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NEARBY

Vasant Vihar triple murder case solved, two held
NEW DELHI
A woman and her live-in partner were arrested from a Gurugram hotel on Wednesday for allegedly killing an elderly couple and their caretaker in Vasant Vihar on June 23. The accused, identified as Preeti Sehrawat and Manoj Bhatt, had been staying in the hotel near their house after committing the crime, the police said.

DU first cut-off list to be out tomorrow
NEW DELHI
Delhi University is expected to release its first cut-off list for its undergraduate courses on Friday. Going by previous years' trend, the cut-offs are expected to be some of the highest in the country. Last year, the highest cut-off was for BA (Programme) at Lady Sri Ram College — 98.75%.

Indore BJP MLA assaults civic official, arrested
INDORE
BJP leader Kailash Vijayvargiya's son and a party MLA from Indore in Madhya Pradesh was on Wednesday arrested for attacking a civic body official with a cricket bat after a heated argument over a demolition drive. A video of the assault went viral on social media, after which the police filed an FIR against Akash Vijayvargiya and 10 others, an official said.

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54 nations back India for UNSC non-permanent seat

Pakistan and China also come out in support

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC
India has won the unanimous support of all countries in the 55-member Asia-Pacific Group at the United Nations in support of its bid for a non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council (UNSC) for a two-year term in 2021-22.
The development is particularly significant given that Pakistan and China, both countries with which India has had diplomatic challenges at the UN, supported the move.
"Humbled by the show of solidarity by the Asia-Pacific Group in endorsing India's candidature," India's Ambassador & Permanent Representative to the UN Syed

Pride of place
The earlier instances of India being elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council
• 1950-1951
• 1967-1968
• 1972-1973
• 1977-1978
• 1984-1985
• 1991-1992
• 2011-2012
A unanimous step. Asia-Pacific Group @ UN unanimously endorses India's candidature for a non-permanent seat of the Security Council for 2 year term in 2021/22
— SYED AKBARUDDIN, INDIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN
FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS: CHINA, FRANCE, RUSSIA, THE U.K. AND THE U.S.

Akbaruddin told *The Hindu*. "We accept the responsibility with humility and will now seek support from the broader UN membership at the elections in General Assembly next year."
The 55-member Asia-Pacific Group gets to nominate one of its members for the June 2020 elections to a non-permanent seat on the UNSC. Estonia, Niger, Tunisia, Vietnam and St. Vincent and the Grenadines were elected earlier this month.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

India and U.S. resolve to work through their trade differences

Secretary of State Pompeo meets Jaishankar, says hurdles can be negotiated

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI
India and the U.S. resolved to "work through" their differences which have led to an impasse on trade issues as External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar hosted U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in Delhi ahead of a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump in Osaka this week.

"If you trade with somebody, and particularly if they are your biggest trading partners, it's impossible that you don't have trade issues. But I think the sign of a mature relationship is that ability to negotiate your way through that and find com-



U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in New Delhi. •R.V. MOORTHY

mon ground," Mr. Jaishankar said at the end of their meeting on Wednesday, although neither side announced any positive outcomes from the

discussions. Mr. Pompeo and Mr. Jaishankar are understood to have thrashed out issues, including tariffs and counter-tariffs imposed

by New Delhi and Washington on each other in the past year, as well as the U.S.'s specific concerns with India's proposed laws on e-commerce and data localisation, on price caps and market access.
"The U.S. is clear that it seeks greater market access and the removal of trade barriers in our economic relationship, and today I addressed these differences in the spirit of friendship and I think we will be able to resolve these issues in the interests of our two countries," said Mr. Pompeo.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12
STAND UP FOR RELIGIOUS RIGHTS, SAYS POMPEO PAGE 13

Drowned dream



A Salvadoran migrant and his 23-month-old daughter drowned in Rio Grande river in Mexico while trying to cross into the U.S. The searing image of Oscar Alberto Martinez Ramirez and Valeria has renewed the debate on the plight of migrants. •REUTERS (REPORTS ON PAGE 14)

Modi says he is pained by Jharkhand lynching

'Don't insult the State by calling it a hub of such incidents'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Breaking his silence on the Jharkhand lynching, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday that he was pained by the incident, and the law would take its course in the case. However, he criticised the "insults" hurled on the State over the lynching.
"Some people in the Rajya Sabha are calling Jharkhand a hub of lynching. Is this fair? Why are they insulting a State? None of us have the right to insult the State of Jharkhand," he said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. •PTI

Jharkhand will go to the polls later this year. Whether it is Jharkhand, or West Bengal or Kerala, incidents of violence should be treated in the

same manner and the perpetrators of violence should get the message that the entire country is one on this issue, the Prime Minister said.
In the Jharkhand lynching, Tabrez Ansari, 24, was tied to an electric pole and beaten up on suspicion of being a thief.
The suspects recorded his plight on a mobile phone and forced him to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Jai Hanuman'.
CONTINUED ON PAGE 12
CALL FOR SWIFT ACTION PAGE 13
'NEED A MOVEMENT TO CURB LYNCHING' PAGE 2

1.02 lakh more people excluded from Assam NRC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI
The office of the Coordinator for the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam on Wednesday published an "additional draft exclusion list" consisting of the names of 1,02,462 people.
This list is different from the one containing the names of 40.07 lakh people

excluded last year from the 3.29 crore applicants.
This additional list also contains names included in the draft NRC published on July 30, 2018, but subsequently found ineligible for three reasons. "People found to be declared foreigners or doubtful (D) voters or with cases pending at Foreigners' Tribunals dis-

covered after publication of the draft NRC are in the additional list. So are their descendants, as applicable," a government spokesperson said. The other categories in the extra list are those found ineligible while appearing as witnesses during claims and objection hearings.
CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Four die while cleaning septic tank in Rohtak

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH
Four people died reportedly of asphyxiation in Haryana's Rohtak on Wednesday after inhaling toxic fumes while cleaning a septic tank, the police said.
The police said the four included an official of the Public Health Department, who had reportedly arranged the other three for cleaning a

drain-cum-septic tank.
"All the four were aged between 25 and 30 years and had gone to clean the septic tanks without any protective gear or masks," DSP, Rohtak, Gorakhpal told *The Hindu* over phone. "We have registered a case against officials of the PHD under Section 304 of the IPC and relevant provisions of the SC/ST Act," he said.

Titanic hero tweets on Chennai drought

Leonardo DiCaprio cites BBC report, highlights plight of the residents

K. LAKSHMI
CHENNAI
Now, everyone seems to love a good drought. As Chennai reels under a dire water crisis, it seems to have grabbed eyeballs across the world. Twitter's big news for the city on Wednesday was actor Leonardo DiCaprio tweeting about the Chennai water crisis, citing a report on the issue. He had tweeted: "Only rain can save Chennai from this situation."
Citing BBC News, Mr. DiCaprio, a United Nations Messenger of Peace with a special focus on climate change, has written about wells that are empty and a

city that is without water. He also highlighted the plight of Chennaiites who are scrambling for water and waiting in queues for long hours to fetch water.
"As the water levels depleted, hotels and restaurants started to shut down temporarily; and the air con was turned off in the city's metro. Officials in the city continue to try and find alternate sources of water-but the community continues to pray for rain," read his post.
Interestingly, Mr. DiCaprio, probably known best for his role in the Oscar-winning *Titanic*, and



released documentary *Ice on Fire*, which he produced and narrates, received rave reviews. He said the documentary focussed on never-before-seen solutions to the environmental crisis.
But that was not all. Earlier last week, U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders too highlighted a BBC report on Chennai running out of water in a social media post.
Several people took to social media to thank Mr. DiCaprio for his concern and called the crisis an example of political tension within the country. Some Instagram users like Mahesh Manoj blamed it on

himself an Academy award winner, has taken on the avatar of a climate change campaigner. His recently

residents who were not keen on rainwater harvesting in their houses; this had led to a decline in groundwater levels and a serious water scarcity.
Back at home, though, it is clear that the water crisis has certainly been rendered political. Saidapet MLA and former Chennai Mayor Ma. Subramanian, who staged a protest seeking a solution for the water crisis, noted that the issue was making headlines in several international newspapers, but charged that "the State government was yet to realise the gravity of the situation".

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DELHI	Regular Batch		Weekend Batch	LUCKNOW
25 June 9 AM	11 July 6 PM	25 July 9 AM	6 July 9 AM	18 June 5 PM
HYDERABAD	PUNE	AHMEDABAD	JAIPUR	
15 May	3 June	15 May	22 June	

फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन 2020

- DELHI: 13 June | LUCKNOW: 11 July | JAIPUR: 22 June | Batch also @ AHMEDABAD
- ▶ प्रारंभिक, मुख्य परीक्षा और निबंध के लिए महत्वपूर्ण सभी टॉपिक का विस्तृत कवरेज
 - ▶ एनीमेशन, पॉवर प्वाइंट, वीडियो जैसी तकनीकी सुविधाओं का प्रयोग
 - ▶ मौलिक अवधारणाओं की समझ के विकास एवं विश्लेषणात्मक क्षमता निर्माण पर विशेष ध्यान
 - ▶ अंतर - विषयक समझ विकसित करने का प्रयास
 - ▶ मुख्य परीक्षा, निबंध, PT, सीसेट टेस्ट सीरीज
 - ▶ निबंध लेखन - शैली, PT 365, Mains 365, सीसेट कक्षाएं
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18th June | 1 PM

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English Medium 25th June | 5 PM
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DU first cut-off list tomorrow

More seats and fewer applications may impact percentage requirements

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi University is expected to release its first cut-off list for its undergraduate courses on Friday.

Going by previous years' trends, the cut-offs are expected to be some of the highest in the country. Last year, the highest cut-off was for BA (Programme) at Lady Sri Ram College - 98.75%.

This year, in order to accommodate EWS quota, the university increased its intake by 10%. Last year there were approximately 56,000 seats up for grabs, this year that number has gone up to around 63,000. The number of students that have applied to DU also dropped by over 20,000 this year.

These factors may have an impact on the cut-offs.

BA English continues to be the most-sought after course, followed by BA Political science, BA Programme, BA Economics, BA History and others.

ADMISSION GUIDE

STEP 1 Cut-off eligibility

After the cut-off list is announced, applicants must check whether they meet the requirement for the course they have applied to. Following this, they need to log in to the admissions portal on DU's website and select the appropriate course and college they are eligible for to generate the admission application form.

STEP 2 Document verification and approval of admission

After the first list is out, students will have time till July 1 to approach the college and carry out the application process. In case the documents are not verified online, students will be given provisional admission and they must submit the documents within a week after the admissions end. All candidates who meet the cut-off requirement will be admitted, but late arrivals - outside the prescribed duration - will not be entertained.

Documents required (originals and photocopies)

Class 12	Class 10	Three passport size photos
marksheet	marksheet	

Community certificate if applicable for SC/ST/OBC/EWS/CW/KM category

NOTE: Students who do not have the EWS or OBC certificate yet may submit the acknowledgement slip. They will have to sign an undertaking and submit the certificate at a later date.

STEP 3 Fee payment

A link to the fee payment gateway will be made available to the applicants on the admissions portal. The payment can be made through net banking, debit or credit card. Fees can be paid till 3 a.m./p.m. of the day after approval.

CHANGE OF COLLEGE

- In case an applicant wishes to change his/her college after the release of subsequent lists, the person needs to first make sure he/she is eligible and is advised to visit the college to confirm
- Once confirmed, the candidate is required to cancel the admission to the first college and then reapply
- Fees to be paid by the applicant will be automatically adjusted based on the cancellation fee and the admission fee for the new college. The university also said it would host an online dashboard of seats available in colleges

IN BRIEF

IIT-Delhi holds workshop on air quality

NEW DELHI

The Centre of Excellence for Research on Clean Air at IIT-Delhi, in association with the US Embassy in India, organised a workshop on air quality to discuss how to reduce fine particulate matter (PM) concentrations. The delegates stressed on the need for India to develop a PM-monitoring network. US Science Envoy James Schauer also spoke at the event.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	162	Gurgaon	130
Ghaziabad	164	Faridabad	155
Noida	156	Greater Noida	211

Legend: Good (0-50), Satisfactory (51-100), Moderate (101-200), Poor (201-300), Very poor (301-400), Severe (>401)

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

DELHI TODAY

Dance: An Odissi recital by Manisha Manaswini, disciple of Rojalin Mohapatra at The Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m. onward.

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 Complex, India International Centre (IIC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: Assemblage '19, an exhibition by the students of the Delhi School of Photography at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

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

Counselling programme for PG students

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A two-day counselling programme will be held for students applying to the entrance-based Post Graduate courses, Delhi University said on Wednesday.

The programme will be held on Friday and on July 1. It is being organised for

students from economically weaker sections, SC/ST and OBC categories, Kashmiri migrants, and wards of ex-servicemen, seeking admission in MA, M.Com and M.Sc courses.

The sessions will be held between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. at various departments of the university. Contact informa-

tion and addresses of department coordinators are available on the website.

A total of 1,31,129 people have applied for the university's PG courses. This year, the entrance test will be held at 18 centres across the country. In a first, the test is being carried out by the National Testing Agency.

HC refuses urgent hearing on plea against St. Stephen's admissions

'Matter is already listed before another Bench on July 2'

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday declined to give an early hearing to a plea seeking an interim stay on the interview process for admission of Christian students to Delhi University's St. Stephen's College.

A vacation Bench of Justice Jyoti Singh and Justice Manoj Ohri said the matter was already listed before another Bench on July 2 and, therefore, there was no urgency.

The petitioner, N.P. Ashley, who is a teacher and a member of the college's Governing Body, withdrew his plea. He had sought an urgent hearing as the admission interviews were scheduled to begin from Friday.

On July 12, the HC had re-



fused to stay the interview process after three teachers of the college filed a petition against the inclusion of a member of the institution's Supreme Council on the interview panel for the selection of Christian students.

The teacher-members of the college's Governing Body: Ashley, Abhishek Singh and Nandita Narain, have challenged a decision taken by the Supreme Council at its meeting on March 12.

They had submitted that the Supreme Council had decided to have an additional Christian member nominated by it or the Governing Body to be part of the interview panel. The Supreme Council is higher in authority than the Governing Body of the college, comprising members from the Church of North India and also those nominated by it.

The teachers have contended that the "interference" of the church in the admission process was against the norms of the college. The college, however, claimed that the petition was not maintainable as neither any fundamental right nor any statutory or legal right of the petitioners was violated.

Students' body asks for rewriting of draft National Education Policy

AISA urges students to give 'massive feedback' to Centre

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

While the All India Students' Association (AISA) called for rewriting of the draft National Education Policy (NEP) on Wednesday, K.M. Sridhar, a member of the drafting panel, addressed questions regarding the policy at an event held by the Delhi University Students' Union.

"In any policy-making process a draft is made, comments are invited and then the state decides how to take it forward," said Mr Sridhar, setting the stage for the discussions.

The panel looked closely at neurological and mental health research while drafting the philosophy of this policy, which is based on the evolution of a child as they grow older, he said.

At the school level, the policy deals with expansion of the Right to Education, changes in administration of public schools, division of the system into a "5+3+3+2" system, instead of the current 10+2 system.

At higher education levels, proposals include a liberal arts approach to undergraduate education, with removal of distinctions between academics and vocational courses, and making UG education "terminal".

Comments have been invited on the draft policy up till June 30. AISA has asked for the deadline to be extended till July-end and urged students to give massive feedback to the government. In a statement, AISA raised issue with the formation of a 'Rashtriya Shiksha Aayog', which it said would be under the control of the Prime Minister.

"Full of jargon and jargon, the draft NEP tries to impose the disastrous roadmap of a discriminatory higher education in India," it said.

No compulsion on universities to teach any particular subject: UGC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Universities are autonomous bodies and there is no compulsion on them to teach any particular subject, the University Grants Commission (UGC) said on Wednesday.

The UGC's comments come in the wake of a row triggered by allegations from Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU), which on Monday had said that the university was trying to impose Hindi by making it a compulsory subject at the undergraduate BA and B.Tech courses.

Amid JNUSU allegations, the university had on Tuesday asserted that it is "unfortunate" that such "misinformation" has been circulated and had said the discussion on the matter has been deferred.

"The idea behind the letter sent to universities in October 2018 was to seek suggestions about teaching of Hindi in universities and not to mandate it," said UGC Secretary Rajnish Jain.

'Need a movement to curb lynching'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Hundreds of people converged at Jantar Mantar here to protest against the recent lynching of a youth in Jharkhand and demanded the resignation of Chief Minister Raghubar Das.

Leading the protesters, former JNU student leader Umar Khalid said it was "shameful" that the Opposition took a week to speak

out against the heinous incident and called for a "Nirbhaya-like movement" to curb the lynchings.

"People need to come out on the streets," Mr. Khalid said, adding: "Political patronage is being given to the culprits... We are also angry at the Opposition. Where are they today?"

Tabrez Ansari, 24, was tied to a pole and thrashed with sticks by a mob at Dhat-

kidih village in Jharkhand's Seraikela Kharsawan district last Wednesday on the suspicion of theft. The man was seen in a video being forced to chant religious slogans. He succumbed to his injuries on Saturday.

CPI leader Kanhaiya Kumar and Bahujan Samaj Party MP Kunwar Danish Ali were also at the protest and spoke out against the Narendra Modi-led government.

against the heinous incident and called for a "Nirbhaya-like movement" to curb the lynchings.

Video of man doing stunts on 'Delhi Police' car goes viral

Man in clip not a cop; vehicle belongs to private contractor hired by the force: police

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

A video of a man performing a stunt on a vehicle that had 'Delhi Police' written on it went viral on social media on Wednesday.

In the video, which was uploaded on a popular video-sharing app, a man is seen performing a dangerous stunt on top of the vehicle, which has a beacon light mounted on the top and 'Delhi Police' written on the bonnet. The police said they have initiated a probe.



A grab from the video.
*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The 15-second video shows a man getting out of the driver's seat of the moving vehicle, getting on top of the car and doing a few push-ups before hopping down and getting back in the vehicle.

"We are going through the profile of the user who has uploaded the video on Tik-Tok app, in order to get more details," said a police officer.

Madhur Verma, DCP (New Delhi) and Delhi Police PRO, said that it has been confirmed that the vehicle in the

video belongs to a private contractor and it had been hired by the Delhi Police.

Show-cause notice

Mr. Verma, who said that the incident appears to be old, added: "The person in the video is not a policeman. He has been identified as the friend of a private driver of the vehicle. The private contractor has been issued a show-cause notice for the violation, and necessary legal action will be taken against him."

Two minors among 7 hurt in Narela fire

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Seven people, including two children, were injured after a fire broke out at a general store in outer Delhi's Narela on Wednesday.

Delhi Fire Service (DFS) officials said that eight-year-old Ayush and four-year-old Vijay suffered 20% burns.

Twenty-three-year-old Amarjeet suffered 80% burn injuries and is stated to be in a critical condition.

The other victims are Mahesh (16) and Raju Ram (15), who both sustained minor wounds. Bhagwan Swarup (25) suffered 35% burns while Satpal (22) suffered 40% burn injuries.

The fire department said they received a call about the blaze at 4.39 a.m. Two fire tenders brought the blaze under control by 6.45 a.m. It is suspected that the fire started from one of the power metres installed in the general store.

Another incident

In another fire, seven persons were rescued after a fire broke out at a building on Shanker Road in Ranjeet Nagar on Wednesday.

"A fire broke out at an office located on the second floor of the building," a senior fire officer said. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained.

Report sought on cop's comments against Sikhs

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI

A court here on Wednesday sought an action-taken report from the Delhi Police on a complaint seeking prosecution of a constable for allegedly posting provocative comments on his social media account against the Sikh community.

Metropolitan Magistrate Sheetal Chaudhary at the Sakets courts directed the police to file the report by July 18.

According to the complainant, businessman Manjeet Singh, the constable posted the comments while making reference to the Mukherjee Nagar incident in which cer-

tain members of the community allegedly beat up some police personnel while staging a protest against alleged bashing up of a driver and his son belonging to the minority group last week.

The police have lodged cross FIRs in the incident.

Before moving the court, Mr. Chugh lodged a complaint with the local police and later submitted a copy of it to the Commissioner but no action was taken, the complaint said.

He has sought lodging of a case against the constable for various offences, including for promoting enmity between classes.

CCTVs to help women step out without fear: Gopal Rai

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi Development Minister Gopal Rai on Wednesday said that women in the city are currently afraid of stepping outside their houses, adding that CCTV cameras can resolve the issue. The Minister made the comment after inaugurating the installation process of CCTV cameras in his Babarpur constituency.

"Women can now step outside their houses with confidence, knowing [CCTV] cameras installed by the Delhi government are out there for their security. If anyone misbehaves with women, the person will be nabbed immediately with the help of CCTV footage," the Minister said.

He said that the Station House Officer of the area will get a live feed of all cameras to avoid any delay in accessing the footage. It is part of the Delhi government's project to install 1.4 lakh CCTV cameras across the city.

"The security of the people of Delhi is something the government is actively working to achieve. It is an important day for Babarpur as the installation of CCTV cameras begins today. This was a key promise of our government to the people and is being fulfilled today," the Minister said.

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Tripura panchayat polls to be held on July 27: SEC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA AGARTALA Elections to the three-tier panchayats in Tripura would be held on July 27, State Election Commissioner G. Kamawara Rao announced on Wednesday. Ballot papers would be used in the polls, the SEC said. The model code of conduct came into effect in the respective panchayat areas from Wednesday itself. "Elections to 6,111 gram panchayat seats, 419 panchayat samiti seats and 116 zila parishad seats will be held on July 27," Mr. Rao told a press conference here. Altogether, 12,03,070 voters, including 6,16,893 males and 5,86,176 females, would be eligible to exercise their franchise. The filing of nominations would start from July 1 and will continue till July 8. The last date for withdrawal of nomination is July 11, Mr. Rao said.

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Odisha RS bypolls: Cong stalls House proceedings

Over BJD's support to BJP nominee; demands CM's clarification

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BHUBANESWAR Members of the Congress party stalled the proceedings of the Odisha Assembly several times on Wednesday demanding a clarification from Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on the ruling Biju Janata Dal's support to Bharatiya Janata Party's nominee Aswini Kumar Vaishnav in the Rajya Sabha bypolls in the State.



BJP candidate Aswini Kumar Vaishnav submitting his nomination for the Rajya Sabha bypolls, at the Assembly Conference Hall in Bhubaneswar.

'Mining mafia links' The issue was raised by Congress Legislature Party leader Narasingha Mishra who accused Mr. Vaishnav, a former IAS officer, of being hand in glove with the mining mafia. He claimed to have documents to show in how many mining scams Mr. Vaishnav was involved.

Mr. Mishra criticised the BJP for making Mr. Vaishnav its candidate for the Rajya Sabha. "The BJP has no moral right to claim to be the Opposition party in Odisha because it is hand in glove with the BJD," he said.

Slogans raised Several Congress members also rushed to the well of the House raising slogans against the BJD and the BJP, alleging that both parties had nexus with mining companies. Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro adjourned the proceedings of the House at

least five times before holding an all-party meeting to end the deadlock. Mr. Vaishnav, who was in the Assembly premises to enquire about his candidature for the Rajya Sabha polls, told media persons that he had nothing to hide and will talk about the controversy once the election process was over. While announcing the names of Amar Patnaik and Sasmit Patra as BJD's candidates for the Rajya Sabha bypolls, the Chief Minister had announced that his party will support the BJP nominee for the third seat.

Relief for 3 thrown off train in W.B.

They had refused to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'; CM vows stern action

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KOLKATA West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday announced compensation for three persons, including a madrasa teacher, who sustained injuries after being pushed off a train in the city for allegedly refusing to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'. The incident happened on Monday. "I have spoken to the victims and announced a compensation of ₹50,000 to each of them. We condemn such incidents and stern action should be taken by the police in this case. We will



Mamata Banerjee

and asking him to follow suit. "We were thrashed and then thrown out of the train at Park Circus railway station," he told reporters.

Ms. Banerjee had also announced compensation for victims of political violence in Bhatpara, which has been witnessing frequent post-poll violence between supporters of the BJP and the Trinamool Congress.

The fight between the two parties has intensified in the area ever since Arjun Singh crossed over from TMC to BJP, and won the Barrackpore Lok Sabha seat under which Bhatpara falls. not allow such things to happen in the State," Ms. Banerjee told reporters. Hafeez Mohd. Sahrulk Haldar, who received minor injuries in the incident, said he was beaten up by a mob which was shouting slogans

Rights group protests 'harassment' of activists, locals in Niyamgiri

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BHUBANESWAR The People's Union for Democratic Rights, a Delhi-based civil liberties and democratic rights organisation, has expressed concern over "intimidation and death threats to public-spirited individuals and professionals in the Niyamgiri region by the office of the Superintendent of Police, Kalahandi". In a statement, the PUDDR said that Padmanabha Choudhury, a journalist, had

been invited by the villagers to cover a meeting on Forest Rights Act at Chatrapur panchayat in Lanjigarh block of the district on June 17. Policemen visited him at his house that very evening and asked him to accompany them to the Lanjigarh police station, alleging that he had attended a Maoist meeting. "On June 19, the SP interrogated him and began abusing him in filthy language... The SP did not heed Mr. Choudhury's explanation, but threatened to have him killed in an encounter if he argued about why he attended the Maoist meeting," the PUDDR statement said. The PUDDR statement, signed by its secretaries - Deepika Tandon and Shahana Bhattacharya - said that Mr. Choudhury's intimidation forms part of the relentless harassment, custodial violence and illegal detentions of people of Niyamgiri for resisting bauxite mining by Vedanta in their hills.

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ELSEWHERE



Brazil court rejects request to free Lula

BRASILIA
Brazil's Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected a request to free leftist icon Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva from prison while they consider whether Justice Minister Sérgio Moro, who was the convicting judge, was biased. AFP

Iran never seeks war with the U.S.: Rouhani

TEHRAN
Iran "never seeks war" with the U.S., President Hassan Rouhani said as he sought to rein in soaring tensions on Wednesday between the two countries. "Iran has no interest to increase tension in the region and it never seeks war with any country, including (the) U.S.," the President said, quoted by state news agency IRNA. AFP

ICC to seek probe into crimes against Rohingya

THE HAGUE
The International Criminal Court (ICC)'s prosecutor Fatou Bensouda said she wants to open a full investigation into Myanmar's alleged crimes against Rohingya Muslims, including killings and forced deportations, the court said on Wednesday. AFP

Trump vows to veto border aid Bill

Legislation seeks to provide a \$4.5 billion aid package to address migrant surge on the Mexico border

REUTERS WASHINGTON

The U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday approved a \$4.5 billion aid package to address the migrant surge along the U.S.-Mexico border, including new standards for migrants in custody following reports of poor conditions facing young children at overcrowded facilities.

The Democratic-led House voted 230-195, mostly along party lines, to pass the measure, but its future is uncertain.

The Republican-run Senate is working on its own version of the Bill, and President Donald Trump has vowed to veto the House legislation, with White House officials saying that such a move would hamstring the administration's border enforcement efforts.

Mr. Trump on May 1 requested the aid for programmes that house, feed, transport and oversee record numbers of Central American families seeking asylum in the U.S. and straining capacity at migrant shelters in border cities.

Attorneys raised alarms last week after finding more than 300 migrant children in an overcrowded Texas border patrol station, where they said some had been held for weeks in squalid conditions without adequate



Heartbroken: Rosa Ramirez, whose son Oscar Alberto Martinez Ramirez and granddaughter Valeria were found dead on Monday on the banks of the Rio Grande. •AP

food and water. Amid the outcry, the acting commissioner of the Customs and Border Protection agency, John Sanders, said on Tuesday that he was resigning.

Democrats emphasised on Tuesday that while they were approving the border aid to address the humanitarian crisis, they were not ratifying the administration's attempts to restrict and discourage immigration.

"Our legislation is a vote against the cruel attitude toward children of this administration. This Bill does not

fund the administration's failed mass detention policy. Instead it funds effective humane alternatives to detention that have a proven record of success," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said ahead of the vote.

Wooing progressives

But Democratic leaders had to work to secure votes for the Bill from progressive lawmakers worried that the Trump administration might use the funds for other purposes, such as deportation of migrants.

On Tuesday afternoon, Democrat lawmakers added provisions to better protect the health of migrants in the custody of U.S. Border Patrol agents, including standards for medical care and nutrition. They also added language to set a three-month limit for any unaccompanied child migrant to spend at an intake shelter unless notice is given.

Another amendment said shelters run by contractors must meet standards of care within six months or risk losing their contracts.

Photo of dead migrant child fuels criticism

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON

A photograph of a Salvadoran man and his nearly two-year-old daughter drowned in Rio Grande river fuelled angry denunciations on Wednesday of the Trump administration's immigration policies.

"These families seeking asylum are often fleeing extreme violence," said California Senator Kamala Harris. "And what happens when they arrive?" she asked through a tweet. "Trump says 'Go back to where you came from.' That is inhumane. Children are dying. This is a stain on our moral conscience."

"This monster and his heartless Administration must be held accountable," tweeted Representative Rashida Tlaib.

Among those who also reacted to the photo was Pope Francis. "The Pope is profoundly saddened by their death, and is praying for them and for all migrants who have lost their lives while seeking to flee war and misery," said spokesman Alessandro Gisotti.

Mueller to testify publicly on Russia investigation

It's presidential harassment: Trump

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON

Former U.S. Special Counsel Robert Mueller is to testify in public about his report into Russian electoral interference, paving the way for a historic television moment in which Democrats will attempt to make the case for President Donald Trump's impeachment before the American people.

The scrupulously tight-lipped Mr. Mueller will appear at back-to-back hearings on July 17 of the House Judiciary and Intelligence Committees, which announced on Tuesday that the prosecutor had agreed to abide by subpoenas for his testimony.

Contact with Russians

"Russia attacked our democracy to help Trump win. Trump welcomed and used that help," House Intelligence Committee chairman Adam Schiff said on Twitter. "As Mueller said, that should concern every American. And now, every American will get to hear directly from Mueller."

Mr. Trump's apparent response to the announcement came swiftly in a two-word tweet in which he complained, without referring to Mr. Mueller, of "Presidential Harassment."



U.S. Special Counsel Robert Mueller. •AP

The Mueller report released in April outlined numerous contacts between Mr. Trump's 2016 election campaign and government-linked Russians, as well as evidence that the President tried on several occasions to stymie the investigation.

The Democrats have been split on whether to launch impeachment proceedings against the Republican President but – fearing that much of the country is unaware of the Mueller report's contents – have been asking major figures in the probe to testify in public on its findings.

But the President has asserted executive privilege to bar current and former aides from cooperating with several congressional investigations into his conduct.

Sirisena confirms signing death warrants for 4 drug offenders

They will be executed very soon, says Sri Lankan President

MEERA SRINIVASAN COLOMBO

President Maithripala Sirisena has signed death warrants for four drug offence convicts, lifting a four-decade-long moratorium on capital punishment in Sri Lanka. They will be executed "very soon", he told reporters on Wednesday.

"I have signed the death warrants of four convicts. They have not yet been informed about it. We don't want to announce the names yet because that could lead to unrest in prisons," Mr. Sirisena said. "Once they are informed, it is within their rights to appeal for clemency," he added, addressing local media heads and foreign media representatives here.

His remarks come even as the 'National Drug Prevention Week' is being observed from June 23 to July 1. Mr. Sirisena, who has vowed to combat the menace of drugs, in March announced that he had fixed a date to execute drug offenders.

Observing on Wednesday



Maithripala Sirisena. •REUTERS

that over 2,00,000 people in the country were affected by substance abuse, Mr. Sirisena said 60% of those in prison were drug offenders. "Rehabilitation centres and prisons are unable to tackle such huge numbers," he said.

'Political drama'

Speaking on a range of subjects, spanning domestic politics, foreign relations and national security, Mr. Sirisena rubbished a parliamentary panel probing the Easter bombings as "a political drama".

Gambia ex-President accused of sexual abuse

Rights groups issue report after probe

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE DAKAR

Former Gambian President Yahya Jammeh "hand-picked" women whom he would rape or sexually coerce, offering cash, gifts and other privileges in exchange, international rights groups said on Wednesday.

"Yahya Jammeh treated Gambian women like his personal property," said attorney Reed Brody of Human Rights Watch (HRW).

Mr. Jammeh ruled the West African state for 22 years before fleeing to Equatorial Guinea after losing elections to Adama Barrow in December 2016.

Many women testify

An investigation was conducted by HRW and a Swiss NGO, TRIAL international, based on evidence from several women, eight former Gambian officials and several other witnesses. Mr. Jammeh had "protocol girls" who were required to be on call to provide him with sex,



Gambia's ex-President Yahya Jammeh. •AFP

according to their report, issued in Dakar, the capital of neighbouring Senegal. The "protocol girls" were overseen by his cousin, Jimbee Jammeh, who also procured other women for him, the report said. She fled with him to Equatorial Guinea.

Several women have gone on record with their experiences, it said.

Gambia has set up a Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC), modelled on South Africa's post-apartheid Truth and Reconciliation Commission, to shed light on Mr. Jammeh's reign.

Licence of fertility doctor revoked

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE OTTAWA

A Canadian fertility doctor's licence was revoked on Tuesday for having used the wrong sperm, including his own, to inseminate patients over decades.

Dr. Bernard Norman Barwin's behaviour was deemed "appalling" and "reprehensible" by a College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario disciplinary panel, which also fined him Can\$10,000.

Dr. Barwin, 80, did not appear at the hearing, but through his lawyers pleaded no contest.

He had already given up his medical licence in 2014 after being disciplined in a prior case for artificially inseminating three women with the wrong sperm, which he had blamed at the time on simple errors.

By now revoking his licence, other medical regulators will be alerted if he seeks to practise medicine in other jurisdictions.

Dr. Barwin is also facing a lawsuit alleging 50-100 births with the wrong sperm, including 11 cases in which he used his own.

'U.S., N. Korea in talks for a possible third summit'

REUTERS SEOUL

The U.S. is in behind-the-scenes talks with North Korea over a possible third summit and has proposed working-level negotiations that have been stalled since the second such meeting in February, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said on Wednesday.

Mr. Moon, in written answers to questions posed by visiting foreign journalists, said there was no reason to talk of a "stalemate" just because there had been no official dialogue, aimed at the denuclearisation of North Korea.

"Both sides have been engaged in dialogue in regard to a third summit," Mr. Moon

said. "It's noteworthy that the behind-the-scenes talks have been preceded by the mutual understanding of each other's position gained through the Hanoi summit."

The U.S. had made a proposal for working-level talks, Mr. Moon said, urging North Korea to return to the negotiating table "at the earliest date possible".

Mr. Moon said North Korean leader Kim Jong-un had told him that he wanted to "finalise a denuclearisation process as soon as possible and to concentrate on economic development".

He called for the North to scrap the "passive stance" it has presented since the Hanoi summit and take action on its past promises.

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IN BRIEF



Canara Bank to raise ₹1,500 crore via bonds

NEW DELHI
State-owned Canara Bank on Wednesday said it had proposed to raise ₹1,500 crore through bonds, to fund business growth. The bank plans to raise the funds through Basel-III compliant additional tier 1 (AT-1) bonds, Canara Bank said in a regulatory filing. It further said that the bank had floated bids for the appointment of merchant bankers or arrangers for the fundraising. PTI

Red Bloom sells 3.15% stake in ICICI Lombard

NEW DELHI
Red Bloom Investment Ltd, a part of Warburg Pincus group, has sold 3.15% stake in ICICI Lombard for over ₹1,576 crore through open market transactions. A total of 1,43,29,658 shares were sold at a price of ₹1,100.19 per scrip, translating into the ₹1,576.5 crore transaction, bulk deal data available on the NSE showed. As per the shareholding pattern on the BSE till the March quarter, Red Bloom held 5.86% stake in ICICI Lombard. PTI

Consider bids of Deccan: NCLAT to Amtek lenders

NEW DELHI
The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Wednesday asked the lenders of Amtek Auto to consider the resolution plans submitted by Deccan Value Investors (DVI) along with others based on the original information memorandum inviting bids. The NCLAT bench slammed the committee of creditors (CoC) of Amtek Auto for issuance of fresh information memorandum, inviting new resolution plans.

PE investors oust FundsIndia.com founders

Move follows differences of opinion over how to run the company and its future plans

**SANJAY VIJAYAKUMAR
CHENNAI**

C.R. Chandrasekar and Srikanth Meenakshi, founders of Wealth India Financial Services Private Limited that runs online financial services platform - FundsIndia.com - have been ousted from the company following differences of opinion with the firm's private equity investors, according to sources.

In 2015, the firm had raised a Series C round of ₹70 crore led by Faering Capital, with follow-on investments from current investors, Foundation Capital and Inventus Capital Partners.

Sameer Shroff and Aditya Parekh of Faering Capital joined the board as a part of the deal. Ashu Garg from Foundation Capital and Pa-



Shown the door: Srikanth Meenakshi (left) and C.R. Chandrasekar, the founders of FundsIndia.com.

rag Dhol from Inventus Capital continue to remain on the board, the company had said during the fund raising.

"There have been differences of opinion between the founders and the invest-

ors over how to run the company and its future plans. The founders are terminated without cause. There are no irregularities," said a person familiar with the developments. "Can con-

Can confirm that I and Chandrasekar are not with the company. Cannot comment further

SRIKANTH MEENAKSHI

firm that I and Chandrasekar are not with the company. Cannot comment further," Srikanth Meenakshi said when contacted. The company could not be reached for comments.

Representation ignored
It is understood that the top leadership team, along with employees, represented to the board against the move but they were ignored. Launched in 2009, FundsIndia.com is an online financial services platform that caters to retail investors across the

nation and around the world. It has retail assets under management of ₹6,500 crore in mutual funds. The firm employs 330 people

Diversification

FundsIndia started out as a seller of mutual funds online and later diversified into other investment products including stocks, corporate fixed deposits and bonds. Mutual funds still contribute 75% to 80% of its revenue.

The company has over 12 lakh customers spread across 2,000 cities.

In 2013, it launched its first Robo advisory service. In 2010, the company raised its first round of funding from Inventus Capital, followed by a second round of funding from Foundation Capital in 2012.

TPV eyes 8-10% share for Philips TVs in India

Joins hands with large-format retailers

**N. ANAND
CHENNAI**

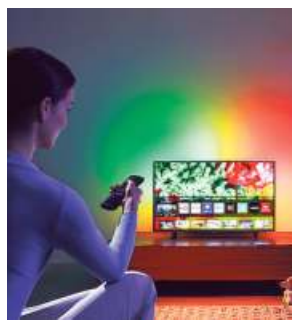
Taiwan-based TPV Technology, which sells Philips brand TVs in India, is hoping to capture 8% to 10% of the market share by end-2020, said a top official.

"We have re-entered the Indian television market after a gap of one-and-a-half-years through the \$9-billion TPV Technology," said Arun Menon, country business head, Philips-branded television and audio, TPV Technology India Pvt. Ltd.

Eyeing top five rank

"Our goal is to be ranked among the top five brands in India and capture 8-10% market share by December 2020," he said.

Since February 2019, it had sold more than 800 un-



its of 65" Philips Ambilight televisions, he said.

"Indian television market is estimated to be about 12-14 million sets per year. Tamil Nadu is a key market for us. In Chennai, today, we have joined hands with Viveks, a leading large format retailer. We will be roping in other retailers such as Reliance, Cro-ma and Girias soon," Mr. Menon added.

New Zealand's Fonterra enters Indian dairy market

Unveils Dreamery brand of products

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI**

Fonterra Future Dairy Pvt. Ltd., a joint venture between New Zealand's dairy nutrition company Fonterra and Kishore Biyani's Future Consumer, has entered the value-added dairy products market in India with its new brand Dreamery targeted at youth and urban families.

The Dreamery range, comprising dahi (curd), ultra-high temperature (UHT) toned milk, and chocolate and strawberry milkshakes will be available in markets across western India in the first phase, followed by the south and then the rest of India.

The company plans to have pan-India distribution



in two years and targets 5% market share of value-added dairy products in five to seven years.

Currently, India's organised dairy products market is estimated at ₹1 lakh crore, and value-added products constitute 20% of the segment.

LG bets on W series phones

Aims to capitalise on 5G technology for growth in handsets

**YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI**

LG, which has launched a new series of smartphones in India after a brief hiatus, is eyeing a double-digit share of the market in the next two years, as part of plans to build a base to capitalise on the opportunities that 5G technology will bring in.

The company, which launched three devices under its India-first W series on Wednesday, will be adding more devices to its portfolio, Advait Vaidya, business head-mobiles, LG India told *The Hindu*, adding the firm aims to sell a million devices from the W series this year.

"LG was non-existent in the smartphone business thus far and there is no denying that. With the W series, it is the first time the



Renewed vigour: The company aims to sell a million devices from the W series this year. •PTI

country [India] was given an option to create their own portfolio. So, the W series was conceptualised, created, designed and developed keeping the Indian consumer and the competitive space in mind, which is why it is a significant step for us," Mr. Vaidya said. On LG's vision for the Indian market, he

said it wanted to be a significant player once 5G rolled out and the W series would help build the base.

"Globally, 5G is going live. People are talking about how ecosystems will come into play. For 5G, LG has launched products in the U.S., and a few other countries," he said.

DHFL to complete stake sale in 2 subsidiaries soon

To divest entire stake to Prudential

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI**

Mortgage lender Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL), which is facing liquidity crisis, will complete the stake sale process in two of its subsidiaries - DHFL Pramerica Asset Managers and DHFL Pramerica Trustees.

DHFL had entered into an agreement with PGLH of Delaware Inc (Prudential) for divestment of its entire shareholding of 50% in DPAMPL.

DHFL holds 17.12% being held directly and 32.88% being held by its wholly owned subsidiary, DHFL Advisory & Investments Pvt. Ltd.

The agreement also applies for selling DHFL's en-

tire shareholding of 50% in DHFL Pramerica Trustees Pvt. Ltd. (DPTPL).

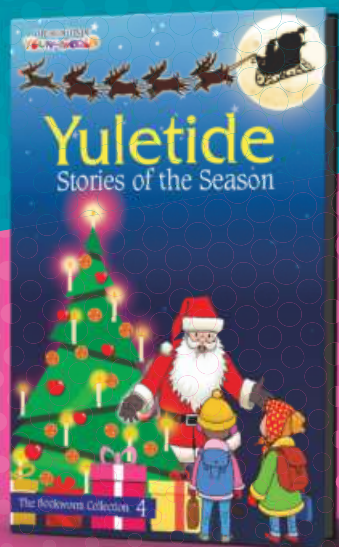
"The divestment of the company's entire shareholding in DPAMPL and DPTPL to Prudential is expected to be completed shortly," the lender said in a filing to the exchanges.

SEBI communication

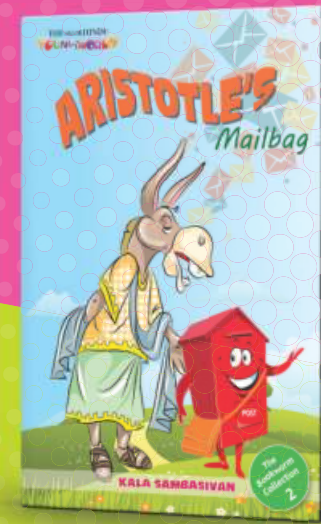
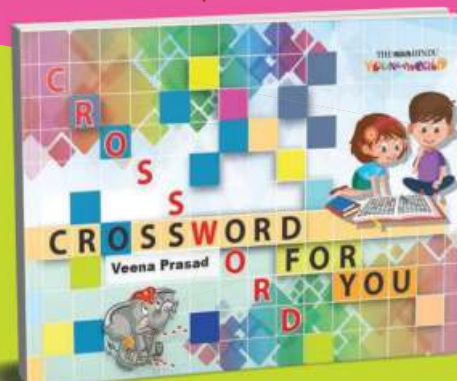
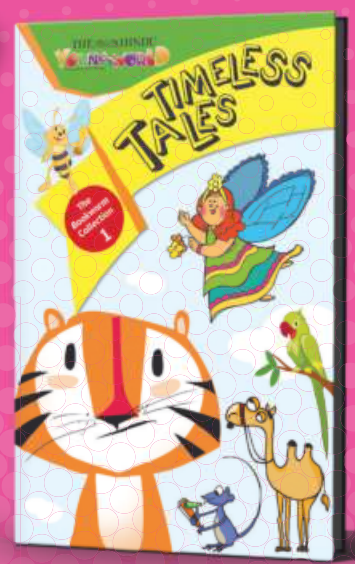
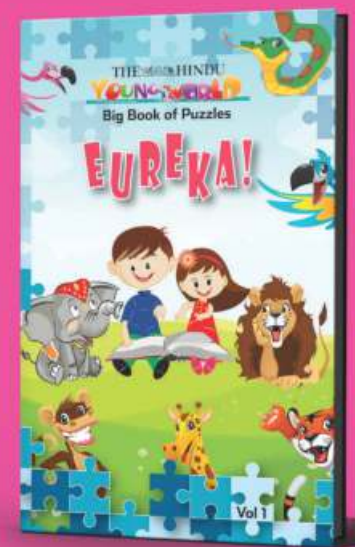
The Securities and Exchange Board of India, vide its letters on June 25, 2019, addressed to DHFL Pramerica Asset Managers Pvt. Ltd. (DPAMPL), granted prior approval for a proposed change in controlling interest of DPAMPL and for amendment in trust deed, subject to certain conditions, the filing said.

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS FROM THE HINDU GROUP

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DEEPA ALEXANDER

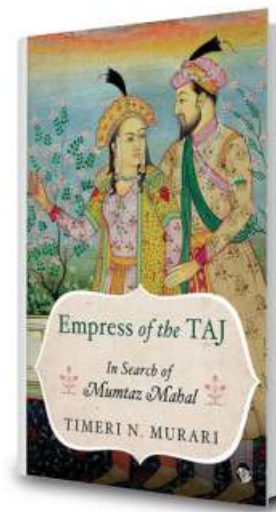
Victorian poet Rudyard Kipling called the Taj Mahal "the embodiment of all things pure, all things holy, and all things unhappy". For the millions who visit India's famed monument at Agra, the first sight of it is almost always one of pure theatre. It stays as a residual part of your heart, emblematic of the love that built it, the culture that nourished it and the geography it finds itself in – a Persian *charbagh* desiccated with water that mirrors its many moods.

Chennai-based Timeri N Murari has been a prolific writer – of novels, young adult books, non-fiction, plays, films and television scripts – especially of things past. In *Empress of the Taj* (published by Speaking Tiger), Murari once again looks through the prism of love, the life of Mumtaz Mahal whose death inspired the building of the mausoleum. Constructed from research notes jotted down while writing *Taj, A Novel on Mughal India* in the 1980s, the recent book, a blend of travel and history waited 30 years to be published. It sketches Mumtaz as she followed the drum, moving across the expanse of central and western India accompanying her husband Shah Jahan on his conquests.

When we meet at Murari's 1910-built ancestral bungalow, its cool halls lined with curios and

Under a marble sky

Timeri N Murari on the writing of his latest, *Empress of the Taj*, which melds the story of a fabled queen with travels in an India that no longer exists



Looking back Timeri N Murari at home; (above) his latest book ■ R RAVINDRAN

and walking through the labyrinthine library of Aligarh Muslim University. Murari meets a cross-section of people – young-old, rich-poor, royal-commoner as he traverses through Delhi, Ajmer, Jaipur, Udaipur and Ratlam. In between, he researches at the British Library and New York where he fills in the gaps by reading the *Akbarnama*, *Shahjahanama* and the accounts of Mughal India by European travellers like Manucci.

A changed world

"You are not thinking of the fiction you are about to write – you need to get the history and locations right. It took me over a year to figure out how to tell the story. I wanted to tell it in her voice and it came to me one early morning when I was home, listening to the sweep of the broom in my courtyard," says Murari. "I finished the book in four months, writing on a typewriter. The manuscript was forgotten till I found it and Ravi Singh of Speaking Tiger decided to publish it as a record of 'an India of the past'."

knew little. For my book *Field of Honor*, the publisher used an image of the Taj on the jacket although it had no connection with the story. His stand was that the Taj best represented India. It spurred me to write a book following the trail of the Mughals."

Murari boarded trains, buses, autos, the odd taxi and boat in the company of Maureen and, sometimes, his sisters to reconstruct the story of Mumtaz, the woman who captured an emperor's heart. From their first meeting at Meena Bazaar when Shah Jahan was still a prince to Mumtaz's tragic death at Burhanpur in the badlands of Central India, Murari brushes aside the mothballs of legend to construct the story of a "brave woman who could've lived a comfortable life at Agra but journeyed everywhere leaving touches of her influence."

Extraordinary journey

Murari says you need to travel, spend time in a place, to get the landscape. Some of the experiences are now the stuff of lore – filling out forms in triplicate to buy train tickets, drinking smoky tea on small-town platforms, taking the two-lane highway to Agra

Murari vividly describes Mughal India in beautiful prose without reducing the novel to mere hagiography at a time when the dynasty has been getting bad press. "It depends on who is giving them the bad press," he laughs. "It is not an attempt to defend the Mughals, it is about how I saw them. You cannot deny history. It's a record of a disappearing India, a book for people who want to understand who we were even a short while ago."

The book is also an example of how to research a historical novel. "I'm not a very good tourist. I go to a place for a reason, looking for someone. London is a favourite place," says Murari, some of whose books are now being turned into web/television series and films.

"There are more Britons writing on India than Indians themselves. It helps to have the voice of an insider tell the story. Journeys come to you; for this book, I didn't mean to take one at all."

PROTECTIVE GEAR

In 1942, the government erected scaffolding over the Taj Mahal to disguise the building in anticipation of air attacks by the Japanese Air Force during the Second World War.



books, it is easy to see why the writer is always in hot pursuit of history. "When you research something you look in the present and try to imagine the past," says Murari, whose childhood was

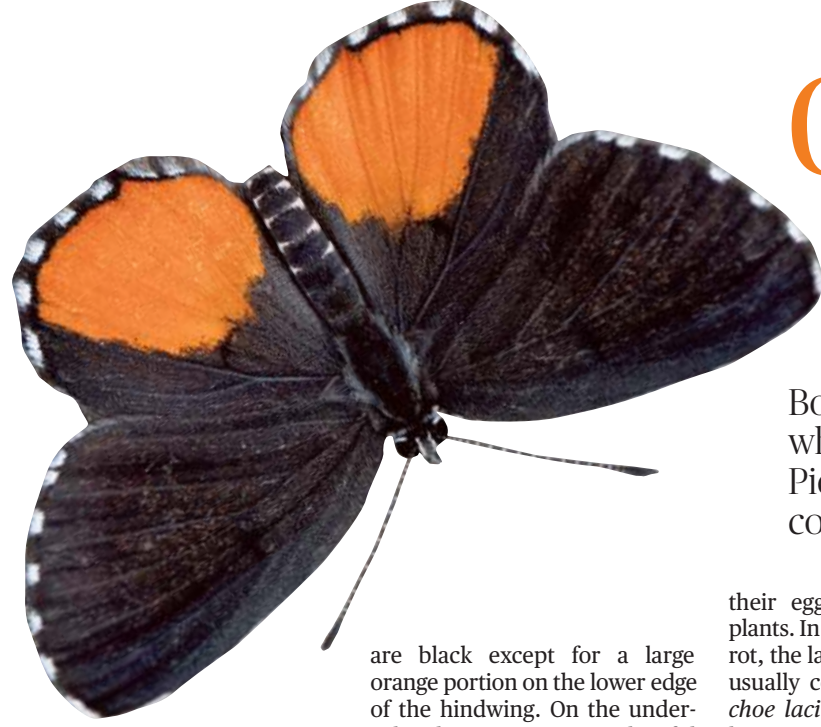
spent on the move thanks to his Army officer-father. An old boy of Bishop Cotton's, Bangalore, Murari's academic and career arc took him to Canada, the UK (where he was among the first In-

dian journalists on Fleet Street) and the US (the New York Public Library is where he discovered a treasure trove of information on the Mughals).

When he stumbled upon the

notes, Murari decided to publish them, keeping the tenor of the time. "When Maureen and I visited the Taj after our wedding, I was keen to explain the nuances of Mughal culture but found I

IN OUR BACKYARD



ABHISHEK GULSHAN

The Red Pierrot is a small but striking butterfly found in the Indian subcontinent. Apart from jungles, they are found in various types of habitats, including urban settlements. The Red Pierrot is often fluttering in our backyards on flowers of plants like the Periwinkle or the Sadabahar (*Carranthus roseus*) as it's known in Hindi, or on the Jatropha, as these butterflies prefer open petals.

The upperside of their wings

Chasing butterflies

Boring through leaves in many a garden when it's still a caterpillar, the Red Pierrot or the *Talicauda myseus* is a common sight in the city

are black except for a large orange portion on the lower edge of the hindwing. On the underside, the wings are a colourful mix of white, black and orange, with strikingly beautiful markings. They usually perch with their wings closed to display the bright markings on the underside.

The Red Pierrot is a weak flyer. It flies in short bursts and flutters close to the ground. They usually bask with half-open wings and prefer shade to the sun.

They fly during most parts of the day, and settle on the undersides of leaves and twigs at night.

Butterflies almost always lay eggs on the underside of leaves. This is to protect them from predators. The plants that they lay

their eggs on are called host plants. In the case of the Red Pierrot, the larval host plants that we usually come across are *Kalenchoe laciniata* (family of succulents) and *Pattarchatta* (*Bryophyllum pinnatum*).

The caterpillar of this species is a leaf miner by habit. As soon as it hatches, it bores into the leaf and will spend the rest of its life as a caterpillar between the layers of these leaves. This serves as a defence mechanism, protecting it from other predators. It does occasionally go to another leaf, once it is finished eating one. When it moves inside the leaf, it leaves a black trail at the back which is a trail of droppings. The caterpillar also turns into a pupa on this plant before finally emerging as a butterfly.

Butterflies are the second most

important pollinators in the world (after bees) and are indicators of a healthy ecosystem. They are cold-blooded animals that cannot regulate their body temperature, and hence depend on external source (sun) for heat and energy.

Extensive use of chemical insecticides and pesticides is leading to a decrease in their populations. Use of organic means is vital in protection of these insects that help us sustain globally.

The writer is the founder of the NINOX - Owl about Nature, a nature awareness initiative. He formerly led a programme at WWF-India as a naturalist and is the Delhi-NCR reviewer for Ebird, a Cornell University initiative, monitoring rare sightings of birds in the region



Common flutter (Clockwise from top left) The upperside of a Red Pierrot; the butterfly showing its underside, perched atop a Jatropha; two Red Pierrots mating on a Sadabahar

■ ABHISHEK GULSHAN

POP-UP

Propping up art

Two college students in Delhi are driving a community that provides a platform for local artists and performers



For Varun Ahuja, a student of Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies, and Krishn Sharan, of Delhi Technological University, spoken-word poetry has been important. After performing for a year or so, the duo started Forbidden Verses in October 2018, to create a community that appreciates all forms of art and expression. In keeping with their interest in poetry, the community would initially gather for readings and jams only. Over time, the group has started including music, art, and photography in order to help local artists perform and sell their work.

Now, at their upcoming event called An Almost Open Mic 3.0, the team invites musicians and poets to perform original work as well as covers. Also invited for the first time, are beat-boxers. Forbidden Verses isn't just for performers. Each of their sessions has displays by aspiring photographers and other visual artists.

When they launched, they hit the ground running with their first event happening in November, at goStops, a hostel in Daryaganj. Since then, Varun and Krishn have also taken the community to art studios, but they avoid cafés. "Usually cafés charge money, for which we didn't have any financial support," says Varun, adding that "we always wanted to create a long-term relationship with whichever place we choose for our events."

Their last event, which happened earlier this month, saw over 160 registrations.

Next session on 30th June, at 5p.m., People Places Art, B-7A Basement, Kalkaji; Closest metro: Nehru Enclave on the Magenta line. To register, check @forverses on Instagram.

SONAKSHI GOEL

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



LITERATURE

Draupadi and Her Pancala

A discussion on Neera Misra and Rajesh Lal's book "Draupadi and Her Pancala: Re-asserting their Place in History", will feature Amarendra Khatua, former Secretary and Director General, ICCR; Arif Mohammad Khan, former Minister. It will be chaired by Bibek Debroy, seasoned economist.

VENUE: C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC
TIME: 6:30 p.m.



FOOD

Healthy eats

Green Cafe's new menu introduces dishes across categories including starters, smoothies, desserts, and bowls, along with locally grown black beans. Vietnamese inspired Saigon Rice Paper Rolls, Tulum Zucchini Boat, Baja Black Bean Nachos are included.

VENUE: Spin X Green Cafe, Shed no. 20, Dhan Mill Compound, 100 Feet Rd, Chhatrapur
TIME: 12 noon - 10 p.m.



MUSIC

Desi Roots live

Desi Roots, an amalgamation of seasoned professional artists who have been active in the music industry for over a decade, will perform popular Bollywood songs. The members of the band are primarily influenced by composers like Shankar-Eshaan-Loy and Amit Trivedi, and bands like Indian Ocean.

VENUE: Hard Rock Cafe, DLF Place, Saket
TIME: 9 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.



SNACKS

Pav Bhaaji in a cone

Decode Air Bar, a popular pub, is out with its Pav Bhaaji Cone. In this dish, the classic street snack has been given a twist, in line with modern, playful gastronomic interpretations. The cone will have vegetables in the form of Mumbai-style Bhaaji, all poured in a cone-shaped pav and topped with white butter gel.

VENUE: SCO 39, 1st Floor, Sector 29, Gurgaon
TIME: 12 noon - 12 midnight



THEATRE

Hindi play

Theatre Research Unit for Stage Tools will put up Nanhi Jaan ke do Haath, a play reflecting the many truths of society. It exposes the true face behind the mask of civilization. The play is a mix of humour, irony, emotion and drama.

VENUE: Studio Safdar, May Day Bookstore & Cafe 2254/2A, Ground Floor, Shadi Khampur, New Ranjit Nagar
TIME: 7 p.m.

PRIYADARSHINI PAITANDY

Pride flags flutter outside The Stonewall Inn in Manhattan's Greenwich Village. The door proudly showcases pride written across it in bold letters. After all, this is where Pride began, 50 years ago. The Stonewall Uprising led to the gay rights movement and eventually pride parades around the globe.

The Inn, started by Vincent Bonavia, was often raided by the police. But on June 28, 1969, homeless LGBTQ teens, trans women, lesbians, drag queens, gay men, and allies decided to take a stand. What started out as a routine police raid turned into an uprising on the streets of Greenwich Village. It pioneered a mass movement that spread across the US and the world.

Commemorating the golden jubilee, New York is garbed in hues of pride. Bright rainbow colours have taken over streets, shops and even buildings: from Barclays Center and Madison Square Garden to the Empire State Building and One World Trade Center, everything is lit up.

"New York City is the birthplace of the modern LGBTQ rights movement and has played a significant role in the progress the global movement has made. This month, our city hosts WorldPride to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising. Lighting our skyline will remind LGBTQ people around the globe that the city will always be a beacon of hope and a place to call home," says Bill de Blasio, Mayor of NYC.

All are welcome
According to NYC & Company, the official destination marketing organisation for the five boroughs of New York City, approximately four million visitors, in addition to locals, will witness the events across the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island.

Of the visitors NYC & Company surveyed during the event in 2018, 36% said they travelled from outside (with 30% coming from other US states and 6% travelling from outside of the US). Eighty per cent of survey participants reported that they came primarily for Pride-related reasons.

"Around 150k people will be participating in the march. The crowd is incredibly diverse and vibrant, with a lot more international participation this year," says Cathy Renna, Principal of Target Cue, a public interest com-

Somewhere OVER THE RAINBOW

June 28 marks 50 years of the Stonewall Uprising, a landmark event that led to the gay rights movement. A look at the vibrant pride parades around the globe



Accepting sexual diversity (Clockwise from left) The Empire State Building in NYC lit up in colours of Pride; the Stonewall Inn where it all began; parade in Tel Aviv; Canal Parade at the Amsterdam Gay Pride • NYC AND COMPANY AND ISTOCK/GETTYIMAGES



munications firm focussing on LGBT-related issues.

The first march in NYC took place in 1970 and was known as the gay liberation march. "This is the 49th pride march here. It has changed very much in size, but the spirit remains the same, bringing the LGBTQIA+ community together, in both celebration and resistance as we continue the fight for equality," says Renna. This year, the WorldPride Opening Ceremony that took place at the Barclays Center on June 26

and was hosted by Whoopi Goldberg, saw performances by Cyndi Lauper, Billy Porter, Ciara and Daya among others. The other events – such as the NYC Pride March, Stonewall50 Commemoration Rally, Youth Pride – lined up till the Closing Ceremony at Times Square on June 30, will have performances by Princess Nokia, The Veronicas, Melanie C, Sink the Pink, Deborah Cox, and DJ Nhandi among others.

In San Francisco – that gave the US one of the first gay neigh-



bourhoods with Castro District – Pride month is a big, colourful party, with millions coming in from across town, the US and the world, to partake in the festivities. There are a host of quirky parties, educational talks, the march, and events such as San Francisco Strips, where, as the name suggests, singers and dancers go The Full Monty, all for a cause.

One of the latest entrants into the Pride parade scene is Tel Aviv, the first city in Israel to host the

gay pride in 1993. It started off when activist Avi Soffer and his partner Avi Robinstein got 14 vehicles, replete with rainbow flags, to honk past Dizengoff Street up to Sheinkin Garden, where a group of LGBT members got together to participate in the event.

"This year's parade, that took place on June 14 along with large floats, marked the end of a month-long festival, which included TLVFest, the city's international gay film festival, an LGBTQ cultural line-up of events, drag shows, a special show at NYX (the official Tel Aviv Pride hotel) by the Israeli Opera, and tributes to key historical figures in the LGBTQ community," says Sammy Yahia, Director, Israel Ministry of Tourism, India and the Philippines.

Pride ambassador
American actor, writer, producer, Neil Patrick Harris was this year's 'International Pride Ambassador'. He participated in his first-ever pride parade, along with his actor-chef husband David Burdka.

Over the last decade, Tel Aviv Pride has earned a reputation for the right reasons. It is said to be the largest Pride parade in West Asia. "2017 witnessed 200,000 people from around the world, while in 2018 and 2019 over 250,000 participated," says Yahia. It has also been voted the world's 'Best Gay City' by GayCities.com and 'The Most Gay-Friendly City in the World' by Wow Travel, adds Yahia.

It's interesting to note that some of the travellers make these events the central focus of their trips. Like Thijs Knoeff, a young Dutchman who travelled for this event, while Offer Nissim, internationally acclaimed DJ and gay icon, was present to extend his support. And it is not just the LGBTQIA+ community that revels. The colours of Pride are inclusive and reach out to everyone who supports and believes in love, unfettered.

HISTORICAL PARDON

In 2017, playwright Oscar Wilde was among 50,000 men who were pardoned for homosexual acts that were no longer considered offences under the Policing and Crime Act 2017, informally known as the Alan Turing law.



POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



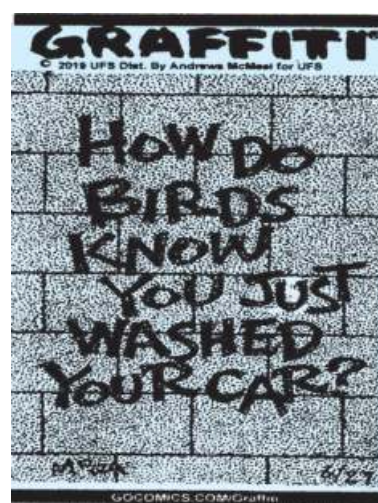
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



TIGER



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3 Worked up (8)
9 Pariah (7)
10 Crosspieces fastened over the necks of a pair of draft animals (5)
11 Ridges of sand (5)
12 At once (anag) (6)
14 Tuber used in oriental cookery (5,8)
17 Make tea (4,2)

19 Doctrine to be accepted without question (5)
22 Loud resonant noise (5)
23 Faint notion (7)
24 Time without end (8)
25 Conspiracy (4)

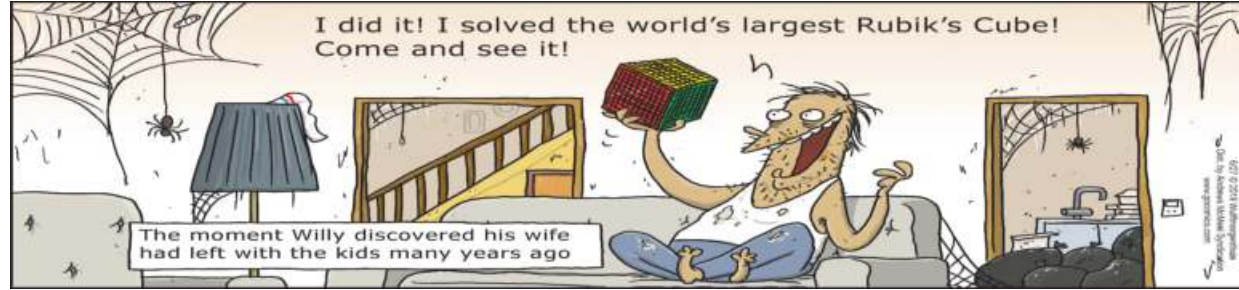
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Solution will appear in The Hindu dated June 28, 2019.

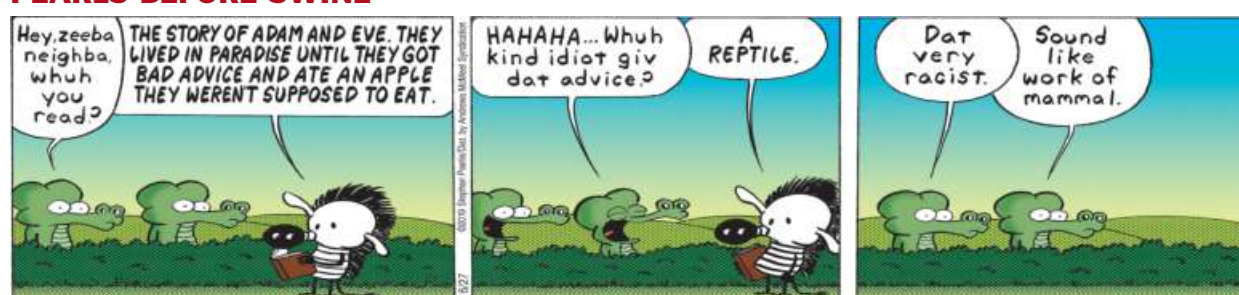
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WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



HEALTH CAPSULES
by Bron Smith

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