's cold (3,4)
4 Metal of little value (6)
5 Minister's house with only male quarters (5)
6 Where to find motorists on course? (7,6)
7 Just betrothed, but started to fight (7)
11 Dishonest way to acquire a piece of riding gear (7)
13 When overseas, GI is without a weapon (7)
14 Acknowledges it's mad to change (6)
16 Refuse to wither away (5)
18 Located by eye and ear? (5)

Solutions Crossword 3839: Across: 1 Bluff, 8 Junction, 9 Estop, 10 Sealyham, 11 Plat, 12 Ebb, 16 Ostler, 17 Unsure, 18 Ass, 23 Great, 24 Saboteur, 25 Ingot, 26 Goodwill, 27 Berth. Down: 2 Listless, 3 Flotilla, 4 Superb, 5 Scold, 6 Sight, 7 Gnome, 12 Era, 13 Bus, 14 Estrange, 15 Break out, 19 Squall, 20 Usage, 21 Abbot, 22 Stows.

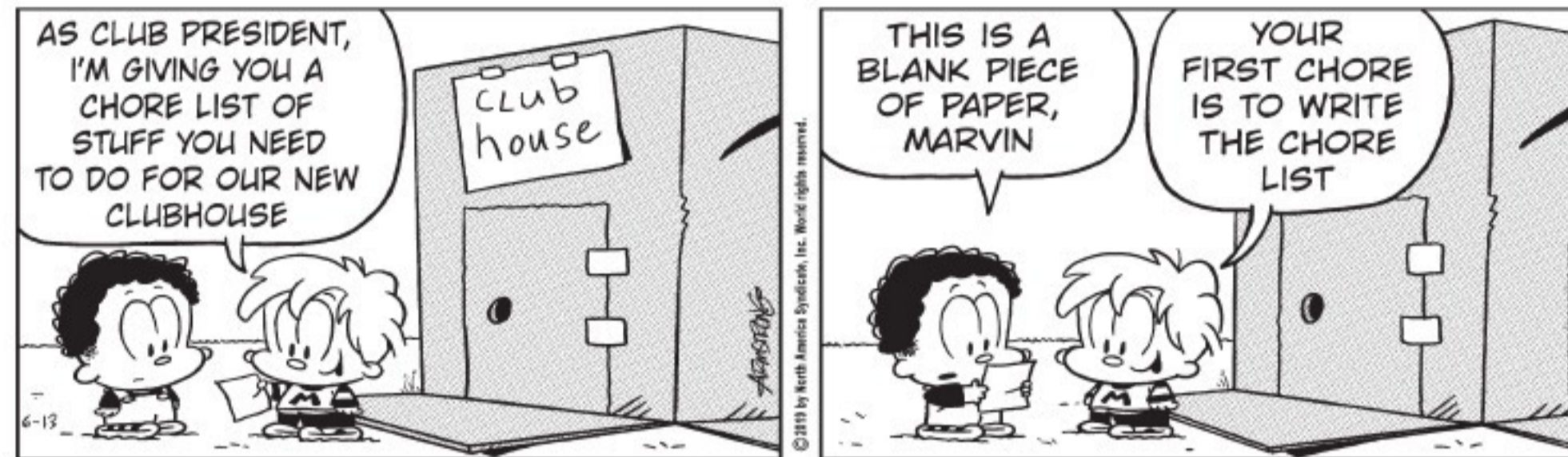
OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

All ___ is the product of ___ - John Locke (6,6)

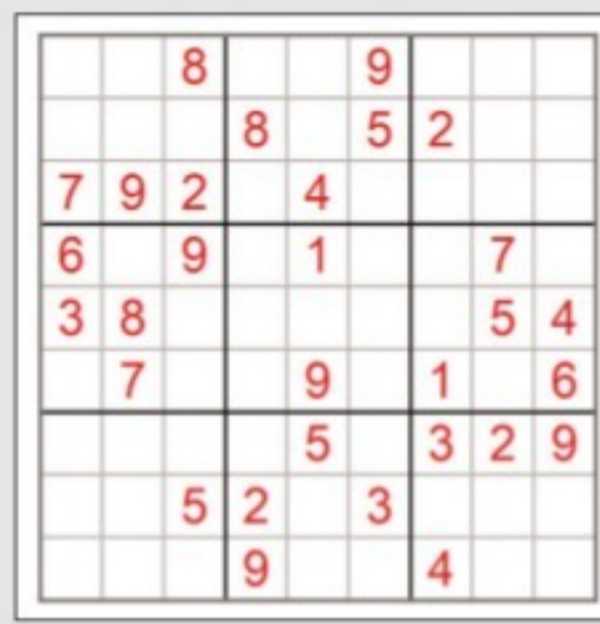
CTAAE DEPHLU
 AHLOT DORYBW

SOLUTION: ACATE, LOATH, UNFELD, BRYWORD
 Answer: All wealth is the product of labour - John Locke

Difficulty Level 2s

Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 3886



NOTICE BOARD

CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY EVENTS, HONOURS



RECRUITMENT -DFCCIL
DFCCIL is on fast track to recruit manpower for its Western & Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridors. In furtherance of the obj., PET for 896 posts of DFCCIL MTS in Civil, Electrical, Signalling-Telecom & Operating streams was carried out from June 13 to 16.



COMMISSIONING-AAI
AAI successfully commissioned SkyRev360 system, a cutting edge technology for data gathering, invoicing & realization at LANS, Vientiane, Lao PDR on June 14. The project for implementation of SkyRev360 was awarded to AAI in Jan '18.



EVENT -TPDDL
Tata Power-DDL organized its Annual Rewards and Recognition and Cultural Event for ABHA Members wherein the efforts and achievements of 841 abha members for the year 2018-19 from 220 JJ clusters were recognized.



CELEBRATION-AAI
Boualane Sylipanya, Vice Minister of Edu & Sports, Lao PDR, Chief Guest & S Suresh, Member Finance, AAI, Guest of Honour & other dignitaries from diff nationalities were present in the SKYFIT on the occasion of 5th Int'l Yoga Day celebrations.



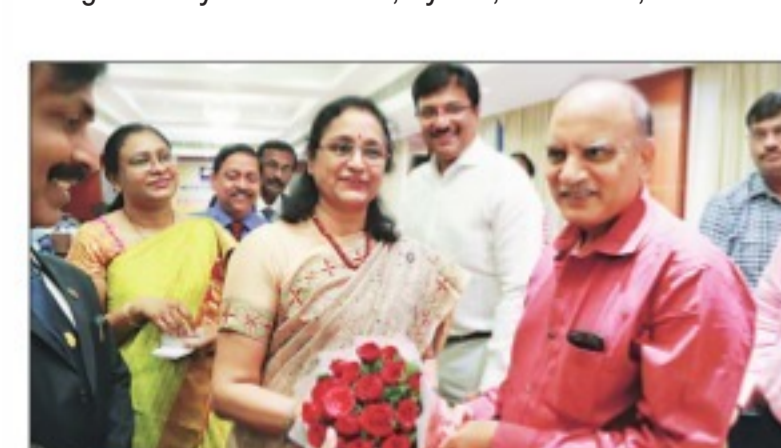
DONATION -BEML
BEML LTD donated Rs. 2.00 cr towards Chief Minister's Relief Fund in the aftermath of Cyclone 'Fani' in Odisha. Deepak Kumar Hota, CMD, BEML handed over the cheque to Naveen Patnaik, CM, Odisha at Bhubaneswar.



DONATION-IGL
E.S. Ranganathan, MD, IGL & Rajiv Sikka, Dir (Commercial), IGL handed over the contribution from IGL employees towards the relief and rehabilitation of victims of Cyclone Fani to Tuhin Kanta Pandey, IAS, Principal Resident Commissioner, Odisha.



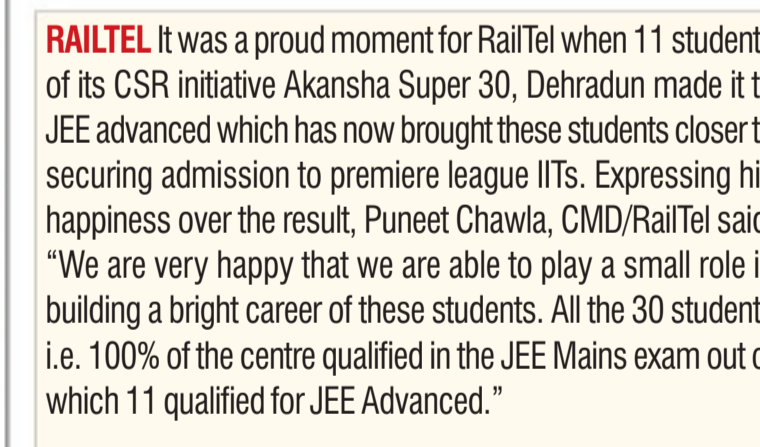
INAUGURATION -PNB
PNB is establishing centralized loan processing centers to accelerate sanctions in loan proposals relating to MSME & Corporate under Rs. 50 lakhs & above category. In this regard, CLPC was inaugurated by Mukesh Dave, Dy. ZM, Delhi Zone, on June 15.



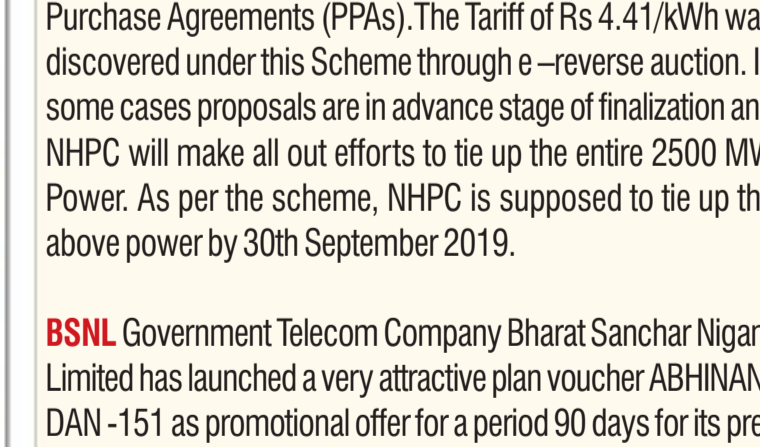
CORPORATE CLIENT MEET- INDIAN BANK
Indian Bank Hyderabad Zone conducted "Corporate Client Meet" with their Chairman and MD Padmaja Chunduru on June 7, 2019. Many High profile Corporate Clients participated in the meeting.



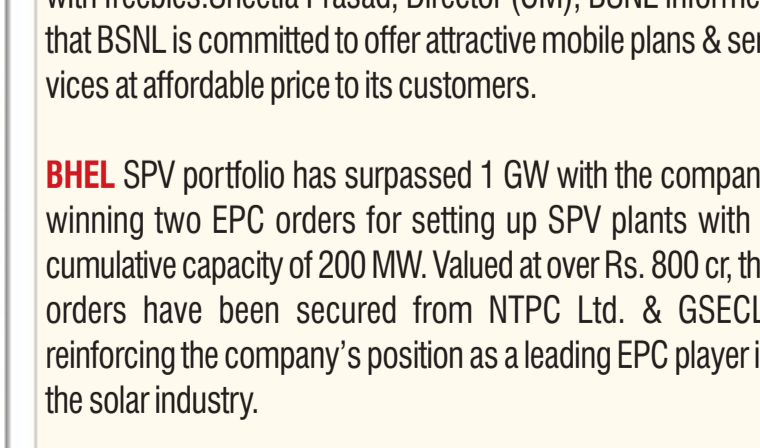
SUMMIT -POWER MINISTRY
Union Power Minister RK Singh addressed the G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy & Environment. Singh highlighted the path-breaking efforts made in last 5 years in providing energy access to all in India.



RAILTEL It was a proud moment for RailTel when 11 students of its CSR initiative Akansa Super 30, Dehradun made it to JEE advanced which has now brought these students closer to securing admission to premiere league IITs. Expressing his happiness over the result, Puneet Chawla, CMD/RailTel said, "We are very happy that we are able to play a small role in building a bright career of these students. All the 30 students i.e. 100% of the centre qualified in the JEE Mains exam out of which 11 qualified for JEE Advanced."



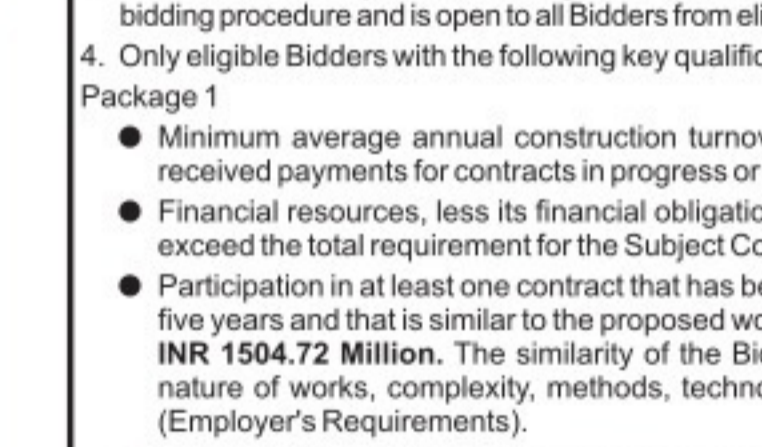
NHPD NHPD has been appointed as an "Aggregator" by PFC Consultancy Ltd. through e-tendering for Pilot Scheme-II notified by GOI, Ministry of Power. The scheme is to facilitate the procurement of Power for 3 years from coal based Power Plants which are already commissioned & do not have Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs). The Tariff of Rs 4.41/kWh was discovered under this Scheme through e-reverse auction. In some cases proposals are in advance stage of finalization and NHPD will make all out efforts to tie up the entire 2500 MW Power. As per the scheme, NHPD is supposed to tie up the above power by 30th September 2019.



BSNL Government Telecom Company Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has launched a very attractive plan voucher ABHINAV-DAN -151 as promotional offer for a period 90 days for its pre-paid mobile customers. Rs. 151 Plan offers unlimited calls to any network while in roaming including Delhi & Mumbai. This plan also offers free 1GB data per day & 100 SMS per day on any network with a validity of 24 days. The Plan voucher will be applicable for new connection, migration & validity extension with freebies. Sheela Prasad, Director (CM), BSNL informed that BSNL is committed to offer attractive mobile plans & services at affordable price to its customers.



BHEL SPV portfolio has surpassed 1 GW with the company winning two EPC orders for setting up SPV plants with a cumulative capacity of 200 MW. Valued at over Rs. 800 cr, the orders have been secured from NTPC Ltd. & GSECL, reinforcing the company's position as a leading EPC player in the solar industry.



NTPC The young girls, enrolled under NTPC's 'Super 30 girls' Program, a CSR initiative introduced by India's largest power generating company have cracked the IIT JEE advanced. 5 girls among the group of 18 who had earlier qualified for the IIT JEE Advanced have successfully come out triumphant in the final qualifying hurdle.

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
Much has been written about your professional hopes and ambitions over the last year or so. Now those of you climbing the career ladder may at last expect your aspirations to be satisfied. Save significant choices for later in the day, once your mind cleared.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
Once again, the planetary alignments are extraordinarily favourable, and one area of your life which stands to benefit is your relationships with children. There may even be news of an addition to the family before long. Plus, you now need more space and comfort. In your dreams.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
The stars are superb for financial transactions, including property deals, whether selling or buying. Mind you, the first thing you need to do is get your facts straight. Otherwise planetary potential will do you no good. Plus, it's your last day for keeping emotional secrets. The truth will be out next week.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The general tone of the times is optimistic, although as always, there is a chance that your hopes could be raised too high. Make a point of pushing your schemes forward and try to persuade partners that your ideas are best. You're in a suspicious mood, but don't let that blind you to the truth.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
You may expect your hard work and efforts to be rewarded financially, perhaps through extra savings, perhaps as a result of increased earnings. Such good fortune may not take place today, but within six days you will have seen your efforts bear fruit.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
When the Sun encounters both vivacious Venus and magnificent Mars, the only response that is justified is one of awe at all that life has to offer. To fully appreciate just how well you are doing, you must raise your sights from routine drudgery and focus on the wonder of the world.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Friends could soon be seeing important questions in a new light. It is amazing, is it not, how easy you find it to persuade people that you are right? You must, though, make an effort to please. Good news from a partner should be on the way, although you may have to wait two or three days.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
There's much happening that is difficult to explain. However, rather than flounder around in a sea of confusion, may I suggest that all vague and muddled questions are left on one side for the time being. Otherwise partners will think you've let them down.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
For the next six days your planets point to one conclusion: all your past professional and financial efforts and struggles are soon to be rewarded in such a manner as to show you that it was all worth while. Emotional ties though, will be particularly unreliable. You have been warned.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
You still have a great deal to gain from other people, though not necessarily in a material sense. You have much to learn, for example, in terms of having the courage of your convictions and the determination to stick to what you know to be absolutely right and proper.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
You're not alone in believing that financial affairs are essentially mysterious and impossible to explain. Yet, this week, you must have faith that even developments of which you may be completely unaware, are in your best interests. The stress level in close relationships is about to dip sharply.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
There are still one or two conflicts in the air, but while partners are likely to be irritable, you are capable of being quite short-tempered yourself. This week is the time for some of your famous tolerance. As passions rise, it may be up to you to keep the peace.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
MADURAI CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Arinagar Anna Maligai, Tallakulam, Madurai, Tamil Nadu.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date	22 nd JUNE 2019
Loan No. and Title	Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Program (TNUFIP): Tranche 2
Contract No. and Title	Tender Notice No. Ma.Po. 2/AMRUT (WS) 1/18-19 (2nd CALL) Construction of Head works and Raw Water Pipeline, Period of completion 30 Months followed by 6 Months trial run and commissioning for dedicated water supply to Madurai City Municipal Corporation from Mullai Periyar River at Lower Camp - Package 1
Deadline for submission of Bids	05.08.2019, upto 3.00 PM

- India has applied for financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Program (TNUFIP) - Tranche 2. Part of this financing will be used for payments under the Contract named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of the ADB.
- "The Commissioner, Madurai City Municipal Corporation" ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the following works.
 - Construction of Head works and Raw Water Pipeline, period of completion 30 Months followed by 6 Months trial run and commissioning for dedicated water supply to Madurai City Municipal Corporation from Mullai Periyar River at Lower Camp - Package 1. ("the Works").
- International competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage, Two-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
- Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:

Package 1

 - Minimum average annual construction turnover of INR 1805.66 Million, calculated as total certified received payments for contracts in progress or completed, within the last three (3) years;
 - Financial resources, less its financial obligations for its current contract commitments defined, meet or exceed the total requirement for the Subject Contract of INR 300.94 Million
 - Participation in at least one contract that has been successfully or substantially completed within the last five years and that is similar to the proposed works, where the value of the Bidder's participation exceeds INR 1504.72 Million. The similarity of the Bidder's participation shall be based on the physical size, nature of works, complexity, methods, technology, or other characteristics as described in Section 6 (Employer's Requirements).
 - Meets other Personnel and Equipment requirements as stipulated in the Bidding Document.

However, for complete eligibility and qualification requirements, refer to the bid document.

- To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, Bidders should contact:

THE COMMISSIONER,
Madurai City Municipal Corporation.
Arinagar Anna Maligai, Tallakulam,
Alagar Kovil Main Road,
Madurai - 625002.
E. mail : commr.madurai@tn.gov.in & mducorp@gmail.com
Phone: 0452 - 2531116, FAX: 0452 - 2530965
- A Pre-bid meeting shall take place on 12.07.2019 at 16.30 Hrs. (IST), at the address stated above.
- To purchase the bidding documents in English language, eligible Bidders should:
 - Visit the office of the City Engineer, Madurai City Municipal Corporation, Madurai at address stated above and pay a non refundable fee of USD 71.42 or INR 5000 towards the cost of bidding document in the form of Bank Demand Draft in favour of the Commissioner, Madurai City Municipal Corporation, Madurai.
 - In case of written request, the document will be sent by post/courier. The Bidders who wish to receive the bidding document by post/courier shall have to pay an additional amount of INR 1000 for delivery within India, or USD 15 for delivery outside India. The method of payment will be through bank demand draft in favor of the Commissioner, Madurai City Municipal Corporation, Madurai. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.

Eligible bidders may otherwise download the bidding document in English language from the website <http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in> from 24.06.2019 to 02.08.2019 upto 15.00 Hours.

Eligible bidders who download the bidding document from above website shall inform The Commissioner, Madurai City Municipal Corporation in writing (and provide the contact details) at the address given above, failing which The Commissioner, Madurai City Municipal Corporation shall not be responsible if the bidder does not receive clarifications and amendments, if any.

- Bids should be submitted
 - to the address above
 - on or before the deadline: 05.08.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs. (IST)
 - Together with a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Document.
 - Electronic submission is not allowed.

Bids will be opened 05.08.2019 at 15.30 Hrs (IST) in the presence of Bidder's representatives who choose to attend, whereas the Financial Bids shall remain sealed and unopened and shall be placed locked. The Financial Bids of only Technically Responsive and Qualified Bidders shall be opened after technical bids evaluation, of whereas, the financial bids of those Bidders whose technical bids are not responsive and qualified shall be returned unopened after the contract is awarded.

Commissioner,
Madurai City Municipal Corporation

DIPR/ 2121 /TENDER/ 2019

For All Advertisement Booking
Call : 0120-6651214

17 TALK

ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD

WEEK AHEAD



Engraved in History

WORKS BY Joel Rendón, a Mexican engraver, that combines traditional Mexican relief printing with contemporary techniques and motives link his art to the cultural heritage of his country. The artist wants to generate a movement to revalue engraving in Mexico and abroad by opening spaces to promote printmaking among younger generations. An exhibition of his work will be on view at India International Centre Annexe, from June 26 to July 2, 11 am - 7 pm.



It's a Tragedy

AMERICA, 1947. Despite hard choices, Joe and Kate Keller are a success story. But nothing lasts forever and their contented lives, already shadowed by the loss of their eldest boy to war, are about to shatter. English actors Jenna Coleman and Colin Morgan will bring alive Arthur Miller's *All My Sons*. On June 29, 3 pm, The Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre. Tickets on Bookmyshow.



Sing Along

YALE UNIVERSITY'S a cappella singing group, Whim 'n Rhythm, has delighted audiences from San Francisco to Hong Kong, and from Club Med to the White House. They will perform compositions from their 2018 studio album, *Tree Museum*. It features seven new arrangements and solos by all 14 members. Catch them live at The Piano Man, 32nd avenue, Sector 15 Part 2, Gurugram. On June 25, 9 pm. Tickets on Bookmyshow.



From the Wall

POSTER DESIGN in Poland was recognised as a source of national pride and the outbreak of World War II suspended all stylistic development of the Polish poster as an art, rupturing tradition and slowing creative development. The exhibition 'Between Art Deco and Modernism: Polish Posters from 1918 to 1939' has works from the collection of the Poster Museum at Wilanów. It is organised by India International Centre, in collaboration with the Polish Institute New Delhi. Till June 28, at the Art Gallery, India International Centre.

A Look at It

FORMER MP from the Rajya Sabha, DP Tripathi, who edits *Think India* journal, will be in discussion with Ali Javed, former professor at University of Delhi's Department of Urdu, about a special issue on Urdu literature. The session will be moderated by writer and literary historian Rakhshanda Jalil, who is also the founder of Hindustani Awaaz. It is a part of the 'New Urdu Writing Series' of the organisation. On 24 June, 7 pm, Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre.



'Being a clown, Shakuntala gets to be strong'

Actor-director Rupesh Tillu on interpreting *Shakuntalam* through clown theatre, holding the mirror to society, and the need to laugh

INDU BHAGAT

THREE CLOWNS, clad in striped attire and red noses, may be somewhat difficult to imagine as Shakuntala, Dushyant, and Rishi Kanva until you watch *Shakuntalam* — *Agar Pura Kar Paye To*. The play, directed by Rupesh Tillu, an interpretation of the classic tale of the fourth-century narrative of poet Kalidasa's play, *Abhijnanasakuntalam*, was staged in Pune recently. The three characters face extraordinary challenges in a forest, and later in a royal court. Each clown redefines the character in their own way. The experimental piece of theatre not only innovates with the form but also locates *Shakuntalam* in current times. Tillu has always believed that clowning and theatre are powerful tools to change society and break the stereotypes. "A clown's job is to comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable. It's not to solve problems, but to show society their problems. Their job is not to make people laugh, but to take them to an emotional, heightened state, where laughter is a sort of catharsis," says Tillu, who is based in Mumbai. Excerpts from an interview:

What is the difference between clowns in circus and theatre?

Theatre clowning is lot more based on language and performed inside the theatre. Circus clowning is mostly number based, so they use normal dialects. It is more plastic and the skills are hackneyed. If circus clowns know that thousands of people are watching them, their make-up becomes very loud, they paint a very big mouth and pop a big nose. There is a lot of paint. Theatre clowning is subtle as they don't need such



Rupesh Tillu (above); clowns present Kalidasa's *Shakuntalam*

Clowning is a way to comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable. In our country, people need to laugh

RUPESH TILLU

make-up.

How did you come to be involved in clown theatre?

I lived in Sweden for 10 years and had my first encounter with clowning, courtesy one of my German teachers. I learned physical comedy from the National School of Dramatic Arts (Sweden), and clowning was my major subject. I was trained in clowning and decided to take this further and started working with Clowns Without Borders in Sweden, touring various countries, and learning more about the subject.

What led you to work on *Shakuntala*?

When I lived abroad, I did many plays but here in India I started with *Shakuntala*. It is a first-of-a-kind with a pure clown. I am looking forward to bringing Indian classics in the form of clown theatre. I thought our stories are equally fascinating and wanted to tell an Indian story and point out the shortcomings of our society through them. The reason I choose *Shakuntala* is that many people think her character is weak in Kalidasa's original classic. But, I wanted *Shakuntala* to be strong, and being a clown in my play she gets that power. She dictates the terms, makes decisions and takes the play forward.

LEHER KALA

A NEWS piece resurfaced recently about how the Delhi High Court had granted a divorce to a man who said he was subjected to repeated verbal cruelty by his wife. She allegedly taunted him about his weight and his inability to maintain conjugal relations. Of course there must have been more than frivolous abuses that led to the breakdown of this marriage but the fact that the Court had taken a strong view of their bitter exchanges, which the wife had quite reasonably contended were vague and non-spe-

cific, suggests a departure from the sympathy with which courts view a woman's situation in such cases. "When two parties are in a marital relationship neither is expected to maintain a logbook and note therein each and every instance of matrimonial offence committed by the other," the judge had concluded, before sanctioning the divorce. This judge appears to have a very idealistic idea of the kinds of conversations couples have but in a long relationship, often, it is precisely a mental logbook documenting old grievances and laments that come up during a fight. While this man was well within his rights to seek the court's intervention, a divorce being granted for a reason (among others) that his wife called him foul names sounds comically ridiculous. Laws are framed for the greater good and Indian legislation is generous to women stuck in abusive marriages, at least on paper. The perils of living in a (slightly more) gender equal world is that occasionally, the ball will roll to the other side. In another di-

orce case, a Delhi court asked a woman to look for a job saying since she was so qualified she should not be burdening her estranged husband. The woman had argued that she had married young and never held a job, or travelled alone. The judge had acerbically replied that if she could come to court to fight a litigation alone, she could very well go looking for a job alone. If the message from these cases is that we're all expected to look after ourselves and the historic security system that marriage offered can no longer be taken for granted, it is worth looking at how horribly risky a marriage is for women, to be given with. In the first case, it seems the wife

Finally, an idea is gaining traction, that who you are, and who you want to be with can change over the course of a long life... Women who can afford to leave bad marriages do, and those who can't, stay



TWO IN ONE

German start-up The Female Company has sold over 10,000 copies of *The Tampon Book*. With 15 tampons fixed within its covers, they published it to protest against Germany's 19 per cent tax on the item, whereas books are taxed at 7 per cent.

'Inspiration never lasts, anger does'

Writer Venita Coehlo on her latest *All of Me*, love for the underdog and why books will survive

SURBHI GUPTA

AFTER WORKING in television and films for over a decade, writer Venita Coehlo, who engages with "words, images and paint", settled for a life of quiet in Goa. However, her books for children and young adults have established her as a writer to look out for. A storyteller since she was a child, her tales are maybe the stories she always wanted to listen to while growing up, she says. Her book, *Tiger by the Tail*, won a special jury mention at the Neev Awards last year, and *Dead as a Dodo* won The Hindu Goodbooks award for Best Children's Fiction in 2016. While *The Washer of the Dead* is a collection of feminist ghost stories, in *Soap: Writing and Surviving Television*, she drew from her experience on shows such as *Jassi Jaisi Koi Nahi*, *Na Bole Tum Na Maine Kuch Kaha*, and *Trikaal*. Her eighth book, *All of Me*, released recently. Excerpts:

You said that a comment by former British Prime Minister David Cameron triggered the idea for *All of Me*.

David Cameron contributed to the book by making me hopping mad. I've always believed that inspiration never lasts, anger does. Each of my books has come out of outrage and anger over some injustice. Cameron was asked if England would be returning the Koh-i-noor, and he said: 'I don't believe in returnism'. His casual colonial arrogance made me so angry that it lasted a book.

Tell us the idea behind the story. Why are there five characters in the protagonist's head?

Castor has been locked away in a basement for five dark years. For company, he has created multiple personalities. There is Mr Pickwick, the Bible-quoting father figure; Miss Trent, the germ-phobic greenness; Skinner, the smart street urchin, and the brilliant Infant Prodigy. Together they become the detective, each bringing his/her own unique skill to the game. At a deeper level, they represent Castor's fragmented self, which he has to learn to heal and make whole. I was hooked on the idea of a detective using his multiple personalities to solve cases.

Your stories have young urchins, mischievous boys as protagonists. What do you like about them?

I love the underdog. The one who no one will bet on, but who is resilient, smart and innovative. Indian jugaad comes out of generations of people turning desperate and wanting creative solutions. But I do think it's time I did some girl protagonists as well.



Venita Coehlo; her eighth book, *All of Me* presents a protagonist with multiple personalities

I love the underdog. The one who no one will bet on, but who is resilient, smart and innovative. Indian jugaad comes out of generations of people turning desperate and wanting creative solutions. But I do think it's time I did some girl protagonists as well.

What does it take to write for children?

It kept me sane through the madness of television. TV ran my kitchen; writing for kids saved my soul. Children have small attention spans, are easily distracted, and go in search of the new and intriguing. Our secret weapon is that we construct only half of the story. The other half plays out in the child's head. That makes the story uniquely theirs, and that is the reason I think books will always survive.

The fun part is that I get to do stuff that you wouldn't ever get to do on a big screen. *Tiger by the Tail* has a climax where 250 tigers stroll through Tiananmen Square. *Dead as a Dodo* has billionaires dining in an ice palace at the North Pole. And, of course, *All of Me* has multiple personalities, and a Mountain of Light.

What's your next book about?

The next book for kids is the sequel to *Dungeon Tales*. For adults, I have *Whisper in the Wind* that tells the eerie tale of a murder set in Portuguese Goa. And I am working on a non-fiction book based on the years I spent in an ashram, trying to find a path to spirituality.

SNAP SHOTS



Gump Ahead

ACTOR KAREENA Kapoor Khan will star opposite Aamir Khan in the film *Lal Singh Chaddha*. Inspired by Tom Hanks-starrer *Forrest Gump*, it will mark Aamir and Kareena's third collaboration after *3 Idiots* and *Talaash*. Advait Chandan, who helmed *Secret Superstar*, will direct the film. It will hit the theatres by 2020. The 1994 *Forrest Gump*, directed by Robert Zemeckis, depicts several decades in the life of a slow-witted but kind-hearted Forrest, from Alabama.



Stage a Scene

AMERICAN ACTOR John Malkovich (pictured) has returned to London's West End after nearly 30 years with the play *Bitter Wheat*, created by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright David Mamet. Inspired by recent Hollywood events, the case against Harvey Weinstein and the emergence of the #MeToo movement, it has the actor take the role of a shamed Hollywood producer called Barnet Fein. The show will run till September 21.

ON THE LOOSE

Coming Apart

In India, divorce is harder on women. The law recognises that



LEHER KALA

A NEWS piece resurfaced recently about how the Delhi High Court had granted a divorce to a man who said he was subjected to repeated verbal cruelty by his wife. She allegedly taunted him about his weight and his inability to maintain conjugal relations. Of course there must have been more than frivolous abuses that led to the breakdown of this marriage but the fact that the Court had taken a strong view of their bitter exchanges, which the wife had quite reasonably contended were vague and non-spe-

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orce case, a Delhi court asked a woman to look for a job saying since she was so qualified she should not be burdening her estranged husband. The woman had argued that she had married young and never held a job, or travelled alone. The judge had acerbically replied that if she could come to court to fight a litigation alone, she could very well go looking for a job alone. If the message from these cases is that we're all expected to look after ourselves and the historic security system that marriage offered can no longer be taken for granted, it is worth looking at how horribly risky a marriage is for women, to be given with. In the first case, it seems the wife

Finally, an idea is gaining traction, that who you are, and who you want to be with can change over the course of a long life... Women who can afford to leave bad marriages do, and those who can't, stay

was supposed to make peace with being stuck forever in a loveless marriage with an unattractive man who was fine with the status quo and wilfully indifferent to her unhappiness. Her asking for compensation for her opportunity cost (where she could have been if she hadn't married him) backfired. In the second case, the aftermath of a divorce is far more terrifying. The judgment failed to take into account the vagaries inbuilt in Indian marriages and the unspoken pressures that women in every economic strata have to cope with. Perhaps this qualified woman didn't work because her in-laws didn't approve or she was raised to believe her career shouldn't undermine her husband's. As for her being urged to seek employment post the separation, there is the very practical reality that despite whatever degrees you hold, if you've been out of the workplace for years, it's very difficult to explain a long gap in a resume.

In this case like in many others, the mere act of getting married significantly diminished this woman's career prospects and this is not factoring in the road ahead, the necessary timeouts women need to take in their careers, for motherhood. It's happened far later in India than in the rest of the world, that people have begun to question their obligations to family and have begun to wonder about their obligations to themselves. Finally, an idea is gaining traction, that who you are, and who you want to be with can change over the course of a long life. There is a tendency to dismiss this ethical shift — specifically divorce — as symptomatic of an intolerant generation's selfishness, when actually it has less to do with emotions and much more to do with economics. Women who can afford to leave bad marriages do, and those who can't, stay. Toughest is for those who suddenly find themselves bereft of both home and career, in a situation they never expected or planned for. The law should and often does consider the built-in inequality in Indian marriages that reduces the ability of women to rebuild their lives from that point on.



It was very difficult to sit out of the games but I knew I would get the opportunity and I was backing myself to do well."
HARIS SOHAIL

Pastures green

A thumping victory over South Africa ensure that Pakistan get to live another day in the World Cup

SRIRAM VEERA
LORD'S, JUNE 23

EVERYTIME Harris Sohail nailed a four or a six (12 boundaries in all), it seemed like a slap to the team management. Benched for a few games as Pakistan reworked to 90's misplaced nostalgia with Shoaib Malik, Sohail returning with a vengeance. Now we know why Pakistan had been stale, plodding along '90s style, thus far. Because they had a team like that. Attitude like that.

They were helped no doubt by a South African unit, not possessing the talent nor the heart for a fight. But still, what a heart-warming performance it was from Pakistan, who piled up 309 before shutting the door on South Africa who ambled along to 259.

Events that haven't transpired so far happened. Mohammad Amir's inswinging, Wahab Riaz's reverse-curlers, self-awareness from Sarfraz Ahmed to demote himself, Shaheen Afridi bowled fuller and the bowlers were rotated smartly. That they won despite dropping at least 5 catchable chances says a lot about South Africa too – but also, Pakistan bowling was that good. Good things continued, a consistency not always seen with the team: Babar Azam was as classy as ever, Fakhar Zaman and Imam ul Haq gave another solid start.

But make no doubt, amidst all these good things, it was Sohail's game-turning blitz that did the trick. He is a rather interesting character. Such is the shroud of mystery about him that he had to, early this year, refute news reports that he had complained about black magic against him. Not once, but twice. First in 2015, news about a spooky hotel room in Christchurch emerged in the last World Cup and then this year, another supernatural turn came when he returned from a South Africa tour. "Such reports have also disturbed my family a lot. I have faced a knee injury problem again and that is why I had to miss the Test series in South Africa," Sohail said.

And guess what happens. He returns for a World Cup against who else but South Africa, and spooked them with his skills. Sohail wasn't a knock of fury. He didn't come and fire away to prove his worth to anyone. There was violence, but understated. It was the classy touches that stood out. Hand waves outside off that had the ball scurrying away, fist punches that had the ball plummeting through gaps. The best tribute possible is that he out-classed Babar Azam – and not many can do it in world cricket.

Sohail is one of the better timers out there – soft punches and push-drives have the ball fleeing to the boundary at some pace. But his game-awareness stood out more on this day. And perhaps his point to prove. Consider his third boundary off the 10th ball he faced.

He had just creamed Kagiso Rabada's full delivery to the straight boundary and anticipated that the next one could well be short. He backed away to the leg side, a slight shuffle, not one of those all-or-nothing moves, and absolutely smacked the short ball over point.

When Chris Morris hurled one fast and full but a tad outside off, the left-hander leaned across, opened the bat-face, and steered it to the backward point boundary. He late cut Andile Phehlukwayo, lofted Imran Tahir inside-out. The chase went nowhere from the moment Mohammad Amir nipped one back into to trap Hashim Amla. Amir hasn't rolled back to pre-ban years yet. Back then, he would have curled the ball back from around off stump. Now, he did that from the leg and middle stump line – but at least his fingers and wrists are beginning to leave an imprint on the ball. So far in the tournament, he had been rather silent with the new ball, working his way through in



Mohammad Amir yet again furnished Pakistan with an early breakthrough, ending the travails of Hashim Amla. AP



Sohail's 59-ball 89 catalysed Pakistan's lofty total. AP

the later spells with his cutters. Good as they are, that's not why we watch Amir. That's not why Pakistan have him in the team. That's not why they couldn't wait for his ban to end. What he does with the new ball would have a great effect on how far Pakistan move in this tournament.

By the end, Riaz had the South Africans explain to one another in the middle how the previous ball reversed late. They would meet mid-pitch and one would tell the other the extent of deviation. Riaz was let down by his teammates again; they dropped two catches off him against Australia and they put down two more in this game. It was apparent from the start that Pakistan were in mood. Zaman and Imam were refreshingly positive from the start until Imran Tahir dragged them down with his skill and spirit. Pity that Tahir's team-mates didn't quite stir themselves.

Marathon man keeps steaming, but South Africa lose steam

SRIRAM VEERA
LORD'S, JUNE 23

IN ALL the amusement he provides with his celebratory run, childlike open-jawed enthusiasm, it's often forgotten that here is a man with solid skills as a leggie. It shouldn't be but Imran Tahir's theatrics trumps his art. And you can understand why. That run. As if the hangman has loosened the noose around his neck, whisked away into a quiet alley, opened the trap door, and whispered to the bewildered man: you are free. Run.

Of late, he seems to be in command of his art: the legbreak rips, the googly bounces, the balls peel off slowly or whirs across quickly as he tells them to do. Most often, it lands where he wants them to drop. He stirred the comatose South Africans, infused life in them, shook them, made them that all is not lost yet. Just do something. Until then, South Africans had been as flat as beer left open in the Durban sun.

Tahir screamed, appealed, dived, high-fived. And as ever he ran. Such utter delight has been seldom seen on a cricket field. Even by his own delirious past, the moment when he realised the ball had stuck to his hand after Imam ul Haq had driven firmly not only well to his right but pretty low to the ground, he took off. He was brought back by his team-mates – not just then, but in the game as well.

Why were South Africa so muddled in



Imran Tahir breathed life into South Africa's dead campaign, but ended up again on the losing side. Reuters

thinking? Did they have a bowling plan at the start until Tahir came on? They trespassed into every error zone: short, wide, full and they telegraphed their slower ones. In 2019, their slower ones were from the 80's; those off-spun cutters. The world has moved on to knuckle and employing all other fingers and palms of the hands.

Why were their batting so 90's? Almost like the English from that decade in the

ODIs. You could smell timidity from their camp. A sense of meandering dullness.

If South Africa had lost this game, they were out of the tournament. That everyone knew. But considering how patchy they were in the tournament so far, that fact should have liberated them. But they were anchored down, almost timid, looking for someone else to lead them out of the mess. No one really did. At least in the bowling, Tahir tried.

Hashim Amla's struggles have been painful to watch. He has worked hard, trained his best, even took a break from a T20 domestic tournament before the world cup but runs haven't just come. Faf du Plessis turned out one of his meandering knocks that he has produced of late: 20-run gap between runs and balls faced, punches that go straight to fielders followed with the shadow practice of the shot and getting out after settling down. Quinton de Kock's innings too wouldn't have surprised anybody. A slowish start, then a few stunning hits and then almost a tendency to throw his wicket away in a silly way.

Opponents pack the legside arc from square-leg to deep midwicket, keep mid-on in, but he still would keep trying to slog-sweep the spinners away. It would come off couple of times before it all goes bust. Injuries didn't help them of course but still one did expect better fight. At least on the field. The ground fielding was shoddy – in fact, even here, Tahir was one of the best. And that says something.

SCORECARD >>

PAK vs SA

Lord's | Toss: Pakistan

PAKISTAN 308/7 IN 50 OV

Imam-ul-Haq c & b Tahir 44 (58b, 6x4)

Fakhar Zaman c Amla b Tahir 44 (50b, 6x4, 1x6)

Babar Azam c Ngidi b Phehlukwayo 69 (80b, 7x4)

Mohammad Hafeez lbw b Markram 20 (33b, 1x6)

Haris Sohail c de Kock b Ngidi 89 (59b, 9x4, 3x6)

Imad Wasim c sub b Ngidi 23 (15b, 3x4)

Wahab Riaz b Ngidi 4 (4b)

Sarfraz Ahmed not out 2 (2)

Shadab Khan not out 1 (1b)

Extras: (lb 6, nb 1, w 5) 12

Fall of wickets: 1-81 (Zaman, 14.5 ov), 2-98 (Imam-ul-Haq, 20.3 ov), 3-143 (Hafeez, 29.6 ov), 4-224 (Azam, 41.2 ov), 5-295 (Wasim, 47.6 ov), 6-304 (Riaz, 49.1 ov), 7-307 (Sohail, 49.5 ov)

Bowling:

K Rabada 10-0-65-0

L Ngidi 9-0-64-3

C Morris 9-0-61-0

A Phehlukwayo 8-0-49-1

Imran Tahir 10-0-41-2

A Markram 4-0-22-1

SOUTH AFRICA 259/9 IN 50 OV

H Amla lbw b Amir 2 (3b)

Q de Kock c Imam-ul-Haq b Shadab 47 (60b, 3x4, 2x6)

F du Plessis c Sarfraz b Amir 63 (79b, 5x4)

A Markram b Shadab 7 (16b)

HE van der Dussen c Hafeez b Shadab 36 (47b, 1x4, 1x6)

D Miller b Shaheen Afridi 31 (37b, 3x4)

A Phehlukwayo not out 46 (32b, 6x4)

C Morris b Wahab Riaz 16 (10b, 1x4, 1x6)

K Rabada b Wahab Riaz 3 (7b)

L Ngidi b Wahab Riaz 1 (6b)

Imran Tahir not out 1 (3b)

Extras: (lb 1, w 5) 6

Fall of wickets: 1-4 (Amla, 1.1 ov), 2-91 (de Kock, 19.2 ov), 3-103 (Markram, 23.1 ov), 4-136 (du Plessis, 29.3 ov), 5-189 (van der Dussen, 39.4 ov), 6-192 (Miller, 40.5 ov), 7-222 (Morris, 44.2 ov), 8-239 (Rabada, 46.5 ov), 9-246 (Ngidi, 48.2 ov)

Bowling:

Mohammad Hafeez 2-0-11-0

Mohammad Amir 10-1-49-2

Shaheen Shah Afridi 8-0-54-1

Imad Wasim 10-0-48-0

Wahab Riaz 10-0-46-3

Shadab Khan 10-1-50-3

Pakistan won by 49 runs

POINTS TABLE

Team	M	W	L	T	N/R	PT	NRR
NZ	6	5	0	0	1	11	+1.306
Aus	6	5	1	0	0	10	+0.849
Ind	5	4	0	0	1	9	+0.809
Eng	6	4	2	0	0	8	+1.457
SL	6	2	2	0	2	6	-1.119
Ban	6	2	3	0	1	5	-0.407
Pak	6	2	3	0	1	5	-1.265
WI	6	1	4	0	1	3	+0.19
SA	7	1	5	0	1	3	-0.324
Afg	6	0	6	0	0	0	-1.712

Top 4 teams after the ninth round will qualify for the semis.

Hat-trick ball: Dhoni proposes, Shami finishes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SOUTHAMPTON, JUNE 23

MOHAMMED SHAMI had no second thoughts about bowling a yorker for a hat-trick delivery after Mahendra Singh Dhoni advised the same during India's thrilling World Cup encounter against Afghanistan here. Shami is the second Indian bowler to take a hat-trick in World Cup after Chetan Sharma's feat against New Zealand in the 1987 edition. This is the 10th hat-trick in history of 50-over World Cup. "The plan was simple. To bowl a yorker and even Mahi bhai suggested that. He said, 'Don't change anything now as you have a great chance of getting a hat-trick. It's a rare opportunity and you need to do the same thing. So I did what exactly I was told.' Shami told reporters after returning with figures of 4 for 40.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar's left-hamstring stiffness brought Shami into the picture and the Bengal pacer accepts that it was a stroke of luck that he was in the playing XI. "Getting a chance in the playing XI is a bit of luck. I was ready that whenever I get a chance, I will have to utilise



Dhoni advised Shami to fling in a yorker, which Shami obeyed to become the second Indian to clinch a World Cup hat-trick.

it. As far as hat-trick is concerned, it is a rarity at least in the World Cup. I am happy," he said. Shami said in the final over, there was no time to think and the aim was to execute the plan. "There was no time to think. You have to

back your own skills as you don't have much option otherwise. If you try more variations, chances of going for runs is more. My thought was to execute my plan rather than trying to read batsman's mind," he said.

The Indian bowlers had realised that short ball was a weapon that could be used effectively and both pacers – Shami and Jasprit Bumrah – did just that against Afghan batsmen. "We didn't bowl fuller length deliveries as it was coming onto the bat well. We knew they would be circumspect against short balls," he added.

All-rounder Mohammed Nabi had threatened to take the game away with his half-century and Shami said it was important that they don't let the shoulders drop. "There was a point when Nabi's flow was irritating but it's better if you don't show your concern or irritation which the batsman would have gauged," he said.

No sugar or bread

For someone, who loved his biryani, Shami's new mantra has been fitness which helped him bowl some great spells for India in Test matches last year. "This is a long journey, may be, around two years. Post injury, I had put on weight and I could feel that. After one spell, I would feel tired and there would be tightness.

After scaring India, Afghanistan look to inflict scars on Bangladesh

Southampton: Eager to keep the semi-final hopes alive, a desperate Bangladesh will have their work cut out when they take on a spirited Afghanistan in a do-or-die World Cup encounter here Monday. England's defeat at the hands of Sri Lanka on Friday breathed air into Bangladesh's hopes of securing a semifinal berth and the 'Tigers' will be keen on making the most of the situation starting with a win over the bottom-placed Afghanistan.

The Mashrafe Mortaza-led side, which is currently placed at sixth spot with five points, has batted pretty well so far in the tournament. After hunting down a target of 322 against West Indies in just 41.3 overs, Bangladesh fought admirably in a 382-run chase against Australia, finishing with an impressive 333/8. The promotion of Shakib Al Hasan up the order has been one of the highlights of the World Cup. The all-rounder is just 22 runs behind Australia's David Warner, who is the tournament's top scorer.

The bowling, however, has been their undoing, as Bangladesh have conceded scores in excess of 320 in each of their last three com-

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS

BAN vs AFG

3 pm onwards from Southampton

WEATHER FORECAST
Mostly cloudy.

pleted games and the bowlers will have to step up to make life easier for their batsmen. On the other hand, Afghanistan, who are still in search of their maiden win in the tournament, will be drawing a lot of positive from their previous game against India.

The Afghans fell agonisingly short of India's target, losing by 11 runs on Saturday. But the team will take a lot of confidence from the fact that they restricted the famed Indian batting unit to 224 for 8. PTI

LEADING SCORERS

447 David Warner (AUS), 425 Shakib al Hasan (BAN), 424 Joe Root (ENG)

LEADING WICKET-TAKERS

15 Mohammad Amir (NZ), 15 Jofra Archer (ENG), 15 Mitchell Starc (AUS)

Nice guy who came first

KEEP CALM & CARRY ON LIKE WILLIAMSON

706 Number of runs Kane Williamson has scored in World Cups so far, which makes him the highest averaged Black Caps batsman. His 706 runs have come in 18 matches at an average of 64.18. Both his centuries have come in this edition. Glenn Turner, Martin Crowe, Scott Styris and Martin Guptill are some of the other batsmen with an average of more than above 50 in World Cups for the Kiwis.

186.5 That's Williamson average in this World Cup so far – the highest for any batsman. The next best average is for Bangladesh's Liton Das (114) followed by Rohit Sharma (106.66) and Shakib Al Hasan (106.25). Overall, the New Zealand captain has accrued 373 runs.

11 Enroute his 148 against West Indies at Old Trafford, the New Zealand captain became the 11th batsman to score ODI centuries against all the 10 Test playing nations (excluding Afghanistan and Ireland).

4 Williamson now has as many ODI centuries in England (4 in 14 knocks) as he does in New Zealand (4 in 71).

50 He now has posted 50+ in 10 of his last 11 ODI knocks to have taken place in England and Wales.

333 The New Zealand captain now holds the record for most runs in a World Cup without being dismissed, surpassing Kumar Sangakkara's haul of 326 runs in 2015.

SCORES IN ENGLAND SINCE 2015
45, 93, 118, 90, 50, 100, 87, 57, 40, 79*, 106* and 148 (In ODIs)

Inns	Runs	Avg	100s	50s
12	1013	101.3	4	6

PAPER CLIPPING

Following his back-to-back centuries in this World Cup, the British press went on an overdrive lavishing praise on the New Zealand captain. Here's a sample:

THE GUARDIAN'S Tanya Aldred described Kane Williamson as the "small bearded man in anonymous black (who) embroidered together an innings of quiet genius".

SUNDAY TIMES cricket writer Simon Wilde, said: "In a tournament in which the cream is rising to the top, he is fit to live with the best."



Gem of a player, Kane Williamson. Composure and class.

MIKE ATHERTON
@ATHERSMIKE

SRIRAM VEERA
LONDON, JUNE 23

KANE WILLIAMSON visits cemeteries at night. As a kid he once stole a candy. He bunked school. He threw a fit after getting out in a school game – alas there are no such titbits of human frailty or darkness with Williamson. Somewhere, unknown to others, he must be up to something, surely? Can the police check the walls at his homes or backyard please? The people who know him well, since childhood, laugh when you put to them it seems too good to be true.

"He is really that good, no dark bone in his body," laughs Josh Syms, his social science teacher and cricket coach at school. A sentiment shared by his batting coach David Johnston who has known him since he was 10. The cricketing world of course has nothing but respect for him. Not a whisper about him.

If anything, he seems to have coached the grownups, even as a kid. Syms tells a story when Williamson was 14 and playing a school game. A big match and he nicked one down the leg side and even as umpire signalled a wide, he walked. Astonished, Syms strode out. "Why did you walk? You know this is an important game. Look, even the umpire had said wide." The kid looks up and says, "I hit it. So, I am out." Syms turned to his corner, speechless.

Johnston rewinds to a 12-year-old Williamson. He had scored three 100s in a row. His dad was the coach and swapped the batting order next game, sending his son down at No. 6. Williamson hit a century to take the team out of trouble, batting with the no.10 in a match-turning partnership. When they walked off the field, all the boys came out and clapped in admiration.

"He saw that, stopped, let the other kid walk first and clapped him off the field. When I saw that, right then, I understood his character. The sensitivity in a 12-year old to realise the other young boy might feel left out, the need to put his team ahead – that was a defining moment for me. He isn't just a good batsman but a good person," Johnston says.

During an ODI series against India, he came to attend a funeral of a staff member at the club he had played.

"He went quietly through the backdoor, paid his respects and left. No fanfare. New Zealand doesn't really know how good he is," Syms sounds almost emotional. Someone has to be. Williamson doesn't for sure. "Oh, he has this amazing ability to take nuts and bolts off any situation, take the emotion out of it, assess what's the problem and what he can do to solve it," says Syms. "Not just now, on a cricket field, but even back at the classroom. He was always like this."



DAVID WHO BATS LIKE GOLIATH

This aforementioned description by Martin Crowe perfectly fits Kane Williamson, who has been the backbone of New Zealand's batting for close to a decade. Reuters

cult to talk about himself," Johnston says.

Perhaps it goes back to a newspaper article years ago that had picked up a blog from someone claiming to be Williamson, swagging in print about himself and what he would be in future. The newspaper printed it without confirmation. Williamson has talked about it in the past. "Someone had pretended to be me in a blog saying I was going to be the next Martin Crowe," Williamson said. "It was ridiculous and the words they were using were making me out to be some sort of gangster or something. It was embarrassing."

He has this amazing ability to take nuts and bolts off any situation, take the emotion out of it, assess what's the problem and what he can do to solve it...not just now, on a cricket field, but even back at the classroom. He was always like this."

JOSH SYMS,
KANE WILLIAMSON'S SOCIAL SCIENCE TEACHER AND CRICKET COACH AT SCHOOL

work was done. "That day the bowlers bowled really well, troubling all batsmen, barring Kane of course. The ball was flying fast. At the end of it, I checked and found that Kane had cut two-three yards – basically making it a shorter pitch so that he can get to face some pacy stuff. He was finding the regular training too boring!"

To this day, every now and then, Johnston and Williamson have net sessions. "Intense, he never wastes a session. First to come, last to leave. Always has a plan, working on some particular shot or line of attack. He has purpose to every net. All he is after is pursuit of excellence."

Johnston cues up a story from the first time he played Daniel Vettori, who was already a star with the national team. "Williamson was 15 then. I was the selector in that game and a bit worried whether I had played him too early. What if a failure scarred him? The first ball he played off Dan, he whipped off the legs and it hit the short-leg

on shoulder. No runs. Second ball, he fell lbw for a duck. As he walked in, I checked on him to see if he is alright, and he goes, "That was good fun playing an international player. I played the right shot but need to play it better" – He wasn't crestfallen, he had already done his analysis, summed it up, I just nodded and went back to sit."

"The thing with him is that he isn't scared of failure. He is not worried or won't let himself be defined by success or failure. If he misses a ball, it's gone. He stays in the moment. Success doesn't change. That ability to stay in the moment is what makes him special. He is good technically, a classicist who can adapt and combined with that skill to stay in the moment, he has gone to another level. All through his career, whenever he has got out, he is not the person to rue it and mop around. He won't say he shouldn't have played that shot but see if it was correct, and if it was, how to play it better. Simple," Johnston says. "Good technically, very very good mentally."

The late Martin Crowe, New Zealand's greatest batsman, was a Kane Williamson fan. The year before he died, he had said, "We are watching the dawn of New Zealand's greatest batsman". In his *Cricinfo* column, he wrote: "While an extremely busy player, it's his quiet defence that stands out. The ball is met with a cushion in his hand, his framework right behind the line, his head staring the action down.

In a Test he will make the bowler pick

up, in an ODI he will slightly angle and delay the stroke and deflect to behind square for a run... Williamson is a difficult player to focus against."

"Due to his humility and lack of ego, it is harder for bowlers and captains to get ramped up about the absolute necessity to remove him. His passive body language gives very little to feed off... Williamson has that x-factor, which no one can quite pin down. Frankly, he is David playing like Goliath. Batting suited him from the minute he picked up his first bat; he had the perfect height, balance, fast-twitch muscles, electric feet, an inquisitive mind. Then he began to grow. Around him was an environment of support and knowledge. He appreciated both and never forgot his origins and roots."

Crowe was a stats-obsessed man, using numbers to motivate himself in a weak team. He had felt "humiliated" in his first few games for his country; his captain Geoff Howarth had called him a "showpony" and as years went by, people in New Zealand didn't quite warm up to him. To them, he was the "brash tall poppy from Auckland", as he was once described. The media hounded him – some even floated rumours about sexuality and it wasn't until 1992 when he received the adulation he craved for. In his last years, he became the country's emotional lodestar.

Kane has had more luck. He is also a different personality – calmer, self-assured and friendly. Syms sums it up aptly: "He is an absolute star in world cricket. But for us in New Zealand, he is just Kane, laidback, modest, and a bloody-good bloke. Just Kane."

1 WORLD CUP • 10 COUNTRIES • 1000 OPINIONS

Almost a Fergie time comeback

THE DAY before West Indies' must-win, keeping-the-semifinal hopes alive fixture against New Zealand, Carlos Brathwaite made a customary visit to the Theatre of Dreams, just a good stone's throw away from the cricket stadium. A staunch Manchester United supporter from childhood, he says the ground has always lifted his confidence.

In an interview last year to the club's official magazine *Inside United*, he elaborated his love for the English club: "A club with a rich history of comebacks fits my narrative too. I have been on the brink several times and made comebacks. I had several 'Fergie times in my career." He was referring to his knock in 2016 World T20 final. He almost pulled off one against New Zealand too, only to be let down by teammates, prompting a Twitterati to comment: "He was living in Fergie era, but his teammates are in OGS time."

Kane needs able support

Despite New Zealand's unbeaten streak, media back home can't shrug off their intrinsic cynicism. *The New Zealand Herald* strikes a striking parallel with the 1992 campaign, wherein they looked invulnerable before stooping to Pakistan in the semifinal. Here they go: "A captain single-handedly winning games and taking New Zealand deep into the tournament feels like 1992 all over again.

Kane Williamson fits the Martin Crowe mould, elegant, determined batsman, waging lone battles. With his wonderfully-trimmed beard and gimlet eyes, he looks like a tragic hero in the making. Unless batting colleagues provide him support, his World Cup could end like Crowe's."

They can't harp over the greasy fingers of their fielders. Wrote *Wellington Post*: "This should be the worst bunch of fielders the country has produced. In one of the matches, they'll let the World Cup slip through their fingers."

All this Mickey Mouse cricket

Even when West Indies were cruising, with Shimron Hetmyer and Chris Gayle putting the New Zealand bowlers to sword, Michael Holding had a sniff of the tragedy that was to unravel. In the same over Gayle struck Mitchell Santner for a brace of sixes, he was pleading caution. "Someone please tell them it's a 50-over game. They are kicking along at more than six runs an over and I don't mind if the next five are maiden overs. This is not Mickey Mouse, hide and seek cricket. You need to respect the good balls. The bad balls will come." Vindicating his worst fears, West Indies batsmen committed *hara-kiri*, first Hetmyer, then Jason Holder and in the chaos, Gayle couldn't but wilt.

Mickey Mouse cricket, Holding kept fuming.

Cricket stops plane

World Cup matches have the power to bring countries to a standstill. In New Zealand, it even ensured that flights were delayed so that passengers on board could celebrate their team's win. During the Black Caps' tense World Cup encounter against WI, a fully boarded flight from Auckland was made to wait after passengers came up with a strange request: "Please don't start the plane. We are watching NZ-WI match on live streaming and the Black Caps need just one wicket from 12 balls." Kieran McNulty, a New Zealand politician and MP in House of Representatives for the Labour Party, who was on board, shared this story on Twitter. He tweeted, "My @FlyAirNZ flight was fully boarded, the plane loud from all the live streams. 12 balls left, 1 wicket needed. Please don't start the plane. The @BLACKCAPS win! We all erupt in unison. Only then, amongst the cheers, did the plane start to move. It was a beautiful moment. #CWC19"

Bish you were here

Trent Boult plucked a stunner out of thin air and the Kiwis celebrated like manics. Carlos

Brathwaite, the tragic hero, sank to his knees. And amid high drama, cricket commentary got its new Richie Benaud.

West Indies were one big hit away from an improbable victory and Brathwaite wheeled at a back-of-a-length delivery from Jimmy Neesham. For a good part of the ball's journey towards the long-on boundary, pause prevailed. As the ball started its descent, Ian Bishop, behind the mic, rose to the occasion. "Down the ground but fielder underneath," was followed by another mini pause... "And taken!" the former West Indies fast bowler-turned-commentator screamed. "New Zealand win," he went on before pausing for a moment. "The dream is diminished for Carlos Brathwaite in Manchester." Bishop paused again before saying: "The most agonising (pause) and deflating end to this contest."

Three years ago, Bishop had asked the global audience to "remember the name", as Brathwaite pulled off a heist in the World T20 final against England at Eden Gardens, hitting four consecutive sixes in the final over. At Old Trafford, Bishop was narrating Brathwaite's glorious failure. And he did it with such grace and objectivity that "Ian Bishop" became a Twitter trend. Current players prefer to keep commentators at arm's length. But Bishop's commentary wowed everybody including Stuart Broad. "That's world class. Cricket at its best. Could listen to Ian Bishop all day long," the England quick tweeted. **ENS**



HAND FOR HEARTBREAK

Ross Taylor consoles a distraught Carlos Brathwaite. AP

BRIEFLY

Hockey: India beat Japan 3-1 in final

Hiroshima: Drag-flicker Gurjit Kaur struck twice after skipper Rani Rampal provided the lead as India outplayed Japan 3-1 to clinch the FIH Women's Series Finals, here Sunday. Leading from the front, captain Rani found the net as early as third minute but Japan's Kanon Mori equalised in the 11th minute. Gurjit scored in the 45th and 60th minutes to lead India to an emphatic victory. **PTI**

Double delight for Gayatri Gopichand

Hyderabad: National badminton coach Pullela Gopichand's daughter Gayatri put up a fine show at the Yonex-Sunrise All India Senior Ranking tournament, finishing with two titles. Gayatri, who had upset the fourth seed Aakarshi Kashyap this week, announced her arrival in the senior category with a title in women's singles as well as women's doubles. In singles, Gayatri beat Tanvi Lad 21-19, 21-16. She later teamed up with Rutaparna Panda and defeated the fourth seeds and reigning national champions Shikha Gautam and Ashwini Bhat K, 19-21, 21-14, 21-10. **PTI**

Australia's Barty is the new world number 1

Birmingham: Ashleigh Barty became only the second Australian woman to top the world rankings when she won the Birmingham WTA title on Sunday, beating Julia Goerges 6-3, 7-5. The 23-year-old French Open champion emulates Yvonne Goolagong-Cawley, who held it for a fortnight in 1976. Barty displaces Japan's Naomi Osaka as women's world number one. **AFP**

Federer, Lopez win grass titles

Halle: Roger Federer warmed up for next month's Wimbledon championships by swatting aside David Goffin 7-6(2), 6-1 to win the Halle Open title for the 10th time on Sunday. The Swiss fired seven aces and broke Goffin's serve three times for his 102nd tour-level title that moved him to within seven of Jimmy Connors' record. Spanish veteran Feliciano Lopez, meanwhile, won the Queen's Club grasscourt title for the second time in three editions as he outlasted Frenchman Gilles Simon 6-2, 6-7(4), 7-6(2) in the final. **REUTERS**

Hamilton pips Bottas to win French GP

Le Castellet: Lewis Hamilton extended his championship lead when he scorched to an emphatic victory ahead of Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas at the French Grand Prix on Sunday. The defending five-time champion repeated his pole-to-flag triumph of 2018 with a flawless drive to his fourth win in succession, sixth this season and 79th of his career. After eight of this season's 21 races, Hamilton leads the championship with 187 points ahead of Bottas on 151. **AFP**

Rerouting road to Tokyo

With the IOC altering qualification process, India will now focus on regional and world events

NITIN SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 23

WITH THE International Olympic Committee changing the qualification process for the 2020 Olympics, Indian boxing's High Performance Director Santiago Nieva will have to redraw his plans for the next 12 months.

With boxing being held in Tokyo under IOC's banner, the new qualification process includes four regional Olympic qualifiers to be held next year, apart from a world qualifying event. This year's World Championship will not be considered a qualifier nor will there be any slots available through World Series of Boxing or AIBA Open Boxing.

"I would have preferred the AIBA qualification process. Since 2008, the World Championship taking place a year prior to the Olympics has been one of the qualification events and to earn the Olympic quota with at least a quarter-final finish at the World Championships also boosts a boxer's morale. It also means that a boxer has ample time to prepare for the Olympics after earning a quota," Nieva said.

"We don't know yet whether this year's World Championships will take place or not, but if it does, it will help Indian boxers ahead of the regional qualifiers next year."

Last Thursday's announcement also confirmed the eight weight categories in men's division and five weight categories in women's division as compared to 10 and three respectively at Rio.

While the Rio Olympics qualification process saw boxers competing at world championships, regional qualifiers and a world qualifying tournament in men's division, where only three Indian boxers — Shiva Thapa, Manoj Kumar and Vikas Krishan — qualified, the 2020 process will see a total of 41 boxers from Asia (six each in 52 Kg, 57 Kg and 63 Kg, five each in 69 Kg, 75 Kg and 81 Kg and four each in 91 Kg and 91 Kg+) make the cut from continental Asia qualifier to be held anytime between January and April next year. Additionally, a total of 35 spots will be on offer through the World Qualifying event in May 2020. "The last two Olympics have seen quota places on offer through world championships, regional qualifiers, world qualifying tournament and WSB/APB. Since 2012, we have seen boxers qualifying through WSB and APB also," Nieva explained.

While no Indian woman boxer made it to the 2016 Olympics with qualification going



Amit Panghal (R) & Co. will have to wait till January to get a shot at an Olympic quota. File

Thursday's announcement also confirmed the eight weight categories in men's division and five weight categories in women's division as compared to 10 and three respectively at Rio

through world championships and Asian qualifiers, this time they will have a shot at one of the 22 quota places for Asia (six in 51 Kg, four each in 57 Kg, 60 Kg, 69 Kg and 75 Kg) apart from the 19-21 quota places on offer at World Qualifying tournament to be held in May 2020.

"In 2012, there was qualification only through the world championships. In 2016, we had qualification through World Championships and Asian qualifiers. This new system will work well for our women's team as there will be more than four quota places on offer in each weight category, which was not the case in 2016 when only finalists from Asia earned the quota for Rio. We won a total of 13 medals in men's and women's categories combined in Asian

Championships in April and if we can repeat that performance in the Asian qualifier, I will be happy," the high performance director added.

Indian boxers, including Asian champion Amit Panghal, now have to wait until January-April to get a shot at an Olympic quota. Akhil Kumar, who earned his quota for the 2004 and 2008 Olympics in the first of the three Asian qualifiers, believes it can work against them. Akhil also opined that with regional quota winners from each region not eligible to take part in the world qualifying tournament, it will make the tournament easier compared to World Championship.

"I won the quota for 2008 Olympics by beating Athens Olympics medalist Worapoj Petchkoom (of Thailand) at the Asian Championships in Bangkok. It gave me a lot of confidence. Anthresh Lakra earned the quota in 2007 through World Championships. It meant that he had a lot more time to prepare and plan. But at the same time, the new qualification system can help Indian boxers. There are more quota places per category in a single Asian qualifier while in the world qualifier, other continents' quota holders will not be eligible," said Akhil.

EXPLAINED

Why IOC is deciding qualification format for Tokyo Olympics

BOXERS WILL be in action at the Tokyo Olympics, but with AIBA suspended, the events will be organised by IOC. An inquiry into AIBA's finances and governance issue last month prompted the decision, which has to be ratified at next week's IOC's session in Lausanne. IOC has also set up a task force headed by Morinanzi Watanbe, head of the international gymnastics federation, to organise the qualifiers and competition in Tokyo, which will see 186 male and 100 female boxers.

Agony for Australia as Norway, Germany reach World Cup quarters

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
PARIS, JUNE 23

GERMANY CRUISED through to the quarter-finals of the women's World Cup on Saturday while Sam Kerr was one of two Australian players to miss from the spot as Norway dumped out the Matildas on penalties. Norway won 4-1 in a shoot-out following a 1-1 draw in Nice in the last 16 late on Saturday, and the 1995 winners go through to a last-eight tie against England or Cameroon.

Those sides clash in the first of two matches on Sunday, just before hosts France take on the Brazil of Marta, the World Cup's all-time leading scorer. France and England

are among the tournament favourites and will both hope to avoid the fate of Australia, who had been eager to go far but could not get the better of a Norway side who have impressed despite being without their biggest star, Ballon d'Or winner Ada Hegerberg.

Norway had taken the lead through Isabell Herlovsen in the first half, but Ante Milicic's team forced extra time when Elise Kellond-Knight scored direct from a corner seven minutes from the end. They survived when both Caroline Graham Hansen and Vilde Boe Risa hit the woodwork for the Norwegians, and the Matildas also had defender Alanna Kennedy sent off in the extra half-hour.

However, Kerr blazed over from Australia's first penalty in the shoot-out be-



Australian players react after losing 4-1 to Norway on penalties in quarterfinals.

fore Emily Nielnik's attempt was saved while Norway converted all of their efforts from 12 yards, with Ingrid Engen scoring the decisive one. "I don't know if there are any words to describe how I'm feeling but, more importantly, how the girls are feeling," said dejected Australia coach Milicic.

He praised his side's resilience. "They never gave up, they kept on fighting," Milicic said. "They really did things the hard way and in the end, we couldn't climb the final hurdle. Once we lost a player it became difficult. I think it was a pretty even game but I'm disappointed with the result."

Kerr said the loss was tough to take but the side would only benefit from the experiences they had in France.

Earlier, Germany captain Alexandra Popp

hailed a "perfect day" for her and her team after the 2003 and 2007 World Cup winners eased to a 3-0 victory over Nigeria in Grenoble. Popp, 28, marked her 100th cap by heading in a 20th-minute opener for Martina Voss-Tecklenburg's team. Moments later, Lina Magull was caught on the knee inside the box by Nigerian left-back Evelyn Nwabuoku, and a penalty was given after a VAR review.

Sara Daebritz made no mistake from 12 yards, before Lea Schueller sealed the victory late on. "It was a perfect day today. We put a lot of pressure on the Nigerians and the early goal gave us stability," Popp told broadcaster ZDF. Germany will face either Sweden or Canada, who play on Monday, in the quarter-finals next weekend.

Copa: 'Little Onion' makes breakthrough with Brazil

REUTERS
SAO PAULO, JUNE 23

BEFORE THE Copa America, few people outside Brazil would have heard of Gremio winger Everton but his stock is surely on the rise after a series of scintillating performances in a team that is beginning to look like the Brazil of old. The 23-year-old won Man of the Match in the host nation's 5-0 win over Peru on Saturday and scored an excellent goal in what was his first full game for the national side.

His start on the left wing was expected after two substitute appearances and a goal in Brazil's first two Copa America games. On both occasions the diminutive winger with the face tattoo and the military-style short back and sides haircut brought an excitement and a verve to the side and fans were demanding he play more than a substitute's role.

Known as Cebolinha, or Little Onion, because of his resemblance to a Brazilian cartoon character of the same name, Everton was electric, cutting in from his spot on the left flank and hitting the byline to provide cut backs and crosses. His step overs and backheels delighted the crowd, who were soon chanting his name.

Everton, however, was quick to praise the collective rather than accept the individual accolades. "If there was a lack of confidence in the group before, then we played an excellent match and did it do-



Gremio winger Everton's stock has been on the rise.

ing what we did in other games, creating chances," he told reporters. "And now the chances turned into goals."

Early goals settled the side, while there were superb midfield performances by Arthur and Philippe Coutinho, who looked a different player from the one who has struggled this season at Barcelona. Together they produced some of Brazil's most self-assured and exciting football in ages, even if it was against a poor Peru side.

Coach Tite refused to single Everton out but the player can rest assured he will get another start in Thursday's quarter-final at his home club ground.

"I am particularly happy," he said. "Going back there with the national team, I know every square meter of that place. I hope to be happy with the national team too."

RAMNATH GOENKA EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM AWARDS



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- Sports Journalism
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Print/Digital

- Reporting on Arts, Culture and Entertainment
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