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NEARBY



Will work with Centre to curb crime: Kejriwal

NEW DELHI
 Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said that the Delhi government will fully cooperate with the Centre in controlling crime in the city. "Keeping politics at bay, we need to work together to improve the law and order situation in the city," he added.

CITY PAGE 2

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Mayawati snubs SP, says will go it alone in polls

'Decision is in the interest of the party and the movement'

OMAR RASHID
 LUCKNOW

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) will revert to its old strategy of contesting elections on its own after its alliance with the Samajwadi Party failed to stop the BJP from winning in Uttar Pradesh in the second consecutive general election.



Mayawati's decision has shut the door on a possible renewal of ties with the SP.

BSP chief Mayawati said on Monday that her party would contest in all major and minor elections on its own in the "interest of the party and the movement." Her declaration has shut the door on the possibility of renewal of the alliance with the SP. Earlier this month, the alliance was put on hold after Ms. Mayawati announced that the BSP would contest all 11 seats on its own

in the Assembly byelection. The BSP chief cited "political compulsions" for the decision and said the Yadavs had deserted the SP and hurt the prospects of the alliance. However, she kept the chances of a reunion in future alive, with the ultimatum that SP chief Akhilesh Yadav train his cadre to be

"missionaries", like BSP workers, and said, "There is no break-up of the alliance yet."

However, on Monday, in a series of tweets, Ms. Mayawati targeted the SP and reverted to her old criticism of the governments run by the party. Ms. Mayawati said she had forgotten the old unresolved complaints and hassles and set aside the "anti-BSP and anti-Dalit decisions" of the SP government, including the measures against reservation in promotion and the deterioration of the law and order situation, and followed the "Gathbandhan dharma" in the public and national interest.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Six arrested in Jharkhand lynching case following outcry

Muslim youth, suspected of theft, was beaten up & forced to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
 SARAIKELA

Six persons have been arrested in connection with the lynching of 24-year-old Tabrez Ansari in Saraikela Kharsawan district, the Jharkhand police said on Monday.

The lynching, which has triggered a nationwide outrage, is being probed by a Special Investigation Team. An SIT investigation has been made mandatory by the Supreme Court in every case of mob lynching.

Taken to hospital
 Tabrez was targeted by the culprits on the suspicion of a theft at Dhatkidih village on the night of June 18.

Despite his pleading that



Beaten black and blue: A video grab of the victim being thrashed in Jharkhand. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

he was innocent and should be spared, they beat him up badly and forced him to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Jai Hanuman'.

He was rescued by the police in the early hours of

June 19 and taken to hospital.

Following a theft complaint filed by the villagers against him, he was arrested and produced in court, which sent him to jail. On

June 22, his condition worsened and he was admitted to the district headquarters hospital, where he died.

"We have taken the issue very seriously. We are looking for each and every person directly or indirectly involved in the crime. I had discussed the whole issue with the family members of the victim. Nobody will be spared," said Karthik S, Saraikela-Kharsawan Superintendent of Police.

Papu Mandal, who was named in the complaint filed by the victim's family, was immediately arrested. Now, five others have been arrested, said Mr. Karthik.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12
 'AFRAID OF NEW INDIA' PAGE 12

Cut and dried



Rain in the air: Women dry their rabi crop as monsoon clouds smear the sky in Morigaon district of Assam on Monday. The monsoon has covered nearly half of the country, a weather department official said on Monday. ■RITU RAJ KONWAR

U.P. police frisk bikers at gunpoint

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 GHAZIABAD

Uttar Pradesh police's "high-handed approach" came to light on Monday when a video of policemen frisking motorcyclists at gunpoint in Budaun went viral.

The video purportedly shows policemen stopping people riding motorcycles in the Wazirganj area of the city. They ask the riders to get down and keep their hands up, else they would be shot. The policemen are seen pointing a rifle and a revolver at the young men.

DETAILS ON PAGE 5

RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya resigns

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

Viral Acharya, one of the four Deputy Governors of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has resigned six months before the end of his term, citing "unavoidable personal" reasons.

He resigned a few weeks ago, a communication from the RBI said, adding "consequential action arising from his letter is under consideration of the competent authority." Deputy Governors of the RBI are appointed by the government.

"I have decided to leave six months early due to unavoidable personal reasons. So much to finish in the last month," Mr. Acharya said in a text message to *The Hindu*. "On speaking more, I am sticking to my school teacher's advice: when your work

speaks for itself, don't interrupt," he said.

The RBI communication said Mr. Acharya was unable to continue his term beyond July 23.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12
 LITTLE SURPRISE PAGE 15

It's premature to count India out of RCEP: Centre

ASEAN countries raise the pitch on free trade agreement

SUHASINI HAIDAR
SHARAD RAGHAVAN
 NEW DELHI

Government officials said it would be "premature" to suggest that India could be cut out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations, which will see a free trade agreement which includes ASEAN countries, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, Commerce Ministry sources said. Indian delegations have a series of meetings planned in the next few weeks to discuss the way

forward. Mahathir Mohamad, who spoke on the sidelines of the ASEAN summit held in Bangkok on Sunday.

Reiterating that India is "consistently" engaged with RCEP negotiations, which will see a free trade agreement which includes ASEAN countries, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, Commerce Ministry sources said. Indian delegations have a series of meetings planned in the next few weeks to discuss the way

forward. "India has also shown it is keen for the partnership to work, as seen by our consistent engagement on the issue. There are some issues that need to be ironed out still, but it would be extremely premature to talk about RCEP going ahead without India," said a Commerce Ministry official, who preferred not to be named.

In an interview to the CNBC channel, Mr. Mahathir said he would prefer to go

ahead with a formulation of 13 countries that are willing to go ahead immediately, and allow outliers India, Australia and New Zealand to join the pact in future.

"They [Malaysia] can have their perspective. They are not the full RCEP. We are sure that many other countries do not share this view and want to work with India in RCEP," the official responded.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

House panel shies from quantifying black money

'Three agencies have come up with differing figures, ranging from 7-120% of GDP'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 NEW DELHI

The Standing Committee on Finance has shied away from estimating the quantum of black money in and outside India, saying that different methods by various agencies are yielding vastly differing figures.

The Standing Committee relied on three institutes — the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, the National Institute of Financial Management and the National Council of Applied Economic Research — to come up with their estimates of unaccounted income in the country. The three estimates varied significantly,



The Centre has been asked to continue efforts to unearth hidden wealth. ■GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK PHOTO

ranging from 7-120% of the GDP.

"It appears that the reliable estimation of unaccounted income and wealth inside and outside the country is a difficult task. This inference is validated by the widely varying estimates of the unac-

counted income arrived at by these three institutes," the report said. "The Chief Economic Adviser has opined that there is no scope for arriving at a common estimate of unaccounted income by combining estimates from the three reports." The report quotes Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey as saying that "there is a lack of consensus regarding the most suitable method in the Indian context."

The Standing Committee enumerated the various steps taken to curb the generation of black money. The report said the paucity of time and the limited number of stakehol-

ders that could be examined meant that the findings should be considered only preliminary in nature.

"In the meantime, the Committee would expect the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) to continue their efforts with greater vigour to unearth and bring to book unaccounted income/wealth both within and outside the country, including follow-up action on the seven reports of the Special Investigation Team constituted on black money as well as the three study reports on estimation of unaccounted money," the report said.

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DELHI Timings

TUESDAY, JUNE 25		
RISE	05:25	SET 19:23
MOON	RISE 00:18	SET 12:15
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26		
RISE	05:25	SET 19:23
MOON	RISE 00:49	SET 13:08
THURSDAY, JUNE 27		
RISE	05:26	SET 19:23
MOON	RISE 01:21	SET 14:02

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	35	27
Safdarjung	35	27
Palam	39	27

Delhi Palam Today
38°C Short spell rain and thundershower with moderate gusty wind will affect some parts of Delhi and NCR with cloudy sky.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
40°C A comfortable morning, rise in day temperature likely. Duststorm or thunderstorm with light rain may occur.

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Air quality of Delhi-NCR	
Delhi	109
Gurugram	56
Ghaziabad	96
Faridabad	41
Noida	111
Greater Noida	91
Good 0-50 Satisfactory 51-100 Moderate 101-200 Poor 201-300 Very poor 301-400 Severe >401	
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) [SOURCE: CPCB]	

Will work with Centre to curb crime: Kejriwal

Says all agencies need to focus on improving law and order

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said that the Delhi government will fully cooperate with the Central government in controlling crime in the city. "Keeping politics at bay, we need to work together to improve the law and order situation in the city," he said.

Speaking to the media after laying the foundation stone of a water treatment plant in Chandrawal, Mr. Kejriwal said, "We need to work together to improve the law and order situation in Delhi. Delhi government has started installation of CCTV cameras in Delhi on a large scale. This will help a lot in controlling crime in the Capital. We will get the feed of any crime taking place in the city. It will help in taking necessary steps immediately. All the agencies, governments and the residents of Delhi need to

Delhi government has started installation of CCTV cameras in the city on a large scale. This will help a lot in controlling crime in the Capital

ARVIND KEJRIWAL
Chief Minister



work together."

In Delhi, the city police reports to the L-G, who is appointed by the Central government. In the past, the Aam Aadmi Party has attacked the Central government for any law and order problem in the city.

Later in the day, the Chief Minister said in a tweet, "All of us need to work together to improve the law and order situation in Delhi. Safety and security of each Delhiite is important for us. Delhi govt will provide all cooperation to

Centre [sic]."

Meanwhile, speaking at the floor of the Rajya Sabha, AAP MP Sanjay Singh, said, "In Delhi, an auto driver Sarabjeet Singh was beaten up like an animal and his son was also beaten up... To control crime in Delhi, the Home Ministry should call a meeting and call the Delhi Police Commissioner, other officials and the Delhi Chief Minister. This is the national capital and crime should be stopped here or else our image will be affected across the world."

BJP accuses AAP govt. of fooling people over Wi-Fi services

Party alleges government's ambitious project still on papers

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday accused the Aam Aadmi Party government of "fooling" Delhiites with its poll promise of providing city-wide Wi-Fi services.

PWD response

Delhi BJP spokesperson Harish Khurana took to Twitter to share a reply from the Public Works De-

partment (PWD) to allege that the AAP government's ambitious project was only on files and being circulated between departments.

"Preliminary estimate is being submitted for getting administrative approval and expenditure sanction of competent authority," the reply from the PWD, dated May 16, stated in response to Mr. Khurana's query regarding the status of the

project. "I asked the government through RTI when Wi-Fi will become available in Delhi. Look at the reply yourself it is still doing the rounds in files [sic]," Mr. Khurana tweeted.

"For five years all you have done is fool the people Arvind Kejriwal. Don't worry in a few days the people are going to okay the BJP [over you] [sic]," Mr. Khurana added.

AAP rebel MLAs seek deferment of hearing

Legislators ask for more time to furnish reply over charges of defecting to BJP

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) rebel legislators Colonel Devinder Kumar Sehrawat and Anil Bajpai, who are facing the charges of defecting to the BJP, on Monday, presented written submissions to the Secretary of the Delhi Assembly seeking deferment of their personal hearing before the Speaker on the issue, which is scheduled for Tuesday.

Notices issued

Notices were issued to the two legislators, who represent the Bijwasan and Gandhi Nagar Assembly constituencies, respectively, on a petition moved by AAP Greater Kailash MLA and party spokesperson Saurabh Bha-

radwaj, accusing them of joining the BJP ahead of the recent Lok Sabha poll. In their replies, Mr. Sehrawat and Mr. Bajpai said that the newspaper clippings annexed with Mr. Bhardwaj's petition were "illegible" and demanded that they be provided typed and translated copies so that they are able to submit their responses on charges of defection.

Written submission

"...I request you to defer the hearing on June 25 and grant me six weeks time from the date of supply of clear typed and translated copies of the petition and annexed documents..." Mr. Bajpai said in his written submission.

Citing the same reason, Mr. Sehrawat sought four

weeks' time to furnish his reply over the charge of joining the BJP. "The Office of the Speaker acts as a tribunal as per Supreme Court laid guidelines, while deciding cases under anti-defection law and hence the documents furnished before it should be up to the standard," Mr. Sehrawat said at a press conference.

On his part, Mr. Bajpai argued that an office of profit case was pending against him and before applying the anti-defection law, it needed to be clarified whether he was a legislator or not.

Hearing today

Meanwhile, sources, however, said that both legislators were given seven days' time, which was "sufficient to re-

pond to the notice of Delhi Assembly Secretariat" and added that the hearing on the issue would take place on Tuesday as per schedule and the "laid down rules".

Membership row

Mr. Sehrawat and Mr. Bajpai had joined the BJP in the presence of senior party leaders, including Union Minister Vijay Goel although both maintained that they had not applied for the membership of the party.

"Even on the BJP dais, I had said that I have not taken the party membership. Kirti Azad and Shatrughan Sinha shared dias with leaders of Opposition parties and still continued to be Members of Parliament," Mr. Sehrawat said.

Delhi BJP to begin 'planning for Assembly polls' in today's meet

Party likely to focus on campaign, potential candidates

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI

The BJP will hold day-long deliberations on the way forward for its campaign in Delhi, in addition to zeroing in on potential candidates for the upcoming Assembly elections, at its State unit office here on Tuesday.

According to party sources, BJP's national general secretary (organisation) Ram Lal will preside over a marathon meeting, beginning 12.30 p.m., to set things in order for a two-day meeting of the State executive later this month.

Membership drive

In addition to firming up plans for its city-wide membership drive, sources

claimed, Mr. Ram Lal would also screen potential candidates to be fielded by the party in the Assembly polls scheduled early next year.

"Mr. Ram Lal will be presented the names of five potential candidates from each of the 70 Assembly constituencies in the Capital whom the party can field," a BJP leader said.

"The national general secretary will discuss everything from the membership drive to the party's strategy, both on the ground and on social media to counter AAP in the [Assembly] polls," the leader added.

State executive meet

Delhi BJP in-charge of Media, Social Media and IT

Cell Pratyush Kanth termed it a "routine meeting which will be presided over by the party's national general secretary (organisation)" and declined to comment further.

According to a party source, the party's State executive meeting on June 28 and 29 will deliberate on the names of potential candidates as well as the broad framework of the BJP's campaign for the Assembly elections.

While the first day of the meeting will see discussions among the party's current office-bearers, the second day has been reserved for similar deliberations at the Ambedkar International Centre.

Panel to look into complaint on mosques

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Minorities Commission (DMC) on Monday set up a fact-finding committee to probe the claim of BJP MP Parvesh Verma about "mushrooming of mosques on government land" in the city.

The committee will be headed by human rights activist Ovais Sultan Khan, and will have Gurminder Singh Matharu, Dr. Denzil Fernandes, Ankur Otto and Raees Ahmad as members.

The committee will visit various areas in the Capital, especially West Delhi, and complete its report within 10 working days.

"The MP complained to the L-G and we took suo motu cognisance of the issue," DMC chairman Zafar Iqbal Khan said.

IN THE COURT OF SD/ESTATE OFFICER (CIVIL LINES) KHASRA NO.549, NEAR BARAT GHAR, (NDPL BUILDING) BURARI, DELHI-110084. PETITION NO.
59,49,76,62,27,39,65,40,71,82,45,53,35,83,69,84,55,48,81,80,73,67,56,47,66,57,63,94,85,46,75,51,70,56,64,54,50,36,88,86,52,77,78, AND79/SDM/CL/EVE/2018&2019.

BSES YPL VS. UNKNOWN
NOTICE UNDER THE PUBLIC PREMISES (EVICTION OF UNAUTHORIZED OCCUPANTS) ACT, 1971

Whereas petitions under the Public Premises (EVICTION OF UNAUTHORIZED OCCUPANTS) Act 1971 for eviction of illegal occupiers from the flats addresses mentioned below of BSES Residential Colony, Tripolia Delhi-11007, have been filed by BSES YPL.

Type I, H Block House No: H-28, H-36, H-38, H-42, H-41, H-43, H-44, H-48, H-52, H-56, H-70, H-72, H-87, H-101, H-110, H-118, H-122, H-123, H-125, H-127, H-134, H-145, H-146, H-149, H-150, H-151, H-152, H-154, H-155, H-158, H-161, H-177, H-179, H-193, H-195, H-197, H-199, H-203, H-211, H-227, H-233, H-235, H-243 & H-255.

Whereas the date 09.07.2019 has been fixed for hearing of the case. Notice is hereby given that any person having any interest in the eviction petitions of above said properties may if he/she desire to appear in this court of the said date 09.07.2019.

Given under my hand and the seal of this court of this date 20.06.2019.
Sd/-
Signature and The Seal of the Estate Officer Sub Division Magistrate Civil Lines, Delhi

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Issue of Tender Document To : 09-07-2019 15:30
Tender Closing Date and Time : 09-07-2019 15:31
Technical Open Date and Time : 10-07-2019 15:01
Opening of Financial Bid : 15-07-19 at 11:15 AM (TENTATIVE)

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SDMC defers sealing drive in Amar Colony

Properties protected under special Act

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Sealing of tenements in Amar Colony, scheduled for Tuesday, was deferred after the Urban Development Ministry wrote to the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) clarifying that several such properties were protected under the Special Provisions Act.

The Supreme Court-appointed monitoring committee, set up to check and take action on unauthorised constructions had ordered the sealing of C-type tenements which were allotted to rehabilitate refugees who migrated from Pakistan at the time of Partition.

The Land and Development Office (L&DO) clarified that the unauthorised constructions at these sites were made prior to 2006. A

survey of the area from 2002 records these violations extensively as well. The properties, it clarified, were protected under the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act, 2011.

Additionally, it informed that more than 300 such property owners had applied for regularisation of their properties under different schemes, had paid the dues. In view of the response received, the SDMC informed the monitoring committee that it would defer the sealing and issuance of more notices.

Home Minister Satyendar Jain reiterated the position that sealing cannot be carried out without the permission of the Supreme Court as it would be a violation of the Special Provisions Act.

Man convicted of sexual assault on minor girl in south-west Delhi

Accused was earlier convicted of raping victim's elder sister

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI

A court here has held a man guilty of sexually assaulting a nine-year-old girl when she was on her way to home from school in south-west Delhi in 2013. Earlier, the accused used to live near the victim's house in Gurugram.

A Haryana court had earlier convicted the accused of raping the elder sister of the minor.

Additional Sessions Judge Sanjay Garg convicted the accused Shankar Mehro on the basis of evidence by the victim and her father.

The accused had challenged the prosecution submitting that there was a delay of five days in lodging the FIR, but the court rejected it saying that the police were to be blamed for it. "Need-

less to say, the delay in registration of the FIR was occasioned due to the lapse on the part of the police and the same cannot be attributed to the prosecutrix and the complainant," the Judge said. The counsel for the accused also submitted that he could not be convicted solely on the basis of the statements of the victim as the police had failed to examine her classmates as witnesses. However, the court rejected this argument.

'No reason to disbelieve'

"There is no material contradiction in her statements. The accused has failed to deny the testimony of the prosecutrix. Hence, there is no reason to disbelieve the testimony of the prosecutrix," the Judge said.

"The prosecution has succeeded in laying down the foundational facts of the case that the prosecutrix was below the age of 12 years at that time and that the accused had not only committed sexual assault on her but also had criminally intimidated her. In view of the same, the presumption under Section 29 of the POCSO Act that the accused had committed the offences has to be raised against him," the court said.

"The accused has failed to rebut the said presumption either by discrediting the prosecution witnesses or by leading any defence evidence to prove that the offences in question were not committed by him," the Judge said while convicting the accused.

BJP wants dissolution of school committees

Says they have become an 'extension' of AAP and a 'hub for their politics'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP on Monday demanded that the Lieutenant-Governor dissolve School Management Committees (SMCs) in government schools alleging that these had become an "extension" of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and a "hub for their politics".

Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta alleged that AAP workers, councillors, office-bearers and MLAs were members of these SMCs and were "politicising the schools".

AAP refutes

On its part, AAP, in a statement, argued that these SMCs had been set up in all government and government-aided schools as part of



Vijender Gupta

the Right to Education Act (RTE) which sought to empower parents in the decision-making of the school, give them a voice in its administration and were an "integral" part of the law.

"Their entry in schools should be banned...the basic purpose of constitution of SMCs in schools was to ensure all-round development of the schools and to ensure

welfare of the students and teachers for which these committees have failed completely," Mr. Gupta alleged.

"AAP is misusing these committees for their dirty poll politics. These SMCs have become the political platform of the AAP, through which education is being politicised. Four days ago, parents were pressurised to vote for AAP, which the parents resisted. Against this, a complaint was made to the L-G by the BJP. The L-G found this complaint to be true and imposed ban on their meetings," he alleged.

The leader alleged further that the SMCs were constituted in 2015 and their two-year tenure ended in 2017. By virtue of expiry of this tenure, the leader argued, the existence of these SMCs was "illegal" as these were not re-

ected or reconstituted.

According to AAP, however, every SMC has 16 members, including the principal, one teacher, 12 elected parents, one social worker and the elected representative (MLA/Councillor). "The 12 parents are duly elected by the general body of parents of the students of the school by means of democratically held elections. The committee is socially diverse in terms of representation of parents from different castes and at least half of the members [eight] are women," AAP claimed.

The attempt by those seeking to ask dissolution of the committees, AAP rebutted, was a "conspiracy to derail the education reforms" of the Delhi government which were being appreciated all over the world.

Malaria cases on the rise

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Capital saw a rise in the number of malaria cases, with 13 more being recorded last week, stated a report released by the civic bodies on Monday.

The total number of malaria cases this year has gone up to 31. Of these, 22 cases were recorded this month. At the same time last year, 40 cases of malaria were recorded.

The number of cases of vector-borne diseases is expected to rise with the onset of the monsoon. Of the cases recorded, 10 were "untraced after investigation", stated the report, while one each were reported from South and North Delhi Municipal Corporation areas. Meanwhile, the number of cases of dengue this year stands at 14.



IN BRIEF
Maintenance work may hit Violet Line frequency

NEW DELHI
The DMRC on Monday said services on the Violet Line will be affected for the next seven days due to maintenance work. "Due to this, frequency of trains may witness slight variation during this period," the DMRC said. The approximately 43-km-long Violet Line runs between Kashmere Gate and Escorts Mujesar.

Trials for admission under ECA quota to start today

NEW DELHI
Trials for admission under Extra Curricular Activities (ECA) quota of Delhi University will start on Tuesday. Results of the preliminary trials will be released on July 6. The final trials will commence from July 9.

JNUSU opposes proposal to include compulsory Hindi in B.A., B.Tech

It is listed as an item for discussion in the upcoming Academic Council meeting

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) on Monday opposed a proposed discussion on making Hindi compulsory for B.A. and B.Tech students, listed on the agenda for the 151st Academic Council meeting.

The JNUSU said it rejects the "imposition" of Hindi and stands for a multilingual, diverse, inclusive education system and India's pluralistic democracy.

'Drop the item'

The students demanded that the item on the agenda be dropped. They said it was shameful that the Centre was trying to implement its agenda of "Hindi, Hindu, Hindustan".



"In an official letter issued by the Ministry of Human Resource Development [MHRD] in 2018 to all universities, Hindi is mentioned as the national language. Furthermore, it issues directives to implement Hindi as a compulsory course in all bachelor programmes. India

does not have a national language. Rather the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution lists 22 official languages in accordance with the diverse and plural nature of our country. The move is a violation not only of the plural nature of JNU but also of the principles enshrined in the Constitution," the JNUSU said.

"At a time when popular pressure has forced the BJP government to revise its Draft Education Policy and three-language formula, this underhand imposition of Hindi in JNU by its V-C is shameful. Everyone has a right to learn the language of their choice...any imposition on the students won't be tolerated," said JNUSU president N. Sai Balaji.

The JNU unit of the Stu-

dents' Federation of India (SFI) also opposed the move and said, "We do not stand as a pro or anti to any language as we have always exercised and celebrated the multi-linguistic nature of India. What we need is to preserve and care for each and every regional language to celebrate the linguistic diversity of India. The imposition of Hindi in an undesired way such as this will not bring any glory to our university or to the language of Hindi."

The university did not respond to the objections raised. But in its proposal said that the item on the agenda is in response to a letter from the MHRD in October 2018, which requests that Hindi be made a compulsory subject in all the schools and universities of India.

St. Stephen's College releases first cut-off list

Interview list to be out tomorrow

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

St. Stephen's College released the first cut-off list for 400 seats in the institute on Monday evening.

The college has a separate entrance process compared to other Delhi University colleges, which includes an interview and an aptitude test. While 85% weightage is given to an applicants' marks, 10% is for the interview and 5% for test. The list of interviewees will be released on Wednesday. The interviews will be conducted starting Friday.

The college received the highest number of applications for its B.A. English (Hons). For admission in this course, students in the general category need to have scored at least 98.75% in board examinations if they belong to the com-

merce or science stream and 98.25% if they belong to humanities.

For B.A. economics, students from the commerce and science streams require 98.75% while those from humanities require 98.5%. Additionally, students should have a minimum of 92% in mathematics. For B.A. programme, the cut-off for students from commerce and science streams is 98% while it is 96.5% for those from humanities.

The detailed list of cut-offs under different categories is available on the college website.

The cut-off for students belonging to the Church of North India, which runs the college, is significantly lower. The college received 19,862 applications out of which 59.2% were from women.

LoP's wife robbed of belongings

Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta's wife Shobha Vijender was robbed of her belongings near Mandi House on Monday allegedly by some unidentified persons, the police said.

Ms. Shobha said the incident took place at 10.15 a.m. A few unknown persons on a scooter approached her and said some oil-like substance was spilling out of her car, the police said.

After this, when Ms. Shobha along with her driver got out of the car to check if there was any leakage, the accused fled the spot after taking her belongings, they said. It is probably an act of those who rob the belongings after diverting targets' attention, a senior officer said.

Neighbour held for killing minor girl in Narela

Post-mortem report awaited to confirm sexual assault; 'victim called him *mama*'

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

A 30-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly killing a 7-year-old girl in Narela on June 14, the police said on Monday.

The victim is suspected to have been sexually assaulted before the murder, they said, adding that they are awaiting the post-mortem report.

DCP (Outer North) Gaurav Sharma said the accused is a labourer, and lives near the victim's house.

The girl's mother said her daughter had gone to play on June 14 when she went missing. On June 15 morning, the victim's grandmother approached the police and a kidnapping case was registered. The next day, the girl was found murdered.

Her grandmother said, "I used to treat him [accused] like my son. He and my son used to stay together but 7-8 years ago, they parted ways after a fight. My granddaughter used to call him *mama* [uncle]," she said.

Mr. Sharma said the accused was intoxicated at the time of the incident. "The girl's father was having an illicit relationship with the accused's sister," the officer said.

However, both the families denied the claim.

"We have been married for seven years. The accused's sister is also married. My husband rarely stays here. He works and stays in Shahdara mostly. This cannot be true," said the victim's mother.

Accused was held on rape charge in 2011

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

The 30-year-old accused in the Narela murder case was earlier arrested in a rape case in 2011, the police said.

He was in jail for over a year before he was acquitted, an officer said.

The 2011 rape victim's mother said he was in a relationship with her daughter and "raped her" on the pretext of marriage.

Another neighbour alleged that a few months ago, the accused tried to lure her minor daughter to the fields but she managed to run

away. He was intoxicated at that time, the neighbour said, adding, "This man committed such crimes as he was let off the last time."

The accused's father said he has not been informed of any arrest. "My son's employer had told the police that he was in the factory at the time of the incident. If my son is at fault, then the police should take action. But, they should tell us about the evidence they have against him," he said. DCP (Outer North) Gaurav Sharma said they have "strong evidence" in the case.

3 suspects in Vasant Vihar murders

CCTV footage shows couple entering, exiting building

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

Three persons have been picked for questioning in connection with the murders in a flat in south Delhi's Vasant Vihar, the police said on Monday.

On Sunday morning, the bodies of Vishnu Mathur (78), his wife Shashi (75) and their caretaker Khushboo (22) were found in their two-bedroom flat on the first floor of Vasant Apartments.

An officer said while scanning call records of the victims, they identified three persons whose activities were suspicious on the day of the murder.

In a CCTV footage obtained from near the

spot, a couple was seen entering the building at 11.30 p.m. and leaving at 2.30 a.m. The man, who was in a relationship with Khushboo, was wearing a helmet while the woman covered her face with a dupatta, they said. The duo has been held for questioning, the police said. A neighbour of the victims has also been held.

'Often visited flat'

"One suspect was found frequently talking to Khushboo and also visited the flat. Khushboo had introduced him to the elderly couple as her brother but they were in a relationship for the past one year," said an

officer. He added that four mobiles, which belonged to the victims, were missing from the flat.

"All mobiles phones were switched off at 1.30 a.m. We have found a glass half filled with liquor and two cups of tea, which makes the police suspect that there was more than one murderer," the officer said.

The couple has deleted chats from the man's mobile phone. The police said they are waiting for other technical reports.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-West) Devender Arya said the police have questioned over 30 people so far.

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GS - 418
ETHICS - 111

SHAKTI MOHAN AWASTHY

AIR 154
CSE-2018
GS - 393

GAURAV GUNJAN

AIR 262
CSE-2018
GS - 412
ESSAY - 146

IN BRIEF



Centre for Technology and Policing: MoU signed

NEW DELHI
A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on Monday between IIT-Delhi Registrar and Additional CP, Cyber and Technology, Delhi Police, in the presence of Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal, for the setting up of Centre for Technology and Policing here.

Labour Dept. gets notice from DCW

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) on Monday issued notice to the Labour Department seeking a detailed timeline on when the Bill on regulation of private placement agencies will be tabled in the Delhi Assembly.

Seeking details on the steps taken by the government to regulate the private placement agencies, Swati Maliwal, the chairperson of the women's commission said, "Functioning of unregulated private agencies play a major part in trafficking of women. Delay in passing the bill is leading to countless girls falling in the trap of such placement agencies."

DELHI TODAY

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

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

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

Music: "Vision Does Not Require Sight", an evening of music by visually impaired artists of the Golden Shine including a piece by popular singer, Ankur Gupta at the Stein Auditorium, IHC, 7 p.m. onward.

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

ASI carries out restoration of Mughal-era parts of Red Fort

Structures built during the post-Independence period have been demolished



Chhatta Bazaar arch before and after the restoration work at the Red Fort in Old Delhi. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Over the past year, Mughal-era artworks that were hidden beneath layers of plaster have been restored and many structures built in the post-Independence era have been demolished as part of the Archaeological Survey of India's (ASI) restoration and preservation works at the Red Fort here.

450 structures removed
N.K. Pathak, Superintending Archaeologist, ASI Delhi circle, said that about 150 of the structures that were built for the Army, which used the premises from the 1950s till 2003, were demolished in the past year. In all, about 450 of these structures from the "Army period" have

been demolished in the last few years, he said. However, the arched structures, including 10 barracks built by the British Army, have been preserved due to "heritage value", an ASI statement said on Monday.

"More areas have been opened for the general public and eyesores like metalised roads, roundabouts, toilets and concrete water buildings have all been demolished," the ASI said, adding that water kiosks and new toilets in the museum buildings have been constructed.

By removing the structures, which included living quarters and sheds, the ASI has been able to take the green space inside the complex from 15 acres to 52

acres, the statement added. Five new museums - Subhas Chandra Bose and INA museum, Yaad-e-Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, the museum on 1857 - India's first war of Independence, Drishyakala - museum on Indian Art and Azaadi ke Diwane museum - have been set up in the remaining buildings.

More museums have been planned by the ASI and renovations are on in the remaining buildings, the statement added.

The projects also included exposing and restoring the paintings of Chhatta Bazaar, where geometric and floral patterns were hidden under six to seven coats of lime. The artwork restoration

took about a year and was completed recently, the ASI said.

It also said that Chhatta Bazaar has been restored to its original design, with the heavy shutters in the market being replaced with wooden doorways that have arches on top. Flooring of red sandstone and jaali work was done as part of the renovations. Paintings and marble surfaces of Diwan-i-khas and Zafar Mahal were treated scientifically and Moti Masjid, Sawan and Bhadon pavilions and Hira Mahal were treated with clay.

In the future, cleaning of Rang Mahal, Khaas Mahal and Mumtaz Mahal has been proposed. Conservation of the Mumtaz Mahal is on right now, the ASI said.

Kejriwal hopeful of supplying 24x7 piped drinking water to all by 2024

Lays foundation stone for 105-MGD water treatment plant

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday laid the foundation stone for a ₹600-crore water treatment plant (WTP) at Chandrawal. The plant, with a capacity of 105 million gallons per day (MGD), is expected to be completed in three years.

Mr. Kejriwal, who is also the Chairman of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), said, "I am optimistic that by 2024, every single household will have access to 24x7 potable drinking water through taps."

Water shortage

The city faces a water shortage of around 220 MGD, with a requirement of about 1,120 MGD and an average water production of about 900 MGD. On certain days, the production peaks to 936 MGD, but it cannot be sustained at that level, says the DJB.

Chandrawal currently has two WTPs with capacities of 159 million litres per day (MLD) and 250 MLD. "The 159-MLD WTP will be closed down once the new plant is functional in three years. Meanwhile, the capacity of the 250-MLD plant will be increased to 300 MLD," a DJB official told *The Hindu*.



Arvind Kejriwal and others at the event in Chandrawal on Monday. *SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Since one plant will be shut, the new 105-MGD plant will effectively increase the water production from Chandrawal by around 81 MGD.

Mr. Kejriwal said that he would request the Centre to increase Delhi's share of water, keeping in mind the increase in the city's population. "In 1994, Delhi's population was 1.25 crore. Now it stands at 2.25 crore, but water allocation remains the same," he said.

The Chief Minister said that in 2015, only 58% of Delhi's colonies were connected to piped water network and the rest got water through tankers. "The mafia survived because of the political nexus and patronage. We liberated the water man-

agement system from the clutches of the mafia," he said. "In just four-and-a-half years, the number of colonies with piped water supply has gone from 58% to 88%. It took 70 years to reach 58%...", he added.

He said that the DJB engineers have successfully plugged leakage of water and theft has also been controlled to a large extent.

Speaking at the occasion, DJB CEO Nikhil Kumar said that the new plant would cater to 22 lakh people living in Old Delhi, civil lines, Karol bagh, among other areas. The event was attended by Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam, DJB Vice-Chairman Dinesh Mohaniya and other officials.

Tour operator to pay ₹1 lakh for failing to provide services

Complainant had paid ₹95,000 for RCI membership card

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum here has directed a city-based tour operator to compensate a complainant by paying over ₹1 lakh after it was alleged that the company had failed to provide a Resorts Condominiums International (RCI) membership card that it had promised.

"The complainant has alleged that on the representation of the tour operator that the facility in any resort could be availed

anywhere in India and abroad through RCI membership card. The tour operator [Spring Holidays Ltd.] though issued the membership certificate and an agreement was executed, but the complainant could not enjoy the membership as the card from RCI was not received," the consumer panel observed while noting the allegations made in the complaint.

The district forum further, observed that despite the complainant having paid ₹95,000 for the membership card, the tour oper-

ator failed to provide the services.

No card received

"Till date, no membership card from RCI and other documents were received, nor was the amount refunded to the complainant," the consumer panel observed.

The tour operator however contended that it had "performed and fulfilled its part as per the terms and conditions of the agreement."

However, the consumer panel dismissed the contentions.

CM urges Centre to increase city's water share

'It was fixed at 875 cusecs in 1996; population has nearly doubled since then'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday demanded that Delhi's water requirement, which was fixed at 875 cusecs in 1996 and has remained static since, be "urgently" raised as the population of the Capital has nearly doubled since then.

Mr. Kejriwal made the demand at a call-on meeting with Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat that was also attended by Delhi Urban Development Minister Satyendra Jain, in addition to officials from Delhi government and Union Ministry officials concerned.

According to the Delhi go-

vernment, Mr. Kejriwal informed the Union Minister that Delhi's water requirement was last fixed in 1996 when the population of the city was 1.25 crore, and in the last 23 years, the city has undergone massive expansion and the population has also shot up.

CM's appeal

"Today's water requirement of Delhi cannot be met with what was fixed in 1996. I also appeal to you to consider the fact that Delhi is the country's capital and all authorities concerned must ensure that drinking water is available to all the residents. It must be the primary responsibility of all," the Chief Minister was quoted

as having said by the Delhi government in a statement.

The water demand in Delhi, Mr. Kejriwal told Mr. Shekhawat, will further go up in the coming months and years due to the Delhi Development Authority's land pooling policy.

According to the policy, at least 16 lakh new flats will be constructed in the city and this will further increase the water demand.

The Chief Minister, as per the statement, also requested the Union Minister to expedite the necessary approvals for the Delhi government's ambitious project for natural water storage in the Yamuna floodplains which intends to meet the city's water de-

mand for at least six months with the storage of single day's monsoon rain.

Shekhawat's assurance

Mr. Shekhawat, the statement said, assured Mr. Kejriwal that the Union Ministry will examine the Delhi government's proposal and give its opinion within three days of receiving it.

The Chief Minister, the statement added, also informed the meeting that the Delhi government was giving top priority to water conservation and as a major step, rain water harvesting is being made compulsory in all Delhi government school buildings and government buildings to ensure water conservation.

Brothers held for raping 22-year-old

Accused raped victim for four days, threatened her

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Two brothers have been arrested for allegedly raping a 22-year-old woman in south-east Delhi's Amar Colony, the police said on Monday.

A senior police officer said that the accused have been identified as Shatrughan and Bharat.

According to the police,

the victim had come from Kanpur in search of work a few days ago. She boarded an autorickshaw and stopped outside a tea stall in Amar Colony.

Came in search of job

"At the stall, she met a woman and asked for work. The woman offered to take her home and told her that she might be able to find

work in the area," the officer said.

In her complaint, the victim alleged that the tea stall owner's sons took turns to rape her for four days and threatened her to remain silent. However, she managed to approach the police on Sunday. A case on charges of gang rape was registered and the accused were arrested, the police said.

Dentist who flashed gun and fired celebratory shots lands in cop's net

Accused held after video went viral; effort on to nab others

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 26-year-old dentist, who was seen flashing a gun and firing celebratory shots in a video, was arrested on Monday, the police said.

In the video, which had gone viral on social media, the dentist along with his friends was seen firing in the air in Shahdara, the police said.

The accused Kamal Deep, a resident of Shahdara, quit his job at a hospital a couple of days ago and was currently preparing for higher studies, they said.

Returning after wedding

According to the police, the incident took place on June 21 when a few men, all residents of Delhi, were return-

ing after attending the wedding ceremony of a friend in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh.

Went viral on June 22

"On their way back home, they recorded a nearly 30-second video on a mobile phone near Muskan Chowk in which they were seen holding guns and firing in the air," the police said. A case was registered against the accused after the video went viral on social media platforms on June 22, the police said.

"During interrogation, the accused told the police that on June 21, he along with his friends went to attend the wedding of their best friend at Lotus Grey Banquet Hall in Sahibabad. When they were returning, they reached near Muskan Chowk and stopped their vehicle and opened fire in the air," said Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) Ved Prakash Surya.

Deep has disclosed names of the other accused and efforts are on to nab them, the officer added.

Gang member held for firing at judo player

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 23-year-old man, a member of a criminal gang, was arrested for firing shots at a national-level judo player in outer Delhi's Ranhola early this month, the police said on Monday.

The accused has been identified as Monu (23), a resident of Vikaspuri.

According to the police, they received a tip-off on Friday that Monu would come near Charak Apartment at Budela to meet his aid with illegal firearms. "A trap was laid and the accused was arrested," said ACP (Crime), A.K. Singla.

Interrogations revealed that there was a rivalry between Jasmit and Suraj gang over supremacy in the area and over protection money from illegal 'satta' operators, Mr. Singla said.

On the intervening night of June 1 and 2, Monu, along with his five associates, fired at Manoj, the judo player and Suraj. Manoj sustained severe bullet injuries on his head and legs, while Suraj sustained gunshot wounds in his leg, the officer said.

Monu and Ashu have been arrested and the police are on the look out for Jasmit -- the gang leader and his other accomplices. Monu had procured the pistol from Sunny, who was arrested on June 15, the police said.

THE HINDU PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS
CSKM Public School celebrated Earth Day. The students of eco club made slogans, posters and charts, and displayed them all over the campus. This was followed by a candlelight dinner to make the school more sustainable and environment friendly. Principal Dr. (Mrs.) S S Jaiman appreciated the efforts made by all students and teachers.

CULTURAL PRESENTATION
To commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of the 'Father of the Nation', Lotus Valley International School, Gurugram, showcased a Cultural Presentation on 17th May. Principal, Mrs. Anita Malhotra shared her thoughts on the Mahatma. The occasion was graced by special guests Ms. Humra Qureshi, an acclaimed journalist and writer, and members of the Managing Committee, Ms. Sureena Uppal and Ms. Jaspreet Kaur, and the revered parents.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS
To make students feel responsible for creating a cleaner and safer environment, a 'Paper Bag Making' activity was conducted for students of class IX on 22nd April. Students displayed their creativity and artistic skills by making beautiful paper bags and decorating them vibrantly. They used different materials to decorate the bags. They coloured the bags with beautiful blue and green colors that symbolize the water and land on Earth.

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On their way home, they recorded a nearly 30-second video on a mobile phone near Muskan Chowk in which they were seen holding guns and firing in the air

THE POLICE

On the intervening night of June 1 and 2, Monu, along with his five associates, fired at Manoj, the judo player and Suraj. Manoj sustained severe bullet injuries on his head and legs, while Suraj sustained gunshot wounds in his leg, the officer said.

Monu and Ashu have been arrested and the police are on the look out for Jasmit -- the gang leader and his other accomplices. Monu had procured the pistol from Sunny, who was arrested on June 15, the police said.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18:00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Gujarat, west Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhnad, Bihar, Konkani & Goa, coastal Karnataka and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.6	36.8	27.4	Kozhikode	12	32.6	25.0
Ahmedabad	14.9	33.5	22.6	Kurnool	4.7	34.6	25.3
Aizawl	27.9	29.9	27.6	Lucknow	39.0	39.0	27.6
Allahabad	39.8	27.8	27.6	Madurai	40.4	40.4	27.6
Bengaluru	1.4	29.7	21.0	Mangaluru	2	31.0	24.1
Bhopal	0.2	29.1	27.0	Mumbai	31.5	31.5	28.4
Bhubaneswar	35.1	26.5	26.5	Mysuru	30.0	30.0	20.6
Chandigarh	37.5	28.7	28.7	New Delhi	35.4	35.4	27.4
Chennai	37.1	28.7	28.7	Patna	39.4	39.4	29.2
Coimbatore	34.0	23.7	23.7	Port Blair	4.5	29.7	24.6
Dehradun	33.8	24.9	24.9	Puducherry	12	34.2	26.7
Gangtok	0.5	24.8	18.9	Pune	1.4	32.0	24.6
Goa	85	31.0	23.5	Raipur	35.8	35.8	25.8
Guwahati	37.4	26.6	26.6	Ranchi	37.7	37.7	24.2
Hubballi	27.0	22.0	22.0	Shillong	28	29.2	18.0
Hyderabad	0.3	34.6	25.1	Shimla	18	24.4	17.7
Imphal	32.3	23.3	23.3	Srinagar	3.5	24.7	15.6
Jaipur	39.6	29.2	29.2	Trivandrum	2.6	32.0	25.8
Kochi	8.2	31.4	24.4	Tiruchir	40.3	40.3	28.0
Kohima	32.7	18.6	18.6	Vijayawada	36.7	36.7	27.0
Kolkata	12.6	36.2	28.2	Visakhapatnam	33.2	33.2	27.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing							Yesterday						
CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE	CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE
Ahmedabad	49	262	80	100	100	Red	Chennai	5	20	76	29	29	Green
Bengaluru	8	42	60	26	63	Green	Delhi	9	15	22	228	228	Red
Hyderabad	10	36	37	75	70	Green	Kolkata	2	24	16	47	70	Green
Lucknow	2	83	50	218	218	Red	Mumbai	30	26	21	47	141	Green
Pune	62	8	30	56	56	Green	Visakhapatnam	11	36	28	60	71	Green

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.
NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.
CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.
PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

Tension eases in Faridkot

Sacrilege accused cremated after 48-hours' stand-off

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Tension eased in Faridkot's Kotkapura town on Monday after Mahinderpal Bittu, a key accused in the 2015 Bargari sacrilege incident, was cremated, two days after he was allegedly murdered at Patiala's high-security Nabha prison.



Capt. Amarinder Singh
FILE PHOTO

The Sirsa-based Dera Sacha Sauda followers and family members of Bittu had refused to cremate the body until their demand for a judicial probe into the incident and dropping of sacrilege case against the deceased were met.

SIT to probe murder

The 48-hour-long stand-off came to an end after Faridkot's Deputy Commissioner assured the Dera followers of taking up the demands with the officials concerned in the State government.

Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh ordered the constitution of

a Special Investigation Team to investigate the murder inside the prison.

The decision was announced by the Chief Minister at a high-level meeting of top police and administrative officials here.

"The SIT, to be headed by Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Ishwar Singh, will probe all aspects of the fatal attack on Mahinderpal Bittu, a Dera Sacha Sauda follower who was arrested last year. The SIT will ascertain the conspiracy, if any, in the killing of Bittu by prison inmates. It

will also investigate the role of the prison staff," said an official spokesperson.

The members of SIT include Patiala IG Amardeep Rai, Intelligence DIG Hardial Mann, Patiala SSP Mandeep Singh and Counter Intelligence AIG Kashmir Singh.

The Chief Minister also directed the Jail Minister and ADGP Prisons to take all necessary steps to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

"Such brazen violation of law and order and laxity in prison security will not be tolerated," he said.

'Court's decision'

On the demand for withdrawal of cases against the deceased, the Chief Minister said: "The law will take its own course as the final reports of the investigations into the cases against Bittu had been submitted in courts. It was up to the court to take any decision on the way forward."

Call for accountability law in Rajasthan

For better delivery of public goods and services; to make officials accountable

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Civil society groups in Rajasthan have called upon the Congress government to bring in a legislation on social accountability to ensure better delivery of public goods and services and make officials accountable.

A protracted campaign for the law, along with the demand to strengthen public grievance redressal system, has been going on in the State.

At a pre-budget consultation with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot here, activists said transparency in officials' functioning, citizens' participation in governance, ac-

countability in delivery of services, decentralisation of the process and establishment of an independent grievance redressal structure would be important features of the statute which the ruling Congress had earlier promised.

Draft Bill proposal

The Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, led by social activist and Magsaysay Award winner Aruna Roy, has already proposed a draft Bill. Shankar Singh of MKSS highlighted the issues of increasing the number of employment guarantee days from 100 to 150, increase in minimum wages and social secur-

ity pensions and adoption of silicosis policy for labourers engaged in the mining sector.

The consultation was held here ahead of the budget session starting on June 27. Mr. Gehlot said NGOs and civil society groups should play an important role in taking the benefits of the government's welfare programmes to the grassroots and in making the administration accountable to people.

Mr. Gehlot had assured during an interaction with the activists earlier this year that either the Guaranteed Delivery of Public Services Act and the Right to Hearing Act would be merged or a

U.P. police frisk bikers at gunpoint

Video goes viral; a preventive measure: SSP, Budaun

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

Uttar Pradesh police's "high-handed approach" came to light on Monday when a video of policemen frisking motorcyclists at gunpoint in Budaun went viral.



A video grab of the policemen frisking youth. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Released by ANI, the video purportedly shows policemen stopping people riding motorcycles in the Wazirganj area of the city. They ask the riders to get down and keep their hands up, else they will be shot. The policemen are seen pointing a rifle and a revolver at the young men while their team members frisk them.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Budaun, Ashok Kumar Tripathi has defended the action, describing it as a "strategic move". "In the past, we have lost our resources during such checking when the riders take out their firearms and

shoot at policemen. It is just a preventive measure."

'Humiliating exercise'

However, locals said it was not a standard operating procedure. "If the police have doubt that criminals are moving in a certain area, they put barricades. It could be very humiliating for an innocent citizen," said Shafi Ahmed, president, Youth Congress, Budaun. He told *The*

Hindu that they would raise the issue with the SSP.

Ironically, the video surfaced on a day when the Twitter handle of the U.P. police was promoting a video where officers in Lucknow were seen administering an oath to bikers not to leave home without helmets.

The Twitterati ridiculed the police with some calling it "a scene straight out of a Hollywood movie".

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Dean

DIP/Shabdarth/0268/19-20

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely: Anchal, D/o: Sumit, R/o: H. No. D - 1/8, Gali No-1, Prem Nagar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 21.05.2019 from the area of P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **FIR No. 266/19 dated 22.05.2019** has been registered at P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi. The description of the missing girl are as under: **Age: 16 years, Height: 4' 6", Complexion: Swallow, Face: Round, Wearing: Blue colour jeans & top and pink colour plastic sandal in feet.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following

Website: http://cbi.nic.in
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Fax No. 011-24368639 **SHO**
DP/2963/RD/19 **P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi**
Ph.: 95489080

E-Procurement Cell
OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MIHIJAM NAGAR PARISHAD, JHARKHAND

Corrigendum

1.	e-Tender Reference No. & Date	MNP/SBD/01/2019-20, Date: 03/06/2019			
2.	Name of the work	Construction of Municipal Office Building at MIHIJAM			
3.	P.R. No.	207935 Urban Development(19-20)-D			

Corrigendum

This Corrigendum is regarding that registration of Building Construction Department & Unregistered are allowed. Those contractors who are not registered with Urban Development & Housing Department, Government of Jharkhand are also permitted to take part in the tender process. However such Contractors in the event of award of work will bound have to get registered with Urban Development & Housing Department, Government of Jharkhand within a period of (2) Two Months from the date of Award of Contract. The bid shall be submitted online in the Website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>.

Due to above date of Tender is extended and to be read as below:-

Sl. No.	Procurement Officer	Place of Opening	Availability of tender on-line for bidding		Extended Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Extended Date & Time of Hard Copy Receiving at office
			Form	Extended To		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Executive officer Nagar Parishad Mihijam	Nagar Parishad Mihijam	12/06/2019 at 15:00hrs	28/06/2019 at 17:00 hrs	29/06/2019 at 17:00 hrs	29/06/2019 from 11:00 hrs to 16:00 hrs

Rest all condition will be same as tender published.
Further details can be seen on website <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> Executive officer Nagar Parishad, Mihijam.
 P.R.209657 Urban Development and Housing(19-20):D

JHARKHAND MEDICAL & HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & PROCUREMENT CORPORATION LTD.
 MCH BUILDING, RCH CAMPUS, NAMKUM, RANCHI - 834010.
 (CIN - U85510JH2013SGC001276) E-mail: jmhidpc2014@gmail.com

Tender Ref. No. JMC/NIT-19/Empanelment/Drugs/15 **Date: 21.06.2019**
EMANELMENT OF DRUG MANUFACTURES FOR PROCUREMENT OF MEDICINES

The Managing Director, JMHIDPCL, Namkum, Ranchi hereby invites Technical Bid through e-tender from the reputed, experienced, financially sound, registered and eligible GMP Certified. Manufacturers for EMANELMENT OF DRUG MANUFACTURES FOR PROCUREMENT OF MEDICINES.

The Blank tender documents with detailed conditions can be downloaded through web site <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> and should be submitted through e-procurement system only. The eligible bidders willing to participate must be registered in e-Procurement portal.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Details
1	Name of Work	EMANELMENT OF DRUG MANUFACTURES FOR PROCUREMENT OF MEDICINES.
2	Time of Completion	Within 90 days after issue of work order
3	Date of Publication of Tender on website	24.06.2019
4	Pre-Bid Meeting Date/Time	08.07.2019 at 3.00 PM
5	Date / time for submission of bids	From 10.07.2019 to 20.07.2019 up to 6.00 PM
6	Date of Technical Bid opening	22.07.2019 at 3.00 PM
7	Application fee (Non-refundable)	5000.00 (Five thousand only)
8	EMD	2,00,000
9	Contact no. of procurement person	8907368893/06512972538
10	Helpline number of e-procurement cell	9431353941

Note: The above dates may change due to declaration of holidays.
 JMHIDPCL Ranchi reserves the right to amend or withdraw any of the terms and conditions contained in the Tender Document including quantity/amount of items to be supplied or to reject any or all tenders without giving any notice or assigning any reason. The decision of the Managing Director, JMHIDPCL, Namkum, Ranchi in this regard shall be final.
Detailed tender document can be seen and applied through website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> only, hard copies of Technical bid & Price bid will not be entertained except Tender fee & EMD. Sd/-
Managing Director, JMHIDPCL

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PH: +91 651 2243203, E-MAIL: juidcolimited@gmail.com CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

e-Procurement Notice
Tender Notice

NIT No: JUIDCO/NIT/DMB/NS/252 **Date: 21.06.2019**

1.	Name of the work	SUPPL IN AND FI IN FURNITURE AND SUPPL IN, INSTA LLATION & COMMISSIONIN OF AUDIO ISUAL & CLOSE CIRCUIT TELE ISION (CCT) AT DEO HAR MUNICIPAL BUILDIN , DEO HAR
2.	Mode of Bid Submission	e-tendering (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
3.	Estimated Cost	Rs. 6,32,37,322.00 (Rupees Six Crore Twenty Thirty Two Lakh Thirty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Two only)
4.	Tender Fee and Bid Security	Tender document fee - Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand) only Non-Refundable. Bid Security : Rs. 6,33,000.00 (Rupees Six Lakh Thirty Three Thousand only)
5.	Date & Time of Publication of Tender on Website	24.06.2019; 16:00 Hrs
6.	Last Date & Time of Bid Submission	15.07.2019; 17:00 Hrs
9.	Last Date & Time of Submission of Tender Fee & EMD	16.07.2019; 17:00 Hrs
10.	Date & Time of Bid Opening	16.07.2019; 17:30 Hrs
11.	Bid Submission Address	Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company Limited, 3 rd Floor, Pragati Sadan, Kutchery Road, Ranchi - 834001
12.	Helpline No. of e-Procurement Cell	+91 651 2225878

Note: Only e-Tenders will be accepted.
Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> Sd/-
Project Director (Tech) JUIDCO Ltd., Ranchi
 PR209691 Urban Development(19-20)D

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
 (A Government of Jharkhand Undertaking)
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 PH: +91 651 2225878, E-MAIL: juidcolimited@gmail.com
 CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

NIT NO: 27 **Date: 21-06-2019**

1	Name of the work	Request for Proposal from Public/Govt./ Bank promoted/Private Sector Health/Life Insurance Companies for providing Group Health & Life Insurance cover to JUIDCO Ltd.
2	Scope of work	As mentioned in RFP
3	Availability of BID Documents	Online
4	Mode of submission of bid	Offline
5	Estimated cost	Open Tender
6	Tender fee & EMD(INR)	RFP document fee- INR 1000/- (Non Refundable) EMD- INR 10,000/- (Refundable)
7	Date of start of submission of Bids	24-06-2019 at 10:00 AM
8	Date of Pre Bid	28-06-2019 at 04:00 PM
9	Last Date of Bid Submission	15-07-2019 at 03:00 PM
10	Date of BID opening	15-07-2019 at 04:00 PM
11	Bid Submission Address	Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company Ltd (JUIDCO Ltd.), 3rd Floor, RRDA Bhawan (Pragati Sadan), Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001
12	Helpline Details	juidcolimited@gmail.com / mhr.juidco@gmail.com

Sd/-
Project Director (Administration) JUIDCO Ltd.
 P.R. 209659 Urban Development(19-20)-D

Furore over Mamata's 'cut money' remark

Congress, Left parties stage walkout; protests erupt across the State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress leadership attempted a damage control after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's comments that leaders who took "cut money" should return it to people or face action has triggered protests in various parts of the State.

On Monday, the State's ruling party faced heat in the State Assembly when the MLAs of Congress and Left parties staged a walkout demanding an explanation from the Chief Minister on



Mamata Banerjee

they have been taking "cut money" for years.

Cut money is the amount or percentage of money that is illegally charged by elected leaders, from grass roots like panchayat functionaries and councillors to higher ups in the political order from ordinary citizens in return of delivery of certain services or entitlements to them. Protests have erupted in Bardhaman, Birbhum, Malda, Jalpaiguri, Purulia and Uttar Dinajpur districts of the State. Taking advantage of the situation and the anger among common people in certain cases, the local BJP leadership has targeted the elected representatives of Trinamool.

At Mangalkote, in Bardhaman, locals ransacked the house of a panchayat functionary Rina Chakraborty, alleging that her husband Pradip Chakraborty took "cut money" from people.

The Trinamool leadership had to take shelter in a nearby party office.

Locals also blocked roads in Raiganj in Uttar Dinajpur as a mark of protest.

she had taken note of the Supreme Court's interim order when she authorised on June 12 the transport of the elephants to Ahmedabad's Jagannath Temple for a Rath Yatra on July 4.

The oldest of the four elephants - females Joytara and Rani, and males Babulal and Rupsingh - is nine years old.

Hearing separate petitions filed by Kerala-born Canadian Sangita Iyer and Guwahati-based NGO Avinava Prayash, a division Bench comprising acting Chief Justice Arup Kumar Goswami and Justice Manish Choudhury sought clarification from the Centre with regard to the operation of the apex court's interim order in 2016 prohibiting transfer of elephants outside a State by their possessors.

The Bench also asked Ms. Gupta to clarify whether

Court questions Assam's jumbo transport to Gujarat

Refers to SC order banning inter-State transport of elephants

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Gauhati High Court on Monday asked Assam's Chief Wildlife Warden Rana Gupta whether she had taken note of a 2016 Supreme Court order against transfer of elephants while clearing the transit of four juvenile elephants to Gujarat for a religious event.

Hearing separate petitions filed by Kerala-born Canadian Sangita Iyer and Guwahati-based NGO Avinava Prayash, a division Bench comprising acting Chief Justice Arup Kumar Goswami and Justice Manish Choudhury sought clarification from the Centre with regard to the operation of the apex court's interim order in 2016 prohibiting transfer of elephants outside a State by their possessors.

The Bench also asked Ms. Gupta to clarify whether

the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change seeking legal steps for the "welfare of the captive elephants, etc., and strict monitoring" to prevent illegal transport of elephants between States.

The petitioners' counsel Bhaskar Dev Konwar, argued that the elephants would face adverse climatic conditions during their train journey to Gujarat.

He also pointed out that unlike Tamil Nadu and Kerala, Assam has not framed rules for management and maintenance of captive elephants under Section 64(2) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

He also contended that none of the elephants sent outside Assam on temporary leases have returned till date.

The case is scheduled to come up for hearing again on Tuesday.

Assam, Bengal forest officials arrest five for killing tiger

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Forest officials of two neighbouring States, Assam and West Bengal, came together to catch five persons for killing a Royal Bengal tiger whose territory straddled the India-Bhutan border.

The tiger was among an estimated 20 that had a dual identity; it carried the MNP 059M tag as an 'Indian' tiger and TMT 063M as an 'international' tiger.

MNP expands to Manas National Park and TMT to Transboundary Manas Tiger covering about 400 sq km along the border between India and Bhutan.

"We received a tip-off and arrested five people from Srirampur on the Assam-W.B. border last week," a forest official in MNP said.

The tiger was killed along the India-Bhutan border a month ago.

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CORRIGENDUM
Please refer to the Public Notice advertisement published in this newspaper on 17-06-2019 in reference of Mrs. Bhawna Grover Aggarwal. In last line of the last para client's name has been printed as Axis Bank Ltd. which may read as Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited.
KEVIN KUNJAPPY, ADVOCATE
A-13, LGF, South Extn-II, New Delhi-49
011-26226210, 11, 12

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME
I, Waseema Hashmi, W/o Late Zafar Shoaib Hashmi, DOB: 07/04/1957 R/o: R-53, Sir Syed Road, Joga Bai Extn, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi shall henceforth be known as Wasima Kamal.

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE
BEFORE THE MICRO SMALL ENTERPRISES FACILITATION COUNCIL CHENNAI REGION
O.P.NO. MSEFC/ CR/251/2018
M/s. Gayathri Engineering Works No.1-A, Tass Industrial Estate Mahatma Gandhi Road, Ambattur Chennai-600 098
Vs
M/s Liners India Ltd B-15, Industrial Area Kichha Bye Pass Road Rudhrapur Uttarkhand, Pincode: 263 153
..... Respondent
Please take this notice that the above claim petition filed by the petitioner to recover the outstanding amount along with interest. The council had served notice to you many times and you have not appeared before the council for any of the notice served to you.
It is therefore requested the Respondent herein to present on 2nd day 06 July 2019 (02.07.2019) before the Chairman, MSEF council at mini conference hall, office of the Industries commissioner and Director of the Industries and Commerce, SIDCO Corporate office Building, Guindy, Chennai-600 032 failing which the matter will be heard and will be passed as ex-parte.

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Army officer booked for damaging crop

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PUNE

An Army officer has been booked for allegedly damaging crop on a disputed agricultural land in his village in Maharashtra with the help of armed jawans, the police said on Monday.

A case was registered at the Khed police station after a complaint by a woman, who said the officer, a Colonel in the Army, damaged crops on the land located in Khed taluka of Pune district, police said.

A police officer said the Colonel's brother and Sunil Bharne, a relative of the complainant, are fighting over ownership of the land in Gulani village, and the matter is pending before the sub-divisional magistrate, Khed.

Mr. Bharne, whose name is on the 7/12 extract of the land, had sowed soybean in the field.

"On June 22, the Colonel, posted at Hyderabad, took 30 to 40 armed jawans in uniform — who came in four Army trucks — to the disputed land, and in their presence, ploughed the land using a tractor and damaged the crop," the police officer said quoting the complaint.

The Colonel is posted in Hyderabad.

Early showers bring relief to parched Marathwada

However, deficit will persist till end of June; rain hits communication in remote hamlets

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Heavy showers lashed several parts of Maharashtra on Monday, bringing relief to the arid and drought-hit Marathwada region.

"Except for Mumbai city and a few isolated areas in north Maharashtra like Malgaon, the monsoon has covered around 92-93% of the State. While the yawning rainfall deficit will persist till the end of June, we are hoping that good rainfall in July and August will make it up," said Dr. Anupam Kashyapi, Head, Weather & Air Pollution Monitoring Unit, India Meteorological Department.

Districts like Jalna, Aurangabad and especially parts of Beed were pumelled by heavy showers as the rain threw communication and public life awry in remote hamlets and villages.

Two alternative bridge connecting Kej and Kalamb in Beed were washed away in the first downpour itself, owing to incessant rain since Saturday.

Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara and Ahmednagar, which have been receiving showers since late Saturday, continued to witness heavy bouts of rainfall on Monday.



Welcome relief: With the arrival of monsoon showers, farmers get busy with sowing activity at a field in Hingana near Nagpur on Monday. ■ SUDARSHAN

IMD authorities said that the region would continue to receive scattered rainfall till June 27.

Pune city, reeling under the onslaught of heat and humidity, continued to receive light to moderate showers on Monday.

"The season's total for Pune [since June 1] has been a mere 42.4 mm rain as opposed to the normal pre-monsoon showers which is supposed to be 103.2 mm," said Dr. Kashyapi.

Likewise, the rain-shadow Marathwada region had only received 44.6 mm rain in pre-monsoon showers as opposed to the normal of 108.3 mm, leading to a deficit of more than 59%, while the Vidarbha region had received a sparse 23.2 mm as opposed to the normal of 105.6 mm rain, causing a 78% deficit in rainfall.

Mr. Vadettiwar, an MLA from Chandrapur's Bramhapuri constituency is the third LoP in Assembly since 2014 as the previous two joined the government as Cabinet ministers. Shiv Sena's Eknath Shinde was the first LoP, who became Cabinet minister after Sena decided to join the State government led by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Senior Congressman Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil who became the LoP after him, switched

Assembly gets a new LoP

Congress leader Vijay Vadettiwar will hold the post for two months

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Senior Congress leader Vijay Vadettiwar, MLA from Vidarbha, was on Monday nominated the new Leader of Opposition in the Assembly. Assembly speaker Haribhau Bagde on Monday announced Mr. Vadettiwar's nomination after the impasse over selection of deputy chairman of the Council was resolved with the appointment of Shiv Sena's Neelam Gorhe,

The Congress leader will get only two months to work as the LoP as this the last session of the legislature before Assembly polls are held later this year. Mr. Vadettiwar's elevation as LoP is also seen as a reward for his contribution in the victory of the lone Congress MP from Maharashtra from Chandrapur Lok Sabha constituency.

Mr. Vadettiwar, an MLA from Chandrapur's Bramhapuri constituency is the third LoP in Assembly since 2014 as the previous two joined the government as Cabinet ministers. Shiv Sena's Eknath Shinde was the first LoP, who became Cabinet minister after Sena decided to join the State government led by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Senior Congressman Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil who became the LoP after him, switched



Vijay Vadettiwar, the new Leader of Opposition in the Assembly. ■ P SRUSHTI

sides in the first week of June 2019 and was sworn-in as the State's Housing minister last week.

As Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis placed the resolution to congratulate the newly-appointed LoP, he said though Mr. Vadettiwar's term would be short, he is likely to remain on the opposite side even after the Assembly polls.

Neelam Gorhe is Council deputy chairperson

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Shiv Sena legislator Neelam Gorhe was on Monday unanimously elected deputy chairperson of the Legislative Council.

Ms. Gorhe is the second woman deputy chairperson of the Council, J.T. Sipahimalani being the first.

Ms. Sipahimalani was Council deputy chairperson from August, 1955, when it was known as the Bombay Legislative Council, till April 1962, by which time the state of Maharashtra had been formed.

The State was created on linguistic lines in 1960 under the States Reorganisation Act.

Council Chairman Ramraje Nimbalkar announced Ms. Gorhe's appointment to the post on Monday.

In his congratulatory speech, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, said in the Council, "Ms. Gorhe started her career in Yuva Krant Dal, a socialist organisation. She was active in Dalit Panther and subsequently became a Shiv Sena legislator."

Then and now



Disheartening: The Nagzira Lake (top, pic shot in October 2018), once the main source of water for the wildlife at Nagzira Tiger Reserve in Bhandara district, is almost 60% dry this summer, forcing wild animals and birds to depend on artificial water bodies. ■ PRASHANT NAKWE

Fadnavis, Uddhav address BJP-Sena legislators

We are preparing for Assembly polls together: Mungantiwar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray on Monday addressed a joint meeting of BJP-Shiv Sena lawmakers at the State legislature here to felicitate Sena's Neelam Gorhe, according to Finance Minister and BJP leader Sudhir Mungantiwar.

Earlier, three-time MLA Gorhe was elected deputy chairperson of Legislative Council unopposed.

Mr. Mungantiwar said Mr. Fadnavis and Mr. Thackeray asked lawmakers of both parties to use the remaining period of the monsoon session to get maximum public interest works done.

Asked if the two leaders guided legislators in view of the Assembly polls, due in September-October, Mr. Mungantiwar replied in the negative.

He said, "We are preparing for the Assembly polls together. Alliance talks will also begin in some days. We will fight the polls together with a sentiment 'ab ki baar 220 paar' (over 220 seats this time)."



Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray with Sena-BJP lawmakers at Vidhav Bhavan in Mumbai on Monday. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

Deepak Kesarkar said the meeting was held to celebrate the unanimous election of Ms. Gorhe. He refused to comment on a query on what message the state CM and Mr. Thackeray gave to legislators at the meeting.

To a question about the reported tussle between Shiv Sena and BJP over the chief minister's post, Mr. Kesarkar said such a discussion was on only in the media.

HC notice to three new Cabinet ministers

Petition says they are disqualified

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday issued notices to Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil, Jaydutt Kshirsagar and Avinash Mahtekar who are appointed ministers in the Maharashtra cabinet last week, in a plea challenging their appointment.

A division bench of Justices S.C. Dharmadhikari and G.S. Patel was hearing a petition filed by Surinder Aroora, Sanjay Kale, and Sandeep Kulkarni. The petition mentions that Mr. Patil was elected MLA from the Shirdi Assembly constituency in 2014 as an Indian National Congress Party candidate and was a leader of opposition. Mr. Kshirsagar too was elected as Congress MLA from Chousala Assembly constituency. They both resigned and joined the BJP/Shiv Sena party respectively and thereby attracted disqualification on the grounds of defection within the meaning of Schedule X and Article 191(2) of the Indian Constitution.

"Let the respondents (ministers) also get a chance to object or respond to the petition," the court said while posting the matter for further hearing after four weeks.

The petition says that on June 16, 2019, Mr. Patil and Mr. Kshirsagar were appointed ministers despite the fact that they are disqualified on the ground of defection as per a schedule of the Indian Constitution.

The petitioners state that these ministers being non-legislators are disqualified under the Constitution from holding a position of Member of Legislative Assembly or Member of Legislative Council.

The petition highlights that section 151 A of the Representation of People Act prohibits conduct of bye-elections if the remaining tenure is less than one year. As the tenure of the 13th Assembly shall expire on November 8, 2019, i.e. less than a period of five months, there can be no bye-election and subsequent opportunity for the three ministers to be elected.

The petition seeks an interim injunction restraining them from acting as ministers including their participation in the meetings of the council of ministers and wants the court to issue a direction to Speaker to decide on the matter. The matter has been adjourned for four weeks.

Mastermind of Nashik gold firm attack held in Gujarat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NASHIK

Nearly ten days after a gang of robbers attempted a daring heist at the office of a gold firm in Nashik and shot dead an employee, the police have arrested the main accused from Surat, a top police officer said on Monday.

The robbery was planned in February this year and one of the accused had conducted recce of the office. While Jitendra Bahadur Singh was arrested on Sunday, a hunt is on for five of his accomplices.

A gang of masked robbers, wielding pistols and an axe, had stormed into the office of Muthoot Finance located near City Centre Mall in Untwadi locality on June 14.

However, the robbers failed to loot valuables as one of the employees, Sajju Samuel (32), a computer engineer, switched on the siren. The panicked robbers fired five rounds in which Samuel died on spot.

Pansare case: Kalaskar sent to judicial custody till July 8

Has been shifted to Arthur Road jail in Mumbai

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE
PUNE

A local court in Kolhapur on Monday remanded Sanatan Sanstha sympathiser Sharad Kalaskar, named by agencies as one of the shooters of rationalist Dr. Narendra Dabholkar, to judicial custody till July 8 in connection with the 2015 murder of senior Communist leader and writer Govind Pansare.

Earlier on Monday, Mr. Kalaskar was produced by Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Maharashtra police probing the crime in the court of Judge S.S. Raul on expiry of his police custody.

The judge immediately directed him to be remanded to magisterial custody, following which the accused was shifted to Mumbai's Arthur Road Jail.

Meanwhile, sources in the SIT have said that Mr. Kalaskar, during his interrogation, had allegedly confessed to the involvement of two other persons in the case, both of whom are believed to be locals of Kolhapur.

The SIT has further hint-



Govind Pansare. ■ FILE PHOTO

searches at Mr. Kalaskar's home in Kesapuri village in Aurangabad and retrieved a mobile phone and a diary.

The SIT has alleged that Mr. Kalaskar was tasked with destroying the murder weapon used to kill Mr. Pansare and that he, along with other suspects, had obtained instruction in firearms in neighbouring Belagavi in Karnataka district.

The Mumbai ATS had first arrested Mr. Kalaskar along with fringe right-wing activist Vaibhav Raut from Nallasopara in Mumbai, and Sudhanwa Gondhalekar from Pune on August 10 last year for allegedly planning disruptive activities in several parts of the State.

Probe agencies have alleged that Mr. Kalaskar was an expert in arms manufacturing and was part of the wider conspiracy that links the murders of other rationalist-activists like Mr. Pansare and journalist Gauri Lankesh, who was shot dead in Bengaluru.

Mr. Pansare, along with his wife Uma, were shot at in February 2015.

Satara MP demands repoll using ballot papers

ANAGHA DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party MP from Satara Udayanraje Bhosale on Monday voiced support for the ballot paper voting system as against the Electronic Voting Machine, which has been mired in controversy following multiple allegations of rigging. Mr. Bhosale's statement comes days after Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi president Prakash Ambedkar announced he would be taking the issue to court.

Saying that the EVM process was 'manipulative', Mr. Bhosale said that a difference of 672 votes was observed between the votes cast and votes counted in constituencies like Wai, Koregaon, Karad, Patan and Satara.

"The statistics are there for everyone to see. It is clear that something was wrong with the entire election process. I don't know why they call the EVMs fool-proof," Mr. Bhosale said.

While he accepted that securing fewer seats than expected in the recent Lok Sabha elections is a factor behind the issue of EVMs being raised, he also added



NCP leader Udayanraje Bhosale in Mumbai on Monday. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

that the difference between votes cast and votes counted still remains unexplained.

Calling EVMs a "threat to India", Mr. Bhosale demanded a re-election through ballot papers and also demanded that the EVM system be abolished permanently.

"I challenge the Election Commission to see the results after re-elections are conducted using ballot papers. I am not going to rebel nor I am going to approach the courts. I can speak for myself and I want the people to raise their voice as well to save the future of India," he said.

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IN BRIEF



Abdullakutty meets Modi, may join BJP

KANNUR
The political journey of A.P. Abdullakutty, two-term MP of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) before he joined the Congress, is likely to take a saffron course as his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday triggered speculation that he would move to the BJP.

Award for Malayalam film at Shanghai festival

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Veyil Marangal (Trees Under the Sun), directed by Bijukumar Damodaran, won the award for 'Outstanding Artistic Achievement' at the 22nd Shanghai International Film Festival, becoming the first Indian film to win a major award at the festival. It was one among the 3,964 entries submitted from 112 countries.

Girl dies, boy survives fall into Nellore borewell

Children were playing near the site

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE

A three-year-old girl died, while a four-year-old boy was rescued from a newly dug borewell at Uttukuru Peddapalem village in SPSR Nellore district on Monday.

Within hours of their slipping into the borewell, revenue and police officials rescued the boy, Gopiraj, by digging a pit parallel to it, much to the relief of parents, the police said.

However, the girl, Mokshita from Chirala in Prakasam district, who was visiting her relative's house, was taken out in an unconscious state and rushed to a hospital in Kovur by an 108 ambulance. However, the child died on the way, plunging the village into a pall of gloom.

YSR Congress Party MLA from Kovur Nallapareddy Prasanna Kumar Reddy,



Rescue operations in progress after two children slipped into a borewell in Nellore. ■ K. RAVIKUMAR

who was attending a function nearby, rushed to the spot and coordinated the rescue operation by swiftly pressing into service an earthmover and a medical team. He promised to arrange for compensation to the bereaved family.

The accident occurred when the children were playing close to the borewell along with their friends.

'Praja Vedika' will be demolished: Jagan

Work will begin on Wednesday, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister tells meeting of Collectors

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

In what could be termed a politically sensitive decision, the Andhra Pradesh government has decided to pull down 'Praja Vedika', a sprawling conference hall next to former Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national president N. Chandrababu Naidu's residence at Undavalli near here.

If the tone and tenor of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, who made an announcement in this regard at a Collectors' conference on Monday, were to be considered, the demolitions would not stop with Praja Vedika. The government would remove all illegal structures that have come up near the river Krishna in violation of the River Conservancy Act, 1884, and orders from the National Green Tribunal (NGT), etc.



Awaiting demolition: The Praja Vedika at Undavalli near Vijayawada. ■ CH. VIJAYA BHASKAR

"We have assembled in this building, which is an unauthorised construction by the previous government. We will pull down the building from the day after tomorrow," Mr. Reddy said in a stern voice. He had chosen to conduct the meeting at 'Praja Vedika' only to disclose the facts, the CM said. "On Tuesday, I will hold another meeting with IPS

(Indian Police Service) officers in this hall and it will be the last one here. From Wednesday, the demolition of 'Praja Vedika' will begin," he said.

Without specifically naming Mr. Naidu's residence, the Chief Minister said all the illegal constructions on the banks of the Krishna would be demolished. Mr. Reddy's decision

comes in the wake of Mr. Naidu's request to direct the authorities to allow him to use 'Praja Vedika'. The government did not take any decision on his letter. Instead, it took possession of the hall.

Cost escalation
Reading out the reports on unauthorised constructions that had come up on the ri-

verfront, Mr. Reddy said the previous government had flouted all norms and rules. Initially, they had invited short notice tenders and estimated that the cost of construction of 'Praja Vedika' would be ₹5 crore. Suddenly, it went up to ₹8 crore, he said. Irrigation Department engineers had clearly stated that a No Objection Certificate could not be issued for the structure.

"We immediately demolish unauthorised structures of the common man or of the voiceless, but we remain silent when the government itself flouts rules. So, let's start with the demolition of the government building," he asserted, to which officials responded with thunderous applause.

The TDP government constructed 'Praja Vedika' in 2017. TDP leaders cried foul over the government's decision.

Centre sticks to its guns on Special Category Status

'No such proposal under study'

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman ruled out the possibility of granting the Special Category Status (SCS) to Andhra Pradesh and some other States.

Ms. Sitharaman clarified in the Lok Sabha on Monday that the Central government was receiving requests for grant of the SCS from Odisha, Rajasthan, Bihar, Telangana, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh but there was no such proposal under its consideration.

In a written reply to a

question by Janata Dal member from Bihar Kausaleendra Kumar, Ms. Sitharaman said that the SCS for plan assistance was granted in the past by the National Development Council to some States characterised by a number of features necessitating a special consideration. These include hilly and difficult terrain, low population density and/or sizeable share of tribal population, strategic location along borders with neighbouring countries, economic and infrastructural backwardness and non-viable nature of State finances.

It is up to Congress to build a strong Oppn.

Future of secular democratic republic lies in its hands, says Deve Gowda

MURALIDHARA KHAJANE
BENGALURU

Janata Dal (Secular) national president H.D. Deve Gowda has said the future of the secular democratic republic lies in the hands of the Congress and it is up to the party to build a strong Opposition, taking into confidence secular regional parties.

Speaking to *The Hindu* in the backdrop of his recent comment that a mid-term poll might be imminent in Karnataka, Mr. Gowda insisted that he had been misquoted by a section of the media and the real challenge for the alliance partners was in building a counter to the BJP, without indulging in blame



H.D. Deve Gowda

game. Mr. Gowda admitted that the Lok Sabha results had come as disappointment but it was the right time to brood over the mistakes

committed. "The defeat increased the responsibility of the secular forces. It is time for Congress to take into confidence regional parties with secular and democratic ideals and build a strong Opposition. During my recent visit I appealed to Mr. Rahul Gandhi not to renounce the president's post of AICC and told him that the future of the secular democratic republic lies in the hands of the Congress," he said.

Admitting that there are problems in co-ordination between the partners, he said, "Even now it is not too late. There is nothing wrong in both the parties strengthening their cadre base.

But, in the process, both should take care not to hurt each other." He said he had told Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy to run the government by taking his Ministers and chairman of the coalition coordination committee Siddarmaiah into confidence and the Congress should reciprocate this gesture. "The continuation of the coalition government is in the hands of the national party, which forged the alliance," he said, adding that the government was formed following overtures from the Congress and Mr. Kumaraswamy was made the Chief Minister at the national party's behest.

Curb loud music on public transport: plea

PIL on use of gadgets on buses, trains

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court on Monday sought responses from transport authorities and the Railways on a plea seeking prohibition on playing music or videos loudly on mobile phones or other gadgets in public transport buses and trains.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Abhay Shreenivas Oka and Justice H.T. Narendra Prasad ordered issue of notices to the State and railway authorities on a PIL petition filed by 37-year-old Ramesh Naik L., a Tumakuru-based advocate.

Pointing out that many passengers, who are not bothered about co-passengers and the environment, cause nuisance and disturb other passengers by playing music and videos loudly while travelling on buses and trains.

The petitioner said what is pleasant to some ears may be extremely unpleasant to others.

The State authorities are duty-bound to protect the right to life of every citizen under Article 21 of the Constitution by ensuring peaceful travel in public transport, the petitioner argued.

Guruvayur express to be short terminated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Railways have announced short termination of the Chennai-Guruvayur express in the capital and rescheduling of some trains to enforce line block to facilitate works in the Thiruvananthapuram-Kollam section from June 26.

The 20-km rail renewal is being taken up in the Varkala-Paravur line (towards Kollam) and Paravur-Mayyanad corridors using track renewal train.

The Railway Board has given the nod to divisional authorities for a four-and-a-half hour line block to take up the work from 10 p.m. to 2.30 a.m. The rail renewal works in the night have been given permission as it is the lean period in the Thiruvananthapuram Central-Kollam section. As per this, train 16127 Chennai Egmore-Guruvayur express, scheduled to leave Chennai Egmore on June 26, 28, 29 and 30, July 1, 3, 5 and 6 will be short-terminated at Thiruvananthapuram Central.

A passenger special train, utilising the rake of train 16127 Chennai Egmore-Guruvayur express, will leave Thiruvananthapuram Central at 2.15 a.m. on June 27, 29, 30 July 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7 and run to open timings to Guruvayur.

Train 22114 Kochuveli-Lokmanya Tilak terminus superfast express, scheduled to leave Kochuveli at 00.35 on Mondays and Thursdays, will be rescheduled to leave Kochuveli at 1.55 a.m. on June 27, July 1 and 4. Train 22653 Thiruvananthapuram Central-Hazrat Nizamuddin express, scheduled to leave Thiruvananthapuram Central at 00.30 on Saturdays, will be rescheduled to leave Thiruvananthapuram Central at 1.50 a.m. on June 29 and July 6.

Red delicacy



Exotic fruit: A vendor selling rambutan in Palakkad on Monday. Most of the farmers in Kerala's Central Travancore belt have switched to cultivation of rambutan that fetches them a decent income. Pathanamthitta is the largest producer of the fruit in the State. ■ K. K. MUSTAFAH

The long road to a haircut for Dalits in Karnataka

SATHISH G.T.
HASSAN

Dalits of Hulikal village in Arkalgud taluk travel about eight km to get a shave or a haircut. Not that there are no barbers in the village; even those who offer on-call services refuse to come to their homes.

The Dalit youth have resolved to get a barber from a different area to run a salon in the village as no barber here is ready to break the custom that restricts them from offering services to Dalits.

Mallesha, a barber in the village, said, "I have no place to set up a salon. Moreover, even if someone opens a salon, there is no guarantee of business as a section of vil-



The Ambedkar Colony in Hulikal village of Arkalgud taluk. ■ SATHISH G.T.

lagers would oppose entry of Dalits," he said.

Hulikal, with a population of around 3,000, has about 150 Dalit families. "About 20 years ago, a barber was forced to close his shop as the 'upper castes' refused to give him business if he enter-

tained Dalits," said Hulikal Rajashekar, a retired teacher and a Dalit activist.

"With the help of the law, we have succeeded in getting access to public places in the village. However, so far we have not been able to have a barber shop," he said.

Semi-high-speed rail alignment revised

Proposed alignment will be mostly parallel to the existing tracks in Kerala

S. ANIL RADHAKRISHNAN
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Railway Development Corporation (KRDC) has revised the alignment of the 531-km, semi-high-speed railway line from Thiruvananthapuram to Kasaragod as demanded by the Kerala government to lay the third and fourth railway line parallel to the existing double line.

Feasibility report

With this, the initial 300 km of third and fourth railway line from Kochuveli in the capital to Thrissur will also be mostly parallel to the existing railway track.

From Thiruvavaya to Kasaragod, it will be parallel to the existing line with railway

bypasses at Vadakara and Thalassery as proposed in the feasibility report submitted by a Paris-based engineering and consulting group Systra, the general consultant of the KRDC.

The proposed new alignment will be 80% parallel to the existing tracks up to Thrissur and 90% from Thiruvavaya to Kasaragod. The curves in the initial 300-km corridor will have to be straightened to lay the high-speed railway line. Minister for Public Works G. Sudhakaran had suggested the revision of the alignment when the feasibility report was submitted.

KRDC, the special purpose vehicle set up to execute 'viable' projects on a

cost-sharing basis between the State and the Railways, has submitted the revised alignment to the government for approval. Official sources told *The Hindu* that the approval of the government is awaited for the alignment to go ahead with the preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR).

The KRDC board had already approved the feasibility report prepared by Systra that had found the semi-high-speed railway line traversing through 11 districts 'feasible and financially viable'. The report has put the estimated cost of the project at ₹56,000 crore, including cost of land acquisition.

"The revised alignment does not make much chang-

es in the extent of land [1,200 hectares] to be acquired. But, the cost of land acquisition will go up as developed areas will have to be acquired again," sources said.

Once the government approval is received, the KRDC can forward the feasibility report to the Railways and go ahead with the detailed traffic study, soil investigation and environment impact assessment study, sources said. Semi-high-speed trains will move at 130-180 km per hour to cover the north-south rail corridor from Kochuveli to Kasaragod in 4 hours. Air-conditioned train sets on the lines of the newly introduced Train 18 have been proposed.



In perfect sync: Snake boats participating in last year's Nehru Trophy Boat Race held in Kerala. ■ FILE PHOTO

Preparations on for Nehru Trophy Boat Race in Kerala

Society approves ₹3.07 crore budget for this year's event

STAFF REPORTER
ALAPPUZHA

Preparations have started for the 67th edition of the Nehru Trophy Boat Race. The boat race will be held on the Punnamad Lake here on August 10. A meeting of the Nehru Trophy Boat Race Society held last week approved a budget of ₹3.07 crore for the conduct of this year's race. Officials said the society was expecting an amount of ₹1 crore as tourism grant from the Kerala government and ₹25 lakh from the Centre. An amount of ₹75 lakh would be raised from ticket sales. The meeting has decided to hike ticket prices of rose corner and victory lane by ₹200 and ₹100 respectively.

Officials said that green protocol would be strictly followed and special arrangements would be made for children, women and senior

citizens. Last year, after initial cancellation due to the August deluge, the boat race was held in November. A record 81 boats, including 25 snakeboats, had participated in the 66th edition of the race.

This year, the Tourism Department has already announced that it will launch

an Indian Premier League model boat race league in the State. The Champions Boat League (CBL) will kick off with the Nehru Trophy Boat Race and conclude with the President's Trophy Boat Race in Kollam. A total of nine snakeboats will compete in the league, which has a total of 12 races.

IN BRIEF



Rajasthan BJP chief passes away in Delhi
JAIPUR
BJP's Rajasthan unit president Madan Lal Saini died at the AIIMS in New Delhi on Monday after a brief illness. He was shifted from Jaipur to Delhi on Saturday for treatment of blood-related ailment after being diagnosed with infection in the lungs. Mr. Saini, also a Rajya Sabha MP, was 75.

Crocodile rescued from Gujarat temple
MAHISAGAR
A crocodile that strayed into the premises of Khodiyar Temple was rescued by the Mahisagar Forest Department on Monday morning. Devotees allegedly caused a delay in the operation as they claimed the presence of the reptile was "auspicious". However, the crocodile was later released into a pond situated near the temple. ANI

Sohrabuddin's brothers move Bombay HC

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI
The Bombay High Court on Monday admitted an appeal filed by two brothers of Sohrabuddin Shaikh, challenging the acquittal of 22 accused in the killing of their brother, sister-in-law Kausar Bi, and his aide Tuliram Prapajati in 2005. On April 18, Rubabuddin and Nayabuddin filed the appeal through advocate Gautam Tiwari, urging the HC to direct retrial. The petition said, "The court not only chose to discard the testimony of more than 118 prosecution witnesses but also ignored the irrefutable evidence on record."

'AES deaths could have been prevented'

Awareness drive would have made a difference: IMA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
The death of children in Muzaffarpur in Bihar due to acute encephalopathy could have been prevented had a health awareness campaign been conducted and correct information provided to the families, said an Indian Medical Association (IMA) study team, which released its ground-report on Monday.

The team said that it can be reasonably concluded that the prevailing heat and humidity, together with malnutrition, contributed substantially to the deaths. Dehydration, hypoglycaemia and the heat syndrome too played a significant part. "Awareness is key. Tepid sponging and correction of dehydration and hypoglycaemia can start right from home. A package programme focussed on health awareness, free meals to children, especially at night,



Roughed up: Crowds scuffling with police personnel in Kolkata during a demonstration to protest the deaths of children in Bihar due to the acute encephalitis syndrome. • REUTERS

and public availability of ORS (oral rehydration solution) may be simple interventions which may prevent further deaths of this scale," noted the report. The Association said going by its observations, there are no definite conclusions that can be made about the aetiology of the syndrome as of now. "The current problem seems unlikely to be an in-

fectious cause with the present evidence and we feel that litchi consumption cannot be attributed as the major factor, as even infants have been affected. The persistence of very high atmospheric with temperature humidity through out the day and night without fluctuations might be causing a heat syndrome in children," noted the report. It added that reduction in

body temperature with tepid sponging, increased fluid intake and adequate food intake may prevent this syndrome. While affected children have to be given IV dextrose to prevent significant brain injury, foolproof scientific, epidemiological study and follow up among children who survived in previous episodes (in 2014 and 2015) should be done systematically.

SC seeks answers from Centre, Bihar

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from the Central and Bihar governments on the steps taken to prevent death of children due to the outbreak of acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) in Muzaffarpur. A vacation Bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and B.R. Gava asked the State government to explain in an affidavit the facilities dealing with public health, nutrition and sanitation for treatment of children suffering from AES. The order came while hearing a PIL seeking the court's intervention following the death of over 126 children due to AES. It noted that the issue was of grave concern as the victims were children.



An IAF aircraft flies over a model of Tiger Hill to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Kargil war. •PTI

Ensured civil aviation was not hit: Dhanoa

Pak. jets did not cross LoC, says Air chief
DINAKAR PERI
GWALIOR
Civil aviation has a major role in the country's economy and the Indian Air Force (IAF) did not allow tensions with Pakistan to dictate it, Air Chief Marshal (ACM) B.S. Dhanoa said on Monday. "They have closed their airspace, that is their problem. Our economy is vibrant and air traffic is a very important part. You must have noticed that the Air Force did not stop civil air traffic." Only on February 27, the Srinagar airspace was closed for 2-3 hours. "We did not allow tensions with Pakistan to dictate our civil aviation..."

Partially open airspace
Following the IAF's air strike on Balakot on February 26, Pakistan closed its airspace for civil traffic. In March, it was partially opened but flights to India are still forced to take longer routes. The Air Chief was speaking at a commemorative event to mark 20 years of the Kargil conflict and the role of the Mirage fighter jets, at the Gwalior Air Force station, which is the home base for these jets. The Mirages were also used in the Balakot air

strike. "Our sword arm is still the Mirages," he observed. ACM Dhanoa also said that Pakistani fighter jets did not cross the Line of Control (LoC) during the aerial engagement on February 27. "Our objective was to strike terror camps. Their objective was to target Army places. None of them crossed the border. We achieved our military objective. None of them crossed the LoC into our territory," he noted.

AN-32s will fly
The IAF would continue to fly AN-32 transport aircraft in the mountains till new aircraft under procurement are inducted. "We don't have a choice," the Air Chief said. New aircraft are being procured and once inducted, they would be used in the mountains and the AN-32s would be used for training and other purposes. Early this month, an AN-32 crashed near the Mechuka Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) in Arunachal Pradesh, killing all 13 personnel onboard. The wreckage was located nine days later after massive search and rescue efforts.

Bombay HC asks for review of Choksi's medical papers

Report on whether he can travel to India should be submitted in a sealed envelope on July 9

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI
The Bombay High Court on Monday asked a team of doctors here to review all medical papers submitted by absconding diamondaire Mehul Choksi for not being able to return to India. A Division Bench of Justices Indrajit Mahanty and A.M. Badar was hearing an appeal filed by Choksi against an order refusing to let him to cross-examine the Deputy Director of the Enforcement Directorate, who filed the application to declare him a fugitive economic offender.

On July 10, 2018, the ED filed an application before the Special Court to declare Choksi an FEO. Soon thereafter, on October 31, Choksi filed 10 applications, in one of which he stated that he wanted to cross-examine the Deputy Director of the ED, who had filed the complaint against him under the new Act. On January 31, 2019, the application was rejected by the special court and he moved the HC, challenging the order, and sought for it to be set aside. The court on Monday di-



Mehul Choksi

rected Choksi's counsel to provide all documents and records pertaining to his health to the head of cardi-

ology at Mumbai's J.J. Hospital, and coordinate with a person there if additional documents were required. The court said the report on whether he could travel to India should be submitted in a sealed envelope on July 9 as the Union government had offered to provide him with an air ambulance. The court directed the ED's counsel Hiten Venegavkar to take instructions on whether there could be any relaxation on the red corner notice issued against him as Choksi claims that he needed medical treatment that

could not be provided in Antigua and he needed to travel to Miami for it. **Preferred hospital**
The court further asked Choksi's counsel that if he could travel to India, which would be his preferred hospital. The matter will be heard on July 10. Through his counsel, Choksi has repeatedly told the court that he cannot travel and has submitted a detailed history of ailments, which severely constrain him from travelling to India from Antigua.

Death toll in Barmer mishap climbs to 15

Case likely against event organisers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR
The death toll in the mishap at Jasol in Rajasthan's Barmer district, where a large tent collapsed on a crowd of devotees in sudden rain and a squall, climbed to 15 on Monday with an eight-year-old boy, shifted to Jodhpur for treatment, succumbing to his injuries.



Injured people undergoing treatment at a hospital in Barmer • AFP

The deceased, identified as Pokar Ram, was rushed to Jodhpur's All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on Sunday after he sustained serious injuries and was electrocuted in the incident. Police said a case would be registered against the organisers of the 'Ram Katha' event in Jasol after the completion of relief and rescue measures.

CM meets families
Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot met the grieving families of the victims in Jasol and ex-

pressed his condolences. He also went to Nahata Government Hospital in Balotra and Mathura Das Mathur Hospital in Jodhpur to meet the injured persons admitted there. Mr. Gehlot said he had ordered an inquiry into the incident and added that the State government would take steps to prevent such incidents in future on the basis of report of the probe.

Monsoon deficit goes down to 37%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
India's monsoon rainfall deficit has improved to 37% after a deficit of 43% until last week. However, three-fourths of India's 36 meteorological divisions continue to post deficient rains, according to an update by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday. Moreover, several parts of India that are struck by water shortages continue to reel under such deficits. According to the IMD's update, the southwest monsoon "further advanced" into parts of central Arabian Sea, Konkan, most parts of Madhya Maharashtra, remaining parts of Marathwada and Vidarbha, some regions of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. It is expected to enter Mumbai in a day or two, an IMD official said.

Woman with Bihar roots is a 'foreigner'

Second such incident to come to light

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI
After retired soldier Mohammed Sanaulah, a Hindi-speaking woman with roots in Bihar has been sent to a detention centre for foreigners in Assam.

Amila Shah was on June 15 sent to the Tezpur detention centre after she asked to appear before a Foreigners' Tribunal. The 45-year-old homemaker is the wife of Ram Dulal Shah, a trader based at Dhalabeel near Jamurihat in north-central Assam's Sonitpur district. Essentially a Central Jail, the Tezpur detention centre is one of six for declared foreigners in Assam. There are currently about 1,200 such 'foreigners' in it. Members of Ms. Shah's family said their predecessors had come from Bihar during the British era and settled down near the Pertubghur Tea Estate east of

Jamurihat. Her father Kesav Prasad Gupta's name figured in the 1951 National Register of Citizens (NRC) that is being updated in Assam.

Despite documents
"Despite providing all documents establishing her citizenship, the Border Police marked her as a suspected foreigner who entered Assam after March 24, 1971. She was summoned to the FT2 in Tezpur (Sonitpur district headquarters) on June 4, 2018 where all our papers were submitted with elders in the family telling the tribunal we are originally from Bihar, which is very much a part of India," said a member of Ms. Shah's family, declining to be quoted. Opposition parties have criticized the ruling BJP for targeting certain communities.

MLA held for making Odisha official do sit-ups

He was remanded in judicial custody

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR
Biju Janata Dal MLA from Patnagarh Saroj Kumar Meher was arrested on Monday for forcing a junior engineer of a tribal community to do sit-ups in public for the "poor quality" road work in Bolangir district.



Saroj Kumar Meher

The newly elected legislator was picked up by the Bolangir police from a hotel in Nuapada in the early hours and was arrested after interrogation. He was produced before a court that denied him bail and remanded him in judicial custody. The court will hear his bail petition on July 1. The incident took place on June 5. In a video clip that went viral on social media, Mr. Meher was seen forcing Mr. Sabar to do sit-ups. The police registered a case against Mr. Meher under the IPC and the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities)

Act on the basis of a complaint filed by the junior engineer's wife on June 6. The MLA expressed regret a day after the incident, saying he did it to save the official from being attacked by villagers. An association of the tribals in Bolangir had threatened to picket the Assembly on June 26, demanding action against him. Mr. Meher's wife moved the Orissa High Court, seeking anticipatory bail for him.

SC turns down plea against reservation

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a petition challenging a Maharashtra government ordinance allowing 16 per cent quota for Marathas in admission to Postgraduate medical and dental courses this year. A vacation Bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and B.R. Gava noted that the admission process for academic session 2019-20 had concluded on June 17 and any order now "will lead to chaos". "We, however, clarify that we have not commented on the question of validity of the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) Act, 2018, which is the subject matter of challenge before the Bombay High Court in a group of petition(s), in which judgment has been reserved," the Bench said.

Maharashtra CM's house on BMC defaulter list

Senior Ministers owe municipal corporation ₹8 crore in water bills; PWD says dues paid till November

TANVI DESHPANDE
MUMBAI
The Maharashtra Chief Minister's official residence, as well as bungalows of several senior Ministers, owe the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation nearly ₹8 crore in water bills, and the corporation has included these properties in its defaulters' list. The information was revealed in response to a Right to Information (RTI) query. Meanwhile, the government has clarified that dues were paid till November and the rest will be paid immediately. The BMC has thousands of crores pending in water tax from defaulters across the city, many of whom are



The Chief Minister's official bungalow has six water connections and has ₹7.44 lakh in tax pending in taxes.

government organisations. It has now come to light that the Public Works Department, which maintains government bungalows of all State Ministers located in and

around Malabar Hill, owes the BMC around ₹8 crore. According to data procured by RTI activist Shakeel Shaikh, the Chief Minister's official bungalow Varsha has six water

connections. The property has ₹7.44 lakh in water tax pending since last year. The outstanding amount reflects in the May water bill. The other bungalows that have defaulted on water tax include those of Finance Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar, Education Minister Vinod Tawde, Housing Minister Prakash Mehta, Women and Child Development Minister Pankaja Munde, Tribal Development Minister Vishnu Savra, Water Resources Minister Girish Mahajan, among others. They too have dues since last year. The Sahyadri guest house at Malabar Hill has dues of ₹12.04 lakh. "If a Mumbaikar defaults

on water tax, the BMC is quick to disconnect water supply. Will it do the same in case of the CM? Also, even if 50 people live in the CM's bungalow, and he has 200 visitors a day, the amount of water consumed is large, Mr. Shaikh said. In response, the PWD on Monday said, "The water bills of the bungalows of CM and other Ministers were paid in November. In the bill for May, a discrepancy was found. That is why the process of bill payment was stopped." The statement also said the bungalows are maintained by the PWD and it cannot be said that a certain Minister did not pay his bills.

ICMR-NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN TUBERCULOSIS
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No.1, Mayor Sathyamoorthy Road, Chetpet, Chennai-600 031.
Employment Notice No. 01/2019 dated 31.05.2019
ICMR-National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis, invites applications for the post of **ACCOUNTS OFFICER** and **PRIVATE SECRETARY** on deputation in Pay Level 10 and Pay Level 7 as per 7th CPC Pay Matrix respectively. Application forms and information relating to qualifications, experience, age, etc. can be downloaded from the ICMR-NIRT website www.nirt.res.in or www.icmr.nic.in. Details are also available in Employment News issue dated 22.06.2019. The filled-in application, through proper channel, should reach the Institute on or before 31.07.2019.
DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE

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Extension Notification for Admission to 5 years Integrated M. Sc. with an Option of exit policy after 3 years in Economics course 2019-20
In the earlier admission advertisement to 5 years integrated M.Sc. with an option of exit policy after 3 years in Economics course 2019-20, last date for making application form on-line in the website of the School www.base.ac.in was 10/06/2019. On consideration of several candidates request for extension of last date for making application form only by candidates who have taken CUCEET-2019 Test and preferred BASE for admission and for making payment to BASE - Rs. 200 for General Rs. 100 for SC/ST (No fee for Persons with disability) by those who have already uploaded online application to BASE and is extended upto to 28/06/2019.
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Devoid of principle

The defection of four TDP Rajya Sabha MPs to the BJP raises troubling questions

The recent defection of four Rajya Sabha MPs from the Telugu Desam Party to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, merely a month after simultaneous Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in Andhra Pradesh, can only be termed as political opportunism. The fact that these MPs merged with the BJP as a group helped them stay clear of the anti-defection law, which stipulates that a breakaway group constitute at least two-thirds of a legislative party's strength and that it merge with another party. The TDP had been reduced to just 23 and two seats in the newly elected Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Assemblies, respectively. It now commands a much lower legislative profile with just two members in the Rajya Sabha and three in the Lok Sabha. There is a tendency among legislators to seek greener pastures at a time of crisis for their parties, but the nature of these defections suggests that this was not a simple case of leaving a party whose political strength had considerably diminished. The BJP is even more of a non-player in Andhra Pradesh as it does not hold a single seat in the current Assembly and its vote share dipped in comparison to the previous Assembly elections. The reasons for the defections appear to have little to do with the political equations in the parent State.

Some of the defecting legislators have a cloud of suspicion over them as they were subjected to probes by Central Bureau of Investigation, Enforcement Directorate and Income Tax officials over financial transactions. It would be in order to ask whether the defections are aimed at currying favour with the government at the Centre in regard to the investigations. The NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has promised zero tolerance on corruption, and it is to be hoped that the investigations against two of the defecting MPs continue unhindered. At the same time, the fact that the BJP has chosen to accommodate legislators the party had only months ago castigated for being corrupt, and against whom one of its own MPs had sought action from the Rajya Sabha ethics committee, suggests that the benefits of accrual to its numbers outweighed even the pretence of principle. The BJP has managed to increase its strength in the Rajya Sabha to 75 with the addition of the defectors from the TDP. Fresh elections to the Rajya Sabha are due for a substantive number of seats by 2020, and defections such as these will help the ruling combine get closer to the majority mark in the 245-member Upper House. Even if it is justified as an exercise to increase numbers, it does not reflect well on the BJP, which claims to be a party with a difference. Defections that are not based on ideology or principle undermine parliamentary democracy; a vibrant opposition is equally vital to ensure an efficient government.

Down to two

The leadership battle of the U.K. Conservatives is now between contrasting candidates

The leadership race in the U.K.'s ruling Conservative party has been whittled down to two candidates with contrasting personal styles and political stances. The current Foreign Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, is a moderate and will face off against his predecessor, the flamboyant and controversial Boris Johnson. Over 100,000 overwhelmingly pro-Brexit party members will, in mid-July, choose Prime Minister Theresa May's successor via a postal ballot. One option to see through their project of a life-time is to elect Mr. Hunt, a one-time advocate of remaining in the European Union (like Ms. May), and risk not realising the end goal. The other alternative is to choose the hardliner Mr. Johnson, who famously, and erroneously, claimed during the 2016 referendum that London was sending £350 million a week to Brussels. His xenophobic remark about Turkish immigrants flooding the U.K. was said to be among the factors that tilted the 2016 outcome. The principal architect of the leave campaign assured party-men before the current contest that Britain will exit by the October 31 deadline, deal or no deal. Mr. Johnson, a two-time London Mayor, has emerged a clear favourite, polling the highest in all the elimination rounds among Conservative MPs over the past days. Mr. Hunt, on the other hand, is seen as a heavyweight whose vast experience in promoting business ventures could refresh the party's market-friendly image. As Health Secretary he had secured additional funding for the NHS. Mr. Hunt has warned of the dangers of leaving the EU without an agreement, including another general election that could damage the Conservatives' prospects.

The contest is above all else really about picking a leader who can steer the party through Britain's next general election and ensure its future relevance. That means somebody who can stop Jeremy Corbyn, the Labour leader, from entering 10 Downing Street. After a dismal showing in the May polls to the EU Parliament, the Conservatives also fear support among the rank and file haemorrhaging to Nigel Farage's Brexit Party. Delivering on the 2016 referendum result, in whatever form and at any price, is seen in Conservative strongholds as the ultimate route to resurrection. Meanwhile, there are not many who seriously believe that Britain can realistically renegotiate before the end of October the withdrawal agreement Ms. May signed with the EU last year. Brussels has repeatedly stressed its unwillingness to reopen the deal, still less the contentious Irish backstop. The Prime Minister's election in July would be followed by Parliament's summer recess, allowing MPs little time for legislative business. Short of a spectacular turnaround, the outcome of the Conservative contest looks fairly predictable. Conversely, the course of Brexit is anything but certain, irrespective of whether Mr. Johnson or Mr. Hunt wins the battle of the ballot.

Basic needs, basic rights

India must recognise the right to a minimally decent life, so that no person falls below a certain level of existence



RAJEEV BHARGAVA

Three thoughts occur to me in the aftermath of the horrific tragedy in Muzaffarpur, Bihar, where the systemic failure of health care has killed over a hundred children. First, like the constitutional principle of a basic structure, it is time to articulate an equally robust doctrine of basic rights. Second, these basic rights must be viewed primarily as positive, rights not against interference from the state (negative rights) but to the provision of something by it. Third, just as individuals are punished for legal violations, the government of the day must also be punished for the violation of these basic rights. This punishment need not await the next round of elections but must be meted out immediately, by the law itself. In short, defaulting governments must be held legally accountable. The systematic violation of basic rights must be treated on a par with the breakdown of constitutional machinery.

A solid necessity

But what are basic rights? How are they different from other fundamental rights? Basic rights flow from basic needs such as physical security or subsistence. Needs are different from wants. You may want a chocolate every morning but don't need it. Heavens won't fall if you don't get it. But basic needs are different: their non-fulfilment can cause great harm, even kill. The failure to get an antibiotic if you have a bacterial infection can hurt you very badly. Heavens will fall if you don't get it!

Security and subsistence

But what does the language of rights add to the idea of basic

Moreover, wants are subjective; you cannot be mistaken that you desire that chocolate. But you may be misguided, even unaware of what you need. You may not be able to tell if you need an antibiotic because your mind can't tell the difference between bacterial and viral infections. This determination is done by a more objective criterion. Needs depend on the way human bodies are constituted. They are a solid necessity; one cannot get on without them. Nor can they be fulfilled by substitutes. For us, nothing can take the place of water, food and air.

It is true, of course, that though terribly important, basic needs are not what we live for. They don't make our life worth living. But anything really worth pursuing depends on the satisfaction of basic needs. If we are continuously thirsty, cold, hungry, ill or homeless, we will be incapable of even framing a conception of worthwhile life, let alone pursue it. Imagine the plight of those who queue up for long hours to get a bucket of water or a place to bathe, dress or defecate. People suffer if basic needs are met inadequately or with delay. They are then denied a minimally decent life.

When basic needs are not fully met, we feel vulnerable and helpless. We grieve, cry for help, seek assistance. We complain and demand elementary justice from our community, especially from the state. Elementary justice requires that before anything else, the state does everything at its disposal to satisfy all basic needs of its citizens, particularly of those who cannot fend for themselves. We feel aggrieved when the state abdicates this responsibility.

Security and subsistence

But what does the language of rights add to the idea of basic



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needs? First, a right is something that is owed to us; it is not a favour. So, rights help the recognition of anything that satisfies basic needs as an entitlement. Basic rights are claims on the state to provide us with goods and services that satisfy our basic needs. Second, when something is identified as a basic right, it puts the state under a duty to enable its exercise. The state becomes its guarantor. For example, the right to physical security, the first basic right, is socially guaranteed when the state provides its people a well-trained, professional police force. When society and its government reneges on its commitment to do so, we hold them accountable. It follows that basic rights are a shield for the defenceless against the most damaging threats to their life which include starvation, pestilence and disease. As the philosopher Henry Shue, puts it, it is 'an attempt to give to the powerless a veto over some economic, social and political forces that harm them'.

These rights are basic also because many intrinsically valuable rights can be enjoyed only once these rights are secured. Imagine that we have a right to assemble freely in public but that just as one begins to exercise this right, one is threatened with assault, rape or

murder. Most people will simply retreat. Is not a threat to physical security or bodily integrity the commonest weapon wielded by goons, political thugs and oppressive governments?

The second is the right to minimum economic security and subsistence, that includes clean air, uncontaminated water, nutritious food, clothing and shelter. By showing the devastation caused by its absence, the Muzaffarpur tragedy amply proves that the right to primary health care is also an integral part of the right to subsistence. A straightforward link exists between malnutrition and disease. As Dr. T. Jacob John explained in an article in *The Hindu* on June 19, 2019 (OpEd page, "Averting deaths in Muzaffarpur"), encephalopathy, the biochemical disease that results from eating litchi fruit pulp, occurs only in malnourished children. It is common knowledge that malnourishment lowers resistance to disease. A similar link exists between disease, unemployment and poverty.

Credible threats to these rights can be reduced by the government by establishing institutions and practices that assist the vulnerable; for example, by setting up hospitals with adequate number of doctors, nurses, beds, medical equipment, intensive care units, essential drugs and emergency treatments. For this, proper budgetary allocation is required that depends in turn on getting one's political priority and commitment right. When a government fails to provide primary health care to those who can't afford it, it violates their basic rights.

Vulnerability, accountability

To these two basic rights, I add a third – the right to free public expression of helplessness and frustration, if deprived of other basic

rights. The scope of freedom of expression is large and I don't think all of it can be deemed basic. But the relevant part of it is. The right to make one's vulnerability public, be informed about the acts of commission and omission of the government regarding anything that adversely affects the satisfaction of basic needs, to critically examine them and to hold state officials publicly accountable is a basic right on a par with right to physical security and subsistence and inseparably linked to them.

It follows that governments must make arrangements for people to demand that their basic rights be satisfied, to complain when these demands are not met, to report lapses and omissions on the part of governments, point fingers at apathetic government officials, criticise the government for its failures and to do so without fear.

These three basic rights can be summed up in a single phrase, the right to a minimally decent life. This is a threshold right. A society may soar, strive for great collective achievement. There are no limits to the longing for a better life. But the point of having a threshold of minimal decency is that our life must not fall below a certain level of existence. Anything short of a minimally decent life is simply not acceptable. It is this precisely that horrifies us about the callousness of the Bihar government in Muzaffarpur and governments in India more generally. They routinely abdicate responsibility for the suffering they directly or indirectly cause. This is why we must ask why governments are not immediately and severely penalised when they undermine the exercise of these basic rights.

Rajeev Bhargava is Professor, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi

A war of masks between Iran and the U.S.

Both governments are trying to avoid a war and yet win a game of appearances



RAMIN JAHANBEGLOO

On June 20, Iran and the United States came dangerously close to a direct armed conflict, with U.S. President Donald Trump reportedly ordering and then cancelling air strikes against Iran, after it shot down a high-tech U.S. drone over the Strait of Hormuz. A closer look at tensions between the two countries would make it seem as if the Iranian authorities were the ones attempting to escalate a regional crisis while avoiding a full-blown war with the U.S. For the Trump administration, it has been about being careful not to be drawn into a West Asian conflict and having the loss of any U.S. service personnel on its conscience.

Many layers

Yet things are more complicated than what is appearing on news channels. On one side, the Ayatollahs and the Islamic Revolutionary

Guard Corps (IRGC) want to save their necks by convincing the U.S.'s allies in Europe, West Asia and Asia to pressure Washington into easing the devastating economic and financial sanctions that have affected the Iranian economy. On the other side, the hawks in Washington, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and National Security Adviser John Bolton, have an ardent desire to restore U.S. deterrence by striking Iranian military infrastructure and nuclear installations. In the middle of this there are a number of state and non-state actors such as Israel, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which would be the prime targets for Iranian attacks, or which would get militarily engaged on the side of Iran and go after U.S. targets.

Once in war with the Islamic Republic of Iran, the U.S. would have to contend with proxies backed by Tehran spreading across the region, armed with missiles, drones and as suicide bombers. There is virtually no way for Saudi Arabia and the UAE to protect themselves from Iranian proxy attacks. Let us take the example of Iranian-backed Houthi rebels, who have fought a coalition led by Saudi Ara-



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

bia to a stalemate on the battlefield since 2015 and have succeeded in launching missiles and rockets into Saudi territory. In Lebanon and Iraq, the Iranian regime's proxies have killed hundreds of American soldiers since the early 1980s. In 1983, a group linked to the Iranian-backed Shiite militia, Hezbollah, claimed responsibility for lethal bombings of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut and a U.S. Marine barracks.

Nearly a month ago, in a meeting with Iran-linked Iraqi militias in Baghdad, Major General Qasim Suleimani, the chief of Iran's Quds Force, which is a unit of the IRGC, asked them to prepare for a proxy war with the U.S. Strangely, Iran's campaign of proxy war and sabotage will be designed to inflict some suffering on regional and interna-

tional actors that have chosen to be with America in this conflict, while dissuading Mr. Trump and his advisers from taking military action against Iranian interests.

Giving peace a chance

Given that "maximum pressure" sanctions have achieved their goal and the Iranian authorities are desperate to find a way out of this crisis, the role of potential mediators will be crucial. The government of President Hassan Rouhani is quietly trying out all possibilities to find a diplomatic pathway out of the crisis. But a dialogue between Arab leaders and the Iran could begin with more concrete help from Oman and Kuwait in order to de-escalate the war in Yemen and ensure maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz.

Therefore, while Iran and the U.S. are on the edge of the abyss, global diplomacy behind closed doors has been working to find a way out. The removal of Russian missiles from Cuba was former U.S. President J.F. Kennedy's grand success. However, during the Cuban missile crisis, he had two dangerous situations to deal with simultaneously – missile emplacements and impeachment. In the

same way, Mr. Trump is trying to find a way out of the tensions while trying not to damage his chances of a second term in the White House. America's military and technological resources to break down the Islamic regime of Iran are limitless. The only matter to decide is whether it is intellectually wise and politically pragmatic to use all that might.

Both Iran and the U.S. are trying to avoid this war while winning a game of appearances. This game reminds us of the theatrical concept of persona, which gives both Iran and the U.S. a source of political agency and a stable public role to present themselves as being intransigent, inflexible and uncompromising. Consequently, both countries are trying to keep their masks on in order to inscribe themselves on the hearts of humanity. But as Nathaniel Hawthorne writes in *The Scarlet Letter*: "No man, for any considerable period, can wear one face to himself and another to the multitude, without finally getting bewildered as to which may be the true."

Ramin Jahanbegloo is Director, Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Peace, Jindal Global University, Sonapat

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Religious freedom

The self-righteousness and snobbery of successive American governments and their presumed right to pontificate about the religious freedom in foreign societies remain unchanged (Page 1, "MEA rejects U.S. report on state of religious freedom in India", June 24). That the Indian government's critics have latched on to the U.S. State Department's misconceived indictment of India regarding denial of religious freedom to the minorities with a sense of schadenfreude reflects the nation's divisive political culture where passions tend to overwhelm reason and fairness. Media narratives shape foreign perceptions about Indian society and politics. When sections of the media blur the line between objective reporting and sensationalism, the foreign media and governments pick up the noise instead of the right signals. V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN, Thiruvananthapuram

■ The U.S. State Department has exceeded its limits and the MEA's reaction is in line with what a self-respecting nation is expected to do. But for stray incidents by fringe elements, the minorities live in peace and harmony. In a globalised world, India is well aware that it cannot alienate any religion. The U.S. report appears to be based on biased reports and political speeches rather than an in-depth study. The U.S. should also realise that India is in a volatile neighbourhood. V. SUBRAMANIAN, Chennai

■ The MEA's rejection of the report is no surprise as any kind of criticism from within or outside has always been anathema for the present government. Religious freedom or the lack of it has always been a contentious issue and the views of the government and spokespersons of the minority communities have been diametrically opposite. A more recent example would be the oath-taking

ceremony in the 17th Lok Sabha, where frenzied cries of a religious nature were heard from the treasury benches; majoritarianism continues to flourish under the benign gaze of the powers that be. C.V. ARAVIND, Bengaluru

■ There is religious freedom in India, guaranteed under Articles 25 to 28 of the Constitution of India, but it exists only on paper. Fear is thrust upon the minds of the minorities using selective and periodical harassment, targeting and lynching them based on rumours or falsely blaming them. The government should have taken stern action against the perpetrators of the crimes. Instances of lynching, though isolated, underscore that the minorities, especially Muslims, are not secure. Whether it likes it or not, the Central government must know that India is being closely watched by the rest of the world. M.Y. SHARIF, Chennai

Numbers and the future

That India is likely to overtake China as the most populous country by 2027 and be home to 1.64 billion people by 2050 is not heartening news at all (Editorial, "A stable planet", June 22). A reduction in fertility rates in our most populous States is a must. Together with this, education of girl children and the empowerment of women will help arrest population growth. There must be a holistic approach in addressing the issues. It is also time to raise the minimum age of marriage. C.G. KURIAKOSE, Kothamangalam, Kerala

■ The cold reality of an increasing world population, with India set to become the world's most populous nation, is a warning sign. State machinery, policies and social welfare schemes are bound to suffer adversely if there are inadequate resources to feed such a large population. More aggressive population control campaigns need to be put in

place to boost greater awareness about the need for family planning. Realistic development goals need to be set keeping in mind the estimated population figures and the resources needed. OJAL JAIN, Sri City, Andhra Pradesh

Water management

We talk about water management but appear to be doing precious little despite credible scientific data that show growing water poverty. We have ample means to harness nature's bounty. Water bodies are used as dump yards, river banks are encroached upon and lakebeds become sites for real estate. The water crisis, especially in Chennai, has to be taken as a forewarning. Proper water conservation techniques, recycling and reuse of water, mandatory installations for water

harvesting, water collection in lakes and identifying water bodies can help avoid scarcity to an extent. Governments have to work out a plan. M. PRADYU, Kannur, Kerala

■ It is fine to be talking about water conservation techniques that governments must carry out but scant attention is being paid to water use habits at home. It is surprising how much water can be saved by making adjustments in one's habits and ways in the kitchen and washroom. The media should highlight these crucial water saving tips which are as simple as not running the faucet endlessly, fixing water leaks and placing a brick in the cistern. GEETA S., Chennai

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

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

Wild yak was erroneously described as an endangered species in a Science & Technology page story titled "Why did woolly rhino, mammoth go extinct?" (June 23, 2019). It is a vulnerable species.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

Upgraded planes in tough skies

The Indian Air Force must lay down clear red lines for continued operational effectiveness



ARJUN SUBRAMANIAM

The recent crash of an AN-32, which was on an air maintenance sortie to the Mechuka Advanced Landing Ground in Arunachal Pradesh, has raised questions on flight safety in the Indian Air Force despite accident rates having declined exponentially over the past few decades.

Air crashes today are subjected to the full glare of the media, exposing vulnerable families of the crash victims to needless trauma and also seriously hampering the remedial measures and outcomes that would flow from professionally conducted accident inquiries. In this milieu, it is important to explore some of the less-dissected issues that continue to plague aviation safety in the IAF.

The IAF flies 38 different types of aircraft and has the most varied fleet among modern air forces. Its fleet comprises aircraft like the MiG-21 and the Avro that hardly fly anywhere else. Seven of these have not had a major accident in the last five years. The long-serving IL-76 has had an accident-free innings in the IAF, a fact that is missed by most.

The U.K.'s Royal Air Force flew the Jaguar for 34 years (1973 to 2007) during which it had 67 accidents. In comparison, the IAF has lost 52 Jaguars over four decades. The U.S. Air Force flew slightly over two million flying hours in 2017 and suffered 83 'Category A' mishaps. During the same period, the IAF flew 2,51,405 hours and had an accident rate of 0.24 for every 10,000 hours of flying. This translates to 8-9 'Category A' mishaps – a comparable ratio. It would be unfair to make literal comparisons as the U.S. Air Force was and continues to be a dispersed force engaged in multiple locations like Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.

Comparing the mishap rates

While there was a rise of 17% when we consider the 'Category A' mishaps in the U.S. Air Force between 2013 and 2017, there was a decline in the IAF's accident rate from 0.29 (2013-14) to 0.24 (2017-18). Similarly, when



An Indian Air Force AN-32 plane undergoing maintenance and equipment upgrade • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

one compares the mishap rates between the F-16 fleet in the U.S. Air Force and the Mirage-2000 fleet in the IAF over the last five years, there is a positive story that emerges.

There is constant criticism as regards the slow phasing-out of the older variants of the MiG-21 and the MiG-27 fleets, which merits reflection. That these aircraft have no business continuing to fly is a proposition upheld even by senior IAF leadership. However, further investigation reveals a complex web of operational necessities that have forced the IAF to stretch their life and manage the ensuing risks.

For the IAF to remain combat ready for full-spectrum operations, it needs a continuously trained cockpit-to-crew ratio of between 1:1.75 to 1:2 that can undertake operations and seamlessly manage the switch to more advanced platforms as they get inducted into service. Currently, the ratios can barely sustain a limited conflict, leave alone extended ones.

The MiG-21s and MiG-27s were supposed to have been replaced by Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) and Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA), a process that is unfolding at a snail's pace.

Hypothetically, had all the MiG-21s and MiG-27s been phased out without replacement, there was no scope to increase the flying of other fleets to feed the residual pilots, due to maintenance and budgetary constraints. The IAF would then have

been down to 25 squadrons and saddled with large numbers of fighter pilots without operational continuity. It would then have been tough to induct advanced platforms like the LCA and Rafale, which need pilots who are current and proficient.

The IAF had very little choice in the matter and the bottom line is that the risks are rising and must be addressed with greater urgency. The way out is simple – an accelerated LCA production, no hiccups in the ongoing Rafale induction and a fast-tracking of the new deal for I14 fighter jets.

Shortage of training aircraft

As far as other flying accidents are concerned, human error is responsible for around 50% of them while issues revolving around technical, environmental and miscellaneous factors are responsible for the rest. One of the major reasons for human error is training deficiencies due to a shortage of training aircraft.

The non-availability of the HTT-40 to complement the reliable Pilatus, a delayed induction of the Intermediate Jet Trainer and a lack of clarity within the Ministry of Defence about the IAF's proposal to buy additional Pilatus aircraft means that the IAF has kept the 40-year-old Kiran flyworthy and compromise on training quality and future operational proficiency. The IAF flies air maintenance sorties to support the Indian Army and conducts humanitarian assis-

tance and disaster relief missions in the most inclement of weather conditions and highly varied and inhospitable terrain.

Several weather- and terrain-related accidents on helicopter and transport aircraft like the MiG-17 and AN-32 are caused due to the non-availability of on-board equipment like Ground Proximity Warning Systems and Terrain Following Radar that allow such missions to be conducted in near-blind conditions. The recent accident may never have happened had there been a fleet of medium-lift aircraft with such systems.

Navigating crest tops

An AN-32 can fly well above the crest tops but in case of a single-engine failure, it has to descend below 8,000 ft, which is below the crest tops in the region; hence the ground below has to be in contact at all times. Therefore, in sorties such as this, the route has to be planned through known valleys – informed sources point out that the crashed aircraft may have been impacted by a visually obscured mountain located at some distance below the crest top.

Replacing the Avro aircraft with a modern platform that can share the workload of the AN-32, particularly in high-altitude areas, is another key suggestion that can be considered. The Tata-Airbus C-295 with all modern systems has been clearly the IAF's first choice and can maintain 19,000 ft on a single engine that would keep it above mountain tops in all areas serviced by the AN-32.

Accidents will continue to happen and the IAF will have to balance risks with operational necessity. Speedy replacements for MiG-21s and MiG-27s, Jaguars, Avros, Kiran trainers and Cheetah/Chetak helicopters; fast-track modifications and upgrades that are required for operations in remote and hostile terrain; and upgrading of simulators as force enablers and not merely as training aids are among the necessary measures to improve flight safety. Finally, the IAF leadership must lay down clear red lines for continued operational effectiveness – a 'we will fight and train with what we have' attitude has ominous signals.

Air Vice-Marshal Arjun Subramaniam is a retired fighter pilot from the IAF and a visiting professor at Ashoka University

A sound foundation

The draft National Policy on Education has an important reform on the first stage of education



VENITA KAUL

The draft National Policy on Education is in the public domain for comments till June 30, 2019. A commendable reform suggested in the policy is creating a foundational stage as the first stage of school education. This reform proposes to bring the three years of pre-primary and the two years of Grades 1 and 2 into a composite unit with "a single curricular and pedagogical phase of play and discovery-based learning" between the ages of 3 and 8 years.

This proposal suggests a significant departure from the present structure of school education, in which the pre-school stage of 3-6 years is delinked from Grades 1 and 2 and even kept out of the ambit of the Right To Education Act. It is currently under the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

'Best investment'

The proposal's implications need to be understood from two perspectives. One, this implies that Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) for 3- to 6-year-olds will become an integral part of the organised school structure, and thus become the responsibility of the education department. It should also make ECCE a justifiable right of all 3- to 6-year-olds. The committee considers ECCE to be "among the very best investments" that India could make in education since neuroscience evidence indicates that "over 85% of a child's cumulative brain development occurs prior to the age of 6".

Secondly, the curriculum for Grades 1 and 2 will be developed in upward continuity with the pre-school curriculum, in terms of both content and pedagogy. If implemented well, this can have a positive impact on children's learning as it would ensure a play-based, developmentally appropriate curriculum for children up to not just 6 but 8 years, which would give them a stronger foundation. This upward extension will further smoothen the transition from pre-school to the primary stage and consolidate the foundation for future learning.

However, two significant concerns identified from collaborative research by Ambedkar University and ASER Centre need to be addressed in implementation. The pre-school curriculum was observed to be primarily a downward extension of the primary curriculum. Children were engaged for most

of the time in copying or rote learning of alphabet and numbers, a practice which is developmentally inappropriate and can be counterproductive from the perspective of a sound foundation.

Play-based learning

Children at this stage require a curriculum which emphasises play-based learning opportunities that promote engagement with play materials, picture books, building blocks, puzzles, etc. and include teacher-led storytelling, conversations, rhymes, emergent literacy and numeracy activities, outdoor and indoor play. These opportunities will enable children to acquire not only the right foundation for development of skills prioritised for the 21st century, i.e. creativity, critical thinking, communication, collaboration and self-confidence, but also an abiding interest in lifelong learning.

The second issue is the rigid structure of the primary grades' curriculum, which changes annually with every grade, thus providing little or no opportunity for children to revisit the previous year's curriculum. This rigidity comes possibly from a mistaken assumption made by curriculum framers that all children enter pre-school or a school grade at the prescribed age and move annually into the next grade, so that each grade is age-wise homogeneous; the reality is very different. Children tend to follow multiple pathways in these early years and it is difficult to predict at what age a child will be in which grade. Participation trends tend to stabilise only by the time children are around eight years old, when most come into the primary stage, often still in different grades. This leads to multi-age, multi-level composition at each level. Since age is a significant factor in learning, this diversity creates incompatibility with the given grade-wise curriculum and creates learning gaps for many children. This rigidity of the grade structure leads to cumulative learning deficits in children over time.

The foundational stage can address this rigidity, but for this the requirement would be to develop a progressive curriculum upward from pre-school to primary stage. Further, it has to be in a spiral, not linear, mode with adequate flexibility to enable children to revisit concepts and learn at their own pace. Most importantly, basing the curriculum on play-based, developmentally appropriate content and pedagogy will help children to develop holistically and enjoy the learning process, an imperative for not only school learning but learning for life.

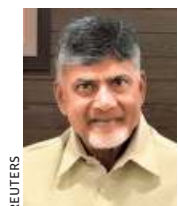
Venita Kaul is professor emerita, education, Ambedkar University, Delhi

SINGLE FILE

A leader in his labyrinth

The road ahead seems to be a bumpy one for Nara Chandrababu Naidu

SATYA NAAGESH AYYAGARY



This is not a political epitaph or obituary of Nara Chandrababu Naidu or his Telugu Desam Party (TDP). Not yet.

After a four-decade autobahn-like cruise – albeit with a few potholes that he has deftly navigated – the road ahead seems to be a bumpy one for this shrewd politician who has seen more crests than troughs. But this time, the trough appears to be a deep gorge.

Here's why. First, with just 23 seats, 'Team Naidu' is too small to offer even a semblance of opposition to the new Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy, leader of the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP).

Second, Mr. Naidu's TDP – a party he recast and remodelled, from the original version founded by his father-in-law and iconic Telugu film hero Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao, after a revolt – has no 'No. 2' by design. What was a tactical move taken almost a quarter century ago became a rule, and has now turned into the proverbial albatross around Mr. Naidu's neck.

However, Mr. Naidu is known to bounce back. The self-styled CEO in the undivided Andhra Pradesh had a nine-year reign in the zenith of his career – he was even a king-maker during the coalition politics-era of the 1990s at the national level. Defeated in 2004 by his friend-turned-foe Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy (YSR) of the Congress, Mr. Naidu had to be content being the Leader of the Opposition. Nonetheless, he rode back to power in the residual Andhra Pradesh after a decade's wait, aided by a mix of political factors – anger among anti-Congress Andhra Pradesh voters peeved at the State's bifurcation; an almost non-existent BJP; and a YSRCP still in its fledgling state.

Almost five years later, Mr. Jaganmohan Reddy has the State's reins. His campaign promise of the return of *Rajanna Rajyam* (YSR's rule, marked by hugely popular welfare policies) with his *Navaratnalu* (nine jewels) covering all sections of the society is what voters bought into. Within days of assuming office, he announced 'Rythu Bharosa', a direct payment scheme covering both landed and tenant farmers and more than tripled the honorarium for thousands of Aasha health workers from ₹3,000 per month to ₹10,000 per month. Further, he has hiked old-age pensions and provided employment to 1.6 lakh village volunteers to oversee corruption-free delivery of welfare schemes. All these constitute the elements of a welfare state.

In this difficult-to-emulate scenario, a resurgence of Mr. Naidu appears distant. The reason? Though in sound health, he is 69. His heir apparent – son Nara Lokesh – turned out to be a huge disappointment. Further, there's no other acceptable leader in the TDP to take the party forward as he never let anyone grow, a factor endemic in many one-man driven parties. So, Mr. Naidu and TDP have little chance of a third innings in the near future.

The writer is Editorial Consultant, The Hindu, based in Hyderabad



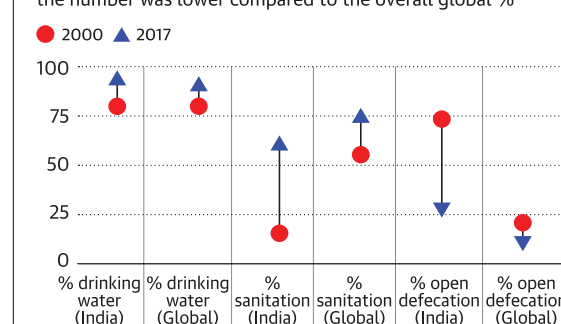
DATA POINT

Down to the basics

Between 2000 and 2017, India, like many other nations, has been able to provide access to drinking water and better sanitation facilities to a larger percentage of the population. With a push from Swachh Bharat, open defecation has dropped drastically. However, demographic inequalities persist. By Varun B. Krishnan

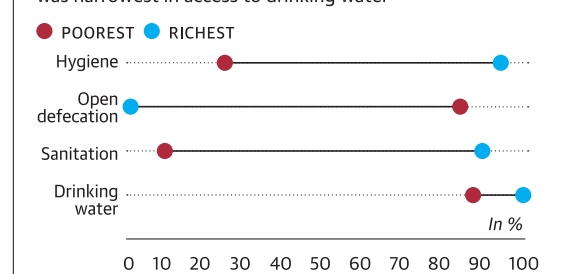
Better over time

About 60% of India's population had access to basic sanitation in 2017 compared to just 16% in 2000. However, the number was lower compared to the overall global %.



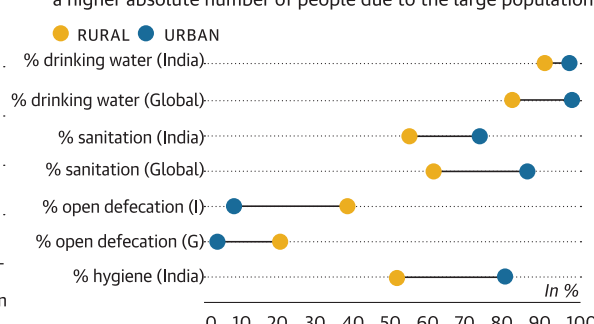
Poorer people are worse off

Gaps between the rich and poor are stark in India, with 82% in the poorest quintile still defecating in the open. The gap was narrowest in access to drinking water



Demographic divide

India's rural-urban disparity is less compared to the global average; but in India's case, percentage differences translate to a higher absolute number of people due to the large population



Regional differences

A much smaller percentage of people in Sub-Saharan Africa have access to basic drinking water and basic sanitation facilities. India is part of Central & Southern Asia

Region	% with access to basic drinking water	% with access to basic sanitation
Sub-Saharan Africa	61	31
N. Africa and W. Asia	92	88
Latin America & Caribbean	97	87
East and South-East Asia	93	84
Central & Southern Asia	99	61

Source: Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (UNICEF & WHO)

FROM The Hindu. ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 25, 1969

Riot, arson in Hyderabad

Army Units were called out here [Hyderabad] to-day [June 24] to help the police disperse violent Telengana agitators who attacked a hotel and a police station near the Abdis circle. When the crowd became unruly the police made a lathi-charge and fired tear-gas shells. Over a dozen persons were injured, two of them seriously in the lathi-charge. The agitation for a separate Telengana reached a crescendo to-day [June 24] when thousands of demonstrators courted arrest in the twin cities and in Telengana districts. In the twin cities alone 3,221 people including 237 women were arrested to-day [June 24]. Wherever one went in Hyderabad city, one could see lorries jam-packed with slogan-shouting Telengana agitators. The Telengana Praja Samiti in a Press note claimed that 50,000 people including 12,000 women and 17,000 students offered satyagraha in 236 places in the nine Telengana districts.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 25, 1919

Serious Railway Collision. Very Heavy Casualties.

The 'Leader' [in Allahabad] understands that in Ferozabad accident the names of drivers killed are Mr. Whitting of passenger train and Ramzan of goods train. The guard of the goods train injured is Mr. Pritchard. Other company servants killed and injured were Indians. The 10 passengers injured included Guard D'Silva and four members of his family, one other member, a child having just escaped. Guard D'Silva was on leave at the time. They have been removed to Tundla railway hospital. Other injured passengers are detained at Ferozabad civil hospital. At 2:30 p.m. on Saturday through running was resumed on this section of line as a result of completion of diversion. The accident occurred owing to an error in the handing of tokens at Ferozabad station.

CONCEPTUAL

Medical students' syndrome

PSYCHOLOGY

Also known as the intern's syndrome or the medical school syndrome, this refers to a phenomenon wherein students of medicine who learn about a new disease may begin to think that they suffer from its symptoms. They may even feel that they are at increased risk of contracting it. Some have argued that while medical students may not be predisposed to this syndrome, they may be more prone to its effects simply because they have much easier access to study about different medical conditions than others. Studies, however, have shown mixed results as to the prevalence of the syndrome among medical students.

MORE ON THE WEB

How the Indian cricket team's jersey has changed over the years
<http://bit.ly/IndiaCricketKit>

FROM PAGE ONE

6 arrested in Jharkhand mob lynching case

"We don't know who were exactly involved, as the video footage is not clear. During investigation, if complicity of any person comes to our notice, he will be taken to task," he said.

Police said Tabrez was working in Pune as a daily wagger and had come to his village for some work.

Asked if the victim was forced to chant, "Jai Sriram and Jai Hanuman", Kuldip Dwivedi, Deputy Inspector General of Police of Kolhan Range, said, "The investigation is going on. At this moment, it is premature to give any comment. But we are looking into all aspects of the incident."

Lynching factory: Azad
Raising the issue in the Rajya Sabha on Monday, senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad said Jharkhand had become a factory of "mob lynchings and violence" where Muslims and Dalits were lynched and attacked routinely.

Mr. Azad said the Prime

Minister should consider dismissing the parliamentarian who glorified the killer of Mahatma Gandhi before October 2, his birth anniversary.

Mr. Azad said, "Keep your New India to yourself but return our old India where there was a culture of love and...where there was no lynching and no hatred...where Hindus and Muslims used to feel the pain of each other."

Outside the Rajya Sabha, other Opposition leaders also slammed the BJP on the Jharkhand lynching.

AIMIM leader Asaddudin Owaisi said that the incidents of mob lynching are not going to stop in the country.

"The BJP and the RSS have successfully created a mindset where Muslims are seen as terrorists, anti-nationals and cow slaughterers," the AIMIM leader said.

The incident highlights the "dubious character" of the NDA regime, CPI leader D. Raja said.

Mayawati snubs SP, to go it alone in future

But the SP's "behaviour" after the general election compelled the BSP to wonder whether it would be possible to defeat the BJP in future, she said. "It is not possible," asserted Ms. Mayawati, a former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

Her announcement came a day after the BSP held a meeting in Lucknow, at which Ms. Mayawati tightened her family's grip on the party. She appointed her younger brother Anand

Kumar as vice-president and his son Aakash Anand as a national coordinator, going against her stand against dynastic politics.

Ms. Mayawati told party workers that they should focus on strengthening the organisation and increasing the mass base through *bhaichara*, a reference to a coalition of disparate castes. In 2007, Ms. Mayawati's victory in Uttar Pradesh was attributed to this social engineering.

RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya quits

The outspoken Deputy Governor, who was in charge of the monetary policy department and hence a part of the six-member monetary policy committee (MPC), stirred up a hornets' nest in October last when he said, "Governments that do not respect central bank's independence will sooner or later incur the wrath of financial markets."

His comments were made in the context of a wide range of differences between the government and the RBI which became evident in the subsequent weeks and which led to the resignation of the then Governor, Urjit Patel, in December.

Interestingly, Mr. Patel also cited personal reasons

when he resigned.

Mr. Acharya's decision has not surprised many as his differences with the government over several issues came to the public domain. He was appointed in January 2017 on a three-year term.

An inflation hawk, he voted against a reduction in interest rate in the February and April monetary policy reviews, while four other members, including RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, voted in favour. Mr. Das, who chaired his first policy review meeting in February, succeeded Mr. Patel in December.

Monetary policy is expected to be more dovish with Mr. Acharya's exit, economists said.

It's early to count India out of RCEP, says Centre

While Mr. Mahathir's messaging may have been bluntly put, others in the grouping have been nudging India to show progress on RCEP negotiations in time for a proposed final declaration in November this year.

Last year, the government had been able to negotiate for time on RCEP, given elections were due to be held in India, Indonesia, Thailand and Australia between March and May this year.

"With the elections done, we expect the pressure to be ratcheted up by ASEAN countries to conclude the negotiations, and India will need to make a choice quite soon," said a diplomat privy to the negotiations.

In their Bangkok declaration on Sunday, ASEAN leaders stated their "strong commitment" to concluding RCEP negotiations, adding that ASEAN partners like India must "prioritise RCEP negotiations and work with ASEAN to conclude the

RCEP negotiations within this year."

Last week, Singapore's Minister of Communication & Information and Minister-in-Charge of Trade Relations S. Iswaran said during a visit to Delhi that India must not stay out of the agreement.

"India can ask itself, if it is better off inside such an agreement or outside such an agreement from business and also from a geopolitical point of view...if India is not part of it, I think it will be a loss."

Apart from giving up the first mover's advantage, India would give up the chance to frame the grouping's rules and investment standards if it fails to join RCEP, say diplomats.

Meanwhile the Chinese government also reached out to the government, sending a delegation led by Vice Minister for Commerce Wang Shouwen for talks with Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan earlier this month.

Debate begins in Lok Sabha on a combative note

Minister Sarangi opens salvo alleging 'false narrative' against PM; Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury calls Modi a 'salesman'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Opening the debate on the President's Address in the Lok Sabha on Monday, first-time MP and Minister Pratap Sarangi described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a rare statesman and nation builder. He asked the Opposition to "apologise for building a false narrative against Mr. Modi" during the election.

Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury hit back, calling Mr. Modi a "big salesman", and said many of the government's claims were a "travesty of the truth".

Credit-taking

For most parts of the first half of the Motion of Thanks to the President, members of the Treasury and Opposition Benches were engaged in competitive credit-taking, each side claiming credit for India's achievements.

Mr. Sarangi, who broke into Sanskrit, Odia and Bangla while mainly speaking in Hindi and English, recited *shlokas* and poems in his

scathing attack on the United Progress Alliance and the Congress.

The Prime Minister listened to Mr. Sarangi with attention, especially when he recited a story from the Ramayana to relate to contemporary politics.

Strong leader

Mr. Sarangi said the UPA's tenure was not only "full of corruption" and "misrule" but it also taught the importance of a strong leader as "policy paralysis had become the norm when there was an accidental Prime Minister".

The Minister said people rejected the *milavat* (adulterated) and accepted the pure, referring to the grand alliance of the Opposition in Uttar Pradesh which came together only to defeat Mr. Modi.

Mr. Sarangi questioned why a section of the Opposition demanded proof of the Balakot strikes and stood with the *tukde-tukde* (those favouring breaking up India) gang.

Mr. Chowdhury led the



Flamboyance to the fore: Minister Pratap Sarangi laced his speech with *shlokas* and poems in multiple languages, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi listened. ■PTI

charge against the government, and said Prime Minister Modi was a successful salesman. "Our Prime Minister is a very big salesman. We [Congress] have been unable to sell our product. That is why we lost [the Lok Sabha election]," he said.

There were heated exchanges when the Congress leader took a swipe at Mr. Sa-

rangi by stating that "the Minister had crossed every limit in his praise of Mr. Modi." This comment invited sharp reactions from the Treasury benches which referred to the "India is Indira, Indira is India" slogan during Indira Gandhi's tenure as Prime Minister.

Mr. Chowdhury rebutted but his exact reference has

been expunged by the Speaker as an unparliamentary reference.

Drought relief

The Congress leader said while almost half of the country was reeling under drought-like conditions, BJP MPs did not take any step to provide relief to the people. "They think that praising

Water crisis finds an echo in Rajya Sabha

MPs urge Centre to find a solution

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The issue of the drinking water crisis in various parts of the country was raised by several members in the Rajya Sabha on Monday.

During Zero Hour, Satyanarayan Jatiya of the BJP said the water shortage had become a major problem in parts of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand.

Permanent solution

Mr. Jatiya urged the government to come up with a permanent solution, and suggested that the five major river-linking projects be implemented to maximise water use for drinking and irrigation.

His party colleague Ashok Bajpai seconded him, citing a NITI Aayog report on the impending water crisis



in the country.

Saroj Pandey, another BJP member, called for sensitising the people to the need for harvesting rainwater to recharge the groundwater table. Rewati Raman Singh of the Samajwadi Party also urged the government to intervene immediately.

Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu said he was willing to allow a discussion on the issue if notice was given after consultations.

Govt. bringing back artefacts from abroad

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government is in the process of bringing back 40 artefacts, including 27 from Tamil Nadu, that had been taken to different countries illegally, the Lok Sabha was informed on Monday.

Answering a question by M.K. Raghavan, Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel said the government was working on bringing back 40 artefacts from Switzerland, Australia, the United Arab Emirates, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Bangladesh, Singapore and the United States.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The draft National Education Policy proposes flexibility in language choice even while "reaffirming the importance of implementing the extant three-language formula in letter and spirit", Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank told the Lok Sabha on Monday.

He was responding to a starred question from Asaddudin Owaisi of the AIMIM and Pritam Gopinathrao Munde of the BJP on whether the government proposed to implement a compulsory three-language formula and

Afraid of BJP's 'New India': Azad

'A party may win elections on divisive policies, but the nation stood defeated'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad said on Monday that the party did not want a "New India" where humans were afraid of humans, but an "Old India" devoid of hate, anger, lynching and mob violence.

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha during the debate on the President's Address, he said the Prime Minister should consider dismissing the parliamentarian who glorified the killer of Mahatma Gandhi before October 2, his birth anniversary.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi listened with rapt attention to Mr. Azad's 40-minute speech.

"My tongue will burn... I cannot repeat the remarks... I have a complaint to the Prime Minister. Why didn't you take action? Mahatma Gandhi may have been Congress president, but he was



Ghulam Nabi Azad

the Father of the Nation... It doesn't make any difference to us, but this is a blot on the face of the ruling party that cannot be wiped out," Mr. Azad said without naming Pragna Singh Thakur, the 2008 Malegaon blast accused who was elected from Bhopal.

He said big fraudsters like Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi fled to London. "Smaller crooks joined the ruling party."

Launching a scathing attack on the government and its policies, Mr. Azad said a party could win elections on divisive policies, but the "nation stood defeated."

Crimes against women

He said rapes, including heinous crimes against minors, were at an all-time high. "*Beti Padhao* and *Beti Bachao*" were just slogans.

He urged the government to ensure 50% reservation for women in Parliament where it had absolute majority.

Earlier, working president of the BJP Jagat Prakash Nadra said the Opposition should introspect if they were on the right path.

"We should agree to disagree, but the disagreement shouldn't be to destruct the proceedings of Parliament."

Responding to this, Mr. Azad said, "even if we have to stay in the Opposition for

a thousand years, we will not follow your path."

Naga talks

Ranjan Daimary of the Bodoland People Front, an ally of the BJP, delivered his speech in the Bodo language, which he said was 2,000 years old and one not many would have heard in Parliament.

He questioned the role of interlocutors appointed by the Centre to hold talks with various insurgent groups in the Northeast.

"Final settlement with NSCN [Naga peace deal] is still not there. Interlocutors occupy office, stay in five star hotels, but have failed to solve any insurgency-related issue in all these years."

Manoj Jha of the Rashtriya Janata Dal said, "Mandate is not a license to decimate constitutional propriety and core governance issues. Mandate is to take everybody along."

Open mind on language policy: Centre

Says suggestions from the public will be accepted until the end of the month

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The draft National Education Policy proposes flexibility in language choice even while "reaffirming the importance of implementing the extant three-language formula in letter and spirit", Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank told the Lok Sabha on Monday.

He was responding to a starred question from Asaddudin Owaisi of the AIMIM and Pritam Gopinathrao Munde of the BJP on whether the government proposed to implement a compulsory three-language formula and



RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK
Union Human Resource Development Minister

make Hindi a compulsory subject in all States.

During Question Hour, Mr. Owaisi accused the Minister of "deliberately misleading" the House and "running away from the truth" in his answer. "The pointed question asked was, 'Are you going to make Hindi compulsory?' Is the Hon. Mi-

nister going away from his own education policy," he asked.

DMK MPs attempted to intervene in the debate, seeking reassurance that Hindi teaching would not be made compulsory. "I would like to know whether Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's assurance will be kept up by this govern-

ment or not..." said DMK MP T.R. Baalu.

Mr. Nishank said the policy was only in the draft stage, and the government was open to suggestions from the public until the end of the month. He said the policy would not be finalised until comprehensive consultations were held.

"The government is committed to equal development and promotion of all Indian languages. There will be no imposition of any language in educational institutions, nor discrimination against any language," he said but not specifically mentioning Hindi language teaching.

Aadhaar Bill introduced amid Opposition protests

Law Minister says it will not infringe on privacy and no compulsory compliance will be sought

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The second week of the 17th Lok Sabha saw hectic business on Monday as several key Bills were introduced, as many as 10 questions were asked during Question Hour and the debate on the President's Address got under way.

Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad introduced the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019 in the Lok Sabha on Monday amid protests from Opposition members.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal introduced a Bill



Legislative matters: Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad introducing the Aadhaar Bill in the Lok Sabha. ■PTI

that will allow trusts to set up units in special economic zones (SEZs), while Minister of State for Home Affairs G.

Kishan Reddy moved a Bill to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004, that will allow people living

along the International Border the benefit of reservation in government jobs.

'Defies SC order'

The Aadhaar legislation to replace an ordinance issued in March seeks to impose strict penalties for violation of norms.

Revolutionary Socialist Party leader N.K. Premachandran opposed the Bill on three grounds: it defies an earlier Supreme Court judgment, permits private agencies to store data and violates fundamental rights.

"Aadhaar is in the national interest and it does not in-

fringe privacy ... I want to convince [everyone] that there is no compulsory compliance. SIM cards can be taken with or without Aadhaar," Mr. Prasad told the Lok Sabha.

The Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill, 2019 too seeks to replace an ordinance, promulgated in March by the previous government, that will bring trusts under the definition of a juristic person for the purposes of setting up a unit in SEZs.

The present provisions of the Act do not permit trusts to set up units in SEZs.

IN BRIEF



Jaishankar joins BJP, to contest RS election

AHMEDABAD
External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has been fielded as the BJP candidate for the Rajya Sabha byelection from Gujarat. Jugal Thakur is the other candidate. Two Rajya Sabha seats from the State have fallen vacant following the resignations of Amit Shah and Smriti Irani after their election to the Lok Sabha. Dr. Jaishankar, a former Foreign Secretary, joined the BJP on Monday, a month after taking oath as Cabinet Minister in the Modi government. Both will be filing their nomination papers on Tuesday.

CPI(M) member calls for withdrawal of airport bid

NEW DELHI

CPI(M) member K.K. Ragesh on Monday demanded the withdrawal of the decision to privatise six airports. In the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Ragesh said the Centre had already decided to hand over five airports to Adani Group. The Airports Authority of India and its employees and various States had opposed this move. The member said that soon after the decision, the Kerala government had expressed willingness to take over the Trivandrum Airport and formed a company to do so. But the Centre advised the State to take part in the bid. "It is unfortunate the government was considering the State of Kerala and the Adani Group on the same footing," he said.

IN BRIEF



Congress MP seeks revival of BSNL, MTNL
NEW DELHI
Congress Rajya Sabha member Ripun Bora on Monday raised the issue of delay in the salaries of MTNL and BSNL employees, asking the Centre to take immediate steps to reduce the losses of the two public sector companies and revive them.

EC refuses to disclose Lavasa's dissent note

NEW DELHI
The EC has refused to disclose under the RTI Act the dissent notes of its Commissioner Ashok Lavasa on decisions pertaining to the Prime Minister's speeches which were alleged to have violated the model code, saying the information may "endanger the life or physical safety" of an individual.

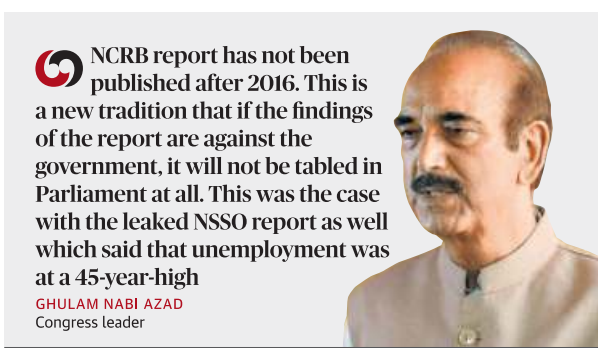
Where is NCRB report, asks Azad

Official says lax response by West Bengal and Bihar led to the delay

VIJAYTA SINGH
NEW DELHI
Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday accused the government of withholding the publication of the annual crime report compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). The annual 'Crime in India' report for the year 2016 was last released in 2017. The reports of 2017 and 2018 are yet to be published.

A senior government official said except two States, 27 others had sent the requisite data for the compilation of the 2017 report. The official said the lackadaisical response by West Bengal and Bihar in sending crime data has also contributed to the indefinite delay in final publication of the report.

"West Bengal finally sent the requisite data in the prescribed format after a lot of persuasion," said the official. Mr. Azad, who is also the



NCRB report has not been published after 2016. This is a new tradition that if the findings of the report are against the government, it will not be tabled in Parliament at all. This was the case with the leaked NSSO report as well which said that unemployment was at a 45-year-high
GHULAM NABI AZAD
Congress leader

Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, said, "The NCRB report has not been published after 2016. This is a new tradition that if the findings of the report are against the government, it will not be tabled in Parliament at all. This was the case with the leaked NSSO report as well which said that unemployment was at a 45-year-high."

Mr. Azad said since the findings of the NSSO report was against the government,

Some of the new categories included were crime against media persons, RTI and social activists, besides persons of Northeast States.

It will also include crimes by saints, khap panchayats, security guards, proclaimed offenders, political party members, illegal immigrants; those committed in schools; those committed by government officials, besides cyber crimes against women and children. For the first time, crimes by Northeast insurgents, Left Wing Extremists and Terrorists will be included too.

"There were several inconsistencies and errors provided by States and Union Territories and they were requested to send correct data. Based on the clarifications provided by the States, data related to 49 crime heads, out of the total 89 has been finalised so far," a status report of the NCRB said.

Many parties, separatists welcome Hurriyat's offer

Ready for talks within the ambit of the Constitution: BJP

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Several mainstream political parties cutting across the ideological divide and separatist groups supported the resumption of dialogue with the Hurriyat, days after Governor Satya Pal Malik welcomed Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq's readiness to hold talks with the Centre on Kashmir.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti welcomed the Hurriyat's new position.

"Better late than never. The underlying purpose of the PDP-BJP alliance was to facilitate dialogue between the Government of India and all the stakeholders. I tried my best to make it happen in my tenure as Chief Minister,



Mehbooba Mufti

but I am relieved that the Hurriyat has finally softened their stand," Ms. Mufti said.

Hold talks: NC
National Conference (NC) president and Srinagar MP Farooq Abdullah said, "If the Governor says 'Hurriyat has agreed to talks', then talks should be held with them."

BJP's national vice-president and J&K affairs in-

charge Avinash Rai Khanna said the Centre was open for a dialogue. "Hurriyat leaders are our own people, they are the residents of J&K. So they are most welcome to talk to us, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but within the ambit of the Indian Constitution," he said in Srinagar.

'Welcome consensus'

"Support for the dialogue process only endorses one point, that the current militaristic approach adopted by the Centre is not a way out to address the Kashmir problem," the Mirwaiz told *The Hindu*. "I think New Delhi should rethink its Kashmir policy and come to the table and involve all the parties. We welcome consensus emerging on dialogue."

Restructuring of Cong. State units starts

Rahul Gandhi to meet leaders this week

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The process of restructuring the Congress State units started on Monday with the All India Congress Committee (AICC) dissolving all its district committees in Uttar Pradesh even as party chief Rahul Gandhi is scheduled to meet leaders and State in-charges of Maharashtra, Haryana and Delhi later this week.

On Monday, a statement from organisational secretary K.C. Venugopal said the AICC had accepted a proposal from the general secretaries of U.P. East and West to disband all committees, appoint a two-member team to oversee the byelections to 11 Assembly seats and constituted a three-member disciplinary committee.

Leader of the Congress in the U.P. Assembly Ajay Kumar Lallu was appointed in-charge of the organisational reshuffle, said the statement.

Mr. Venugopal said the

action was taken based on the proposals given by general secretaries Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Jyotiraditya Scindia, who were in charge of eastern and western Uttar Pradesh, respectively.

The leader to initiate reshuffle in western U.P. is yet to be named by Mr. Scindia.

Though the Congress Working Committee (CWC) on May 25 authorised Mr. Gandhi to restructure the party and the State units, he had refused to do so and instead announced that he would step down from his post.

For almost a month, he had refused to meet any party colleagues but met Chhatishgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and in-charge P.L. Punia last week to analyse the poll results.

On June 27, he is scheduled to meet leaders from Haryana and Maharashtra where elections are likely around October. A day later, he will meet the Delhi unit.

Passports with advanced security features soon

Chips will be installed in the booklets, says Jaishankar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government is on its way to integrate all the diplomatic missions and posts into the Passport Seva Project shortly. On the occasion of the Passport Seva Divas on Monday, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar said India would soon deliver passport booklets with advanced security features.

"It is noteworthy that the major passport issuing 25 missions and posts have been integrated [into the Passport Seva Project] during this period. We are taking steps to complete integrating all the missions and posts abroad in a time-bound manner which would enable us to deliver passport and passport-related services to our diaspora," said Mr. Jaishankar. The Minister acknowledged the contribution of his predecessor Sushma Swaraj in bringing dynamism in the process of



The Regional Passport Office in Secunderabad. ■ AFP

passport delivery. He said India at present had 505 Passport Seva Kendras of which 412 were Post Office Passport Seva Kendras.

He pointed out that India was on its way to deliver passport booklets with advanced security features being produced at the India Security Press, Nashik. They would have chips installed for security. "We propose to pursue the manufacture of e-passports on priority so

that a new passport booklet with advanced security features can be rolled out."

Mr. Jaishankar thanked the Department of Posts for ensuring availability of Passport Seva Kendras. The Passport Seva Project had been issuing one crore passports a year, according to the government. The Minister acknowledged the role of the police departments in ensuring smooth functioning of the mechanism.

Amarinder says Canada is backing terror

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Monday accused the Canadian government of overt and covert support to the Khalistani movement, citing a 2018 public report released by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) and expressed concern over the fact that anti-India threat-related activities had been on the rise within Canada.

In a statement released here, Capt. Amarinder said the CSIS report pointed out the anti-India activities constituted a threat not only to India but also to Canada. He said support to any kind of violence or terrorism would eventually be devastating for the global community, including nations blatantly backing them.

Capt. Amarinder urged the Centre to take serious cognizance of these reports and disclosures to mount global pressure on Canada.

NHAI to raise ₹5,000 cr. in new bid for toll roads

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) aims at raising nearly ₹5,000 crore in the third round of bidding inviting private players to collect toll and operate roads, according to the government.

The bids for the third phase of toll-operate-transfer (TOT) were invited on June 13 and the last date of submission of bids is September 11. The initial estimated value of the concession is ₹4,995.48 crore, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari told Rajya Sabha on Monday.

These projects are spread across Tamil Nadu, U.P., Bihar and Jharkhand and have a cumulative length of 566 km. They will be given to the selected bidders for 30 years.

The move will help the NHAI to monetise its assets to undertake more projects. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in 2016 had authorised it to monetise public-funded national



The new highway project has a cumulative length of 566 km.

highways projects through the TOT model. Under the programme, selected entities make a one-time lump sum payment in return for long-term toll collection rights.

The first round of bidding for 680 km of roads was conducted in February 2018, following which the concessionaire had deposited ₹9,681.5 crore with the NHAI. The second round was cancelled in February after it received a lukewarm response.

The Minister also rued challenges in land acquisition delaying projects.

BJP gets first ZP in West Bengal

Trinamool members of South Dinajpur civic body switch sides

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI/KOLKATA

The BJP on Monday took control of the South Dinajpur Zilla Parishad in West Bengal from the Trinamool, its first in West Bengal, after a majority of the ruling party members, besides an MLA, switched sides.

In a jolt to the Trinamool in the district, veteran leader Biplab Mitra also joined the BJP.

Mr. Mitra, considered one of the architects of the Trinamool in

the district in north Bengal, was shunted out as the party's district president after the Lok Sabha polls.

Besides Mr. Mitra and 10 of the 18 members of the South Dinajpur Zilla Parishad, Trinamool MLA Wilson Champramary joined the BJP in Delhi.

Mr. Champramary, who represents the Kanchi constituency in Alipurduar district, joined the BJP in the presence of senior leaders, including Mukul Roy,

West Bengal president Dilip Ghosh and national general secretary Kailash Vijarvargiya, who is in charge of its State affairs.

Mr. Champamary is the fifth Trinamool MLA to join the BJP recently. One legislator each of the CPI(M) and the Congress also switched over to the BJP.

Mr. Roy described the joining as an "earthquake", saying almost all members of the zilla parishad, including its chairperson Lipika Roy, were in the BJP now.

Lekhi's debut novel is a political thriller

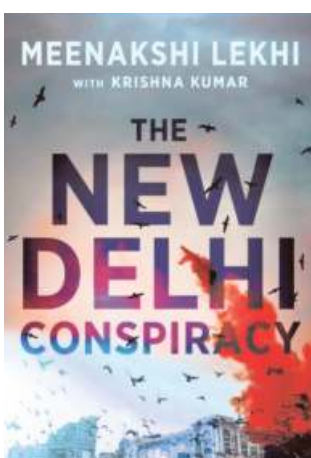
Writing fiction was new and very liberating, says BJP MP

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

The death of a scientist on the doorstep of a woman politician in New Delhi, and his last words about a death threat to the Indian Prime Minister — these are the bare bones of a plot for a crime thriller penned by Meeanakshi Lekhi, BJP MP from New Delhi, to be out on July 8.

The New Delhi Conspiracy, published by Harper Collins, is Ms. Lekhi's first foray into fiction writing and she has co-written the book with Krishna Kumar who works with her. Speaking to *The Hindu* about the book, Ms. Lekhi said that the plot of the story had been with her for a while but that it took a year-and-a-half to finish the novel.

"Usually, my reading or even writing is restricted to blogs on political issues or legal briefs [Ms. Lekhi is a lawyer by profes-



sion], so writing fiction was new and very liberating," she said, adding that the book was full of car chases and scenes set in far-off Hong Kong to Lutyns' Delhi.

"It's a work of fiction although I know that since the protagonist is a woman politician,

people will try to draw inferences to real life. It is a purely fictional distillation of living in Delhi," she said. "It is intriguing, topical and revealing," she added, also aware that readers may try to hunt for real-life people from whom the characters may be drawn from.

Asked whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi had been in the know of the project, Ms. Lekhi replied in the negative, although, she "hoped that he would buy a copy".

The blurb of the book says that the plot revolves around a conspiracy to kill the Prime Minister — named Raghav Mohan in this case — and will see media and tech smart brought in to solve the mystery, along with the woman politician protagonist, Vedika Khanna.

The formal launch of the book will be held after the Parliament session ends on July 26.

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Date: 25-06-2019 General Manager (IPP)

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Director of Research

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NO. GEDCOL/TECH/43/2019/(P-1)/ 400 /Dated: 20.06.2019

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO: 23/2019-20, DATED: 20.06.2019 FOR DEVELOPMENT OF 8 MW SOLAR POWER PLANT AT FIVE (5) DIFFERENT SITES AT OPTCL GRID SUB-STATIONS, OHPCL PROJECT & GEDCOL PROJECT.

GEDCOL (A 100% subsidiary of OHPCL) is planning to develop 8 MW SPP at three (3) different sites at OPTCL's Grid Substations i.e. New Bolangir, Baripada&Jayanagar and one (1) OHPCL project site at Muktiguda and one (1) GEDCOL project site at Mamunda of Odisha State. Sealed tenders are invited by GEDCOL, Bhubaneswar for the following work from eligible bidders.

Description of Work	EMD in Shape of BG only (in Rs.)	Cost of tender document (Non-refundable) (in Rs.)	Target date for Commissioning of project	Availability of tender document in the website	Date & Time of Pre-bid meeting	Last Date & time of submission of tender
Design, engineering, procurement & supply, construction, commissioning and comprehensive operation & maintenance for ten (10) years of grid-connected solar photovoltaic power plants of 8 MW aggregate capacity at three (3) different sites at OPTCL's Grid Sub-stations i.e. New Bolangir, Baripada&Jayanagar and one (1) OHPCL project site at Muktiguda and one (1) GEDCOL project site at Mamunda of Odisha State.	40,00,000/-	11,800/- (10,000 + 18% GST)	180 days after LOI	27.06.2019 To 27.07.2019	18.07.2019 (Tentative)	14.08.2019 up to 3.00 pm & it will be opened at 3.30 pm of Same date

For detail tender call notice, please visit website: www.gedcol.com of GEDCOL. Future addendum/corrigendum related to this tender will be available only in the website of GEDCOL. Tender papers can only be downloaded from the website and submitted along with the tender cost. For and on behalf of GEDCOL

04012/11/0002/1920 Sr. General Manager (E.I.)

Sanctions slapped on Iran's Khamenei

They will deny him and other top Iranian officials access to financial resources: U.S. President

REUTERS

WASHINGTON/RIYADH

U.S. President Donald Trump targeted Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other senior Iranian officials with new U.S. sanctions on Monday, looking for a fresh blow to Iran's economy after Tehran's downing of an unmanned American drone.

With tensions running high between the two countries, Mr. Trump signed an executive order imposing the sanctions, which U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said would lock billions of dollars more in Iranian assets.

Mr. Trump told reporters that the sanctions were in part a response to last week's downing of a U.S. drone by Iran, but would have happened anyway. He said Khamenei was ultimately responsible for what Mr. Trump called "the hostile conduct of the regime" in West Asia.

"Sanctions imposed through the executive order ... will deny the Supreme Leader and the Supreme Leader's office, and those closely affiliated with him and the office, access to key financial resources and support," Mr. Trump said.

The sanctions are aimed at denying Iran's leadership access to financial resources, blocking them from using the United States financial system or having access to any assets in the United States.

"Anybody who conducts significant transactions with these sanctioned individuals may be exposed to sanctions themselves," the White House said.

Some policy analysts say that earlier sanctions issued under Mr. Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign are why Iran has felt compelled to adopt more aggressive



President Donald Trump signs an executive order, imposing new sanctions on Iran on Monday. Secretary of Treasury Steven Mnuchin, left, and Vice-President Mike Pence look on. *AFP

tive tactics as its economy feels the crunch. The Trump administration wants to force Tehran to open talks on its nuclear and missile programmes and its activities in the region.

Tensions between the United States and Iran have grown since May when Washington ordered all countries to halt imports of Iranian oil. Iran says it will not be forced to the negotiating table.

Negotiating table

"We call on the regime to abandon its nuclear ambitions, change its destructive behaviour, respect the rights of its people, and return in good faith to the negotiating table," Mr. Trump said in a statement issued along with the text of the executive order.

Iranian authorities contacted by Reuters were not immediately available to comment on Mr. Trump's announcement.

Iran's headline semi-official Tasnim and Fars news agencies said the sanctions imposed on Tehran were based on "fabricated excuses."

Mr. Mnuchin said Iranian Foreign Minister Moham-

mad Javad Zarif would be targeted with U.S. sanctions later this week.

Senior commanders

Sanctions were also imposed on eight senior commanders of the Navy, the Aerospace, and the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), the U.S. Treasury Department said.

"These commanders sit atop a bureaucracy that supervises the IRGC's malicious regional activities, including its provocative ballistic missile programme, harassment and sabotage of commercial vessels in international waters, and its destabilising presence in Syria," the Department said in a statement.

Mr. Trump said the sanctions are a "strong and proportionate response to Iran's increasingly provocative actions." "We will continue to increase pressure on Tehran until the regime abandons its dangerous activities and its aspirations," he said.

Washington has blamed Tehran for attacks on tankers in the Gulf in recent weeks, which Iran denies. On Monday, the United States said it was building a

coalition with allies to protect Gulf shipping lanes.

A coalition of nations would provide both material and financial contributions to the programme, a senior U.S. State Department official said, without identifying the countries. "It's about proactive deterrence, because the Iranians just want to go out and do what they want to do and say they didn't do it. We know what they've done," the official told reporters, adding that the deterrents would include cameras, binoculars and ships.

In a joint statement on Monday, the United States, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Britain expressed concern over West Asia tensions and the dangers posed by Iranian "destabilising activity" to peace and security in Yemen and the region.

Allies of the United States have been calling for steps to defuse the crisis.

"We are very concerned. We don't think either side wants a war, but we are very concerned that we could get into an accidental war and we are doing everything we can to ratchet things down," British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said.

Cyberattacks failed: Tehran

REUTERS

JEDDAH

Iran said on Monday that the U.S. cyberattacks on its military had failed.

"They try hard, but have not carried out a successful attack," Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi, Iran's Minister for Information and Communications Technology, said on Twitter. "Last year we neutralised 33 million attacks with the (national) firewall."

Meanwhile, Hesameddin Ashena, an adviser to President Hassan Rouhani, tweeted a rare suggestion that Iran could be willing to discuss new concessions, if Washington were to lift sanctions and offer new incentives.

Pompeo meets Saudi King

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

JEDDAH

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo held talks on Monday with Saudi leaders ahead of new sanctions on Iran.

Mr. Pompeo met Saudi King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Jeddah. He was later due to hold talks in the United Arab Emirates, U.S. officials said.

Mr. Pompeo described Saudi Arabia and the UAE as "two great allies in the challenge that Iran presents." "We'll be talking with them about how to make sure that we are all strategically aligned and how we can build out a global coalition," he said.

Pak. blacklisting absolutely a possibility: FATF president

It lacks in almost every respect of action plan, says Billingslea

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

WASHINGTON DC

There is "absolutely a possibility" that Pakistan could be on its blacklist after the international financial watchdog's next meeting in October in Paris, the outgoing president of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Marshall Billingslea, said on Friday. The comments were made at a press briefing at the end of the FATF plenary held in Orlando, Florida, an audio call of which was released to the press on Monday morning.

Pakistan had "significant" work to do and was, with regard to an action plan agreed in June 2018, "lacking in almost every respect", Mr. Billingslea said.

"Pakistan was cautioned in February at the plenary that they had missed almost all of their January milestones. And they were urged to not fail to meet the milestones in May. Unfortunately, Pakistan has yet again missed its May milestones," he added.

"Now the action plan itself is set to complete in September. So this [the June 16-21 Orlando plenary] was not the plenary where we would discuss a blacklisting issue. This was the plenary where we examine how far and how far behind Pakistan is on its action plan ... and I must say they are far behind," Mr. Billingslea said.

"There is much that must be done by September. If they fail to implement the action plan by September then the FATF has made clear that we will consider



Marshall Billingslea

next steps."

China, Turkey, Malaysia, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Cooperation Council were among those at the Orlando plenary who had asked that Pakistan be given more time to comply with the action plan, *The Hindu* had reported over the weekend.

Getting on the FATF blacklist, which currently only has Iran and North Korea on it, could severely cripple and isolate a country financially, resulting in a downgraded credit rating and denying it loans and development assistance.

Mr. Billingslea said he did not want to specify or pre-judge outcomes and that this was his last plenary as President of the FATF, but reiterated that Pakistan had much work to do if it was going to meet the action plan requirements.

Not responsive enough

In response to a question on whether Pakistan's Central bank had enough regulatory measures in place and concerns about the grey economy in the country, Mr. Billingslea said that Pakistan did not adequately appreciate the transnational terror financing risks.

"... Pakistan does not either appreciate or chooses not to acknowledge the transnational, trans-border terrorist financing risk they face.

Even though they did issue an addendum, an annex, to their national risk assessment following the February discussion. There are also a number of other structural and legal changes that have to be undertaken, including successful prosecution of terrorist financing cases," he said.

India had been pushing for Pakistan to get on the FATF blacklist for its failure to take "credible, verifiable, irreversible and sustainable measures" against terrorist activities.

Mr. Billingslea said, in response to a question on Pakistan having the capacity to meet its milestones, that if they did not currently have the capacity, they are expected to generate it, and soon, in order to meet their targets.

IMF decision

He said that any conditionality associated with Pakistan's loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) would not automatically have a connection to the FATF outcomes, although the IMF could choose to link the two. The U.S. has been pushing for a conditionality on an approximately \$6 billion IMF loan to Pakistan, agreed in May.

"So the IMF is an observer organisation to the Financial Action Task Force and so they have complete visibility into everything that occurs within the task force, including a very detailed understanding of what the Pakistani action plan is. The decision however, to condition fund disbursement under an IMF programme based on structural benchmarks that might be associated with the Financial Action Task Force is purely an IMF decision," he said.

Modi, Xi and Putin to have trilateral summit at G-20

The meeting is of great significance, says Chinese official

ATUL ANEJA

BEIJING

China on Monday confirmed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin will hold their second trilateral summit in Osaka, Japan, during the G-20 summit later this week.

During a media briefing on the two-day G-20 summit that begins on June 28, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs Zhang Jun said the meeting of the three leaders, who had recently met at Bishkek at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit, was of "great significance". He also signalled that the top-level trilateral mechanism of Russia, India

and China (RIC) had now become institutionalised.

"Indeed, during the Osaka summit, the leaders of China, Russia and India will have a trilateral meeting. The mechanism of the trilateral meeting has maintained a sound momentum of development," Mr. Zhang said.

"Last year, during the Buenos Aires G-20 summit, the leaders had a meeting. And this time, given the current international landscape, the meeting of the three leaders is also of great significance," he said, responding to a question.

Without naming the U.S., the Chinese diplomat stressed that ahead of the summit, the "international community has fully recog-

nised the repercussions of unilateralism, protectionism and bullying practices".

China's Vice-Minister of Commerce Wang Shouwen, who also briefed the media, asserted, in reference to Washington, that "some individual country has been insisting on unilateralism, protectionism, abusing trade remedial measures (and) national security exceptionalism. That country has slapped tariffs on its trading partners, causing major threat to global trade, investment and economic growth".

The trio will meet again in September in Vladivostok for the Eastern Economic Forum, where Mr. Modi will be the chief guest.

Fatal fall



Onlookers gather around a train that careened off a railway bridge at Kulaura in Moulvibazar district of Bangladesh late on Sunday. Five people were killed and more than 100 injured after two coaches fell into the canal, and three more toppled next to the track. *REUTERS

Palestinians reject U.S.-Bahrain peace plan

Say it is mum on Israeli occupation

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MANAMA

The Palestinians on Monday vowed to reject a U.S.-led peace initiative to be presented in Bahrain that dangles the prospect of \$50 billion as an Israeli envoy bluntly told them they should "surrender".

Finance chiefs from the U.S., oil-rich Arab states and international development institutions were flying to the tiny kingdom, which in a rarity is openly welcoming Israelis, who have forged an indirect alliance with Gulf rulers due to mutual hostility with Iran.

Led by President Donald Trump's son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner, the Peace to Prosperity economic workshop that begins Tuesday evening is billed as

the start of a new approach that will later include political solutions to the long intractable West Asian conflict.

It proposes raising more than \$50 billion in fresh investment for the Palestinians and their Arab neighbours with major projects to boost infrastructure, education, tourism and cross-border trade.

The Palestinian Authority is boycotting the workshop, denouncing the plan for saying nothing about ending the Israeli occupation. President Mahmud Abbas has said the Palestinians "will not be slaves or servants" of Mr. Kushner or other Trump aides. "For America to turn the whole cause from a political issue into an economic one, we cannot accept this."

IN BRIEF



Two pulled alive from Cambodia building rubble

SIHANOUKVILLE

Two men were pulled alive from the rubble of a collapsed Cambodian building on Monday, more than two days after a construction site accident that left at least 28 dead. The seven-storey Chinese-owned building folded in on itself before dawn on Saturday. *AFP

Pakistan receives \$3 billion from Qatar

ISLAMABAD/DOHA

Cash-strapped Pakistan on Monday secured a bailout package of USD 3 billion from Qatar, a day after Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad concluded his visit to Islamabad and agreed to cooperate in the fields of trade, anti-money laundering and curbing terror financing. *PTI

Erdogan weakened by party's loss in Istanbul election

Opposition candidate Ekrem Imamoglu won the mayoral re-poll with 54% of the vote against the ruling AKP's 45%

CARLOTTA GALL

ISTANBUL

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey was confronting recriminations within his governing party and the wider circle of his supporters on Monday as the scale of the defeat of his candidate in the Istanbul mayoral race became clear.

The Opposition candidate, Ekrem Imamoglu, emerged as the landslide winner of the mayoral election redo against Mr. Erdogan's candidate, Binali Yildirim, according to preliminary results announced on Monday by Sadi Guven, the head of the High Election Council, confirming a significant defeat for the governing party.

Mr. Erdogan will now have his hands full in containing the fallout from the electoral defeat, the biggest of his political career, which came after his disastrous decision to

push for a rerun of the mayoral election following Mr. Imamoglu's victory in the first vote, in March.

The loss was a stinging one for Mr. Erdogan. Istanbul is his hometown, and his Justice and Development Party (AKP) has dominated the city for 25 years, but anger over his decision to pursue a new vote and frustration over a weakening economy took their toll, even as he has sought to crack down on the opposition.

Bigger margin

"Earthquake at the ballot box," ran the front-page headline of *Karar* newspaper, which was founded by three years ago by journalists who had once been close to the AKP government.

In the election, held Sunday, Mr. Imamoglu won with 54% of the vote, compared with 45% for his opponent,



United we stand: Ekrem Imamoglu celebrating with thousands of supporters in Istanbul on Sunday. *AFP

Mr. Guven said. The margin of victory for Mr. Imamoglu was larger than in the March election - he won by more than 8,00,000 votes, compared with a slim, 13,000-vote victory in the first ballot - as was turnout, up 1 percentage point, at 84%.

The official results will be

that is frequently critical of Mr. Erdogan, announced on its front page. "Istanbul made its choice," ran the headlines in three main pro-government newspapers.

Complaints had already been building within Mr. Erdogan's party after its loss in the March election and the subsequent cancellation of that vote.

The largest challenge for Mr. Erdogan is a movement led by a former AKP president, Abdullah Gul, and a former Finance Minister, Ali Babacan, to form a breakaway party. Both men support many of the ideals of the AKP, notably conservative pro-market policies with social support for the party's lower-income political base.

Mr. Erdogan is likely to seek some changes, in part to weaken any challenge from the breakaway group, but that could destabilise his al-

liance with Devlet Bahceli and the Nationalist Movement Party, which he has relied on to secure the presidency and a majority in Parliament.

High stakes

The Istanbul Mayor's race may seem relatively unimportant in the context of a national leader, but the stakes - and the risks - for Mr. Erdogan going forward are high, because his party has relied on financing from supporters in the business world and companies that have benefited from municipal contracts.

Now, not only has Mr. Erdogan lost access to that source, but Mr. Imamoglu will have access to records that seem likely to detail potentially embarrassing cronyism and wasteful spending that have benefited the president's supporters. *NYTIMES

Sri Lanka official faces charges

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's most senior defence official on Monday became the latest government figure to face possible criminal charges over "major lapses" linked to the Easter Sunday bombings that killed 258 people and injured more than 500.

Hemasiri Fernando, who was Defence Secretary before the April 21 bombing of three churches and three hotels in the island nation, should be investigated for his failure to prevent or minimise the attacks, Attorney General Dappula de Livera said.

The Attorney General said in a letter to Sri Lanka's acting police chief that a presidential commission of inquiry had found "major lapses" by Mr. Fernando, who has since resigned from his top job.

MARKET WATCH

	24-06-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	39,123	-0.18
US Dollar	69.35	0.33
Gold	34,270	-0.29
Brent oil	64.79	-0.59

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	406.00	4.00
Asian Paints	1376.15	-6.85
Axis Bank	762.85	-8.20
Bajaj Auto	2816.90	-58.65
Bajaj Finserv	8354.65	-37.80
Bajaj Finance	3545.35	-20.50
Bharti Airtel	345.10	1.30
BPLCL	380.85	0.85
Britannia Ind	2780.50	-46.20
Cipla	549.90	-1.65
Coal India	256.75	2.50
Dr Reddys Lab	2513.40	-38.15
Eicher Motors	19098.20	-621.00
GAIL (India)	306.70	-4.90
Grasim Ind	886.65	-11.10
HCL Tech	1077.90	1.65
HDFC	2148.90	8.10
HDFC Bank	2417.95	3.75
Hero MotoCorp	2586.25	-19.75
Hindalco	198.20	0.55
Hind Unilever	1764.45	-2.20
Indiabulls HFL	619.10	7.10
ICICI Bank	429.45	-1.35
IndusInd Bank	1461.55	12.90
Bharti Infratel	272.80	-2.55
Infosys	745.50	-4.70
Indian Oil Corp	152.05	-1.80
ITC	276.25	2.00
JSW Steel	257.80	-9.35
Kotak Bank	1470.60	-19.20
L&T	1541.00	1.25
M&M	634.85	7.40
Maruti Suzuki	6459.90	42.65
NTPC	135.60	1.05
ONGC	165.20	-5.75
PowerGrid Corp	199.05	-0.85
Reliance Ind	1262.40	-17.10
State Bank	353.20	3.80
Sun Pharma	383.45	0.65
Tata Motors	159.30	0.40
Tata Steel	486.25	-11.40
TCS	2275.50	25.65
Tech Mahindra	728.25	-12.20
Titan	1300.05	7.70
UltraTech Cement	4574.80	-20.35
UPL	936.55	46.45
Vedanta	168.45	-3.95
Wipro	283.90	-1.95
YES Bank	111.95	2.35
Zee Entertainment	341.35	-4.30

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 24

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	69.15	69.47
Euro	78.80	79.17
British Pound	88.20	88.61
Japanese Yen (100)	64.46	64.76
Chinese Yuan	10.05	10.10
Swiss Franc	70.96	71.29
Singapore Dollar	51.07	51.31
Canadian Dollar	52.44	52.69
Malaysian Ringgit	16.69	16.78

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

June 24 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	41.3	(41)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3265	(3237)

Will follow all security norms: Huawei

'Will sign no-back-door-entry pact; will invest more in India if allowed to participate in 5G rollout'

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

Stating that it will comply with any security guidelines proposed by the Indian government, including upcoming data privacy laws and signing a 'no-back door' agreement, Huawei on Monday said it was willing to invest more in India if given a green signal for participating in 5G roll-out.

Stressing that India should take an 'independent' and 'informed' decision, Huawei India CEO Jay Chen said the government should provide a "level playing field" for vendors to participate in the much-awaited 5G trials in the country.

The statement comes a day ahead of the U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's visit to India. The U.S. has



Level field: Huawei also said that other original equipment manufacturers must also sign a no-back door agreement. *AP

banned Huawei over security and espionage-related concerns and has been lobbying with other countries, including India, to ban the telecom major. India is yet to announce its decision over the company's participation in the much-awaited upcom-

ing 5G trials. Mr. Chen said, "We provide the pipe in the form of equipment and we provide the tap in the form of a smartphone etc. What is being transported in this pipe or equipment is up to the operators, content providers... We are like a car ma-

nufacturer... what is being transported by the car on the highway, we don't know. It is up to the police to check it... So guidelines and policy can be formulated by the Indian government and we are ready to comply with everything, including data privacy laws as and when they are finalised."

However, he added, that the company has proposed that the government should ask all the OEMs (original equipment manufacturers) to sign a no-back door agreement. "We agree to it. Other OEMs should also come forward for such an agreement with government and operators," he said. A 'backdoor' refers to getting access to a computer system or data by bypassing the system's in-built security mechanism.

On timing, he said, "As and when they give a 5G green signal, we are willing to work at various places and do more investments in India," he said, adding that it could be in the form of collaborating with Indian startups for 5G use cases, in skill development and for local manufacturing.

"The [Indian government] also understands that it is not a question of cybersecurity but trade war... We have been in India for 20 years... it was about security, we would have been caught. You can't hide in an open world. We have been following all the laws... There is no evidence... just by listening to the U.S., we don't see India taking a decision that will create a trouble for us..." Mr. Chen said.

Little surprise in Acharya's resignation

But exit robs RBI of key perspective

RAGHUVIR SRINIVASAN

Viral Acharya's resignation as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, while unfortunate, is not really a surprise. There are two reasons for this.

First, that thundering speech he delivered as the A.D. Shroff Memorial Lecture on October 26, 2018 where he signed off with the statement: "Governments that do not respect central bank independence will sooner or later incur the wrath of financial markets, ignite economic fire, and come to rue the day they undermined an important regulatory institution..."

Mr. Acharya may have merely spoken what his then boss, Urjit Patel, wanted him to or he may have been disturbed enough to voice his own thoughts, of course with Mr. Patel's prior nod. But the fact is that he had crossed a line in the delicate balance between the central bank and the government. And he had to pay the price for it, only the timing was uncertain.

Second, his position turned weak after Mr. Patel resigned in December last. Not only was Mr. Acharya known to be a confidante of Mr. Patel, he was also a fellow monetary policy hawk and was handpicked by the former Governor to the post he has now resigned from.

That said, Mr. Acharya's resignation is sad because it robs the central bank of an outsider's perspective. His headline monetary policy stance would have been a valuable counterpoint now when the central bank is more tuned to an accommodative stance.

Mr. Acharya's exit is bound to restart the debate over picking foreign-trained economists for top positions



Viral Acharya

in governance. He would be the third such high-profile economist in recent times - after Raghuram Rajan and Urjit Patel - to exit his role under circumstances that are not normal.

COMMENT

There are those who believe that it would be better to back talent from within the RBI and the government as they have a better understanding of factors that are uniquely Indian.

Indeed, some of the most successful central bankers in recent times have been either career officers of the RBI or bureaucrats. S. Venkitaraman, Y.V. Reddy and Duvvuri Subbarao were bureaucrats in their earlier avatar. Another accomplished governor, C. Rangarajan, was an academic. The legendary S.S. Tarapore was a career central banker and so were Usha Thorat and Shyamala Gopinath who had notable tenures as deputy governors.

Thus, a clear frontrunner to succeed Mr. Acharya will be Michael Patra, executive director, and a member of the Monetary Policy Committee. Mr. Patra is a career RBI officer and is as conservative as they come in Mint Street. Appointing him will mean a seamless transition, in every sense of the phrase.

Jet IRP asks creditors to submit claims by July 4

Airline owes over ₹8,000 cr. to lenders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The interim resolution professional (IRP) for Jet Airways has issued a public notice inviting claims from all creditors to the airline to be submitted to him before July 4, 2019.

On June 20, Jet was admitted to the NCLT for bankruptcy proceedings. "The creditors of Jet Airways are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before July 4 to the interim resolution professional. Financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only," Ashish Chhawchharia, partner, Grant Thornton, who has been appointed as the IRP for Jet, said. "All other creditors shall

submit their claims with proof in person, by post or by electronic means, "the notice added. The airline owes over ₹8,000 crore to a consortium of 26 banks led by State Bank of India (SBI), and over ₹13,000 crore to vendors, passengers and employees.

SBI moves NCLAT
Meanwhile, the SBI has filed a caveat at the NCLAT, appealing that the lender should be heard if a party challenges the decision of the NCLT in the case. The move is also due to an intervention application moved by the Netherlands-based operational creditor, which was rejected by the Mumbai bench of NCLT citing lack of cross-border jurisdiction.

Das goes into huddle with RBI management after Acharya exit

RBI Governor seeks to assess impact of deputy's resignation

MANOJIT SAHA
MUMBAI

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das went into a huddle with the central bank's senior management on Monday following the resignation of deputy governor Viral Acharya six months before his term ended.

According to central banking sources, the RBI Governor, along with deputy governors, met the senior management of the central bank to assess the impact of Mr. Acharya's decision. The meeting went on till late in the evening.

Mr. Acharya was an outspoken deputy governor at the central bank and a strong votary of RBI's



Shaktikanta Das

the speech led to the resignation of Governor Urjit Patel in December, who was replaced by Mr. Das.

Merger issue brewing
Another issue that has been brewing in the RBI is the proposal to create a supervisory vertical merging banking, non-banking and co-operative bank supervision, which fall under three separate departments now.

The issue, mooted in the board meeting held in Chennai last month, has not gone down well with many RBI officers.

M.K Jain, the deputy governor for the supervisory departments, will be meeting officials on Tuesday to take feedback on the issue.

+ I-T refund of ₹64,700 crore issued in FY20

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Income Tax department has issued refunds worth ₹64,700 crore in the current fiscal, and for full 2018-19 fiscal the amount released was over ₹1.61 lakh crore, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told the Lok Sabha on Monday.

More than 6.49 crore electronic returns were submitted for the assessment year 2018-19, up 18.65% from over 5.47 crore in assessment year 2017-18. "The government has accorded high priority to issue refunds for all taxpayers, including small taxpayers. Less than 0.5% of income tax returns (ITRs) are selected for scrutiny, the majority are processed expeditiously and refunds are issued."

'Defaulter count in PSBs has risen 60% since FY15'

₹7,654 cr. recovered in the period: FM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The number of wilful defaulters in nationalised banks has increased by more than 60% to 8,582 to March 2019 from 2014-15, the government said on Monday. By the end of the 2014-15 fiscal, the figure had stood at 5,349, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told the Lok Sabha.

A wilful defaulter is an entity or a person that has not paid a loan back despite the ability to repay it.

The Minister was replying to a question as to whether the cases of wilful defaulters of banks have increased in the last five years. Rising consistently since 2014-15, the number of such borrowers increased to 6,575 in 2015-16, 7,079 in 2016-17 and further to 7,535 in 2017-18.



Nirmala Sitharaman

"Wilful defaulters are acted against comprehensively. Moreover... as per RBI's instructions, wilful defaulters are not sanctioned any additional facilities by banks or financial institutions, and their unit is debarred from floating new ventures for five years," she said. An amount of ₹7,654 crore has been recovered from their accounts in the period.

Microsoft VC arm sharpens focus in India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Microsoft will expand its start-up financing initiative in India through its venture capital arm, M12. The VC entity, set up in July 2016, has invested in 80 start-ups across North America, Europe and Israel. However, the programme was made available to entrepreneurs in India only in January this year. Microsoft's M12 has made its first India investment of \$10 million in a healthcare platform start-up, Innovacer. M12 fund focuses on A to C stage funding and the fund size ranges \$2-\$10 million.

Buoyed by India's entrepreneurial potential, the tech major would play a vital role in nurturing the start-up community here, said Anant Maheshwari, president, Microsoft India.

Investors' trading costs may decline with interoperability kicking in next week

Facility allows brokers to use any clearing corporation to settle trades

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR
MUMBAI

Investors could soon see a drop in trading costs if market participants pass on the benefits of interoperability that will kick in from next week.

According to market participants, interoperability between clearing corporations that allows brokers to use any of the clearing corporations to settle their trades, would lower the compliance cost for market intermediaries, which in turn could lower the trading cost for investors.

It would also strengthen the risk management of the capital markets and minimise the potential systemic risk, if in case a particular clearing corporation shuts



down due to a technical glitch, cyberattack or any natural cause, they said. "The efficient allocation of funds would lead to cost-effective trades, and make exchange transactions more affordable," said Vijay Bhushan, president, Association of National Exchange

Members of India (ANMI). Simply put, interoperability allows market participants to consolidate their clearing and settlement functions at a single clearing corporation, irrespective of the stock exchange on which the trade is executed, resulting in a reduction in compliance costs, and thus bringing down the trading costs as well.

Currently, the trade executed on a particular exchange is settled through the exchange's own clearing corporation. This led to a practice wherein broker members had to keep margins with each clearing house as all equity and derivative brokers are members of the BSE and the NSE, along with the Metropolitan Stock Ex-

change of India (MSEI). "Member brokers keep their funds and collateral with high buffer across exchanges and across segments. Under interoperability, they will be able to consolidate and reduce buffer, lowering their overall collateral requirement," said Kunal Sanghavi, chief financial officer, MSEI.

"This is a big plus. Trading members will find it easy on margining," he added. For example, if a broker has a ₹100 crore margin in NSE's clearing corporation, he or she can use that margin to trade on the BSE as well under interoperability. This significant reduction in margin requirements is expected to bring down overall trading costs.

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IN BRIEF


Alembic gets USFDA nod for ophthalmic solution

NEW DELHI
Alembic Pharmaceuticals said it had received approval from the US health regulator for Bromfenac Ophthalmic Solution, used for treatment of post-operative inflammation and reduction of ocular pain in patients who have undergone cataract surgery. The approved product is therapeutically equivalent to the reference listed drug (RLD), Bromday Ophthalmic Solution, 0.09%, of Bausch & Lomb. PTI

L&T bags power project order worth ₹7,000 cr.

MUMBAI
Larsen and Toubro Ltd. (L&T) has bagged an EPC (engineering, procurement and construction) order from SJVN Thermal Pvt. Ltd. to set up a 2x660 MW ultra super-critical power plant in the Buxar district of Bihar. The deal, bagged by L&T's power division, is worth more than ₹7,000 crore. The scope of work for L&T includes design, engineering, testing and commissioning of the Buxar project on a turnkey basis.

TCS buys additional 15% in Japanese subsidiary

MUMBAI
IT exporter Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has bought an additional 15% stake in its Japanese arm Tata Consultancy Services Japan, Limited (TCS Japan), a joint venture with Mitsubishi Corporation (MC), to enhance its shareholding to 66% for \$32.5 million. A TCS statement said that the current governance of operations and management would remain unchanged by the share acquisition.

Emami promoters cut 10% stake

Raise ₹1,230 crore to primarily pare debt at the promoter level

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA**

The promoters of Emami Group have raised nearly ₹1,230 crore by selling 10% of their stake in Emami Ltd. The money thus raised is proposed to be used primarily for further paring debt at the promoter level.

This is the second round of stake sale with the promoters offloading 10% in February to raise about ₹1,600 crore. The latest stake sale occurred on the floor of the stock exchange to marquee institutional investors.

The total promoter stake in Emami Ltd., subsequent to the stake sale, stands at 52.7%.

The promoters intended to maintain this controlling majority stake in Emami Ltd. without further diluting it,



Still in control: The total promoter stake in Emami Ltd. subsequent to the stake sale stands at 52.7%.

the company said in a regulatory filing.

'No further stake sale'

In case of further fund raising, the indication is that the Emami promoters may dip into their pool of 'diverse assets', according to the release. The process for identi-

fication of such assets has begun, the release added.

Commenting on the stake sale and value-realisation efforts, Mohan Goenka, director, Emami Group, said:

"The promoters are committed to being proactive in addressing business and industry challenges and work-

ing in the best interests of all Emami Group stakeholders."

The promoters debt stood at around ₹2,200 crore with the banks and ₹700 crore with debt mutual funds.

'Zero debt'

"This will now become zero." Aditya Agarwal, director, Emami Group, said: "The deleveraging of debt is a priority for the promoters of Emami Group. We have always endeavoured and continue to endeavour to take such steps to fuel the growth of the Group."

Emami, which owns brands like Keshking, Navratna and Boroplus had seen flat domestic sales in 2018-19 with an extended winter impacting summer sales, which account for 40% of the turnover.

Piramal plans to sell 20% stake in Shriram Capital

It had recently pared 9.96% in STFC

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI**

After exiting Shriram Transport Finance earlier this month, Piramal Enterprises has now proposed to sell its entire 20% stake in Shriram Capital.

Long-term strategy

"Following the sale of the entire shareholding held by the company in Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited (STFC), as a part of the long-term strategy of the company to fund growth of its financial services business, the company is evaluating the feasibility of sale of the entire (effective 20%) stake held by the company in Shriram Capital Limited," Piramal said in a filing to exchanges.

"The proposed transaction would be subject to receipt of necessary approvals, including the approval of the board of directors of the company at the appropriate stage, and necessary disclosures will be made by the company at the relevant time, in accordance with applicable law," the company said.

Piramal had acquired 20% stake in Shriram Capital – the financial services arm of the Shriram group – in 2014 for ₹2,014 crore.

Earlier this month, the company sold 9.96% stake in Shriram Transport Finance in the secondary market. Piramal Enterprises also has 10% stake in Shriram City Union, a retail-focussed non-banking finance firm.

KPR Agrochem to raise ₹283 cr. via public issue

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI**

KPR Agrochem Ltd. will open its Initial Public Offering (IPO) on June 28 to raise ₹210 crore and to sell 12 million shares held by a section of shareholders.

The company has fixed the price band between ₹59 and ₹61 for equity shares with a face value ₹10 each.

The earliest closing date of the IPO will be July 02, 2019. KPR Agrochem is focussed on manufacturing, distribution and retailing of a range of crop yield enhancing and protection products.

For FY18, the firm had a total income of ₹600 crore and a net profit of ₹29.6 crore on restated, audited and consolidated basis.

RBI unveils online portal for filing grievances

'Data can be used by RBI for analytics'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a Complaint Management System (CMS) – an online portal to facilitate bank customer grievance redressal processes. The CMS portal can be accessed on RBI's website and complaints can be lodged against any of the entities regulated by the central bank.

"CMS will be accessible on desktops as well as on mobile devices. The RBI also plans to introduce a dedicated Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System for tracking the status of complaints. I am sure, with time, the customer-friendly nature of the CMS will be

RBI plans to introduce a dedicated IVR system for tracking complaint status

SHAKTIKANTA DAS
Governor, RBI

further enhanced," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said while launching the application. CMS provides features such as acknowledgement through SMS and email notification, status tracking through unique registration number, receipt of closure advises and filing of appeals, where applicable. "Data from CMS can be leveraged by the RBI for analytics, which can be used for regulatory and supervisory interventions," Mr. Das said.

Kalyan Jewellers on expansion mode

Focus will be on consolidating business in the south

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI**

Kalyan Jewellers will focus on the southern States by setting aside ₹300 crore for expansion during the current fiscal, said a top official.

"In the past, our focus was to expand our operations in the non-south geographies and we made a foray into 10 new markets," said T.S. Kalyanaraman, CMD, Kalyan Jewellers India Ltd. "This year, our key focus will be on consolidating our southern operations."

8 more showrooms

The Thrissur-based jeweller currently has 136 showrooms across the country and 103 showrooms in different parts of the globe.

It is planning to open eight showrooms in the cur-



Ramesh Kalyanaraman

rent fiscal by investing between ₹30-₹45 crore per showroom. "Currently, the southern market accounts for 50% of our revenue. Hence, the focus will be on southern states. Most of the showrooms will be large-format stores, as they have proven successful," said Ramesh Kalyanaraman, executive director, Kalyan Jewellers.

"The expansion cost of ₹300 crore will be met partly through internal accruals and bank loans," he said.

As per the plan, the jeweller will open two showrooms each in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and one each in Kerala and Telangana, respectively. Plans are on to open similar number of showrooms pan-India during the year. Last fiscal, the firm registered a revenue of about ₹10,000 crore and aims to achieve ₹11,500 crore revenue this fiscal.

Claiming that the firm was in a healthy financial position, Mr. Ramesh said it had a bank loan of ₹3,000 crore and it was fully secured by way of immovable properties, fixed deposits and other assets worth ₹5,294 crore.

Glenmark's Brazilian arm, Novartis ink pact

To sell 3 respiratory drugs in Brazil

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI**

Glenmark Farmacêutica Ltda, the Brazilian subsidiary of Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd., has entered into an exclusive agreement with Novartis Biosciences S.A, a subsidiary of Novartis AG, for commercialising and marketing three respiratory products for treatment of symptoms of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in Brazil.

This agreement will be effective July 01, 2019.

The products are Seebri (Glycopyrronium bromide), Onbriz (Indacaterol) and Ultibro (combination of Indacaterol and Glycopyrronium), which are for relief of symptoms in adults with

chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

"This arrangement will strengthen our respiratory franchise in Brazil. This partnership is in line with our vision to expand our respiratory product offerings for patients and prescribers in Brazil and further consolidate our position in this segment," said Glenn Saldanha, CMD, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals.

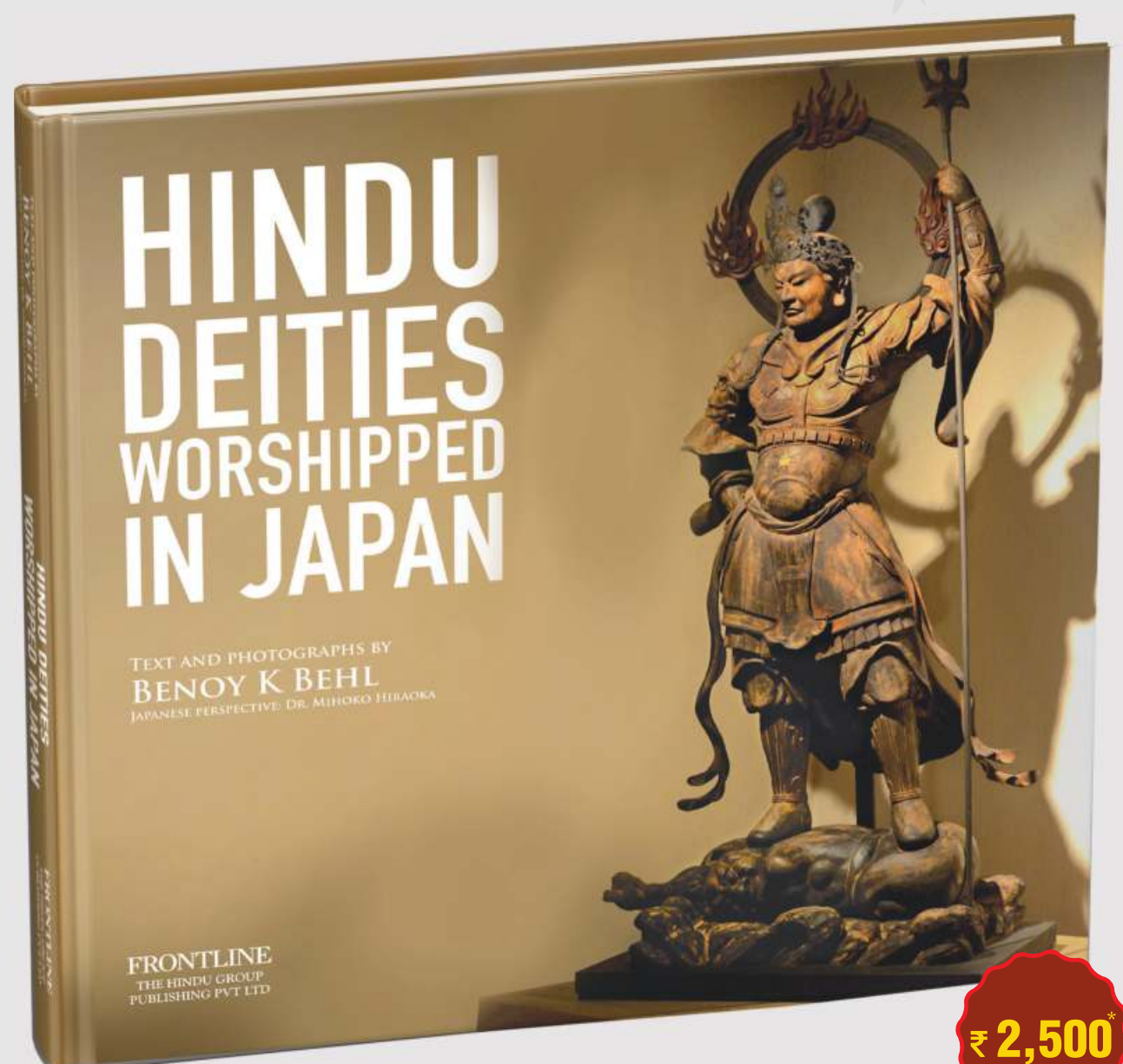
Under the agreement, Novartis remains the holder of the registration of these medicines and will be responsible for their manufacture. Glenmark will be responsible for promoting, commercialising and distributing these products in Brazil.

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

This coffee-table book opens a window to the practice of Buddhism in Japan, right from its arrival in that country 1,000 years ago to its growth through the worship of deities of Indian origin. Benoy Behl's images illuminate the pages and present an invaluable account of Japan's links with Hinduism and with its Buddhist past

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Will Dhoni be able to turn back the clock as a batsman?

The veteran has been facing criticism for his knock against Afghanistan which had too many dot balls



K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
MANCHESTER

Among players with tattoos and the odd designer stubble, M.S. Dhoni is the original rebel. The man, who hoisted the 2011 World Cup winning six, loved riding his superbikes, nursed a fascination for the army and was often difficult to trace on the phone.

He has always defied the odds and it is time for him to do that yet again. The former India captain, playing his last World Cup – he will turn 38 on July 7, is facing a few whispers about his relevance as a batsman. Against Afghanistan on Saturday, Dhoni strode out to a thundering applause. But during his dogged tenure where the accent was on defence while coping with wily spinners upon a sluggish pitch, restlessness coursed through the stands at Southampton's Hampshire Bowl.

Dhoni scored 28 off 52 balls and his 53.84 strike-rate jarred with the audience. A section booed even when he departed after giving a futile



Missing helicopter: M.S. Dhoni has not lost his touch, but his patented big hits seem to have dried up of late. ■ AP

charge to leg-spinner Rashid Khan. Dhoni had starred in an innings-reviving 57-run fifth-wicket partnership with Kedar Jadhav but the excessive dot-balls consumed was deemed a failure.

Tendulkar's remark

Even Sachin Tendulkar, usually guarded in his words,

spoke about the need for positive intent on the part of Dhoni and Jadhav. It is not that Dhoni has lost his touch but he is judged by his own exalted standards and his latest show was juxtaposed with the fact that the opposition was Afghanistan.

At the crease, he looks secure, blocking well, weighing

the conditions, tapping the ball to the deep for a leisurely single, nudging it close and sprinting at break-neck speed or striking the odd four. Where he has slipped is in the conversion rate in which a patient knock acquires its concluding kinetic burst. Biding his time and then launching those mammoth sixes, has

been Dhoni's patented act. He does the first part but it is the decisive second and final instalment that has been erratic.

Dhoni is still vital to the squad and in the latest World Cup, he dished out a searing cameo (a 14-ball 27) against Australia and a measured 34 off 46 deliveries in the open-

Saini to bowl at the nets

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANCHESTER

The Indian team opted to rest while brooding clouds dispensed rain and a steady wind rustled through the trees here on Monday.

Virat Kohli tweeted a picture from his breakfast table as he and his men preferred to unwind in the lead-up to Thursday's clash against the West Indies.

Previously, India had snatched a close win against Afghanistan at Southampton's Hampshire Bowl on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Delhi fast bowler Navdeep Saini

linked-up with the squad. He will serve as a net bowler as the team needs additional resources at training following Bhuvneshwar Kumar's hamstring injury that benched the seamer.

India's imminent rival, the West Indies, has been in town for a while.

Jason Holder's men suffered a gut-wrenching loss against New Zealand at Old Trafford on Saturday.

Ominously, Carlos Brathwaite, whose fiery ton nearly ruined the Kiwis' best-laid plans, tweeted: "Where can I get a bat fixed at Manchester?"

Dhoni at CWC 2019

34 off 46 balls (2x4)
(Strike Rate: 73.91)
vs South Africa

27 off 14 (3x4, 1x6)
(SR: 192.85) vs Australia

1 off 2
(SR: 50.00) vs Pakistan

28 off 52 (3x4)
(SR: 53.84) vs Afghanistan

with Kohli and the rest, that remains an intangible which can never be evaluated unlike runs scored, catches taken and stumpings effected. There is no number to altruism and chutzpah.

When Mohammad Nabi threatened to seal the contest in Afghanistan's favour, Dhoni was in the thick of things, finessing field placements, being a constant voice in Kohli's ear and at one stage he even asked his skipper to move a shade wider in the outfield. Kohli complied without a murmur and later hat-trick hero Mohammed Shami thanked Dhoni for his valuable advice that shaped those last over dismissals.

As India gears up for its final set of league games, Dhoni was to reveal his entire cricketing repertoire. Perhaps he will turn the clock back as a batsman and the emotional Indian fans should respect an icon inching towards his twilight.

Shakib spins a web around the Afghanistan batsmen

Finishes with a five-for to complement his half-century; Mushfiqur shines again

SHAYAN ACHARYA
SOUTHAMPTON

There's no stopping Shakib Al Hasan! The 32-year-old dished out another all-round show – 51 off 69 balls, followed by a five-wicket haul (five for 29) – as Bangladesh defeated Afghanistan by 62 runs on Monday.

After putting up a modest 262 for seven at the Hampshire Bowl, Bangladesh bundled out the opponent for 200 to climb up to the fifth spot in the table.

Chasing a rather tricky total on a slow track, Afghanistan got off to a steady start with captain Gulbadin Naib (47) and Rahmat Shah (24)

forging a 49-run partnership.

But things changed when Shakib packed off Rahmat. Though Naib looked determined to play a long innings, he was dismissed by the same bowler after Afghanistan crossed the 100-run mark. After the skipper's exit, even the middle-order collapsed.

Following his gritty half-century against India in the last outing, expectations were high from Mohammad Nabi. But Shakib struck again, castling him for a duck.

Though Samiullah Shinwari (49 not out) and Najibullah Zadran (23) stitched a 56-

run partnership, it was not enough for Afghanistan.

Earlier in the day, Mushfiqur Rahim too contributed a 83-run knock to put Bangladesh on the right path.

Mahmudullah injured

Key batsman Mahmudullah suffered a calf injury while batting and did not field during the Afghanistan innings. He is doubtful for the remainder of the tournament.

Next assignment

AFGHANISTAN: June 29 vs Pakistan, *Headingley*, 3 p.m.

BANGLADESH: July 2 vs India, *Eggbaston*, 3 p.m.

STAT SPHERE

1 Shakib is the first player in World Cup history to aggregate 400 runs and take 10 wickets in a single edition (6 matches, 476 runs, 10 wkts., so far)

2 The Bangladesh all-rounder is the first to score two centuries and take two four-fors in the history of the tournament

3 Shakib and Yuvraj are the only left-arm spinners to claim a five-for in the World Cup

4 Number of fifties for Mushfiqur in World Cups. This is also his 35th in One-Day Internationals

5 Shakib is also the first batsman to reach 1,000 runs and the first bowler to register a five-wicket haul for Bangladesh in the World Cup

6 Shakib (51 & 5/29) is the second player to register a fifty and a five-for in a World Cup match, after Yuvraj Singh (50* & 5/31 vs Ireland, Bengaluru, 2011)

7 Shakib and Yuvraj are the only left-arm spinners to claim a five-for in the World Cup

8 Number of fifties for Mushfiqur in World Cups. This is also his 35th in One-Day Internationals

SCOREBOARD BANGLADESH VS AFGHANISTAN	
BANGLADESH Liton Das c Hashmatullah b Mujeeb 16 (17b, 2x4), Tamim Iqbal b Nabi 36 (53b, 4x4), Shakib Al Hasan lbw b Mujeeb 51 (69b, 1x4), Mushfiqur Rahim c Nabi b Dawlat 83 (87b, 4x4, 1x6), Soumya Sarkar lbw b Mujeeb 3 (70b), Mahmudullah c Nabi b Naib 27 (38b, 2x4), Mosaddek Hossain b Naib 35 (24b, 4x4), Mohammad Saifuddin (not out) 2 (2b); Extras (w-9); Total (for seven wkts. in 50 overs): 262.	AFGHANISTAN BOWLING Mujeeb 10-0-39-3, Dawlat 9-0-64-1, Nabi 10-0-44-1, Naib 10-1-56-2, Rashid 10-0-52-0, Rahmat 1-0-7-0.
FALL OF WICKETS 1-23 (Liton, 4.2 overs), 2-82 (Tamim, 16.6), 3-143 (Shakib, 29.2), 4-151 (Sarkar, 31.6), 5-207 (Mahmudullah, 42.6), 6-251 (Mushfiqur, 48.3), 7-262	FALL OF WICKETS 1-49 (Rahmat, 10.5 overs), 2-79 (Hashmatullah, 20.5), 3-104 (Naib, 28.1), 4-104 (Nabi, 28.3), 5-117 (Afghan, 32.2), 6-132 (Alikhil, 35.1), 7-188 (Najibullah, 42.4), 8-191 (Rashid, 43.3), 9-195 (Dawlat, 45.4).
AFGHANISTAN Gulbadin Naib c Liton b Shakib 47 (75b, 3x4), Rahmat Shah c Tamim b Shakib 24 (35b, 3x4), Hashmatullah Shahidi st. Mushfiqur b Mosaddek 11 (31b), Asghar Afghan c sub b Shakib 20 (38b, 1x4), Mohammad Nabi b Shakib 0 (2b), Samiullah Shinwari (not out) 49 (57b, 3x4, 1x6), Ikram Alikhil (run out) 11 (12b, 1x4), Najibullah Zadran st. Mushfiqur b Shakib 23 (23b, 2x4), Rashid Khan c Mortaza b Mustafizur 2 (3b), Dawlat Zadr	BANGLADESH BOWLING Mortaza 7-0-37-0, Mustafizur 8-1-32-2, Saifuddin 8-0-33-1, Shakib 10-1-29-5, Mehidy 8-0-37-0, Mosaddek 6-0-25-1.
Toss: Afghanistan. MoM: Shakib.	Toss: Afghanistan. MoM: Shakib.
	Bangladesh won by 62 runs.

Russell ruled out of WC



Andre Russell. ■ AP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MANCHESTER

West Indies was dealt a severe blow ahead of its crucial match against India on Thursday after all-rounder Andre Russell was on Monday ruled out of the remainder of the World Cup with a knee injury.

Russell has been replaced by Sunil Ambris. In the four matches he played, Russell managed just 36 runs at an average of 12.

Where they stand

Team	Mat	Won	Lost	NR	PTS	NRR
New Zealand	6	5	0	1	11	1.306
Australia	6	5	1	0	10	0.849
India	5	4	0	1	9	0.809
England	6	4	2	0	8	1.457
Bangladesh	7	3	3	1	7	-0.133
Sri Lanka	6	2	2	2	6	-1.119
Pakistan	6	2	3	1	5	-1.265
West Indies	6	1	4	1	3	0.190
South Africa (E)	7	1	5	1	3	-0.324
Afghanistan (E)	7	0	7	0	0	-1.634

*till the Bangladesh-Afghanistan match on June 24; E: Eliminated

Steeped in history



Top of the world: On this date, 36 summers ago, Kapil Dev and his trusted lieutenant Mohinder Amarnath helped India achieve its greatest cricketing moment by stunning West Indies at Lord's to claim the Prudential World Cup. The two teams will again square off on June 27 at Old Trafford.

■ ADRIAN MURRELL/GETTY IMAGES

Tendulkar in England camp!

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

A Tendulkar helped England ahead of its World Cup clash against Australia – not the man who owns almost all the batting records but the boy who aspires to shine with the ball.

Aiming to live up to his illustrious surname, Arjun Tendulkar ran in fast and bowled at the England batsmen on the eve of their big-ticket clash against arch-rival Australia at Lord's.

Arjun could be seen bowling under the watchful eyes of the team's spin bowling consultant, Saqlain Mushtaq.

This is not the first time that Arjun has bowled in the nets for England.

In 2015, as a 15-year-old, he was part of the group of net bowlers which helped England prepare for the second Ashes Test.

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
MANCHESTER

It happens once in four years. South Africa arrives at the World Cup full of hope and then the performances fluctuate. Once the Proteas wilt, the tear glands of their captains are tested in press conferences where some questions prove to be knives that cleave the soul.

Dirge continues

In the 2011 edition, Graeme Smith turned up at the Mirpur's Shere Bangla National Stadium's media hall after his men suffered a 49-run loss in the quarterfinal against New Zealand. The word 'chokers' was banded around and Smith's eyes turned damp, it was heart-breaking. The dirge continued in 2015 and New Zealand rode on Grant Elliott's unbeaten 84 to scale past South Africa's tall score in the semifinal at Auckland's Eden Park.

The worry-lined foreheads and quivering voices that combined to be the final curtain on South African aspirations in almost every World Cup since 1992, is overwhelmingly linked to one image that blends initial comedy with a tragic climax.

Lance Klusener and Allan Donald run without a clue in the 1999 semifinal against Steve Waugh's men at Birmingham's Edgbaston. The stumps are thrown down, Klusener walks away in disgust, Donald's shoulders slump and it is a picture that unerringly comes back to haunt.

Cut to the latest World Cup, and there is no avoiding the funeral air as Faf du Plessis and his men, crashed



Agony: Nothing went right for Faf du Plessis' men. ■ REUTERS

out following their loss to Pakistan at Lord's on Sunday. With one victory in seven games and just two matches remaining, South Africa became the first premium unit to press the exit button.

Bad start

It may not come as a surprise considering a history of unfulfilled promises and a tendency to implode at the slightest hint of pressure but there is no denying the lingering sadness in the cricketing fraternity. The campaign had a terrible start as first-up there was the disruptive news about A.B. de Villiers pitching for a slot in the team. Rightly his plea was rejected as he had already retired and a squad was built to offset his absence.

The related chatter was distracting and then came Dale Steyn's injured shoulder that ruled him out. Add to it Hashim Amla's dwindling returns, a sharp contrast to his exalted standards and there was nothing sunny about the South Africans, ex-

cept for leg-spinner Imran Tahir's celebratory sprints after extracting a wicket.

A tired du Plessis spoke about the latest free-fall "chipping away at him as a man". There is pathos and back home, tumult is evident. Ever since Cricket South Africa goaded by the government, implemented a transformation phase in which there were quotas based on race in provincial squads and even pushed for it at the national level, many players have snuggled into English counties or Twenty20 leagues. Even Kevin Pietersen sought glory in the England shade.

Having followed the accused Apartheid, a racially discriminatory policy in the distant past, South Africa is trying to make-up for its sins. Just that in sport, the emerging talent, be it White, Black, Cape Coloured or Indian, is struggling to wriggle through the quota-sieve. Some persist, others say 'show me the money' and a country lapses into distress.

At Lord's, a clash of the titans

England has won nine of its last 10 games against Australia

SHAYAN ACHARYA
SOUTHAMPTON

It will be a clash of the heavyweights when England takes on Australia in a World Cup fixture at Lord's on Tuesday. The Eoin Morgan-led side will seek resurgence against the Aussies to move closer to a semifinal spot.

While the top-order batsmen – Jonny Bairstow, Joe Root and captain Morgan – have tried their best to give the side steady starts, the absence of the injured Jason Roy has affected its batting intensity.

With openers David Warner and Aaron Finch in top form, Australia looks strong.

THE FACE-OFF		England vs Australia		LORD'S	
MORGAN		HEAD-TO-HEAD		FINCH	
Overall	Matches	Eng	Aus	Tied	NR
	147	61	81	2	3
World Cup	7	2	5	0	0

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 (SD & HD), 3 P.M.

However, it could be a challenge for a rather shaky middle-order – which has failed to contribute in the last three games – to up the ante, against a star-studded England pace attack, comprising Mark Wood, Chris Woakes and Jofra Archer.

England, though, has an edge over the defending champion, as it has won nine of the last 10 meetings.

An eye on the sky

With thunder showers predicted for Tuesday, the toss could prove crucial.

TV PICKS

ICC World Cup: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 3 p.m.
FIFA women's World Cup: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Hannah Green's first title is a Major

LOS ANGELES
Hannah Green became the first Australian to win a Major in 13 years on Sunday, holding off a pack of marquee players with a wire-to-wire victory at the Women's PGA Championship. The 22-year-old Green, who had never won on the LPGA Tour before, delivered an even-par 72 and a one-stroke victory over defending champion Park Sung-hyun. "To win a Major as my first event I am so over the moon," said Green. She is the third Australian woman to win a Major after Karrie Webb and Jan Stephenson. AFP



Baghdatis to quit after Wimbledon

PARIS
Former World No. 8 Marcos Baghdatis, who was Australian Open runner-up in 2006, will quit tennis after this year's Wimbledon, the 34-year-old Cypriot announced on Monday. "It has proven tough for me, especially physically, to come back to where I feel I belong," said Baghdatis. AFP

Indian junior boxers shine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Indian junior women pugilists clinched seven medals, including five gold, and the team was adjudged the best of the tournament in the Black Forest Cup boxing in Villingen, Schweningen, Germany. Tamanna (48kg), Anju, Neha, H. Ambeshori Devi (57kg) and Preeti Dahiya (60kg) returned with golds, the Boxing Federation of India said in a release.

While Tamanna beat Daria of Ukraine 4-1, Neha was dominant over Lithuania's Kara Kornelija (RSC) in the first round.

Anju demolished Fatima of Germany 5-0, while Ambeshori blanked Varga Beata of Hungary 5-0. Preeti outsmarted Tutal Lutfiye of Germany 5-0.

Germany's Lara downed India's Tannu 3-2 in the 52kg final while Aashreya Dinesh Naik lost to local hope Heck Jenin 5-0 in the 63kg category.

Argentina enters quarterfinals

Group-winner Colombia gets past Paraguay

COPA AMERICA

REUTERS
PORTO ALEGRE (BRAZIL)
An early goal from Lautaro Martinez and a late second from Sergio Agüero gave Argentina a 2-0 win over Qatar on Sunday, a deserved victory that took it into the Copa America quarterfinals against Venezuela.

Argentina took the lead after three minutes when an atrocious pass out of defence went straight to Martinez, who made no mistake from 15 metres out.

The first half was an even affair with Martinez and Agüero missing good chances for Argentina and Bassam Alrawi clipping the post from a free kick for the Asian champion. But even with Lionel Messi looking more sprightly than in Argentina's first two games, it took until the second half before it was able to seal the points.

With eight minutes remaining Agüero ran on to a through ball and angled a fine drive past the Qatari keeper.

Gain confidence

"We played a good game and we won, and that was what mattered," Messi said. "We needed a game like this to



Hit-men: Lautaro Martinez, left, and Sergio Agüero found the net for Argentina against Qatar on Sunday. •AFP

gain some confidence and calm. As we play more games the team grows each one and that game was good for that."

Coach Lionel Scaloni said he was content with the performance and delighted to still be in with a chance of silverware.

"Of course there are things we can improve on but we're satisfied," he said. "The message has to be that as long as are in the Copa

America we need to keep pushing forward."

Argentina's win, its first after a loss to Colombia and a draw with Paraguay, left it in second place in Group B on four points behind group winner Colombia, which beat Paraguay 1-0 at Salvador.

Colombia made 10 changes from the side that beat Qatar in their its outing but still dominated play while Paraguay, which had to win to en-

sure it progressed, barely caused any danger.

Midfielder Gustavo Cuellar put Colombia ahead just after the half-hour mark, sliding the ball through the legs of Paraguay goalkeeper Roberto Fernandez, while Luis Diaz struck in the second half but the goal was ruled out by VAR.

The results: Group B: Argentina 2 (Martinez 4, Agüero 82) bt Qatar 0; Colombia 1 (Cuellar 31) bt Paraguay 0.

Henry's extra-time strike puts France in last eight

England also advances with ease amid VAR mayhem

WOMEN'S WC

REUTERS
LE HAVRE
France captain Amandine Henry came to the rescue as the host scraped into the women's World Cup quarterfinals with a 2-1 win against Brazil after extra time on Sunday, setting up a likely clash with holder the United States.

Henry found the back of the net in the 107th minute of a tense game at the Stade Oceane after Thaisa had cancelled out Valerie Gauvin's second-half opener.

Brazilian legend Marta said: "I'm proud of our performance, the grit that we showed until the end. That's the feeling that I will keep with me. "Those are the kind of matches that will help women's football to continue to grow."

Cameroon's anger

Meanwhile in Valenciennes, England marched into the quarterfinals after a 3-0 victory over Cameroon on Sunday in an dramatic match that was overshadowed by the African side's anger towards the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) over several



See, I did it! French captain Amandine Henry celebrates her goal that sent the host into the quarterfinals at the expense of Brazil on Sunday. •AFP

decisions. England took the lead in the 14th minute when Steph Houghton drilled the ball low into the right corner of the penalty area. Forward Ellen White then scored her fourth goal of the tournament, with VAR confirming that she was not offside after the goal was initially disallowed.

That incensed Cameroon's players who appeared to almost refuse to restart the contest as they argued with the referee in the middle of the pitch, furiously pointing to the screen in stadium which showed the replay.

The match continued af-

ter Cameroon coach Alain Djeumfa managed to calm his players but more anger was to follow in the second half after Ajara Nchout scored to reduce the deficit. The forward's goal was disallowed for offside following a VAR review, 1 amid more protests.

England added a third through defender Alex Greenwood, who swept in a first-time effort from a well worked corner in the 58th minute to rub salt into the wounds.

The results: Last 16: England 3 (Houghton 14, White 45+4, Greenwood 58) bt Cameroon 0; France 2 (Gauvin 52, Henry 107) bt Brazil 1 (Thaisa 63).

Becker's trophies go on online auction

From superstar to bankruptcy — a bizarre tale unfolds

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Trophies and personal souvenirs belonging to German tennis star Boris Becker is being auctioned online by British firm Wyles Hardy to partially clear the bankrupt champion's debts.

The youngest winner in Wimbledon history, who claimed the first of three titles aged just 17, is auctioning off 82 items, including medals, cups, watches and photographs.

The sale will end on July 11, Wyles Hardy said on its website.

Memorabilia

Some of the trophies up for grabs include a replica of a Challenge Cup awarded to Becker following one of his Wimbledon wins, and the three-quarter size replica of the Renshaw Cup presented after he became the youngest ever Grand Slam singles champion.

His Wimbledon finalist medal from 1990, when he was beaten by Swede Stefan Edberg, and a replica of the US Open silver cup made by jeweller Tiffany for his 1989 victory over Ivan Lendl will also be included in the sale.

The indebted 51-year-old champion was declared bankrupt in 2017.

In June 2018, he claimed he had diplomatic status and therefore immunity, thus stopping the sale of his tro-



Fallen idol: Sale of Boris Becker's memorabilia is expected to cover only a part of his huge debts. •BRADLEY KANARIS/GETTY IMAGES

phies and personal souvenirs at the last minute.

The former World No. 1 claimed he had been appointed by the President of the Central African Republic as a sporting, cultural and humanitarian "attache" to the European Union.

But the Central African Ministry of Foreign Affairs replied the passport brandished by Becker was a fake one, coming from a batch of "blank passports stolen in 2014".

Substantial bids

Becker finally ended this bizarre episode in December by waiving his right to immunity in a London court specialising in insolvency cases, leading the auction house to put the trophies back on the market.

The first attempt "attract-

ed very substantial bids," Mark Ford, one of the three trustees of Becker's bankruptcy estate, said in a statement. However, the sales will not be enough to cover debts valued at millions of pounds.

Becker has already had legal difficulties with the Spanish courts over unpaid debts for work carried out on his villa in Mallorca.

The pastor who married him in 2009 also took him to court in Switzerland and the German courts in 2002 gave him a two-year suspended sentence and a fine of €500,000 over €1.7 million in unpaid taxes.

The six-time Grand Slam winner, nicknamed 'Boom Boom' Becker for his devastating serve, won 49 titles and more than €20 million in prize money during his career.

I-League clubs to approach court

Don't want AIFF to make ISL the country's top league

FOOTBALL
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Putting up a united front, seven I-League clubs said on Monday that they were ready to approach "appropriate courts for relief" if the All India Football Federation (AIFF) makes the ISL the country's top league.

Miffed at AIFF general-secretary Kushal Das' public acknowledgement of the ISL as the main league, representatives of Mohun Bagan,

East Bengal, Churchill Brothers, Minerva Punjab, Aizawl, Neroca and Gokulam Kerala held a meeting here.

Das' acknowledgement is expected to be sealed at the AIFF's executive committee meeting on July 3.

"With media reports indicating that the ISL being announced as the top division league post an Executive committee meeting scheduled for July 3, the I-League clubs are standing united stronger than ever," the clubs said in a joint

statement.

The AIFF, reacting to the joint statement of the I-League clubs, said it was "premature and unnecessary" to pre-judge any action and be commenting on the AIFF Executive Committee meeting on July 3 in advance.

"The AIFF, as a custodian of Indian football, has always endeavoured to balance the interests of all stakeholders, the Hero I-League and its clubs," added the statement.

Record entries for South India Rally

Promoter Champions Yacht Club thrilled with the response

MOTORSPORTS

RAYAN ROZARIO
COIMBATORE

If Champions Yacht Club (CYC), the new promoters of the Indian National Rally Championship (INRC) for four wheelers are to be believed, the 41st South India Rally, the season's opening round scheduled at Chennai this weekend, will create a record of sorts with over 50 entries already registered for the event.

"We are thrilled with the response. There are more enquiries but the MMSC (Madras Motorsports Club) has its own limitations. We are requesting to add a few more



Vamsi Merla, Director of CYC.

to the list," Vamsi Merla, the CYC director, told *The Hindu* from Chennai.

"I am pleased as the list includes youngsters and women. And that adds up to our challenge," he said.

He said it will be a test for

both the man and machine as they have increased the stage kilometres.

"We don't want the participants to get away driving just a limited distance. We want them to display their speed and skill and at the same time learn how to preserve the car."

Vamsi was pleased with the dedication and effort taken by the MMSC for the event.

Manoj Dalal, the Clerk of Course of Chennai Rally, who was here for the MRF National championship, said there will be 11 stages in all.

"We have increased the distance by 10% and it's going to be fast flowing. I be-

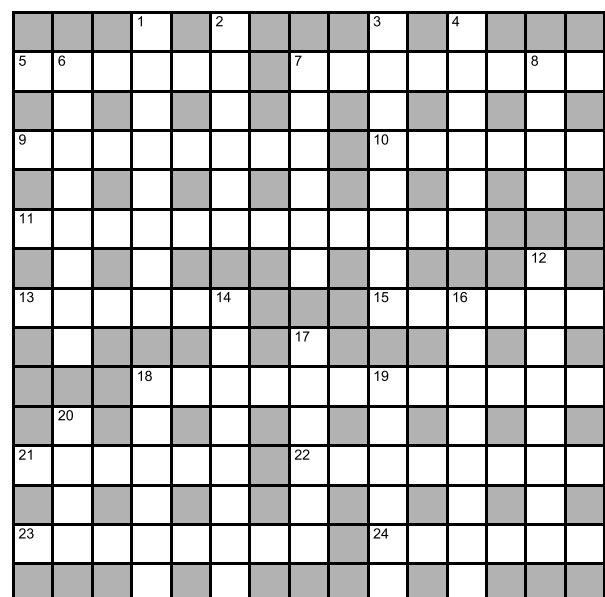
lieve this will see some better timings by the drivers."

He said the spectators will get to see some exciting drives.

"It is smooth dirt track with some good width. The finish part will be flat out on the tarmac. The Super Special Stage will be on tarmac and the rest will be on dirt. It's going to be exciting for all the guys. They are really going to enjoy it. There will be some tight corners too."

"The stages are ready and the final tulingup has already been done. We got good support from B.S. Sujith Kumar (who did the road book), some Erode boys and many others.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12661



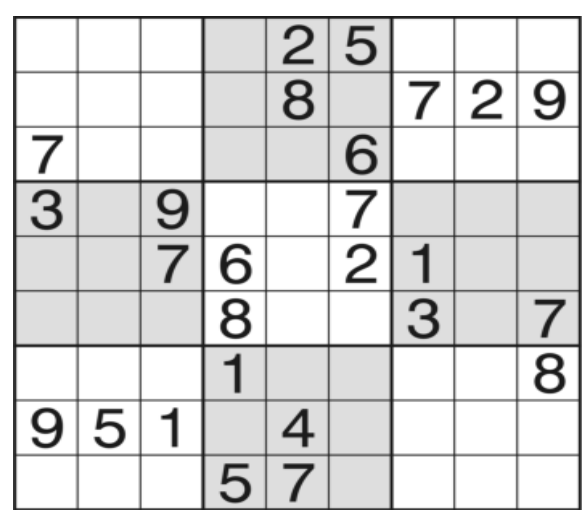
ACROSS

- 5 Takes responsibility for a party... gets points (6)
- 7 Oaf of a man and boy consume everything around (8)
- 9 Monkey has date fruit (8)
- 10 Don't start to criticise guard (6)
- 11 Marketing rep distributed timer (7,5)

DOWN

- 1 Posh posh companion's impression? Boring... (8)
- 2 Give passes often to hot girl to enter (6)
- 3 Finally, malfunctioning steamer's working better (8)
- 4 One that mistreated a table-cleaner's son — thrown out (6)
- 6 Difficult Master's obtained — leaving school's emotional (8)
- 7 Crazy Bruno's following a woman (6)
- 8 Charisma of Lou Reed even can wane (4)
- 12 Sugar in sambar? Aré! Me definitely throw up! (8)
- 14 New growth — shoots — on maples (8)
- 16 Footwear worn at the start of main event not secondary contest (8)
- 17 Figure right now, true leader (and deputy) are missing (6)
- 18 Work hard to hammer rivets (6)
- 19 Candy's party just junk and beer (6)
- 20 Russian leader long ago — was beheaded and overthrown? (4)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12660

L	R	S	S	Y	A	D		
F	O	R	E	S	T	C	O	U
N	M	R	A	L	C	R		
A	E	R	O	N	A	E	L	I
S	T	T	T	T	D	N		
T	O	L	E	R	A	T	E	A
M	E	R	D	N				
H	E	N	P	E	C	K	P	E
L	E	C	O	E				
E	M	B	A	L	M	I	N	O
A	C	E	T	E	A	T		
R	E	V	E	R	T	I	N	S
N	N	E	Z	I	B	N		
S	A	L	T	T	R	E	E	L
D	A	Y	N	E	E	L		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	7	1	8	6	4	9	5	2
6	9	5	2	1	7	3	8	4
4	2	8	9	5	3	1	7	6
2	8	6	1	9	5	4	3	7
7	3	9	6	4	2	5	1	8
5	1	4	3	7	8	2	6	9
8	4	7	5	3	9	6	2	1
1	5	2	4	8	6	7	9	3
9	6	3	7	2	1	8	4	5

They also serve who stand and wait!

The men who made the team but failed to get a game

'83 MEMORIES

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
HYDERABAD

Memoirs of a 12th man tells the story of a village cricketer who never got into the playing XI yet had fascinating moments to share from his career.

Yajurvindra Singh (1979), Sunil Valson (1983) and Amay Khurasiya (1999) can identify with the title character, having travelled to the World Cup but not got a game.

Disappointing and frustrating, but they have all moved on. "It was really terrible missing out on a World Cup match," said Yajurvindra, who played four Tests.

"We had lost the first two matches and there was nothing at stake (against Sri Lanka). I approached the captain (S. Venkatraghavan) and requested him to give me a chance but he was unwilling to change the playing XI because he wanted the players to get into form for the subse-

quent Test series against England.

"Honestly, I was surprised at being picked for the World Cup but disappointed at not being able to play a single match."

Valson nearly played a match in 1983 when the team won the Cup.

"It was the second league match against the West Indies and there were some doubts if Roger (Binny) would be available. Kaps (Kapil Dev) told me to be ready in case Binny failed the fitness test.

"I was well acclimatised, because I had been playing in England when the call-up came. The team was well set and one had to understand the fact that the best combination was taking the field. I did not brood at all and enjoyed every successful moment."

Amay Khurasiya, a left-hander with a wide range of strokes, has fond memories of the 1999 World Cup even

though he never played a match.

"I came close at Old Trafford. Azhar bhai (Mohammed Azharuddin) asked me to be ready for the match against Pakistan. Of course, it hurts, but I was happy to have made that journey.

"I can never forget a gesture by Sachin Tendulkar. I was the last man to bat at the nets and there was not a bowler in sight. He bowled to me. That is an abiding memory of that World Cup."

Others in the list

Others in this list are Parthasarathy Sharma (1975), Bharat Reddy (1979), Sanjay Bangar, Parthiv Patel and Ajit Agarkar (2003), Irfan Pathan (2007) and S. Sreesanth (2007), Stuart Binny, Axar Patel and Ambati Rayudu (2015).

If he does not get a match in the current World Cup, Dinsh Karthik would suffer a repeat of 2007.



Unforgettable: Despite not having played a single match Sunil Valson, standing right extreme, treasures every moment of the 1983 campaign ■ FILE PHOTO

Haryana does team-title sweep

Ghosh comes good to score twin-wins

TABLE TENNIS

RAKESH RAO
SONEPAT (HARYANA)

Even a far from fit Soumyajit Ghosh proved more than a handful for the younger, fitter boys from Delhi. The former National champion from Bengal came good for his adopted state and scored twin-wins to complete Haryana's double in the team events of the National ranking table tennis championship (North Zone) here on Monday.

On Sunday, another former National champion Sutirtha Mukherjee led Haryana women to the team title with a 3-0 triumph over Delhi.

Haryana's 3-1 victory came after Ghosh won the opening singles against young Payas Jain in straight

sets and returned for the fourth rubber for a four-set triumph over Parth Virmani to seal the title-match.

Ghosh, making a comeback this year after missing out the season owing to a suspension, seemed to be playing more from muscle-memory. Clearly overweight, Ghosh did look vulnerable at times but pulled off the big points.

Virmani keeps hopes alive

Virmani kept Delhi in the match after rallying to win the second singles against Jeet Chandra.

In the third singles, the vastly-experienced Jubin Kumar battled from a 0-2 deficit against a much-younger Utkarsh Gupta. The free-stroking Utkarsh raced away

with the first two sets but gave enough indications of losing his steam towards the end of the second.

In the remainder of the contest, left-handed Jubin got his act right and left Utkarsh looking for ways to counter the powerful drives on both flanks.

In the fourth singles, Ghosh took off on the wrong foot against a confident Virmani. But Ghosh's experience saw him bounce back by taking the close second set and thereafter, he never looked back.

The results (team):

Men (final): Haryana bt Delhi 3-1 (Soumyajit Ghosh bt Payas Jain 13-11, 11-7, 11-5; Jeet Chandra lost to Parth Virmani 4-11, 8-11, 11-8, 6-11; Jubin Kumar bt Utkarsh Gupta 7-11, 10-12, 11-3, 11-7, 11-6; Ghosh bt Virmani 9-11, 11-8, 11-4, 11-6).



Prized possession: Jubin Kumar holds the trophy after Haryana men won the team title on Monday. ■ SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Don't blame drivers for boring races, says Hamilton

'You should put the pressure on the people at the head'

FORMULA ONE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LE CASTELLET (FRANCE)

A triumphant Lewis Hamilton told his and F1's critics on Sunday not to blame the drivers for "boring" professional races, but instead to turn their focus on the rule-makers.

The defending five-time world champion produced a flawless demonstration of racing to triumph from pole position for the second year in succession in Sunday's French Grand Prix.

In a largely uneventful race on a sweltering afternoon at the Le Castellet circuit, he led his Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas home as they extended the Silver Arrows winning run to 10 races.

It was hardly entertaining stuff for the fans at the track or the global television audience and Hamilton warned that the sport needed to consider making "serious changes".

Speaking after his 79th career victory, he told reporters they should consider who should be blamed be-



Optimistic: Lewis Hamilton welcomed the fact that the sport's ruling bodies were open to hearing the views of the drivers to make it more exciting. ■ CHARLES COATES/GETTY IMAGES

fore drawing any conclusions.

"Don't point fingers at the drivers because we don't write the rules," said Hamilton.

"We have nothing to do with the money and all that kind of stuff."

"You should put the pressure on the people at the head who should be doing their job. I think they are trying to, but for many, many years they have made bad decisions."

Hamilton's relentless success in a dominant Mercedes team has been celebrated in

some quarters as an era of greatness, but others - including the British driver - have said they want to see more on-track battles and closer competition.

Closer racing

As a keen follower of other racing series, including Indycars in the United States, Hamilton has often said Formula One needs to change its technical rule-book to encourage much closer racing.

He said he welcomed the fact that the sport's ruling bodies were open to hearing the views of the drivers.

Mehuli Ghosh in superb touch

On target in 10m air rifle in both women and junior categories

SHOOTING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Mehuli Ghosh was in irrepresible form as she kept getting better from the women's event to junior section, notching up a world record score of 254.0 in the National shooting selection trials at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Monday.

Looked normal

Everything looked normal, as the 18-year-old Mehuli, the Commonwealth Games and Youth Olympics silver medalist, led by 0.4 point ahead of Aakriti Dahiya at the half way stage of the junior final, after having pocketed the women's top place 2.6 point ahead of Aayushi Gupta.

With Aakriti shooting 10.8 back to back, Mehuli shot a 10.7 and a perfect 10.9 to retain the same lead.

Over the next 10 shots, Mehuli averaged 10.55 to even-



On a high: Mehuli Ghosh shot a world record score of 254.0 in the junior women's air rifle. ■ KAMESH SRINIVASAN

tually prevail with a margin of 4.1 over Aakriti.

The world for women is held by Apurvi Chandela at 252.9 and in the men's section it is the junior world record that is better at 252.3.

The overwhelming performance in the finals apart, it was a modest 627.8 by Mehuli in the qualification phase, by her own high standards, which matters in deciding

the overall averages for national team selection.

Shreya Agrawal who topped qualification 0.1 point ahead of Mehuli, placed third ahead of Manini Kaushik, Anshika Gupta and Nupur Patil.

In the women's event, Meghana Sajjanar placed third while Shreya slipped to the seventh spot following a string of 9s. Nupur Patil bagged the honour in the

youth section, 0.2 point ahead of Sift Kaur Samra.

In women's sports pistol, Chinki Yadav topped as she beat Neeraj Kaur 32-30, after scoring 580 in qualification, three points behind leaders Annu Raj Singh and Abhidnya Patil.

Gauri misses final

Gauri Sheoran who had won the gold in the Kumar Surendra Singh Championship on Sunday, shot 569 and missed the final by one point along with Devanshi Rana.

Arunima Gaur won the junior section, with a score of 27, a two-point margin over Sneha Bhardwaj.

Meanwhile, in the 50-metre rifle prone event of the Kumar Surendra Singh Championship, Olympian Sanjeev Rajput won the gold with a total of 623.2. He beat Subhankar Pramanick by 0.7 point in the non-Olympic event which does not feature a final.

Aishwarya Pratap Singh

Tomar added the junior gold, to the two gold medals that he had won in the 3-position event earlier. Tomar had also won men's bronze and junior silver in air rifle.

The results: 50m rifle prone: Men: 1. Sanjeev Rajput 623.2; 2. Subhankar Pramanick 622.5; 3. Akhil Sheoran 621.9.

Juniors: 1. Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar 616.3; 2. Amit Kumary 611.1; 3. Gurman Singh 610.5.

Trials-5

10m air rifle: Women: 1. Mehuli Ghosh 252.4 (627.8); 2. Aayushi Gupta 249.8 (626.4); 3. Meghana Sajjanar 228.3 (627.0).

Juniors: 1. Mehuli Ghosh 254.0 (627.8); 2. Aakriti Dahiya 249.9 (624.4); 3. Shreya Agrawal 228.8 (627.9).

Youth: 1. Nupur Patil 249.4 (623.9); 2. Sift Kaur Samra 249.2 (621.0); 3. Ashi Chouksey 227.5 (623.4).

25m sports pistol: Women: 1. Chinki Yadav 32 (580); 2. Neeraj Kaur 30 (573); 3. Annu Raj Singh 27 (583).

Juniors: 1. Arunima Gaur 27 (568); 2. Sneha Bhardwaj 25 (567); 3. Neha 24 (570).

Murray mulls singles return at US Open

TENNIS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Former World No. 1 Andy Murray says he could resurrect his singles career at this year's US Open following a remarkable return to tennis with victory in the men's doubles at the Queen's Club tournament on Sunday.

The 32-year-old Scotsman teamed up with Spain's Feliciano Lopez to clinch a 7-6 (8), 5-7, [10-5] win over Britain's Joe Salisbury and Rajeev Ram of the United States.

The three-time Grand Slam champion's triumph comes after what he described as "life-changing" hip surgery earlier this year. Murray said that while he had not made up his mind about a return to singles, the US Open would be the tournament where it could happen.

If so, it would be a remarkable turnaround for a man who was tearfully pondering retirement in January.

"I mean, potentially, yeah," he said when pressed as to whether the US Open -

where he won his first Grand Slam title in 2012 - could be the place to resume his singles career.

Happy

"But I don't care, really, either way. Like, it would be nice to play at the US Open, but if I don't - look, I got so much enjoyment and happiness after winning a first round doubles match here that, you know, that's enough."

"I don't have to be getting to the US Open this year and be really competitive and have to win the tournament for me to enjoy it."

Pain-free week

Murray, also a two-time Olympic singles champion, said he had to be mindful about his hip, although he came through the week at Queen's pain free.

"It's not just to get back on the court playing singles," he said.

"It's to protect my hip for the longer term to make sure that my muscles are in the correct balance so that I'm not impacting the hip in the same spot all of the time."

Yuwa players to fly to Lyon

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Six women football players from the Ranchi-based social group Yuwa will fly to Lyon on June 28 to take part in the street football world Festival19, a highlight of the

2019 FIFA Women's World Cup.

Yuwa, supported by BookASmile, is among the 40 delegations from across the world invited for the street football festival to be held from June 29 to July 8.

Australia hails 'Queen Ashleigh'

Barty is second Aussie woman to become World No. 1



On top of the world! Ashleigh Barty with the WTA World No. 1 trophy. ■ REUTERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SYDNEY

Australia hailed "humble and inspirational" Ashleigh Barty as the new queen of tennis on Monday after she joined Evonne Goolagong Cawley as the country's second woman to reach World No. 1.

The French Open champion claimed the top spot by beating Julia Goerges to win the Birmingham WTA title on Sunday, capping a remarkable rise by the 23-year-old who once quit tennis to play cricket.

Along with Goolagong Cawley, who briefly held the top rank in 1976, she emulated John Newcombe, Pat Rafter and Lleyton Hewitt in the pantheon of Australians to reach No. 1.

'Historical'

Tennis Australia chief Craig Tiley commended a "remarkable historical accomplish-

ment". "It's a really hard thing to do and to achieve, that is just fantastic," he told Channel Nine TV network.

"I know her, she's humble about it. She just wants to get back on the tennis court and have a good hit." Goolagong Cawley, who like Barty has an indigenous heritage, said her rise had been "almost unstoppable".

"Ash is a very worthy number one and winning at the French will have given her even more confidence," she told reporters. "I am so proud that another aboriginal player sits on top of the rankings in women's tennis, particularly a young lady who conveys such happiness in all she does."

Sydney's *Daily Telegraph* crowned her the "new queen" of tennis, with her down-to-earth approach a refreshing change for Australian tennis fans more used to the histrionics of

Nick Kyrgios and Bernard Tomic. "Watching her win a match is like watching those old-fashioned black and white news reels where an Evonne Goolagong or a Rod Laver graciously accepted their win without huge fuss or fanfare," it wrote.

King's congrats

Billie Jean King was among the tennis greats offering congratulations to Barty, who displaced Japan's Naomi Osaka to reach No. 1.

"With incredible versatility, perseverance, and focus, Ash Barty is an inspiration to the next generation of young players in Australia. Well done!" she tweeted.

Barty, who began playing tennis as a child in Brisbane, has her eyes firmly on Wimbledon and told reporters her close-knit team would not be getting carried away with what had been achieved.

Family business In Bengal, the comparison with my grandmother will always be there, says Raima

• SUDHAKARA JAIN, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Twenty years after her debut, Raima Sen reflects on her career, comparisons with her grandmother Suchitra Sen, among other things



I was under the scanner till Chokher Bali

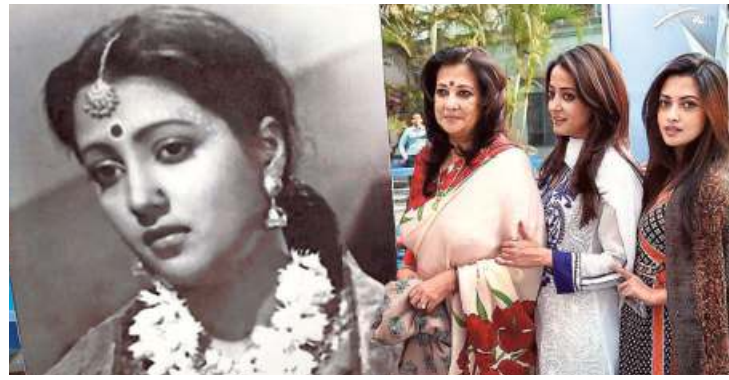
PRAVEEN SUDEVAN

For Raima Sen, who was part of a family with two successful actresses (mother Moon Moon Sen and grandmother Suchitra Sen), films were neither an active pursuit nor an aversion. They were a part of life. She and her sister, Riya, were occasional child artistes. After growing up, however, she wasn't craving to get into films. But when Vinay Shukla wanted to cast her in *Godmother*, she, still in college, didn't deny the offer.

Raima got one film after another, made by acclaimed directors like Pradeep Sarkar (*Parineeta*) and Rituparno Ghosh (*Chokher Bali*). Raima, 20 years since *Godmother*, believes she has created a niche for herself. She speaks on that among other things in this interview. Excerpts from the interview.

This is your 20th year in films. How's the ride been so far?

• I did my first film, *Godmother*, when I was 17. But it was released two years later. So, it's more than



20 years, actually. But it's been great. I got lucky. I didn't have any formal training in acting. I just got good directors.

I got *Godmother* because Vinay Shukla [the director] was screening in Calcutta. He just saw me and said, 'You fit the role'. For *Chokher Bali* [Raima's fourth film], the director (Rituparno Ghosh) was the editor of a magazine. I went for a photoshoot. He put a necklace on my head and said you are Ashalata of *Chokher Bali*. So, I got all of my initial films like that.

Did being a third-generation actor help or did you find it was a problem?

• It helps with your first break. But after that, it's completely up to you. If you aren't good, then, you won't get offers. Because so many people have gotten big launches but nothing happened after that.

So, what are the perks and downsides of being a second- or third-generation actor?

• Initially, when I entered films, there was too much of expectation

and pressure because I was Suchitra Sen's granddaughter, Moon Moon Sen's daughter. Will I be able to live up to the reputation of my grandmother was the question. Till *Chokher Bali*, I felt I was under the scanner. Only after that, I became Raima Sen.

Do you ever get tired of being compared to your mother or grandmother? Is it annoying or an honor?

• They still do that. In Bengal, they feel I look like my grandmother. So, in my photoshoots and also in my films, they try and do my eye make-up accordingly, so I resemble her. They even approached me to do the biopic of my grandmother. In Bengal, the comparison will always be there. But it's become kind of a blessing now. I am happy to be compared to my grandmother.

Did your mother and grandmother influence you to take up acting?

• I've always subconsciously wanted to get into acting. Because I saw my mother. I used to go with her. I have done some work with my mother and grandmother as a child artiste.

Almost all of your films are in Hindi and Bengali. Why did you stay away from other language films?

• Initially I was doing a lot of Hindi and Bengali films. But I have done a Telugu film, *Dhairyam*. There's one Malayalam film, *Veeraputhran*. There's a Tamil film I am doing with Vijay Antony. I would love to do more films in other languages as well.

Your filmography suggests that you are choosy about films. How do you pick a film?

• If I get five scripts, I just choose two best out of the five. It's good that I am working in Calcutta. I can sit back and relax and say that 'I want to do this and don't want to do that'.

If I didn't have another industry to fall back on, I would have probably done a lot of films in Bollywood that I didn't do. My director is my most important criteria. The way the director narrates the story, the vision, that's very important for me. Instinctively I say, 'I will do the film'. But if the vision is not strong enough, then, I won't sign up for it.

You acted in your first web series, *Hello*, two years ago. How was that experience?

• I knew the producer of the show. I have done many films with them. I said okay when they approached me. And, it went on to become a super hit. We are going to do the third season this year. It was quite different. In a web series, you are working on, say, 14 scenes a day, 12 to 14 hours at a stretch.

Films don't have so much pressure. But it was a different experience for me. It was quite enjoyable. And, I will be in a Hindi web series, which will be released this year as well.

Bollywood and other film industries in India have been criticised of not writing good roles for women. Do you think that's changing now?

• No, I have always got good characters. In Bengal, I have done many interesting characters and there have been many female-oriented roles.

GAGAN DHILLON KHULLAR

#DELHIMOVES

Martial art state of mind

Kalaripayattu brings together the discipline of a fitness routine with the grace of dance, the flexibility of yoga, and the body-confidence of a warrior

Kalaripayattu may have been born years ago, in the deep south of peninsular India, but it arrived in Delhi, in 2008, with the setting up of Kalari Kendram, now in Noida and Mayur Vihar.

The movements of this martial art form are controlled, training body and mind, in deliberate moves inspired by the strength and power of animals like lion, tiger, elephant, wild boar, snake and crocodile.

"It can be practiced by people of all ages. In fact, there are even female gurus who practice at the advanced age of 73," says Vani Bhalla Pahwa, a Gurugram-based functional fitness expert and founder of Body In Motion. And you don't need any previous training in any traditional form, like yoga.

The training follows the guru-shishya tradition, so students begin training in a 21x42ft mud pit only after paying to obedience at the Kalari temple. Since Kalari means battlefield or sacred ground, students first apply a tikka on their foreheads

with the soil and then on the idol, before bowing in front of it.

There are two traditions of Kalaripayattu, and Kalari Kendram teaches the northern style which focuses on flexibility. The movements here are more linear. For instance, students start and finish the movements at the same place. The southern style is more martial, with movements more lateral: zig-zag or star-like.

The session starts with warming up exercises like leg raises. Next, exercises that focus on building flexi-

bly are performed so that animal movements can be done easily. Then you progress to combined movements, including jumps, kicks, low stances and circular movements. These body-conditioning exercises are known as Meypayattu where most of the muscles of the body are engaged.

Once students master individual animal movements, they learn to use and defend themselves first with sticks, then with weapons and shields of metal. The training progresses to bare-hand fighting techniques, self-defence when one is unarmed.



Shinto Mathew, Kalari trainer and founder of Kalari Kendram. Over the years this ancient martial art has undergone tremendous changes. Today it has found a place in theatre, where it is embraced as a dance-form for self-expression.

"In its truest sense Kalari is not a form of aggression but one of self-discipline. It is designed to teach humility and an understanding of physical movement," says

Shinto Mathew, Kalari trainer and founder of Kalari Kendram. Over the years this ancient martial art has undergone tremendous changes. Today it has found a place in theatre, where it is embraced as a dance-form for self-expression.

Wait and watch Catch a class before signing up

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

braced as a dance-form for self-expression. Besides toning your body and helping you lose the jiggle, Kalari is a great way to perfect the gentle grace of a dance while maintaining the agility of a warrior. It will improve balance, strength and flexibility. It also trains you to stand your ground.

Kajal Srivastava, 26, who is a UPSC aspirant, was looking for something to help her unwind after hours of study, so she started Kalaripayattu a year ago. "I suffered from thyroid and migraine," she says. After the lifestyle changes that came with Kalari, "I no longer need to take a thyroid medicine and my migraine headaches also disappeared. It has changed my life," she says.

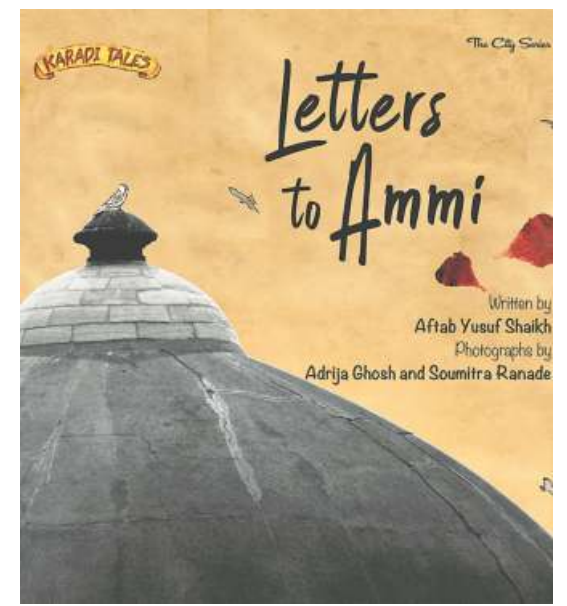
Each class lasts an hour and a half. You're usually asked to watch a session before you sign up for classes.

Book a session at kalarikendramdelhi.com; classes are at 8 a.m. on weekends; Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 5:00 p.m.

READ

Delhi through Fatima's eyes

A part of The City Series from Karadi Tales, *Letters to Ammi* takes children through Delhi



It is ironic that *Letters to Ammi* (Karadi Tales), a tale about Delhi, is written by a Mumbaikar. But Aftab Yusuf Shaikh, 29, the writer, who is a teacher of English, says, "I feel a strange connection with Delhi." He can't quite put his finger on what it is, but says it could be the history: "I feel like under the ground, there are centuries of stories and people. You can imagine fairies in the city."

Astonishing, to someone who lives here, amidst the traffic and pollution. He's quick to point out though, that it's the old city that intrigues him; the new holds no special meaning. "I know it better than many in Delhi."

The idea came about when he'd visited Delhi four or five times a few years ago, and lived in a lodge just over the Jama Masjid post office. "It was a dilapidated old building, with hardly anyone there. And that's when the idea of letters, clicked," he says. The story weaves its narrative through Delhi's many attractions, in the form of letters that a little girl writes to her mother.

More irony: the main photographer-illustrator for the project, Adrija Ghosh, 25, is from Kolkata, while the second photographer is from Mumbai. Adrija, an intern with Karadi Tales at the time, travelled to Delhi to take the pictures. Her maternal side of the family lives here. "I appreciate old cities because I come from Kolkata," she says.

The sepia-toned book, is strung together with illustrations of the red flower (in some places petals) of a Gulmohar tree, featuring on each spread. "I wondered what a child would carry back home after an outing. Children usually pick up simple things," says Adrija.

The book, in Aftab's words, "is meant for anyone who has been to Delhi and has a connection with it, children and adults."



SUNALINI MATHEW

Letters to Ammi is available at karaditales.com, ₹399; also in the series: *Varsha's Varanasi*

PRODUCT

Pumped up kicks



Rivir Shoes, with their range of printed canvas sneakers inspired by pop-fiction and graphic art, has recently launched a collection. The brand's USP is to make art wearable, and shoe-design expressive and fun. This collection of kicks includes graphic-novel inspired 'Boom', in bright blues and yellows and a 'Back To School', a tidy plaid, among others. The store also has espadrilles.

Available on rivir.in; ₹1,595 upward

For a listing or to be featured here, email us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



DANCE

Kathak presentation

"Yajnaseni: A life that blooms from the sacrificial altar", is a solo thematic Kathak performance that will be performed this Wednesday. Dancer Sangita Chatterjee will explore the relationship between Krishna and Draupadi and will showcase Chatterjee's dancing.

VENUE: The Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre
TIME: 7 p.m.



CUISINE

Summer menu

Qla, a European restaurant, has launched an all-new summer menu. Try salads such as the Scottish salmon and horseradish. For the mains, there's New Zealand Lamb and Pithivier, Cornfed Chicken, Pumpkin and Palm Heart, Vegetable Quinoa Panache, and more.

VENUE: The Kila, Seven Style Mile, A4 Kalka Dass Marg, Mehrauli
VENUE: 12 noon - 12:30 a.m.



MUSIC

Rhythm of the night

Whim 'n Rhythm, also called Whim, is Yale University's undergraduate singing group. Comprising Yale senior, the women-only, a cappella group has delighted audiences in San Francisco and Hong Kong. They'll be performing live tonight.

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



THEATRE

Comedy show

A stand-up comedy show titled "New Material Night" will be staged tonight. The comic acts of Prathush Chaubey, Angad Singh and Mayank Pandey are meant to be hilarious, yet not over the top. There is an 18+ age bar and there are limited seats.

VENUE: Happy High, 119, 5th Floor, Sishan House, Asian Games Village Road, Shahpur Jat, Siri Fort
TIME: 8 p.m. - 10 p.m.



FOOD

Sunrise Breakfast Menu

With breakfast being the most important meal of the day, Nukkadwala opens early for sun chasers to get their fill of health either after a workout or before work. The new menu includes Kande Pohe, Matra Kulcha, Parsi Anda Bhurji that go well with Mango Saffron Lassi, Gossip Wali Coffee and 22 other options.

VENUE: 16, PVR Anupam Market Complex, Saket
TIME: 10 a.m. onwards

There's a rather delicious race between technology and food and the finish line is digital dining. As consumers, we are all for a more immersive meal out



RANJANI RAJENDRA

Dining at SubliMotion is said to be a mind-blowing multi-sensory experience. Touted to be the most expensive restaurant, SubliMotion in Ibiza, Spain, is the brainchild of 2-Michelin-star chef Paco Roncero. A typical meal at SubliMotion is 20 courses long, lasts three hours and costs upwards of \$2,000 per person. Diners experience everything from a video intro that diners describe as akin to time-travelling amid 360-degree projections. Sounds like something out of *The Jetsons*.

SubliMotion, to put it succinctly, is the perfect example of how technology, on so many levels, has pervaded the food industry. In fact, the very vernacular around dining has evolved because of it; at these establishments, you are no longer considered a mere 'diner', but a consumer, as you're immersed in these experiences.

Don't worry though, you don't need to break the bank to experience the magical duet of technology and food.

For the attention span

Closer home, you have Loft, a Zee5 Experience, with its host of cafés across multiple Indian cities, and its proud use of gadgetry to pull in diners. They have everything from Xbox and PlayStation consoles to a smoothie cycle (you've got to pedal the cycle to power the blender that makes your smoothie) to keep diners en-

gaged. These are ways to engage consumers in more ways than one, points out Ali Zaidi, business head at Loft. He continues, "With the consumer attention span getting leaner by the day, it becomes very important to keep them occupied. One of the most effective ways for us to introduce this novel experience in our cafés was through the infusion of technology and games into our offerings." Loft also conducts game nights at an outlet level and hosts a gamut of workshops and events.

While tablets and iPads might not generate much interest, there are restaurant owners who're upping the ante with interactive tables. Mumbai-based Drinx Exchange's interactive tables allow diners to tap the table for everything from cricket scores to paying the bill. The screen also gives them offers on drinks available at the bar. At Chennai's Robot restaurant, robots have replaced waiters, as the droids move around the restaurants speaking to diners and carrying trays of food to respective tables. At Robo Kitchen in Hyderabad, robots



PRINTER'S GOT YOUR FOOD

In the last few years, 3D printing has really taken off in the food industry. There have been several reports of even NASA 3D printing food (where the 'D' stands for 'dining') including a pizza. While this might seem like it is straight out of a sci-fi movie, edible 3D printing is becoming more popular with both the food industry and consumers. Most food 3D printers use extrusion technology that engages paste-type ingredients. Some of the most commonly printed foods are chocolate, pancakes and pizzas.

simply deliver your food while waiters take your order.

The Beer Café, which has branches across multiple Indian cities, has been using technology for quite some time now to keep their diners engaged. With Brew Miles that diners can rack up on their app, to URBAR which allows them to access a virtual bar, the

café has been playing the technology game right. Diners can pay ahead for a set amount of their favourite beverages and use the app to scan the QR code at any Beer Café to get served.

For better choices

Technology has been making its presence felt even at franchised



Byte this SubliMotion and Zee5 Experience Loft are some of the players in tech-heavy dining
• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



and budget restaurants, with simple things like tablet devices and iPads being used for everything from browsing menus, to taking orders and feedback. Then there's Dash, a tool that lets diners taste, or rather experience, the food even before they've ordered it at a restaurant. Sounds impossible. Monica Narula, who headed food programming at NDTV for several years and the brain behind Dash, says that the idea to create 15-second videos (or 'fideos') of dishes being served at restaurants came about when, "people expected me to know everything about every dish just because I was into food programming". That's when she along with two other colleagues, Gunjan Mehrish and Noopur Tiwari decided to create "trailers of food offered at restaurants."

"These videos take them through the complexities of creating a dish, the flavours and textures one can expect, and also throws in trivia related to the food. It works as food porn," says Monica, "In that sense, Dash is not an app, it's an appetiser." In the three years since its launch, Dash is now being used by over 40 brands, including Taj, Marriott, ITC, Mamagoto and Dhaba. Along similar lines, but making

use of Augmented Reality (AR) is Yeppar. Launched in 2016, the company began designing menus using AR for restaurants across the country. Today, with over 200 restaurants on board across India, Lisbon, Shanghai and UAE, Yeppar provides diners a realistic image of what their food will be like. "We're all about integrating AR in experiential marketing. Our AR menus help people visualise what a dish will look like at a restaurant," says Ankush Sharma, CEO of Yeppar. "Often, you read about a dish on the menu, but despite the description, what one gets might be very different from what one expects. Since you can't really return food once ordered, it helps to be able to visualise it before you order. Yeppar provides diners a 3D image of the food, ingredients, nutritional value and also what to pair it with to help them arrive at a decision."

Ankush believes that one of the biggest challenges faced by retail these days is not the quality of products, but how to best engage customers. "Technology excites people and can offer a lot of gimmicks. Earlier restaurants would have live *ghazals*; that might be passé now. But given the technology-driven world we live in, it is the per-

fect way to provide people with a wholesome experience."

Then there are the drones. In December last year, Zomato acquired TechEagle, a Lucknow-based drone startup, to help it create a "hub-to-hub delivery network powered by hybrid multi-motor drones". A couple of weeks ago, they also successfully tested this technology. The drone could cover a distance of five kilometres at a speed of 80 kilometres per hours with a payload of five kilograms. The test was carried out as per DGCA norms. The drone has inbuilt sensors and an onboard computer to sense and avoid hurdles. It is also capable of taking off vertically like a helicopter.

If all goes well, the next time you order food, you'll have a drone hovering outside your door. Don't forget to give it a five-star rating!

FIRST FLIGHT

The first country to manufacture drones was Israel. Aerospace Industries has production facilities in 24 countries around the globe.

POOCH CAFE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



TIGER



WUMO



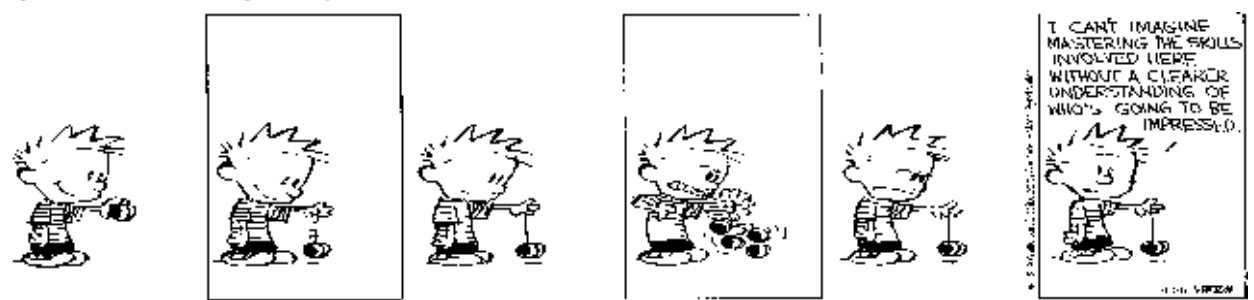
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



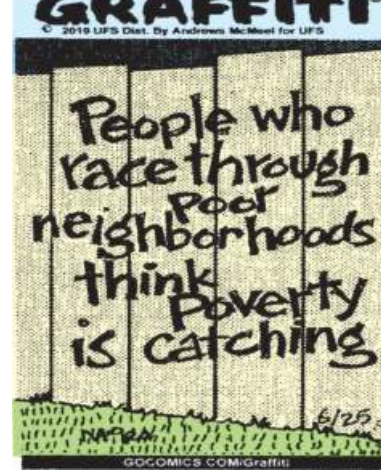
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CALVIN AND HOBBS



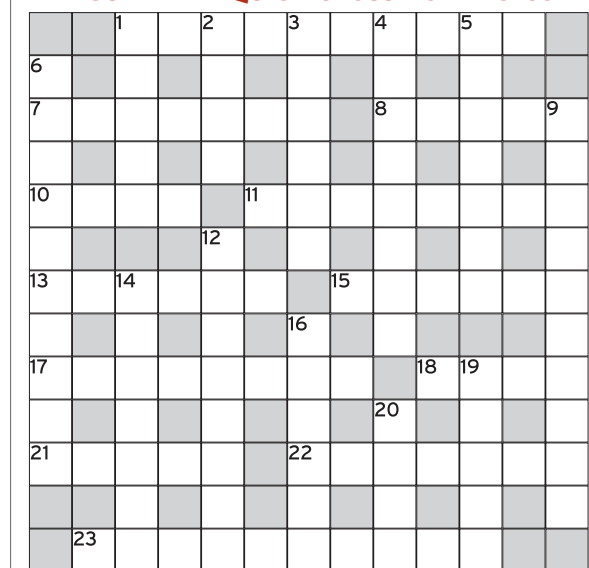
GRAFFITI



HEALTH CAPSULES

IS LACK OF SLEEP BAD FOR MY HEART?
YOU'RE 4 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO DIE PREMATURELY IF YOU SLEEP MORE THAN 9 HOURS PER NIGHT!
A RECENT STUDY REVEALED THAT PEOPLE WHO SLEEP LESS THAN SEVEN HOURS PER NIGHT HAVE LOWER LEVELS OF THREE PHYSIOLOGICAL REGULATORS THAT STRONGLY AFFECT VASCULAR HEALTH. THIS STUDY EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING THE 7 TO 9 HOURS OF SLEEP THAT THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION RECOMMENDS.

THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13105



- quality (7)
- 6 Self-denying (10)
- 9 Omniscient (3-7)
- 12 Father of Icarus (8)
- 14 Taking place far from land (4-3)
- 16 (Now mainly farmed) fish (6)
- 19 Worth (5)
- 20 Kick - bet - boat (4)

- 1 Annoying (10)
- 7 Exploded (5,2)
- 8 Asian country (5)
- 10 A lot (4)
- 11 Offer of marriage (8)
- 13 Noon (6)
- 15 (Draw with) a coloured stick (6)
- 17 Go into the red (8)
- 18 Swear (4)
- 21 Rope-making fibre (5)
- 22 Wild mountain sheep of Corsica - mono flu (anag) (7)
- 23 Two-story flat (10)

Solution No. 13104

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Solution will appear in The Hindu dated June 26, 2019.

Solution No. 13104

IN BRIEF


NASA's Curiosity finds methane spike on Mars

WASHINGTON
NASA Curiosity's Sample Analysis at Mars (SAM) has detected the highest ever levels of methane in the course of its mission on Mars, an exciting discovery because the gas could point to the existence of microbial life. But the methane could also be produced as a result of interactions between rocks and water. AFP


Madonna edges out Springsteen to top charts

NEW YORK
Charting like it's 1985? Legends Madonna and Bruce Springsteen are taking fans on a trip down memory lane, respectively nabbing numbers one and two of the U.S. top album tally. Madonna's *Madame X* struck gold on the Billboard 200 chart, landing top slot. Springsteen's *Western Stars* raced in to the second spot. AFP

Everest turning into a pile of discarded tents, human waste

Crew struggling to clear trash left behind by 700 climbers, guides and porters

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KATHMANDU

After every party it is time to clean up and Mount Everest is no different. The record number of climbers crowding the world's highest mountain this season has left a government cleanup crew grappling with how to clear away everything from abandoned tents to human waste that threatens drinking water.

Budget expedition companies charge as little as \$30,000 per climber. Everest has so much garbage – depleted oxygen cylinders, food packaging, rope – that climbers use the trash as a kind of signpost. But this year's haul from an estimated 700 climbers, guides and porters on the mountain has been a shock to the ethnic Sherpas who worked on the cleanup drive this spring.

Moreover, the tents are littering South Col, or Camp 4, which, at 8,000 metres (26,240 feet), is the highest campsite on Everest, just below the summit. The high winds at that elevation have scattered the tents and trash



Herculean task: Nepalese soldiers carrying empty oxygen cylinders collected from Mount Everest in Namche Bajar, Solukhumbu district, in this file photo. • AP

everywhere. "The altitude, oxygen levels, slippery slopes, and bad weather make it very difficult to bring big things as tents down," said Dawa Steven Sherpa, who led an independent cleanup last month and has been a leading figure in the campaign to clean Mount Everest for the past 12 years.

Exhausted climbers struggling to breathe and battling nausea leave heavy tents behind rather than attempt to carry them down. Mr. Sherpa said the logos on the tents were deliberately ripped out so the culprits could evade detection.

"It took us an hour to dig out just one tent out of the

frozen ice and bring it down," said Sherpa. His expeditions have alone brought down some 20,000 kg of garbage since 2008.

Mr. Sherpa estimated 30 tents had been left on South Col, and as much as 5,000 kg of trash. Bringing it down is a herculean task when any misstep could be fatal.

AI may not take your job, but it could become your boss

Programs turn adjunct-managers in workplaces

KEVIN ROOSE

When Conor Sprouls, a customer service representative in the call centre of insurance giant MetLife talks to a customer over the phone, he keeps one eye on the bottom-right corner of his screen. There, in a little blue box, artificial intelligence (AI) tells him how he's doing.

Talking too fast? The program flashes an icon of a speedometer, indicating that he should slow down.

Sound sleepy? The software displays an "energy cue," with a picture of a coffee cup.

Not empathetic enough? A heart icon pops up.

For decades, people have fearfully imagined armies of hyper-efficient robots invading offices and factories, gobbling up jobs once done by humans. But in all of the worry about the potential of artificial intelligence to replace rank-and-file workers, we may have overlooked the possibility it will replace the bosses, too.

Mr. Sprouls and the other call centre workers at his office in Warwick, Rhode Island, still have plenty of human supervisors. But the software on their screens – made by Cogito, an AI company in Boston – has become a kind of adjunct manager, always watching them. At the end of every call, Mr. Sprouls' Cogito notifications are tallied and added to a statistics dashboard that his supervisor can view. If he hides the Cogito window by minimizing it, the program notifies his supervisor.

Cogito is one of several AI programs used in call centres and other workplaces. The goal, according to Joshua Feast, Cogito's chief executive, is to make work-



Being watched: Conor Sprouls at a MetLife call centre, where an AI program monitors employees, in Warwick. • NYT

ers more effective by giving them real-time feedback.

"There is variability in human performance," Mr. Feast said. "We can infer from the way people are speaking with each other whether things are going well or not."

Track productivity

The goal of automation has always been efficiency, but in this new kind of workplace, AI sees humanity itself as the thing to be optimised.

Amazon uses complex algorithms to track worker productivity in its fulfillment centres, and can automatically generate the paperwork to fire workers who don't meet their targets, as *The Verge* uncovered this year. (Amazon has disputed that it fires workers without human input, saying that managers can intervene in the process.) IBM has used Watson, its AI platform, during employee reviews to predict future performance and claims it has a 96% accuracy rate.

Then there are the startups. Cogito, which works with large insurance companies like MetLife and Huma-

na as well as financial and retail firms, says it has 20,000 users.

Source of tension

But using AI to manage workers in conventional, 9-to-5 jobs has been more controversial.

Critics have accused companies of using algorithms for managerial tasks, saying that automated systems can dehumanise and unfairly punish employees. And while it's clear why executives would want AI that can track everything their workers do, it's less clear why workers would.

In the gig economy, management by algorithm has also been a source of tension between workers and the platforms that connect them with customers.

This year, drivers for Postmates, DoorDash and other on-demand delivery companies protested a method of calculating their pay, using an algorithm, that put customer tips toward guaranteed minimum wages – a practice that was nearly invisible to drivers because of the way the platform obscures the details of worker pay. NY TIMES

Drinking coffee may help fight obesity: study

In future, it may become part of weight management regime and glucose regulation programmes



The study is one of the first to find components which could have a direct effect on 'brown fat'. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

Drinking coffee may stimulate the body's own fat-fighting defences, which could be the key to tackling obesity and diabetes, says a study published in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

The study is one of the first to be carried out in humans to find components

which could have a direct effect on 'brown fat' functions, which plays a key role in how quickly we can burn calories as energy.

Initially only attributed to babies and hibernating mammals, it was discovered in recent years that adults can have brown fat too.

"We need to ascertain if caffeine is acting as the sti-

mulus or if there's another component helping with the activation of brown fat," said Professor Michael Symonds, from the University of Nottingham.

"... It could potentially be used as part of a weight management regime or as part of glucose regulation programme to help prevent diabetes," he said.

'Everyone is not made the same'

Dutee Chand on finding a sense of love and belonging

ANAHITA PANICKER
MUMBAI

Sprinter Dutee Chand is wearing tracks, a pair of white sneakers, bright pink nails, and an affable smile as she sits to chat about becoming India's fastest woman, the country's first openly queer athlete, and her plans for the future.

The 23-year-old, who bagged two silver medals at the Asian Games in Jakarta, and who also holds the national record in the 100 metre event, is currently focussing on qualifying for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

An early start

Ask the Odisha native when it all began, she says, "I must have been five when I started." It was in 2008 when she started winning medals at junior national-level meets. "I didn't know anything about sprinting," she chuckles,



Dutee Chand

comes to my personal life, they should also understand that the path that I've taken is right," she says, "My heart has chosen to love whoever it has. That is our own right."

It was Ms. Saraswati who threatened to tell the media about her same-sex relationship with a woman from their village, Chaka Gopalpur.

Ms. Chand has found support in her younger sisters, coach N. Ramesh and the LGBTQ community across the world. She doesn't resent her mother or sister for their hostility, "Aaj nahin toh kal theek ho jayenge! (If not today, tomorrow they'll be fine!)," she declares.

"God has made the world this way, and everyone was not made the same. They take this small topic of hormones, make it a big issue and declare that you cannot run. We are humans".

Deep impact



Permanent mark: An aerial view of a crater on a barley field near Ahlbach, Germany on Monday. Experts say that an air bomb dating to the Second World War exploded in the field, leaving a 10-metre wide and 4-metre deep hole. • AFP

'Sperm retains viability in outer space'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

The human sperm retains its viability within the different gravitational conditions found in outer space, a study, performed using a small aerobatic training aircraft (CAPIO), which can provide short-duration hypogravity exposure, has found.

The plane executed 20 parabolic manoeuvres, providing 8 seconds of microgravity for each parabola. Overall, sperm samples obtained from ten healthy donors were analysed.

The sperm analysis comprised of concentration, motility, vitality, morphology and DNA fragmentation. Researchers found no difference in any of the parameters between the space samples and the control group samples from the earth.

Ageing S. Koreans begin a new chapter on catwalk

To realise their dreams, some seniors flock to modelling schools while others become YouTube stars

REUTERS
SEOUL

Boasting an overgrown beard and grey wavy hair, 65-year-old Kim Chil-doo glared into the wall, poised and confident, as he walked on runway with young models at an academy in Seoul earlier this month.

Mr. Kim became South Korea's first senior fashion model last year, realising his lifelong dream with a charismatic debut at Seoul Fashion Week.

"This was what I wanted to do when I was young, but gave up to make money, and I thought maybe it's worth trying even now," Mr. Kim said. "And I'm glad I did it – being a model is really fun. Senior? It's just a label."

In a country with the world's fastest ageing popu-



Begin again: South Korean model Kim Chil-doo, 65, centre, walking down the catwalk in Seoul, South Korea. • REUTERS

lation, many elderly South Koreans like Mr. Kim are venturing into unconventional late career opportunities.

Seniors have flocked to modelling schools after Mr. Kim's success. Others have become YouTube stars or signed up to teach Korean to K-pop fans overseas.

The trend has offered fresh hopes to the elderly, many of whom take low-paying, blue collar jobs to support themselves after retiring. Almost half of South Korean baby boomers live in poverty – the highest among members of the Organisation for Economic Co-opera-

tion and Development.

On a recent weekday afternoon, about two dozen people, mostly in their late 50s to 60s, gathered at a welfare centre in Songpa for catwalk training, hoping to emulate Mr. Kim, now an up-and-coming star in commercials and fashion magazines.

'Reviving my youth'

For You Sung-lae, 59, her unfulfilled childhood dream of becoming an actress and her interest in fashion led her to sign up for the course. "Learning modelling feels like reviving my youth that I could not enjoy as I got married and gave birth at a very young age," Ms. Yoo said.

Lim Sung-min, who represents Mr. Kim and is a former model himself, said his agency is seeking to bolster its

ranks of senior models, aiming to cater to the fast-growing elderly industry.

Some firms and local governments are seeking to harness the older generation's untapped potential and help them start a new chapter of life.

Cho Yong-min was a public policy student at Princeton University when he floated a small language exchange project between retired South Korean professionals and foreigners in 2014. He started recruiting elderly volunteers, linking them with Korean students at Princeton and Yale.

"They were too talented to play pool there every day, with so much social and career experience to share," said Mr. Cho, who recently graduated from the school.

Tax us more, 20 billionaires in U.S. say

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

"Tax us more!" was the message on Monday from about 20 super-wealthy Americans who urged presidential candidates to back higher taxes on the wealthiest to confront climate change and other priorities.

"America has a moral, ethical and economic responsibility to tax our wealth more," said the group, which included George Soros, Facebook co-founder Chris Hughes, descendants of Walt Disney and the owners of the Hyatt hotel chain.

"A wealth tax could help address the climate crisis, improve the economy, improve health outcomes, fairly create opportunity."

Soap ad on women's rights sparks row in Pak.

Conservatives lambast the message

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ISLAMABAD

An international detergent brand has come under fire for an advertisement questioning gender stereotypes in the conservative patriarchal country, with critics denouncing the company for allegedly insulting Islam.

The commercial for Ariel soap calls for women to break free of conservative norms and pursue careers.

In the ad, several women representing different professions – including a journalist and doctor – are seen pushing dirty sheets hanging on a clothesline off the screen.

The sheets are printed with common refrains used to reinforce the oppression of women in Pakistan, including the question "What will people say?", which heralds scandal every time a woman chooses to challenge gender norms. It ends with a close-up shot of the Pakistan women's cricket team captain Bismah Maroof saying: "Stay within the house... these are not only sentences but stains".

Social media was abuzz on the issue, with conservatives lambasting its message using the hashtag "#BoycotAriel" on Twitter.

"They (are) insulting Islamic teaching in their advertising," wrote Binte Suleman on Twitter. Others called for regulators to have the commercial officially censored and removed.

Critics filed a legal petition against the ad.