



NEARBY



Locals oppose facility to store spent nuclear fuel

TIRUNELVELI
 A gram sabha meeting held in Koodankulam on Friday passed a resolution against the plan to set up a facility to store spent fuel being generated by the first and second reactors of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project. Similar resolutions were passed at Chettikulam, Vadakkankulam and Aanaikulam panchayats.
TAMIL NADU ▶ PAGE 5

T.N. gets new Chief Secretary, police chief

T. RAMAKRISHNAN CHENNAI
 Governor Banwarilal Purohit has cleared the names of K. Shanmugam, Additional Chief Secretary (Finance), and J.K. Tripathy, Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Uniformed Services Recruitment Board, for appointment as Chief Secretary and Director General of Police (DGP) of Tamil Nadu respectively.
 Confirming this, a senior official said that orders on the appointments will be issued on Saturday.
 The officers belong to the 1985 batch. Mr. Shanmugam is from IAS and Mr. Tripathy is from the IPS.
CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 4

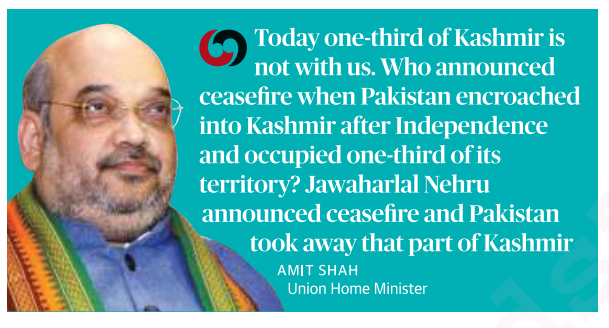
Interest rates of savings schemes cut

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
 The Centre has reduced the interest rates on small savings schemes, including the Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS) and the Public Provident Fund (PPF), according to a notification issued on Friday.
 The rate for the five-year SCSS has been reduced to 8.6% from 8.7%. The five-year National Savings Certificates rate has also been reduced to 7.9% from 8%. Deposits in the PPF will fetch 7.9% compounded annually, down from the 8% earlier. The rate for the Kisan Vikas Patra scheme has been modified to 7.6%, which will mature in 113 months, compared with the earlier 7.7% which matured in 112 months.
CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

President's rule for 6 more months in J&K

Polls will be held by year-end, Amit Shah tells Lok Sabha

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
 The Lok Sabha on Friday approved the extension of President's rule in Jammu and Kashmir for another six months, beginning July 3.
 Home Minister Amit Shah assured the House that "democratic, free and fair Assembly elections will be held in the State by the year-end."
 Article 370 of the Constitution, which extends special status to Jammu and Kashmir, is "temporary in nature" and "not permanent," he told the House.
 "The Assembly in Jammu and Kashmir is not yet in existence, so I have brought a Bill to extend President's rule for six months. The Election Commission has also held talks with the Central government and all political parties, and decided that it would be possible to hold elections at the end of this year," Mr. Shah said.
 The Lok Sabha also cleared the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2019, to



Today one-third of Kashmir is not with us. Who announced ceasefire when Pakistan encroached into Kashmir after Independence and occupied one-third of its territory? Jawaharlal Nehru announced ceasefire and Pakistan took away that part of Kashmir
AMIT SHAH
 Union Home Minister

replace an ordinance issued by the previous government. With this, people living along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir will get the benefit of reservation in direct recruitment, promotion and admission to professional courses on a par with those living along the Actual Line of Control (ALoC).
 Hitting out at the Congress and the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Mr. Shah said it was because of them that a third of Jammu and Kashmir was not with India. "Who is responsible?" he asked, drawing a sharp reaction from the Congress

members. The House witnessed disruptions over Mr. Shah naming Nehru.
'A mistake'
 Calling Kashmir a mistake made by the Congress and Nehru, he held them responsible for dividing the country on the basis of religion. Mr. Shah asserted that his government had a "zero tolerance" policy towards terrorism. "We have spent ₹2,307 crore to upgrade the security apparatus in the State," he said.
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NO ANSWER TO FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION: CONG. ▶ PAGE 10

President Trump promises a 'very big trade deal with India'

Discusses terrorism, Gulf crisis with Modi on the sidelines of G-20 summit

REUTERS PRESS TRUST OF INDIA OSAKA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday held "very open and productive" talks on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Osaka, Japan, on a host of issues, ranging from trade disputes to the crisis in the Gulf.
 They also pledged to provide a "strong leadership" to the world to address pressing global challenges like terrorism.



Productive talks: Donald Trump, Shinzo Abe and Narendra Modi in Osaka on Friday. • REUTERS

Mr. Trump hinted before the talks that trade prospects were improving between the two countries. "I think we were going to have some very big things to announce. Very big trade deal," he said at the beginning of the talks.

'Love towards India'
 Mr. Modi thanked Mr. Trump for expressing his "love towards India" in a letter delivered by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who was in Delhi earlier this week.

The Prime Minister said India stands committed to further deepening economic and cultural relations with the U.S. "The talks with @POTUS were wide ranging. We discussed ways to leverage the power of technology, improve defence and security ties as well as issues relating to trade," he tweeted after the meeting.
 Briefing reporters, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said the meeting was "very open and productive."

"The two leaders had a very warm discussion. President Trump congratulated the Prime Minister on his victory and the Prime Minister, in particular, noted that Mr. Trump had sent a very warm letter to him through Secretary of State Mike Pompeo," he said.
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ON 5G, INDIA ALIGNS WITH DEVELOPING NATIONS ▶ PAGE 11
DON'T MEDDLE IN POLLS, TRUMP JOKES WITH PUTIN ▶ PAGE 12

'Terrorism, the biggest threat'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called terrorism the biggest threat to humanity and said it not only killed innocents but also affected economic development and social stability. He was speaking at the informal BRICS leaders' meeting in Osaka on the sidelines of the G-20 summit. ▶ PAGE 11

Trump plays nice in public

U.S. President Donald Trump struck a conciliatory tone at one of the most high-stakes G-20 meetings in years. Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe appealed for unity at the start of Japan's new era of "beautiful harmony". The plea seemed to have worked as Mr. Trump dialled down his rhetoric. ▶ PAGE 12

Proposal on electric vehicles is well thought out: Rajiv Kumar

NITI Aayog official refutes charge that plan is 'unrealistic'

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA NEW DELHI
 Countering the industry's claims that the NITI Aayog's proposal for transition to electric vehicles (EVs) was "unrealistic" and "ill-timed", the think-tank's Vice-Chair-

man Rajiv Kumar said it was a well-thought-out policy to capitalise on the "sunrise industry" and that two-wheeler makers should work with the NITI Aayog rather than paint an incorrect picture.
 "We are trying to create a policy that will attract resources and investment. How does one attract investment without declaring a policy? Work with us rather

than trying to paint us wrong and saying that the policy has not been thought through," Mr. Kumar told *The Hindu*. The NITI Aayog has proposed that only electric three-wheelers be sold in the country post March 31, 2023. Additionally, all new two-wheelers below 150cc sold after March 31, 2025, should be electric, it said.
 The industry has strongly

opposed the recommendation, terming it impractical and cautioning that such a move would disrupt the automotive sector, which is already reeling under stress.
Charge denied
 Reacting to the industry's allegation that there had been no consultations, Mr. Kumar said this was completely wrong. "We started this con-

sultative process very actively in preparation of our mobility conference held last October. I have myself met so many industry people." Additionally, he pointed out, the figure of ₹70,000 crore-₹80,000 crore cited by the industry as investment to move to BS-VI was primarily by the four-wheeler industry.
CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

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RISE	06:03	SET	18:48
MOON	02:49	SET	15:35
SUNDAY, JUNE 30			
RISE	06:03	SET	18:48
MOON	03:36	SET	16:29
MONDAY, JULY 01			
RISE	06:03	SET	18:49
MOON	04:26	SET	17:28

Coimbatore Weather	max	min
Udhagamandalam	23	10
Tirupur	35	24
Coimbatore City	35	24

Coimbatore Airport Today
36°C A cloudy sky is expected to persist. A comfortable morning. A pleasant night.

Coimbatore Airport Tomorrow
36°C Squally winds are expected on the day. A comfortable morning. Night remains pleasant.

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IN BRIEF

NMR train stops midway at Kallar

METTUPALAYAM
The Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR) train stopped at Kallar near Mettupalayam due to technical glitch on Friday. According to officials, the train stopped at Kallar between Mettupalayam and Udhagamandalam at 7.40 a.m. due to fault in the engine. The 200-odd passengers in the train were sent back to Coonoor in three buses by the railway officials and the engine was repaired.

Snakes rescued

Forest officials on Friday rescued two snakes near Mettupalayam. A team of officials led by S. Selvaraj, Forest Range Officer, Mettupalayam Forest Range, rescued a python and a cobra and released the reptiles into the forest the same evening.

TEA appeal

COIMBATORE
The Tiruppur Exporters' Association has asked exporting units that send goods to Thoothukudi port for shipping to use GPS-fitted trucks. President of the Association Raja Shanmugham said in a press release that export goods sent by four members of the Association were stopped at Pandalkudi and a gang was opening the trucks and removing the consignments. This was known only after 100% inspection by the Customs officials at the port. Complaints were filed with the police and the culprit was arrested. He urged the exporters to book the goods through transport providers who had a good track record.

TNAU launches agriprenurship orientation programme

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT COIMBATORE
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) has launched a two-month 'Agriprenurship Orientation Programme'.

Stipend

A release from the institution said that it had selected 20 aspirants for the two-month programme and they would get ₹ 10,000 a month as stipend. After successful completion of the programme, the University would screen and recom-

Corpn. diverts Smart Cities Mission funds to pay for people, without a re-collection plan

It has earmarked ₹ 22 crore to be given to TNSCB and ₹ 40-odd crore for sewerage scheme

KARTHIK MADHAVAN COIMBATORE

The Coimbatore Corporation, which is mandated to spend the money it has received from the Central and State governments under the Smart Cities Mission on projects for the city's development, has diverted over ₹ 60 crore to bear the cost for 47,000-odd families that are supposed to pay from their pockets for two schemes.

Data available with the Corporation shows that the civic body had given ₹ 22 crore to the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (TNSCB), and earmarked ₹ 40-odd crore for providing underground drainage house service connections to around 40,000 families.

The ₹ 22 crore the Corporation has given to the TNSCB is not its share of a latter's project, but what the people identified as beneficiaries to receive houses from the TNSCB should pay from their pockets.

Sources in TNSCB say that the organisation will account the money as having paid by the Corporation on behalf of the 7,000-odd families to whom it had allotted houses in its projects in Ukkadam, Malumichampatty, Anna Nagar and MGR Nagar - Madukarai, Malai Nagar and Keeranatham.

If the Corporation had not paid for the 7,000 families,



For connecting several such houses to the underground sewerage scheme, the Coimbatore Corporation has borne the beneficiaries' cost. - M. PERIASAMY

then each of the families would have to pay ₹ 30,000 as their contribution for receiving the houses.

Unless the beneficiary-families pay this, the TNSCB will not hand over the title deed.

The Corporation will account the ₹ 40-odd crore as the contribution of around 40,000 households towards one-time deposit for giving them house service connection to the underground sewerage scheme, say Corporation sources.

In effect, the Corporation has spent ₹ 62 crore on behalf of 47,000 families and with no plan for re-collection at that.

The TNSCB sources say that for the Corporation to recover the ₹ 22 crore will be an impossible task, as the organisation has seen in several of its projects over the years.

There have been instances where the beneficiaries have failed to pay their contribution even when it is divided into equated monthly

instalments.

Even when the instalments work to ₹ 100 or ₹ 150 a month, the beneficiaries pay for a month or two after getting the houses and fail thereafter. And by defaulting payments they will not get the title deeds.

Repayment mechanism

Experts familiar with the diversion of Smart Cities Mission funds say that the civic body ought to have worked out a repayment mechanism with the beneficiaries before

The civic body diverted the Smart Cities Mission fund in good faith to expedite projects in the city.
Corporation officials

paying to the TNSCB or should have worked with the TNSCB to tweak the title deeds in such a way that it has a stake in the ownership.

But with no such mechanism in place, the Corporation will find it difficult to recover the money.

As for the contribution made for the house service connection to underground sewerage scheme, the Corporation officials say that they will divide the deposit paid for each household into equated monthly instalments and collect along with the monthly user charges.

They add that the Corporation diverted the Smart Cities Mission fund in good faith to expedite projects in the city. If the civic body has not come forward to pay the money, moving slum dwellers to the TNSCB tenements will be delayed.

Likewise, if the civic body did not bear the house service connection deposit, providing connection will get delayed and that will have an impact on the lake development works that it has initiated under the Smart Cities Mission.

Police get card swipe machines to collect spot fine for traffic offences

To ensure transparency in fine collection



G. Karthikeyan, Deputy Inspector General of Police - Coimbatore Range, handing over the point of sale swipe machines to traffic police personnel.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT COIMBATORE

In a bid to ensure transparency in collection of spot fine for traffic offences, the police in Coimbatore City and Range of West Zone were given point of sale (POS) machines (card swipe machines).

In addition to regulating traffic, traffic personnel are also involved in levying penalty on those who flout road rules. Earlier, the system of paying fine was cumbersome as it involved exchange of cash, leading to allegations. Hence, to streamline collection of fine, the police have introduced card swipe machines at 750 spot fine locations. The POS machines were

procured in association with the State Bank of India.

Offenders can pay fine using his credit card or debit card on the spot by swiping them in the POS machines provided to the police.

Out of the 750 machines procured, the Deputy Inspector General of Police - Coimbatore Range G. Karthikeyan on Friday distributed 119 machines. Coimbatore City police have got 32 machines, four for Tirupur city, 14 for Coimbatore district, 30 for Erode district, 12 for the Nilgiris district and 32 for Tirupur districts. Traffic violators can also visit the web site <https://e-challan.parivahan.gov.in> and pay their penalty online.

Youth gets 7-year jail term for attempt to murder

STAFF REPORTER COIMBATORE

Coimbatore District Court, on Friday, sentenced a 23-year-old youth to undergo seven years of imprisonment for attempting to murder a girl in 2013. The youth, Mohanprasad (23), stalked the girl and forced her to be in a relationship with him. Spurned by her rejection, he hacked her with a sickle. However, the girl survived the attack. He was arrested and lodged in Coimbatore Central Prison. The judge also imposed a fine of ₹10,000.

Five arrested for robbery

Five persons were arrested on Thursday for robbing a man of gold jewellery along the railway track near Broo-

kefields in the city on June 11. The arrested were Naveenkumar (25), Ayyappan (23), Karthik Raja (21), Abdul (22) and Srinivasan (21). Based on a complaint lodged by the man with the railway police, the five persons were arrested and remanded in judicial custody.

Woman arrested

TIRUPPUR
A 42-year-old woman was arrested on Thursday for robbing a woman of jewellery weighing 7.5 sovereigns at Maniyakampalayam. The accused, Karthika, drugged Mallika (55) and took her jewellery. Based on a complaint lodged by Mallika, Tiruppur Rural police interrogated Karthika and she confessed to the crime, police said.

CMCH Dean appears before SHRC

STAFF REPORTER COIMBATORE

Coimbatore Medical College Hospital (CMCH) Dean B. Asokan, on Friday, appeared before the Tamil Nadu State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) for an inquiry into a

complaint lodged against him by a doctor.

The doctor had petitioned SHRC member D. Jayachandran accusing Dr. Asokan of vindictive behaviour and abuse of power.

The inquiry lasted for

more than an hour.

Further inquiry was postponed to August 22, sources said.

Dr. Asokan refused to comment on the issue to mediapersons stating that the inquiry was still on.

District collector orders clean-up of Ooty Municipal Market

Threatens action against traders

STAFF REPORTER UDHAGAMANDALAM

District Collector J. Innocent Divya censured traders at the Ooty Municipal Market on Thursday, and threatened to close shops that did not meet sanitation standards.

The Collector was inspecting the market as part of the weekly "Sweep the Blue Mountains" campaign, and was following up on complaints from visitors on the deplorable state of the market. Apart from not being maintained by traders, the market also faces problems of encroachments on footpaths, and shops being so tightly packed together that they are a fire hazard.

Local visitors to the market accused the meat traders of drying animal hides out on the pavement, and using open spaces in the market as urinals.

"Many of the traders, especially those selling meat and vegetables, had encroached on the footpaths within the market," said M.



District Collector J. Innocent Divya inspecting the Udhagamandalam Municipal Market on Thursday.

- M. SATHYAMOORTHY

Ragunath, a visitor.

Municipality officials said that, previously vehicles would be able to enter the market and clean it up. However, over the last few years, the profusion of encroachments has meant that even people were unable to walk freely.

"This also poses a threat to the market itself, as overhead power lines and the closely packed shops are a fire hazard, and in the case of a fire, even fire tenders would be unable to access

many parts of the market," said an official.

The District Collector visited the market on Thursday and threatened action against traders if adequate steps were not taken to clean up the spaces that have been rented out by the municipality, and directed officials to close the shops if required.

Speaking to reporters here, Ms. Divya said that the district administration was targeting cleaning up over 50 major public spaces across the district.

CPI(M) cadre stage dharna over erratic water supply

STAFF REPORTER COIMBATORE

Cadre of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) staged a dharna demanding regular water supply across the city here on Friday.

Alleging that Suez Projects Pvt. Ltd. was the reason behind erratic water supply in the city, the protesters demanded the Corporation to cancel the company's contract for water distribution. Other demands raised by the protes-

ters included desilting of water bodies, completion of Pilloor III project, and re-laying of damaged roads in the city.

V. Ramamurthy, the party's district secretary, led the dharna. Around 100 cadre participated in the protest and voiced their demands.

The dharna, staged without police permission, lasted for an hour. No arrests were made, CPI(M) sources said.

COIMBATORE TODAY

RELIGION

Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya: Rajayoga Meditation Camp, Rajayoga Meditation Centre, Periyanaickenpalayam, 5.30 p.m.

GENERAL

Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI): Interactive meeting with M.S. Sahoo, Chairperson, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board, Convention A/C Hall, PSG Institute of Management, 6 p.m.

PSG College of Technology: B.E 1959 Batch - Diamond Jubilee Reunion, Seminar Hall, 10 a.m.

Kovai Kalaimagal College of Arts and Science: Employability skill training in 'Financial Literacy', College Auditorium, 10 a.m.

G. Kuppuswamy Naidu Memorial Hospital: 67th Founder's Day celebrations, Nani Palkhivala

Auditorium, 5.30 p.m.

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan: Music Trinity & Purandaradasar Aradana celebration, 6 p.m.

Craft Council of Tamilnadu: Craft Bazaar 2019, Suguna Kalyana Mandapam, 9.45 a.m.

Kasthuri Sreenivasan Trust: TOOL Art Exhibition, 10 a.m.

Sangarabharanam Music Academy: Salangai Poojai, SITRA Auditorium, 5.15 p.m.

National Statistical Office, Field Operations Division, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation: Statistics Day 2019, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Seminar Hall I, 9 a.m.

Thenkoodu: Aeronautical exhibition, Onnipalayam, 5 p.m.

KPR Institute of Engineering and Technology: National exhibition on Science and Technology 2019, Kalaiaragam, 3.30 p.m.; Guest lecture on "Smart Structure Based

Sensor Design", Veena Hall, 10 a.m.

Dr. G.R.Damodaran College of Science: Workshop on 'Career Prospects in Meteorology', Charles Babbage Hall, 10.35 a.m.

Jansons Institute of Technology: Course on R TOOL, 9 a.m.

Dhaanish Ahmed Institute of Technology: Graduation Day, Seminar Hall, 10 a.m.

Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan College of Engineering: Faculty development programme in collaboration with ICT Academy, 9.30 a.m.

Dr. R.V. Arts and Science College: Swacch Bharath summer internship Programme, Karamadai, 10 a.m.

POLLACHI

DISHA: Investiture Ceremony, School campus, 9.15 a.m.

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OFFICER I/C

Export inspection office in Coimbatore to be closed

Customers will have to go to Chennai for every certificate

M. SOUNDARIYA PREETHA
COIMBATORE

The Export Inspection Council has said in a notice dated June 10 that the Export Inspection Agency sub-offices in Coimbatore and Nagercoil in the State will be closed and the office in Chennai will cater to customers in these areas.

Across the country, eight sub-offices of the Agency will be closed by September 10 and there will be offices only in Chennai, New Delhi, and Mumbai.

An exporter or importer needs certificates from the Agency to supply or buy goods from countries with which India has trade agreements.

"No objection certificates for imports and GSP certificate for exports are given by the agency. Even now, when there is an office in Coimbatore, it takes two or three days to inspect the goods

and issue a certificate. If it is closed, exporters and importers will have to go to Chennai for every certificate," said P. Subramaniam, president of Custom House and Steamers Agents Association of Coimbatore.

The Council has taken a national-level decision to close its sub-offices. But, given the volume of exports and imports from Coimbatore region, it should reconsider and continue the functioning of the office here, he said.

Further, there is no trade notice or explanation regarding the closing down of the offices. Does it mean that exporters and importers can go in for self-certification, he asks.

There were many in this region who trade with countries such as China, Thailand, and Sri Lanka or with countries with which India had Preferential Trade or

Free Trade Agreements. The transaction cost would go up for these exporters and importers as they need to travel to Chennai every time they need a certificate, wait for the inspection, and then get the certificate, he said.

The Custom House and Steamers Agents Association of Coimbatore appealed to the Centre to withdraw the notice and also urged all the industrial associations here to take up the issue with the government.

The Southern India Mills' Association secretary general K. Selvaraju said that Coimbatore was an export cluster and closing down of the office here would certainly affect the exporters. There were several challenges even where documentation was made online. In such a scenario, closing down of the office here would not augur well for the exporters, he said.

Concern over cemetery polluting Coonoor River

ROHAN PREMKUMAR
UDHAGAMANDALAM

A cemetery at Vannarpet in Coonoor is contributing to the pollution of the Coonoor River.

The cemetery, surrounded by communities where more than 5,000 people live, is used for both burial and cremation. Local residents said that while burials were not a cause of concern, the remains of the persons cremated at the cemetery as well as their personal items such as clothes were dumped into the stream which joins the main Coonoor River.

"When the clothes and other belongings make their way downstream, they can contribute to the clogging up of the stream and the river course, and are very difficult to remove," an official from the Coonoor Municipality said.

S. Ramkumar, a resident, said that after cremation, the ashes were thrown into the river along with the belongings of the deceased as it was a custom.

The municipal officials



The stream in which the ashes of the dead and their clothes from the cemetery at Vannarpet in Coonoor, are dumped. The stream joins Coonoor River.

said that the pollution caused by the cemetery was not a major threat in terms of pollutants entering the river, but the clothes thrown into the stream can block the river course.

Citizens' groups as well as the district administration are making efforts to come

up with a solution to manage the waste entering the river from the cemetery.

P. J. Vasanthan, member of the "Clean Coonoor" citizens' group, said that volunteers were in discussion with locals to install a filter to prevent the objects from joining and blocking the main river.

Meanwhile, the district administration was also planning to hold talks with the residents to use the electric crematorium. The administration was also considering covering the cost of using the facility for people from economically weaker background, the officials said.

'Share information on adulterated tea'

STAFF REPORTER
UDHAGAMANDALAM

After the seizure of more than 40 tonnes of adulterated tea earlier this month, the Tea Board has called upon the public to share information with it on tea factories, shops or stores that indulged in adulteration of tea.

In a press release, the Tea Board urged the public to share information on any restaurants, bakeries, factories or stores using adulterated tea, stating that the information will be kept confidential, and people sharing such information would also be compensated. The Tea Board can be contacted at 9659337133 and 8903172141 (Tamil Nadu) and 8486374193 (Kerala).

Woman dies of suspected A (H1N1) flu

STAFF REPORTER
COIMBATORE

A 54-year-old woman died of suspected A (H1N1) influenza at the Coimbatore Medical College Hospital (CMCH) on Thursday night.

According to hospital sources, she was admitted to the hospital around 8 p.m. on Thursday, and was reported to have tested positive for H1N1 influenza. She died by 9 p.m. due to acute respiratory distress syndrome, the sources said. The woman was first admitted to a private hospital, and shifted to another one on Avinashi Road. She was then moved to the CMCH. The sources said she had diabetes, hypertension and hypothyroidism.

NCSC vice-chairperson to visit Coimbatore

COIMBATORE L. Murugan, vice-chairperson of National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), will visit Coimbatore on Saturday in connection with the suspected honour killing case. According to a release, Mr. Murugan will conduct a "spot investigation" and will visit the 16-year-old victim and her family. He will hold a joint meeting with the District Collector, the IG, West Zone and the SP.

Budget: industries demand reduction of duties, infrastructure

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

Industries in Coimbatore in various sectors have sought announcements in the Union Budget related to reduction of duties, development of infrastructure here, and support to promote renewable energy.

R. Ramamurthy, president of Coimbatore District Small Industries Association (CODISSIA), said in a memorandum that the government should permit self declaration by the MSMEs, treat the units as priority sector, and permit the MSMEs to use warehouses of National Small Industries Corporation to store goods at a subsidised rate. The Association appealed to the government to provide complete exemp-

tion for job working units from GST. Right now, the engineering job working units pay 18 % tax. Earlier, under Central Excise Rules, before introduction of GST, job working units were totally exempted and tax was paid by the sender of the raw material. This system should be adopted now too as it will not lead to any revenue loss for the government.

Regarding the defence procurement policy, the CODISSIA said that all the existing defence suppliers should be recognised as Indian Offset Partner and a corpus should be set up for MSME offset partners. The fund can be lent to the units at the same rate that the priority sector gets. "This will accelerate indigenisation of de-

fence equipment," Mr. Ramamurthy said. The Association also demanded better air connectivity for Coimbatore, speedy expansion of Coimbatore airport, and night trains between Coimbatore and Bengaluru.

The Kovai Power Driven Pumps and Spares Manufacturers Association has pointed out that earlier pump sets and spare parts attracted 5 % duty. It is now 18 % to 28 %.

The Association sought total exemption for the micro and small units from GST. According to the Indian Wind Power Association, the SME sector had invested in 5.4 GW of wind energy in the country in 2017 when there was 80% accelerated depreciation and generation based incentive. Fresh installations

has come down to 1.7 GW in 2017 - 2018 and 1.4 GW in 2018 - 2019. The country should look at installation of nearly 10 GW a year. "We Indian Wind Power Association, the Association of small and medium investors based in this country, who can make investment, could not afford to invest in 2017-18 and 2018-19 in the absence of 80% Accelerated Depreciation and generation based incentive. We SMEs appeal to the Union Finance Minister to restore 80 % Accelerated Depreciation and generation based incentive."

The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry and Southern India Mills Association have said that the Indian spinning sector faces severe crisis due to many factors.

Import of viscose spun yarn from China and Indonesia has been growing exponentially due to low incidence of duty in the pre-GST regime. This is hurting the domestic units. The government should also remove 5 % import duty on man made fibre. The domestic man made fibre is expensive 23 % to 30 % compared to international prices. Further, the government should announce a Technology Mission on Cotton and should create a cotton price stabilisation fund. Through this fund, it should provide 5 % interest subvention, reduce margin money from 25 % to 5 % and increase credit limit to nine months from three months for cotton purchases by mills.

NGO removes school name, claims 'no hidden agenda'

STAFF REPORTER
TIRUPPUR

After a controversy broke out over the renaming of a renovated Corporation middle school at Rayapuram here, the non-governmental organisation (NGO) involved in the renovation removed the new name on Thursday and asserted there was "no hidden agenda" behind the renaming.

The NGO, Rotary Tiruppur Prime Trust, had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Department of School Education here in 2018 to renovate and provide additional infrastructure facilities to the school. The renovated school was inaugurated on June 21 and renamed "Drona Padasalai Corporation Middle School".

Opposing the change in the name, a group of residents from Rayapuram submitted a petition to District

Collector K.S. Palanisamy, demanding that the original name be restored. "No government school in the State has had to change its name for the funds offered by donors," the residents said in the petition.

V. Manigandan, president of the NGO, told *The Hindu* that the NGO decided to remove the name. "We are not concerned with the name, we are concerned only with the service," he said, adding that the intention of the organisation was "apolitical".

According to S. Needhirasan, one of the petitioners, the Collector noted after seeing the petition that the name of the school had not been changed in the gazette.

A senior Corporation official told *The Hindu* that the name of the school could not be changed without permission from the government authorities concerned.

Textile industry needs support: MP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

The textile and clothing industry in Coimbatore and Tiruppur districts are waiting for payment of ₹1,000 crore subsidy arrears under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFSS), said K. Shanmuga Sundaram, Member of Parliament for Pollachi.

Mr. Shanmuga Sundaram raised two major issues related to the industry during the question hour in Parliament on Friday. One was the pending subsidy for beneficiaries under the TUFSS and

another was including yarn and fabric for benefits under Remission of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) scheme.

He told *The Hindu* over phone that 25,000 units were covered under TUFSS and ₹10,000 crore was the arrears to be paid under the scheme to these units in the country. It included ₹1,000 crore for units in Coimbatore and Tiruppur districts. The disbursement had not been regular for the last two years. Even the existing beneficiaries, who were receiving the subsidy under the

scheme, were not getting it properly now. This was causing financial stress in the industry.

Under the RoSCTL scheme, the export benefit was available only for garments and made-ups. It should be extended to yarn and fabric too, he said. It would encourage export of value added yarn and fabrics and would not affect the domestic industry. Hence, the government should extend the scheme, which included remission of embedded taxes, for yarn and fabric too.

Man booked for Facebook post

STAFF REPORTER
COIMBATORE

A man was booked by the city police on charge of promoting enmity between two religious groups through a Facebook post near Kuniamathur on Friday.

According to the police, Mohamed Yusuf, 47, posted comments on the social media website on Wednesday, which had the potential to incite Muslim youth against Hindus. The post was widely shared, they added.

Following this, the police raided Yusuf's residence on Friday morning and seized a pen drive, a bank passbook

and a mobile phone. The items were yet to be verified, the police said.

A case was registered under sections 153A (Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) and 505 (2) (Statements creating or promoting enmity, hatred or ill will between classes) of the Indian Penal Code, according to the police. Police sources said that Yusuf was not in the city and searches to nab him were under way.

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, सतीश धवन अंतरिक्ष केंद्र शार, SATISH DHAWAN SPACE CENTRE SHAR श्रीहरिकोटा - 524 124 श्री पोट्टी श्रीरामलु, नेल्लोर जिला, (आंध्र प्रदेश) Sriharikota 524 124, Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore Dist., (A.P)

निविदा सूचना संदर्भ सं. शार/वरि.एचपीएस/पीटी/09/2019-20
Tender Notice Ref.No.SHAR/Sr.HPS/PT/09/2019-20

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, वरिष्ठ प्रधान, क्रय एवं भंडार, सतीश धवन, अंतरिक्ष केंद्र शार, श्रीहरिकोटा सेऑनलाइन कोटेशन आमंत्रित है / On behalf of President of India, Sr. Head, Purchase & Stores, Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, SRIHARIKOTA invites online quotations.

क्र. सं. / S.No.	फाइल सं. / File No.	भार का विवरण / Item Description
1	शार एलएस/SHAR LS 2019 0 10828 ग्लोबल टेंडर ई-प्रायोज/GLOBAL Tender e-procurement [दो भाग के आधार पर / Two Part basis]	एएसएस वायर मैश फिल्टर का डिजाइन, निर्माण, जांच एवं आपूर्ति। Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply of SS Wire Mesh Filters
2	शार आरओ/SHAR RO 2019 0 11283 ई-प्रायोज (एक भाग के आधार पर) e-procurement [Single part basis]	18 मीटर सेल्फ स्टोअिंग कम्प्यूटेशन टॉवर्स की आपूर्ति, फीब्रिकेशन, संस्थापन एवं युग्म सहित सिविल कार्य। / Supply, Fabrication, Installation and Paining including Civil Work foundation of 18Mtr Self Supporting communication Towers
3	शार एसपी/SHAR SP 2019 0 11334 ई-प्रायोज (दो भाग के आधार पर) e-procurement [Two part basis]	एएसएसपी सुविधाओं के लिए फायर डिटेक्शन एवं अलार्म सिस्टम की आपूर्ति, संस्थापन, जांच एवं कमीशनिंग। / Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Fire Detection and Alarm systems for ASMP facilities
4	शार एसपी/SHAR SPP 2019 0 11349 ई-प्रायोज (दो भाग के आधार पर) e-procurement [Two part basis]	स्टेनलेस स्टील पैलेट्स का फीब्रिकेशन, जांच एवं आपूर्ति। Fabrication, Testing & Supply of Stainless Steel Pallets
5	शार एसपी/SHAR SP 2019 0 11379 ई-प्रायोज (दो भाग के आधार पर) e-procurement [Two part basis]	पीएसओ-एक्सएल रोलर स्टैंड का फीब्रिकेशन, आपूर्ति, संस्थापन, कमीशनिंग एवं जांच। Fabrication, Supply, Installation & Commissioning, Testing of PSO-XL Roller Stands
6	शार आरओ/SHAR RO 2019 0 11419 ई-प्रायोज (एक भाग के आधार पर) e-procurement [Single part basis]	पीसीएसपी-2 एवं एएमएपीसीआर राडारों के लिए ओर साइट टॉवर्स का डिजाइन, फीब्रिकेशन, आपूर्ति, संस्थापन, जांच एवं कमीशनिंग। Design, Fabrication, supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Bore Sight Towers for PCMC-2 and MFPCR Radars
7	शार आरओ/SHAR RO 2019 0 11474 ग्लोबल टेंडर ई-प्रायोज/GLOBAL Tender e-procurement [दो भाग के आधार पर / Two Part basis]	लाइटनिंग डिटेक्शन एवं नॉनकास्टिंग सिस्टम (एलडीएनएस) की अधिग्रहण। Procurement of Lightning Detection and Nowcasting System (LDNS)

जमा करने की तिथि: ऑनलाइन कोटेशन / Mode of Submission: Quotations Online

निविदा का मूल्य: इंडीपीस (ऑनलाइन) द्वारा जमा किए गए निविदाओं के लिए निविदा राशि लागू नहीं होगा। / Tender Value: No tender fee shall be applicable for tenders submitted through EGPS (online)

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DMK not to press for vote against Speaker

Decision after "considering the present circumstances"

DENNIS S. JESUDASAN
CHENNAI

On the first day of the Assembly session on Friday, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) decided not to insist on the no-confidence motion against Assembly Speaker P. Dhanapal "considering the present circumstances."

Speaking to reporters after the House was adjourned for the day, DMK president and Leader of the Opposition M.K. Stalin said his party had informed the Speaker's office that it would not insist on its earlier decision.

To a question on the DMK's earlier letter seeking



P. Dhanapal

to move a no-confidence motion against the Speaker, Mr. Stalin said: "We have given a letter today that we are not going to insist on that [no-confidence motion]. So, we are not going to insist."

Explaining the reason behind the DMK's latest decision, Mr. Stalin said, "Based on the circumstances prevailing then, we had given a letter. But considering the circumstances now, we have given another letter [that it would not insist on the motion]."

In the bypolls held in April and May this year, the DMK won 13 seats, while the ruling AIADMK won nine seats. The AIADMK has 122 MLAs and the DMK-led alliance 108, including 100 DMK members, seven Congress MLAs and one IUML member. AMMK leader T.T.V. Dhinakaran is the lone independent MLA.

Karate Thiagarajan denies charges levelled against him

Says he did not utter anything derogatory against Stalin

T.K. ROHIT
CHENNAI

Suspended Congress South Chennai district president Karate R. Thiagarajan on Friday denied that he had made derogatory remarks against DMK president M.K. Stalin at an internal meeting convened by the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee last week.

"I did not speak anything wrong at the meeting. No one intervened when I was speaking and no one stopped me from airing my views as well. Everyone accepted my views. If I had spoken anything derogatory or something wrong, why didn't Mr. Alagiri (TNCC president) who was on the stage stop me," he asked.

Mr. Thiagarajan told *The Hindu* that some of his views on contesting in wards in the

IF I had said anything derogatory or did something wrong, why didn't Mr. Alagiri who was on the stage stop me?

South Chennai party district that came under him in the Congress were leaked to a section of the media that led to DMK MLA K.N. Nehru questioning the need for continuing the alliance with the Congress. "I expressed my views only in an internal meeting of the party," he asked.

"It is being alleged that I am a rowdy and am using rowdy elements. These are completely baseless and wrong," he said and added that there was no case against him unlike a few other party cadres who had

FIRs pending against them.

According to him, he was just friends with actor Rajinikanth. "A lot of people are friends with him. I know him well for a long time and I am his friend," he said seeking to counter claims in the Congress that he could join the actor's political party if and when it was launched.

A senior Congress leader said Mr. Thiagarajan's suspension coming from Delhi was unprecedented as in earlier instances it was the State unit that took such decisions.

"That the general secretary in-charge for Tamil Nadu, Mukul Wasnik, approved the suspension proposal means it must not have happened without keeping Rahul Gandhi in the loop," the leader said.

Thanga Tamilselvan joins DMK, praises Stalin

Says DMK chief has distinct leadership qualities and is capable of taking bold decisions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The former AIADMK Andipatti MLA and AMMK propaganda secretary Thanga Tamilselvan, who joined the DMK on Friday, said party leader M.K. Stalin had distinct leadership qualities and was capable of taking bold decisions.

"He (Stalin) has proved the dictum of Anna [former Chief Minister C.N. Annadurai] that the flowers of the neighbour's garden too have fragrance. Even though Kalaigarr (the late DMK leader Karunanidhi) and MGR (AIADMK founder) had difference of opinion almost 40 years ago, Mr. Stalin does not nurture animosity and it is explained by the recognition and elevation of former AIADMK leaders like E.Ve. Velu, P.K. Sekar Babu, T.M. Selvaganapathy and Senthil Balaji who joined the DMK. We should respect the hard work of Mr. Stalin," he told reporters after joining the DMK with his supporters at Anna Arivalayam.



New innings: Former MLA Thanga Tamilselvan being welcomed into the DMK by party president M.K. Stalin in Chennai on Friday. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Tamilselvan first hogged the limelight in September 2001 when, within a few months of being elected Andipatti MLA, he resigned his seat to facilitate AIADMK leader Jayalithaa to get elected to the Assembly.

Jayalithaa was not an MLA then but was sworn in as Chief Minister.

However, within a few days after he vacated his seat, the Supreme Court unseated Jayalithaa on the grounds that she was con-

victed in a corruption case. Later, she was acquitted by the Madras High Court and elected from Andipatti.

Asked how a Jayalithaa-loyalist could join the DMK, he made light of it saying, "After the death of MGR, the AIADMK had split into two and after *Amma's* (Jayalithaa) death it has split into more factions. There is no point in talking about the past. Time has come for the AIADMK and DMK MLAs to travel together."

According to him, the outcome of the recent Lok Sabha elections proved that Mr. Stalin alone could provide the leadership to the State and get welfare schemes. "That is why I joined the DMK," he said.

Solitary leadership

Mr. Tamilselvan said a political party headed by a single leader alone could function effectively and the AIADMK, after the Jayalithaa's death, was under the control of multiple leaders and was not able to take any de-

cision. "The party is controlled by the BJP and I do not like to join the party at the expense of my self-respect," he said asked whether he decided against joining the AIADMK because of his rivalry with Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam.

He said that even though the DMK lost the byelection in R.K. Nagar, Mr. Stalin had proved that his party alone could offer a stable leadership by scoring a major victory in the Lok Sabha polls and Assembly bypolls.

Asked if he had been promised any position in the DMK, he said positions should be given by leadership as a reward for work.

"I am confident that the leadership will take into consideration my work and offer me a position," he added.

Mr. Tamilselvan said more office-bearers from the AMMK would join the DMK and it would take sometime for him to organise a big meeting.

Ministers downplay ex-MLA joining DMK

D. Jayakumar, O.S. Manian criticise the decision of Thanga Tamilselvan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Ministers D. Jayakumar and O.S. Manian on Friday criticised the decision of the AMMK propaganda secretary Thanga Tamilselvan to join the DMK.

Mr. Jayakumar, who holds the Fisheries portfolio, told presspersons here that those who switched over to the DMK camp would be "heroes only for a day" and they would become "zeroes" later.

Mr. Manian, who holds the Handlooms portfolio, said that it had been the experience of the party that those who went from the fold of the AIADMK founder

M.G. Ramachandran and Jayalithaa to the DMK or any other party would not be able to take away "workers" of the organisation. "This would be the case in respect of Mr. Tamilselvan too," he said.

Meeting of MLAs

Meanwhile, the AIADMK admitted members of the AMMK from the North Chennai (North) and Dharmapuri district units.

On Friday afternoon, a meeting of the party MLA was held at the headquarters here. Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami and Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam were present.



Strategy session: Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami and Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam at the meeting of AIADMK MLAs in Chennai on Friday. *B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Assembly pays homage to deceased members

House adjourned for the day

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The State Assembly on Friday paid tributes to eight former MLAs and two members of the 15th Assembly who died in the past few months.

As a mark of respect to two MLAs who died, Speaker P. Dhanapal adjourned the House for the day.

Soon after the House convened on Friday, Speaker read out the obituary references for former MLAs M. Sundaradas, K. Panjavarman, A. Subramaniam, N. Selvaraj, A.K.C. Sundaravel, M. Ramanathan, P. Munusamy and S. Sivasubramanian.

Later, he read out the resolutions to condole the death of two members of the 15th Assembly, R. Kanagaraj (Sulur - AIADMK) and K. Rathamani (Vikravandi - DMK). As a mark of respect

to the deceased MLAs, the Speaker adjourned the House for a day. The session would resume on July 1.

Senthil Balaji back

The 22 MLAs recently elected to the House were present on their first day in the Assembly. Notably, former Minister V. Senthil Balaji elected from Aravakurichi (DMK) found his seat allotted in the last row in the Opposition benches.

Mr. Balaji was the only member of the 15th Assembly from among those who were disqualified to be re-elected. He was disqualified along with 17 others after they switched loyalties to AMMK leader T.T.V. Dhinakaran in September 2017.

Later, he quit the AMMK to join the DMK which nominated him to contest the bypoll from Aravakurichi.

Kamal bats for strong gram sabhas

MNM chief addresses 72 meetings through video conferencing

STAFF REPORTER
CHENNAI

Makkal Needhi Maiam founder Kamal Haasan on Friday said that strengthening the gram sabhas across Tamil Nadu will amplify the voices of the people and will be more effective than protests.

Mr. Haasan was speaking to the reporters after participating in 72 gram sabha meetings from across Tamil Nadu via video conferencing facility at the party's headquarters in Chennai.

"Gram sabhas are a wonderful way for people to make their voices heard without protests or shootings. A strong gram sabha is a far more democratic way than protests. If gram sabhas are strengthened, there will be no need to face bullets like people did in Thoothukudi," he said.

Mr. Haasan further urged his party cadre to work with their counterparts in other



Kamal Haasan

political parties to ensure that gram sabhas are held regularly.

Local body poll

Speaking to gatherings at many places over phone, Mr. Haasan urged people to demand that local body elections be held immediately.

"Without local body elections, there won't be a panchayat leader. Without a panchayat leader holding these meetings, it will remain something that is being

duct these gram sabhas." After encouraging his party cadre to participate in large numbers since last year, Mr. Haasan told reporters that he wanted to know if the Centre would come clean on where it plans to store the nuclear wastes from the power plant.

Nuclear waste

"There is no precedent for storing nuclear waste in India. There are many experiences across the world about what happens. People are living here. So, the people should be told where the nuclear wastes are going to be stored in the long term," said Mr. Haasan.

He said that he would prefer to preserve farming even if there were gold and diamonds underneath. "MNM has already said that Delta region should be declared as the 'Protected Agricultural Zone'," he said.

Piggery owner arrested for 3 asphyxiation deaths

STAFF REPORTER
COMBATORE

A day after three men died of asphyxiation while cleaning a septic tank in a piggery at Keeranatham, the piggery's owner was arrested on Friday.

According to the police, N. Subramaniam, 70, was arrested on Friday afternoon and will be remanded under judicial custody. A case was booked on Thursday afternoon by the Kovilpalayam police against the owner under Sections 284 (Negligent conduct with respect to poisonous substance) and 304 (A) (Causing death by negligence) of the Indian Penal Code read with Sections 7 and 9 of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.

The piggery, which housed 30 pigs, was sealed by the Block Development



N. Subramaniam

Officer and Tahsildar of Anur on Thursday.

The postmortem of the victims - V. Rajappan, 45, P. Vediappan, 36, and another P. Vediappan, 27, - was concluded on Friday evening, according to the police.

On Thursday, Subramaniam asked six people, including the three deceased, to clean the septic tank. As Rajappan fainted during the cleaning process after inhaling poisonous gas, Vediappan, 36, and Vediappan, 27, to rescue him, leading to all three dying in the tank.

FROM PAGE ONE

T.N. gets new Chief Secretary, police chief

They will take charge on Sunday following the retirement of Chief Secretary Girija Vaidyanathan from service and the term of T.K. Rajendran as DGP coming to an end.

Mr. Shanmugam is expected to hold the post for a year, as he will be reaching the age of superannuation in July next year.

Mr. Tripathy, who was also born in 1960, will, however, remain as DGP till June 2021, as the post carries the fixed tenure of two years.

For the post of Chief Secretary, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami preferred Mr. Shanmugam to others, including R. Rajagopal and Rajeev Ranjan, who



K. Shanmugam

are his seniors. As far as the DGP is concerned, Mr. Tripathy is the seniormost among those considered by the selection committee, which included representatives of the Union Public Services Commission, State and Central governments, apart from the Chief Minister.

Mr. Shanmugam's name



J.K. Tripathy

figured as a possible successor to his batchmate, P. Rama Mohana Rao, in December 2016 after the latter's residence and Chief Secretary's chamber were searched by the Income Tax department. But, Ms. Vaidyanathan, a 1981 batch officer, made it to the post.

On Friday evening, the

IAS Officers' Association to bid farewell to the outgoing Chief Secretary and A. Ramalingam, Commissioner of Art and Culture, who functioned as a Secretary to Chief Minister Jayalithaa for years. Mr. Shanmugam was among those who attended the function. Earlier, Mr. Tripathy met Ms. Vaidyanathan and Mr. Shanmugam.

Mr. Shanmugam, who has been Finance Secretary since May 2010, was empanelled by the Centre for the post of Secretary or Secretary-equivalent in the Union government. He is among the few IAS officers to be retained in the same post despite a change in regime in the State.

43 SP-level officers transferred

R. Pandiarajan made Karur SP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The State government on Friday effected a major shuffle in the police department by transferring 43 officers at the level of Superintendent of Police (SP).

R. Pandiarajan has been posted as SP, Karur. In April, he was shifted out as Coimbatore Rural SP after he revealed the victim's name in Pollachi sexual assault case and was placed under vacancy reserve category.

T.K. Rajasekaran, who was shifted from the post of Karur SP during bypoll to Aravakurichi Assembly constituency, has been posted as SP Nagapattinam district.

Karur SP V. Vikraman is posted SP, Office Automation and Computerisation, Chennai.

As Thoothukudi SP Murali Rambha is going on Central deputation, Arun Balagopalan, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Traffic, Madurai, is posted in the former's place. P. Aravindan, DC, Flower Bazaar, has been posted as SP, Tiruvallur, while the incumbent R. Ponnai, is shifted to Vigilance and Anti-Corruption, Chennai.

D. Kannan is posted as SP, Kancheepuram, replacing Santhosh Hadimani, who is going on Central deputation. While the Cuddalore SP P. Saravanan has been shifted to Special Branch CID, Chennai, M. Sree Abhinav, DCP Traffic, Chennai, is posted in his place. D. Shanmuga Priya, SP, The Nilgiris, has been

posted as SP-II, Cyber Crime Division, Chennai. C. Kalaiichelvan, DCP, Washermenpet, is posted as SP in her place. G. Subbulakshmi is posted as DCP, Washermenpet, and M. Manoharan, as DCP, Kilpauk, while the incumbent S. Rajendran has been shifted to Flower Bazaar. A. Jayalakshmi is posted as DCP, Mylapore, and N.M. Mylavahanan as DCP Traffic (South). S.R. Senthilkumar has been posted as DCP, Administration.

The incumbent DCP Traffic (South) P.Saminathan has been shifted to Modern Control Room in the place of K.Prabhakar, who takes over as DC, St.Thomas Mount.

M.S.Muthusamy is posted as DCP, Anna Nagar, in the place of M. Sudhakar, who has been posted as DCP, In-

telligence. S. Vimala, the incumbent, has been shifted to Commercial Crime Investigation Wing. S. Mallika, DCP, Central Crime Branch, is posted in CB-CID.

G. Shasank Sai, DCP, Adyar, is now SP-I Cyber Crimes Division, Chennai. P. Pakalavan is posted as DCP, Adyar. S. Lakshmi has been shifted from DVAC and posted as DCP, Traffic (West).

Promoted

Sanjay Mathur, Inspector-General and Joint Director, National Crime Records Bureau, is promoted as the ADGP. Deepak M.Damor and Anisa Hussai are promoted as IGS. K.S. Narenthiran Nair, SP, Bureau of Immigration, and Vijayendra S. Bidari, SP, CBI, have been promoted as DIGs.

Kudankulam villagers unitedly oppose 'Away From Reactor'

Pass resolution against the facility at the gram sabha meeting

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
TIRUNELVELI

A gram sabha meeting held in Koodankulam on Friday has unanimously passed a resolution against the move to set up an 'Away From Reactor' facility to store spent fuel being generated by the first and the second reactors of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project.

Similar resolutions passed at Chettikulam, Vadakkankulam and Anaikulam panchayats strengthen the anti-nuclear groups' voice against the proposed facility.

The gram sabha meeting, originally scheduled for May 1, was postponed due to the Model Code of Conduct ahead of Lok Sabha election. On Friday, it was held at Kudankulam with around 250 villagers participating. They unanimously supported the resolution against the proposal to construct the 'Away From Reactor' facility. The officials allegedly tried to scuttle the move, but did not succeed.

Public hearing

The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board planned a public hearing at Radhapuram on July 10 on the proposal, but postponed it indefinitely



A grama sabha meeting held at Vijayapathi panchayat in Tirunelveli district on Friday.

on receiving information that the meet would witness stiff resistance from anti-nuclear activists and residents of the villages around KKNPP.

When the gram sabha meeting was conducted by the nearby Vijayapathi, which includes Idinthakara, the epicentre of anti-KKNPP agitations, it was expected that the rural civic body would adopt a resolution against the proposed facility. However, only a handful of people, who played active role in the Idinthakara-

based anti-nuclear agitations, participated in the meeting. As they moved the resolution against the proposal, the officials refused to allow it. Amidst heated arguments, Block Development Officer, Radhapuram Union, Selvaraj, who arrived at the spot, told the participants that they were free to air their opinion at the public hearing to be organised but not at the gram sabha meeting.

Though a small number of anti-nuclear protesters raised their demand, the

police mobilised at the spot discouraged them from pressing it further.

Unexpectedly, gram sabha meetings held at Chettikulam, housing KKNPP's Anu Vijay Township, Vadakkankulam and Anaikulam panchayat near Valliyoor adopted resolutions against the 'Away From Reactor' facility, much to the jubilation of anti-nuclear groups.

The move to adopt a similar resolution at Kaavalkinaru village panchayat was thwarted by officials and the police.

Oil companies move HC to stall bulk LPG transporters' strike

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Oil companies, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Indian Oil Corporation Limited, have approached the Madras High Court to restrain the southern region bulk LPG transport owners' associations from going on an indefinite strike from Monday.

The associations called for the strike demanding various changes in the tender conditions for bulk transportation of LPG for 2018-2023.

Filing separate but identical writ petitions in the court, the companies also sought a direction to the Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection department as well as the Director General of Police to invoke the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act of 1955.

They wanted the officials to ensure uninterrupted supply of LPG products across the State and adequate police protection at various LPG loading and unloading locations maintained by the petitioner companies in Coimbatore, Thoothukudi, Thanja-

pur, Chennai and other places.

In affidavits, filed through their counsel V. Anantha Natarajan, the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) stated that they together had 22.93 crore registered LPG customers, of whom 22.68 crore were in the domestic category and 19.16 crore were active customers.

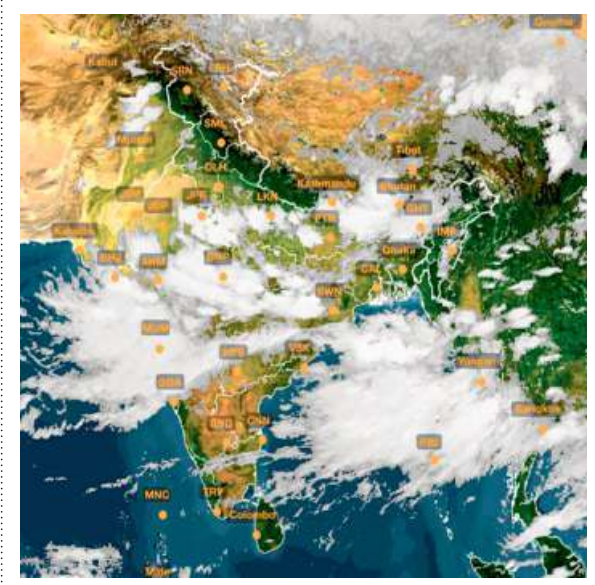
Nearly 47% of the domestic customers had double bottle connections and all of them were served by the oil companies through 18,480 LPG distributors. The OMCs operated 189 LPG bottling plants across the country with rated bottling capacity of 15.6 million tonnes per annum.

The OMCs were also operating 674 auto LPG dispensing stations and the LPG coverage of the country estimated on the basis of active domestic connections and estimated household was approximately 70.5%, they stated.

If the transporters who shift LPG from refineries to bottling plants in the southern States go on strike, the entire supply system would get affected, the companies feared and sought the court's intervention.

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 Saturday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, central Maharashtra, Marathwada, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Konkan & Goa, coastal Karnataka and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Jharkhand and Bihar

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	1.6	33.5	27.8	Kozhikode	...	34.5	27.6
Ahmedabad	0.3	34.4	28.0	Kurnool	...	35.7	26.3
Aizawl	...	26.9	20.9	Lucknow	...	40.0	30.0
Allahabad	...	44.1	31.3	Madurai	...	40.8	26.6
Bengaluru	...	31.2	21.0	Mangaluru	...	32.7	22.7
Bhopal	34.2	36.7	17.4	Mumbai	3.8	29.2	26.5
Bhubaneswar	...	33.5	23.5	Mysuru	...	31.5	19.4
Chandigarh	...	39.8	27.3	New Delhi	...	41.5	27.2
Chennai	...	39.9	28.4	Patna	...	40.6	29.0
Coimbatore	...	34.8	24.1	Port Blair	3.6	29.6	26.1
Dehradun	...	37.5	23.9	Puducherry	...	38.4	28.2
Gangtok	22.2	23.2	17.6	Pune	25.3	27.5	22.7
Goa	40.2	26.6	23.5	Raipur	...	36.5	26.4
Guwahati	20.7	29.8	25.4	Ranchi	...	35.7	24.2
Hubballi	...	26.0	22.0	Shillong	56.8	20.0	17.0
Hyderabad	...	31.9	25.0	Shimla	...	26.8	17.9
Imphal	5.9	30.0	21.2	Srinagar	...	27.7	11.9
Jaipur	...	40.0	30.8	Trivandrum	...	32.4	26.1
Kochi	...	34.5	27.8	Tiruchi	...	39.9	28.4
Kohima	8.8	22.9	17.7	Vijayawada	...	37.8	29.5
Kolkata	...	32.3	29.4	Visakhapatnam	...	34.5	28.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing					Yesterday	
CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	54	208	85	102	...	...
Bengaluru	7	39	61	42	117	...
Chennai	5	20	33	49	...	...
Delhi	18	12	21	181	358	...
Hyderabad	7	24	24	29	...	...
Kolkata	6	9	17	52	53	...
Lucknow	3	43	49	234	...	...
Mumbai	6	20	100	16	35	...
Pune	63	8	30	...	...	...
Visakhapatnam	22	64	54	...	...	...

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.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Chinna Thambi completes 'training', gets out of kraal after five months

WILSON THOMAS
COIMBATORE

Wild elephant Chinna Thambi, the crop-raider who won a large fan base here, is no longer a wild animal. After undergoing five months of 'training' in a kraal (wooden enclosure) at the Varagali elephant camp of Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR), Chinna Thambi was released on Friday afternoon.

"The elephant will be stationed at Varagali where it will be under observation for a week. There are four other elephants at the camp. The staff will monitor how Chinna Thambi mingles with other camp elephants. The elephant will be shifted to Kozhikamathi elephant camp of ATR after the observation period," said a senior official from ATR. There are



Wild elephant Chinna Thambi at Kannadipudur near Udumalpet in Tirupur, before he was captured and put in a kraal five months ago.

more than 20 camp elephants at the Kozhikamathi elephant camp.

According to the official, the elephant learned all the commands taught by the mahouts during the training pe-

riod. "In fact, the elephant was friendly to humans and partially domesticated before being lodged in the kraal," said the official.

During training, the elephant was taught 48 basic

commands and their combinations. The commands taught to the animal are a mix of Assamese and Urdu.

Chinna Thambi was lodged in the kraal at Varagali near Top Slip on January

16 after the elephant was tranquilised and captured from Kannadipudur near Udumalpet.

It elephant was translocated from Thadagam valley in Coimbatore to Varagali near Top Slip, around 110 km away, on January 26. However, the radio-collared elephant, aged around 25, managed to come out of the forest on January 31 at Aliyar near Pollachi.

After two days of trek, the elephant reached Krishnapuram near Udumalpet, more than 100 km from Varagali, where it halted near a sugar mills for six days before moving to Kannadipudur. The Forest Department captured the elephant and lodged it in the kraal following an order to that effect from the Madras High Court.

Mosquito breeding: Corpn. fines engineer

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

Coimbatore Corporation recently imposed a fine of ₹ 2,000 on an engineer for letting mosquitoes breed in a house whose construction he supervised.

According to sources, Sanitary Inspector of Ward 18 of the Corporation N. Murugesan imposed the fine on Praveen Kumar after finding mosquito larvae in a tank the engineer had constructed. Besides levying the fine, the Corporation also ensured that the engineer pumped out the water and cleaned the tank. The civic body also advised him to ensure that no fresh water stagnation was allowed at the construction site.

Anti-liquor activist arrested

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SIVAGANGA

The Tirupattur police have arrested anti-liquor activist A. Nandini and her father K. Anandan on the orders of Judicial Magistrate court, which suo motu initiated contempt of court proceed-

ings against them on Thursday.

Judicial Magistrate Samundeeswari Praba ordered their arrest after the two declined to produce sureties and seek bail.

The local police arrested and remanded them in judi-

cial custody in Madurai Central Prison till July 9.

They appeared before the court on Thursday when the case came up for hearing.

Nandini and her father, who have been campaigning against liquor, were distributing pamphlets propa-

gating the evils of consuming liquor at the Tirupattur bus stand when the police asked them to distribute pamphlets without causing inconvenience to the public.

They staged a dharna inside the bus stand when the police booked them.

Veerapan's movement prevented encroachment of forest lands: CCF

S.P. SARAVANAN
ERODE

Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) field director V. Naganathan stirred a controversy on Friday by stating that the movement of forest brigand Veerapan in the past was a reason for encroachments not taking place in the Sathyamangalam forest.

The biannual wildlife monitoring exercise is to be carried out at STR from June 28 to July 4 in which 46 teams comprising over 200 forest personnel and volunteers are to participate.

Addressing them at Ban-nari here, Mr. Naganathan,

also a Chief Conservator of Forests, said that there were many reasons for encroachment of forest land. In the State, encroachments largely happened between 1985 and 1995, particularly in Theni, Gudalur and Kanniyakumari. "But encroachers found it difficult in Sathyamangalam forests due to the movement of Veerapan in this region in the past," he said.

The news went viral on social media and mobile messaging platforms triggering opposition to his talk from environment activists and retired forest officials.

₹2 lakh a month spent on defunct project

T.N. paying demurrage charges as submarine museum with INS Vagli fell through

DENNIS S. JESUDASAN
CHENNAI

Call it lack of coordination between the State and Central governments or a lack of follow-up action on their part, the Tamil Nadu government has ended up paying a sum of about ₹2 lakh every month for a tourism project, which it has decided to abandon.

The State government has decided that the ambitious project conceptualised during Chief Minister Jayalithaa's regime in 2012 to set up a submarine museum at Mamallapuram on the East Coast Road, would not work out. But it is paying about ₹2 lakh as demurrage to Chennai Port Trust where the decommissioned submarine INS Vagli is lying idle.

"We have decided that it is not feasible to implement the project since the submarine could not be



No attraction: INS Vagli was handed over to the Tamil Nadu government on April 8, 2013. ■ B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

mounted at the site in Mamallapuram. We have already informed the Centre that we want to give back the submarine," Minister for Tourism Vellamandi N. Natarajan told *The Hindu*, when asked about the project.

No reply from Centre
He claimed that the communication to the Centre in this regard was sent as early as January 2018 but there has not been any

reply. He also confirmed that the State government has been paying demurrage.

When contacted, a spokesperson from the Union Ministry of Defence (MoD) said: "The issue has been under discussion among all stakeholders. Some clarification has been sought from the State and its response is awaited." The decommissioned submarine was handed over to Tamil Nadu on April 8, 2013 and it was towed to

Mamallapuram. As it could not be mounted it had to be towed to Chennai port.

In September 2013, then Tourism Minister S.P. Shunmuganathan even visited Visakhapatnam in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh to take a look at the museum that displays decommissioned submarine INS Kursura, which attracts visitors and generates revenue.

As it turns out, all those visits have not served any purpose.

Maritime heritage enthusiast D. Hemachandra Rao said there was expertise available within the country and if a similar project was implemented in Visakhapatnam how could it not be done in Mamallapuram. The man behind INS Kursura museum is a retired Vice-Admiral, who lives in Pune, Mr. Rao pointed out.

Youth killed in accident

STAFF REPORTER
COIMBATORE

A youth was killed and three persons were injured when two two-wheelers, carrying two persons each, collided at Kurumbapalayam here on Friday.

Police said Ajithkumar (19) died on the spot. Naveenkumar, Ashwin and Sumithini were injured and were rushed to a private hospital. Kovilpalayam police said a case under Section 304A (Causing death by negligence) of the IPC was being filed. The body of the deceased was taken to Coimbatore Medical College Hospital for post-mortem, they said.

16th ANNIVERSARY

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IN BRIEF



P. Gopi Chand gets honorary doctorate

HYDERABAD India's chief national badminton coach P. Gopi Chand was awarded an honorary doctorate by IIT-Kanpur during its 52nd convocation on Friday. Mr. Chand received the honour from Chairman of the board of governors of IIT-Kanpur, Prof. K. Radhakrishnan.

Leopard found dead in Karnataka

MANDYA A leopard was found dead at Kiranguru in Maddur taluk of Mandya district on Friday. According to sources in the Forest Department, the animal might have died following a fight with another leopard. There were injury marks on the body of the animal, which was found dead in a farm, the sources said.

Telangana, A.P. to share water

KCR and Jagan to focus on harnessing the Godavari to benefit both States

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The two Telugu States – Telangana and Andhra Pradesh – have decided to take steps to effectively harness river water to cater to the needs of people.

A meeting of Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and his Andhra Pradesh counterpart Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Friday resolved to set aside differences relating to river water sharing that persisted for years and take a relook at the situation for optimum utilisation of the available water in the interests of people of the two States.

Road map

As expected, Mr. Rao and Mr. Reddy emphasised on river water sharing during the first two hours of the meeting.

The deliberations focussed on diversion of Goda-



Coming together: Telangana CM K. Chandrashekar Rao and his A.P. counterpart Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy in Hyderabad.

vari water to the Srisailem project as it was considered a lasting solution for mitigating the water woes of Rayalaseema districts of Andhra Pradesh and Nalgonda and Mahabubnagar districts of Telangana. Accordingly, officials were directed to prepare strategy and a road map for the purpose. The decision assumes significance in view of the declining water availability in the Krishna

river. Speaking at the first official meeting between the two Chief Ministers after more than three years, Mr. Rao said there had been a qualitative change in the relations between the two States since the results of the recent Assembly elections were announced.

"People trusted the TRS and the YSR Congress and voted them to power. The two governments will to-

gether focus on resolving the issues amicably and strengthen the relationship between the two States," he said.

Mr. Reddy stressed the need for working out plans to ensure water supply to all sections, including farmers and industrialists, in a cost-effective manner. The focus was, therefore, on harnessing the Godavari water as it was a lasting solution for addressing the problems faced by the two States on account of decline in availability of Krishna water.

The focus should be on harnessing 3,000 tmcft of water that was going waste into the sea every year. The Telangana Chief Minister was particular that taking recourse to tribunals and courts would not yield any result and the two governments should instead focus on joining forces in the interest of people.

Govt. all set to pull down Naidu's official residence?

CRDA serves notice, citing violation

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

Authorities of the A.P. Capital Region Development Authority on Friday served a notice on Lingamaneni Ramesh saying that his "building located within 100 metres from Krishna river" would be demolished as it was constructed in violation of environmental laws.

The building is currently leased out to the government, which made it the official residence of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu after he shifted from Hyderabad to Vijayawada. After losing the election, Mr. Naidu continued to stay in the same house, built as a guest house by Mr. Ramesh. The CRDA, in the notice dated June 27, which was pasted on the wall of the building, said that the building would be razed if the res-



TDP leaders looking at the notice at the residence of N. Chandrababu Naidu.

pondent failed to give a satisfactory reply within a week.

TDP leaders, however, see it as politically motivated move. TDP leader Yanamala Ramakrishnamoorti asked how a notice could be issued when the matter was *sub-judice*, with a public interest litigation petition filed by YSR Congress Party MLA Alla Ramakrishna Reddy still pending in the court.

Stop Mekedatu dam on river Cauvery, says AIADMK MP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam party has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene and prevent Karnataka's plan to construct the Mekedatu dam on the Cauvery river, citing Tamil Nadu's water woes.

AIADMK MP A. Navaneethakrishnan raised the issue during Zero Hour in the Rajya Sabha on Friday. "In the Cauvery issue, the Supreme Court has modified the Tribunal Order and water allocations have been made, but the Supreme Court has held that this arrangement may be enforced for 15 years. But now, Karnataka is making attempts to construct a dam at Mekedatu," he said.

The Mekedatu project, announced by the Karnataka government in 2013, is meant to provide drinking water to Bengaluru and its environs as well as generate hydropower to contribute to the State's electricity needs.

Mr. Navaneethakrishnan said a detailed project report for the dam has already been prepared, despite opposition from the Tamil Nadu government. Karnataka has now applied to the Centre for an environmental clearance.

"Legally, dams cannot be constructed there without the consent of Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu is strongly opposing it," he said, noting that the State has severe water crisis.

"I urge the Prime Minister to intervene in this matter immediately. Environmental clearance should not be granted to Karnataka," he said. His submission was supported by six other MPs from the State.

A.P. woman murdered by parents in honour killing

Dalit husband also attacked, manages to flee with infant

STAFF REPORTER
CHITTOOR

In a suspected case of honour killing, a woman was done to death allegedly by her parents on the outskirts of Usarapenta village of Palamaner mandal, 40 km from here, on Friday. Her husband, who was brutally attacked, fled for his life with their seven-day-old child.

Hemavathi, 23, daughter of Bhaskar Naidu, a farmer, fell in love with Kesavulu, 25, a Scheduled Caste youth of Usarapenta, and the couple

eloped and got married two years ago. They kept changing houses fearing an attack by the woman's family.

A week ago, Hemavathi gave birth to a son and Kesavulu informed his parents about it. His family members assured Kesavulu that they would speak to Hemavathi's parents and bring about a rapprochement.

After being discharged from hospital on Friday, Hemavathi and Kesavulu, alighted from a bus on the outskirts of the village and were waiting for an autorickshaw to go home when the girl's parents allegedly waylaid them. They attacked Kesavulu and forcibly took

away Hemavathi on a two-wheeler. The woman was allegedly beaten to death with sticks in a nearby field and her body dumped in a disused well. Meanwhile, an injured Kesavulu, along with the infant, reached the village and informed people about the attack. The youth's agitated parents and their relatives allegedly retaliated with an attack on Bhaskar Naidu's house.

The police rushed to the village and brought the situation under control. The police termed the murder of Hemavathi "an honour killing by her parents" and took custody of the accused into some of the accused into

Kerala eyes an archival treasure trove

T.N. archives has in its possession valuable records of Dutch rule in the State

TIKI RAJWI
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala State Archives Department hopes to lay its hands on a treasure trove of archival records that could shed light on lesser-known facets of Dutch rule in Kerala and the slave trade that once flourished in the region.

Alerted by a researcher who chanced on the collection at the State archives in Chennai, the department has now written to the Principal Secretary/Commissioner of Archives and Historical Research, Tamil Nadu, requesting digital copies.

"There appears to be a substantial collection of Dutch East India Company records pertaining, in partic-



Records at the T.N. archives provide details of the slave trade. ■ FILE PHOTO

ular, to Cochin State during 1657-1825 and the slave trade that was prevalent. This wealth of archival material would be of immense assistance to historians and researchers in Kerala and to

the Portuguese, to establish dominance in the region, notably Cochin. It ended in 1795 with the British gaining the upper hand.

"The Chennai archives has in its possession 1,633 files, approximately two lakh pages, in its Dutch collection which describe a historical phase – 1657-1825 – of Kerala, especially Cochin.

These records also provide chilling accounts of the slave trade that took place over a 70-75 year period," said Cherayi Ramadas, a researcher. The Amsterdam University had digitised a sizeable portion some years ago and handed over hard discs to the Tamil Nadu archives, he said.

Incidentally, the department has come to know of the collection in Chennai at a time when the Kerala government – following Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's visit to the Netherlands in early May – is pursuing the possibility of a collaboration between the National Archives, Netherlands, and the State archives.

Arriving in the 17th century, the Dutch were the second colonial power, after

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Daughter : Padma Balaji
Daughters-in-law : Priya, Hema and Kalpana
Son-in-law: Dr S Balaji IFS
Grand Children:
Ashwin, Anjana, Srinidhi, Arsha and Keshav

DEATH



Smt. PARVATHI AMMAL (99)

W/o. Late V.S. Venkatrama Iyer Vishnampettai, Thanjavur

Attained Sivaloga Prapthi on 27/06/2019 at Bangalore.

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Sons-in-Law, Daughters-in-Law,
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Great Grand Children.
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S.V. RAMAMOORTHY (Retd. Supdt. CENTRAL EXCISE) attained

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17/19, Central Excise Colony, VGP Salai, Saidapet, Chennai-15,
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IN BRIEF



2,398 persons killed by elephants in five years
NEW DELHI
As many as 2,398 people were killed by elephants while tigers claimed over 200 lives in the last five years in the country, the Union Environment Ministry informed the Lok Sabha on Friday. Nearly 494 persons were killed by elephants last year alone, Minister of State for Environment Babul Supriyo said in response to a query from Congress MP from Kerala, Anto Antony. PTI

SC refuses to entertain rebel AAP MLA's plea

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Friday declined to entertain rebel AAP MLA Devender Sehrawat's plea challenging a disqualification notice under the anti-defection law issued to him by the Delhi Assembly Secretariat for reportedly joining the BJP. A vacation Bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and B.R. Gavai observed that it was not going to interfere in the issue now as the matter related to the disqualification notice was pending before the Speaker.

16 arrested in U.P. for posing as CBI sleuths

SAMBHAL
Apparently inspired by the Bollywood movie *Special 26*, 19 people reached a sugar mill here posing as CBI officers to extort money but they ran out of luck and 16 of them landed in jail due to timely intervention by the police. According to a police official, 19 people reached the sugar mill on Thursday and claimed that there were certain discrepancies in adhering to pollution control norms, besides some other lacunae, and demanded ₹15-20 lakh from the mill management. PTI



Water world: (clockwise from top) Heavy rain brought visibility to near zero in Borivali; people wading through a flooded street; and officials putting up a danger sign near a manhole in Parel. • ARUNANGSU ROY CHOWDHURY, PTI & VIVEK BENDRE

Rain brings Mumbai to a halt

Season's first spell causes waterlogging in many areas, upsets train schedules

AJEET MAHALE
MUMBAI

The monsoon arrived in the western metropolis in full force, triggering massive traffic jams on arterial roads and throwing the suburban train services out of gear on Friday.

The city received around 140 mm of rainfall until 5.30 p.m., which led to waterlogging in several areas.

Traffic congestion was reported on all key arterial roads through the day. Com-

muters were also subjected to extreme surge pricing on app-based aggregator services such as Ola and Uber. Tanya Mishra, who travels every day from Andheri to Thane, said the surge was nearly 2.5 to 3.5 times the usual rates.

Railway services

Western Railway remained largely unaffected. Services did run with a delay of around 15 minutes. In all, 12 services were cancelled and

105 were delayed.

Waterlogging between Kanjurmarg and Vikhroli hit Central Railway services across the entire suburban section. Officials said that it appeared as if someone had dumped debris in a nullah running east to west. "Water entered the tracks as the drain was overflowing. We have intimated the BMC about the issue," a senior CR official said.

At Thane station, water from the city drained into

platform number one. As a consequence, services on CR were running over 30 minutes late and this increased to over an hour during certain periods.

Nearly 24 local train services were cancelled on the central line and seven on the harbour line.

A goods train derailed at Bhore ghat near Lonavala. However, trains between Mumbai and Pune were unaffected as they were diverted through the third line.

Two CRPF jawans killed in encounter with Naxals

Girl dies after being caught in crossfire in Chhattisgarh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BIJAPUR

Two CRPF personnel were killed and another was injured in an encounter with Naxals, while a girl died after being caught in the crossfire, in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Friday, police said.

The gun battle took place around 11 a.m. close to a culvert near Keshkutal village when a team of the CRPF's 199th battalion was out on an area domination operation on motorcycles, Bijapur Superintendent of Police Divyang Patel said.

Two girls were caught in the crossfire. One of them died while the other was injured, police said.

The motorcycle-borne patrolling team was heading towards Bhairamgarh from



Taking stock: Security personnel patrolling the site where the encounter with Naxals took place. • ANI

its camp in Keshkutal, which falls under the Bhairamgarh police station area.

Team ambushed

When it was advancing through Keshkutal, the team was ambushed by a group of armed rebels and a firefight ensued, Mr. Patel said.

"Two CRPF personnel — assistant sub-inspector Madhu Patil and head constable

Taju Oti — were killed. Another assistant sub-inspector Madan Pal was injured in the firefight," he said.

Two minor girls travelling in a goods carrier were caught in the crossfire when their vehicle was passing through the encounter spot, the SP said.

One of them died, while the other was injured, he said. Reinforcement have been rushed to the spot.

Rape accused escapes from police custody

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PANAJI

A 30-year-old man from Tamil Nadu, accused of raping a British woman at a beach village in South Goa last December, escaped from police custody in Margao on Friday.

According to the South Goa police, undertrial Ramchandran Yellappa was being escorted to the court complex for a hearing, when he requested the police personnel to take him to a toilet.

According to Superintendent of Police, South Goa, Arvind Gawas, Yellappa removed the glass panels from the ventilator of the toilet and fled. "We have launched a massive manhunt," Mr. Gawas said. The accused is facing trial for the rape and robbery of a 48-year-old British woman near the Canacona railway station in South Goa on December 20. The crime which was committed at a public place had created a furore raising questions on the safety of women in the coastal State.

J&K Bank management, staff booked for fraud

Rules violated between 2012 and 2017

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

The State Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has booked the management and officials of the J&K Bank, along with the illegal beneficiaries, for financial irregularities and loan fraud involving crores of rupees.

An official of the ACB said various loan facilities were extended to proprietors of a partnership firm, Paradise Avenue, between 2012 and 2017 in contravention of the laid down norms and procedures of the Bank.

"It was also found that

the proprietors of the firm availed themselves of loan of ₹74.27 crores for setting up a residential township complex at Narwal, Jammu, consisting of 52 flats each in two towers named Eden and Zion.

He said the deep-rooted conspiracy was evident from the fact that the principal loan amount of ₹177.68 crores was settled at ₹130 crores. "Thereby, the bank management by abuse of their authority waived ₹50 crores on the principal amount, inflicting a huge loss on the bank," he said.

Another BJP leader assaults government official in M.P.



Chief Medical Officer Devratna Soni being assaulted with sticks in Satna on Friday. • ANI

ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL
SATNA

Two days after BJP MLA Akash Vijayvargiya thrashed a municipal corporation officer in Indore, a local leader from the party allegedly assaulted a government official here on Friday.

The official, Devratna Soni, who is the Satna Nagar Panchayat Chief Medical Officer (CMO), sustained injuries after he was allegedly

beaten up by BJP panchayat president Ram Sushil Patel and others with sticks outside the 'nagar parishad' (city council) office, video footage showed.

Police said the two sides filed cases as Mr. Patel had also alleged that he was also beaten up.

"Both of them have filed cases. Ram Patel is also claiming that he was beaten. Their statements will be re-

corded. Police will examine the CCTV footage. Appropriate action will be taken on the basis of investigation," said Satna Superintendent of Police Riyaz Iqbal.

On June 26, a municipal corporation officer on an anti-encroachment drive was beaten up with a cricket bat mercilessly and slapped three times by Akash, son of senior BJP leader Kailash Vijayvargiya.

Dreaded Chambal dacoit Jagan Gujjar surrenders

He faces over 100 cases of robbery, kidnapping and looting

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Dreaded dacoit Jagan Gujjar, facing over 100 cases of robbery, kidnapping and looting and carrying a reward of ₹40,000 on his head, surrendered before the police in Rajasthan's Dholpur district on Friday. Gujjar, 49, involved in criminal activities in three States, was hiding in the Chambal ravines.

Police said a .315 bore rifle and five cartridges were seized from Gujjar's possession. He was earlier arrested

several times since 1994, and was released on bail. The police had recently launched an operation to arrest him when reports of his attacks on villagers in Dholpur's Dang area surfaced earlier this month.

Director-General of Police Kapil Garg said the policeman who confronted the dacoit during the operation and forced him to surrender would be felicitated. Gujjar surrendered near a temple in the Basai Dang police station area of Dholpur district.

Rashtriya Loktantrik Party chief and Nagaur MP Hanuman Beniwal had raised the issue of Gujjar's criminal activities in the Lok Sabha recently and demanded his immediate arrest.

In the rural belts of Uttar Pradesh adjoining Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, his trail of loot and terror evoked images of Gabbar Singh, the iconic dacoit of the film *Sholay*. Gujjar had many cases registered against him in these States. (With IANS inputs)

2 siblings die after being locked up in steel trunk

The children were aged three and six

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHADRAI

Two siblings died due to asphyxia after allegedly being locked up in a steel trunk in the Khamariya area here in Uttar Pradesh, police said on Friday.

The incident came to light when their father, Malu Ansari, who worked in a carpet factory, returned home late on Thursday and found the children and his wife missing, Superintendent of Police Rajesh S. said.

Later, he was seen running to a hospital with his

unconscious children. Hattaina, 6, and her brother Hassan, 3, were declared dead at the hospital, Mr. Rajesh said.

Mother suspected

The locals, who found the trunk open and clothes scattered, suspected that their "mentally unstable" mother had locked them in it. But the police team that questioned the woman found her to be of sound mind, the SP said. The police exhumed the bodies for post-mortem examination.

Mumbai blast victim moves NHRC for compensation

Claims to have not received any financial assistance from the government for the past 26 years

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

A survivor of the 1993 Mumbai blasts lodged a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) here on Friday, stating that he had not received adequate financial aid from the government, and asking the NHRC to look into the government's efforts to extradite the accused, Dawood Ibrahim.

The victim of one of the serial blasts that ripped through Mumbai on March 12, 1993, at Bombay Stock Ex-

change, Kirti Ajmera suffered injuries that left him needing medical care for years, his complaint filed through advocate Utsav Singh Bains stated.

'No financial help'

Mr. Ajmera's complaint said that he had "not received any financial help from the government till date and has not received even the promised amount of ₹25,000". Over the years, Mr. Ajmera was forced to take loans from relatives and sell family assets to pay for medical treat-



File photo of Kirti Ajmera talking to media in Mumbai. • VIJAY BATE

ment. "The complainant has for the last 26 years written numerous representations to

the State government of Maharashtra, as well as to the Government of India and also to the Hon'ble President of India requesting therein that he should be provided adequate compensation as he has to take care of his family which comprises of his wife and children," the complaint read. He was 36 at the time of the incident, and is 62 years old now.

Compensation policy

Mr. Ajmera asked the NHRC to look into whether the families of the deceased and

the injured in the 1993 blast case had been given adequate compensation, direct the authorities concerned to provide him with adequate compensation, find out whether the Centre and State governments had a uniform compensation policy for terror victims, and enquire into the government's efforts to extradite Dawood Ibrahim in the past 10 years.

After submitting his complaint, he said the NHRC officials had informed him that the complaint would be processed.

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Boost for Marathas

The Bombay High Court verdict in favour of the quota needs examination

The Bombay High Court verdict upholding reservation for Marathas in public employment and education must come as a major relief to the Maharashtra government, which has faced strident agitations from the community in the past for reservation benefits. When Maharashtra enacted special legislation to confer reservation benefits in education and public employment on the Maratha community last year, a formidable legal challenge was expected. The law created a group called 'Socially and Educationally Backward Class' and included Marathas as the sole group under the category, and extended 16% reservation outside the existing quotas for Scheduled Castes and Tribes, and other tribes and backward classes. The foremost hurdle was the fact that the additional Maratha component would take the reservation up to 68%, thus going beyond the limit of 50% imposed by the Supreme Court. Secondly, there were doubts whether one particular caste group could constitute a special class. The 487-page judgment is a brave effort at answering these difficult questions. Significantly, it has ruled that there were "exceptional circumstances and an extraordinary situation" to warrant the crossing of the 50% limit. It has upheld the government's decision to accept the Maharashtra Backward Classes Commission's report on the backwardness of the Maratha community, faulted it for exceeding the panel's recommendation for 12-13% reservation and pulled back the figure to the recommended level. The failure to treat this group as backward for decades has pushed its members deeper into social and educational backwardness. Thus, it says, an extraordinary situation has been created wherein the State had to treat them as a separate category.

The High Court's reasoning may not convince many. For one thing, it is doubtful whether a politically influential and dominant community can be treated as a special category in itself, even if it is educationally backward and under-represented in the services owing to lack of reservation benefits. The uplift of the Marathas can be achieved by including it in the OBC list. If there were concerns about too large a population sharing too small a quota, the existing OBC reservation could have been expanded, instead of Marathas being given separate reservation. Further, Marathas have been classified as the only member of the newly created 'SEBC'. The court seems to have ignored the fact that being socially and educationally backward is the constitutional reason for OBC reservation. It is befuddling how 'SEBC' can be a separate category outside the OBCs. Further, whether adequate grounds have been established to make an exception to the 50% limit will likely be examined by the Supreme Court closely. Mere expansion of the reservation pool is unlikely to be a constitutional-permissible reason for it.

Primary colours

The Democratic Party is struggling to provide an alternative to xenophobic populism

The crowded stage of 24 aspirants for the Democratic nomination for the 2020 U.S. presidential election is indicative of a larger crisis that has gripped the party. The first primary debate took place over two days this week. The fragmentation of the Democratic constituency, which is increasingly less than the sum of its parts, is evident. The frontrunner is former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, who, at 76, is 30 years older than the average age of three Democratic Presidents who reinvented the party at critical junctures — John F. Kennedy, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama. Carrying the burden of his 50 years in politics, Mr. Biden was in the crossfire of his rivals. Mr. Biden was accused of clinging on, and compromising with, racist positions and segregationists in the past. His positions, indefensible by the present standards of justice and progress, were taken in a different era and century. That the Democratic Party is re-litigating these issues in a 21st century primary contest with the same man at the centre is a sign of its inability to evolve a forward-looking agenda articulated in appealing and inspiring idioms.

California Senator Kamala Harris gained significant momentum for her bid with narrations of moving personal experiences that echoed the protracted struggles for justice and equality in America. Ms. Harris and Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren are two women candidates in the fray with comparable agendas that propose some fundamental restructuring of the American political economy. They will be competing with Bernie Sanders, who nearly felled Hillary Clinton in the 2016 primaries, to be the flag-bearer of the progressive strain within the Democratic spectrum, and potentially the candidate. Mr. Sanders's trailblazing campaign in 2016 de-stigmatised socialism for many, but that has not resolved the central question that baffles American Democrats: how to deal with globalised capitalism. Resolutions to a number of issues such as border security, immigration, healthcare, global trade and minimum wages are predicated on renegotiating the terms of American capitalism and its democracy. The New Deal politics of Franklin Roosevelt that built American welfare withered over the decades and the tensions between capitalism and democracy came to the fore. The challenge before American Democrats is to confront this question head on and offer futuristic solutions rather than lamenting over the lost order, which is far more arduous than harping on cultural questions. Attempts in that direction were feeble and guarded during the first primary debate. Whether or not the U.S. will have a platform other than xenophobic populism to regroup will depend on how Democrats get their act together.

Even central banks need 'capital' infusion

The RBI must function independently and not be a slave to outdated ideas



PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN

The central bank of a country sits at the pinnacle of its financial system and is mandated with ensuring its stability. From time to time central banks are directly or indirectly involved in shoring up stressed commercial banks with capital infusion. So it may appear odd to suggest that occasionally even the central bank may need some of its own medicine. After all central banks make a surplus from their operations, and indeed pay a dividend to their governments. The puzzle is resolved, however, when we recognise that capital is not only funds but also ideas.

Time to reflect on role

In the context, one of the ideas is related to the role of the central bank in the economy. That this issue is being brought up more than half a century after a central bank was instituted in India need not be interpreted as some weakness in the original conception. An economic arrangement once made cannot be treated as settled for all time to come. This also holds true for central banks, often considered venerable beyond querying. It's time to reflect on the role of the central bank in India as we hear of impending changes in the higher echelons of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The media coverage has focused on differences among

some of its functionaries and the government of India but this is besides the point as there has been complete agreement between them on the role of monetary policy. Moreover for about five years now, the government and the RBI have, as though in concert, implemented a deflationary macroeconomic policy via fiscal contraction and monetary tightening, respectively. One of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's finance ministers claimed credit for the government for having ushered in a period of macroeconomic stability. What this achieved for the economy is a different matter.

A combination of low inflation and small budget deficits was among the prescriptions of the Washington Consensus that reigned for about a decade and a half from the 1990s. With the implosion of the former Soviet Union and the folding up of its east European satellites, this consensus had, via the clout of the U.S., placed a straitjacket on policy makers in the so-called emerging markets, like India. In that moment of triumph it had been thought that the business cycle, or the oscillating trend in market economies, had been permanently tamed. However, as is so often the case in the life of economies, the cunning of history can derail progress with nary a warning. This arrived in the form of the global financial crisis in 2008, which originated in the U.S. soon spread across the world including India. Growth slowed and unemployment rose. The Obama Administration did not hesitate to intervene drastically, strongly



supported by the Federal Reserve Bank. The fiscal deficit rose three-fold and the money supply ballooned. Interestingly, inflation did not rise.

A rethink in macroeconomics

The global financial crisis has led to a substantial re-thinking of macroeconomics. The main revisions are that monetary policy defined by inflation targeting can no longer be treated as the centrepiece of macroeconomic policy, that fiscal policy should be used to stabilise the economy when needed and that financial regulation is a must. The limitation of inflation targeting was understood when the 'great moderation', an extended period of low inflation in the west, ended in the financial crisis. It is this that has led to the view that light regulation of the financial sector, as advised by the then Governor of the Federal Reserve Alan Greenspan, can be a recipe for disaster. Finally, it has come to be recognised that assertions of the impotence of fiscal policy may be exaggerated. There could be times when the private sector is held back by the state of the economy. In a recession this would delay recovery. Now fiscal expansion would be necessary. Apart from

theoretical demonstration of the stabilising potential of fiscal policy the belief that the explosion of the U.S. fiscal deficit following the crisis actually saved the day has very likely contributed to the rethinking. The general consensus now is that there should be no going back to the pre-crisis practices of narrow inflation targeting, inflexible fiscal policy, and kid gloves for the financial sector.

Lessons to learn

It is hoped that the Reserve Bank of India and the economic policy-making establishment will take into account the evolving understanding of macroeconomics globally. It is unfortunate that policymaking in India has been stuck in the past. This would not have mattered if the consequences were benign. The government has taken credit for attainment of macroeconomic stability, defined by low inflation, even as unemployment has been rising since 2011. A continuously declining fiscal deficit has not restrained the RBI leadership from paying hawk-eyed attention to it, constantly lecturing the elected government of the perils of even the slightest deviation from the path of fiscal consolidation, when strictly it is not its business to do so. It should instead focus on putting its own house in order. Two instances of a failure to do so may be mentioned. Ever since we have had de facto inflation targeting in India, from around 2013, the real policy rate has risen very substantially. This has been accompanied by declining borrowing in the formal sector likely affecting investment. Infla-

tion has come down but it was already trending downward, possibly due to the slowing growth. Subsequent inflation reduction has been assisted by the declining price of oil. Evidence of the role of inflation targeting in reducing inflation in India is weak, as summarised in the study 'The dynamics of inflation in India' (Working Paper 485, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, May 2019) by M. Parameswaran and myself. Ironically, we have had in India the replay of a scene from the global financial crisis where a central bank focusing on inflation loses sight of brewing financial instability. The crisis at IL&FS, with a group company defaulting on its payment obligations jeopardising the interests of hundreds of investors, banks and mutual funds is only a specific case in point. The larger story is of the steady rise in the non-performing assets (NPAs) of banks even as inflation was abating.

A popular reading is that recently the RBI has had to face some pressure exerted by the government's nominees. This may well have been the case. But what we need is not just a central bank that is left to function independently, but also one that is not a slave to some defunct school of thought. It has many mandated functions, among them ensuring an adequate supply of clean currency notes in denominations sought after by the ordinary Indian.

Pulapre Balakrishnan is Professor of Ashoka University and Senior Fellow of the Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode

Things to do to avoid another water crisis

The Chennai water problem must result not in fire-fighting strategies but in systematised solutions



'AMERICAI' V. NARAYANAN & KAVYA NARAYANAN

Chennai has been reeling under its worst water crisis in decades with its four main reservoirs (Sholavaram, Chembarambakkam, Poondi and Red Hills) nearly empty. The city has not had rain in nearly 200 days; only over the past few days has the city seen light rainfall. Groundwater too has been over-extracted. The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has announced that 10 MLD (million litres a day) of water will be transported to the city for the next six months from Jolarpettai, Vellore district. The Tamil Nadu government has also accepted Kerala's offer to provide water.

At the political level, rainwater harvesting (RWH) was initiated in 2000 at Sathyamurthy Bhavan. Subsequently the government under J. Jayalithaa mandated RWH in Tamil Nadu, from 2003 onwards. This meant that building approval for new apartments and dwellings were not to be granted by the Chennai City Corporation unless the building plan included a RWH component. The order also mandated that all existing buildings in Tamil Nadu install RWH structures.

Sixteen years later, we are back

to square one. An audit by the non-governmental organisation Rain Centre has shown that most government buildings in Chennai do not have a functioning RWH structure; these include several police stations and municipality buildings. Now, the Greater Corporation of Chennai has ordered the inspection of RWH structures, much after the crisis.

The issue with any crisis in India is the fire-fighting strategy that we adopt as a response as opposed to systematised solutions. These stop-gap arrangements are soon forgotten when things temporarily go back to normal instead of making an attempt to deeply engrain these practices in the system. This level of action, especially during the floods, is usually undertaken at the level of the National Disaster Management Authority and the National Disaster Response Force. Local follow-up measures that are necessary to sustain results are ignored. During the floods in Chennai in December 2015, the encroachment of wetlands was widely cited as a key issue. Vanishing catchment areas had resulted in floods. Three-and-a-half years later, no formal mechanism has been put in place to check whether wetlands are being desilted and whether we can avoid a similar flood-like situation again.

Need for water governance

According to a recent NITI Aayog report, 21 Indian cities will run out of groundwater by 2020 if usage continues at the current rate. Wa-



B. JOTHIRAMALINGAM

ter governance in cities across India has been ad hoc. Learning their lessons from the Chennai crisis, other metropolitan cities should now set up urban water planning and management boards, a permanent body similar to urban development authorities, that regulate the supply, demand and maintenance of water services and structures.

On the supply side, this authority should monitor and regulate groundwater in Chennai. Water supply by private tankers must also be regulated with pricing for their services having reached exorbitant levels. This year, a tanker of approximately 12,000 litres cost ₹6,000 in several places, almost seven times the cost of water supplied by Chennai Metro Water. Last year, the same amount of water cost ₹2,000. Additional desalination plants should also be commissioned as this water can result in water prices reaching to below 6 paise a litre. Experts are of the opinion that the beds of existing lakes can be deepened for greater

water storage and better water percolation. Desalinated water is less expensive than water supplied by private tankers. However, since Chennai Metro Water charges a flat rate for use of this water, there is no incentive for judicious use.

Thus, on the demand side of things, Metro Water and groundwater use should be measured and priced progressively, similar to the electricity tariff, where the quantity of use determines the price. The board can practise differential pricing and cross-subsidise those households with a lower per capita income use of water. For this to be implemented effectively, water meters are a must.

Stakeholder coordination

The urban water management board should also oversee the desilting of lakes in the city on a regular basis. The management of lakes comes under the Public Works Department, which works in isolation from Chennai Metro Water. This lack of coordination leads to a water policy that operates in silos. The board must also have regulatory powers to monitor the maintenance of RWH structures at homes and in offices. In existing RWH structures, pipes are either broken or clogged, filtration equipment is not cleaned, bore pits have too much silt and drains are poorly maintained.

The body also needs to work in coordination with governments on granting approvals to new mass working spaces. Water scarcity has resulted in the IT corridor in Chen-

nai suffering, with most companies even asking employees to work from home. The myopic policies of the government in providing incentives to the IT corridor without looking at their water-use necessities and asking them to make provisions for this has cost them dearly. This is in contrast to the manufacturing sector around the Sriperumbudur-Oragadam belt, where a number of companies and large manufacturing units have been able to maintain production due to efficient water management practices. For example, in one unit, there is a rainwater harvesting pond and all buildings inside the complex are equipped with facilities for artificial ground water recharge.

The scarcity of essential resources not only leads to economic losses but also social unrest; an extreme case in Chennai resulted in a woman being attacked over water troubles. We must also learn from the experiences of other cities across the world such as Cape Town, South Africa, where water saving is being driven through the concepts such as Day Zero, thus prompting better and more efficient use of water. A sustainable governance solution to this problem along with public participation is essential to ensure that our future generations do not suffer as a result of our failures.

'Americai' V. Narayanan is a Tamil Nadu Congress spokesperson. Kavya Narayanan is a commerce graduate pursuing entrepreneurship

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.

Tariff issue

The U.S. appears to be blowing hot and cold, deliberately ("Trump terms India's high tariffs on U.S. products unacceptable", June 28). The conciliatory signals that emerged from U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in New Delhi have been swept aside by the U.S. President's diatribe. It is strange that the U.S. needs India as a long-term strategic partner but is not ready to make any concessions when and where its commercial interests are involved. U.S. President Donald Trump has time and again proved that he does not believe in the diplomatic principle of give-and-take. An expression of India's readiness to forge a closer relationship with Russia and China could perhaps be the best way to make a whimsical Trump

administration see reason. MANOHAR ALEMBATH, Kannur

Coaching institutes

Parallel educational intervention has hampered the ingenuity and creativity of students ("A policy to regulate coaching centres", June 28). There was a time when tuition and coaching were only for weak students. But today, coaching is fashionable, starting with pre-primary aspirants who may be coached on how to walk in a straight line, catch a ball or identify the colour of smoke or sand. The only way out of this is to strengthen teaching in schools by filling up vacancies, and training and empowering teachers. School administrations should be tough with teachers who neglect classroom teaching. In

parts of India, leading coaching institutions have links with schools. Unfortunately, market forces are too strong to allow course correction. SAURABH SINHA, Bhillai

■ The role of coaching institutions in undermining mainstream education is somewhat true. But why are such centres flourishing? Most of them teach the same lessons that are taught in mainstream classes. In States such as Kerala, sending students to coaching centres is a status symbol. Before enacting laws to regulate these centres, the government should make mainstream teaching more effective. VIKAS BALAN, Kannur

■ The writer's fears seem a bit exaggerated. Coaching

institutes do not supplant schools, and creativity and novelty can be nurtured. The point is that our education system is in a shambles and has failed to provide basic education as prescribed by the syllabus. Also, with the advent of technology, the lion's share of coaching is drifting from the classrooms to online systems. Coaching institutes provide gainful employment to many. DEEPAK SINGHAL, Noida

Nowhere people

The heart-rending image of a father and daughter lying dead on the banks of the Rio Grande after failing to cross into the U.S. tells the horrific plight of migrants fleeing their homelands ("Drowned dream", June 27). The trend of perceiving refugees as a threat to national security and local cultures is saddening. U.S. President

Donald Trump's description of Hispanic immigrants in derogatory terms sums up his attitude towards immigrants. The politics that seeks to prop up the bogey of the migrant with a poor understanding of citizenship across the globe needs to change. Germany is an example of the world must emulate as it has not only embraced refugees from Syria but also integrated them into the mainstream. M. JEYARAM, Sholavandan

Deadly selfie

The report, "Selfies are five times deadlier than shark attacks" (June 28) was an eye-opener. One often sees youngsters obsessed with taking selfies, oblivious to the great risk they are putting themselves. As the number of cellphone users is growing in India, one hopes that the authorities conduct

an awareness campaign to highlight the negative side to the selfie mania. Tourist havens should also have 'no selfie zones'. C.A.C. MURUGAPPAN, Kothamangalam

Support for UNSC bid

The unanimous support India has won from the Asia-Pacific Group at the UN in support of its bid for a non-permanent seat at the UNSC could spell a paradigm shift in the country's foreign relations as well for the economic sector ("54 nations back India for UNSC non-permanent seat", June 27). Regional cooperation and collaboration are vital in ushering in regional development and economic prosperity. A new world order is also possible. MAYUKH DEVADAS, Thrissur

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The unravelling of an investment fraud

When the Bengaluru-based IMA Group of Companies wound up its operations, it not only left thousands of investors in the lurch but also raised questions on political patronage to Ponzi schemes that are being run in the name of Islamic banking. **Imran Gowhar** and **K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj** report on the scam

On a hot day in June, shortly after Eid, software engineer Naveed Ahmed found himself standing next to homemaker Nazim Begum and electrician Abbas Ali in a serpentine queue. In the queue were thousands of people – homemakers, salaried white-collared workers, businessmen and hawkers – who had lined up in front of Bengaluru's Commercial Street Police Station, all victims of an investment fraud allegedly perpetrated by the Monetary Advisory (IMA) Group of Companies and its founder and managing director, Mohammed Mansoor Khan, who is in his late forties. Investigators estimate that the fraud has already crossed ₹2,500 crore in terms of loss to investors, most of whom are Muslims.

Mansoor was involved in the real estate, jewellery, healthcare and education sectors and fashioned his company as a 'halal trading firm', allegedly with the blessings of local political and religious leaders. His modus operandi was similar to that of a Ponzi scam where customers were lured by high dividends. "Such a scam operates on the constant circulation of money where old investors are paid from the funds put in by new customers. Money is ploughed into various businesses, in this case gold bullion, jewellery and real estate, among others. If any chunk of investment gets stuck, or there is a lack of new investors, it will disrupt the cycle. This is what appears to have happened with IMA," explained a senior police officer investigating the matter.

As IMA started to unravel, Mansoor disappeared. Outside the Commercial Street Police Station, the crowd that began to gather on June 10 only grew larger over the days. In a video recording released on June 23, his second clip since the scam broke, Mansoor claimed to have fled the country on June 8, but expressed willingness to return. "At last count, 51,500 complaints had been registered across Karnataka; a majority of them from Bengaluru. The number could be much higher," said a local police officer trying to make sense of the magnitude of the scam. The case has since been handed over to a Special Investigation Team (SIT), amidst a growing clamour for the Central Bureau of Investigation to investigate the matter.

Cynicism and defeat were rife among citizens that morning as they went through the motions of lodging a police complaint. "Defaulters like Nirav Modi and Vijay Mallya have fled taking loans from public sector banks and we know what happened. I have no hope of getting my money back," said Syed Tanzeem, who has lost around ₹5 lakh.

Outrage against IMA and the politicians who patronised Mansoor was palpable. "Religious leaders, politicians and the police all are hand in glove in such schemes. They cheated the community," claimed another complainant, Syed Rehman.

Patronage from leaders

As the case unravelled, it transpired that members of the Muslim community had fallen prey to what was called 'Mudarabah', commonly referred to as 'halal investment' by a section of ulema (religious heads). They were apparently taken in by the visible political patronage and the company's promise of high returns, which it reportedly met for the last 13 years.

To adhere to 'Mudarabah', I Monetary Advisory Pvt Ltd, which was founded in 2006, took investors as Limited Liability Partners in the firm and invested the money in a range of businesses. "The IMA Group did not take 'deposits' or give out 'interest'. Instead, it sought investments from the public and issued Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) to investors, thereby making them partners. It paid investors or partners 'dividends' every month and marketed itself as 'halal'," the senior police officer said. Customers got high dividends, allegedly 36% annually.

On June 10, Mansoor left his first message that went viral on WhatsApp. The managing director who ran IMA for 13 years, with no complaints from investors, said he wanted to end his life as he was in deep financial trouble. He blamed R. Roshan Baig, the Shivajinagar MLA, for his situation claiming that the Congress leader had yet to return the ₹400 crore that he had taken from him. Baig denied the allegations. That was when clients began to panic and started approaching the police. Within days, the trickle of complaints became a torrent.

Faced with scathing criticism for the alleged involvement of its leaders, the Congress-JDS coalition government in Karnataka formed a SIT to probe the case. So far, raids on Mansoor's offices and businesses have yielded over ₹30 crore in gold, diamonds, silver jewellery and bullion. The Enforcement Directorate, which has also launched a probe, has attached 20 properties worth ₹197 crore.

In the second video, which he released soon after his passport was blocked, Mansoor blamed politicians,



"Investigators estimate that the IMA fraud has already crossed ₹2,500 crore in terms of loss to investors, most of whom are Muslims." (Clockwise from top): Investors submit documents at the A.S. Convention Centre, which was converted into a temporary police station, in Bengaluru on June 11, 2019; IMA founder Mansoor Khan; investors wait in front of the IMA office. • V. SREENIVASA MURTHY



businessmen and builders for the losses IMA suffered. He said he would hand over the list of those who had taken money from him to agencies once he returned. He urged investigators to recover the money from them, and claimed that IMA had assets worth ₹1,350 crore, which he would liquidate.

Mansoor had also ensured that he had the blessings of Bengaluru's top ulema. There are videos of at least six clergy endorsing IMA as 'halal' and denouncing allegations of cheating. This, say the police, provided a veneer of "religious justification and endorsement" within the community. One well-known religious leader, Mohammed Maqsood Imran Rashadi of the Jamia Masjid near Bengaluru's City Market, denied allegations that he patronised or endorsed IMA, claiming he had only spoken about the donations Mansoor made.

Community members, however, don't make this distinction. There is la-

Thousands of investors who have lost money in such firms are also part of the financial banking system, which has been declared 'haram' by the orthodox clergy within the community.

BOLWAR MAHAMMAD KUNHI
Kannada writer



tent anger against a section of the ulema for misleading their flock. IMA has always enjoyed visible political patronage by leaders from the community. At least two Chief Ministers have been guests at Mansoor's functions and iftar dinners. "Every time there were allegations or IT raids, Mansoor held a function that was attended by prominent leaders," said Ateeq Khan, an investor who lost money.

Use of local media

Mansoor had invested heavily in two Urdu YouTube news portals after a deal to buy a Kannada news channel fell through. IMA allegedly funded an Urdu daily as well. "Mansoor also influenced the local print media as the IMA Group was one of the bigger advertisers. These papers regularly carried articles by influential members of the ulema denouncing the banking system as haram and exhorting people to invest in halal trading, but stopped short of naming a particular company. Many companies benefited from this, including IMA," a senior Urdu journalist said.

IMA's stranglehold on the Urdu print media was such that when L.C. Nagaraj, assistant commissioner, Bengaluru North Taluk, issued a public notice on November 16, 2018, alerting people that the Group was possibly perpetrating a fraud and appealed to citizens to file complaints, no one stepped forward. A prominent Urdu daily allegedly refused to publish the advertisement issued in public interest. "We tried publishing the public notice in Urdu newspapers to reach out to the community, but with little success," Nagaraj said.

Courting the media or even media ownership was a tried and tested route and Mansoor was no stranger to this. Two more companies that sank – Heera Group and Injaz International Group – that claimed to be 'halal' trading firms owned and operated Kannada news channels at the height of their popularity.

A tale of lax regulation

The IMA group scam is only the latest in a series of 14 such 'halal trading firms' in Bengaluru that have unravelled or simply vanished over the last year and a half, leaving customers running from pillar to post trying to get their money back.

Some of the more infamous cases in the past involved Ambidant Marketing, Injaz International, Heera Group and Ajmera Group. Conservative estimates put the number of customers cheated at nearly 1.25 lakh, and losses at over ₹5,000 crore.

Such firms were able to perpetuate scams for years, drawing investors from the Muslim community in droves, with relative impunity. "The community, which is relatively insulated, seems to have turned into a sort of an echo chamber for these firms. The so-called halal firms relied primarily on word of mouth," said Mohammed Rafiq, a social worker.

All 14 'halal firms' that were exposed for alleged scams were flagged by economic enforcement agencies in the State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC) over the past two years. However, police action followed only after these companies went bankrupt, and people started clamouring for justice.

"There has been a mushrooming of halal trading firms in the city. Most of these are Ponzi schemes and as the flow of new investors ebbed, they went broke. Only IMA Group and Heera Group are older. These firms are also linked. Fareed Ahmed of Ambidant Marketing was earlier working with the IMA Group and Mansoor Khan of the IMA Group started his career with the Heera Group. They seem to have learnt the ropes there before branching out to form independent companies," said a senior economic enforcement official.

Of the 20-plus halal investment firms that were flagged by the SLCC over the last two years, 14 have since shut shop, but the remaining are still collecting investments, sources said. After the IMA scam broke, community leaders have listed 42 such firms in the city, which include the 14 that are no longer active. "Only proactive regulation of these firms can save the community from taking further hits," a senior official said.

If many of these companies were already under the scanner of investigative agencies, how did they get away with it? In the case of the IMA Group, despite a public notice in November 2018, not one complaint came forward as the firm was, at the time, still paying its investors monthly instalments, said a senior police officer.

The LLP model allowed IMA to be excluded from the definition of deposit under the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Institutions Act (KPID), 2004 and The Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Ordinance, 2019. Though the State Revenue Department and Economic Offences Wing of the Criminal Investigation Department initiated probes between November 2018 and March 2019, these did not end in punitive action, as officials concluded that the KPID Act did not apply to IMA.

Not without pitfalls

Some Islamic scholars argue that the non-availability of interest-free financial instruments in the banking system is one of the main reasons for the relative exclusion of the Muslim community from formal commercial banking, pushing them to Ponzi-like schemes in the unregulated private sector. A 2008 Planning Commission Report

authored by a committee chaired by former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan also arrived at a similar conclusion. The report, 'A Hundred Small steps: Report of the Committee on Financial Sector Reforms', said: "Certain faiths prohibit the use of financial instruments that pay interest. The non-availability of interest-free banking products results in some Indians, including those in the economically disadvantaged strata of society, not being able to access banking products and services due to reasons of faith."

Both the 2008 Planning Commission Report and a Report of the Committee on Medium-term Path on Financial Inclusion, 2015, submitted to the RBI governor, recommended that "measures be taken to permit the delivery of interest-free finance on a larger scale, including through the banking system" and "commercial banks in India may be enabled to open specialised interest-free windows", respectively.

However, in a reply to an RTI query by Press Trust of India in 2017, the RBI said it had decided not to pursue the proposal to introduce Islamic banking, "taking into account, the wider and equal opportunities available to all citizens to access banking and financial services."

Defaulters like Nirav Modi and Vijay Mallya have fled taking loans from public sector banks and we know what happened. I have no hope of getting my money back.

SYED TANZEEM
Investor

The decision drew criticism from Islamic banking experts and intellectuals in the community, who pointed out that other countries – the U.S., the U.K., Hong Kong, Sri Lanka and most of West Asia – have implemented it successfully. "Profit sharing banking is based on sound economics and ethical principles. If nomenclature is the issue, one need not call it Islamic banking, like it is done in several countries. The RBI report has called it interest-free banking," said Mumbai-based Islamic finance expert Shariq Nisar.

He believes that a vacuum of interest-free banking in the formal sector has allowed companies like IMA to thrive. "There is a section of consumers demanding a certain product which the market will provide, if not by the formal sector, then by fly-by-night operators. But isn't the government as a regulator responsible for not letting consumers be cheated?"

Other experts argue that citing Islamic banking as the reason for such scams to thrive is simplistic. Kannada writer Bolwar Mahammad Kunhi, a two-time Sahitya Akademi awardee, who worked for over three decades in a nationalised bank, said that simply assuming Muslims were investing in 'halal' firms due to religious reasons was "stereotyping the community".

"Thousands of those investors who lost money in such firms are also part of the financial banking system holding accounts and availing loans with interest, which have been declared 'haram' by the orthodox clergy within the community. Investment in these firms are



driven by greed, with only a fig leaf of religion cynically used to rationalise it, by both the investors and the company," said Kunhi.

Naveed Ahmed Khan, 42, an engineer who lost money in both Ambidant Marketing and the IMA Group, was candid about his motives: the firms promised higher returns and their businesses were visible. "I did not invest for any religious reasons. I am part of the formal banking system as well. This was an investment that went wrong," he said.

The 'Social, Economic and Educational Status of the Muslim Community in India', 2006, or the Sachar Committee Report, in its chapter, Access to Bank Credit, observed: "The Muslim community is not averse to banking and more improvements can be brought about with specific measures."

Scholars and economists say there is a need for ulemas to denounce these firms. "It is the ulema's voice that has resonance in the community. We need to convince people that the interest we get in banks is also fair and not haram. The Islamic tenet is against usury which is being interpreted in a very orthodox fashion," said Professor Abdul Aziz, a Bengaluru-based economist. Most Ponzi schemes have led to allegations of political patronage and funding. Reports suggest that Mansoor extensively funded politicians during the 2018 Assembly and 2019 Lok Sabha elections, though parties have denied these allegations. "Lack of proactive enforcement has its roots in political corruption and weakened and politicised enforcement agencies," said advocate and anti-corruption activist Prashant Bhushan.

The impact on the customers is not just economic, but social as well. "A large number of families of the community have lost all their savings. Women have pledged gold to invest money in some of these firms without the knowledge of their families, which has now come in the open creating family conflicts. A large section of the community has effectively socio-economically regressed by a decade," said Muzaffar Assadi, political scientist and special officer, Raichur University, Karnataka.

For now, investors continue to approach the police. Few believe that they will get their money back, as they watch the SIT carry away cartloads of wealth from the three-storeyed office in the city's Shivaji Nagar area that was the nerve centre of Mansoor's operations.

FROM PAGE ONE

Trump promises 'very big deal with India'

A White House official said the two leaders had called on their teams to work on mutually beneficial trade solutions.

In a readout of the Trump-Modi meeting, the White House said the two leaders met to exchange perspectives on progress in the strategic partnership and develop new ideas to bring it to the next level.

The leaders acknowledged the breadth and depth of bilateral ties, including economic, trade, energy, defence and security, counterterrorism and space, it said. "They reiterated their commitment to provide strong leadership to address global challenges and build prosperity for their citizens in the decades to come."

Energy concerns

On Iran, the Foreign Secretary said Mr. Modi outlined India's energy concerns as well as worries over threats to peace and stability in the region. He pointed out that although Iran supplies 11% of India's energy, it has reduced oil imports from the sanctions-hit Gulf country. "We have been able to

sustain this position and we also had our diaspora in the region, we have energy requirements in the region, we have economic interest in the region, therefore, it is in India's fundamental interest to maintain peace and stability in the region," the Prime Minister was quoted as telling President Trump.

Mr. Modi also recalled that India has deployed some of its Navy ships in the region to protect the Indian-flagged vessels passing through the Strait of Hormuz where oil tankers came under attack in the recent past.

"This was appreciated very much by President Trump and they had a brief discussion and the President expressed his hope that the oil prices will remain stable. He (Trump) talked about what the U.S. was doing to ensure that stability is maintained in the Gulf that oil prices were stable," Mr. Gokhale said.

On the issue of 5G technology, Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump discussed the technical and business opportunities that this new area provides for cooperation between India and the U.S.

President's rule extended in Jammu & Kashmir

Continuing his attack on the Opposition party, he said Article 356 (President's rule) had so far been imposed 132 times, of which the Congress had used it 93 times to dismiss State governments.

He said his government withdrew the security of 919 people in the State as they faced no threat. During the tenure of President's rule in J&K, terrorism had been tackled strongly and the State saw development on a number of fronts, including the conduct of panchayat elections

'Unwarranted'

Mr. Shah's proposal to extend President's rule in the State drew sharp remarks from the Opposition bench-

es, including Manish Tewari from the Congress and N.K. Premachandran of the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP). Both parliamentarians opposed the proposal saying there was not enough ground for the Union government to do so.

"The Congress has handed a progressive State to succeeding governments in Jammu and Kashmir. It is the alliance of ideologically incompatible parties that is responsible for the state of affairs in Jammu and Kashmir, where President's rule is being sought so frequently," Mr. Tewari said, referring to the alliance of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

'Plan for electric vehicles is well-thought-out'

"At this point of time, we want to achieve policy clarity. Rather than going that route [BS VI], they can switch to this route [electric]. And if investments have been made, then they have five years to fully utilise these investments... Plus they can continue to export ICE [internal combustion engine] vehicles," he said.

About 90% of the two-wheelers now sold in the country are 150cc or below.

Massive imports likely

"This is a sunrise industry... If we don't have a policy, no targets... then we are simply muddling through. As a result, there will be no domestic capacity and we will see massive imports as in the case of the electronics sector," Mr. Kumar said.

In a recent meeting between the Aayog and the industry, "Everyone agreed that the transition to electric is in the national interest. Some players said 2025 was too short a time-frame, but when we asked them to give a time-frame, they said they

can't give one and the market should decide. If you are the dominant player and will continue producing ICE vehicles, how will the market decide," Mr. Kumar said.

The Aayog's Vice-Chairman added that when the industry was asked to give a road map, they said they would take four months to do so. "We said two weeks. We are not insisting on that. But we need a firm response. Even after recognising that the move is in the national interest, why is the industry not working with the government and instead trying to kill the policy?"

"We are willing to engage with the industry but not at the cost of national interest," he stressed. In the meeting last week, one of the major two-wheeler makers pointed out that we need to have proof of concept, but in the same meeting there were start-ups which pointed out that electric vehicles were already on the roads and there was sufficient proof of concept.

Interest rates of small savings schemes cut

While the interest rate on savings deposits has been kept at 4% compounded annually, the rate for one, two, and three-year time deposits has been reduced to 6.9% from 7%, compounded quarterly. The rate for five-year time deposits has been reduced to 7.7% from 8.5%.

The Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana would now fetch an interest rate of 8.4% compared with 8.5% earlier.

The interest rates on small savings schemes are reviewed on a quarterly basis, and as such, these new rates will be applicable till September 30, 2019.

Revolt brewing against Congress 'old guard'

373 Congress functionaries meet, 145 of them resign party posts 'in honour' of Rahul Gandhi's decision

SOBHANA K NAIR
NEW DELHI

Throwing down the gauntlet to the Congress's 'old guard', 145 office-bearers who had risen from the Youth Congress ranks resigned en masse on Friday "in honour of" Rahul Gandhi's decision of May 25 to step down from the president's post.

The mass resignations followed a six-hour-long meeting of former Youth Congress office-bearers who have since been elevated to various positions in the party. As many as 373 Congress functionaries participated in the meeting.

Their main demand is that the present Congress Working Committee (CWC) be disbanded and that the Pradesh Congress Committee presidents of the 17 States where the party failed to win a single Lok Sabha seat should step down.

This group of younger functionaries are also hoping that the mass resignations would convince Mr. Gandhi to return. After almost a month of refusing to meet any senior leaders, Mr. Gand-



Hour of crisis: A stalemate continues in the Congress even after a month into Rahul Gandhi's resignation. ■PTI

hi met leaders from four poll-bound States on Thursday and Friday.

Pressure tactic

The move is seen as a challenge to the old guard and a pressure tactic to push for the implementation of Mr. Gandhi's plan of fixing accountability. Party officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Gandhi had expected his resignation to spur many others to follow voluntarily, allowing for

a shake-up of the party organisation. Instead, more than a month later, the stalemate persists with senior leaders attempting to coax him to return.

The list of resignees includes four All India Congress Committee secretaries - Virender Vashisht, Secretary Overseas; Anil Chaudhary, Odisha in-charge; Virender Rathore, Bihar in-charge; and Rajesh Dharmani, Uttarakhand in-charge. Goa State unit presi-

Markam made party chief in Chhattisgarh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Kondagaon MLA Mohan Markam was appointed as the president of the Congress's Chhattisgarh unit. He replaces Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, who was holding the post.

The notification announcing Mr. Markam's appointment said that he

was being appointed by the Congress president. Many are reading this as a sign that Rahul Gandhi may continue as the party chief.

Mr. Markam's constituency, Kondagaon, falls under the Bastar LS constituency, one of the two seats that the Congress won in the State in the recent Lok Sabha election.

dent Girish Chodankar, Delhi working president Rajesh Liothia and Telangana working president Ponnamm Prabhakar were also among those who resigned.

The number of resignees is expected to swell in the coming days.

A bigger meeting has been planned for July 2, when Congress office-bearers from across the country are expected to reach Delhi.

"The people who are responsible for the Lok Sabha

debacle should take the onus instead of blaming Rahul Gandhi alone," AICC secretary and Bihar in-charge Virender Rathore told *The Hindu*. "Mr. Gandhi has fought single-handedly against Narendra Modi and the BJP machinery," he added.

The rallying cry of Friday's meeting was that Mr. Gandhi was let down by the "old guard" and that he needed to return. "It's not just the Congress, the country needs him," asserted Vi-

render Vashisht, AICC secretary overseas. "Our Constitution is in danger and within days of the return of the BJP government, people are being killed in the name of religion; in such a situation we can't let the party remain in a precarious situation," he added.

Other resignations too followed in the wake of the meeting of the younger leaders. AICC general secretary in-charge of Madhya Pradesh, Deepak Babaria, who was handpicked by Mr. Gandhi for the post, quit. "Why should Mr. Gandhi alone be blamed for the party's performance, we all should take the responsibility," Mr. Babaria said.

Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha tweeted that the stalemate can't be allowed to continue for long. "We all should submit our resignations from party positions and give Rahul ji a free hand to choose his team. Party cannot afford a stalemate for too long," Mr. Tankha tweeted, offering his resignation as Chairman of the Law Department of the AICC.

Congress seeks answers from Shah

'If things are normal in J&K as govt. says, why is President's rule being extended?'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah failed to answer the "fundamental" question of why was his government seeking to extend President's rule in Jammu and Kashmir if the security situation was in control in the State, the Congress said on Friday.

At a press conference after Mr. Shah's speech in the Lok Sabha, Congress MP Manish Tewari said the BJP government was trying to "deflect, obfuscate and run away" from the debate.

"The most fundamental question that the Home Minister chose not to answer is that if things are normal in Jammu and Kashmir, as the government claims in terms

What is extremely unfortunate is this continuous embellishment and the selective use of untruths in order to try and build a new history of Jammu and Kashmir

MANISH TEWARI
Congress MP



of the long laundry list of initiatives that was listed out in the Home Minister's reply, then why has the government come to Parliament asking for extension of President's rule," he asked.

Mr. Tewari questioned the "intent" of the government in not holding Assembly polls when the Election Commission managed to hold the Lok Sabha election there.

Mr. Shah said the coun-

try's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, was to be blamed for Kashmir's precarious situation. "What is extremely unfortunate is this continuous embellishment and the selective use of untruths in order to try and build a new history of Jammu and Kashmir," Mr. Tewari said. Finger-pointing would not help resolve the issue, he noted.

Mr. Shah said in his speech that Article 370 was

not temporary in nature. "If it's a transitional provision, then why in 2016 - when they [the BJP] entered into an alliance with the PDP - they said that Article 370 will not be touched," Mr. Tewari asked.

The BJP-PDP alliance government and the Union government were responsible for bringing Kashmir to such a pass.

"In 2014, over 64 per cent of the people participated in the Assembly elections. If it came down to five per cent in 2017 when one parliamentary bypoll was held and the other could not be held and the situation persisted till the recent Lok Sabha election, then who should bear the responsibility for it" he asked.

Paswan elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha from Bihar

LJP chief won the seat vacated by Ravi Shankar Prasad

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI/BHUBANESWAR

Union Minister and Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) chief Ram Vilas Paswan was elected unopposed as a member of the Rajya Sabha from Bihar on Friday. The LJP is an ally of the BJP.

Mr. Paswan replaced BJP leader and Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, who had quit the seat to contest the Lok Sabha election from Patna Sahib.

While Mr. Paswan's entry to the Upper House did not change the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) numbers, the Rajya Sabha bypolls in Odisha, also on Friday, led to the election of two Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MPs and one BJP MP.

Before Friday's bypolls, the BJP had 75 MPs in Rajya Sabha, while its allies, the Shiromani Akali Dal and the Shiv Sena, had three each, and the Opposition had 108 MPs in total. Though its five MPs have been among the 20 undecided members, the BJD has supported the NDA's legislation in the past.



Back to the House: Union Minister and LJP chief Ram Vilas Paswan with his wife Reena Paswan in Patna on Friday after he was elected to the Rajya Sabha. ■RANJEET KUMAR

In Odisha, two candidates of the ruling BJD and one BJP nominee were on Friday elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from the State in the bypolls held for three vacant seats. Amar Patnaik and Sasmit Patra of the BJD, and Aswini Kumar Vaishnav of the BJP were elected uncontested after the end of time for withdrawal of candidates. No other candidate had filed nomination for the three seats.

The BJP nominee's candidature was supported by the ruling BJD. The saffron party had sought the ruling party's support since they did not have the required number of MLAs in the Odisha Assembly to win a seat.

The three seats had fallen vacant when the BJD's Achyuta Samanta, Soumya Ranjan Patnaik and Pratap Keshari Deb resigned from the Rajya Sabha, after being elected to the Lok Sabha and the State Assembly in the recently held elections.

'One ration card' scheme launch soon

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

To curb corruption and end the dependence on one Public Distribution System (PDS) shop, the Centre will shortly launch the 'One nation, One ration card' scheme.

The scheme, according to Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan, would ensure that all beneficiaries can access PDS across the nation from any shop of their choice. The biggest beneficiary of this, he said, would be migrant labourers who move to other States to seek better job opportunities.

"This will provide freedom to the beneficiaries as they will not be tied to any one PDS shop and reduce their dependence on shop owners..." the Ministry said in a statement. In the next two months, beneficiaries of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh would be able to access the PDS shops. The objective was to ensure that this was implemented nationally in a time-bound manner.

Redress damage by stray cattle: SP MP

Compensation sought for road deaths

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Samajwadi Party (SP) Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament Ravi Prakash Verma on Friday demanded compensation for human deaths and crop damage caused by the increasing menace of stray cattle.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour in the Upper House, the SP MP asserted that policy failures had led to a growing menace, with large numbers of stray cattle roaming the fields and roads of Uttar Pradesh and other north Indian States.

Observing that these cattle often clogged the highways, causing road accidents that killed and injured people, he demanded that the families of those killed also be paid the same ₹5 lakh compensation that is granted in the case of deaths caused by wild animals.

Farmers also faced extensive damage to standing crops caused by stray cattle, Mr. Verma said. He demanded that such damage be covered under the Centre's crop insurance scheme, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

Independent MP from Kerala, M.P. Veerendra Kumar also raised an issue of concern to farmers during Zero Hour, alleging that banks and financial institu-

Publishing names and addresses of honest people who have fallen on bad times and could not repay loans has led to suicides

M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR
Independent MP from Kerala

tions were misusing the SARFAESI Act to harass small loan defaulters, leading to farmer suicides.

Farmers' distress

"More than 8,000 defaulting farmers in Wayanad, where I come from, are under the threat of eviction from their property, given as surety for the loan," Mr. Kumar told the Rajya Sabha. "Some farmers had already committed suicide after getting notices from banks," he said. "Publishing pictures, names and addresses of honest people who have fallen on bad times and could not pay back the loans, in prominent newspapers has led to suicides."

He alleged that there was prejudice against smaller borrowers. "Larger borrowers have the muscle to get stays from courts or Debt Recovery Tribunals. Small borrowers cannot afford that luxury, particularly when one is defaulting anyway," he said, urging the Centre to intervene.

Install Bankim Chandra's statue, says Trinamool

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Trinamool Congress on Friday demanded that a statue of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay - the Bengali poet and writer who penned the national song, *Vande Mataram* - be installed on the Parliament precincts.


Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, Trinamool member Derek O'Brien said that at least by the next birth anniversary of Mr. Chattopadhyay, on June 26, the Parlia-

ment premises should have his statue where everyone can go to pay him tribute.

"We start every session with *Jana Gana Mana* and end it with *Vande Mataram*. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay has been most appropriately described by Shri Aurbindo as the creator of language, literature and a nation," Mr. O'Brien said.

He told reporters that his party would make an official request to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu.

APPEAL



Name of Patient: **N. Vanitha, 28 years.** Hospital Name: Christian Medical College, Diagnosis: Having Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS - EB) (A Type of Blood Disorder). Approximate Cost for treatment **Rs. 6,00,000/-**

We request kind hearted Philanthropists to save her. Kindly send donation by Cheque / D.D. / M.C. favouring Save Poor Lives A/c N. Vanitha S.B Account No. 20000913487, State Bank of India, Raja Annamalaiapuram Branch, IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, which is exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

Contact: SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, (ADMIN DIVISION) Flat No. A4, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaiapuram, Chennai-600028. Ph: 044-42044165, Mobile: 9884607377, E-mail: savepoorlives@gmail.com website: www.savepoorlives.com

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IN BRIEF
Militant from Pakistan killed in Budgam
SRINAGAR
A member of militant outfit Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) was killed in central Kashmir's Budgam on Friday, while a protester sustained bullet injuries in the subsequent clashes with security forces near the encounter site. The militant has been identified as Zarar from Pakistan, police said. The injured protester, 30-year-old Shabir Ahmad, is undergoing treatment.

Trinamool team visits strife-torn Bhatpara
KOLKATA
An eight-member delegation of the Trinamool Congress, comprising Ministers, MLAs and the Mayor of Kolkata, on Friday visited Bhatpara in West Bengal and promised compensation to those killed and whose property had been destroyed in the recent violence. Manoj Verma, Commissioner of Barrackpore City Police, said that the delegation had told him that ₹2.5 lakh each would be given to families of four of the deceased.

CBI books brother of former Arunachal CM
GUWAHATI
The Central Bureau of Investigation has booked the brother and sister-in-law of former Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Nabam Tuki for alleged graft in government contracts. The CBI took up the case a decade after Nabam Tagam, an RTI activist, filed a petition in the Gauhati High Court in 2006, alleging a ₹600 crore scam during 2005-06 when Mr. Tuki was the PWD Minister.

Modi declares terrorism as the biggest threat to humanity

PM was at the informal BRICS leaders' meeting on the sidelines of G-20 summit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA OSAKA
Describing terrorism as the biggest threat to humanity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the scourge not only kills innocents but also severely affects economic development and social stability.

Speaking at the informal BRICS leaders' meeting in Osaka on the sidelines of the G-20 summit, Mr. Modi said there is a need to stop all the mediums of support to terrorism and racism. Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin were present.

The Prime Minister congratulated Jair Bolsonaro on being elected the President of Brazil. He also congratulated Cyril Ramaphosa on his becoming the President of South Africa as the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) leaders met.

Mr. Modi spoke about strengthening the World Trade Organization, fighting protectionism, ensuring energy security and the need to work together to fight terrorism.

"Today, I will focus on the three major challenges. First is the instability and downfall in the global economy. Unilateralism and competitiveness are overshadowing the rule-based multilateral global trade systems," he said. The second challenge is to make development sustainable and all-inclusive. He listed terrorism as the third major challenge.



Hand in hand: Russian President Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Osaka on Friday. ■ AFP

India, U.S. Commerce Ministers to meet to resolve trade disputes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA OSAKA
Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday "aired" their concerns over bilateral trade disputes and agreed for an early meeting of their Commerce Ministers to sort out the issues, a day after the U.S. leader demanded withdrawal of the "very high" tariffs levied by India on American goods.

Though trade is an important part of the booming bi-

lateral relationship, a row over market access and tariffs has escalated in recent months, leading to fears of a protracted dispute.

On Thursday, Mr. Trump said that India's "very high" tariffs on U.S. goods are "unacceptable" and must be withdrawn.

"I look forward to speaking with Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi about the fact that India, for years having put very high Tariffs against the United States, just re-

cently increased the Tariffs even further. This is unacceptable and the Tariffs must be withdrawn!" Mr. Trump said in a tweet on his way to Osaka, to participate in the G-20 summit.

"The talks with @POTUS were wide ranging. We discussed ways to leverage the power of technology, improve defence and security ties as well as issues relating to trade," Mr. Modi tweeted after his meeting with Mr. Trump.

On 5G and data storage, India aligns with developing nations

Distances itself from initiatives promoted by U.S. and Japan

SUHASINI HAIDAR NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and United States President Donald Trump came closer to resolving trade issues when they met in Osaka on Friday, but on technological issues such as data storage and 5G network, India ranged itself across the divide from Japan and the U.S., and alongside leaders of BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa).

"We recognise the importance of the interface between trade and the digital economy. We also affirm the role of data for development," said a statement issued by the BRICS grouping after the meeting. "We are committed to transparent, non-discriminatory, open, free and inclusive international trade. Protectionism and unilateralism run counter to the spirit and rules of the World Trade Organisation [WTO]," it noted.

Briefing the media, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale underlined the need for framing rules on data within the WTO and not at the G-20, running counter to Japan's initiative as the host of this year's G-20 summit, to push for "Data Free Flow with Trust, (DFFT)".

The initiative for free flow of data, announced by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in January, came after the Reserve Bank of India's guidelines mandating that the storage of all financial data, including by multinational companies, must be kept on servers in India. The move

sparked protests from major companies such as Google, MasterCard, Visa and Amazon and the U.S. called it a major non-tariff barrier, adding to trade tensions between the countries.

On Friday, Mr. Trump hit out at countries like China and India for passing such norms. "The United States opposes data localisation and policies, which have been used to restrict digital trade flows and violate privacy and intellectual property protections," he said.

NEWS ANALYSIS

During their meeting, however, Mr. Modi is believed to have stressed that data was a "new form of wealth". The U.S. and its allies would need to take into account "the requirements of developing countries" on the issue, said Mr. Gokhale.

5G issue

On the equally fraught issue of 5G technology, where the U.S. has demanded that countries ban Chinese telecom major Huawei's 5G network because of its ability to spy on them, Mr. Modi appeared to have given Mr. Trump no assurances.

According to its 5G rollout plan, India is preparing to begin technology trials in September, and while that deadline may be postponed, India has not yet decided on whether to include Huawei from the trials.

If India drops the company from consideration, Beijing has made it clear it

would protest the decision strongly.

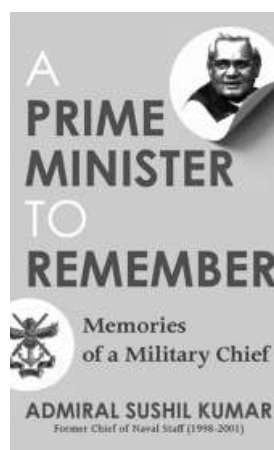
Going into the bilateral meeting on Friday morning, Mr. Trump had clearly said he would discuss Huawei with Mr. Modi. After the meeting, however, India and the U.S. only spoke of collaboration on R&D between their respective telecommunication industries.

According to former cyber security chief Gulshan Rai, the outcome should be welcomed, as he said the "U.S. has made great strides on developing telecom technologies for routing, computing and semi-conductor chips." He, however, added that in the case of 5G, the U.S. had not yet developed "end-to-end equipment" and thus the collaboration could only refer to outcomes in the distant future.

India's National Security Advisory Board Chairman P.S. Raghavan told *The Hindu* that it would be premature to cut out Huawei or any other company at this incipient stage. "5G is becoming a fault line in the technology cold war between world powers," he said, adding that India must avoid getting "caught" in the U.S.-China telecom tussle.

Mr. Gokhale said Mr. Modi told Mr. Trump that India, with a billion users, would be the world's second largest market. "The way India moves or the way whatever choices India makes will essentially determine the way the global trend will go," the Prime Minister reportedly observed.

Kargil conflict was Vajpayee's finest hour: former Navy chief



The cover of the book released on Friday.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Kargil conflict of 1999 was Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's "finest hour", former Navy chief Admiral Sushil Kumar said on Friday, as India commemorates 20 years of the conflict.

"He turned a strategic tactical loss into a massive victory... He gave full credit to the armed forces. But it was his master stroke. He said, 'Do not cross the LoC (Line of Control), but drive them [Pakistan] away,'" Admiral Kumar said. He was speaking at the launch of his book, *A Prime*

Minister to Remember: Memories of a Military Chief.

Admiral Kumar was the Navy chief between 1998 and 2001 and oversaw the Kargil conflict in 1999.

In the context of instructions to not cross the LoC, Adm. Kumar observed that Mr. Vajpayee knew the value of restraint. Former Air chief Marshal A.Y. Tipnis, who was Air chief during the Kargil conflict, said no other Prime Minister could have faced "a war that fell in his lap" while heading a coalition government with 23 different partners.

Centre releases action plan on higher education

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Centre has released a five-year vision and action plan to transform higher education by doubling enrolment and employability, addressing inequalities of access, and revamping governance and funding mechanisms.

As *The Hindu* reported last month, the Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP) is likely to involve investment of ₹1.5 lakh crore over the next five years, much of which will have to be raised from the market.

It was drafted by 80 experts in 10 teams headed by eminent academicians, scientists and industrialists over the last two months and was submitted to Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank on Friday.

The plan has suggested more than 50 initiatives with timelines, implementation methods and funding requirements, with quality and access as its major goals. After further consultation within the Ministry, the plan will be submitted for Cabinet approval, an official statement said.

BJP questions Bengal circular on new dining halls in schools

Facility planned for institutions with 70% minority students

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

A circular issued by West Bengal's Minority Affairs department on the construction of dining halls in State-run schools that have more than 70% Muslim students has triggered a political controversy in the State, with the Bharatiya Janata Party calling it "discrimination".

Trinamool Congress chairperson and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was quick to defend the circular,

saying that it was not aimed at "dividing students in any way" but only to pool in funds from different departments to create infrastructure for running the mid-day meal programme in schools.

Controversy over the circular erupted when State BJP president Dilip Ghosh questioned the order on Twitter.

"Why this discrimination between the students on the basis of religion? Is there some other mala fide motive

behind this segregation? Another conspiracy?" Mr. Ghosh asked.

The circular, dated June 25, called for the names of schools which had more than 70% minority students for construction of dining halls for mid-day meals.

Ms. Banerjee said on Friday that the dining halls constructed with funds from the Minority Welfare Department would serve all students, irrespective of their religion or community.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
GLOBAL TENDER ENQUIRY
Procurement & Consultancy Services Division of HLL LIFECARE LIMITED (A Govt. of India Enterprise) for and on behalf of MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE - GOVT. OF INDIA invites e-tenders from eligible and qualified bidders for Supply of Cold Chain Equipment(s) as brought below:

Sl. No.	NIT reference	Item/Dept.	Pre-bid Meeting Date & time	Closing date & time for submission of online bids
1	HLL/PCD/Immu-14/19-20 Dated 29.06.2019	Procurement of Cold Chain Equipment(s)	09.07.2019, 11:00 hrs	30.07.2019, 13:00 hrs

Interested bidders are advised to download the complete Tender Enquiry document from the websites www.lifecarehll.com or www.hllhites.com or <https://eprocure.gov.in/publish/app> for all other details.
Prospective bidders are advised to browse the above websites regularly before submission of their bids as any further amendments will be published in these websites only.

HEAD(PCD)

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No: EE/KRP/TN-01/2019-20 Date: 28.06.2019

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover Tender) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer (K.R. Pura) invites Item Rate tenders from eligible tenderers for the works detailed in the table given below. The tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the table in appropriate class registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike/CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES/any State or Central Govt. Organisations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Approx. Value of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹.)
1.	Developmental works CC Drains, CC Roads & Asphalt Roads in Old KR Pura, Bhattarahalli and TC Palya Slum Surrounding areas in Ward No-52 KR Pura, Est. Cost: Rs. 500.00 Lakhs.	Package-1 Rs. 1000.00 Lakhs	1500000.00
2.	Development and Improvements of Roads, Drains and Footpath in FCI Godown Road and Surrounding Area, Kothenuru Area, Jamia Masjid Surrounding Area, Mini Tajmahal Road, Block-1 BDA Layout Road, Nagappa Reddy Layout Slum Surrounding Areas in Ward No-51 Vijnapur KR Pura Constituency Est. Cost: Rs. 500.00 Lakhs.	Package-2 Rs. 1300.00 Lakhs	1500000.00
3.	Development of Roads and Drains in Ward No-52 KR Pura Est. Cost: Rs. 1000.00 Lakhs	Package-3 Rs. 1400.00 Lakhs	1500000.00
4.	Development of Roads and Drains in Ward No-55 Devasandra Est. Cost: Rs. 300.00 Lakhs	Package-4 Rs. 1000.00 Lakhs	1500000.00
5.	Development of Roads and Drains in Ward No-56 A Narayana -pura, Est. Cost: Rs.500.00 Lakhs.	Package-5 Rs. 900.00 Lakhs	1350000.00

Calendar of Events : (1) Availability of RFP Documents on 03.07.2019 onwards. (2) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on 01.07.2019 at 11:30 am in the Chief Engineer Office, KR Pura, Headed by Chief Engineer, Mahadevapura. (3) Last Date Submission of Tender Documents on or before 26.07.2019 at 4:00 Pm. (4) Technical Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer, KR Pura Division on 29.07.2019 at 4:00 pm. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/-
Executive Engineer - K R Pura Division
Pay Development Charges - Help to Develop Bengaluru

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
CENTRAL OFFICES, K H ROAD, Shantinagar, Bengaluru-560 027.

No. BMTC/COSP/TENDER/213/2019-20 DT: 28-06-2019
Tender is invited through e-procurement portal for the following.

Sl. No.	Tender No. & Date	Description	Tender Value (Rs. In Lakhs)	Last date for bid submission in e-procurement portal
1	BMTC/2019/012 Date: 19-06-2019	Obtaining Transaction Advisory Services for Strategic reform of Public Transport for BMTC through PMC	1000.00	22-07-2019 @14.30 Hrs.

*For more details visit www.eproc.kar.nic.in
Sd/- CONTROLLER OF STORES AND PURCHASES (Tender Inviting Authority)

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
'Khanji Bhavan', 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500 028
Telephone: 0091-40-23538713 to 23538721 Ext: 371, 23538710
Email: ksmurthy@nmdc.co.in; pswetha@nmdc.co.in
CIN : L13100AP1958G0001674

Tender Notice (E-Procurement Mode Only)

Sl. No.	Tender No. & Description	Display and sale of Tender Document from	Last Date & Time for submission of Tender through online
1	HQMM/3026-18/16BN149/278, Dt. 28/6/2019 Spares for Hydraulic Support Assembly of Nordberg make Gyrotary Crusher, 54" - 80" HD size, Model: Hydraulic Support, Sl. No. of the crusher: 54GY11 required for NMDC Limited, DIOM Donimalai, Bellary Dist., Karnataka, INDIA- 583118	29/6/2019 (10 AM onwards) Till 17/7/2019 (2.30 PM)	17.7.2019 (14.30 hrs. IST)
2	HQMM/1002-19/10N130/, Dt. 28/6/2019 Spares for Primary, Secondary & Tertiary Crusher for Baladila Iron Ore Mine, Kirandul Complex, Dantewada Dist., Chattisgarh State, INDIA- 494 556	29/6/2019 (10 AM onwards) Till 17/7/2019 (2.30 PM)	17.7.2019 (14.30 hrs. IST)

The detailed tender document can be downloaded from our website www.nmdc.co.in under tender section, www.eprocure.gov.in and www.mstecommmerce.com. Any corrigendum to the tender notices will be uploaded in tender section on our website www.nmdc.co.in only and will not be published in newspapers. Prospective bidders may visit the NMDC website from time to time to note the corrigendum, if any.

Jt. General Manager (Materials)

सेमी-कंडक्टर लेबोरेटरी / Semi-Conductor Laboratory
अंतरिक्ष विभाग, भारत सरकार / Department of Space, Government of India, सेक्टर-72, सा.अ.सि.नगर(मोहाली) -160071, चंडीगढ़ के समीप (पंजाब) भारत
Sector -72, S.A.S. Nagar-160 071, Near Chandigarh (Punjab) India
फोन / Phone : +91-172-2296172 फैक्स / Fax +91-172-2237410
ईमेल / Email: abudhwar@scl.gov.in, website: www.scl.gov.in

निविदा सूचना संख्या. एएससीएल/पीटी/150 / TENDER NOTICE No. SCL/PT/150 दिनांक / Dated: 27.06.2019
निदेशक, एएससीएल के लिए एवं उनकी ओर से सेमी-कंडक्टर लेबोरेटरी के प्रमुख क्रय एवं पंढार, निम्न के लिए दो भागों में ऑन लाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित करने हैं। / For and on behalf of The Director, Head-Purchase & Stores, Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL) invites Online TWO part Tenders for the following:

क्र. सं./ Sl. No.	निविदा संख्या / Tender Number	विवरण (विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए निविदा दस्तावेज देखें) / Description (For details please see Tender Documents)	संख्या / Quantity
1	एएससीएल/पीएस/2019/0145201 SCL/PS/2019E0145201 (दो भाग निविदा / Two Part Tender)	एएससीएल एएसएस नगर (मोहाली) में डिजाइन विभिन्न के डिजाइन विस्तार के एएस-कंडीशनिंग के लिए वैरिएबल रेफ्रिजरेशन फ्लो सिस्टम, स्लिट एसी, इंसुलेशन आदि की आपूर्ति, स्थापना, परीक्षण और कमिश्निंग हेतु। Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Variable Refrigeration Flow System, Split ACs, Ducting, Insulation etc. For Air-Conditioning of Horizontal Expansion of Design Building at SCL, S.A.S Nagar (Mohali)	कुल मात्रा: मात्रा के बिल के अनुसार / Total quantity: As per BOQ

निविदा दस्तावेज डाउनलोड करने के लिए तिथि और समय
Date & Time for download of Tender Form
शुरू / Starts: 28.06.2019 से / from 1201 बजे / hrs (IST)
समाप्त / Ends: 26.07.2019 तक / at 1030 बजे / hrs (IST)

निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि एवं समय
Date & Time of Submission of Tenders:
शुरू / Starts: 28.06.2019 से / from 1202 बजे / hrs (IST)
समाप्त / Ends: 26.07.2019 तक / at 1100 बजे / hrs (IST)

निविदाएं खोलने की तिथि एवं समय (तकनीकी भाग)
Date & Time of Opening of Tenders (Technical Part):
शुरू / Starts: 01.08.2019 से / from 1201 बजे / hrs (IST)
समाप्त / Ends: 02.08.2019 को / at 1700 बजे / hrs (IST)

नोट / Note: उपरोक्त निविदा दस्तावेज को e-tender portal <https://eprocure.isro.gov.in> से देख सकते हैं और सीपीपी पोर्टल <https://eprocure.gov.in> से डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं। / Tender Documents of above mentioned Tender can be accessed at e-tender portal <https://eprocure.isro.gov.in> and can be downloaded from CPP Portal (<http://eprocure.gov.in>)

प्रमुख, क्रय एवं पंढार प्रभाग / Head, Purchase & Stores Division

Don't meddle in polls, Trump jokes with Putin

'Get rid of them (journalists). Fake news is a great term, isn't it?' U.S. leader tells his Russian counterpart at G-20 meet

REUTERS
OSAKA

President Donald Trump on Friday sardonically asked his Russian counterpart to please not meddle in the U.S. elections, appearing to make light of a scandal that led to an investigation of his campaign's contact with the Kremlin during 2016 elections.

A two-year investigation into a Moscow-run influence campaign during the election has hung over Mr. Trump's presidency, frustrating the Republican President who has said he seeks better relations with Russia.

Mr. Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin were speaking to reporters in Osaka, Japan, ahead of their first formal face-to-face meeting since a controversial high-profile summit in Helsinki last July.

Asked by reporters whether he would raise the issue during their meeting, held on the sidelines of a G-20 summit, Mr. Trump said: "Yes, of course I will," drawing a laugh from Mr. Putin.



Soft skills: President Donald Trump with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Osaka, Japan, on Friday. • AP

Mr. Trump then turned to Mr. Putin to give the directive twice, as he pointed a finger at the Russian leader. "Don't meddle in the election, please," Mr. Trump said.

Mr. Trump's critics have accused him of being too friendly with Mr. Putin and castigated him for failing to publicly confront the Russian leader in Helsinki after U.S. intelligence agencies had hacked into Democratic Party computers and used fake social media

accounts to attack his opponent, Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton.

Special Counsel probe

A U.S. special counsel, Robert Mueller, spent two years investigating whether there were any ties between Mr. Trump's campaign and Moscow.

Mr. Mueller found that Russia did meddle in the election but found no evidence that the Trump campaign illegally conspired with it to influence the vote.

'Speeding up trade talks'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
OSAKA

The U.S. and Japan will "speed up" talks on a trade agreement, Japan's Economy Minister pledged on Friday.

President Donald Trump has repeatedly criticised Tokyo for what he views as a trade imbalance, with the issue coming up during his bilateral talks with Prime

In a recent television interview, Mr. Putin said that relations between Moscow and Washington were "getting worse and worse."

Mr. Trump has sought to turn the page to work with Mr. Putin on issues such as reining in North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

On Friday, he emphasised the positive. "It's a great honour to be with President Putin," Mr. Trump told reporters in Osaka. "We have many things to discuss, including trade and including

Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday.

"The two leaders agreed to speed up trade negotiations so that they can achieve results swiftly. Based on that, we held a ministerial meeting in the afternoon," Japan Economy Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said after talks with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer.

Mr. Trump and Mr. Putin had been scheduled to meet at the end of November at the last G-20 in Buenos Aires, but Mr. Trump cancelled the meeting as he flew to Argentina, citing Russia's seizure of Ukrainian Navy ships and sailors. In May, they had their first extensive phone conversation in months. Mr. Trump said they talked about a new accord to limit nuclear arms that could eventually include China.

"We've had great meet-

ings. We've had a very, very good relationship," Mr. Trump said on Friday. "And we look forward to spending some very good time together. A lot of very positive things going to come out of the relationship."

Invitation to Moscow

In a further attempt to lighten the mood, Mr. Trump sought common ground with Mr. Putin at the expense of the journalists gathered to catch the leaders at the outset of their meeting.

"Get rid of them. Fake news is a great term, isn't it. You don't have this problem in Russia but we do," Mr. Trump said. To which Mr. Putin responded, in English: "We also have. It's the same."

President Putin has invited Mr. Trump to Russia in May next year to mark the 75th anniversary of the victory over Adolf Hitler, according to top foreign policy adviser Yuri Ushakov.

Mr. Trump responded in a "very positive manner," said Mr. Ushakov, according to news channel Russia 24.

Biden under attack as Democrat rivals ask him to pass the torch

Senator Kamala Harris targets ex-Vice-President

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MIAMI

Frontrunner Joe Biden faced repeated criticism on multiple fronts on Thursday from his Democratic rivals for the 2020 presidential nomination, including calls to leave the battle to oust Donald Trump to a younger generation.

In a sometimes scrappy showdown of the Democratic heavyweights, Senator Kamala Harris landed several blows on Mr. Biden in the second of two nationally televised debates, putting the former Vice-President on the defensive as he argued that he is best-positioned to take on the Republican President.

Mr. Biden blasted Mr. Trump for his "horrible" policies that have exacerbated



Joe Biden

economic inequality, while his chief rival for the nomination, Senator Bernie Sanders, took it directly to the "phony" President, calling him "a pathological liar and a racist."

But Mr. Biden, 76, also found himself on the receiving end of a pointed attack from a lower-tier candidate half his age.

Congressman Eric Swalwell, 38, called on him to "pass the torch" to a new generation better equipped to tackle climate change, expand health care coverage and reduce gun violence.

"I'm still holding on to that torch," Mr. Biden snapped back.

Several rivals were clearly seeking to wrench it from his grip, including Ms. Harris, the only black woman in the race, who made a stirring call for Mr. Biden to recognise his recent "hurtful" comments about being civil with avowedly segregationist U.S. Senators.

Mr. Biden, with the room dead quiet, insisted he does not "praise racists", and denied he opposed initiatives in the 1970s to bus children from predominantly black communities to better schools in more prosperous neighborhoods.

"There was a little girl in California who was part of the second class to integrate her public schools and she was bussed to school every day," Ms. Harris said, in one of the evening's most potent moments. "That little girl was me."

China tests new ballistic missile JL-3

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BEIJING

China has successfully tested its latest submarine-launched ballistic missile, the JL-3, official media here reported.

The scheduled test was normal, China's Ministry of National Defence said on Thursday, when asked about the alleged test launch of a JL-3 submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) on June 2, state-run *Global Times* reported.

Military experts told the daily that the JL-3 is China's latest SLBM under development that is expected to reach targets farther away with higher accuracy and capable of carrying more warheads than China's current SLBMs. The SLBM might have a range of up to 14,000 km and be equipped with 10 independent guided nuclear warheads, the daily quoted *Russia Today* as saying.

Sirisena justifies death penalty decision

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka President Maithripala Sirisena on Friday justified his decision to hang drug offence convicts, terming it necessary to "protect the country and future generations", despite domestic and international pressure to withdraw the decision.

In a recent briefing with local media heads and foreign media representatives, President Sirisena announced that he had signed papers clearing the execution of four persons convicted for drug offences.

His decision, which re-

verses Sri Lanka's 43-year-old moratorium on capital punishment, sparked widespread concern, including from UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

Addressing a ceremony in his home district Polonnaruwa on Friday, Mr. Sirisena said he had apprised the UN Secretary General of the "reasons" behind his decision, in a telephonic conversation on Thursday evening.

"I signed the document to execute the drug offenders not with hatred and cruelty towards anyone, but to save the nation and the future generation from the drug

menace, which is our worst social catastrophe," he told the gathering.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner General of Prisons told an appeal court in Colombo on Friday that the execution will not be carried out in the coming week.

'Maintain moratorium'

Many Sri Lankans have voiced concern about the resumption of the death penalty after four decades. Following Mr. Sirisena's announcement, the U.K., the EU and Canada issued strong statements, urging the Sri Lankan government to maintain the moratorium on capital punishment.

Expressing "deep concern", the U.K. said it opposed the use of the death penalty "in all circumstances" as a matter of principle. The

"Implementation of the death penalty will inevitably make it more difficult for the U.K. to cooperate on law enforcement issues, including on counterterrorism, and will require us to review our technical assistance programs on relevant policing, defence and other security issues," the British Foreign Office said.

Pakistan Army chief blames 'fiscal mismanagement' for problems

REUTERS
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's powerful Army chief on Friday blamed "fiscal mismanagement" for the country's economic woes, days after he was appointed to a newly formed committee responsible for steering the economy.

Though the military has extensive business interests and dominates foreign and security policies, it is unusual for an Army chief to comment on how the economy is run by a civilian government.

The comments from General Qamar Javed Bajwa come days before the board of the International Monetary Fund is due to decide whether to approve a \$6 billion bailout for cash-strapped Pakistan.

"We're going through a difficult economic situation due to fiscal mismanagement," General Bajwa told a seminar at a military-run defence university in Islamabad, according to a statement issued by the military's



General Qamar Javed Bajwa

publicity wing. "We understand that government has gone for difficult but quintessential decisions for long-term benefits and what we're doing is playing our part."

Prime Minister Imran Khan, who is seen as close to the generals, blames economic problems on the previous administration that left office in mid-2018, after a period of tension with the military.

The military, which has ruled Pakistan for about half the time since Independence in 1947, has been taking a more active role in economic affairs since Mr. Khan came to office.

France roasts in record heatwave

REUTERS
PARIS/MADRID

France registered its highest temperature since records began on Friday as a heatwave continues to suffocate much of Europe.

The mercury hit 45.9°C in Gallargues-le-Montueux, in southern France, the weather forecaster Météo France said. The previous high of 44.1°C was recorded in August 2003.

The World Meteorological Organization said 2019 was

on track to be among the world's hottest years, and that 2015-2019 would then be the hottest five-year period on record. It said the heatwave was "absolutely consistent" with extremes linked to the impact of greenhouse gas emissions.

The new record makes France just the seventh European country to have recorded a plus 45-degree temperature, along with Bulgaria, Portugal, Italy, Spain, Greece and North Ma-

cedonia, Météo France said.

Temperatures in parts of Spain were expected to hit a new record of 43°C. Since 1975, Spain has registered nine heatwaves in June. Five of them, however, have been in the last decade, according to the Spanish meteorological office.

Germany's weather service said the country experienced temperatures more than four degrees higher in June than the average.

(With AFP inputs)



A sign reads 44°C in Carpentras, south-eastern France, on Friday. • AFP

ADDITIONAL SKILL ACQUISITION PROGRAMME
A Joint Initiative of General & Higher Education Departments,
Govt. of Kerala
(3rd Floor, Trans Towers, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram - 4)

TENDER INVITED
ASAP invites proposals from reputed dealers, suppliers, manufacturers having 3 years operational experience in manufacturing, supply or dealing of electronic equipment for supply, installation, testing and commissioning of data racks, telephone connection boxes and connected accessories for ASAP CSPs.

Tender ID: 2019_ASAP_283470_1
Bid submission end date - 06.55 pm, 08/07/2019.
For more details and to apply, visit:
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in / www.asapkerala.gov.in
(3614650/D3/19/1/PR) Sd/- Chief Executive Officer

V.O.CHIDAMBARANAR PORT TRUST
CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
TILITICODIN - 623 004. SAKAMALA

File No. E/C -56 / 3 / 2019 - EST/ D. 1494. Dated: 28.06.2019
RE - e-TENDER CUM e-AUCTION No. EST - 1 / 2019 - 2020

a) Name of Work	Allocation of Port land 'on as is where is basis' for EXIM / VARIOUS purposes (As per Annexure-I) for a period of 30 years lease on Upfront / Annual Lease payment basis at V.O.Chidambaranar Port Trust.
b) Period of Lease	Upto 30 Years
c) Earnest Money Deposit	EMD will be 10% of the Reserve Price per SQM for 30 Years as mentioned in Table - I and II of "Annexure - I" (Price bid to be paid in the form of Rs.25,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Only) through RTGS / NEFT in favour of V.O.Chidambaranar Port Trust and balance through Bank Guarantee from any Nationalized bank / Scheduled bank. Model calculation sheet enclosed in Annexure - A
d) Downloading of Tender document	From 01.07.2019 to 30.07.2019
e) Pre-Bid Meeting	Pre-bid meeting 10.07.2019 15:00 Hours at Mini Conference Hall, Administrative office Building, V.O.Chidambaranar Port Trust, Tuticorin.
f) Last date & Time of submission of tender online	30.07.2019 at 15.00 Hrs.
g) Opening of Technical Bid online Date & Time	15:30 hours on 30.07.2019
h) Validity of Tender	120 Days

The e-tender cum e-auction documents can be downloaded from Port website www.vocport.gov.in and www.tenderwizard.com/VOCP
Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER
V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust

Andhra Pradesh Medical Services & Infrastructure Development Corporation,
APMSIDC, Plot No.9, Survey No.49, IT Park, Mangalagiri, Guntur District-522503
Tenders are invited through e-procurement platform (online).

Tender Notice No: 40 (19-20)/APMSIDC/Medicine Wing/ 2019-22 Dt:27.06.2019

Procurement from the eligible Medical Distributors/Dealers/Agencies/Wholesalers/Retailers to supply of prescribed branded Drugs on daily basis for eligible beneficiaries at Civil dispensaries, A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi and Gollapudi

For complete details, please visit Website:
<https://tender.approcurement.gov.in> from 29.06.2019.

APMSIDC will reserve the right to cancel the tender at any time without assigning any reasons.
DIPR 48PP/CL, Dt.28/06/2019 Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

ONGC Petro additions Limited
4th Floor, 35, Nutan Bharat Society, Akapuri, Vadodra, Gujarat - 390007.
Ph: 0265 6192600, Fax: 0265-6192666, CIN No. U23209GJ2006PLC060282

OPAL invites the sealed tender under Two Bid System for following:
Tender Number:1911C00396 Tender Description: Annual Rate Contract for Storm Water Drain Cleaning Jobs at OPAL, Dahej (Contract Duration-03 Years)/Tender sale period: 29.06.2019, 09:00 Hrs. to 19.07.2019, 14:00 Hrs. Closing date and time for Bid Submission:19.07.2019, 14:00 Hrs.

The tender document can be downloaded from www.opalindia.in. For other details of this tender including corrigendum if any, Bidders should regularly visit OPAL website (www.opalindia.in) for the latest information in this regard. In case of exigencies OPAL at its option may decide to extend tender sale/ bid closing/ opening date/ time in future, which will be posted on the above referred website for information. Bidders should regularly visit OPAL website for the latest information in this regard.

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED- E-TENDER NOTICE

Office of the Chief Engineer, Generation & PED - Moolamattam

1. Tender ID: 2019_KSEB_282124 "Design, Engineering, Manufacture, Supply, Supervision for Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 3 nos. 10 MVA, 110/11kV, 3 Phase Generator Transformer at Bhoothathankettu Small Hydro Electric Project of KSEBL * PAC: Rs. 3,72,00,000 * Last Date: 26-07-2019 4 PM.

2. Tender ID: 2019_KSEB_283084 "Design, Engineering, Manufacture, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 2 nos. 18 MVA, 110/11kV, 3 Phase Generator Transformer at Panniar Hydro Electric Project of KSEBL * PAC: Rs. 3,77,20,000 * Last Date: 30-07-2019 4 PM.

Office of the Chief Engineer, Supply Chain Management - Thiruvananthapuram
Tender ID : 2019_KSEB_282936 "Supply of (1) 110 kV CT, 1200-600/1-1-1-1A (Live Tank Type) - 27 nos.(2) 110kV CT,800/400/1-1-1-1A (Live Tank Type)-105 Nos. (3) 110kV CT, 400/200/100/1-1-1-1A (Live Tank Type)- 279 Nos. (4) Supporting structure for 110kV CT - 170 Nos. * PAC: Rs. 7,79,00,000 * Last Date: 17-07-2019 4 PM.
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in & www.ksebl.in
Ref. PR/MC1 / E 142/E-Tender/2019

COCHIN SHIPYARD LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)

TENDER NOTICE

1. Sealed tenders are invited in two bid system from experienced firms having financial standing and fulfilling the qualifying requirements as mentioned in our tender notice No. U&M/MRS/T/002/19-20 for the work "DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF 200 KW/GRID CONNECTED SOLAR POWER PLANT AT ROOF TOP OF VARIOUS BUILDINGS IN COCHIN SHIPYARD LIMITED"

2. For further details please visit www.cochinshipyard.com or <http://tenders.gov.in> or contact at the office of U&M Department (MRS Section) over phone 0484-2501509. All amendments will be uploaded in the website only and will not be available in newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

"Hindi version of this advertisement is published in the website (www.cochinshipyard.com) of CSL"

Sd/- Assistant General Manager (U&M)

RITES LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprises)
CIN : L74899DL1974GO1007227

Notice Inviting e-Tender

The Joint General Manager/CP, RITES Ltd. invites on behalf of Central University of Kerala, Kasargod online item rate bids on single packet system for the following work:

NIT No. RITES/CP/CU Kerala/ETP/19, Name of Work: Construction of 40 KLD Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) based on MBR Technology along with necessary equipments, Laying of RCC Hume pipes from buildings to proposed ETP and from ETP to nearest sewer chamber for Central University of Kerala at Kasargod, Kerala. **Estimated Cost:** Rs.90,44,267/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 90,443/-, **Period of Completion:** 05 months, **Last time & date of submission of bid:** 11:00 Hrs On 15.07.2019

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://etenders.gov.in/procure/app>
Addendum/Corrigendum, if any, shall be hosted online only

IN BRIEF



'Tillerson was kept in the dark by Kushner'

WASHINGTON

Former top U.S. diplomat Rex Tillerson has said President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner conducted diplomacy outside usual channels and left him to be blindsided by important developments. He told a House panel about the role Mr. Kushner has played in the administration. AFP

Progress at nuclear meet, but it's not enough: Iran

VIENNA

Diplomats meeting in Vienna made "one step forward" in efforts to save the 2015 Iran nuclear deal but the outcome "was not enough", an Iranian Minister said on Friday. AFP

MARKET WATCH

	28-06-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	39,395	-0.48
US Dollar	69.03	0.05
Gold	34,285	-0.18
Brent oil	66.63	0.40

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	410.20	3.70
Asian Paints	1358.15	-3.25
Axis Bank	808.55	8.10
Bajaj Auto	2827.05	-38.80
Bajaj Finserv	8524.65	80.75
Bajaj Finance	3681.10	38.90
Bharti Airtel	346.65	-2.00
BPCIL	392.45	0.25
Britannia Ind	2743.70	17.80
Cipla	553.45	1.50
Coal India	253.80	-5.60
Dr Reddys Lab	2550.45	-15.15
Eicher Motors	19138.80	-340.50
GAIL (India)	311.95	5.30
Grasim Ind	914.10	-7.70
HCL Tech	1064.65	1.90
HDFC	2192.10	-3.35
HDFC Bank	2443.75	-18.55
Hero MotoCorp	2581.50	-16.90
Hindalco	207.05	0.95
Hind Unilever	1787.60	13.20
Infosys	607.70	-19.75
ICICI Bank	437.10	-3.85
IndusInd Bank	1410.50	-39.70
Bharti Infratel	267.05	-7.75
Infosys	732.00	1.45
IndianOilCorp	155.90	-0.70
ITC	273.85	0.35
JSW Steel	276.60	-0.75
Kotak Bank	1477.10	-4.50
L&T	1553.20	2.30
M&M	655.35	-2.55
Maruti Suzuki	6534.65	47.95
NTPC	141.35	1.20
ONGC	167.75	-2.85
PowerGrid Corp	206.90	-0.80
Reliance Ind	1253.10	-21.05
State Bank	361.25	-0.90
Sun Pharma	400.95	-1.85
Tata Motors	162.55	-3.30
Tata Steel	504.40	-6.30
TCS	2227.20	-25.35
Tech Mahindra	706.60	4.65
Titan	1334.70	5.50
UltraTech Cement	4555.85	-43.30
UPL	937.45	-6.05
Vedanta	174.35	-2.50
Wipro	280.50	-1.60
YES Bank	108.75	-3.65
Zee Entertainment	338.65	-4.85

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 28

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	68.82	69.14
Euro	78.30	78.67
British Pound	87.34	87.75
Japanese Yen (100)	63.87	64.17
Chinese Yuan	10.02	10.07
Swiss Franc	70.49	70.86
Singapore Dollar	50.85	51.11
Canadian Dollar	52.59	52.84
Malaysian Ringgit	16.64	16.74

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

June 28 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	40.6	(40.6)
22 ct gold (1g)	3254	(3239)

Current account deficit tapers

Lower Q4 trade deficit cited; forex reserves hit all-time high of \$426.41 billion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The country's current account deficit (CAD) for the January-March period narrowed to 0.7% of the GDP, or \$4.6 billion, compared with 1.8%, or \$13 billion recorded during the same period of the previous year. The deficit narrowed due to a lower trade deficit.

The current account deficit was \$17.7 billion, or 2.7% of the GDP, in the preceding quarter.

"The contraction of the CAD on a year-on-year basis was primarily on account of a lower trade deficit at \$35.2 billion as compared with \$41.6 billion a year ago," the Reserve Bank of India said.

Net services receipts increased by 5.8% year on year, mainly on the back of a



Hanging in balance: For FY19, CAD rose to 2.1% of the GDP in 2018-19, from 1.8% in 2017-18. ■ C.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

rise in net earnings from telecommunications, computer and information services.

While foreign portfolio investments recorded a net inflow of \$9.4 billion, compared with \$2.3 billion, on account of net purchases in both debt and equity mar-

kets, foreign direct investment at \$6.4 billion during the January-March period was at the same level of the fourth quarter of the previous financial year.

For the full financial year 2018-19, CAD increased to 2.1% of the GDP in 2018-19

from 1.8% in 2017-18 on the back of a widening trade deficit. The country's trade deficit increased to \$180.3 billion in 2018-19 from \$160 billion in 2017-18.

Forex reserves

The country's foreign exchange reserves hit a record high of \$426.41 billion for the week ended June 21, latest data from Reserve Bank of India showed.

The previous high was attained on April 13, 2018 when it was \$426.08 billion.

During the week ended June 21, foreign exchange reserves swelled by a whopping \$4.2 billion.

The increase in foreign currency reserves is due to an increase in foreign currency assets of similar magnitude.

Fiscal deficit at 52% of full year target

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The government's fiscal deficit touched 52% of the Budget estimate for the full year in the first two months of 2019-20.

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit, or the gap between expenditure and revenue, was ₹3,66,157 crore, as per the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

The fiscal deficit was 55.3% of the 2018-19 Budget estimate in the year-ago period. In the Interim Budget passed in February, the government had estimated the fiscal deficit at ₹7.03 lakh crore for 2019-20.

The government aims to restrict the fiscal deficit to 3.4% of the GDP during the current fiscal.

Telecom sector under stress, admits Prasad, spells out revival plans

Panel to revisit spectrum usage charge

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Acknowledging that the telecom industry was under financial stress, Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Friday said he had formed a committee to review levies, including spectrum usage charge (SUC), and promote ease of doing business. The Minister will also be meeting all the telcos 'at the earliest' to discuss various sectoral issues.

"The telecom sector has been undergoing stress for a long time. I propose to do two things. One, I will be holding a meeting with all the telcos very soon. Second, I have constituted a committee to look into the entire issue of removing ambiguities in ease of doing business. It will also revisit the whole issue of SUC," he said.

He added that the committee, to be headed by Telecom Secretary Aruna Sundararajan, would submit its report in two weeks' time. "If there are issues which require clarity, I've also directed the committee to seek views of the Solicitor General," he added. The committee would also look into previous recommendations by sectoral regulator TRAI on the issue, as well. The reduction of levies and fees, including licence fee, SUC and universal service levy, has been a long-standing demand of the industry, along with review of the definition of aggregated gross revenue.

"I have noticed some consolidation in the sector. That was a natural process [of how the market works]. But my government will ensure that this competition is fair," he added. Further, the Mi-



Ravi Shankar Prasad

nister said that he was looking into the revival plan for state-owned BSNL and MTNL on priority. "We will be making a very focused attempt for the revival of BSNL and MTNL. Very soon, we'll be moving a Cabinet note in that direction. The details for that are being worked out," he said.

"Therefore, the revival package is being worked out and we will ensure that there is least pressure of the government. I appeal to the employees BSNL and MTNL to be competitive and professional and learn to live in today's competitive world. Our government supports competition," he said.

'More spectrum'

The Minister hinted that the government would look at offering the two PSUs more spectrum. While he did not answer questions on Huawei, Mr. Prasad said he was 'excited' about opportunities that 5G technology would bring in and that the government planned to involve start-ups and software giants to work on India-specific 5G use cases.

Mr. Prasad said another area where he would focus efforts was making India an export hub for electronics.

RBI allows ARCs to buy financial assets from peers

Transactions to be settled in cash

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) to buy financial assets from other such entities. However, all such transactions have to be settled in cash, the banking regulator said.

"In view of amendment to the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002, it has been decided to permit ARCs to acquire financial assets from other ARCs," the RBI said.

"Price discovery for such transaction shall not be prejudicial to the interest of security receipt holders," the



RBI further said, adding the selling ARC must utilise the proceeds so received for the redemption of underlying security receipts.

The date of redemption of underlying Security Receipts and total period of realisation should not extend beyond eight years from the date of acquisition of the financial asset by the first ARC, RBI said.

DHFL defers Q4 results by two weeks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL) has deferred its results by two weeks due to non-availability of directors.

"In light of certain unforeseen operational engagements including non-availability of a few directors ... the date of the board meeting to consider and approve the audited financial results ... [is] postponed to July 13," DHFL said in an exchange filing. The results were to be announced on June 29. DHFL is facing a liquidity crunch and had defaulted partially to its commercial paper investors. The shares of the mortgage lender fell 11.75% to ₹72.10 on the BSE on Friday.

India seeks Swiss help in probe against Essar firms

Swiss tax dept. issues notifications

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI/BERNE

India has sought the Switzerland tax department's assistance in a probe against six companies of the Essar group, including those into the steel and power businesses, according to official documents of the Alpine nation.

Kick-starting the information exchange process, the Federal Tax Administration of Switzerland has issued gazette notifications for the six companies, giving them an opportunity to appeal against India's assistance request as per the Swiss laws.

The six firms for which information has been sought by India are Essar Steel India Ltd., Essar Pro-

jects India Ltd., Essar Power Gujarat Ltd., Essar Power MP Ltd., Essar Power (Jharkhand) Ltd. and Essar Bulk Terminal (Salaya) Ltd.

Essar refutes charges

An Essar group spokesperson said: "The Essar Companies referred to do not have any undisclosed account in Switzerland. Further, we have not received any query or notice from any Switzerland authority in this regard." Separate but identical notifications have been issued for each Essar company in Switzerland's federal gazette dated June 18, giving them ten days to nominate a person in Switzerland to appeal against the 'administrative assistance' process.

No substitute for rigorous statistical testing: Das

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Amid a controversy over the data on macroeconomic indicators, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said there was no substitute for rigorous statistical testing for establishing empirical regularities.

"In an era marked by the widespread usage of the Internet and social media, there is no substitute for rigorous statistical testing for establishing empirical regularities," he said, while delivering a speech at the Annual Statistics Day Conference. The RBI would continue to refine forecasting, and macroeconomic assessment methods such as growth, inflation forecasting methods would be strengthened.

Trade war makes India a haven for aluminium scrap dumping

'Country overtakes China in imports; trend hurts industry'

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI

India has overtaken China as the preferred destination for aluminium scrap with imports growing 18.8% in the January-March 2019 quarter compared with the same quarter of the previous year.

This, according to industry players, is hurting Indian industry and is the direct result of the trade war between China and the U.S.

India imported 3,34,725 tonnes of aluminium scrap in the January-March 2019 quarter compared with China's 3,30,567 tonnes in the same period, according to a report by S&P Global Platts. While India's imports grew 18.8% over this period, China's declined by 32.1%.

"The U.S. had imposed an import duty of 10% on alu-

minium in March 2018 and in response, China had implemented a 25% duty on the import of aluminium scrap from the U.S.," said Rahul Sharma, vice-president, Aluminium Association of India.

"This means that the scrap is being diverted and dumped in India. Imports of scrap from the U.S. have gone up by about 148% from 2017-18 to 2.6 lakh tonnes in 2018-19." Commerce Ministry data shows that this rising trend of aluminium scrap imports coincides strongly with the tariff war between the U.S. and China.

"China is also classifying aluminium scrap as a restricted import, which will be implemented from July 1, 2019," he added. Industry players say that the other

reason for the dumping of aluminium scrap in India is the duty structure in place, something they want the government to revisit in the upcoming Budget.

While other metals like zinc, copper, lead, and nickel all have the same import duties for their primary and scrap variants, this is not so for aluminium. Aluminium scrap imports are taxed at just 2.5%, while primary aluminium is taxed at 7.5%.

"What is also happening is that scrap is eating into the primary market," Mr. Sharma explained. "That is, impure scrap is being used in place of pure primary scrap in consumer-facing sectors such as consumer durables, utensils and also in sectors of national importance such as power transmission."

Jet staff, Adi Partners to bid for 75% stake

'About ₹2,500 crore to ₹5,000 crore will be required to revive debt-laden airline'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

London-based Adi Partners and some groups representing Jet Airways' employees said on Friday that they were entering into a partnership to bid for acquiring a 75% stake in the airline when the NCLT invites expression of interest (EOI) for the debt-laden airline.

Last week, the SBI-led consortium of lenders decided to start bankruptcy proceedings against Jet Airways and referred the matter to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) after failing to find investors during a bidding process. Representatives of the airline's employees as well as Adi Partners had submitted separate bids to the lenders.

"We will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the employees to revive the airline. Adi Partners will own 49%

and employees will have 26% share in the partnership," said Sanjay Vishwanathan, chairman and managing partner, Adi Partners, at a joint press conference. The employee groups and Adi Partners said they had informed the Resolution Professional (RP) appointed by NCLT about their tie-up.

He added there was a possibility of a tie up with either Indian banks or foreign institutional lenders' groups for the remaining 25% stake in the company.

Jet Airways owes almost ₹8,400 crore to domestic banks and ₹4,000 crore to foreign lenders. Mr. Vishwanathan said that he estimated that an initial investment of "₹2,500 crore-₹5,000 crore" would be required to revive the airline. Total liabilities were pegged at almost ₹25,000 crore, including



dues of ₹8,000 crore-₹12,000 crore towards vendors and almost ₹600 crore for salaries to employees that had been pending for the last six months.

Staff funding

No clear answers were available though on how the employees, who had not been paid salaries since January, could bring in ₹625 crore-₹1,000 crore to invest in the airline. Both Adi Partners

and the employee groups said that a request had been made to the NCLT to release some money towards salaries owed to the staff so that they don't leave the company and hamper bankruptcy proceedings. This money could be partially routed into the airline.

There were also questions about whether the move had the support of all the employees with the pilots' union, the National Aviator's Guild, distancing itself from Friday's announcement.

The employee groups present today included Society for Welfare of Indian Pilots, Jet Aircraft Maintenance Engineer Welfare Association, Jet Airways Cabin Crew Association, Save Jet Airways and All Indian Jet Airways Technician Association. It is estimated that there are nearly 10,000 employees left in the company.

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BRIEF

**IndusInd buys 2.58% in Satin Creditcare**

MUMBAI Private lender IndusInd Bank has picked up a 2.58% stake in Satin Creditcare Network, one of the largest microlenders, by converting debentures which the bank had subscribed to earlier. The stake buy in Satin comes days ahead of the merger of Bharat Financial Inclusion with IndusInd Bank on July 4. The bank has been allotted 13,43,283 equity shares, representing 2.58% stake in Satin Creditcare, the bank said in a statement. **PTI**

Bharti Airtel shuts 3G service in Kolkata

NEW DELHI Bharti Airtel announced the closure of its 3G service in Kolkata as part of its plan to replace the third-generation mobile technology with 4G in the country. "This is in line with our stated strategy of focussing on serving customers with best-in-class experience. Going forward, we plan to reform all of our 3G spectrum across India and deploy it for 4G in a phased manner," Randeep Sekhon, CTO, Bharti Airtel, said. **PTI**

Mindtree founders give open offer a miss

BENGALURU The four Mindtree founders, Subroto Bagchi, N.S. Parthasarathy, Krishnakumar Natarajan and Rostow Ravanan, who together own 13%, have not tendered their shares in the open offer by Larsen & Toubro that closed on Friday. However, one of its other co-founders, S. Janakiraman, has tendered 0.3% of his stake in the open offer out of his total holdings of 1.5%. **PTI**

ONGC looks for exploration partners

Oil explorer wants to enhance output from its 64 marginal fields with volume of 300 mmtoe

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI**

Amid stagnating oil and gas production, state-owned ONGC is seeking partners to enhance oil and gas production from its 64 marginal nomination fields with the intention of maximising recovery from these fields by adopting new technology.

The oil explorer has come up with the notice inviting offer (NIO), which allows interested companies to participate in the international competitive bidding (ICB) process announced for 17 on-shore contract areas comprising 64 oil- and gas-producing fields with total in-place oil and oil equivalent gas (O+OEG) volume of about 300 million metric tonnes of oil equivalent



Dangling a carrot: Operators will get incentives for producing higher than the committed incremental production. ***REUTERS**

(Mmtoe). "Companies, either alone or in consortium or joint ventures, may bid for one or more contract areas," said the offer document, adding that the bidders are re-

quired to fulfill the requisite technical and financial criteria and the bids would be evaluated on the basis of revenue sharing from the incremental oil and gas pro-

duction. ONGC will offer marketing and pricing freedom to sell oil and gas on arm's length basis through competitive basis and the contractor will be selected on a revenue sharing basis. The revenue will be shared on incremental production over and above the baseline production under Business-As-Usual (BAU) scenario.

15-year contract

ONGC is offering the hydrocarbon fields on a contract period of 15 years with an option to extend by 5 years. Besides, exploration permitted includes the right to explore all kinds of hydrocarbons.

The contract will be based on revenue sharing model and offer reduction of 10% in the royalty rate for addition-

al production of natural gas over and above the BAU scenario. The contractors will not be required to reimburse any expenditure already incurred by ONGC. The operators will also be given incentives for achieving production higher than the committed incremental production.

This comes at a time when ONGC production has almost stagnated and the government wants to reduce the country's dependence on crude oil imports.

Early this year, the Centre had asked the national oil explorer to rope in private players to boost production. India imports more than 80% of its crude oil requirements and 18% of its natural gas needs.

HP launches dual screen gaming laptop

Omen X 2S carries ₹2.1 lakh price tag

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

To tap the growing demand for gaming PCs in the country, HP on Friday launched the world's first dual-screen gaming laptop, Omen X 2S, in India with a price tag of almost ₹2.1 lakh.

The dual-screen would allow players to message friends on WhatsApp, browse in Spotify, watch Twitch, YouTube, and serve as a hub for Omen Command Centre software. It would also enable gamers to copy the map portion of a racing game to the second screen.

'Evolving lifestyle'

"Gaming as a category is evolving very fast. It is not

just a hobby, but a fast-evolving lifestyle and, in select cases, a profession. It is also becoming a spectator sport where you will find a lot of people just watching others gamers play...We are pushing the paradigms of gaming innovations through new devices like OMEN X 2S, that provide unmatched experiences to the gamers and help them reach the next level," Vickram Bedi, Senior Director, Personal Systems, HP Inc. India said.

"We have added gaming experience zone in 100-plus HP Worlds. These are dedicated gaming experience zones, where before you go and buy a gaming device, you can play and experience it," Mr. Bedi said.

M&M unveils 'World of SUVs' dealership model

Aims to enhance buyer experience

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI**

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. (M&M) has unveiled World of SUVs, its new-age dealership format to attract digital savvy customers and enhance buyers' purchase experience. The company has set up over 300 such facilities across the country in the last six months and more are being added.

"We are investing ₹50-60 crore for enhancing the digital experience at our World of SUVs. We have completed 300 outlets and a handful are remaining. We are creating smart centres in rural India, which will be accessible across 25 km," Veejay Ram Nakra, chief of sales and customer care, automotive division, M&M, said.

We are investing ₹50-60 crore to enhance the digital experience at our outlets

VEEJAY RAM NAKRA
Chief of sales and customer care, automotive division, M&M

division, M&M, said. "The Mahindra World of SUVs is a differentiated customer experience, a synthesis of next level technology with a physical environment that showcases the brand promise of 'Live Young, Live Free.' A lot of concepts from dealerships of the future have been carried forward in World of SUVs."

The World of SUVs will also use digital aids for an 'immersive' customer experience, the company said.

UBI eyes ₹4,000 cr. in NPA recovery for FY20

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA**

United Bank of India is targeting NPA recovery of about ₹4,000 crore in the 2019-20 fiscal on the back of a one-time settlement (OTS) scheme, a top official said on Friday.

In the April-June quarter, the state-owned lender is expecting a recovery of ₹300-400 crore, which would mainly accrue from the retailing sector, MD and CEO Ashok Kumar Pradhan said.

"We are not expecting any huge recovery from the resolution process, particularly from the steel and power sectors," he said.

Lemon Tree Hotels embarks on high-growth journey via expansion

Plans to expand to 8,800 rooms in 87 hotels by 2021

**LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI**

Indian hospitality chain Lemon Tree Hotels Ltd., which is focussed on the mid-scale hotel sector, is planning to expand to 8,800 rooms in 87 hotels by calendar year 2021 from the existing network of 56 hotels with 5,525 rooms.

The company also plans to expand the Lemon Tree Premier upper midscale network to 3,381 rooms in 23 hotels by calendar year 2021, from the current 12 hotels with 1,697 rooms. It also plans to increase its economy offering Red Fox to 1,443 rooms in 12 hotels by that time.

The hotels under development will be in cities



Patanjali Keswani

such as Mumbai (880 rooms), Kolkata (142), Udaipur (139), Shimla (69) and Alleppey Lake Resort among others. Lemon Tree will unveil upscale brand Aurika with a 670-room hotel, which will be operational by FY22. "We envisage an investment of around ₹350

crore over the next two years leading up to the total capex deployment of ₹5,800 crore for the proposed expansion till calendar year 2021," Patanjali Keswani, chairman & MD, Lemon Tree Hotels Ltd., said.

Hunt for partner

"We seek to monetise our asset ownership in 100% owned assets by finding strategic, like-minded partners who can buy up to 49%," he said. The company is now gearing up to open Lemon Tree Premier-Mumbai International Airport (300 rooms & suites), its second in Maharashtra after Pune.

Another one is coming up at Aurangabad.

'Google appears to have misused dominance'

**REUTERS
NEW DELHI**

Google appears to have misused its dominant position in India and reduced the ability of device manufacturers to opt for alternate versions of its Android mobile operating system, Indian officials have found.

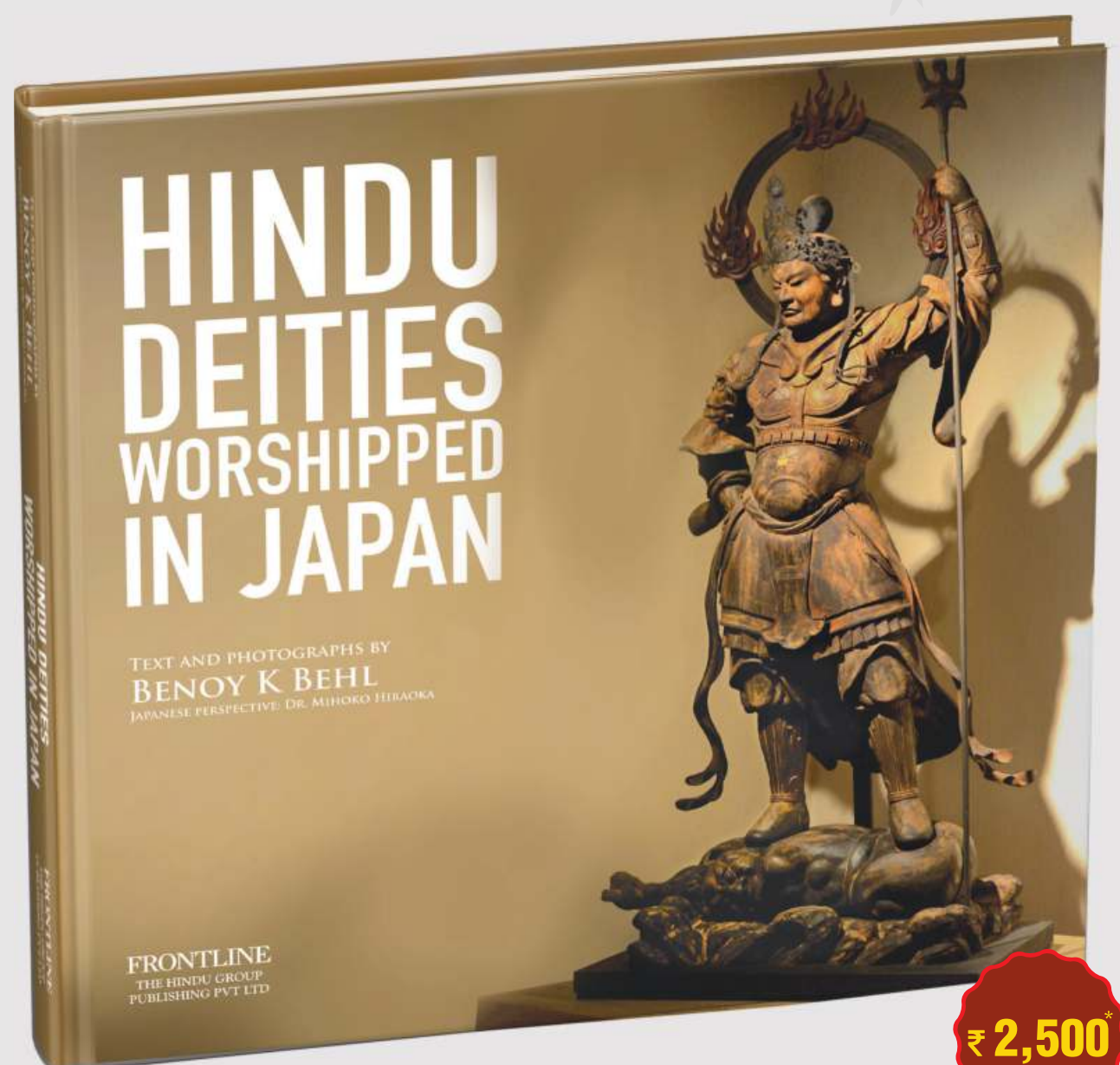
A 14-page order from the Competition Commission of India found Google's restrictions on manufacturers seemed to amount to imposition of "unfair conditions". This is similar to what Google faced in Europe, where regulators imposed a \$5 billion fine on the firm for forcing manufacturers to pre-install its apps on Android devices.

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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Relentless India keeps conquering conditions and opponents alike

The teams we play against or the surfaces we have to deal with don't make a difference to Kohli, says Rahul



K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
BIRMINGHAM

In a World Cup billed to have 300-plus scores as its skyscrapers, much has changed over the last week. The weather has evolved from damp clouds to bright skies, and the runs have dipped just about enough to gift us the thrills of a tight-chase and its innate nervous bouts. If change is the order of the day, there has been one constant and that lies in the relentless performance of the Indian squad.

Virat Kohli's men have excelled in all circumstances. An external distraction like the controversy around M.S. Dhoni wearing a glove sporting an army insignia has been dealt with and internal crisis caused by injuries – Shikhar Dhawan's fractured left thumb and Bhuvneshwar

Kumar's strained hamstring – too was tided past. K.L. Rahul, Dhawan's replacement atop the batting tree, etched reasonable knocks even if he couldn't build monuments and Mohammed Shami, stepping into Bhuvneshwar's boots, has been on fire, dishing out a hat-trick against Afghanistan.

Well-oiled car

To use one of Dhoni's old automobile-inspired quotes while speaking about the Men in Blue, truly 'the car has been serviced and well-oiled'. Be it strong rivals or emerging squads placed in the opposition's corner, Kohli's men have found all the answers. Mighty totals have been posted and the advantage multiplied by a resourceful bowling unit and meagre yields on sluggish pitches too have been defended.

Except for Ravindra Jadeja, Dinesh Karthik and Rishabh Pant, who are yet to get an outing, the remaining players have all had their decent stints under the sun. Some things, though, shimmer bright. Kohli's batting has been incandescent and



The juggernaut: Virat Kohli's men have found the answer to every question that has been asked of them thus far. •AFP

four successive fifties vouch for the sheer ease he displays at the crease. "The teams we play against or the surfaces we have to deal with don't make a difference to him,"

Rahul said. Kohli's efficiency and the bowling attack's ability to strike or choke have been the recurring themes while the others too have been vital

cogs. Rohit Sharma, with two centuries under his belt in the World Cup's latest edition, was unlucky to be adjudged caught behind during the latest victory over the

West Indies at Manchester's Old Trafford on Thursday, but his splendid form should overcome the umpire-induced vagaries of fate. With five triumphs from

six clashes and having watched its face-off against New Zealand being washed away, India is the lone team yet to suffer the spectre of defeat. For the quirkily inclined, seeking a loss from this Indian outfit would take

But it is not as if all India needs to do is just turn up at the park. At multiple press conferences, rival stars have cited a perceived vulnerability in the Indian middle-order just beneath its obvious top-order riches.



Canada was bowled out for just 36 runs against Sri Lanka in World Cup 2003.

you all the way back to the warm-ups when the Kiwis prevailed on May 25. India has virtually entered the semifinals but to drive home that point, some more effort has to be dispensed.

Imminent game

First-up, there is the imminent game against England at Edgbaston here on Sunday. Eoin Morgan's men have slipped in their recent jousts but the familiarity of home and the need to regain their mojo should pep them up.

But, be it Dhoni, Hardik Pandya or Kedar Jadhav, they have all had their sparks and even Vijay Shankar seemed fine even if he couldn't extend his starts. Still, there is some pressure as India has a floundering tail. Its bowlers, excellent in their own right, however, have been walking-wickets and it doesn't help that the one who can bat among them – Bhuvneshwar, missed out with a niggle. Yet, Kohli and company are in a comfortable space and primed to deliver.

I would like to give myself credit: Shami

Faced the biggest challenges in the last two years, says the speedster

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
BIRMINGHAM

Over the last few years, the width of a bat that countered his pace seemed a minor obstacle when compared to the issues he battled off the field. Mohammed Shami had gained weight, failed the Yo-Yo fitness test and his crumbling marriage became a public spectacle. Yet, deep within, he found strength and clawed his way back to the Indian squad. The speedster took the tough road layered with sweat and long hours in the gym.

Initially in the World Cup, Shami had to warm the benches. But Bhuvneshwar Kumar strained his hamstring, an opportunity arose and Shami grabbed it with both hands. He delivered two four-wicket hauls against Afghanistan and the West Indies while India successfully protected its sub-300 totals.



Mohammed Shami. •AP

With a cap low-slung on his visage, a stubble stained with sun-screen on the edges and a smile that never left his lips, Shami squared up to the media at Manchester's Old Trafford late on Thursday after playing a significant role in India's triumph over the West Indies. *Excerpts:*

Scalping Chris Gayle:

Shami's stats

	Mat	Wkts	BB	Avg	SR
Overall (in ODIs)	65	121	4/16	24.85	27.50
In World Cups	9	25	4/16	14.00	18.28

Gayle and I have been together (for Kings XI Punjab) during the IPL. Once you play, you get an idea. The one thing I thought was that if I don't allow him to open his arms, then at some stage, he will go for it (the pull shot).

Confidence the second skin:

I have always been confident of my skills. I stay ready so that when I get my chance, I can execute my skills. I would like to give myself credit because I am the one who faced the biggest challenges in the last two years. Yes, god did give me the courage to fight my issues, be it fitness or family, but I confronted my chal-

lenges.

Fitness and speed: I failed the Yo-Yo test, that's true. But I improved my fitness, lost weight and my rhythm got better. I am maintaining my diet and am feeling good. I feel a force within me and the speed has increased. I know that whatever be the pitch I can express my abilities.

From bench to eleven: It doesn't matter if you are getting a chance to play or not. You just need to stay patient and be positive as you are here for the country. Only one thing matters, you must have a clever mind and your execution must be good. The rest doesn't matter.

West Indian cricket: all we have is nostalgia!

Perhaps the phoenix will rise from the ashes, but for now time is running out

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
BIRMINGHAM

Defeat's shadow has trailed the West Indies for quite a while. If India's 1983 World Cup triumph against the men from the Caribbean Islands was deemed a miracle, the one conjured by Virat Kohli's men at Manchester's Old Trafford on Thursday was presumed to be a certainty. Such has been the inexorable decline of the West Indies which is often everyone's second-favourite team after their national squad.

When middle-aged fans summon nostalgia, it is replete with the swagger of Vivian Richards, the menace of the late Malcolm Marshall, the athleticism of wicket-keeper Jeffrey Dujon, the bruises inflicted by 'Whispering Death' Michael Holding, the audacity of Gordon Greenidge and the sheer dominating captaincy of Clive Lloyd. There are many more heroes but what overwhelmingly lingers is the aura that the West Indies possessed from the 1970s to the 90s.



Sole sample: Chris Gayle, albeit in the twilight of his career, is the last of the West Indian greats still standing. •AP

ra, Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh, Chris Gayle and Shivnarine Chanderpaul. Sadly, the last-named is headed towards the twilight but this above-mentioned quintet is the link to greatness from within a string of teams that flattered to deceive. Yes, the West Indies did win the 2004 ICC Champions Trophy, and the 2012 and 2016 ICC World T20 titles but, overall, its performance has been nothing but the flickers of a dying flame.

Extra stanza

It is tragic and with Jason Holder's men failing to stay alive in the current World

Cup, the dirge got an extra stanza. The inability of the parent cricket board to pay adequate wages; the lure of basketball in the United States of America; the gradual waning of cricket as a tool for scoring brownie points in race-dynamics – Richards wore his 'Black identity' as a badge of honour; and the magnetic pull of global T20 leagues, have all contributed to the free-fall, which, hopefully, won't become the final full-stop.

There were glimpses of the old regal touch over the last few weeks. Pakistan was swatted away with disdain, Gayle had his moments and

Brathwaite fined for dissent

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BIRMINGHAM

Carlos Brathwaite was fined 15% of his match fee for violating Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during the World Cup match against India at Manchester's Old Trafford on Thursday. The West Indian all-rounder also suffered one demerit point.

He was penalised for protesting against the declaration of a wide during the 42nd over of the Indian innings. Brathwaite admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by match referee Chris Broad. Earlier, Brathwaite had copped a demerit point in the game involving England at Southampton on June 14.

Carlos Brathwaite tugged at tear glands after his incredible innings failed to get past the finish line against New Zealand. But more often than not, these are stints that pump up the adrenaline, plaster awe on our faces before it is time to sigh deep and mull over the good old days and think about that iconic poster held aloft in Australian grounds: "Rain, rain go away, come when the Windies come."

Perhaps, the phoenix will rise from the ashes. The willow game needs the West Indies to be up and running, but for now the sands of time are running out.

We can defend any total: Kuldeep

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BIRMINGHAM

Kuldeep Yadav felt that India had an attack that 'could defend any total'. The chinaman bowler spoke to the media at Old Trafford's ICC mixed zone after Thursday's World Cup fixture against the West Indies in which India emphatically defended 268 and won by a whopping 125 runs. Kuldeep dismissed Nicholas Pooran during the contest. *Excerpts:*

Protecting 268: Around 40 overs, we thought 240 would be good but Mahibhai (M.S. Dhoni) hit two sixes in the last over and it gave us a



Kuldeep Yadav. •AFP

boost. It was a challenging total and (Mohammed) Shami picked up two early wickets, then Hardik (Pandya)

and I got one each and things became different. The ball was turning when we bowled slow and it was like a typical Indian pitch.

Perplexed batsmen: The batsmen are not picking (the line) and they aren't going for the big shots and that gives me confidence. I have been bowling well, giving less runs and keeping it tight in the middle overs.

Bowling arsenal: We have good fast bowlers and spinners. We have a complete bowling attack that can defend any total. Among other teams, Australia has a good attack.

The other look



Kohli's men will sport an Orange jersey during their World Cup match against England on June 30.

Foes and friends

For the opposition, they were foes on the field and friends off it, who laughed a lot, swayed to music and nursed their rum-punches. If any team exhibited the primordial joys of playing cricket – hitting the red cherry hard or hurling it at insane pace, it had to be the West Indies. However, a sport that bound different countries like a Jamaica and Barbados together under a common umbrella, went into a tailspin over the last few decades.

The lone relief was watching the exploits of Brian La-

Pretorius and Co. rip through Sri Lanka before Amla-du Plessis finish the job

SHAYAN ACHARYA
CHESTER-LE-STREET

Sri Lanka's hopes of making it to the semifinals turned gloomy on an otherwise sunny day as it went down to South Africa by nine wickets at the Emirates Riverside on Friday.

After falling prey to seamer Dwaine Pretorius, who came in for Lungi Ngidi, Sri Lanka failed to restrict the opposition as an unbeaten 175-run stand between Hashim Amla and Faf du Plessis secured South Africa a second win and some pride.

At a venue hosting its first World Cup match, the modest target of 204 could have been tricky after Lasith Malinga removed Quinton de Kock early.

However, Amla (80) and du Plessis (96), playing with the luxury of chasing a small

total, got into their groove and ensured an easy win.

Fears come true

Sri Lanka coach Chandika Hathurusingha's fear of a South Africa "fightback" came true as Sri Lanka lost its captain Dimuth Karunaratne for a duck.

Kusal Perera (30) and Avishka Fernando (30) offered some stability as the Lankans scored at more than run-a-ball (67) in the first 10 overs before Pretorius removed both. He found support from Chris Morris (three for 46) and Kagiso Rabada (two for 36).

Angelo Mathews, who made an unbeaten 85 against England, failed to click, scoring just 11.

Bees attack

During the match, the um-

pires and players had to duck for cover as a huge swarm of bees passed through the ground. It brought back memories of February 2017 when a bee invasion happened during the ODI at the Wanderers.

Next assignment

SRI LANKA: July 1 vs West Indies, Chester-le-Street, 3 p.m.

SOUTH AFRICA: July 6 vs Australia, Old Trafford, 6 p.m.

Where they stand

Team	Mat	Won	Lost	NR	PTS	NRR
Australia (Q)	7	6	1	0	12	0.906
India	6	5	0	1	11	1.160
New Zealand	7	5	1	1	11	1.028
England	7	4	3	0	8	1.051
Bangladesh	7	3	3	1	7	-0.133
Pakistan	7	3	3	1	7	-0.976
Sri Lanka	7	2	3	2	6	-1.186
South Africa (E)	8	2	5	1	5	-0.080
West Indies (E)	7	1	5	1	3	-0.320
Afghanistan (E)	7	0	7	0	0	-1.634

*till the South Africa-Sri Lanka match on June 28; Q: Qualified E: Eliminated

SCOREBOARD SRI LANKA VS SOUTH AFRICA

SRI LANKA
Dimuth Karunaratne c du Plessis b Rabada 0 (1b), Kusal Perera b Pretorius 30 (34b, 4x4), Avishka Fernando c du Plessis b Pretorius 30 (29b, 4x4), Kusal Mendis c Morris b Pretorius 23 (57b, 2x4), Angelo Mathews b Morris 11 (29b, 1x4), Dhananjaya de Silva b Duminy 24 (41b, 2x4), Jeevan Mendis c Pretorius b Morris 18 (46b, 1x4, 1x6), Thisara Perera c Rabada b Phehlukwayo 21 (25b), Isuru Udana c & b Rabada 17 (32b, 1x4), Suranga Lakmal (not out) 5 (7b), Lasith Malinga c du Plessis b Morris 4 (2b, 1x4); Extras (b-1, lb-3, w-13); 20; Total (in 49.3 overs): 203.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-0 (Karunaratne, 0.1), 2-67 (Fernando, 9.5), 3-72 (K Perera, 11.3), 4-100 (Mathews, 21.5), 5-111 (K Mendis, 27.1), 6-135 (de Silva, 36.1), 7-163 (J Mendis, 39.5), 8-184 (T Perera, 45.3), 9-197 (Udana, 48.3).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING
Rabada 10-2-36-2, Morris 9.3-0-46-3, Pretorius 10-2-25-3, Phehlukwayo 8-0-38-1, Tahir 10-0-36-0, Duminy 2-0-15-1.

SOUTH AFRICA
Quinton de Kock b Malinga 15 (16b, 3x4), Hashim Amla (not out) 80 (105b, 5x4), Faf du Plessis (not out) 96 (103b, 10x4, 1x6); Extras (lb-1, w-14): 15; Total (for one wkt. in 37.2 overs): 206.

FALL OF WICKET
1-31 (de Kock, 4.5).

SRI LANKA BOWLING
Malinga 10-1-47-1, de Silva 4-0-18-0, Lakmal 6-0-47-0, Thisara Perera 5-2-1-28-0, Jeevan Mendis 7-0-36-0, Udana 5-0-29-0.

Toss: SA. **MoM:** Pretorius. *South Africa won by nine wickets with 76 balls to spare.*



On the prowl: Dwaine Pretorius proved too hot for the Sri Lankan batsmen. •REUTERS

Pakistan not taking Afghanistan lightly

The Sarfaraz-led team has bounced back after a poor start to the tournament

WORLD CUP

SHAYAN ACHARYA
CHESTER-LE-STREET

Pakistan, always unpredictable, has bounced back from an insipid start to the World Cup to inflict blows on South Africa and New Zealand to keep its semifinal hopes alive.

The Sarfaraz Ahmed-led side will look to extend its winning streak when it takes on Afghanistan at Headingley on Saturday.

Star performers

Pakistan will depend on its star performers Mohammad Amir and Babar Azam to deliver a telling blow on Afghanistan, which is yet to win a match in the tournament.

Amir has bowled consistently, picking up 16 wickets.

Babar has peaked at the right time, scoring an unbeaten ton against New Zealand and 69 against South Africa.

The move to bring in Harris Sohail in place of an off-



Playing for pride: Afghanistan players, at a practice session on Friday, will look to upset Pakistan. ■ AFP

colour Shoaib Malik has bolstered the team's batting.

Able support

And in bowling, Amir has found able support from young left-arm pacer Shaheen Afridi.

The youngster rattled the Kiwi top order with his

stinging pace and sharp movement.

Afghanistan, in search of that elusive win, has struggled with its batting though its bowlers put up strong displays against India and Bangladesh.

The team, however, can draw confidence from its

win over Pakistan in a warm-up game.

Pakistan, aware of Afghanistan's talents, refuses to be complacent and Sohail said: "We have kept it very simple. We are taking it match by match."

Quality spinners

"They (Afghanistan) have quality spinners and we have seen a lot of videos and we've worked from them."

With a spirited Pakistan threatening again, the cricket fans are hoping Sarfaraz and his men can tread on the footsteps of Imran Khan's 1992 World Cup-winning side, which, too, had bounced back from a similar poor start in the tournament

THE FACE-OFF					
Pakistan vs Afghanistan					
HEADINGLEY					
HEAD-TO-HEAD					
	Matches	Pak	Afg	Tied	NR
Overall	3	3	0	0	0
World Cup					

First Meeting
LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD), 55 2, 3 P.M.

Aussie pace test for the Kiwis

Starc and Behrendorff could pose quite a few problems

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LONDON

Australia, peaking at the right time, will resume its Trans-Tasman rivalry at the World Cup when it takes on a New Zealand side low on confidence after its first defeat of the tournament.

Barring the loss to India, defending champion Australia has been on a roll, becoming the first team to qualify for the semifinals. Aaron Finch's side is in roaring form and would look to continue the momentum at Lord's on Saturday.

The Kiwis, on the other hand, saw their unbeaten streak snapped by Pakistan in the previous match.

For Australia, Finch and David Warner have been a dominant opening combination, putting on a record-equaling three century stands. Mitchell Starc is on top of the bowling charts with 19 wickets. Jason Behrendorff, too, came good against England, finishing with five for 44.

New Zealand will rely heavily on captain Williamson yet again.

Match starts at 6 p.m. IST.

THE FACE-OFF					
New Zealand vs Australia					
LORD'S					
HEAD-TO-HEAD					
	Matches	NZ	Aus	Tied	NR
Overall	136	39	90	0	7
World Cup	10	3	7	0	0

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 3 & 55 2 (HD), 6 P.M.

Warner looks to welcome third child

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LONDON

David Warner and his wife Candice are set to welcome their third child after Australia's World Cup match against Trans-Tasman rival New Zealand here on Saturday.

The Warners are already parents of two daughters, Ivy Mae and Indi Rae, and the plan is for Candice to have her labour induced on Sunday.

The Australian cricket team has a week-long



Warner. ■ MICHAEL STEELE/GETTY IMAGES

break leading into its final league match against South Africa in Manchester, and the Warners found this an ideal window for birth of the child.

"I just love being a father," Warner said.

Nadal gets a tough draw

Kerber could meet Serena in the fourth round

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

LONDON

Rafael Nadal breathed a sigh of relief on Friday after he was slated to meet eight-time champion Roger Federer in the semifinals.

Nadal's fears that he would be drawn in top-seeded favourite and defending champion Novak Djokovic's half of the draw – and face him in the semis – proved unfounded despite Wimbledon promoting Federer above him in the seedings.

Moody but talented Australian Nick Kyrgios – who beat Nadal in the last 16 at Wimbledon in 2014 – is a potential second-round opponent and Canadian youngster Denis Shapovalov awaits in the third round for Nadal.

His great rivals Djokovic



Prodigy: The 15-year-old American, Cori Gauff, qualified for the main draw. ■ AP

and Federer begin their campaigns against 35-year-old German Philipp Kohl-schreiber and Lloyd Harris of South Africa respectively.

Tricky

The women's draw sees Australia's new World No.1 and French Open champion

Ashleigh Barty open against China's Zheng Saisai with a potentially tricky date with Spain's 2017 champion Garbine Muguruza in the third round.

The most intriguing match-up could come in the fourth round with a rematch of last year's final between defending champion Angelique Kerber of Germany and American legend Serena Williams.

Prajnesh vs Raonic

India's top singles player Prajnesh Gunnesaran drew World No. 17 Milos Raonic of Canada in the first round.

Left-handed Prajnesh, ranked 94 in the world, will make his maiden appearance on the hallowed grass courts at the Wimbledon.

Gauff's distinction

Fifteen-year-old Cori Gauff of the United States became the youngest player, since Great Britain's Laura Robson in 2009, to qualify for the main draw.

England ends Norway's run

Puts on a masterclass to win 3-0

WOMEN'S WC

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

LE HAVRE (FRANCE)

A stunning strike by Lucy Bronze helped England to a 3-0 quarterfinal win over Norway on Thursday as Phil Neville's team eased into the last four of the women's World Cup.

David Beckham was among the crowd of to see midfield stalwart Jill Scott open the scoring inside three minutes, becoming just the second English player to score at three separate women's World Cups.

Rising shot

Ellen White then grabbed her fifth goal of the tournament five minutes prior to half-time and Bronze made

sure of the victory with a rising shot high into the net as the hour mark approached.

England was so comfortable towards the end that it could even afford to squander a penalty, with Nikita Parris having her late spot-kick saved.

Norway had declared ambitions of leaving France with a medal to show for its effort, but after ousting Australia on penalties in the last round, this was a step too far for it.

It is impossible not to wonder how different things might have been in this game had the class of Ada Hegerberg been available to Martin Sjogren's team.

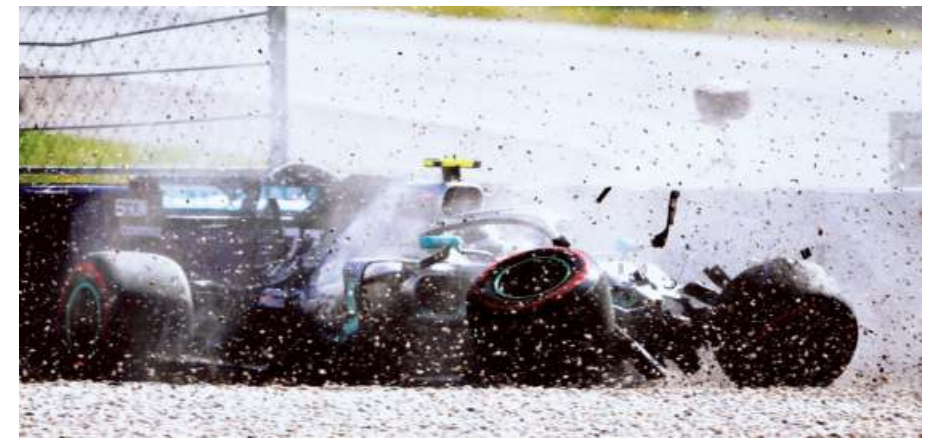
The result: Norway 0 lost to England 3 (Scott 3, White 40, Bronze 57).



Ecstatic: England's Lucy Bronze celebrates after scoring against Norway. ■ AFP

Leclerc puts Ferrari on top

Bottas and Verstappen crash in accident-strewn practice



Lucky escape: Valtteri Bottas was sent for precautionary medical examination after smashing head-on into the barriers at the downhill turn six. ■ BRYN LENNON/GETTY IMAGES

AUSTRIAN GP

REUTERS

SPIELBERG

Valtteri Bottas and Max Verstappen crashed in an accident-strewn Austrian Grand Prix practice on Friday while Charles Leclerc stayed out of trouble and sent Ferrari back to the top of the timesheets.

Bottas was sent to the medical centre as a precaution after smashing head-on into the barriers at the downhill turn six, with his badly damaged Mercedes brought back to the pits on a truck.

The incident on a gusty day at the Red Bull Ring brought out red flags for the second time in an error-strewn afternoon session, with last year's race winner Verstappen also caught out.

His Red Bull slammed backwards into the tyre wall at turn 10, breaking the rear

suspension. "I made a correction and it was a bit too late," said Bottas, who is second in the championship and a hefty 36 points behind team mate Lewis Hamilton after eight rounds all won by Mercedes.

Leclerc's best effort was a lap of one minute 05.086 seconds, leaving Bottas second. Verstappen, who ended up ninth in the second session, had complained earlier about losing the rear of the car in shifting winds.

Setting the pace

Five-time champion Hamilton set the pace in the morning, with Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel splitting the two Mercedes, in 1:04.838.

The Briton was only fourth after lunch with Red Bull's Pierre Gasly third.

Vettel almost became another casualty after spinning off but the four-time champion stopped short of the tyre wall and kept the

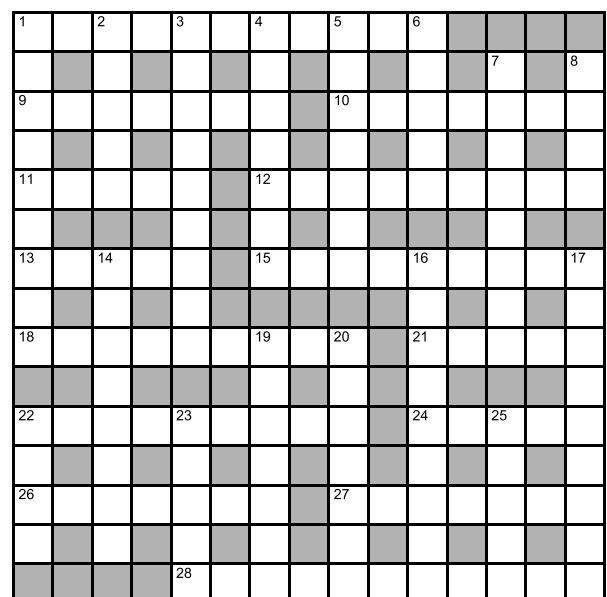
engine running. Bottas, on pole for the past two years in Austria, was third fastest in that opening session but his morning had already started with a flurry of activity in the garage.

Mercedes carried out a hurried engine change after discovering an oil leak on his car about an hour before the start of the session.

The first session ended three minutes early after Renault's Nico Hulkenberg ran over the kerb at the penultimate corner and ripped off half of his car's front wing, scattering debris across the track. That was just one of several incidents involving the kerbs.

Red Bull boss Christian Horner said they had already cost his team some \$318,125 in damage and suggested the angle needed changing. Hamilton has won the last four races, and six out of eight this season.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12665



ACROSS

- Former partner, on in years, goes over broken grate? Not true! (11)
- Rogan travels to limits of Zambia for thin material (7)
- Abstraction that may be on a highway during daylight (7)
- Sanctuary granted to a sister within (5)

- Airing con's output is artificial (9)
- Silly Nina concealed at final part of puzzle (5)
- Outcome I have is telling! (9)
- Sexpot or I will reveal one who spells (9)
- Miserable person heard to react violently (5)
- Time to give orders, no time to stamp out (9)
- To have this thing at one's feet is most desirable (5)
- Some brew I must have this moment! (7)
- Retired professors see worthiness in eastern India (7)
- See Lorraine settling in West African country (6,5)

DOWN

- English chief's first order: Illegal monies? Use less! (9)
- Support gets area gains regularly (5)
- Force town in France to harbour street robbers (9)

(set by Gridman)

- Become aware serial's squelched by top executive (7)
- Divert vessel caught in swell (4,3)
- Find fault with plot held up by undergraduate (5)
- Listener out to do another stretch (2-6)
- Be in it, and you're in agreement (4)
- Rate a pawn's compliment (8)
- What reel ran after Chile's first revolution? (9)
- Drug playing havoc deep in her (9)
- Snack that is offered to a good man first (7)
- Said "Fight, honey, for graceful animal" (3,4)
- Be up to a climbing that is not good (4)
- Preachers start interpreting many arcane manuscripts secretly (5)
- Animal horn one ordered (5)

SUDOKU

9	5		7					
2	3	6			9			
		6					2	7
			8	5				9
5								8
6				2	3			
5	8					7		
		2			8	6	4	
			7			8	1	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12664

U	N	D	E	R	H	E	S	E	A										
T	O	A	A	T	U	D	F												
I	M	P	E	R	I	L	O	L	D	R	O	P	E						
L	E	E	Y	P	I	M	T												
I	N	D	I	E	A	P	O	L	O	G	I	S	E						
T	I	N	N	E	R	F	I	N	D										
I	N	N	E	R															
S	Y	N	T	H	E	S	I	S											
T	H	E	O	F	E	R	M	A											
A	S	S	A	I	L	A	N	T											
L	U	C	A	R	H	O	T	O											
A	S	C	R	I	B	E	E	A	R	T	H	E	N						
S	H	I	N	G	R	U	O	I											
G	O	S	P	E	L	U	S	I	C										

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	8	5	6	1	2	7	9	4
2	9	6	7	4	8	5	3	1
1	4	7	3	5	9	8	6	2
8	1	2	9	7	3	6	4	5
6	3	9	4	2	5	1	8	7
7	5	4	8	6	1	9	2	3
4	6	8	5	3	7	2	1	9
9	7	1	2	8	4	3	5	6
5	2	3	1	9	6	4	7	8

FAITH

Higher Knowledge

The Upanishads cannot help being repetitive while discussing the nature of Brahman and the atma. They also reiterate that the ultimate purpose of human existence is to attain the higher knowledge by which the life of sorrow is crossed. The quest is so subtle and mystic to the inquiring mind that it has been pursued with renewed interest tirelessly generation after generation, pointed out Sri Krishnamurthy Sastrigal in a discourse.

In the Svetasvatara Upanishad, there is reference to 'the Indescribable, the Vast, the One, the Self the Seer of which sees neither death, nor disease nor sorrow.' How to grasp this essence? In symbolic vein, the atma within each one is explained as being 'subtler than the subtle, greater than the greatest, and hidden in the heart of all creatures.' The atma resides in the body, but also moves around everywhere with innumerable forms. His hands and feet, eyes, heads, mouths, ears are everywhere and He pervades everything in the universe. Though Formless, Brahman brings forth innumerable forms into creation. None can fathom why this is done. He then draws them back into Himself.

The Self in each and every being in creation co-exists with Brahman like two beautiful birds, inseparable companions, living in the same tree. While one of them experiences the world of creation, and is subject to the joys and miseries of the world, the other is representative of Brahman, the master of Maya, who remains the unseen, immobile and calm observer. He is so subtle that though He is the source of all scriptures, and one may be well versed in the scriptures, unless the truth is internalised and felt in the heart, He cannot be grasped. He is grasped only through transcendental experience.

TV PICKS

ICC World Cup: Star Sports 1, 2 (SD & HD), 3 p.m. & 6 p.m.
FIFA Women's World Cup: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 6.30 p.m. & 10 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Brazil coach Tite blasts playing surface

PORTO ALEGRE
Fuming Brazil coach Tite raged at the state of the Gremio Arena pitch after the Copa America host squeezed past dogged Paraguay on penalties to reach the semifinals. "There is room for improvement. But that's also possible when you play passes on a good ground. All the players asked me to complain about it. It's absurd at such a high level match to have a ground that is so hard to pass the ball on," he said. AFP

Colombia to host 2020 Copa America final

Colombia will host the final of the 2020 Copa America as it is jointly hosting with Argentina, President Ivan Duque announced on Thursday. The final will be played in the Metropolitan stadium in the Caribbean port city of Barranquilla, the local mayor Alejandro Char said, promising a "gala." AFP



Lorenzo to miss Dutch MotoGP after fracturing vertebrae in crash

ASSEN, NETHERLANDS
Spain's three-time former World champion Jorge Lorenzo will miss this weekend's Dutch MotoGP after fracturing vertebrae in an horrific crash in the opening free practice on Friday. "Sadly @lorenzo99 has been declared unfit for the remainder of the #DutchGP," Honda tweeted. Lorenzo slid out at turn seven of the Assen track, bouncing into four somersaults as he hit the gravel behind his bike. Two doctors were quickly at his side and helped him walk gingerly off to the barriers before he sat down and was then taken away to the medical centre by ambulance. AFP



Deepti Sharma to play for Western Storm

NEW DELHI
India all-rounder Deepti Sharma on Friday joined her compatriot Smriti Mandhana in the squad of Western Storm for the KIA Super League, a women's Twenty20 competition organised by the England and Wales Cricket Board. Western Storm announced the signing of the 21-year-old Deepti on their website. "I am looking forward to the challenge of playing in the KIA Super League. Every player wants to play alongside and against the best in the world, and this will give me the opportunity to do that," said Deepti. PTI

AC Milan banned from Europe for FFP violations

LAUSANNE
AC Milan is banned from European football next season over breaches of financial fair play rules, CAS announced on Friday. European football's governing body UEFA had accused the club of violating financial fair play (FFP) regulations over the past three seasons and the Court of Arbitration for Sport ruled in its favour. "AC Milan is excluded from participating in UEFA club competitions of the sporting season 2019/2020 as a consequence of the breach of its FFP break-even obligations" for the past three seasons, the court ruled. AFP

TNPL could be without Puducherry players

TNCA is keen on having Arun Karthick back in its fold

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

Siechem Madurai Panthers, the TNPL champion, could be without some of its leading cricketers in the upcoming edition of the competition.

Skipper D. Rohit and Thalaivan Sargunam, both specialist batsmen, might not be available for the Madurai side since they would be turning out for Puducherry in the Ranji season.

And there are indications that K.B. Arun Karthick, the driving force of Madurai side's sensational TNPL triumph last season, could be moving from Kerala to Puducherry as a Guest Player for the Ranji Trophy.

Top-order batsman

An experienced top-order batsman with innings-building skills, a handy 'keeper and good thinker of the game, Karthick brings a lot to the table and the TNCA too is keen on having him back in its fold.

Karthick, who hails from Tamil Nadu, has played for his home State in the past before travelling to other places to showcase his skills.

A move to Puducherry will provide Karthick a guaranteed spot in the eleven but then, Tamil Nadu, striving to rebuild its side after two disastrous seasons, is also interested in Karthick.

If Karthick decides in favour of Puducherry, his participation in TNPL will be in serious doubt.

Player transfers

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

For the first time, TNPL introduced trading of players between teams with Tuti Patriots being the most active so far — three trades.

Patriots' M. Kaushik Gandhi has been sold to Chepauk Super Gillies while left-arm spinner R. Sai Kishore has been traded (barter exchange) with Vasanth Saravanan (Ruby Trichy Warriors) and R. Sathish exchanged for Subramania Siva (VB Kan-

chi Veerans).

Sumant Jain from Lyca Kovai Kings has been traded for B. Anirudh Sita Ram from Dindigul Dragons.

No Varun

Varun Chakaravathy, the find of TNPL 2018 who was bought by Kings XI Punjab for a whopping ₹8.4 crore, is unlikely to take part in this edition as he has not recovered from injury which kept him out for most part of the IPL.

part in the TNPL. "Any cricketer who is born in Tamil Nadu is eligible to play in the TNPL according to the TNCA Constitution. We have no objection to them playing in the TNPL," said a TNCA official to *The Hindu*.

However, the BCCI is of the view that if a cricketer represents a particular State in domestic competitions, he cannot take part in T20 leagues in another State.

The TNCA official said, "The players can perhaps approach the court on the issue. They could win the case."

The coming days promise to be interesting. (With inputs from S. Dipak Ragav)

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TNPL 2019 SCHEDULE

No	Date	Day	CSG	DD	Dindigul
1	July 19	FRI	CSG	DD	Dindigul
2	July 20	SAT	SMP	TP	Dindigul
3	July 21	SUN	RTW	IDKK	Dindigul
4	July 21	SUN	LKK	VBKV	Dindigul
5	July 22	MON	DD	SMP	Tirunelveli
6	July 23	TUE	RTW	CSG	Tirunelveli
7	July 24	WED	LKK	TP	Dindigul
8	July 25	THU	VBKV	IDKK	Dindigul
9	July 26	FRI	RTW	LKK	Dindigul
10	July 27	SAT	CSG	IDKK	Tirunelveli
11	July 28	SUN	TP	DD	Tirunelveli
12	July 28	SUN	SMP	VBKV	Tirunelveli
13	July 29	MON	IDKK	LKK	Tirunelveli
14	July 30	TUE	VBKV	DD	Tirunelveli
15	July 31	WED	CSG	SMP	Tirunelveli
16	August 1	THU	TP	RTW	Dindigul
17	August 2	FRI	DD	IDKK	Dindigul
18	August 3	SAT	SMP	RTW	Dindigul
19	August 3	SAT	TP	VBKV	Dindigul
20	August 4	SUN	CSG	LKK	Chennai
21	August 5	MON	RTW	DD	Dindigul
22	August 6	TUE	LKK	SMP	Dindigul
23	August 7	WED	IDKK	TP	Dindigul
24	August 8	THU	VBKV	CSG	Tirunelveli
25	August 9	FRI	DD	LKK	Tirunelveli
26	August 10	SAT	IDKK	SMP	Tirunelveli
27	August 11	SUN	TP	CSG	Tirunelveli
28	August 11	SUN	VBKV	RTW	Tirunelveli
29	August 12	MON		Rest Day	
30	August 13	TUE	Qualifier - 1		Tirunelveli
31	August 14	WED	Eliminator		Tirunelveli
32	August 15	THU		Rest Day	
33	August 16	FRI	Qualifier - 2		Dindigul
34	August 17	SAT		Rest Day	
35	August 18	SUN	Finals		Chennai

TP: Tuti Patriots; CSG: Chepauk Super Gillies; LKK: Lyca Kovai Kings; SMP: Seichem Madurai Panthers; RTW: Ruby Trichy Warriors; VBKV: VB Kanchi Veerans; DD: Dindigul Dragons; IDKK: I Dream Karaikudi Kaalai
Dindigul: NPR College Ground, Natham, Tirunelveli: ICL - Sankar Nagar Ground, Chennai: MAC Stadium



Saviour: Brazil 'keeper Alisson stops Gustavo Gomez's shot in the penalty shootout. AFP

Brazil shoots out Paraguay

Jesus scores the winning penalty, takes the team to the semifinals

COPA AMERICA

REUTERS
PORTO ALEGRE (BRAZIL)

Brazil reached the last four of the Copa America on Thursday with a 4-3 penalty shootout win over Paraguay after its compelling quarter-final here ended scoreless.

Gabriel Jesus got the winning kick for Brazil after Gustavo Gomez and Derlis Gonzalez missed for the visitor. Roberto Firmino pulled his spot kick wide for the host.

Familiar technique

Jesus had missed a penalty against Peru in its last group game and said he went back to his tried and tested technique on Thursday.

"In the last game I didn't look at the keeper and I hit it hard straight away and the goalie made a good save," he

way, I looked calmly at the keeper and I could see him moving to the left and I side-footed it the other way."

After a foul strewn and unexciting first half, Brazil took control when Fabian Balbuena was sent off in the 58th minute for fouling Firmino as he bore down on goal.

The referee gave a penalty but changed it to a free kick on the edge of the area after consulting the video assistant referee (VAR).

The sending off then saw the home side lay siege to the Paraguayan goal but without joy, Everton seeing a shot deflected over the bar, Gabriel Jesus pulling a gilt-edged chance wide, and Willian hitting the post in the last minute.

The result: Brazil 0 drew with Paraguay 0 (Brazil won 4-3 on penalties).

Bikku Babu trumps strong field

Gaurav Gill prefers to play it safe in the opening stage

INRC

RAYAN ROZARIO
CHENNAI

Six-time National rally champion Gaurav Gill (co-driver Musa Sherif) always goes full throttle from the start. But for once, he seemed to drive a bit cautiously in the opening stage (SSS) of the 41st South India Rally, the season's opening round of the Champions Yacht Club-FMCSI MMSC Indian National Rally Championship at the MMRT here on Friday.

Even as the three-time APRC star played it safe, Dr. Bikku Babu (Milen George) of Team Champions took everyone by surprise by topping the time sheets at 03:10.8s.

But it did not matter much for Gill as he knew the game has just begun.

"We had some technical issues but I am not bothered much as we still have two



What next! Mahindra Adventure teammates Gaurav Gill and Amitrajit Ghosh ponder their strategy for Saturday. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

more days. We will get it sorted out and, expect a better show tomorrow (Saturday)," said Gill, who always enjoyed driving in this event.

"This rally is quite special for me. I had been here as a 15-year-old with my uncle and since then it has become my favourite," he added.

Talking about the dirt stages after the race, he said

it was a beauty to drive.

"A lot of hard work has been done in preparing the stages. It's pretty smooth and fast and, for us having touched high speeds at the international level, we want to replicate the same in India."

And he is quite certain do that as he is on a brand new car (Mahindra Adventure

XUV300 R2 petrol) and with brand new rubbers (JK Tyres).
"We had two days of testing at Coimbatore last week and we were really pleased with the whole set-up," said Gill.
His Mahindra Adventure teammate Amitrajit Ghosh, however, spun his car two corners before the finish.
The first round of the INRC, powered by MRF, will see 51 top rallyists from across the country fight it out over a total distance of 298.70km with 117.33km earmarked for eleven special stages on gravel and dirt tracks.
"This is a perfect start to the championship," said INRC promoter Vamsi Merla.
"We have already had the most number of entries and the biggest crowd at INRC, making it that much more thrilling for all of us," he added.

Aronyak and Saina get pride of place

UNDER-17 CHESS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

West Bengal's Aronyak Ghosh has been given the top billing in the open section of the 30th National under-17 chess championship which begins at the Oberon Mall here on Saturday.

His Stagemate Neelash Saha is the second seed.

In the girls' section, former under-10 World champion and Asian youth winner Saina Salonika is the top seed and Delhi's Shanya Mishra the No. 2.
The 11-round, nine-day meet has attracted 145 players, including 56 girls.
The first round begins at 3.30 p.m.

TAMIL NADU ROUND-UP

Harsha, Hari Prasad hog the limelight

SALEM: P. Harsha struck a century (109, 165b, 18x4) as Districts-I posted 289 against Districts-II on the opening day of the two-day TNCA round-robin under-14 cricket tournament here on Friday. R.V. Hari Prasad took five wickets for Districts-II. At stumps, Districts-II was four for no loss in seven overs.
The scores (day one): Districts-I 289 in 85.4 overs (R.K. Jayant 79, P. Harsha 109, R. Sanjay 50, R.V. Hari Prasad five for 62, T. Suryaprasad three for 46) vs Districts-II four for no loss in seven overs.



Hari Prasad (Districts-II, five for 62).



P. Harsha (Districts-I, 109).

Prabhakaran sets it up for TVS Club

MADRURAI: Prabhakaran's five-wicket haul helped TVS Club register a 77-run win over Kingsmen in the MDCA first division league.
The scores: I div.: Avengers 215 in 50 overs (Selvaprabhu 54, Pandimurugan 34, Ramkumar 41, Pradeepkumar three for 22, Ramar three for 54) bt Mercury Legends 161 in 45.5 overs (Prabhu 37, Laxmanan 31, Senthil four for 28).
TVS Club 144 in 45.1 overs (Thanasekara Pandian 31, Ranjith three for 32) bt Kingsmen 67 in 20.1 overs (Prabhakaran five for 25, Thanasekara Pandian three for 32).

Agni 228 for nine in 50 overs (A.S. Santhosh 84, V.P. Akki Shrivanth 46, V. Ganeshkumar 32) lost to Majestic 229 for seven in 42.5 overs (Muthumalai 73, Manikanda Prabhu 39, Wafar three for 38).

II div.: Richards 160 in 24.5 overs (R. Rajesh 30, M. Jeyaraj 27, Thirumurugan three for 52, Arunkumar three for 24) lost to Mystery 161 for three in 20.1 overs (S. Syed Ibrahim 50, V. Muthuveeran 61 n.o.).

Fanatic 182 for eight in 30 overs (Sethuraman 44, Sarathkumar 47 n.o., Dheenadhayalan 27, Sundarapandian three for 40) bt Victory 130 in 26 overs (Stephen Jayaraj 37, Mohammed Arshad three for 16).



Prabhakaran (TVS Club, five for 25).

CoA to discuss conflict of interest issue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The thorny issue of conflict of interest is likely to be discussed in the CoA meeting here on Saturday after the BCCI ethics officer D.K. Jain asked V.V.S. Laxman and Sourav Ganguly to choose one of the multiple cricketing roles they are performing at the moment.

Indian women create rugby history

Tribal girls play their part as India claims Asia 15s bronze

BHRIGU BAGGA
NEW DELHI

Recently, the Indian women's rugby team scripted history by clinching their first-ever international 15s victory against a higher-ranked Singapore 21-19 for a bronze medal in the Asia Women's Div-I Rugby 15s championship earlier this week in the Philippines.
Five members of the victorious squad — Sumitra Nayak, Hupi Majhi, Rajani Sabar, Meerarani Hembram and Parbati Kisku were present in a media interaction held at the Press Council of India on Friday.
A few days back a video went viral which showed

these rugby girls shedding tears of joy following Sumitra's strike in the dying minutes, via a penalty, that helped India beat Singapore to finish third. "We worked so hard but never won. Finally, this came off," said a jubilant Hupi.
On taking up rugby, Sumitra said "We come from an institution where 27,000 tribal children study on 100 per cent scholarship, out of the lot our senior brothers in 2007 went to England to play this sport, since then we got inspired and thought this is a good way to travel abroad because for us tribal children, opportunities are rare."



Members of the rugby squad who won the bronze medal in the Asia women's Div-I Rugby 15s championship. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Adjudicate may score in the Chief Justice's Cup

BENGALURU: Adjudicate, who is in fine fettle as evidence by his mock race may score in the Chief Justice's Cup (1,800m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Saturday (June 29). False rails (width about 4m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1. SIR M. VISWESWARAYA MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 60 & over, 2:00 pm: 1. Auriga (8) A. Merchant 60, 2. The Lieutenant (3) Akshay 59, 3. Raha (4) Dhanu Singh 58.5, 4. Aetsir (6) P.S. Chouhan 57.5, 5. Indian Pharaoh (2) Sandesh 57.5, 6. Surf Romance (7) Zervan 56, 7. Peluche (5) Trevor 55.5 and 8. Sakura (1) Akshay K 53.5.

2. AMAZING GRACE PLATE (1,100m), rated 00 to 20, 2:30: 1. First Step (4) John 60, 2. Mayurana (5) Koushik 60, 3. Lovenyboss (11) Akshay 59.5, 4. Savisa (3) A. Qureshi 59.5, 5. Songkran (7) P.S. Chouhan 59, 6. Smile Of Cour-

age (1) P. Surya 58.5, 7. All By Myself (9) Arshad 58, 8. Arrogance (12) Yash 58, 9. Hunters Moon (6) Sai Vamshi 57.5, 10. Majestic Rajkumar (2) Akshay K 57.5, 11. Afrikaana (10) Darshan 53 and 12. Scorching (8) A.S. Peter 52.

3. FANTABULOUS KING PLATE (Div. II), (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only. (Terms), 3:00: 1. Call Of The Blue (6) Koushik 56, 2. Northern Alliance (7) Zervan 56, 3. Nova Scotia (5) Dhanu Singh 56, 4. On The Trot (1) Neeraj 56, 5. Sir Piggot (3) A. Merchant 56, 6. Sun Splash (4) P.S. Chouhan 56, 7. British Empress (9) Trevor 54.5, 8. Hope Spinel (10) Akshay K 54.5, 9. Lady Of Fame (-) (-) 54.5, 10. Orogenesis (11) Nazerul 54.5, 11. Queen Runner (8) Suraj 54.5 and 12. Shiraz (2) Sandesh 54.5.

4. MALLARADHYA MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m), rated 45 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 3:30:

1. Life Awaits (8) Neeraj 60, 2. Noahs Ark (10) N.B. Kuldeep 60, 3. Mulholland (6) A. Merchant 59, 4. Side Winder (2) John 59, 5. Super Success (5) Dhanu Singh 58, 6. Good Time Indeed (12) P.S. Chouhan 56, 7. Torosoro (1) R. Manish 54, 8. Turf Magic (4) Darshan 54, 9. Harley Quinn (11) Md. Asif Khan 53.5, 10. Aaron The Baron (3) Hindu Singh 53, 11. Fair Warning (9) Antony 53 and 12. Tarini (7) A.S. Peter 50.5.

5. CHIEF JUSTICE'S CUP (Div. II), (1,400m), 4-y-o & over. (Terms), 4:00: 1. Adjudicate (4) Suraj 60, 2. Desert God (10) Sandesh 60, 3. Sacred Roman (7) Akshay K 60, 4. Dancing Dragon (5) Trevor 58.5, 5. New Creation (2) Neeraj 58.5, 6. Roberta (8) N.S. Parmar 58.5, 7. Salazaar (6) P.S. Chouhan 58.5, 8. Reunion (9) Yash 55.5, 9. Royal Sceptre (1) Zervan 55.5 and 10. Point To Prove (3) Antony 54.

6. FANTABULOUS KING PLATE (Div. I), (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only. (Terms), 4:30: 1. Alberto (1) Trevor 56, 2. Eastern Crown (4) T.S. Jodha 56, 3. Jersey Legend (11) Akshay K 56, 4. Manzoni (8) Hindu Singh 56, 5. Monte Rei (2) A. Imran 56, 6. Red Snaper (7) Zervan 56, 7. Southern Ruler (3) Bhawani Singh 56, 8. Victorious Sermon (10) Sandesh 56, 9. Exclusive Art (12) Koushik 54.5, 10. Iconic Princess (5) N.S. Parmar 54.5, 11. Sea The Dream (9) Neeraj 54.5 and 12. Star And Garter (6) Suraj 54.5.

7. ALEKONA PLATE (1,200m), rated 15 to 35, 5:00: 1. No Opinion (3) Tauseef 60, 2. Perfectgoldenera (9) Raghuveer Singh 58.5, 3. Princezeem (1) Dhanu Singh 58, 4. Tokyo Rose (5) Suraj 57.5, 5. Area Angel (12) Rajesh K 56.5, 6. Hafnium (11) S. Shiva Kumar 56.5, 7. Elite Agent (8) P.S. Chouhan 55, 8. Lovely Sierra (4)

I love being around here. It's a good vibe. I have great memories. My heroes all won here. Every time I come back here, I try to be like them

I can play how I want and on my terms [on grass]. It's maybe how Nadal feels on the clay. I can chip it, I can come over, I can serve and volley, I can stay back



Is this Wimbledon Federer's last shot at winning a Major?

The previous two years have shown it's foolish to write the Swiss maestro off. But he is almost 38 — there hasn't been an older men's singles Grand Slam champion

57.14%

Federer's match-win % at Wimbledon in his teens (3 tournaments, 0 titles)



N. SUDARSHAN

Service value

Roger Federer, by his own admission, thinks grass to him is what clay is to Rafael Nadal. "Grass highlights my strengths and hides my weaknesses," he said ahead of the Gerry Weber tournament in Halle, which he went on to win for a record 10th time. "I can play how I want and on my terms. It's maybe how Nadal feels on the clay. He can decide to return from the back, to return from in; I can do the same on the grass. I can chip it, I can come over, I can serve and volley, I can stay back. That gives you options to win. Different tactics you can use against different players. And that gives you maybe more margins you need to stay out of trouble."

Defying time

Such confidence isn't misplaced. He is, after all, an eight-time Wimbledon champion. Nineteen of his 102 career ATP World Tour titles have come on grass; that is almost one fifth of his titles on a surface that's roughly one tenth of the season. When he won Wimbledon in 2017, at 35 years and 11 months, he was its oldest men's champion. His three Majors after turning 35 (including the 2017 and 2018 Australian Open titles) are a record matched only by the legendary

Ken Rosewall. If he manages a fourth two weeks from now, Federer's beautifully written epilogue might well be as good as the book.

On grass (Last 52 weeks)			
Player	Matches	Service points won (%)	Matches won (%)
Federer	10	76.8	90
Raonic	11	75.6	82
Isner	6	75.8	83
Berrettini	12	74.5	83
Anderson	9	72.3	78

On hard-courts (Last 52 weeks)			
Player	Matches	Service points won (%)	Matches won (%)
Federer	45	70.9	82
Raonic	36	73.5	64
Isner	45	74.2	62
Berrettini	31	68.2	55
Anderson	36	69.2	72

To the rational mind, Wimbledon 2019 may be his last realistic shot at a Major. He is nearly 38. Rosewall, when he claimed the 1972 Australian

Open to become the oldest Slam winner (37 years and two months), was almost a year younger. Also, that was against a depleted field, with the game hurt by the professional-amateur split.

The Aussie did make the final at Wimbledon and US Open in 1974, but both ended in heavy

defeats to Jimmy Connors. Federer comes to Wimbledon in tournament-winning form. His last four non-clay events have fetched three titles (Dubai, Miami, Halle) and one runner-up trophy (Indian Wells). He made an interesting decision to play on clay for the first time in three years. Though he didn't reach a final, the points-cushion (1,080) perhaps allows him to play pressure-free. "I was really positive about my clay-court swing," said the Swiss. "I lost against the best clay-court player ever [at Roland Garros]. I tried everything I had in unbelievably windy conditions. I loved it actually. And I left [Paris] very positive."

Tennis on grass

To be sure, Federer isn't remotely the player who beat Pete Sampras at his own game in 2001. When he won his first Wimbledon in 2003, he was predominantly a net-rusher. The Federer of today is more a baseline-hugger, with serve-and-volley thrown in as a surprise tactic. Yet, what he plays is distinctly grass-court tennis. No one employs the backhand slice to such devastating effect. On grass, the ball bounces at a low angle after hitting the turf. The Federer slice lowers the angle further and is a rhythm-breaker, as the ball appears to zip through. By forcing

the opponent to act faster, it exaggerates the speed of the court, which, in turn, plays on the mind.

Federer's game, like Sampras', flows from his serve. There is a case to be made that those who protect their serves well find success on grass. Over the last year, Federer has won close to 77% of his service points on grass and gone on to win 90% of the matches. The numbers for those with a 'big game' — a cannonball serve followed by a crushing groundstroke — are interesting (See: *Service value*). Milos Raonic (Wimbledon finalist 2016), Kevin Anderson (finalist 2018), John Isner (semifinalist 2018) and Matteo Berrettini (eight straight victories on grass this month) win a high % of service points on grass. This is accompanied by a high match-win %. On hard-courts, the % of points won on serve drops; the match-win % falls even further.

Compact season

Such an analysis does suffer from the fact that the sample size for grass is quite small owing to the paucity of tournaments. But unlike with other surfaces, it's easier to extrapolate because the conditions

at these grass events are quite consistent, bunched together as these are within the boundaries of just two countries (England and Germany). Moreover, almost every tournament looks to follow the lead of the Wimbledon groundskeeper.

What sets Federer apart, especially on grass but also on hard, is that his return numbers are impressive, too. His Dominance Ratio — a measure of all-round quality, calculated by dividing the % of return points won by the % of service points lost — is 1.39 on grass and 1.32 on hard. Novak Djokovic's on hard — his best surface — is 1.3. (See: *The Federer-Djokovic comparison*)

A living entity

Moreover, grass-court tennis has another dimension that still resists quantification. Unlike the crushed brick of Roland Garros and the acrylic in Australia and the U.S., grass is a living entity which develops capricious habits. No two balls that land on the same spot bounce the same, even when hit at a similar velocity and angle. What sets Federer apart is the way he counters this with razor-sharp instincts, high skill and last-minute adjustments.

Yet, for all the obvious advantages he enjoys, Federer is far from the dominant force he

was on grass for five straight years from 2003 to 2007. In more than a decade since then, he has won Wimbledon just thrice. Anderson and Raonic, with their serve-oriented games, Nadal, with his relentless grinding style, and Djokovic, with his elastic genius, all have had his measure.

Sluggish lawns

Grass is Nadal's weakest surface but once he survives the big men in the early rounds, he is a genuine threat, as he proved in 2018 with his run to the last four. With the wear and tear over the fortnight, the lawns turn sluggish and the dirt that is exposed, especially near the baseline, helps the ball bounce higher and hang in the air, much to the Spaniard's liking. This era's grass is by nature slower and the balls heavier, making this aspect more pronounced. Nadal's net-game, honed through his years of playing doubles, is first-rate, making him a worthy champion.

Djokovic's excellence needs some accepting by the purist, despite him having beaten Federer in back-to-back finals in 2014 and 2015. The Serb leaves nothing to chance and plays perfectly calibrated tennis with an unparalleled ability to choose the right moment to transition from defence to attack. The 32-year-old is no

WORD PLAY

Shuffle

● **What is it?** It's a type of 'trigger' or 'preliminary' movement in batting. When 'shuffling', a batsman moves back and across the stumps, prior to the ball's release. Popular in the pre-helmet era, the 'shuffle' has lost out to the 'forward press' in the modern game.

● **Why is it used?** Although traditional coaching manuals prescribe staying still, nearly every First Class player has had some sort of 'trigger'. Those who 'shuffle' say it shifts them into position and gets their feet moving, making the process of playing a stroke easier.



● **Not to be confused with** The dance step spanned in the Melbourne party scene that was all the rage not too long back or the audio device that was phased out in 2017. Cricket's version shares a similarity — diehards swear by it, others have moved on. But don't mix them up.

● **Who does it best?** Steve Smith, who averages 61.37 in Tests, is its best modern-day exponent. And he started it mid-innings, during a 2013 Ashes Test! "I started a prelim movement — back and across — on about 10, just after lunch," he said. It worked. He made 111.

ON THE BOX



■ **ICC World Cup: SAT:** Pakistan v Afghanistan, 3 P.M.; STAR SPORTS 1 & HD, 2. New Zealand v Australia, 6 P.M.; STAR SPORTS 2 HD & 3. SUN: England v India, 3 P.M.; STAR SPORTS 1 & 2 & HD, STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 & HD.

■ **F1 Austrian GP: SAT:** Qualifying, 6.25 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 & HD. SUN: Main Race, 6.35 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 & HD.

■ **FIFA Women's World Cup: SAT:** Italy v the Netherlands, 6.30 P.M.; Germany v Sweden, 10 P.M.; SONY TEN 2 & HD.



STACKING UP



ICC Test Rankings

#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	India	32	3,631	113
2	New Zealand	23	2,547	111
3	South Africa	27	2,917	108
4	England	35	3,663	105
5	Australia	27	2,640	98
6	Sri Lanka	37	3,462	94
7	Pakistan	27	2,263	84
8	West Indies	29	2,381	82
9	Bangladesh	22	1,438	65
10	Zimbabwe	9	140	16

ODI Rankings

#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	India	51	6,266	123
2	England	50	6,084	122
3	New Zealand	39	4,455	114
4	Australia	47	5,247	112
5	South Africa	45	4,902	109
6	Pakistan	47	4,505	96
7	Bangladesh	41	3,755	92
8	Sri Lanka	48	3,754	78
9	West Indies	44	3,401	77
10	Afghanistan	38	2,287	60

T20I Rankings

#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	Pakistan	26	7,365	283
2	England	16	4,253	266
3	South Africa	16	4,196	262
4	Australia	21	5,471	261
5	India	28	7,273	260
6	New Zealand	16	4,056	254
7	Afghanistan	16	3,849	241
8	Sri Lanka	18	4,093	227
9	West Indies	21	4,747	226
10	Bangladesh	16	3,525	220



Men's Top Five

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Kento Momota	24	111,118	18
2	Shi Yuqi	23	90,661	17
3	Viktor Axelsen	25	79,438	15
4	Chou Tien Chen	29	79,118	20
5	Chen Long	30	75,840	17



Top Indians ▶ K. Srikanth Rank 9, Sameer Verma Rank 12

India's next best ▶

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Tai Tzu Ying	24	96,225	15
2	Chen Yufei	21	90,365	17
3	Nozomi Okuhara	24	90,336	21
4	Akane Yamaguchi	21	86,730	21
5	P.V. Sindhu	23	78,784	19



Saina Nehwal Rank 9, Mugdha Agrey Rank 67



F1 Standings

#	DRIVER	TEAM	POINTS
1	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	187
2	Valtteri Bottas	Mercedes	151
3	Sebastian Vettel	Ferrari	111
4	Max Verstappen	Red Bull	100
5	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	87
6	Pierre Gasly	Red Bull	37
7	Carlos Sainz	McLaren	26
8	Kimi Raikkonen	Alfa Romeo	19
9	Daniel Ricciardo	Renault	16
10	Nico Hulkenberg	Renault	16
11	Kevin Magnussen	Haas	14
12	Lando Norris	McLaren	14
13	Sergio Perez	Racing Point	13
14	Daniil Kvyat	Toro Rosso	10
15	Alexander Albon	Toro Rosso	7
16	Lance Stroll	Racing Point	6
17	Romain Grosjean	Haas	2
18	Antonio Giovinazzi	Alfa Romeo	0
19	George Russell	Williams	0
20	Robert Kubica	Williams	0



Men's Top Five

#	PLAYER	EVENTS	POINTS	AVG. PTS.
1	Brooks Koepka	43	501.56	11.66
2	Dustin Johnson	46	474.12	10.31
3	Rory McIlroy	48	417.12	8.69
4	Justin Rose	49	376.69	6.61
5	Tiger Woods	40	296.04	7.40



Top Indians ▶ Gaganjeet Bhullar Rank 183, Shubhankar Sharma Rank 186

Women's Top Five

#	PLAYER	EVENTS	POINTS	AVG. PTS.
1	Jin-Young Ko	53	400.31	7.55
2	Sung Hyun Park	49	360.71	7.36
3	Minjee Lee	57	376.69	6.61
4	Lexi Thompson	42	277.25	6.60
5	Nasa Hataoka	52	317.08	6.10



Top Indians ▶ Aditi Ashok Rank 137, Diksha Dagar Rank 335



ATP Rankings

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Novak Djokovic	32	12,415	16
2	Rafael Nadal	33	7,945	16
3	Roger Federer	37	6,620	16
4	Dominic Thiem	25	4,595	23
5	Alexander Zverev	22	4,405	24
6	Stefanos Tsitsipas	20	4,215	28
7	Kei Nishikori	29	4,040	22
8	Kevin Anderson	33	3,610	16
9	Karen Khachanov	23	2,980	26
10	Fabio Fognini	32	2,785	24
11	Juan Martin del Potro	30	2,740	15
12	John Isner	34	2,715	19
13	Daniil Medvedev	23	2,625	27
14	Borna Coric	22	2,205	22
15	Gael Monfils	32	2,055	22
16	Nikoloz Basilashvili	27	1,960	28
17	Milos Raonic	28	1,945	20
18	Marin Cilic	30	1,940	19
19	Stan Wawrinka	34	1,715	22
20	Matteo Berrettini	23	1,665	28



Top Indians ▶ Prajnesh Gunneswaran Rank 94



WTA Ankita Raina Rank 171

WTA Rankings

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Ashleigh Barty	23	6,540	17
2	Naomi Osaka	21	6,377	18
3	Karolina Pliskova	27	5,685	22
4	Kiki Bertens	27	5,425	25
5	Angelique Kerber	31	4,685	20
6	Petra Kvitova	29	4,555	20
7	Simona Halep	27	3,963	16
8	Elina Svitolina	24	3,868	18
9	Sloane Stephens	26	3,682	20
10	Aryna Sabalenka	21	3,565	26
11	Serena Williams	37	3,411	12
12	Anastasija Sevastova	29	3,296	25
13	Belinda Bencic	22	3,073	26
14	Caroline Wozniacki	28	2,833	18
15	Qiang Wang	27	2,752	23
16	Marketa Vondrousova	19	2,745	14
17	Madison Keys	24	2,615	14
18	Julia Goerges	30	2,605	25
19	Johanna Konta	28	2,430	22
20	Anett Kontaveit	23	2,335	22

The Federer-Djokovic comparison

Federer is better in service games and Djokovic in return games. But both champions do well enough at the other facet to win a high % of matches

Federer	Win-loss	Service points won (%)	Return points won (%)	Dominance Ratio
Hard-courts	757-151 (83%)	69.80%	40.00%	1.32
Grass	182-27 (87%)	72.50%	38.20%	1.39

Djokovic	Win-loss	Service points won (%)	Return points won (%)	Dominance Ratio
Hard-courts	550-108 (84%)	67.50%	42.30%	1.3
Grass	88-18 (83%)	69.90%	39.50%	1.31

Dominance Ratio is the ratio of return points won (%) to service points lost (%); the higher the better

93.22%

Federer's match-win % at Wimbledon in his 20s (10 tournaments, 6 titles, 1 runner-up)

87.80%

Federer's match-win % at Wimbledon in his 30s (7 tournaments, 2 titles, 2 runners-up)

ordinary opponent, but someone who shuts you down like a Big Brother state.

Gym rats and musclemen

Ahead of the 2015 final, even the much-criticised British tabloid *Daily Mail* declared that "real sports fans" would root for Federer. "Federer is supposed to have been overtaken by the gym rats and the musclemen," it stated, "the men who awe us with their stamina and their shot-making. No one means it as a sign of disrespect to Djokovic but most people who love sport will be hoping Federer makes it a record eight."

It did take Federer two more years to move past Sampras, but the triumph in 2017 showed what he could do if the circumstances were right. He was healthy, had tweaked his tactics and was playing with a new-found freedom that brought four victories in six tournaments leading up to SW19. The first half of 2019 seems eerily similar. A ninth Wimbledon title remains within the realms of possibility.



Barty eyes a historic double

The No. 1 is a natural on grass. Can she join a select list of players who have won Roland Garros and Wimbledon back to back?

"Every week on clay is a week closer to the grass season," said Ashleigh Barty with a laugh before her fortnight at Roland Garros. "I'm very much looking forward to the grass but I've got to get my socks dirty a little bit first."

She did more than get her socks dirty; she became the first Australian woman to win the French Open in 46 years. Not long after that, she swept to the title in Birmingham, her triumph on the grass she so loves taking her to World No. 1. On the back of 12 straight match wins, she starts Wimbledon as the top seed and a strong contender. The only worry is a flare-up of an old arm injury — pain from bone stress. She pulled out of Eastbourne, but expected to be "fine for Wimbledon".

"It's rest, it's time off court,

it's also carefully monitoring how many balls I hit when I get back on court, particularly with serving. It's an injury I've had since I was 16 and at certain times I need to be more careful with it," said Barty.

Given that the 23-year-old is setting out to achieve one of the hardest feats in tennis — winning Roland Garros and Wimbledon back to back — she will need to be at her best. Only the greatest have managed it, Martina Navratilova, Steffi Graf and Serena Williams the only women to have done it in the last 40 years.

Navratilova said Barty has what it takes. "She must be one of the favourites for Wimbledon. I don't think she is a one-Slam wonder. I am so glad the sport has got her back," Navratilova said, referencing Barty's sabbatical from the game.

"Her ability to access a ball and hit it was most extraordinary," said Andy Richards, who offered her a contract to play for Brisbane Heat in the Wom-

en's Big Bash League. "We have had people from other sports, but none even close to her in terms of ability to transfer skills."

It's this intuitive ability to adjust on the fly that makes her a threat on grass. "There are big servers and some who have good ground-strokes, but Ash is tenacious, has a good drop shot, good angles, good anticipation," said Rod Laver, who completed the Paris-London double twice. "I really think she'll be tough to beat [at Wimbledon]."

Having won the girls' singles title at just 15, Barty has already tasted success at Wimbledon. But she'll be wary of the power-hitters who can hurt her at the top level. Against Julia Goerges in the Eastbourne final, she found a solution to this problem.

"I just had to go for it," Barty said. "Anytime I left the ball hanging she was punishing me, so I had to really push that little bit extra to come out on top."

If she can stay healthy and play with that mindset, she certainly has the tools to build a challenge at SW19. SPORTS BUREAU

Round 9: Austrian GP



RACE NOTES

- The F1 caravan travels from one of the longer laps on the calendar (France) to the shortest, in terms of overall lap time, in Austria
- Located amid the Styrian mountains, the Red Bull Ring comprises two fast sectors and a final sector that is slower and more technical
- Traction and braking are the main characteristics of the smooth-surfaced circuit where the corners are linked by a series of short straights
- The two energy-intensive left-handed turns are tricky. The tyres could go into them cold since they aren't worked as hard during the otherwise right-hander-heavy lap
- Last year was hot, with track temperatures touching 40 degrees centigrade. But the proximity to the Northern Styrian Alps increases the possibility of variable weather
- Pirelli has nominated the same selection of compounds it used in France: C2, C3 and C4, the middle of the five-tyre range

Dominant Mercedes wary of Austrian heat trap

Having suffered a double mechanical failure in Spielberg last year, the team is taking nothing for granted

Only the elements in Austria this weekend, it would appear, threaten Mercedes and Lewis Hamilton's dominance of the 2019 season.

With temperatures set to soar in scenic Spielberg, the championship leader is expecting more of a challenge than in France last Sunday.

"It's super-hot, really hard for the brakes," Hamilton said. "You saw... [last year]... we had two failures."

That race, won by Red Bull's Max Verstappen, remains the five-time world champion's only retirement since 2016. It was also a first double mechanical retirement for Mercedes since its return as a constructor in 2010.

Since that nightmare, Hamilton has won 14 of 20 races. This season he has won six of eight, including the last four.

Mercedes boss Toto Wolff said nothing was being taken for granted, especially after



recent issues with components, which the team has managed to fix in time.

"[2018] was a cruel reminder how quickly things can go wrong," said Wolff. "It would be complacent to ignore the fact that for two weekends in a row now, our mechanics have had to perform the equivalent of open-heart surgery on our cars."

The challenge from Ferrari, with a car better suited to Spielberg than Le Castellet, is another concern for Mercedes — and source of hope for those craving ex-

citement. There's also the possibility of Valtteri Bottas making things interesting by raising his level — something he has shown he can do this season.

The Finn finished runner-up in Sunday's French Grand Prix and is 36 points adrift in the standings after eight races.

"Valtteri has shown great pace on the single lap (qualifying), I think he's ramped up his game tremendously," said Wolff. "Now he needs to tackle tyre management. There are tracks where he's as strong as Lewis, or stronger, where it's not rear-limited. On tracks where that is a factor, he needs to change his driving style."

Hamilton, however, has averaged 10 wins a year for the past five campaigns, generally picking up unstoppable momentum in the second half. Ominously for Bottas and the rest of the field, he has never been this dominant so early on. REUTERS

GAME THEORY

An old rivalry reprised

Australia will be looking to retain the Women's Ashes when it plays England in three ODIs, three T20Is and a Test in July. The series will be decided on all formats — teams earn two points for a limited-overs win and four for a Test win (two for a draw). A look at the top performers for each side against the other in the 50-over format, which kicks things off next week:

MOST RUNS

For England							
Player	Span	Inns	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50
Charlotte Edwards	1997-2015	43	1,092	90	26.63	0	10
Sarah Taylor	2007-2017	28	985	120	35.17	2	5
Claire Taylor	1998-2011	27	952	116	39.66	2	5

For Australia							
Player	Span	Inns	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50
Belinda Clark	1992-2005	26	1,054	146*	45.82	1	7
Karen Rolton	1997-2009	31	961	79	36.96	0	8
Alex Blackwell	2003-2017	35	955	101	36.73	1	7

MOST WICKETS

For England							
Player	Span	Inns	Wkts	BBI	Ave	Econ	SR
Jenny Gunn	2005-2017	31	34	4/55	33.85	4.73	42.8
Katherine Brunt	2005-2017	23	28	5/18	28.28	4.06	41.7
Holly Colvin	2007-2013	21	25	3/27	31.08	4.36	42.7

For Australia							
Player	Span	Inns	Wkts	BBI	Ave	Econ	SR
Cathryn Fitzpatrick	1997-2007	25	44	5/47	16.68	3.12	32
Lisa Sthalekar	2001-2013	28	34	3/30	25.08	3.72	40.3
Charmaine Mason	1997-2001	13	27	5/9	11.77	2.78	25.3

MOST DISMISSALS

For England				For Australia			
Player	Span	Wkts	SR	Player	Span	Wkts	SR
Sarah Taylor	2007-2017	28	37	Julia Price	1997-2005	23	17
Jane Smit	1993-2007	20	18	Jodie Fields	2007-2013	14	11
		10	22			12	6
		8	15				

PICTURE THIS



Continental shift

The 32nd edition of the Africa Cup of Nations, the biennial men's football championship of the continent, has broken new ground. The tournament has moved from its traditional slot in January-February-March to June-July for the first time. It's also the first edition to

feature 24 teams, expanded from 16.

Egypt — the most successful nation in the cup's history with seven titles (including as the United Arab Republic) — is hosting the event for a record fifth time. It wasn't the original choice. Defending champion Cameroon was initially scheduled to stage

the event, but was stripped of host status because of logistical and infrastructure issues.

While Egypt will be looking to extend its tally, Cameroon (5 titles), Ghana (4) and Nigeria (3), the cup's other successful nations, will be just as determined to claim continental superiority.

Like most editions, 2019

has some of the world's finest footballers, including Mohamed Salah (Egypt), Sadio Mane (Senegal), and Riyad Mahrez (Algeria).

The tournament, which has had some memorable closing scenes such as the one in this photograph from South Africa in 2013, will conclude in Cairo on July 19.

IN BRIEF



NASA will fly a drone to Titan in search for life

WASHINGTON
NASA plans to fly a drone copter to Saturn's largest moon Titan in search of the building blocks of life, the space agency said on Thursday. The Dragonfly mission, which will launch in 2026 and land in 2034, will send a rotorcraft to fly in areas across the icy moon. **AFP**



Jobs' design collaborator to leave Apple

SAN FRANCISCO
Jony Ive, a close creative collaborator with Apple Inc co-founder Steve Jobs whose iPhone and other designs led Apple Inc.'s rise to a \$1 trillion company, will leave later this year to form an independent design company. Mr. Ive will continue on Apple products at his new venture. **REUTERS**



2 Indians among winners of 'Airbus Fly Your Ideas'

TOULOUSE
A Dutch university team of four students, including two Indians — Ashwini Narayanan and Sujay Narayana, won this year's 'Airbus Fly Your Ideas' competition for their prototype on the application of wireless systems in aircraft instead of wired systems. **PTI**



Dutch roll out fines for cyclists using phones

THE HAGUE
Dutch cyclists from Monday will face a €95 fine for holding mobile phone while riding a bike, in a bid to cut the growing number of accidents. Smartphones were involved in one in every five bike accidents. **AFP**

Final blow



Done and dusted: A cloud of dust rises as the remaining spans of the Morandi bridge, which collapsed nearly a year ago killing 43 people, were demolished in Genoa, Italy, on Friday. **AP**

Twitter to label politicians and officials' rule-breaking tweets

It will be applied to verified users with over 1,00,000 followers

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Twitter said on Thursday it would label and "deprioritise" tweets from officials and politicians that violate its rules — a move potentially affecting the prodigious output of U.S. President Donald Trump.

The new policy enables it to move against rule-breaking comments on the short-messaging service while enabling messages and announcements that are important for public debate.

Warning notice

In these cases, users will see a notice about a tweet which violates the rules and must then tap or click through to see the message.



Twitter will issue a notice to the user about tweets that violate the rules. **REUTERS**

Twitter will also "take steps to make sure the tweet is not algorithmically elevated on our service, to strike the right balance between enabling free expression, fostering accountability, and reducing the potential harm caused by these tweets," according to a statement from the Twitter safety team.

"In the past, we've allowed certain tweets that violated our rules to remain on Twitter because they were in the public's interest, but it wasn't clear when and how we made those determinations," the company said. "To fix that, we're introducing a new notice that will provide additional clarity in these situations, and sharing more on when and why we'll use it."

Rare cases
Twitter said it expected these cases to be "rare" and that the new policy would only apply to verified political candidates and government officials with more than 1,00,000 followers. It will not affect tweets sent prior to the announcement.

Crocodiles were once vegetarians

Some of the reptiles of Mesozoic era relied mainly on plant-dominated diets: study

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Crocodiles are sometimes described as living fossils for their close resemblance to their forebears who roamed the earth during the age of the dinosaurs.

But if you happened to find yourself a time machine that sent you back to the Mesozoic Era, not all the crocodiles you would come across would size you up as a tasty meal.

That's according to a new study published in *Cell Press*



A crocodile sunbathing at Yala National Park near Colombo, Sri Lanka. **AFP**

on Thursday that fed high-resolution scans of 146 teeth from 16 extinct species into a computer model and determined that, unlike their modern progeny who are known for their ferocity,

some early crocodyliforms were an altogether more peaceful lot.

'Tooth complexity'

"What is really fascinating about this is a lot of these teeth are unlike anything we see today," Keegan Melstrom, a doctoral student at the University of Utah, who conducted the research along with his supervisor Randall Irmis, said.

To determine what tooth complexity reveals about diet, Mr. Melstrom relied on

previous work on heterodonty in mammals, and his own earlier findings about teeth differences in reptiles.

"Some were similar to living crocodylians and were primarily carnivorous, others were omnivores, and still others likely specialised in plants," he said, adding that they lived on different continents and at different times.

What remains a mystery, however, is what made crocodyliforms eat plant-dominated diets, and why they disappeared.

U.S. city pays ransom of \$4,60,000

PATRICIA MAZZEI
MIAMI

Even the phones went down in the government of Lake City, Florida, after hackers launched a cyber-attack that disabled the city's computer systems which began on June 10 when an employee clicked on a malicious email and infected the city's computers with ransomware.

For several days after computer systems were paralysed by a ransomware attack, a staff of the small town worked with the FBI and an outside security consultant to restore phone lines, email and on-line utility payments. But in the end, city leaders reluctantly agreed paying the hackers the ransom they demanded: 42 bitcoin, or about \$4,60,000. **NY TIMES**

'Wonder of nature': Serbia's donkey cheese

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SERBIA

White, dense and rich in flavour, Serbia's one-of-a-kind donkey cheese is not only delicious but also good for health, says maker Slobodan Simic.

There's only one catch — at €1,000 (\$1,130) per kg, it may well be the most expensive cheese in the world.

Since 2012, Mr. Simic and his team of farmers have been milking a herd of more than 200 donkeys who live



The cheese business also aims at protecting the Balkan donkey. **AFP**

on a nature reserve in northern Serbia, called Zasavica.

For him, the business is also a way to protect the Balkan donkey, an animal that

has become less prevalent as machines take their place in agriculture.

Their milk has similar properties to breastmilk and is touted by Mr. Simic as a cure for a range of ailments, including asthma and bronchitis. "A human baby can take this milk from the first day, without having it diluted," he says, calling it a "wonder of nature".

While a lack of scientific studies make it difficult to assess its health properties,

the milk is high in protein and has been recognised by the UN as a good alternative for those with allergies to cow's milk.

But "what no one in the world does, and could never make, is the donkey cheese," Mr. Simic said of his flagship product.

The unique product made headlines in 2012 after rumours spread that Serbia's tennis star Novak Djokovic had bought up an annual supply — which he denied.

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On Moringa farmers' cooperative in Karur

page 2

A new radio show on addiction and abuse

page 3

BIRDS, BUGS and FIRST FOREST

Medha Bhatt brings to CCTN Bazaar 2019, forests and its creatures that she has recreated with scraps of discarded fabric



•• PANKAJA SRINIVASAN

Medha Bhatt shares a sweet story. A grandfather sent a wall-hanging of a banana plantation with crows in it to his granddaughter who lives in the US and she was over the moon! He sent Medha a picture of the little girl jumping with joy in front of a red, yellow and shades-of-green wall hanging – a piece of that little girl's home back in Kerala. "I am happiest when my clients send me pictures like this," smiles the founder of the art studio First Forest.

Medha's stunning work is, perhaps, the best example of Wealth

from Waste. "Much of my fabric is tailor discards. Even old clothes. Many families know that I work with them so they give them to me. Even faded fabrics work beautifully to add shades to my birds' plumage. I sketch the bird, then cut it into its different parts, then reassemble the parts like a jigsaw and then stitch them together. I have a team of six who hem them together. Once it is hemmed, I step in and do the embroidery, where the feathers merge, or where the bird needs an extra streak (like the Indian Pita does), its eyebrows and so on. Often I recreate memories for my clients. A

special walk in the forest, a favourite bird, bugs... They sometimes give an old sari or a dupatta that is too precious to discard and I work that into my creation."

She is no birder, but loves watching birds in the forests, says Medha. "I use themes to make people see the beauty of Nature." She sounds excited as she recalls walks in the forest. "I tag along with my birdwatcher friends. The experience is amazing. I see the forest floor and I want to recreate that. There is no limit. While they take photographs, I sit with my sketchbook and colour pencils." It is important to add here that Medha's birds are not just generic – they are anatomically as close to the real thing as possible. "I am happiest when birders identify the birds in my work. It means I am not too far off the mark!" She has something similar for bug lovers too.

Medha has bags, wall hangings, cushion covers, coin purses and sets of spectacular prints of the birds she has created (Singers, Pest Controllers, Aeronauts and Dabblers). These are in A4-sized prints in sets of four to six. "I have brought along the birds of Coimbatore," she smiles. "Crested Goshawk, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Red-necked Falcon..."

It is hard work and tedious, agrees Medha, but is exciting. "I do a lot of homework. I make a shortlist from the Internet and then sketch the birds, beg my birder friends to send me pictures, read up on them and then find the

If you possess any of Medha's work, know that it may be the only one of its kind and hold on to it for dear life!



All things wild and wonderful Medha Bhatt has made them all

• PANKAJA SRINIVASAN AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

right scraps of fabric to recreate them." The crucial part, she says, is finding the right kind of fabric. "A scrap I use up now may not be available to recreate the same bird." So if you possess any of Medha's work, know that it may be the only one of its kind and hold on to it for dear life!

Working with minuscule pieces of cloth is challenging, says Medha. "It is limiting, yet so liberating. I have had amazing results that I did not expect with these scraps."

While her cushion covers and bags are very popular, it is the wall hangings that give Medha a creative high. "It gives me more space to work with. I love recreating the birds, but I love them more when I can do it with them in their natural home: the forest. I love to stitch on the lilies, the ponds, the creepers, the grasses... These are the images I carry in my head of what I see in forests. A wall hanging allows me to reimagine the en-

vironment." When she starts one of her wall hangings, she says, she does not know what the end result will be. "I can only show my clients my sketch. I have no idea how the designs and colours will evolve. I like to surprise them and myself. My clients have to trust me."

Her first ever bird creation? "I had accompanied my friends into the forest and I heard the Whistling School Boy (the Whistling Thrush), then I saw the bird and immediately wondered if I could make it with cloth and I did! When I overheard my birding friends lamenting the dwindling birds and shrinking habitats, I realised maybe (in a very very small way) I am contributing to saving the planet. I hope there is a message that my work conveys."

Today, at *Suguna Kalyana Mandapam* from 10.00 am to 8.00 pm. Please bring your own shopping bags

Much more than just running

Registrations have just been thrown open for Coimbatore's marquee running event. Lace up your shoes, get set, go...

•• PANKAJA SRINIVASAN

Sri Hari was off the mark and the first to register for the Coimbatore Marathon this year. He says he was lurking around the website for four days and when the registrations went live, he made his move. Besides his love for running, he also wanted the special bib number '99999' which he got by making an extra donation to CCF.

Sri Hari is but one of the thousands who are eagerly awaiting the seventh edition of the city's biggest running event. Last year more than 15,000 people registered for it.

"It is not just the people in the city. The Marquee event is sought after by runners outside Coimbatore too," says S Balaji, a member of the organising committee. "We take pride in saying that many look up to us as the standard in organising running events. Further, the organising team comprises of runners who travel to various other events, in India as well as outside of it, and bring in best practices from there."

Expanding on this, Balaji says that they have enhanced the aid stations, introduced pacers and constantly improved the quality of medals. Their communication with the runners and attention to other nuts and bolts of the Marathon has improved the event manifold. "Even when it comes to breakfast, others have learnt from us," quips Balaji.

As has been the practice in the last couple of years, this year too Coimbatore Runners, (an informal group of passionate and recreational runners who run for a



A people's movement Thousands turn up for the October run; race director Ramesh Ponnusami • M PERIASAMY AND THE HINDU ARCHIVES



INFO YOU CAN USE

Date: Sunday, 6th October 2019

Event categories: Half Marathon (21.1 km), 10 km Run and the 5 km (Run/Walk)

For details and registration visit www.coimbatoremarchon.com

Follow them on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for latest updates, inspirational stories and much more.

healthy life and want to spread the good health among the public), will hold its "Running Plus" programme for the people.

Through these initiatives, it will introduce the ABC of recreational running for beginners. These programs will reach out to the people with useful information on the benefits of running, injury-free running, the importance of stretching and strengthening and so on. "We organise two to three programmes at least before the marathon and we are currently fine tuning our plans," is all that Balaji will say.

Coimbatore Runners has encouraged the formation of several running groups across the city including those in Kovaipudur, Sai Baba Colony, Thudiyalur, Saravanampatti, Race Course, GV Residency, Singanallur, and Codissia.

There are many runners who have taken up to regular running only after the Coimbatore Marathon started in 2013 and Ramesh Ponnusami, Director Coimbatore Marathon says, the event has evolved into a lot more than just about being runners.

"We have committed to challenging our limits to stay fit and also make a difference by our support to Coimbatore Cancer Foundation in its efforts to spread awareness of Cancer among the masses. Together we celebrated the city, achieved our personal bests, went further for the cause, made better choices, took pride and inspired many to take up fitness."

The three key stakeholders for Coimbatore Marathon are the runners, the cause and the city itself, reiterates Ramesh. "For this edition, we are all set to be more than what we were."

A film relevant to our times

Avant Garde Film Commune screens *S Durga* over the weekend

•• K. JESHI

Remember the brouhaha over Sanal Kumar Sasidharan's Malayalam film *S Durga*? Banned due to its controversial title (originally *Sexy Durga*), the film won accolades and awards at many film festivals abroad, including being the first Indian film to win the coveted Hivor Tiger Award at the International Film Festival of Rotterdam.

Earlier shown in Coimbatore as part of a campaign in which cinema lovers and film societies appealed to theatre owners to screen the film, it is now being brought back to the city by Avant Garde Film Com-



mune. *S Durga* opens with Durga, a North Indian migrant waiting anxiously on a deserted road in the middle of the night. Along with Kabeer, a Keralite youth, she hitches a ride and the film tracks the couple's nightmarish journey.

R Balakumar, founder of the organisation, explains that the film is relevant to our times and showcases the deeply en-

trenched misogyny and patriarchy in the country.

Speaking about the earlier screening, he says, "Luckily, that was when the Tamil film industry was on strike and there were no mainstream film releases. *S Durga* ran for a week in theatres here. But the turnout was just a handful for every show. We could reach out to maybe 300 people. Because

INFO YOU CAN USE

When: June 30, 6.00 pm

Where: Clusters Institute of Media and Technology, 439, Kamarajar Road (Near Hope College), Peelamedu

Contact: 97918-25954

Entry free. Visit AvantGardeFilmCommune on Facebook and Instagram to know more

of the controversy, online streaming sites stayed away from buying the film."

Balakumar says Sanal Kumar now promotes the film through the 'cinema vandi' concept, which Malayalam auteurs like John Abraham followed.

"He travels with his omnivan complete with projector, screen, and speakers, and shows the film in small towns and villages. We are doing our bit to take it to the masses."

He is ready *Da!*

Aravind SA comes to Coimbatore to a completely sold-out show

•• SUSAN JOE PHILIP

"I accidentally became a stand up comedian and was not yet ready to be famous, when the video of my first solo show, *Madras Da* went viral in 2017," says Aravind SA. This is what he is going to be talking about when he visits Coimbatore with his latest show, *I Was Not Ready Da*. It is organised by the ACME Round Table at Hindustan College of Arts and Science.

Aravind was working as an assistant director in Tamil films (*Arambam* and *180*) when he got into the world of comedy. It was his friend Bhargav Ramakrishnan (popularly known as Baggy) who introduced him to Evam Entertainment. "My journey as a stand up comedian began there. I started with group shows in dingy pubs and sparsely filled clubs. But I was always high on energy and so always performed first to warm up the crowd."

It was after attending a comedy festival in Mumbai in 2015 that he thought of doing solo shows. "In group shows, there will be three to four artists with multiple interests and subjects. One never knew which artist was drawing in the crowds. *Madras Da* was an ex-

tension of what I used to perform earlier. I added to the content with time." This show covered 100 stages in two years and was picked up by Amazon Prime in 2017. "I think that was a turning point in my life as it brought me global recognition."

Two years into his solo act, tickets for his shows are sold out. "The show in Coimbatore was also sold out in a matter of few hours. It is a humbling experience," he says. People in Tamil Nadu bond with Aravind's Tamil slang. "It is not conscious, but a part of my personality. My jokes are universal and can be enjoyed by people from anywhere. I also do not believe in any genres in comedy. All that matters is to be funny."

Though he has done many shows in India and abroad, Aravind still gets nervous before shows. "I am not an impulsive person and need to practise before I can stand in front of a crowd. I took two to three years to slightly get over my stage fear completely," he says and adds the longer the time on stage the better the artiste becomes. He is happy that comedy has a lot of takers now. "There are more artist and platforms. It is a good time to be in stand-up."



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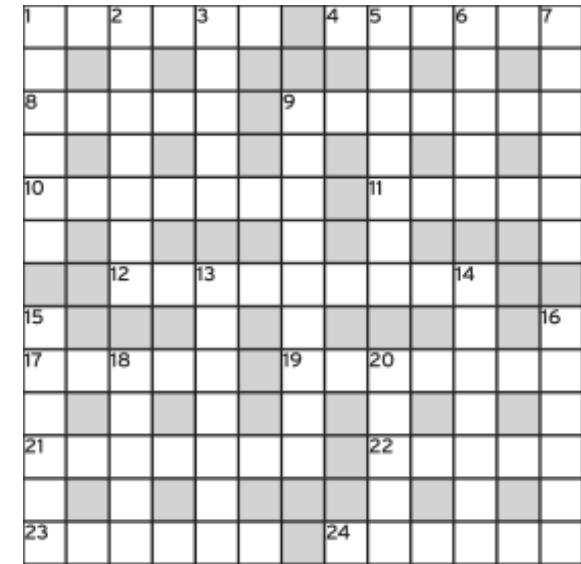
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- 5 Assortment (7)
- 6 Reasoned thinking (5)
- 7 Fawltly Towers waiter (6)
- 9 Speak at length (4,5)
- 13 Jiffy (7)
- 14 Tales (7)
- 15 Dissertation (6)
- 16 Book of church music (6)
- 18 Forgo (5)
- 20 Hooded snake (5)

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Solution will appear in MetroPlus dated July 1, 2019. Solution No. 13108

- Across
- 1 Motionless (2,4)
- 4 Symbol (6)
- 8 Japanese cold rice dish (5)
- 9 Six-sided figure (7)
- 10 Cautious (7)
- 11 Male relative (5)
- 12 Rigidity (9)
- 17 Birds of prey (5)
- 19 Clergyman's house (7)

- 21 Green vegetable (7)
- 22 Scottish child (5)
- 23 Gracefully slender (6)
- 24 Feudal retainer (6)
- Down
- 1 French wine region (6)
- 2 Holiday destinations (7)
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Finding more in moringa

Drumsticks are not just about sambar, says this farmers' cooperative in Karur district

■ NAHLA NAINAR

A strong breeze rushes around, stirring up fallen leaves on an exceptionally hot day in Lingamanaickenpatti village in Karur district. It is *kaathadi kaalam* (windy season) in this part of Tamil Nadu that is known for its bumper harvests of *murungakkai* (*moringa oleifera*) from February to September.

"The wind knocks down moringa blossoms and the drumsticks that have been left to mature on the trees. We can't dry the seeds or do any work out in the daytime," sighs K Saroja, as she switches off the fan in the living room of her homestead to make herself heard.

Moringa is a hardy plant that thrives in the water-deprived and rocky soil of Karur district. Its long and slender pods, also known as drumsticks, are a storehouse of nutrients and a common part of the daily diet in southern India. The leaf (*'murunga keerai'* in Tamil), is also valued for its medicinal qualities.

Saroja became a full-time moringa grower eight years ago after learning organic farming from pioneering agricultural scientist G Nammalvar.

"I was surprised to see how little the moringa farmer earns from his or her crop," she says. "There are days when a kilo of moringa can fetch ₹100. When there's an oversupply, you'll get only 40 paise per kilo."

Better representation

To increase the economic value of drumstick cultivation, Saroja and her peers decided to form the Karur moringa and Vegetable Production Farmers Producer Company Limited in 2016. She is one of six directors and the current chairperson (the first woman in the post), of the NGO that groups 480 farmers from approximately 20 villages and is supported by Krishi Vigyan Kendra and National



Innovative ideas K Saroja markets moringa seed oil and leaf powder; (below) With her sister and colleague B Mohana at their family farm in Lingamanaickenpatti village ■ MS SRINATH

Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development.

"Being a company allows us to represent the farming community better in the bigger markets, and also motivates us to add value to our core produce. We don't want to be yet another group selling pickles and jaggery from rural areas. Nor do we want *murungakkai* to be associated only with sambar," says Saroja.

Healthy veg

In south India, the drumstick sambar is the subject of salty jokes related to its supposedly aphrodisiac qualities. But while moringa is indeed a key component of herbal medicines used to treat reproductive disorders, the vegetable has other health benefits too, especially in skincare, blood sugar management, anaemia and several lifestyle diseases, says Saroja.

Among the innovations she has been spearheading is the produc-

tion and marketing of edible moringa oil, something she discovered serendipitously when left

Many people advised us to go for chemical fertilisers...but after studying organic farming under Nammalvar, it seemed hypocritical to fall into the same rut of agri-business

with unsold stocks of the vegetable. "Then farmers started focusing on selling moringa seeds, which would fetch around ₹800 per kilo, because of interest from pharmaceutical companies. But even this became problematic, because during a bumper crop, people would start bargaining over the seed prices also. Invariably farmers would be left with lots of unsold seeds."

Edible oil

Three years ago, Saroja decided

to test her surplus seed stock by getting it milled in a heavy-duty grinder in nearby Pallapatti. "I got one litre of oil from 20 kilograms of seeds in the first batch but later, after some experimenting and quality control, we brought this down to five kilograms of seeds per litre. We also realised it was better to let the

drumstick mature on the tree to extract the maximum amount of oil from the seeds." A kilo of moringa pods can contain up to 4,000 seeds.

The additive-free oil is brought back to the company premises in Lingamanaickenpatti, and cured in sunlight for 10 days. The resulting golden yellow liquid, which



ROOTED IN AGRICULTURE

K Saroja has a Masters degree in English Literature and Hospital Management... education that didn't really prepare her for a career in moringa cultivation, but she has no regrets.

"I was working as a freelance writer for technical journals and research analyst, and earning up to ₹40,000 per month, but I had to give it up as I got preoccupied with farming," she says. "I'm earning much less, but there's a lot more job satisfaction."

Saroja admits it's hard to make an impact in the male-dominated field of agricultural marketing.

"moringa cultivation is actually a woman-friendly profession," she says. "After the planting, nearly every step, from harvest to seed cleaning, is done by female workers."

"Our company has over 200 women farmers as members, and many more people are getting enrolled as moringa by-products like oil and leaf powder become popular."

tastes like gingelly oil, is then bottled and sold through doorstep canvassing and the company's Facebook page.

This is possibly the first time that moringa oil, which has long been available as a medicinal extract online, is being marketed as a standalone edible product.

The company has got Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) certification.

"I tested the oil on myself and my family, before sending it to the Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology (IIPT) in Thanjavur for further research. We have got positive feedback from customers all over the State," says Saroja.

Except for the milling, everything else has been deliberately kept manual to enable better farmer participation, she adds.

Moringa oil costs ₹500 per 100 ml, and at present the company sells around 20 litres per month. The company also retails moringa leaf powder and bath soaps made

with extracts of aloe vera, neem and coconut.

Keeping it green

At Saroja's 25-acre farm, only five acres have been utilised for cultivation due to the water shortage. There are 300 moringa trees, inter-cropped with jamun, coconut, plaintain, and noni (*Morinda citrifolia*). "We use just dung manure and water from our well to maintain these crops. The discarded moringa peels are used as mulch," says Saroja, who tends to the trees with just one more female worker.

"Many people advised us to go for chemical fertilisers and genetically modified seeds to increase our yield. But after studying organic farming under Nammalvar, it seemed hypocritical to fall into the same rut of agri-business. Our crops are green... and clean," she says.

Visit: www.facebook.com/KMVFPC/, call 9489434551, 08940882992.

Shame and recovery

A new radio show tackles themes like addiction and abuse, but in a light-hearted manner



NEHA BHATT



Candid chats (Right) Malhotra (above) Thomas • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"What keeps people in the never-ending cycle of love, sex and other drugs?" asks author and wellness expert Kass Thomas about people using romance, physical relationships and addictive substances as emotional crutches.

It is the first episode of *Beyond Love, Sex and Other Drugs*, the recently-launched radio show by *Voice America* that Thomas co-hosts with Delhi-based publicist and LGBTQ activist, Mohnish Malhotra.

"You can break this cycle, starting now," Thomas goes on to say. Launched this month, the show — which is three episodes old — promises strategies and tips for people dealing with issues ranging from addiction and abuse, but in a friendly, light-hearted tone, featuring candid conversations between the two friends.

Originally supposed to be titled *The Gay and the Gal*, the show was born out of a meeting in Delhi between the two co-hosts last year. "It was love at first sight," laughs Rome-based Thomas. Keeping in touch across time zones, they zeroed in on a theme that would draw from their

own experiences — Malhotra's former life as an "ex-drug junkie" and Thomas' work as an inspirational speaker and life coach.

Defying stigma

For the first episode, titled *I Must Be Wrong*, Thomas dialed in from Holland, while Malhotra joined the conversation from Delhi (their producer also joined in from the US). What ensues is a free-flowing, no-holds-barred chat on topics like drugs, orgasms, ejaculation and 'quickies'. Malhotra talks about how he discovered drugs for the first time, and how he quit 'cold turkey' after a near death experience two years ago. Issues like addiction — usually kept a secret because of the accompanying stigma and shame — are humanised

Everything can either invite possibilities or invite limitations, even love — when you are using it to limit your life instead of inspire you and move you forward

KASS THOMAS

and talked about with a level of startling honesty.

As the season progresses, the hosts plan to delve deeper into issues like abuse, relationships, racism, sexual preferences and addiction. As the title implies, the hosts believe that it is possible to be addicted to love and sex in the same way that one can be drawn to drugs.

"Everything can either invite possibilities or invite limitations, even love — when you are using it to limit your life instead of inspire you and move you forward," says Thomas, going on to add that she and Malhotra hope to guide listeners towards a clearer understanding of why they might have experienced the addiction impulse to begin with.

Would a show like this find takers in India? Malhotra believes the time is right and plans to pitch it to local networks. The duo is also working on a book of the same name, slated for release later this year.

Streaming now on voiceamerica.com



Arun Prabu's next titled Vaazhl

Filmmaker Arun Prabu, who made his directorial debut with the critically acclaimed *Aruvi*, is back with *Vaazhl*, the first

look of which was released by Sivakarthekeyan recently. Tweeting the poster, Sivakarthekeyan said, "On my Appa's birthday & with his blessings releasing the first look of our third film *Vaazhl* written and directed by my dear thambi Arun Prabu. Hope

you all will give the same love and support like our previous films."

Being bankrolled by SK Productions, the makers are yet to finalise the cast and crew of the project. Earlier, Sivakarthekeyan had produced films such as *Kanaa* and *Nenjambu Nermaiundu Odu Raja*.

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SHERLOCK'S makes a Grand Entry to Coimbatore

One of the oldest Brands and recently awarded as the Most Popular lounge & kitchen Chain in India,

Sherlock's, the Bangalore based Popular lounge & kitchen chain has outlets in Dubai, Bangalore, Delhi, Chennai, Pune, and Ludhiana. It recently made its entry by opening its fifteenth outlet at Brookfields, Coimbatore - the most sought after destination for shopping & entertainment. Over 14,000 square feet of luxurious space, it is sure to bring music to the ears of all parched Coimbatoreans. Sherlock's first outlet has been operational since 1991 in Frazer Town, Bangalore has gone into rapid expansion in the last 4 years and now has 15 outlets. Mr. U.M. Rao who is the Chairman of Petronash, Director and major shareholder in the

Sherlock's Group inaugurated the 1st lounge & kitchen located in Brookfields Mall. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Rao said "India is expected to become the fifth largest consumer market in the world by 2025, with Food and beverages being the biggest of the consumption categories and are very happy in our investment in the Sherlock's Group. We are very excited with the response from the customers in Coimbatore and this gives us the more confidence to enter into other leading Tier 2 cities". Mr. Sai Natesan, the Chairman of the Group said that 2019 is the Year of expansion for Sherlock's and work is in progress to open outlets in cities like Hyderabad, Mangalore, Manipal, Lucknow. There has been multiple enquiries from established groups to take up franchisee of their



brand from and more outlets in existing cities where the brand is already operational.

Mr. Sivakumar, the Managing Partner of this outlet said that he saw a huge opportunity for a world-class outlet in this city and is happy to bring the popular Sherlock's brand to serve the citi-

zens of Coimbatore. Sherlock's lounge & kitchen is a unit of Jassbys Hotels Pvt Ltd., a group that operates lounge & kitchen, resorts and cafes in India & UAE and is rapidly expanding its footprint to cover the Indian subcontinent, Asia & the Middle East.

Harley Davidson celebrates Womens on Wheels

Dressed in comfortable attire and seated on their Harley Davidson bikes, four city-based female riders oozed confidence. They were part of the ride-sharing speech by female riders, an event organized by The Western Ghats Harley Davidson at their showroom on Avinashi Road on March 8, International Women's Day.

"There are around 450 riders in Coimbatore and Madurai, and 220 are from Coimbatore. To celebrate Women's Day, we conducted an event at the showroom", said Azharuddin AM, business head, The Western Ghats Harley Davidson.

The riders were happy to share their stories with the gathering. Indhuja. M, one of the riders, said, "My father wanted me to break stereotypes and taught me to ride at the age of 16. I rode Royal Enfield bikes and started taking short motorbike rides at the age of 19". For short rides, Indhuja opts to go to Chengapalli post, while for long rides she prefers Mangaluru. "Whenever we feel like going on trips, we choose



to go by motorbike. My elder sister and I love to ride; it gives us a feeling of independence. I feel it is the first step towards breaking gender differences," she said.

Supriitha C, a 31-year-old rider, shares a similar story. She rode no-gear vehicles when she was in class 3, and when she turned 18, she began riding with her father. "In 2018, my father and I took a long ride from Coimbatore to WHR Daman on the Harley Davidson Road King bike for a week. "She said their biggest challenge

was the weather change which hindered the engine's capacity. They stopped at regular intervals to cool the engine. "We fell off the bike a few times, but the safety gears protected us. I want to ride alone to Leh. Every woman should go for a ride at least once in their life," she said. Another rider, Mini Pasricha, was inspired by her husband, who is also a rider, and learned to ride superbikes in 2016. "We go for short rides of 100km to cafes at night. Being a mother of two, it is a challenge to pursue my passion. I have to take care of the house, children and myself. Even though it is difficult, women have to follow their passion," said Mini, who plans to go on a bike ride to Ladakh with her husband in August.

Dressed in riding gears, A Lavanya, a model by profession, had her height as an advantage to learn to ride motorbikes. "A woman achieves a lot but it goes unnoticed. But in the case of biking, we are noticed immediately," said Lavanya, who quit her bank job to pursue modeling and biking last year.

International Yoga day Event (5 Limits 2019)

On 30 th June evening 4 pm-9 pm at Hindustan college of arts and science college avinashi road, Coimbatore. Kovai Siddhapudr Manavalakalai SKY Centre is hosting a mega event 5Limits (2019) creating an awareness with respect to moderation on modern serene lifestyle.

Solventhar Sukisivam, Pros. Amutha ramanujam, Padmashri. Nanammal, Actor Dhamu are the chief guests to grace the occasion, demonstration on simplified exercise and Food festival are special highlights of the event.

Entry Free and First 3000 Participants will be honoured with free gifts, objective of this event is to create an awareness on importance of manavalakalai yoga. Kovai Siddhapudr Manavalakalai SKY Centre welcomes you all to grace the event.

Purple Bay Home Decors

There are two obvious courses of action for adding color to a bathroom: You can paint the walls, or you can install some jazzy tile. But choosing the path less traveled i.e., a colored bathroom sanitary wares is so much more interesting.

They are introducing Catalano's Colori Collections in pastel shades inspired by nature from deep white of corals, to the warmest shades of sea sponges from the blue of wild flowers to the soft green of a herb garden.

Made by Catalano Lab (Italy), unique, exclusive and different from all the others available in the market. It has different colored

washbasins, toilets and WC can be mixed and matched to create a distinctive look. They are hard and they last for a life time due to a single firing process at high temperature and the toilet bowl is glazed inside with exclusive cataglaze.

The Colori Basins is 'the essence of ceramics' ensuring your bathroom will become a statement of luxury and elegance. It's Unique feature easy-to-clean giving your bathroom maximum hygiene unlike the other satin finishes and fully resistant to chemicals agents.

For further enquiries call on 98940 55981 or visit their showroom Purple Bay Home Decors Pvt Ltd., in R.S.Puram, Coimbatore-02.

Aavaranaa

Aavaranaa is one that's etched in fabric and is a soulful amalgamation of beauty, art and tradition.

Gowri Parvathy is a self taught designer who started the brand 'Aavaranaa' in 2003. Aavaranaa is an extension of her fashion statement, infuses traditional clothing with elegance and style.

Each design is unique which reflects her love for textile and the traditional Indian craft.

Aavaranaa presents the finest creations, where each piece is a magnus opus of its creators of that renowned silk town. Silk sarees has always been their pride and it lies in their passion to showcase with the same.

They have different pat-

terns with a combination of modern and traditional designs, like the half and half, partly pallu, rising border, ganga jamuna borders and many more. The recent addition apart from the silk is also the crisp and elegant koras (organza) which again has been woven in many different styles.

The annam, mayil chakram, rudraksham are the motifs in significant with kachipuram sarees. Kattam butta (checks with motifs) are the old designs that are in vogue. Sarees with zero zari, like the kalakshetra weaves are very popular among working women who are fond of wearing sarees.

At Aavaranaa Coimbatore you can find Kanchipuram sarees in a wide range of colours and designs.

Amrutha Yoga Centre

Bala Yogi B. Sathya Krishna, the disciple of Kalamamani T. Balasubramaniam, D.Y.T., D.N.Y.S., - Gurujee, Amrutha Yoga Centre has bagged many gold medals and awards in yoga. Classes taken for Advanced Asanas, Pranayana and Therapeutic sessions. Home classes also taken in Coimbatore. They

teach remedies for diseases like Diabetes, Blood Pressure, Back pain, Asthma, Rheumatism, Over weight through yoga and natural therapy. Free camp & meditation on every Saturday from 7am to 9.30am. For Details Call: 97903 86971, 24A Bharathi Park, 5th Street, Saibaba Colony, Coimbatore-641011.

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India, which depends almost completely on the annual monsoons, is currently facing one of the most severe water crisis in history. A recent report by NITI Aayog predicted that as many as 21 cities in the country will see the total depletion of their groundwater by as early as 2020.

Even today, our cities run dry like clockwork during summers. Nevertheless, there is not enough awareness about the simple solution of rainwater harvesting. Can we really afford to neglect this straightforward solution any longer?

Success stories

In Bengaluru: The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has mandated that every structure built on 30x40 sq.ft. and above, and old buildings built on 40x60 sq.ft. or more, should install rainwater harvesting systems. If anybody fails to do so, he/she must pay a penalty every month. Interestingly, despite its annual water woes, Bengaluru gets ample rainfall. A R Shivakumar, also known as the garden city's 'Rain Man' has built a house that is completely dependent on rainwater harvested during the rains.

His house, 'Sourabha' in Vijayanagar, runs on water collected in underground and overhead tanks. Shivakumar has spoken widely on the importance of rainwater harvesting and has played a big role in the establishment of the Sir M Visvesvaraya Rainwater Harvesting Theme Park in Bengaluru's Jayanagar area.

However, even though the city has taken strong steps to save rainwater, several studies still number it – right along with the notorious Cape Town – among the 'hot zones' that may run out of water sooner rather than later.

In Chennai: The city boasts of several successful examples of water conservation. Rainwater harvesting is compulsory in the city, and fresh designs for harvesting structures have been incorporated into the Tamil Nadu Combined Development and Building Rules, 2019.

As a notable example, residents of 56 apartments of the Sabari Terrace Complex in Sholinganallur, planned, designed and implemented a rainwater

NITI Aayog's recent report indicates that as many as 21 Indian cities will run out of groundwater by as early as 2020, says **SANTHOSH KUMAR**

Why we must harvest rainwater

■■ COVER ■■



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

harvesting structure to collect water on their own terraces.

In Delhi: The Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation has made it mandatory for all new buildings on plots of 100 sq. m. and above to provide for water harvesting through storing of water run-off including rainwater.

In rural Maharashtra: Areas like drought-stricken Shirpur have now turned green due to the adoption of rainwater harvesting techniques. Known as a green district today, Shirpur has, almost solely through the efforts of its residents, built rainwater harvesting systems and small dams to cultivate

three to four crops a year.

Getting it done

Major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad as well as tier 2 cities such as Chandigarh, Indore, Surat and Nagpur do have laws regarding rainwater harvesting. However, they only exist

on paper.

State governments can popularise the model by launching awareness drives, not just in urban areas but in rural areas as well. They can promote rainwater harvesting by incentivising housing societies that do comply, such as offering a rebate on property tax for

installing a rainwater harvesting system, severely penalise societies/builders who don't comply.

As some of the above examples show, local initiatives can fill the gap even if policy and legislature fail at the city and state level. Individual housing societies must take up the challenge of sustaining themselves through the annual water shortage. To do this, they must gauge the average rainfall in their particular area, evaluate how much water the society typically uses, and to what extent it can depend on rainwater harvesting to meet those needs, and get their own harvesting systems in place.

The size of an underground tank will depend on the following factors: numbers of family members in the society, per capita water requirement, average annual rainfall and the period of water scarcity to ensure even distribution of water throughout the year.

In rural areas

Rooftop rainwater harvesting is among the most common solutions in rural areas as it is a basic, inexpensive method requiring minimum expertise for implementation.

In this method, rainwater is collected on the roof and carried to a storage tank from where it goes to the point of consumption. This technique is ideal for supplementing existing water sources which may become brackish or polluted.

Other methods of rainwater harvesting in rural areas include the gully plug and contour bund methods, as well as installing gabion structures and percolation tanks.

Water wars

It is said that World War III will not be fought for geographic dominance but for water. This may sound far-fetched to citizens of more developed countries, however, in India there are already daily battles being waged for access to this precious resource.

In such a scenario, state governments and local bodies must enforce rules on compulsory rainwater harvesting, and impose hefty penalties for non-compliance. This must happen now or India will eventually lose its own water wars.

The writer is Vice Chairman, Anarock Property Consultants

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ANUPAMA MOHANRAM on how the wind towers originating from Iran keep buildings cool naturally

Catching the wind

■ ■ EARTH RIGHT ■ ■

With people now opting for eco-sensitive designs, terms like 'passive' cooling and 'natural' cooling – common terminology used in the traditional architectural and building industry – are now witnessing a revival. Passive cooling refers to ways in which a building can be cooled naturally using sensible design techniques, minus the use of extensive and energy guzzling mechanical, electrical technology.

Within the gamut of passive cooling are multiple techniques. One such technique that has fascinated me is the design of a wind-catcher – a simple device, which when planned right, will trap the cool breeze at a higher level and direct it into the interior of buildings.

How it works

This device has been used for many centuries to create natural ventilation in buildings. Wind-catchers originated in Iran and can be found extensively in traditional Persian architecture of the Middle-East,

Pakistan and Afghanistan. The device is a tall tower designed with a cover on top, but with openings at the side that would face the prevailing wind, thus 'catching' the wind and bringing it inside the building. This creates an air flow and cools the interior spaces. The greater the height of the tower, the more access it has to cooler breeze.

Apart from this typical one-way wind tower, there are also two-way towers where, other than the opening along the wind direction, there is another opening on the opposite side that will release warm air circulating within the building. Multi-direction wind towers have also been used with openings on four or eight sides, with the ability to control one or more openings according to the changing prevailing wind direction. Traditionally wind-catchers used in Persia tended to have either one, four or eight openings on each side.

Climate-sensitive

The design of window towers or wind-catchers vary based on climate zones. In hot

and dry areas, evaporative cooling can be achieved when the wind-catcher is located above a tank of water. In Egypt, wet hay or pots of water were placed along the course of the wind flow inside the tower, providing evaporative cooling. In warm and humid climate zones such as that of urban Chennai, wind towers can provide the much-needed natural ventilation and continuous air flow.

The sizes of the openings also vary depending on the temperature of the outside air. Used in combination with other passive cooling techniques such as courtyards and verandahs, wind-catchers assist in an overall ventilation and heat-management strategy for the building.

A functional and environmentally sensitive design feature, it can be aesthetically appealing as well. A wind tower is a great way to add a unique design identity to the building as they come in different shapes and sizes.

The author is the founder of Green Evolution, a sustainable architecture firm

Globally, road accidents are the tenth leading cause of death. With an estimated 1.2 million people killed in road crashes each year globally (prb.com), road injuries are predicted to become the third-leading global contributor to disease and injury by 2020.

If we look closer home, over 400 people lose their lives on Indian roads every year, due to several reasons: rash driving, minors at the wheel, drunk driving, and countless other factors.

Down South

In 2017, the MoRTH (Ministry of Road Transport and Highways) reported that Tamil Nadu tops the country in terms of accidental deaths on the road. While efforts were taken by the State government to reduce these figures, the situation today is not any different.

Road Accident Analysis in Tamil Nadu, a 2019 report by the Transport and Road Safety Commissioner, finds that of a total of 5,173 road accidents across the State in January, 689 were in Chennai.

Additional figures show the city continuing to lead in the number of road accidents and fatalities.

Officials and city organisations are working towards a city-wide network of streets friendly for walking and cycling, with T. Nagar's pedestrian plaza a major such project.

The use of public transport is also being encouraged, but there's still a lot to be done to ensure safety for not just motorists

Why making them safer isn't the responsibility of our civic authorities alone, writes **NIDHI ADLAKHA**

India's killer roads



Every year over 1.2 million people are killed in road crashes across the globe

but pedestrians too.

Scenario today

The TN government's website (tn.gov.in) mentions the follow-

ing guidelines – among several others – but they are not being implemented with force.

● Introduce or revise speed limits after scientific assessment of

stream speeds in different areas and install proper signs.

● Strengthen the enforcement of speed limits through technology like speed cameras.

● Introduce a more effective and efficient licensing procedure and vigorously pursue the creation of a national roster for all driving license holders.

● Ensure effective enforcement to check the violation of basic safety requirements

Also, as per the Motor Vehicle Act, helmets and seat belts are mandatory, but the rule is not implemented strictly. What we do have are motorists driving on the wrong side of the road, going down the wrong way on one-way streets, riding with helmets on their bike's handlebars, speaking on the phone while driving... the list is endless. The poor condition of our roads doesn't help either.

Not just the govt.

The system does have flaws, but it's time citizens look at the role they play. It's easy to blame the authorities but how many of us actually follow the rules diligently?

Most people are guilty of taking a short cut down a one-way stretch. Or zipping past a red light to save two minutes. All it takes is one motorist, and several others follow him – with no regard for safety, oncoming vehicles or pedestrians.

What we can and must do is follow rules and encourage fellow road users to do so as well. Drive slow, grant pedestrians the right of way, follow road rules and traffic signals.

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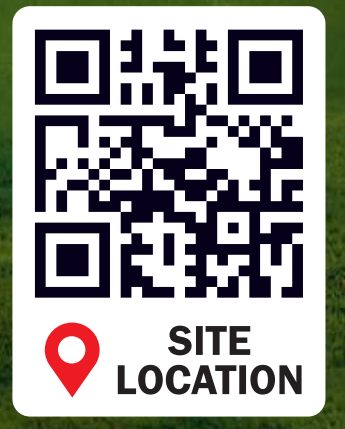
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