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NEARBY



Former CJ Lodha duped by online fraudster

NEW DELHI
Former Chief Justice of India R.M. Lodha was cheated by an online fraudster, who allegedly hacked the email account of his former colleague, a retired judge, the police said on Sunday. In the email, it was requested to transfer a sum of ₹1 lakh online.

CITY PAGE 2

Former headmistress found dead in Gurugram

GURUGRAM
A 47-year-old former headmistress of a private school was found dead at her house in Sector-23 here on Saturday evening under mysterious circumstances, the police said on Sunday.

CITY PAGE 5

EDGE PAGE 5

Centre in damage control mode over anti-Hindi protests

Cabinet Ministers take to Twitter to allay concerns over draft educational policy

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

The Centre went into damage control mode on Sunday, with senior Cabinet Ministers of Tamil origin taking to Twitter to allay concerns over the Draft National Education Policy's recommendation on the three-language formula and mandatory Hindi teaching in schools, which has sparked outrage across the political spectrum in Tamil Nadu.

The draft policy will only be implemented after public hearings, said a tweet written in Tamil by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The Centre would support the development of ancient Tamil, she added.

The new External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar tweeted a similar message on Sunday evening, in both English

Obstacle course

A look at the language formula recommended by the Draft National Education Policy



PRE-SCHOOL

Teaching in mother tongue

CLASS 1 TO 5
Exposure to three languages. Medium is mother tongue

CLASS 6 ONWARDS

Choices within the 3-language formula

• In Hindi-speaking States: Hindi, English and another modern Indian language

• In non-Hindi speaking States: Hindi, English and local language

• Additional 2 years of Sanskrit or any other classical language

• Foreign language can be an elective subject

and Tamil. "The National Education Policy as submitted to the Minister HRD is only a draft report. Feedback shall be obtained from general public. State govern-

ments will be consulted. Only after this the draft report will be finalised," said the tweet. "Gol respects all languages. No language shall be imposed."

The tweets by the two Ministers - neither of whom deals with education issues - seem to be part of the Centre's effort to calm the storm provoked by the draft policy. Current and former Human Resource Development Ministers also tweeted a similar reassurance.

AIADMK's stand

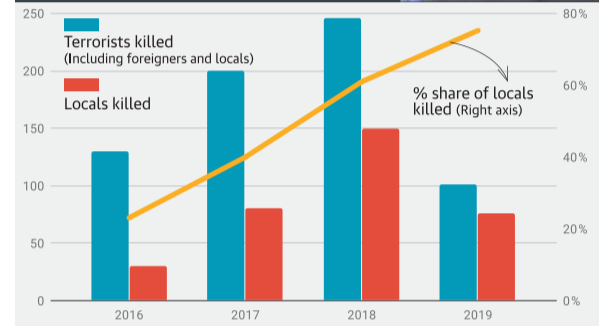
While all Opposition parties in Tamil Nadu, including the DMK, the Congress, the MDMK, the Left and Kamal Haasan's Makkal Needhi Maiyyam, blasted the recommendations, the ruling AIADMK - which is allied to the NDA government - insisted that it would not dilute the State's two-language formula which does not mandate the teaching of Hindi.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

75% of militants killed in Kashmir Valley were locals

More of them died this year than foreign terrorists in two decades

On the rise
The number of local terrorists killed in the Valley hit a new peak in 2019. 75% of those killed till May 30 were locals



Note: 33 locals were recruited this year till May 25; In 2018, it was around 200 joined.

VJAITA SINGH

NEW DELHI

Nearly 75% of the militants killed in the Kashmir Valley this year were locals. Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik said that though the priority was to kill Pakistan-trained terrorists, a large number of locals were killed as they had joined the ranks of terrorists.

According to police data, of the 101 terrorists killed in the Valley so far, 76 were locals. This is the first time in more than two decades that the number of locals killed in police encounters is more than that of the foreign terrorists.

Last year, of the 246 ter-

rorists killed in encounters, 60%, or 150, were locals.

'Hit by fatigue'

Mr. Malik, who was in Delhi to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday, told *The Hindu*, "there is fatigue and frustration among the terrorists. If you recall, after Burhan Wani was killed in 2016, there was unrest for more than three months. A few days ago, [Zakir] Musa was killed [and] there was no impact even for three days."

Zakir Rashid Bhat alias Musa was the chief of the al-Qaeda-affiliated Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGuH).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Invitees to Indian envoy's Islamabad Iftar harassed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI/LAHORE

India on Sunday lodged a strong protest after guests at an Iftar event organised by its mission in Islamabad complained of harassment.

"Guests faced unprecedented harassment and intimidation at the hands of security agencies. A concerted campaign was launched by Pakistan's security agencies in the days preceding the Iftar function to reach out to invitees to actively dissuade them from attending the event," said a statement issued by the Indian High Commission in Islamabad.

The incident comes four days after guests attending an Iftar dinner in the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi complained of harassment by Indian security agencies.

According to a report carried by *The Tribune*, guests at the Pakistan High Commission's event had complained about harassment and videography by personnel belonging to Indian security agencies.

The Indian High Commission's statement said guests came from different parts of Pakistan and were harassed. In some cases, cars belonging to the guests were taken away by the security personnel.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12
FIRST FLIGHT VIA PAKISTAN LANDS IN INDIA PAGE 13

BJP declines berth offer as Nitish Kumar expands Cabinet

Eight Janata Dal (United) members sworn in as Ministers

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Sunday expanded his Cabinet with the induction of eight new faces - all from his Janata Dal (United).

Members of allies, the BJP and the IJP, were not accommodated.

Mr. Kumar later said that the BJP was offered a berth

but the party was not too keen.

BJP opts out

Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi said the party had opted out for now.

Five of the new Ministers are MLAs, while three are MLCs. They were sworn in by Governor Lalji Tandon at the Raj Bhavan.

The new Ministers are Sanjay Jha, Neeraj Kumar, Shyam Rajak, Bima Bharti, Ashok Chaudhury, Narendra Narayan Yadav, Laxmeshwar Rai and Ram Sevak Singh.

State BJP leaders were present at the swearing-in, but refused to make any comment on why they were denied berths.

(With inputs from PTI)

U.S. visa process needs social media profiles now

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

In a significant move to increase surveillance of those seeking to enter the United States, Washington will require most individuals applying for visas to provide details of their social media handles going back five years. The rule is expected to affect close to 15 million people annually.

Online visa forms that require social media account history became operational at the end of last week and will cover all applicants, except those applying for certain official and diplomatic visas.

The rule to expand social media history data collection to all immigrant and non-immigrant visa applicants was first published by

the State Department in April 2018. It was an outcome of President Donald Trump's desire to put in place a policy of "extreme vetting" of foreigners entering the country, a theme articulated during his campaign and through executive orders in 2017.

Earlier, social media information was asked of only certain individuals whose

applications required further review. Now, the information is required as part of all immigrant (form DS-260) and non-immigrant (form DS-160) online visa applications.

A high volume of Indian applications is likely to be impacted by the new proposal.

LONGER WAIT PAGE 12

Heat wave to continue for a couple of days: IMD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Severe heat wave conditions will continue in many parts over the next couple of days, especially in Rajasthan and several parts of north and central India, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Sunday. In worst-hit Rajasthan, a farmer died of heatstroke in Sikar district, while Churu record-

ed the highest temperature of 48.4°C.

However, thunderstorms and dust storms are likely in some parts, including Delhi, on Monday, and they are expected to bring down temperatures marginally. "Maximum temperatures are very likely to rise gradually by 2-4°C over major parts of northwestern India in the next three to four days. They

are likely to remain above normal by 2-3°C over some parts of south peninsula in the next three days," the IMD said in its five-day forecast.

Maximum temperatures were 5.1°C to 1.6°C above normal on Saturday. In Odisha, Titlagarh touched 43.8°C, while in Andhra Pradesh, Nellore, Guntur and Prakasam districts recorded tem-

peratures above 45°C. Severe heatwave conditions continued in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

However, from June 7 to 9, the IMD has forecast widespread rain over parts of east India, northeastern and south peninsular India, with isolated heavy falls over Gangetic West Bengal, Odisha, south interior Karnataka and Kerala.

₹25 lakh damages for medical negligence

Woman with TB wrongly advised to plan pregnancy

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Delhi State Consumer Forum has awarded a sum of ₹25 lakh to a woman, who lost her unborn baby, after a local hospital wrongly advised her to plan their first baby simultaneously with tuberculosis medicines.

The 28-year-old Swapnil Mishra's ordeal did not end at the first hospital, as another hospital in Delhi left a portion of the dead foetus in the womb, following an operation, forcing her to undergo re-surgery resulting in further medical complications.

Initial stage

It all began at Pushpanjali Healthcare in Vaishali, Ghaziabad, in November 2011 when the woman went for a medical check-up after she suffered heavy pain during her menstrual cycles.

She was referred to Dr. Sharda Jain in the hospital, who advised her to undergo a battery of tests including Pathogen Assisted Molecular Pattern (PAMP).

The result of the tests shocked her as Dr. Jain declared her to be suffering from TB.

Dr. Jain further advised her to immediately plan their first baby, even while taking medication for TB, as otherwise it would be "too late" for them.

After becoming pregnant, the woman ran some tests with other doctors and found that the growth of her baby was not proper. She then went to Fortis Le Femme Centre for Women at Greater Kailash, where she was referred to Dr. Neena Singh.

Dr. Singh advised her to wait for 15 days. After 15 days, the ultrasound report declared the baby was lost. The doctor advised her to go for D&C (Dilation and curettage). On April 10, 2012 Dr. Singh did the procedure, leading to the further complications.

An ultrasound report revealed that operation of D&C was not done properly.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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	SESSION 2	GS Paper 2_2	Social Justice, International Relations
29.06.2019	SESSION 1	GS Paper 3_1	Indian Economy and Development
	SESSION 2	GS Paper 3_2	Science and Technology, Environment, Disaster Management, Internal Security
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 - PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**
By: Ashutosh Pandey | STARTS 24 JUNE
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IAS MAINS 2019

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Online fraudster dupes ex-CJI

Seeks sum of ₹1 lakh by hacking into Lodha's former colleague's email

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) R.M. Lodha was cheated by an online fraudster, who allegedly hacked the email account of his colleague, a retired judge, the police said on Sunday.

In a complaint to the police, Mr. Lodha, who lives in south Delhi, mentioned that on April 19 at 1.40 a.m., he received an email on his mail account that he used for official purposes.

The mail was from a former colleague and retired judge of the Supreme Court. He was accustomed to corresponding with his col-



Former CJI R.M. Lodha

league on the same mail ID.

The colleague requested him for some urgent help on the email as he was unavailable over the phone. Mr. Lodha responded on email en-

quiring on the nature of help needed. At 3.51 a.m., he received another email, stating that his [colleague's] cousin was suffering from acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and was short of funds.

Money transfer

In the email, it was requested to transfer a sum of ₹1 lakh online, and the details of the surgeon's bank account were also sent. Mr. Lodha responded to the email assuring the transfer of the money would be made at the earliest.

He transferred ₹50,000 to the account mentioned in the email in the morning. By

evening, he transferred the remaining ₹50,000 to the account.

On May 30, he received an email from his colleague that during the intervening night of 18-19 April, some miscreant had hacked his email account and impersonated him.

DCP (South) Vijay Kumar said that an FIR under IPC Section 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) has been registered at Malviya Nagar police station. "The district cyber team is working to trace the impersonator. The case will be worked out at the earliest," Mr. Kumar said.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	201	Gurgaon	217
Ghaziabad	213	Faridabad	140
Noida	204	Greater Noida	177

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

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

Two sent to jail for killing cattle and storing 'beef'

30 kg meat recovered from house of accused in Greater Noida

DELHI TODAY

Talk: Health discussion on "Mouth-Body connection in health and disease". Panelists: Dr. Sunita Gupta, Senior Professor, Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences; Dr. A. K. Susheela, former Professor, AIIMS; Dr. Mohit Gupta, Director, Professor of Cardiology, G.B. Pant Hospital; and Dr. Satya N. Dornala, Professor and Ayurveda Expert. Moderated by Dr. Naresh Gupta, Director-Professor, MAMC and Lok Nayak Hospital at Conference Room - I, India International Centre, 6.30 p.m.

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

Music: "Aradhana" a Hindustani classical flute recital by Saurabh Prasad Banaudha from the Varanasi Gharana at Amaltas Hall, IHC, 7 p.m.

Screening: "Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: Swan Lake", a dance film will be screened as part of 'Summer Sonata - A festival of Opera, Ballet and Concert films' at C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre (IIC), 6:30 p.m.

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

STAFF REPORTER
GREATER NOIDA

Two persons were arrested on May 25 for allegedly slaughtering a bovine at Jarcha in Greater Noida, the police said on Sunday. The accused have been identified as Zahid and Yaqub.

SHO of Jarcha police station, Prabhash Chandra, said Zahid's house in Noorpur was raided after receiving a tip-off about beef being stored there.

Weapons recovered

"We recovered around 20 kg of beef from the house of Zahid. Yakub was also present during the raid. Another 10 kg of meat was stored in a vessel in the same house. They had stored the meat in a refrigerator. We have also procured the chopper from the house," said Mr. Chandra.

The police also recovered

two countrymade weapons with live cartridges during the raid.

2 criminal cases

The arrested persons have been booked under two separate criminal cases - under the U.P. Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, and under IPC Section 429 (mischievous by killing or maiming cattle), and under Arms Act for illegal possession of weapons.

"The arrested were sent to jail on the same day as the IPC sections under which they were booked were non-bailable. The case is under investigation," said Mr. Chandra. The accused have no criminal history, the police said.

"Our timely action has prevented another Bisada incident," said a police officer.

More police personnel

were deployed fearing law and order situation.

District veterinary doctor was also called to the spot. Prima facie, he confirmed the recovered meat was beef.

Forensic report

However, the meat has been sent to the forensic laboratory at College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry in Mathura for formal confirmation.

"The laboratory report can authenticate. The report is only admissible in court and will be submitted with the chargesheet. If in case, the laboratory does not find it to be beef, then certain charges in the FIR will be dropped," said the officer.

Meanwhile, family of the accused persons alleged that they had been framed. The meat recovered from their house was stored to be consumed during Ramzan.

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Goel begins 'Park Aandolan'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
Rajya Sabha MP and former Delhi BJP chief Vijay Goel on Sunday started a "Park Aandolan" to expose the Kejriwal government.

held at DDA Mahrana Pratap Park. Mr. Goel told those who attended the meeting that there needs to be a common government at the Centre and the State for the development of Delhi.

SFI calls for rollback of 3 language formula

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
Calling upon the government to rollback its proposal of a "three language formula from the primary level", introduced in the draft 'New Education Policy' and released by the HRD Ministry, the Students' Federation of India (SFI) issued a statement.

In the statement, the students' union also called for "a unity among Hindi and non-Hindi speaking people against the chauvinism and imposition, which they said will cut the basic idea of unity in diversity".

The development of regional languages, it argued, was key to the development of the nation and an important characteristic of the freedom struggle. The SFI, however, clarified that it does not stand "pro or anti" any language, as it has "always exercised and celebrated the multi-linguistic nature of India".

It said that the "imposition of Hindi over regional languages will not bring glory to our nation and to the language of Hindi".

The students' union asked the government to "step forward to preserve and care each and every regional language to celebrate the linguistic diversity" of the country.

ESSAY
(Essay paper makes huge difference in MAINS Score)
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LAXMI NAGAR (DELHI)	12 JUNE 10:30 AM 23 JUNE 11:00 AM (WEEKEND BATCH)
OLD RAJENDRA NAGAR (DELHI)	10 JUNE 6:00 PM 17 JUNE 10:30 AM
PRAYAGRAJ (ALLAHABAD)	10 JUNE 7:30 AM & 6:00 PM
LUCKNOW (ALIGANJ)	8 JULY 8:30 AM & 6:00 PM
LUCKNOW (GOMTI NAGAR)	10 JUNE 5:30 PM
GREATER NOIDA	10 JUNE 3:30 PM

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GETTING ON THE GRID

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

After a long wait, some good news came Gurugram residents' way this past week with the Haryana government approving the Detailed Project Report for metro rail connectivity between the Old and New Gurugram. The 31-km-long proposed metro route will have 25 stations, including six interchange stations, and provide a reliable and comfortable mode of mass transport to the commuters within and outside the city.

As of now, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation metro rail network connecting Delhi to Gurugram has five stations — HUDA City Centre, IFFCO Chowk, MG Road, Sikanderpur and Guru Dronacharya — besides the privately-owned Rapid Metro rail network with 11 stations, mostly catering to Golf Course Road and the Cyber City, covering a distance of around 12 km.

The proposed metro expansion, a long-pending demand of the locals, especially the residents of Old Gurugram, will be a big boost to the intra-city transport system of the Millennium City largely dependent on autorickshaws, app-based cabs, and the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority-run bus service on half-a-dozen routes that is still in its infancy. It will also connect Old Gurugram to Delhi through metro rail network.

Besides, it will also pave the way for economic growth.

"Metro will give a very high Economic Rate of Return to the city in the form of reducing man-hours, reducing pollution, saving fuel by siphoning off vehicles from the road, increasing the exiting speed of the vehicular traffic and preventing health impact like asthma and cardiovascular diseases," said Sarvesh Tiwari, a rail and infrastructure expert.

Economic boost

"Connecting the Old and New Gurugram will give major economic boost to the Old Gurugram. The land value will rise and realty will boom in the Old Gurugram. The New Gurugram will get more options and less costly services as the service providers from different sectors from Old Gurugram will easily reach the New Gurugram. After the completion of the project, not only the earning but also the living standards of the people residing in the Old Gurugram will improve radically. This will result

GRID

While its financial viability is still a moot point, the proposed metro linking Old and New Gurugram promises to boost the Millennium City's economic potential

in the overall growth of the city," added Mr. Tiwari

However, it remains to be seen how financially viable this project turns out to be, especially in the light of the failure of the Rapid Metro rail network to achieve its targeted ridership of around a

Metro route connecting Old and New Gurugram

TOTAL LENGTH	ESTIMATED COST OF CONSTRUCTION	NUMBER OF STATIONS	NUMBER OF INTERCHANGE STATIONS
31.1 km	₹5,126 crore	25	6

PROJECT TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY Haryana Mass Rapid Transport Corporation

METRO STATIONS Sector 45, Cyber Park, Sector 46, Sector 47, Sector 48, Technology Park, Udyog Vihar Phase 6, Sector 10, Sector 37, Basai, Sector 9, Sector 7, Sector 4, Sector 5, Ashok Vihar, Sector 3, Krishna Chowk, Palam Vihar Extension, Palam Vihar, Sector 23 A, Sector 22, Udyog Vihar Phase IV and V and Cyber City

IN A NUTSHELL

The newly-planned Delhi-Gurugram-Alwar RRTS corridor will be implemented in three phases

PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3
Delhi-Gurugram-SNB Urban Complex of 106 km will be constructed	The line will be extended from SNB Urban Complex to Sotnala	In the last stage, line from SNB Urban Complex to Alwar will be constructed

All stations and trains will have universal access for the disabled

lakh passengers per day.

Subodh Jain, ex-member, Engineering Railway Board and Infrastructure Expert, though, begs to differ. "Rapid Metro has been conceived as last-mile connectivity to Delhi Metro and for seamless connectivity to Cyber City. It has much less 'per hour per direction' traffic than mainstream metros. Expecting Rapid Metro to be financially viable is unreasonable. Keeping in view rapid development taking place in and around Gurugram, it is most appropriate that a robust metro network is not only planned but also taken up for execution. It may take a while before metro becomes financially viable but economic viability is

not in doubt. In any case the proposed Gurugram metro will certainly be far more viable than many other metro projects in progress," said Mr. Jain.

Besides the Rapid Metro and the DMRC metro network, the newly-planned Delhi-Gurugram-Alwar Regional Rapid Transit System corridor passing through the urban and industrialised areas of Haryana and connecting IGI Airport with Gurugram, Manesar and other nearby areas is also expected to increase the overall productivity of the region. The corridor will strengthen the regional transport infrastructure by providing a fast, safe, comfortable and reliable mobility option to the residents of Gurugram, Rewari, Manesar, Dharuhera, Bawal, and nearby areas. The regional rail will not

only connect Noida, Ghaziabad, Meerut to Gurugram but also will be immensely beneficial in decongesting Gurugram and its roads, providing citizens with the choice to live and work in different regional nodes to lead a better quality of life.

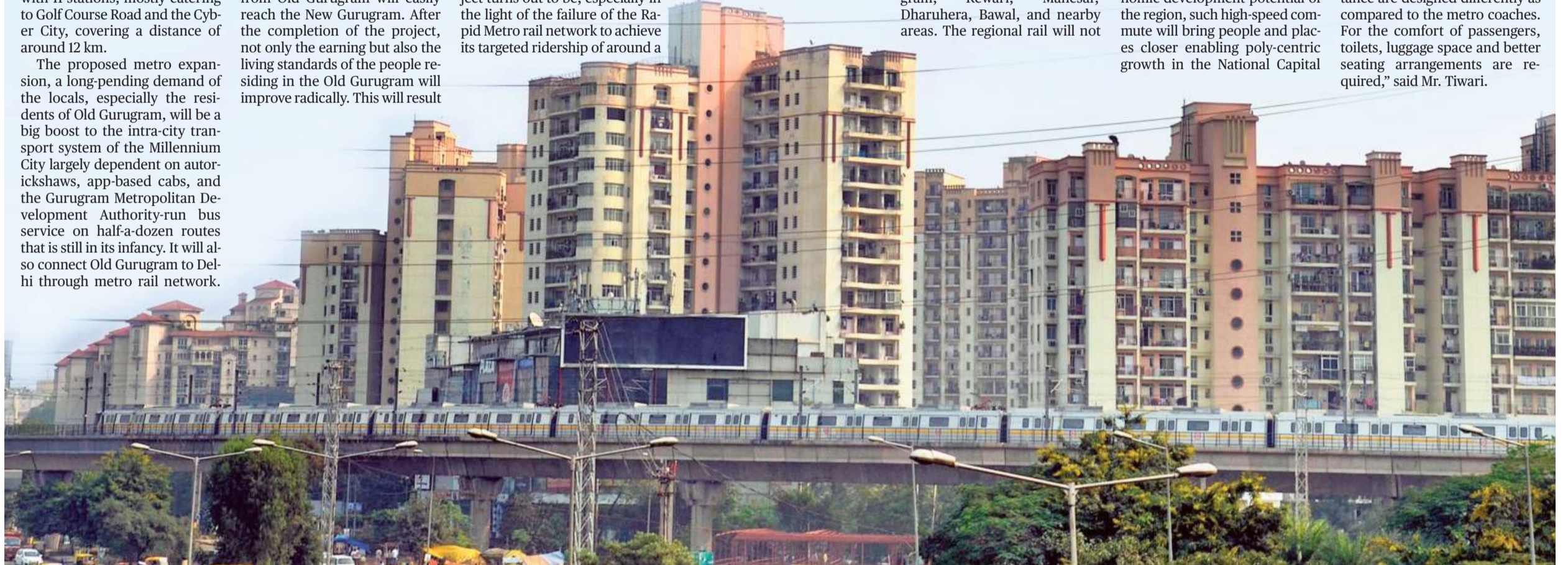
Curbing pollution

"This high-speed, high-frequency, high-capacity RRTS corridor will not only offer mass transit benefits but also bring in a wide range of economic benefits to Gurugram, including effectively curbing pollution, improving safety and reliability of commute and creating employment as well as new economic opportunities. Apart from unlocking the economic development potential of the region, such high-speed commute will bring people and places closer enabling poly-centric growth in the National Capital

Region," said Mr. Jain.

Besides, there is also a talk of connecting Gurugram with the neighbouring towns of Faridabad, Rewari and even Jhajjar with metro network — the Chief Minister has mentioned it several times.

But Mr. Tiwari argued that a semi high-speed rail system would be a better choice for it. He said metro rail is a local transport system which should ideally act as a feeder to long-distance rail and road-based transport systems. Its speed is limited and the travel time for long distances could be more compared to a high-speed or semi high-speed rail-based transport system. "Besides, the coaches for long distance are designed differently as compared to the metro coaches. For the comfort of passengers, toilets, luggage space and better seating arrangements are required," said Mr. Tiwari.



'BJP bagged victory owing to its focus on nationalism'

AAP compromised with national interest: Tiwari

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari on Sunday said the party's impressive victory was because of its focus on nationalism and development while the Opposition focused on removing Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister.

"The objective of the Congress and AAP was to remove Mr. Modi for which they compromised with the national interest and the integrity of the country. They announced to change the law related to treason and they were seen with anti-national forces also. However, the people of the country used their power to vote against these anti-national elements and defeated them," Mr. Tiwari said.

Thanking voters

He was addressing supporters after a roadshow in his constituency to thank voters for their support.

The roadshow started from Paanchwa Pushta, Mother Dairy at Gawndi and passed through Arvind Nagar, Ghonda, Brahmipuri, Seelampur, Chauhan Banger, Maujpur, Babarpur, Rohtash Nagar, Durgapuri, Ram Nagar, Ashok Nagar

They [AAP, Congress] announced to change the law related to treason and they were seen with anti-national forces also

MANOJ TIWARI
Delhi BJP chief

and concluded at Teg Bahadur Hospital. Mr. Tiwari, the newly elected Member of Parliament from North East Delhi, said by ensuring victory for the BJP on all the seven seats of Delhi, the people have expressed their trust in the BJP and the party was committed to the development of Delhi.

He added that lakhs of people in Delhi could not get the benefit of free medical treatment of ₹5 lakh under Ayushman Bharat as well as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna due to the policies of the AAP government in Delhi.

Making a pitch for the Delhi Assembly elections due early next year, he said that BJP workers have pledged to dislodge the Kejriwal government in 2020 and make the party victorious to ensure total development of Delhi.

Breaking the fast



People celebrate iftar at Jama Masjid in Old Delhi. ■ REETI AGARWAL

Will discontinue maintenance of 50K street lights: Tata Power

Due to non-payment of dues by govt.

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Electricity discom Tata Power-DDL on Sunday said it would stop maintenance of up to 50,000 street lights in unauthorised colonies of North Delhi over non-payment of dues by the North Delhi Municipal Corporation and the DSIIDC.

'₹7 crore dues'

The company said it had followed up with the government bodies several times over the last year for payment of ₹7 crore dues but to no avail.

A spokesperson for the discom claimed that both the government bodies had denied ownership of these lights on multiple occasions as a consequence of which the charges were accumulating.

The discom said it spends about ₹68 lakh per month on the maintenance of streetlights in unauthorised areas.

I appeal to the govt. to resolve the issue by directing both North body and DSIIDC to release the payment so that the safety and security of our consumers are not compromised with

SANJAY BANGA
CEO, Tata Power-DDL

"...non-payment of dues is severely hampering the regular maintenance of the streetlights. We will not be able to maintain these streetlights any further. I appeal to the government to resolve the issue by directing both North body and DSIIDC to release the payment at the earliest so that the safety and security of our consumers are not compromised with," said Tata Power-DDL CEO Sanjay Banga. North body commissioner Varsha Joshi said she would look into the matter.

CM promises Tughlakabad residents piped drinking water in one week

No more dependency on water tankers, Kejriwal tell locals

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

During a padayatra in Tughlakabad Assembly constituency on Sunday, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal told the residents that they would no longer need to depend on water tankers.

"I have brought good news for you. You will be getting drinking water in your taps through the newly laid pipelines in a week. You would no more be dependent on the Delhi Jal Board water tankers," Mr. Kejriwal said. He added that the Delhi government had completed the work of laying water pipeline in the area and the supply would start in a week. The area



Residents of Vivekanand camp gather to fill water from an NDMC tanker on Sunday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

has been connected to the Sonia Vihar water treatment plant, he added.

Illegal borewells

The residents of Tughlakabad have been relying mostly on water tankers

and illegal borewells for water.

Mr. Kejriwal's padayatra is a part of a public outreach campaign under which he will take out foot marches in all 70 Assembly constituencies in the city.

Cloudy sky likely today in city: Met

Possibility of thundery developments in the evening

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The city had a slight respite from skyrocketing temperatures with the maximum on Sunday settling at 42.5 degrees Celsius, two degrees above normal.

The maximum on May 31 — the hottest this season — was 44.6 degrees Celsius. The minimum, however,

was three degrees above normal at 30.8 degrees Celsius, thereby providing very little relief at night.

The Met department has forecast partly cloudy sky on Monday with temperatures hovering between 43 and 30 degrees Celsius. There is also a possibility of "thundery developments" by late evening/night that

could bring temporary relief.

The Met also released its monthly report for May that shows that the normal rainfall during the month is 19.7 mm at Safdarjang observatory but this year it was recorded at 26.9 mm rainfall, 37% above normal than the long period average.

Over 1 lakh students register on DU portal

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Over 1.63 lakh aspirants have registered for undergraduate courses on the Delhi University's (DU) admission portal so far. Registration for PG courses is set to start on Monday.

Out of the 1.63 lakh applicants for the 63,000 seats at DU colleges, 78,066 have made their payments. The break-up of students applying under different categories is as follows: 50,057 unreserved or general category students, 13,028 students from Other Backward Classes, 11,269 Scheduled Castes students, 2,361 Scheduled Tribes students and 1,357 students from Economically Weaker Sections.

Till June 14

The registration portal will remain open till June 14 and the first cut-off list is expected on June 20.

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Forty winks: People sleep near wall graffiti under a flyover on a hot Sunday afternoon. ■ PTI

3 robbers held after police encounter

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Three robbers were arrested during a checking at Lala Lajpat Rai Road in South East district's Hazrat Nizamuddin, following a brief exchange of fire, the police said on Sunday.

One of the arrested accused, later identified as Faizan, suffered a bullet injury on his leg, while the other two, Salmaan and Shuaib, were chased and held. All are residents of Bhajanpura.

Chinmoy Biswal, DCP (South East), said that special police teams had been tasked to erect pickets and detect criminals in Hazrat Nizamuddin police station area. "On Sunday afternoon, an information regarding movement of the robbers in Hazrat Nizamuddin was received. A trap was laid on Lala Lajpat Rai Marg, on the carriage way running from Moolchand to Lodhi Road," said Mr. Biswal.

Around 3.50 p.m., a motorcycle was spotted with three suspects on it. A police team signalled the rider to stop but on seeing the police, one of them got down and started running. The other two also tried to escape, but they were chased and caught at Lodhi Road flyover.

"The police ran after Faizan, who fired three rounds at them. The policemen also fired two rounds in retaliation. One of the bullets hit him on his right leg. He was later taken to AIIMS," said Mr. Biswal.

Faizan has been involved in 13 cases of snatching, robbery and cases under the Arms Act. "Salmaan is involved in 15 cases of robbery, snatching and cases under the Arms Act, while Shuaib is involved in a case of snatching," Mr. Biswal said.

Neighbour unleashes pet dog, woman gets bitten; case lodged

'Accused and his family putting pressure on woman to withdraw complaint'

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

A man allegedly unleashed his pet dog on a 28-year-old woman from Manipur, who was strolling with her dog in Malviya Nagar, the police said on Sunday.

Yoya Lunglo, who is a nail artist, said that on April 31 evening, she was out for a walk with her dog in her locality. Her neighbour Subhash Chand, she said, was standing outside his house with his pet dog, a Labrador. On seeing her, his dog started barking and she requested him to leash his dog but he instead started laughing and mocking her.

"I was unable to cross the area with my dog as his

It was a criminal act to harass me... I was a lonely and helpless woman there. It was all intentional

YOYA LUNGLO
Complainant

[neighbour's] dog was barking at us. Instead of helping me out, he unleashed his dog. His dog attacked me and I was bitten on the hand," said Ms. Lunglo in her police complaint.

The complainant mentioned that she was rescued by a passer-by, while the dog owner continued laughing and enjoyed the incident. He even made fun of her for being a girl who

could not even face a dog and abused her as well.

She said she started bleeding profusely and the man did not refrain from making fun of her and instead of offering help, preferred to run inside his house with his pet. "It was a criminal act to harass me... I was a lonely and helpless woman there. It was all intentional," Ms. Lunglo said.

"I went to his house and asked him to take me to a doctor as I am new to the area. He took me to a nearby clinic where the doctor referred me to Safdarjung Hospital due to the nature of my injury. The man refused to accompany me to the hospital and walked away. I

called my friend for help and went to the hospital," said the complainant.

Case under Section 289

She came back and informed the police about the incident. "We have registered an FIR under IPC Section 289 [negligent conduct with respect to animal] at Malviya Nagar police station. The case is under investigation. We will examine the CCTV footage of the area to ascertain the sequence of events," said a police officer.

"The accused and his family are putting pressure on me to withdraw the complaint but I have refused," claimed Ms. Lunglo.

Former headmistress found dead at Gurugram residence

'Post-mortem report does not corroborate husband's statement'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

A 47-year-old former headmistress of a private school was found dead at her house in Sector-23 here on Saturday evening under mysterious circumstances, the police said on Sunday.

They said that the post-mortem report did not corroborate the statement of the deceased woman's husband.

The FIR states that the woman, Savinder Kaur, was found in a pool of blood on a sofa-cum-bed at her house. Her husband Sukhbir Singh and their son Prabhsharan Singh spotted her body around 8 p.m.

Mr. Sukhbir, the complainant, alleged that he was at a

nearby market when he got a call from Mr. Prabhsharan who said that his mother needed help. The son had called up the woman, when she was allegedly shouting for help.

"My son asked me to immediately rush to the house," said Mr. Singh. The FIR states that he reached the house around 7.30 p.m. to find the main door closed from inside. His son returned from work around 8.15 p.m. and the two then broke open the door to find the woman dead. Mr. Singh said that she had sustained injuries on the head. The two then called the police and ambulance.

Mr. Sukhbir said that his family had a property dis-

pute with the family of his brother Jaspreet Kaur. He said he suspected that Mr. Kaur, his wife Preeti and their daughter Param were involved in the murder.

'Hit with iron rod'

Gurugram Police spokesperson Subhash Boken said that though the complainant, in his statement, said that the victim was hit with an iron rod, it did not corroborate the post-mortem report. He said the viscera of the deceased was preserved to ascertain the exact cause of death.

Mr. Boken said the matter was under investigation. A murder case has been registered at Palam Vihar police station in this regard.

International cell phone racket busted

Over 300 phones worth ₹60 lakh recovered from accused

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

With the arrest of seven persons, the Delhi Police on Sunday claimed to have unearthed an international syndicate involved in selling high-end stolen mobile phones in Nepal.

The police have recovered more than 300 stolen mobile phones worth ₹60 lakh from the possession of the arrested.

The accused have been identified as Naresh Kumar (30), Mukesh Kumar (38), Naresh Kumar (27), Rajan (28), Ram Singh (58), Gopal Pathak (31) and Rohit (23), they said.

The police said that the gang worked in quite a systematic manner. After stealing mobile phones, they used to hand them over to a middleman who then handed those to another person to be sent



The accused in police custody. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

to Nepal.

The receiver in Nepal had a salaried employee in Delhi who would coordinate the movements of the phones and also facilitate the payment through illegal channels, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Rajesh Deo said. The gang was busted while investigating a com-

plaint regarding snatching of mobile phones filed on May 25, he said. The accused used to repair mobile phones at a shop in Gaffar Market, the DCP said.

They used to transport the mobile phones via road, making use of the regular bus services between the two countries, he said.

IIT postgraduate arrested for running fake website

Accused promised people free laptops under a bogus scheme and duped them

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

An IIT postgraduate has been arrested for allegedly running a fake website carrying pictures of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and duping people in the name of a free laptop scheme on the occasion of formation of the new government, the police said on Sunday.

Rakesh Jangid (23), an IIT postgraduate of the 2019 batch, was arrested from his hometown Pundlota in Rajasthan's Nagaur district, they said.

15 lakh registered

The fake website offering the bogus scheme was promoted using instant messaging apps and the messages became viral on WhatsApp, the police said. Over 15 lakh people got themselves regis-



Rakesh Jangid

tered within two days, they said.

They also said that the accused used fake promotional multimedia message with 'Make in India' logo and picture of the Prime Minister on the website to lure people to register themselves for getting free laptops.

He also intended to capture personal data of mil-

lions of citizens in the name of registration and use that for illegal monetary gains.

The Cyber Crime Unit of the Delhi Police, CyPAD, were informed that someone had created and hosted a website by the domain name www.modi-laptop.wishguruji.com. It was allegedly promising distribution of millions of free laptops on the occasion of the formation of Mr. Modi's new government, a senior police officer also said.

A criminal case under the IT Act was registered and an investigation was taken up. Technical assistance from labs of CyPAD was also taken, he said.

During interrogation, the accused disclosed that he had created the website to earn web advertising revenue from increased website

traffic. He was aiming to procure personal data of millions of people which could be later traded to various cyber criminals to cheat the victims and extort money from them on various pretexts, the senior officer said.

The accused had cleverly used Google AdSense, a programme that allows bloggers and website owners to make money by displaying Google ads, he said.

Though Jangid was offered a job in a private company in Hyderabad, he took to crime to make easy money, the officer added.

Probe on

The police said that investigation into the matter is under way, adding that efforts are being made to identify the involvement of others in the scam.

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Panel I
1) Nirmal N Andrews, IAS (Retd.)
2) Malay Neerav St. Stephens College
3) Dr. Dalbir Bharti IPS, (Retd.)
4) M.G. Gopal IAS (Retd., Former C.S.)
5) S.K. Mathur IAS (Retd.)
6) Charu Malhotra Associate Professor
7) R.C. Sinha (Renowned Civil Services Mentor/ Trainer)
8) Y. Satyanarayana (Ex-IFS, Add.com. (Retd))

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Delhi Palam Today
43°C A dry and hot weather with few clouds will prevail. An uneasy afternoon is likely. Night will be warm.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
44°C Hot day will continue. There are chances of duststorm with strong winds.

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Minor's rapist beaten to death

The accused had lured the victim to his house: police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA CHANDIGARH
The alleged rapist of a nine-year-old girl was beaten to death by a mob in Jalandhar on Sunday, the police said. They said 39-year-old Pappu Kumar, a migrant labourer, was caught raping the girl in Rama Mandi area of Jalandhar on Sunday. He lived close to the girl's house, had lured her to his

house and raped her, the police added. The girl's parents are also migrant labourers. When the area residents heard the screams of the girl, they rushed there and found Kumar raping her. "A mob gathered and beat up Kumar. When the police came to know about the incident, he was rushed to the hospital where doctors de-

clared him as brought dead," Jalandhar's ACP (Central) Harsimrat Singh said over the phone. The medical examination of the girl was being conducted, he said. ACP Singh said two separate cases have been registered - one pertaining to the rape and another about the man being beaten to death.

Amarinder seeks Modi's help

For formulation of a national policy to tackle drug menace in the country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA CHANDIGARH
Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has reiterated his demand for a national policy to tackle drug abuse. In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday, Capt. Amarinder urged him to advise the Ministries of Home, Social Justice and Empowerment, and Health and Family Welfare to address the issue. "This important issue needs to be addressed with a little more seriousness than it has received so far," he wrote, according to an official statement released here. The Chief Minister sought Mr. Modi's personal interven-

tion for the formulation of a national policy focusing on three components - enforcement, de-addiction and prevention - to tackle the menace in the country. Capt. Amarinder said a national policy would enable all States to follow a similar, if not the same, approach on

drug abuse, which, he said, "has substantially hampered the health of the people, particularly the youth." The Chief Minister expressed his State's willingness to associate with the officers concerned of the Centre not only to evolve the policy but also to put in place an effective mechanism for its implementation. Besides, he also raised security concerns emerging out of narco-terrorism, saying these were rather grave in the context of Punjab, which shares a 553-km border with Pakistan. Capt. Amarinder said sub-

stance abuse was undoubtedly a global problem entailing heavy socio-economic costs. "In the last two decades, the prevalence of illicit drug trafficking has assumed alarming proportions in India too," the Chief Minister said. Citing a survey report, 'Magnitude of Substance Abuse in India', released in February 2019 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in collaboration with the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre, AIIMS, he said, "Drug abuse is a significant problem and multi-pronged and coordinated policy interventions are required to tackle it effectively."

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BHUBANESWAR
Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has vacated the Bijepur Assembly constituency in western Odisha and retained the Hinjili seat in his home district Ganjam in south Odisha. Mr. Patnaik had won from both the constituencies with a comfortable majority in the recent Assembly elections that were held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha polls. He has been winning from the Hinjili seat since the 2000. The Chief Minister wrote a letter to State Assembly Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro informing him about his decision to retain Hinjili and resign from the Bijepur seat. He thanked the people of Bijepur for their love and support. The Speaker told presspersons that the Election Commission of India would be informed about Mr. Patnaik's resignation as per the rules to pave the way for holding of bypoll for the Bijepur seat. The Chief Minister had on Friday announced a series of schemes for the benefit of the people of Bijepur. He said he would review implementation of the package every two months.

3 held for arson outside Arunachal MP's house

Main accused arrested from Assam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI
The police in Arunachal Pradesh have arrested three persons in connection with an arson incident and killing of a dog outside the Itanagar residence of newly elected BJP MP Tapir Gao three days ago. Capital Complex Superintendent of Police Tumme Awo said the main accused, Tongam Jomoh, 42, was arrested from a village in Assam on Sunday evening while his partners in crime - Deo Tayem, 24, and Gayam Pao, 25 - were picked up from areas in and around Itanagar on Saturday. The three are from Seppa in East Kameng district.

Kathua rape-murder case trial nearing completion

The trial in the case of rape and murder of an eight-year-old girl in Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir is nearing completion nearly a year after it began at a court in Punjab's Pathankot, officials said on Sunday. Defence lawyers are likely to complete their final arguments on Monday, they

said, adding that the verdict is expected thereafter. The day-to-day in-camera trial began in the first week of June last year at the district and session court in Pathankot after the Supreme Court directed that the case be shifted out of Jammu and Kashmir after lawyers in Kathua had prevented crime branch officials from filing the chargesheet in the case.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA JAMMU
The trial in the case of rape and murder of an eight-year-old girl in Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir is nearing completion nearly a year after it began at a court in Punjab's Pathankot, officials said on Sunday. Defence lawyers are likely to complete their final arguments on Monday, they

views were held in Chennai. Later the firm demanded ₹30,000 from each of the 'selected' candidates for visa and other expenses. About 500 of them paid the amount at the Bhabinipur office of the firm. Two firm employees collected the money, passports and other documents from them. Later, when some of the victims contacted the companies in Singapore, they realised that they had been duped.

STAFF REPORTER BERHAMPUR
In the name of providing jobs in Singapore, a fake recruitment firm has allegedly conned about 500 young men in Odisha and adjoining Andhra Pradesh. The victims realised that they had been cheated when they found the firm's office at Bhabinipur, on the outskirts of Berhampur, locked for a long time. The victims had responded to job advertisements by the firm and their 'inter-

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- 1. NIT No. 01/EE/RPD-2/DDA/2019-20. Name of Work:** D/o 157.83 hect. of land in Rohini Sector - 29 & 30 (Pt.) phase IV & V, Rohini. SH: C/o connecting roads of FC - 14 & FC - 15 to 60m ROW road (Ph - I, treatment) & restoration of 24m ROW road (Ph.I treatment) and painting of marking over road surface in Sec. 29 & 30(Pt.), Rohini. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 21,13,582/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 42,272/-, **Period of Completion:** 90 Days.
- 2. NIT No. 04/EE/RPD-5/DDA/2019-20. Name of Work:** A/R & M/O completed schemes under Rohini Zone. SH: Repair of rain water pipes in Housing Pocket 1, 2, 3 & 4 at Sector - 34 and Pocket 5 & 6 at Sector - 35, Rohini. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 6,89,886/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 13,798/-, **Period of Completion:** one year.
- 3. 06/EE/RPD-5/DDA/2019-20. Name of Work:** C/o 18600 EWS houses by using Pre-fab technology at Pocket - 1, 2, 3 & 4 of Sector - 34 & Pocket - 5 & 6 of Sector-35, Rohini, Narela and Dwarka. SH: Provision of making arrangement for fixing of water meter, providing & fixing of locking arrangement of water meter chambers and other related works at pocket 1,2,3 & 4 Sector - 34 and pocket 5 & 6 of Sector - 35, Rohini. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 21,31,407/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 42,628/-, **Period of Completion:** four months.
- 4. 07/EE/RPD-5/DDA/2019-20. Name of Work:** C/o 18600 EWS Houses by using Pre-fab technology at Pocket - 1, 2, 3 & 4 of Sector - 34 & Pocket-5 & 6 of Sector-35, Rohini, Narela and Dwarka. SH: Providing and fixing M.S. Sheet door in place of damage/broken exiting mummy door at housing in pocket 1, 2, 3 & 4 Sector - 34 and Pocket - 5 & 6 of Sector - 35, Rohini. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 11,66,360/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 23,327/-, **Period of Completion:** four months.
- 5. NIT No. 04/EE/RPD-7/DDA/2019-20. Name of Work:** M/o scheme under Nazul A/c II, Rohini Zone. SH: Maintenance & repair of internal water supply lines in Pkt.A - 1 to A-4 & Pkt. C - 1 to C-6 in Sector-34, Rohini. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 19,70,321/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 39,406/-, **Period of Completion:** 4 months.
- 6. NIT No. 01/EE/RPD-8/DDA/2019-20. Name of Work:** M/o various colonies under Rohini Zone. SH: Cleaning & disinfection of UGR providing day to day running maintenance & operation of existing iron & manganese removal plant at 560 (608) HIG multistoried houses in Sector - 29, Rohini. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 11,62,421/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 23,248/-, **Period of Completion:** 1 year.
- 7. NIT No. 02/EE/RPD-8/DDA/2019-20. Name of Work:** M/o completed scheme under Nazul Account-II, Rohini Zone. SH: Raising of boundary wall of vacant land of DDA and P/L in position cement concrete in pocket B, Sector - 26, Rohini Phase IV. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 18,66,909/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 37,338/-, **Period of Completion:** 60 days.
- 8. NIT No. 03/EE/RPD-10/DDA/2019-20. Name of Work:** M/o scheme under Nazul A/c-II in Rohini Zone for the year 2019-20. SH: Cleaning of S.W.Pipe drain chambers and grating on 28m, 20m & 12m R/W roads in Sector - 24, Rohini. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 8,69,541/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 17,391/-, **Period of Completion:** 45 days.
- 9. NIT No. 04/EE/RPD-10/DDA/2019-20. Name of Work:** M/o scheme under Nazul A/c-II in Rohini Zone. SH: Cleaning & sweeping of roads 12m, 20m, & 28m R/W roads in Sector - 25, Rohini, Phase-III for the year 2019-20. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 12,11,834/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 24,237/-, **Period of Completion:** 365 days.
- 10. NIT No. 04/EE/RPD-13/DDA/2019-20. Name of Work:** M/o scheme under Nazul A/c-II Rohini Zone. SH: C/o approach road, drain & boundary wall at Pkt.4, Sector-4, Rohini. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 18,68,221/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 37,364/-, **Period of Completion:** 90 days.

Note - 1: For the works costing upto 60.00 lacs under B & R(Civil) category, the tenders shall be issued to the contractors registered with DDA only.

Note - 2: For details of eligibility criteria and other particulars of all the tenders, please visit the website of Central Public Procurement Portal at <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. For any assistance in e-tendering, please contact National Informatics Centre on 1800-3070-2232.

Please give your feedback on DDA apps at [Google play](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.dda)

Please Visit DDA's Website at www.dda.org.in or Dial : 1800110332

IN BRIEF



A.P. gov't. buildings allotted to Telangana

HYDERABAD
Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan on Sunday ordered the re-allocation of all government buildings here that were earmarked for Andhra Pradesh at the time of its bifurcation in 2014, to the Telangana government. Since the A.P. government was functioning from its capital Amaravati, the official buildings allocated to it were lying vacant. The order came after the consent of CMs Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and K. Chandrashekar Rao.

Two women and a boy drowned in quarry pit

HYDERABAD
Two women and a boy died after drowning in a water-filled stone quarry pit in Jagatgirigutta. The victims came to Hyderabad to attend a house warming ceremony and went to the quarry to wash clothes. According to the police, Ayyamma, 65, a native of Yadgir in Karnataka, and Anitha, 35, of Narayanpet district were washing clothes while the latter's son, Yashwanth, was playing in the water. "When Anitha saw the boy struggling in the water, she tried to rescue him. Ayyamma also went inside the pit and drowned," inspector K. Srinivasulu said.

Five electrocuted as auto hits live wires

VISAKHAPATNAM
Five persons were electrocuted and six others, including three children, were injured when the autorickshaw in which they were travelling came into contact with live wires after hitting an electricity pole at Chenuvuru village under A. Annavaram Police Station limits of Chintapalle mandal in Visakhapatnam district on Sunday. The group of tribal people were returning after attending a weekly shandy.

CM to revive village outreach

Programme helped Kumaraswamy connect with the masses in 2006-07

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

More than a decade after then Karnataka Chief Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy endeared himself to the rural masses with his 'grama vaastavya' or village stay programme, he is set to revive it in his second innings.

On Sunday, Mr. Kumaraswamy took to Twitter to announce that the programme would start soon. "My 'grama vaastavya' will start soon in government schools. It will help (me) to mingle with people, understand their problems and get feedback on government work," he tweeted from his personal handle.

Mr. Kumaraswamy's stay in villages is still rated high among his popular programmes during his 20-month tenure in 2006-2007 when he stayed in the homes of villagers. He had visited 47 villages during his tenure.



Reaching out: A file photo of Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy's 'grama vaastavya' •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The outreach had brought a huge popular following for him across the State, beyond the Vokkaliga heartland — the traditional base of the Ja-

nata Dal (S).

Officials are scheduled to visit the villages ahead and prepare a comprehensive report on the needs not only of the village but the district as a whole.

This will enable the Chief Minister to take decisions on the spot to address the problems. "Deadlines will be fixed for the implementation of decisions," sources said.

Sources said the earlier village stays had led to several welfare policies resulting in setting up nearly 1,000 high schools and 500 PU colleges. The loan waiver scheme, the ban on arack and lotteries, and introduction of pensions for differently-abled all followed the village stay programme, sources said.



Braving odds: Latheesha Ansari and Shehin at the examination centre at LBS College in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday. •S. MAHINSHA

Grit was not in short supply at this examination

Two Civil Services aspirants fight odds, pursue dreams

S.R. PRAVEEN
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

For Latheesha Ansari and Shehin, there were more odds to surmount than most other aspirants on the road to the Civil Services examination.

At the LBS Institute of Technology in the city, the examination centre, they were seen speaking to each other in the afternoon about how they had fared in the morning session.

The Hindu had on Monday reported that Kottayam-resident Latheesha, suffering from pulmonary hypertension, needs to take along a bulky oxygen cylinder with her to the exam hall, due to her condition which requires round-the-clock oxygen support.

Collector's gesture
Following the report, the District Collector had inter-

vened to ensure that the health department would arrange a portable oxygen concentrator temporarily for her when she reached the capital city.

"However, we reached late and could not contact the person concerned. I had to depend on the oxygen cylinder during the first exam. But, before the afternoon exam, we got in touch with the person and I did use it for a while for oxygen support. I am thankful to the authorities for responding to my concerns. The Kottayam Collector has already sanctioned a new portable concentrator, the tendering process for which is going on," said Latheesha, who was also diagnosed with Osteogenesis imperfecta (brittle bone disease) at birth.

This is her first attempt

at the Civil Services, with her illness preventing her from attempting in the previous two years.

Shehin, was born with delayed motor milestones, a condition in which a child does not develop required motor skills at the expected age, and is also suffering from rheumatic arthritis.

Cricket commentator

A resident of Kottayam, this is his third attempt at the Civil Services, a dream he has been nursing since he was in Class 12.

He completed his master's in political science from St. Thomas College, Pala.

"Cricket is my passion. I do commentary for inter-collegiate cricket tournaments. Sourav Ganguly is my favourite cricketer," says Shehin, who is an avid reader of *The Hindu*.

4 Kerala hospitals yet to take up health scheme

"Treatment packages are not viable"

C. MAYA
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The reluctance of four premier public sector tertiary care institutions in Kerala to formally empanel themselves as treating hospitals under the Ayushman Bharat-Karunya Arogya Suraksha Paddhati (KASP) and start giving health cover to the poor even after the May 31 deadline is threatening to derail the implementation of the scheme.

These hospitals - Regional Cancer Centre (RCC), Malabar Cancer Centre (MCC), Kochi Cancer Centre and Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) - have been stalling the implementation claiming that the current treatment packages offered under the scheme are not viable.

Official sources said these institutions (except

SCTIMST which claims that it is still in talks with the National Health Agency (NHA) and the Department of Science and Technology - have now "agreed" to empanel themselves under the KASP and have put in the application forms with the application forms with the government make good the losses they may incur by implementing the scheme.

Experts alarmed

Public health experts are alarmed that the stance adopted by public sector institutions would derail the KASP and cause private sector hospitals to back out from it, citing the very same reasons.

Official sources at the RCC and the SCTIMST said that they never refused to join the KASP, but wanted the treatment package to be viable.

Sky high



Freestyle motorcycle riders Shaun Webb and Jordan Gillies from Australia performing acrobatic stunts during the annual Mogrip Super Cross Championship 2019, at Jakkur in Bengaluru on Sunday. •K. MURALI KUMAR

Battle for supremacy continues in KC(M)

Chaos over selection of party chairman

STAFF REPORTER
KOTTAYAM

The battle of succession in the Kerala Congress (M) continued unabated on Sunday with both sides hardening their stance on the selection of a new party chairman.

According to sources, while acting chairman P.J. Joseph looks set to convene the parliamentary party meeting after June 5, the opposing faction has decided to abstain from it until the selection of the next chairman. In their opinion, only the party chairman and not anyone else in the leadership holds the power to convene a meeting of the party's parliamentarians.

Mr. Joseph, on the other hand, remains unwavering and is going ahead with the plans to convene the meeting once Mons Joseph, MLA, who has been on a foreign trip, returns on June 5.

Adding to the chaos, both factions have taken things to the streets with protest marches being held across Kottayam and Idukki in support of their respective leaders over the last couple of days. Adding to it, the Jose K. Mani faction on Sunday came out alleging bias on the disciplinary action initiated against the Idavetty mandalam secretary in Idukki for burning the effigy of Mr. Joseph.

Meanwhile, there have been reports about the Catholic church attempting to broker peace between the two factions. According to sources, Mr. Jose K. Mani is awaiting the results of the ongoing reconciliation move, before jumping into the next action. Apart from the church, a few other community organisations too have become party to this reconciliation effort.

Help weed out corruption, says KCR

System should be pro-active to realise our objectives: Telangana Chief Minister

N. RAHUL
HYDERABAD

The fifth anniversary celebrations of the formation of Telangana State were off to a simple start on Sunday morning with a call by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao to people to strengthen the hands of the government in implementation of three new legislations in the offing, with focus on weeding out corruption in administration.

Mr. Rao told a gathering of invitees on the lawns of Public Gardens that "if we can rid corruption in these departments by getting new legislations with stable and strong resolve, the confidence and respect of people in institutions of administration will grow". The departments - Panchayat Raj, Municipal and Revenue -



K. Chandrasekhara Rao paying homage to martyrs at the Gun Park on Telangana Formation day, in Hyderabad on Sunday. •G. RAMAKRISHNA

were frequently accessed by people to meet their daily requirements. He recalled that the administrative system must be proactive for the objectives set for itself by the government to be realised at the ground-level. Unfortunately, the local bodies were

rendered rudderless in Telangana owing to aimless policies of governments for decades.

Panchayat Raj bodies

In this context, he cited the instance of panchayat raj system being left in a sham-

bles though it was the centre of a mass movement in the past. The dream of rejuvenating the system could not be fulfilled unless the government infused resources in the panchayat raj bodies. The National Finance Commission had allotted ₹ 1,229 crore per annum to panchayat raj bodies and the State government would give a matching fund of ₹ 1,229 crore. In effect, they would get ₹ 2,458 crore per annum.

The new Panchayat Raj Act, which the government would design redefining the functions of local bodies, would not spare officials and people's representatives if they failed in their mandated duties to maintain sanitation and improve greenbelt. They would face severe punishment, even removal from their posts.

Nilgiri tribals tense as trekkers trash priceless rock art

Govt. has done little to stop illegal tourism from defacing the drawings at Karikiyoor

ROHAN PREMKUMAR
UDHAGAMANDALAM

The rock paintings in Karikiyoor at Kil Kotagiri in the Nilgiri forests have withstood the forces of nature for some 5,000 years, but in just the last few years, close to 40% of the paintings have been destroyed by trekkers, tourists, and vandals.

Members of the Irula tribal community, who have an ancestral link to the site, said they were "extremely angered" and "disturbed" by the damage by illegal trekkers, who have painted over religious symbols using whitener pens and political messages with chalk, while couples have carved their names on the rocks, permanently disfiguring the



Heritage vandalised: Some rock paintings at Karikiyoor have been covered with graffiti and defaced. •ROHAN PREMKUMAR

priceless pre-historic site. They enter the site without permission.

"The site remained undisturbed till very recently, but a spurt in the number of tourists has led to many people organising illegal treks to the rock art site," said R. Ranganathan, a

youth from Karikiyoor village.

C. Maheswaran, former director of the Tribal Research Centre in Udhagamandalam, said the society that painted the symbols onto these rocks were contemporaneous with the Indus Valley civilisation.

"The rock paintings in Karikiyoor contain analogous-Indus script, meaning they resemble the script found in Indus civilization sites of northern India," he said.

Sites such as Karikiyoor need to be preserved to better understand the people that lived in the region, while also possibly deducing how certain technology and written scripts could have diffused to southern India from the Indus peoples or vice versa, Mr. Maheswaran said. M. Bathran, a village elder, said the Irulas have a deep cultural connection to the site, believing that their ancestors were the ones who had painted the symbols.

Hundreds of Dalits stranded in Puri community shelters a month after Fani

With the Odisha government shutting free kitchens, and schools set to open in a few weeks, the distraught families are staring at a bleak future

SATYA SUNDAR BARIK
PURI

Sulochana Das, a 35-year-old woman in the non-descript village of Sainsa Sasana, had little choice when her four-member family rushed to take refuge in a roadside shop as cyclone Fani menacingly hurtled towards the Odisha coast on May 3.

A month later, Ms. Das' family cannot just think of moving out of the 10 sq. ft. one-room shop because the place where her home existed before is now a vacant area. Creating a liveable shelter appears to be distant dream for her family.

Many families face a similar ordeal. The adjacent Sainsa Sasana Panchayat office is still occupied by seven families. After the State go-

vernment discontinued the free kitchens, these families have set up separate hearths out in the open, leading a life of destitution in their own village.

Just two kilometres away from Sainsa Sasana, the Bhagabatipur school accommodates five families.

Almost all families still taking shelter in community houses or government buildings are Dalits.

Tales of loss

Close to the Chilika Lake, about 80 km away from here, 30 Dalit families continue to reside in the Satpada College premises. The little known AASHA Multipurpose Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Centre at the Pachaspola hamlet under Puri Sadar block houses 28 Dalit

families.

"Disaster does not spare people along caste lines, or as rich and poor. But after the cyclone Fani ravaged Puri district, a clear pattern has emerged that vulnerability to disaster among the social excluded [Dalits] is high, while resilience is very weak," said Bimal Pandia of OXFAM, a leading voluntary organisation.

Mr. Pandia said, "Hundreds of Dalit families are still in community shelters like Panchayat offices, schools and other government offices as they are not able to erect even makeshift houses."

At Bhoi Sahi, a Dalit hamlet of Sainsa Sasana, houses of 10-12 families have been completely razed to ground. "We have received 50 kg rice



All that remains: A woman from a Dalit family sits near her damaged mud house. • BISWARANJAN ROUT

and ₹2,000 from the government. It has been more than a month since we have been able to get any wage employment. The little savings we had has been exhausted," said Pabitra Das, one Dalit villager.

The polythene sheets supplied by the Puri district administration have been blown away by thunderstorms, exposing the household articles of Dalit families to the vagaries of nature.

On the other hand, the

upper caste families have all gone back to their respective homes after getting a helping hand from the better-off families in their neighbourhood. They, unlike their Dalit counterparts, are lucky to get loans from their communities to repair their houses and return to their workplaces.

Impending doom

With the Southwest Monsoon likely to reach Odisha in 10 days, the possibility of having a roof for protection appears slim for the Dalit families. When schools reopen in the third week of June, they apprehend losing the community spaces, too.

The Puri district administration, which has deployed hundreds of teams for house damage assessment, re-

ceived the report two days ago.

"We will finalise the list in three days and send the same to the government for fund allocation by June 5. Upon getting the government sanction, house building assistance will be disbursed immediately," said Balwant Singh, Puri District Collector.

The village dynamics in Puri is such that voluntary organisations or corporate houses cannot reach out to poorest of poor or socially excluded as all villagers are demanding an equal share of assistance. Playing safe, the district administration is reportedly insisting on 100% coverage in villages, which could lead to delays in help reaching the Dalits.

Meanwhile, the Puri dis-

trict administration remained on mission mode while trying to restore normalcy in the district.

Power supply delayed

"We will take at least a month to restore power supply completely. Now, our immediate concern is to complete assessment and disburse assistance to beneficiaries," said Mr. Singh.

As of now, the Puri district administration has already distributed cash of ₹70 crore, while ₹30 crore is being paid to villagers.

The extremely severe cyclonic storm Fani, which made landfall on May 3 near Puri, affected 14 districts of the State. Puri was the worst-affected district. Nearly 1.65 crore people were affected due to the disaster.

IN BRIEF



SpiceJet to hire up to 2,000 staff: Chairman

SEUL
SpiceJet plans to hire up to 2,000 staff, including pilots and cabin crew of the defunct Jet Airways, said SpiceJet Chairman and Managing Director Ajay Singh. The airline has taken at least 22 planes that were earlier used by Jet Airways, which temporarily shuttered its operations due to cash crunch in April. PTI

3, including father-son, killed in accident

JAIPUR
A father-son duo was among the three persons who were killed in a road accident in Dausa district of Rajasthan on Sunday, the police said. In the collision between an SUV, car and a motorcycle near the Mandawari police station, five others sustained injuries. The deceased included Rajendra Meena (30) and his son Rahul Meena (5) and Hemraj Mali (50), the driver of the SUV, the police said. PTI

Goa CM to meet Modi to resolve mining crisis

PANAJI
Goa CM Pramod Sawant on Sunday said he would meet PM Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Mines Pralhad Joshi to seek ways to restart mining in the State, which was banned by the Supreme Court in 2018. Mr. Sawant said he would meet them both after Mr. Joshi familiarises himself with his portfolio.

CM extends maternity leave to contractual staff

GUWAHATI
Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu extended maternity and childcare leave benefits to more than 20,000 contingency and contractual staff of the State government on Sunday, the first day in office of his second term. Only regular government employees in the Frontier State were eligible for such leave till date.

U.P. notifies rules to fund cow shelters amid attacks by strays

Corpus will be raised through govt. institutions, NGOs and a 'mandi' cess

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

Paving the way for setting up of a corpus for managing and running shelters for stray cattle in Uttar Pradesh, the State government has notified necessary rules which focus on framing the guidelines and providing urgently required infrastructure.

The decision comes in the wake of numerous attacks by stray cattle reported from across the State. In the last three months, over a dozen incidents have been reported in the capital Lucknow alone, including an attack on a High Court judge by a stray bull in the Gomti Nagar area.

Clear guidelines

Principal secretary (animal husbandry) S.M. Bobde said after getting the Cabinet's approval, the department has notified the Uttar Pra-



Running amok: Numerous attacks by stray cattle have been reported in U.P. • RAJEEV BHATT

desh Cow Conservation and Development Fund Rules, 2019, clearly laying down guidelines for establishment and operation of the corpus. The rules to run and manage the 'govansha ashray sthals' (cattle shelters) at the district-level were cleared on Tuesday at the very first cabinet meeting after the Lok Sabha election, chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

According to an official re-

lease, the fund will help in implementation of different developmental schemes relating to cow conservation.

The corpus will be raised through donations, State and Central governments, government institutions, individuals or industrial houses, NGOs and charitable institutions, besides a 2% 'mandi' cess, 0.5% of the annual excise revenue and 0.5% of the annual toll tax. Former chief minister Ak-

hilesh Yadav had recently targeted the State government when a stray bull entered his rally venue.

Mr. Adityanath had retorted that his government was committed to protecting cows and that they understand who the "friends of butchers" were – a subtle reference to the minority community.

The Chief Minister had promised to resolve the issue after the general election.

'Rahul took responsibility for poll loss as leaders of State units didn't'

TNCC head says party chief is ready to take on the RSS

T.K. ROHIT
CHENNAI

Congress president Rahul Gandhi offered to step down from his party post as leaders of State units were unwilling to take responsibility for the national party's debacle in the recent Lok Sabha poll, according to K.S. Alagiri, president, Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (TNCC).

Mr. Alagiri told *The Hindu* on Sunday that senior leaders close to the Congress president felt that accountability had to be fixed for the massive loss.

Accountability issue

"He (Mr. Rahul) said this in the Congress Working Committee meeting. Accountability is important."

The TNCC leader said those close to Mr. Gandhi said the decision to step down came about as none of the leaders in the States that



K.S. Alagiri

ideology. He spoke about this at the meeting on Saturday," Mr. Alagiri said.

'Mahabharata war'

Meanwhile, Mr. Gandhi told MPs and senior leaders of the TNCC, when they met him on Saturday in Delhi, that their demand that he should stay on as the party chief was "noted."

The TNCC had passed a resolution requesting Mr. Gandhi not to step down as president of the party arguing that he had put in his best efforts to lead the charge against the BJP government during the campaign for the Lok Sabha poll.

"He (Rahul) smiled and said 'noted, noted...your point is noted', when we told him about our resolution and asked him to lead the party, as what the country is facing is now like a Mahabharata war," Mr. Alagiri added.

Ex-SC staffer posted 'wrong' information

He was offered job for daughter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The desire to see his daughter working at power utility BSES prompted a former Supreme Court staffer to allegedly post wrong information related to a case involving Reliance Communications Chairman Anil Ambani on the apex court's website, a senior police official said.

Tapan Kumar Chakraborty and his associate Manav Sharma, who worked as court masters, had allegedly uploaded an order on the Supreme Court's website that said Mr. Ambani's presence in a case was dispensed with, despite the

court ordering that he be present for the next hearing.

Mr. Chakraborty and Mr. Sharma were arrested in April. Police found out that Mr. Chakraborty, who was nearing retirement, wanted to get his 23-year-old daughter placed in the BSES power discom, the official said. He was due to retire next year and when someone offered a job for his daughter in the BSES, Mr. Chakraborty agreed to tamper with the information, he added.

The BSES is a joint venture of the Reliance Infrastructure Limited and the Delhi government.

Folk dancer, three others die in SUV-truck collision

Harish gave a new identity to Jaisalmer with his dance: Gehlot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JODHPUR

Famous dancer Queen Harish and three other folk artists were killed and five others injured in a road accident near Jodhpur in Rajasthan on Sunday morning.

The accident occurred near Kaparda village on a highway in Jodhpur when the victims were on their way to Ajmer from Jaisalmer in an SUV.

"Their SUV rammed a stationary truck which left



Queen Harish •

Harish, Ravindra, Bhikhe Khan and Latif Khan dead. Five others were injured in the mishap," said Bilara police station SHO Sitaram Khoja.

"Harish gave a new identity to Jaisalmer with his dance style. His death is a big loss to folk art," said Chief Minister Ashok Geh-

lot in a tweet.

A native of Jaisalmer, Harish Kumar was popularly known as Queen Harish and his shows comprising of various folk dance forms like Ghoomar, Kalbelia, Chang, Bhawai, Chari among others were very popular.

Performed world-wide Harish Kumar had also performed in 60 nations around the world and received several international awards.

Also known as a choreographer, Harish was seen in Bollywood film *Jai Gaganjal* and had also performed at Isha Ambani's wedding in Jodhpur. (With IANS inputs)



Officials of Sashastra Seema Bal carrying the mortal remains of Jawan Niraj Chetri, who was killed in a Maoist encounter. • PTI

SSB jawan killed, four injured in encounter

Search for five injured ultras under way

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUMKA

A Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) jawan was killed and four others were injured in an encounter between the security forces and Maoists in the Dumka district of Jharkhand early on Sunday, police said.

At least five ultras also suffered bullet injuries in the encounter, but they retreated into the forest of Taldangal, where a search operation has been going on, Superintendent of Police (SP) Y.S. Ramesh said. The Maoists fired on SSB's joint team of local police around 3.30 a.m. after noticing the personnel, who

also retaliated.

During the shoot-out, five SSB personnel suffered bullet injuries and one of them, identified as Niraj Chetri, a resident of Sonitpur district in Assam, died. Of the four others, Rajesh Kumar Rai and Karan Kumar were airlifted to Ranchi for treatment, while Sonu Kumar and Satish Gujar have been admitted to the Dumka Sadar Hospital, the SSB said in a statement.

CM Raghubar Das paid his tribute to the deceased jawan and said the entire State was with his family. He said the State is "committed to rooting out the Maoist menace".

Plant 10 saplings, shoot a selfie to get a gun licence

New rule in M.P.'s Gwalior-Chambal area

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GWALIOR

Want a gun licence? Plant trees and shoot a selfie – this is the new rule in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior-Chambal region, known for its fascination for firearms. An exception will be made only if the licence is sought because of an immediate threat to the applicant's life.

"Gun licence seekers will need to plant at least ten saplings. If the person does not own land, the administration has earmarked revenue land where he or she can plant saplings," said Gwalior District Collector Anurag Choudhary.

The applicant would be required to take care of the saplings for a month, click a selfie with them immediately after planting, and a month later, attach the pictures with the application.

To further verify that the condition has been fulfilled, a report would be sought from the Patwari, a local government official, the Collector said.

The condition would be relaxed only if the licence-seeker is facing an immediate threat to life.

In such cases, she or he would be required to plant saplings after getting the licence.

Eight climbers still missing, four from U.K. rescued

They were stuck near the base camp of Nanda Devi East peak in Pithoragarh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PITHORAGARH

Eight mountaineers including seven foreigners, reported missing since May 25, were still untraced on Sunday, while authorities managed to rescue four other climbers from U.K., stuck near the base camp of Nanda Devi East peak in Pithoragarh.

Pithoragarh District Magistrate V.K. Jogdande said the four UK climbers were spotted 21 km beyond the base camp and rescued during a sortie undertaken to locate the missing eight-member team led by well-known U.K. climber Martin Moran.

Two sorties were con-



Uphill task: The climbers before leaving for their expedition on May 13. • REUTERS

ducted on Sunday to locate Mr. Moran's team, said Mr. Jogdande, adding more sorties will be held on Monday to search them.

The four UK mountai-

neers rescued on Sunday told authorities that when they last got in touch with Mr. Moran's team on May 24, they were heading for some peak other than Nan-

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PETROLEUM & ENERGY (IIPe)
(2nd Floor of Andhra University College of Engineering Administrative Block)
VISAKHAPATNAM 530003

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION 2019-20

Indian Institute of Petroleum & Energy, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, an Institute of National Importance at par with IITs, IIMs under Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Govt of India calls for admissions for the academic year 2019-20 for 4-year B.Tech. (Petroleum Engineering) and B.Tech. (Chemical Engineering) Programs. Aspirant students who get Rank in JEE(Advanced)2019 can go through the admission notification in the web site of IIPe – www.iipe.ac.in for the admission criterion and other details from 13th June 2019 onwards for applying on line. **DIRECTOR**



Great expectations

The Jaganmohan Reddy government must build on Andhra Pradesh's high potential

The YSR Congress Party begins only the second government in the bifurcated successor State of Andhra Pradesh following a thumping win in the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. The party won all-round support across classes, with significant gains among Dalits and Adivasis. A firm mandate from farmers and the youth in favour of the YSRCP catapulted it to a four-fifths majority in the Assembly. Strong mandates come with great expectations, and the new government will have to address the fiscal issues that have lingered since bifurcation. While registering high economic growth rates, Andhra Pradesh, which lost a significant portion of the undivided State's revenues, has sustained high public debt; it reached 28.79% of the State GDP, according to latest figures. The previous Telugu Desam Party government led by N. Chandrababu Naidu had gone on a populist spree in the latter part of its tenure, exacerbating the State's debt situation. The YSRCP has also promised its own set of welfare measures. While redistribution measures tend to spur consumer demand, wasteful populism could hurt the State; and Chief Minister Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy must be more discerning on this aspect than his predecessor.

Another legacy of the TDP government was its emphasis on building a grand new capital at Amaravati. The State needs a functioning and workable capital city; the new government should scale back the pointless grandiose aspects of the plan and focus on the necessary brick and mortar. The government should take forward the previous regime's work towards the diversification of the State's economy by focussing further on industrialisation. New industries and capital have flowed in after bifurcation, helping spur economic growth. Much more can be done considering Andhra Pradesh's potential, including leveraging its strong diaspora. This should be among the priorities of the government. Much has been made of the need for special category status for the State, but this may have little benefit beyond its emotive value. The government can address fiscal concerns through growth, diversification and meaningful redistribution rather than expending political capital seeking a largesse from the Centre. In any case, as Mr. Reddy has noted, there is little chance of the Centre conceding the status to the State as the BJP-led government at the Centre enjoys a clear majority and does not require the YSRCP's support. Another encouraging sign for the State is the amiable relationship between Mr. Reddy and Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Reddy, in contrast to the animus that persisted during Mr. Naidu's tenure. This should enable the States to resolve issues related to sharing water resources, and so on. Mr. Reddy should hit the ground running.

Slowdown confirmed

With the economic crisis deepening, the government will have to hasten reforms

There is now no denying that the second Modi government takes office amid a clear economic slowdown. The first macro data set released under the new Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman's watch, on Friday, showed an under-performing economy with GDP growth falling to 5.8% in the fourth quarter of 2018-19 and pulling down the overall growth for the fiscal to a five-year low of 6.8%. Growth in gross value added (GVA), which is GDP minus taxes and subsidies, fell to 6.6% in 2018-19, pointing to a serious slowdown. If further confirmation were needed, the growth in core sector output — a set of eight major industrial sectors — fell to 2.6% in April, compared to 4.7% in the same month last year. And finally, unemployment data, controversially suppressed by the Union government so far, showed that joblessness was at a 45-year high of 6.1% in 2017-18. These numbers highlight the challenges ahead for Ms. Sitharaman as she sits down to draft the Budget for 2019-20, to be presented on July 5. The economy is beset by a consumption slowdown as reflected in the falling sales of everything from automobiles to consumer durables, even fast-moving consumer goods. Private investment is not taking off, while government spending, which kept the economy afloat during the last NDA government, was cut back in the last quarter of 2018-19 to meet the fiscal deficit target of 3.4%.

The good news is that inflation is undershooting the target and oil prices are on the retreat again. But the rural economy remains in distress, as seen by the 2.9% growth in agriculture last fiscal; the sector needs a good monsoon this year to bounce back. Overall economic growth in the first quarter of this fiscal is likely to remain subdued, and any improvement is unlikely until the late second quarter or the early third. There are not too many options before the new Finance Minister. In the near term, she has to boost consumption, which means putting more money in the hands of people. That, in turn, means cutting taxes, which is not easy given the commitment to rein in the fiscal deficit. In the medium term, Ms. Sitharaman has to take measures to boost private investment even as she opens up public spending again. These call for major reforms, starting with land acquisition and labour, corporate taxes by reducing exemptions and dropping rates, and nursing banks back to health. On the table will be options such as further recapitalisation of the ailing banks, and consolidation. The question, though, is where the money will come from. With tax revenues likely to be subdued owing to the slowdown, the Centre will have to look at alternative sources such as disinvestment. There may be little choice but to go big on privatisation. A rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India, widely expected this week, would certainly help boost sentiment. But it is the Budget that will really set the tone for the economy.

Depths of field, defined and blurred

When the history of our time is written, how will the year 2019 come to be assessed?



RUCHIR JOSHI

When the forensics of the 2019 Lok Sabha election are done in the future, strange things may emerge from the examination. While some answers might be surprising, the questions themselves might be quite different from those many are asking today. Given a chunk of hindsight time and a thicker sandwich of context around this moment, some of our current assumptions and head-scratchings might look extremely droll to people conducting the review. Just as we now see historic events in their 'totality' — for instance, the toppling of different dominoes that led to the start of the First World War, or how Partition could perhaps have been avoided in 1947 — people may look back at the period leading up to these elections and the aftermath, and see both the funny and epically tragic sides of the moment.

At a frivolous level, people may chuckle at how the Sangh Parivar successfully managed to dub different liberal pockets with unifying negative labels such 'Lutyens Elite' and 'Khan Market Gang', even as the Sangh Parivar strengthened its already tight hold on the bungalows and secretariats of the actual Lutyens' Delhi, while so many people frequenting the actual Khan Market were from the demographic that either worked for the Sangh power circles or enthusiastically voted for them.

On a more serious note, the exhumation of the bones of Election

2019 might well be conducted after far more seismic historic events have occurred: a trade war between China and the U.S. that debilitated the world economy for years to come; or an armed conflict between the U.S./Israel and Iran with major knock-on effects that turn India into just another nation-state billiard ball, cannoning out of control. In such a case there might even be a recognition already in place that it was the BJP-RSS 'victors' who caught the short straw, and the Congress and other 'losers' who got lucky, because it was a very good time *not* to be in charge of this country.

Impending catastrophes

Leave aside an economic meltdown or missile-apocalypse, there could also be an understanding that no Indian political party was equipped to handle the ecological-disaster meteor hurtling towards the country, that none of them even saw it coming, and it was Modi 2.0 which was in charge when it struck. Today, we are already in the midst of a catastrophic air-pollution crisis and heading swiftly towards a major water-crisis; we could well be looking at a food crisis of almost 1943 proportions, where our harvests are adequate but our skewed distribution systems lead to quasi-famine situations. If ignored or mis-handled — and this regime has a terrific record of doing both — this could leave future historians looking at a huge renting of the fabric of the nation, a huge transformation, but not of the sort the Sangh Parivar imagines in its fevered dreams.

What could a granular political archaeology yield in the future? 2019 might be seen as the first serious beginning of a north-south division of the country, the moment where the south begins to



G. BHASKARSHNA

understand that they want no part of the Hindutva agenda, that it is of no advantage for advanced, educated people of different religions who are confident in their own secularism, the Hindu majority of whom are confident in their own kinds of Hindu practice, to be sucked down by the horribly feudal, backward notions of nation and society being offered by the zealots in control of the central north. These recently executed elections might throw up yet another irony of abusive labelling: posterity might see the Sangh Parivar and its vassal parties and media as the *real* Tukde-Tukde gang, the ones who turned the Union of India into a brittle biscuit.

The health of the nation

There would also have to be an examination of the changing character and role of the Indian Deep State at this moment. If we define the phrase 'Deep State' to mean a covert nexus between industrial corporations and the security services, with their self-defined mission being to keep the country at a working status quo tilted conservatively, then what was this Deep State's reaction to the second victory of the Narendra Modi-Amit Shah combination? To what extent did they participate? Was there any concern that the country would be radicalised beyond their

control? Was there any recognition that the attempted suppression and de-legitimisation of nearly 200 million Indians might have cataclysmic effects that were not in the Deep State's own long-term interests?

Let's imagine that our future historians have as an instrument one of those animated infographic maps of South Asia, with the countries differentiated by patterns indicating different elements that make up the 'health' of each nation: clear separation between state and religion, between state and military; operational democracy at all levels of society, democracy that is constant and not just noduled around elections; the rule of law and order; effective public health systems; unassailable human rights; freedom of expression and a free media under a diverse ownership; a properly competitive business environment with checks and balances; a cross-institutional understanding of environmental problems and robust programmes to deal with those challenges; and, most importantly, reliable indicators for food security and poverty levels. In such a map, will 2019 be the point when the patterns of our favourite failed state, Pakistan, and India begin to merge with increasing speed? Will people say that this was the tipping point where the Pakistanisation of India gathered full pace? When the moral gangrene infecting the so-called 'severed limb' was invited back into the main body?

As the years slide by on this map, do the colours indicating military conflict and, simultaneously, the shifting of massive refugee populations begin to sweep and bleed into each other? Does the Bay of Bengal rise at the same time and start biting into the Sunderbans? Does the desert start to

spread across the forehead of the subcontinent?

On a longer graph

If the terms of reference are somewhat different, could the historians ask very different questions? For instance, might they be able to see a continuity of the graph of liberalisation in the 25 or 30 years following 1991 where succeeding governments ignored the immediate needs of the majority of India's population and paid the price? Instead of being the moment of great victory for the Hindutva project, could 2019 be the tipping point where the diverse, slowly simmering protest movements gathered critical mass and within a few years toppled the old order and all the old parties completely? Equally, could the period of 1991-2014 be seen as a time of a thinly maintained peace, followed by a period of extreme upheaval for the next 25 years, with 2019 being merely a minor punctuation point, a blip of no great consequence?

In photographic terms, when examining our own time and the current moment, we have no choice but to deal with a very short depth of field, a lot of the past and everything in the future is out of focus, beyond and before the 'today' which is most sharply defined. Looking back at points of history the depth of field is greater, with a lot more things rendered sharply. Perhaps this is a good analogy to remember, both for those bathing themselves in triumphant celebrations today as well as for those who are morose and disheartened and prematurely mourning the death of our precious Republic.

Ruchir Joshi is a writer, film-maker and columnist

Make up for lost time

Narendra Modi must leverage the public trust voters have placed in him to get the economy on track



PUJA MEHRA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's election campaign, staying clear of bread-and-butter issues, successfully swayed voter attention away from economic hardships. Having won a thumping mandate, his government in its second tenure must now devote itself to a well-thought-out strategy for economic reforms.

The bad news

Official estimates released on Friday, the new government's first day in office, show GDP growth slowed to a five-year low of 6.8% in 2018-19, even as the unemployment rate rose to a 45-year high of 6.1% in 2017-18. Agriculture gross value added (GVA) growth is estimated at negative 0.1% and manufacturing GVA growth at 3.1% in the January-March quarter.

The economy is struggling with an investments and a manufacturing slowdown, rural distress, unremunerative farm incomes, stagnating exports, a banking and financial mess and a jobs crisis. Sales figures from fast moving goods makers and continuing production cuts at car manufacturers confirm that consumption spending has slowed. The top economic priority for the new Modi government ought to be credible

course correction in its attitude to policy — its formulation, articulation and the setting of goals.

The previous Modi government began well but soon lost direction. The announced plans for what looked like a blueprint for structural reforms — spanning an overhaul of labour and land policies and a much-needed manufacturing push, 'Make In India', for absorbing the slack from the farms — had been abandoned by the end of 2015.

The initial energy and enthusiasm gave way to misadventures such as demonetisation and the poorly designed rollout of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime. Despite repeated reminders to the Prime Minister's Office from Finance Ministry bureaucrats, the decrepit public banking system and the problems of the financial sector received little policy attention. Even the insolvency and bankruptcy reform, a sound economic reform, that got rolled out rather gradually and tentatively is already in danger of getting diluted.

The cumulative neglect of reforms over the years by Mr. Modi and his predecessors, including Manmohan Singh, has ensured that the economy is falling short of both its growth potential and the people's aspirations.

That the Constitution was hurriedly amended for rolling out reservations based on economic criteria and that fiscal giveaways for middle class Indians and farmers dominated the Interim Budget presented in February suggest Mr.



GETTY IMAGES

Modi was not wholly unaware of the magnitude of the challenge on the economic front.

But now, is he listening to sound advice on the solutions needed? The economy's structural problems cannot be resolved with the sort of political balm Mr. Modi resorted to earlier this year; they demand well-crafted economic remedies.

Sustainable livelihoods

Public provision of toilets, cooking gas connections and dwellings or Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) wage jobs and income supplement schemes are temporary sources of relief. They are not an economic growth model or strategies for reducing poverty. They can help the poor survive by providing meagre resources for subsistence. Reducing poverty needs economic growth to generate sustainable livelihoods for the poor.

This cannot be remedied by redistributive taxation policies alone. Deeply entrenched factors hinder the poor's access to income-enhancing skills, education, health and job opportunities and

obstruct the trickle-down of growth to the poor. For instance, the Modi government's 'Make In India' strategy was a step in the right direction, and needs to be revived. Done right, it can absorb the slack from the farms.

Few organised sector jobs generated in India because industries prefer capital-intensive production despite the economy's relative abundance of low-wage labour. With many seekers per job opening, labour has low bargaining power relative to employers. If production were less capital-intensive, more organised sector jobs would be created. Plus, labour's bargaining power would improve.

Successive governments in recent years have only ended up deepening this structural weakness by yielding to the constant clamour by industry lobbies for lower cost of capital. The first Modi government's record was no different. The economic strategy embedded in 'Make In India' got completely side-tracked as its plan for economic revival was reduced to a clamour for fiscal and monetary stimuli.

Mere pursuit of fiscal and monetary policy adjustments is not going to unlock India's economic growth potential, which is impossible without banking, land and labour reforms that no government so far has been able to deliver.

Will Mr. Modi persist in populism of the past, or take up the backlog of economic reforms pending since the first burst in the 1990s? Will sound economics in-

form his policies, or will he retain a disdain for economists, preferring instead simplistic, quick but ineffective fixes?

Take small firms. For the role they play in jobs creation, smaller firms ought to be incentivised with easy credit and taxation norms. Instead, the messy GST compliance and refunds framework imposed uneconomic compliance costs on them. These were explained away by the Bharatiya Janata Party's national executive in September 2018 as 'creative destruction', a supposedly necessary culling of informal firms so that the formal economy can thrive. The only way the GST may lead to more formalisation of the economy is by putting bigger companies at competitive advantage over smaller ones, a policy outcome that no government should want.

Data collection

Lastly, no evolution of the policy paradigm will be possible if the crisis of credibility in the collection, estimation and presentation of official statistics is not addressed appropriately. In response to the questions raised over unemployment and GDP statistics, including by well-meaning and eminent economists and statisticians, the first Modi government did little else than to suppress inconvenient data or allege political motivations. A more mature way of engagement with constructive criticism is called for.

Puja Mehra, a Delhi-based writer, is the author of 'The Lost Decade: 2008-18'

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.

Strategy in Parliament

I was shocked by the report, "Shout a little more, Rahul tells MPs-elect" (June 2), on the Congress president's word of advice to his parliamentary party colleagues. Parliament is the most hallowed and dignified forum India has that decides the fate of the nation through fruitful and purposeful debates and has produced many a stalwart like Ashok Mehta, Piloo Mody, Minoo Masani, S.A. Dange, George Fernandes, Annadurai and Ram Manohar Lohia, to mention a few tall names. A forum for democratic values cannot be made a fish market. It is odd that CPP leader Sonia Gandhi did not criticise such advice.

S. LAKSHMINARASIMHAN, Coimbatore

When I was in high school, soon after Independence, we often had a mock Parliament where we debated an issue. We were encouraged to speak our mind on a wide variety of topics. The accent was on expressing our point of view and carrying the debate forcefully, but always with the utmost courtesy and decorum. The dictionary defines parliamentary language as "permissible in parliament; admissible in polite conversation; civil, courteous". I am deeply disappointed that the leader of a major political party should exhort his followers to "shout a little more than usual" and to "be a little more aggressive". Whether you like it or not, around half the people of India have elected members of the BJP-led NDA to represent

them. This translates into a massive majority, given our first-past-the-post system. Not one of the other parties, including the Congress, has won the support of anywhere near this proportion. The fact is that in 2019, India has democratically elected Narendra Modi and the BJP to rule us for the next five years. Let us have civilised discussion in Parliament.

M.K. MANI, Chennai

Politics of food

No scientific sampling or survey appears to have been done to prove that food served by the Akshaya Patra Foundation (APF) is unpalatable and was not being eaten in sufficient quantities ('Magazine' section, "The politics of

food", June 2). Interviewing a few unhappy children alone is unscientific investigation. Anecdotal evidence has been used to steer the reader towards conclusions the writer or a group wishes to achieve. The fact file too appears to be misleading as the scientific and health benefits of onion and garlic are proven *in vitro*, not *in vivo*. The supply of hygienic and safe food is a far greater achievement than aiming for 100% acceptability of food, which is always subjective. A significant percentage of the Indian population does not use onion and garlic and if they suffered clinically, socially or otherwise because of non-consumption, society, scientists and others would have noticed this by now.

M.R. RAGHUNATH, Bengaluru

The APF subscribes to the tenet that one's nutritional requirement can be met without garlic-onion and the National Institute of Nutrition has concurred with this. Taste, given the diversity and plurality of our society, is a personal choice, and catering to such diverse tastes in mass feeding programmes, logistically and hygienically, is not easy. The programme meets the challenge of classroom hunger and has improved school enrolment and the

nutritional status of students. One does not understand why there is needless controversy now over certain food ingredients. If the activists are troubled with the food served by the APF, they should organise, establish and run a parallel mid-day meal programme with ingredients of their choice. Why disrupt a well-established and successful programme?

H.N. RAMAKRISHNA, Bengaluru

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

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

In the Sports page report headlined "West Indies speedsters bounce out Pakistan in quick time" (Early editions, June 1, 2019), a caption had erroneously said that Andre Russell had taken the wicket of Shadab Khan. The scorecard rightly said that Andre Russell took the wickets of Fakhar Zaman and Haris Sohail. The error was rectified in the city editions.

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Why minorities feel alienated in India

There is an unofficial political mechanism that has produced a sense of fear in the last five years



HILAL AHMED

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement that the new National Democratic Alliance government should win the trust of minorities and puncture the 'myth of fear' has been received in two different ways. A section of political observers remain unconvinced about this assurance. They argue that aggressive Hindutva politics has marginalised the minorities. If the Modi government is serious about this lack of trust, it needs to do much more. On the other hand, some have optimistically received Mr. Modi's statement. They claim that minorities, especially Muslims, must appreciate Mr. Modi's positive gesture and explore possibilities of constructive dialogue.

These definite and categorical sets of argument are partly appropriate. The increasing alienation of minorities is certainly not a myth and expecting the new government to respond to the anxieties, aspirations and imaginations of these communities is morally legitimate and politically justifiable. However, there is a serious need to ask a fundamental question: Why do minorities feel alienated in contemporary India?

This question takes us to an unofficial political mechanism that has produced a sense of fear among minorities in the last five years. This political mechanism relies heavily on a minority-majority binary to establish that Hindus and Muslims are the two core fundamental identities that represent two distinct and conflicting world views. There are four identifiable components of this unofficial political mechanism: discourse of violence, events of violence, justification of violence, and silence on violence.

Discourse and events

The media – TV, newspapers, social media such as Facebook and WhatsApp and even films – has played a significant role in creating a violent anti-Muslim Hindu victimhood discourse in the last five years. Every aspect of Muslim life in India has been



"Every aspect of Muslim life has been targeted to create an impression that Muslims are the main problem of the country." Shahista (right), daughter of Mohammad Akhlaq, who was lynched in Dadri, in 2015. •SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

targeted to create an impression that Muslims are the main problem of the country. For instance, we are told that the birth of a Muslim child is a threat to the Hindu population; the education of a Muslim child is a symbol of separatism; the eating habits of Muslims are anti-Hindu (as Muslims eat beef); the married life of a Muslim couple is a social evil (as Muslims practice triple talaq); and even the death of Muslims is an anti-national act (because Muslims occupy valuable land for graveyards).

This aggressive anti-Muslim propaganda nurtured an equally powerful imagination of 'Hindu victimhood', at least in three possible ways. First, Hindus are presented as a homogeneous nation-state community with a unique and distinct culture. Hindu belief in multiple gods and goddesses is articulated as a distinctive feature of Hinduism to create a defining binary between Hindus and Muslims.

Second, the marginalisation of Hindus is demonstrated by producing quantifiable data/evidence. The Hindu Human Rights Report 2017 is an example of this political strategy. This report records the violation of human rights of Hindus in India. It argues that despite being a numerical majority, Hindus are treated as second-class citizens. In order to justify this claim, atrocities faced by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are also included in the

crimes-against-Hindus list.

Third, Hindutva groups construct what political theorist Partha Chatterjee calls the two imaginary domains of politics. The inner domain is defined as a realm of Hindu faith and culture where the state is not allowed to intervene. The Hindutva positions on Babri Masjid and Sabarimala stem from this inner domain of politics. However, this is not the case with the outer political domain, where Hindutva unequivocally invokes legal-constitutional discourse. The demand to recognise Hindus as a minority in eight States is an example of this selective use of the Constitution and law.

Despite establishing this discourse of hatred and violence, Hindutva forces failed to provoke Muslims to create a large-scale riot-like situation in the last five years. Issues like 'love jihad', 'ghar wapsi', Ram temple, and even the ban on triple talaq could not generate riots. In this hostile communal atmosphere, a new style of violence was invented, however – the lynching of Muslims. A few Muslim individuals were killed to create a powerful impact. It was very easy to mobilise a mob of unemployed youth in the name of Hindu pride, especially in the cow-belt region.

Justification and silence

Interestingly, the government did not condemn this new form of anti-Muslim violence. On the contrary,

Bharatiya Janata Party leaders not merely justified such events but also offered legal and political support to the accused. It began in September 2015 when Mohammad Akhlaq was lynched in Dadri, and his son Danish was brutally beaten up for allegedly eating and storing beef on Eid. Union Minister Mahesh Sharma, who was also the MP from Gautam Buddha Nagar, did not condemn this incident. He described the Dadri killing as an "accident", visited the house of the main accused and avoided any contact with the family of victim.

Former Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha evoked this line of argument differently in 2018. Mr. Sinha provided legal aid to the main accused involved in a lynching case in Jharkhand. When a fast-track court accepted the bail of the eight accused, he welcomed them at a public function. Justifying his move Mr. Sinha argued that the court had granted bail to the accused upholding the fairness of justice and, therefore, as an elected representative of people as well as a Union Minister, he was entitled to honour the "due process of law".

The Prime Minister maintained a strange silence on all this for a long time. In June 2017, he finally said "no person has the right to take the law into his own hands". Although he denounced cow vigilantism, Mr. Modi did not recognise the lynching of Muslims as a specific form of anti-Muslim violence. He reduced it to a law and order problem.

These political reflections, it seems, created the impression that lynching Muslims is a natural social phenomenon and the ruling establishment subscribes to the discourse of Hindu victimhood.

If the new BJP government is concerned about the myth of fear among minorities, it should systematically dismantle the mechanism that has actually created an atmosphere in which violence on religious lines has become normal and acceptable.

Of course, killing innocent Muslims is certainly a law and order problem. We do have a few laws to deal with such incidences of violence. But we certainly do not have an order.

Hilal Ahmed, an Associate Professor at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi, is the author of 'Siyasi Muslims: A story of Political Islam in India'

FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

Noise too is a form of censorship

Sometimes when journalists cannot talk of certain issues, they talk a lot about other innocuous stories



A.S. PANNEERSELVAN

I am overwhelmed by the support extended by readers to my last column, "Electoral outcomes don't alter the purpose of journalism" (May 27). But this section may not be aware of the cynicism that is pervading our public sphere. For instance, Gopal Vaidya, a reader, observed online: "There are many forms of bias that exist in this paper: selection of what to highlight, what to hide, articles that avoid other perspectives, selective use of readers' comments... Indian papers have a long way to go in this regard." How can a news ombudsman handle general criticism? "Indian papers" covers the whole of print journalism but it does not reflect the wide range of publications within this sector. From serious broadsheets to sensationalist tabloids, the Indian print media encompasses all forms of reportage. My focus is restricted to serious broadsheet newspapers alone.

The media landscape is not pluralistic

Readers may appreciate the role of a newspaper like *The Hindu* if they are aware of the important findings of the Media Ownership Monitor, a research project carried out in India by Reporters Without Borders and the Delhi-based digital media company, DataLEADS. Though India has some 1.2 lakh print publications, over 550 FM radio stations and nearly 880 satellite TV channels, including more than 380 claiming to be news channels, the study says the Indian media landscape is hardly pluralistic. The research found the media space to be "tight", with state monopoly in radio news, and regional newspaper markets being "controlled by a small number of powerful owners, some of whom have strong political affiliations". It notes that the production and distribution of content are getting concentrated in the hands of a few. The research attributes the high level of ownership concentration to "considerable gaps in the regulatory framework".

As Readers' Editor, I take specific complaints seriously and I rely on the core values and cardinal principles of journalism to eval-

uate the merits of those complaints. But is it possible to examine vague, sweeping statements that cast aspersions on journalists and writers? A decade ago, novelist and philosopher Umberto Eco identified two forms of censorship: censorship through silence and censorship through noise. While all of us are aware of censorship through silence, wherein the state disapproves of certain ideas, we are not conscious enough of the censorship that flows from noise. In his lecture at the conference of the Italian Association for Semiotic Studies in 2009, Eco paraphrased the philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein to explain a trend that is engulfing us today: "Whereof one cannot speak, thereof one must talk a great deal." The lecture is a part of an anthology of essays, "Inventing the Enemy" – again, a malady that is afflicting us.

Creating suspicion

In "Censorship and silence", Eco eloquently explained how innocuous stories are given disproportionate space so that readers do not notice the silence in covering important stories that the media ought to have covered. He used the example of how the press controlled by Silvio Berlusconi undermined the authority of the magistrate who criticised the Prime Minister by reporting that he wore turquoise socks. According to Eco, to make noise you don't have to invent stories; "all you have to do is report a story that is real but irrelevant, yet creates a hint of suspicion by the simple fact that it has been reported. It is true and irrelevant that the magistrate wears turquoise socks, but the fact it has been reported creates a suggestion of something not quite confessed, leaving a mark, an impression. Nothing is more difficult to dispose of than an irrelevant but true story." All of us watching prime-time news channels in India can relate to this.

As a news ombudsman, I make a crucial distinction between multiple voices and noise that is meant to drown out voices. I am aware of the fact that with regards to censorship, noise can be more powerful than silence because those who deploy this tactic are aware of the impact of this noise: "An accusation that is not an accusation cannot be challenged."

Journalism is neither silence nor noise but a credible voice.

readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

SINGLE FILE

Realising grand objectives

Many regional policy challenges can be addressed with three major fixes

DHRUVA JAISHANKAR



It is common to assess a country's foreign policy by examining individual bilateral relationships or specific outcomes. But this risks missing the forest for the trees. While the broad directions of India's foreign relations – with the neighbourhood, Afghanistan, the U.S., China, Indo-Pacific, Russia, and Europe –

have been set over the past several years, the main factors inhibiting India's performance are ultimately domestic in nature. Three stand out.

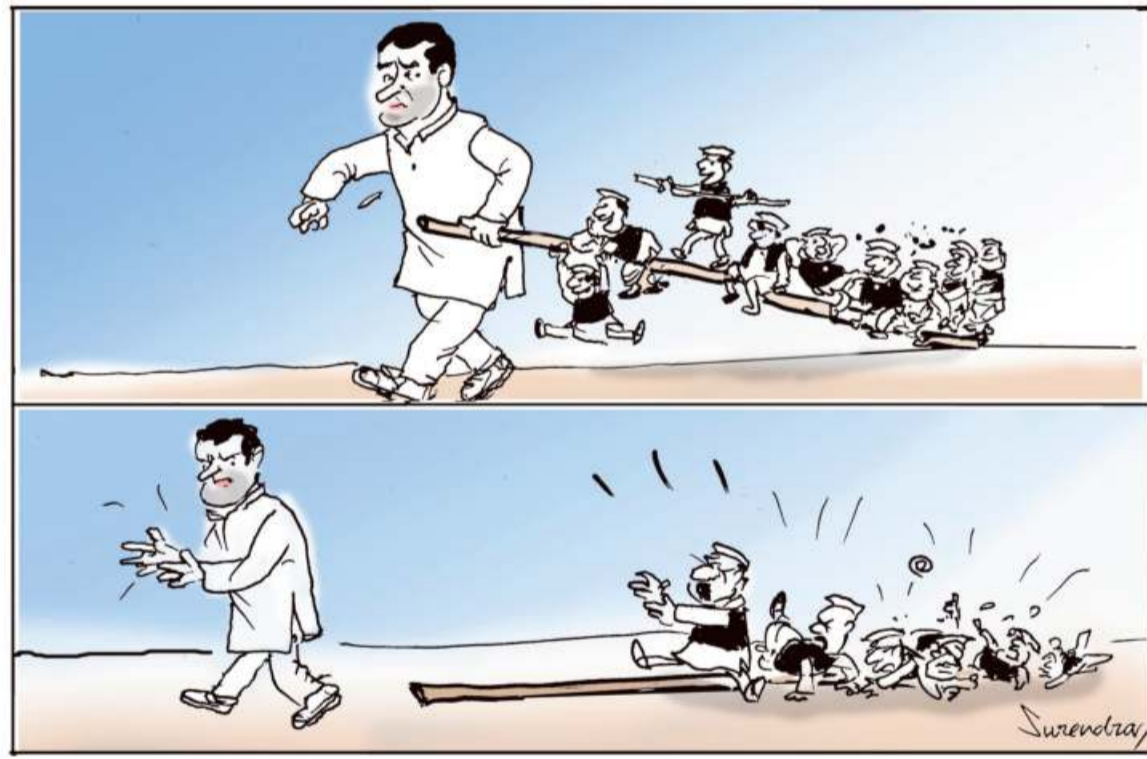
The first is trade. It often surprises people that India's trade-to-GDP ratio is higher than China's or the U.S.'s. India's market, and access to it, remains a valuable lever with other countries. But much of India's commerce involves raw materials and low value-added goods, and is still insufficiently integrated into global supply chains. With global trade stagnant and the World Trade Organization at a standstill, the only way for India to seize a larger share of exports is through well-negotiated preferential trade agreements. India's past record in this department has been poor, leaving some sectors exposed to dumping and others unnecessarily cloistered. A smarter trade agenda will not only create jobs and drive reforms at home, it could become a potent strategic tool in international affairs.

The second concerns defence. India has the world's fifth largest defence budget but is also the world's second largest arms importer. Not only does this compromise national security, it means that India cannot offer an alternative as a defence supplier to countries in its region. Defence indigenisation will require financing for defence capital expenditure; assessments of costs, technology transfer capabilities, and export potential early in the procurement process; and fair competition between the Indian private and public sectors.

The third concerns overseas project implementation. India's outgoing aid budget has been relatively flat, reflecting a scepticism of grant aid from India's own experience as a recipient. Instead, it has now started to explore other financing options. Indian overseas credit has increased significantly, with over \$24 billion extended primarily to South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Africa. But building on several recent steps will significantly increase the country's delivery and regional credibility. These include better project planning, more attractive and competitive financing terms, more reliable disbursement of funds, and enhanced coordination and communication with the private sector for implementation.

Many regional policy challenges would be addressed with these three major fixes. None will be easy as they will require tackling vested interests. While the first Modi government made its strategic objectives known and set out a clear direction, key policy interventions in these three areas will now be necessary for India to realise its grander objectives.

The writer is a Foreign Policy Fellow at the Brookings Institution's India Center



DATA POINT

How health workers are unevenly distributed

By Vignesh Radhakrishnan

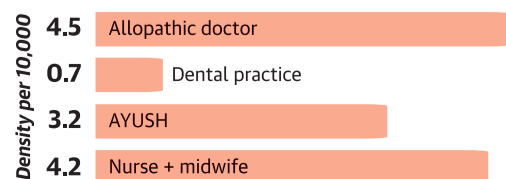
Two sources, two figures

A research paper* released recently relied on the 68th round of the NSSO and various medical bodies where doctors must get registered in order to obtain data on the concentration of health workers in India. The table shows how health professionals are split across sectors and their density per 10,000 people in India

Health worker	According to the registry	According to the NSSO
Allopathic doctor	7.1	5.9
Dental practice	1.2	0.7
AYUSH	5.7	4
Physiotherapy, diagnostic practice, and others	0.5	0.7
The above + non-medical staff	38.2	29.1
Doctor + nurse + midwife	26.7	20.6

Removing quacks

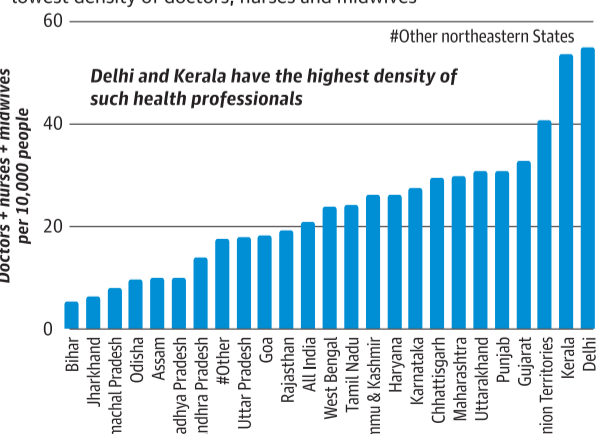
The paper found that many of the NSSO respondents who claimed to be health workers lacked the necessary qualifications/ medical training. The graph below shows that the density of health professionals came down after adjusting for qualification



* Size, composition and distribution of human resource for health in India: New estimates using NSSO and Registry data, BMJ Open

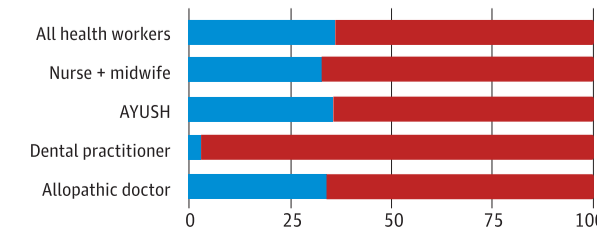
East is worst

Many eastern States such as Bihar, Odisha and Jharkhand have the lowest density of doctors, nurses and midwives



Urban skew

The density of health workers was significantly higher in urban areas compared to rural areas. This was especially in the case of dentists (97% of them practise in urban areas). The graph shows the percentage of health workers in urban and rural areas



FROM THE HINDU ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 3, 1969

Soviet plans to land man on moon

A Soviet cosmonaut has said the Soviet Union plans to land a man or men on the moon by the end of this year or early next year, if all goes well, according to reports from Japanese correspondents in Moscow. A group of nine Japanese science reporters now visiting Moscow reported to-day [June 2] that the remark was made by Soviet cosmonaut Alexei Leonov, the first man in the world to walk in space in 1965, in an interview with them on Sunday night [June 1]. Cosmonaut Leonov indicated that, unlike the U.S. Apollo project which sends spaceships directly from the earth to the moon, the Soviet moon project would launch a lunar probe from a space station assembled while in orbit around the earth.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 3, 1919

Mr. Tilak's Service. Mr. Gandhi's Speech.

A public meeting was held on Saturday [May 31] evening [in Bombay] under the presidency of Mr. Gandhi for expressing appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. Tilak to India and calling upon his countrymen to contribute to the Tilak Purse Fund started with the object of defraying the expenses incurred by him in the case against Sir Valentine Chirol. Mr. Gandhi in his opening remarks said that the goal of every Indian patriot was the same although each one might follow a different path. Mr. Tilak had one way of achieving his aim which differed from his (Mr. Gandhi's) but Mr. Tilak had displayed the courage of his conviction in going to an English court of law and fighting an Englishman and this fact had evoked his special admiration. It would, however, have been a splendid thing if Mr. Tilak had been a Satyagrahi as then he would not have troubled about going to a court of law at all and would have been saved the disappointment of defeat and consequent pecuniary loss.

CONCEPTUAL

Loss leader

BUSINESS

This refers to a common pricing strategy that is used by businesses wherein certain products are sold at a minimal profit or even at a price that is well below their cost price in order to boost the sale of other products that are more profitable. A supermarket chain, for instance, might decide to sell certain common household goods at a low profit so that more customers feel attracted to its store. It may believe that customers coming to the store to buy these commonly used items may in turn decide to purchase other goods in the store which can add to profits. If a store chooses not to sell these loss leader items, customers may simply decide not to shop at the store.

MORE ON THE WEB

17th Lok Sabha: first-time women MPs to watch out for

bit.ly/FirstTimeWomenMPs

FROM PAGE ONE

Centre in damage control mode

The protests may be spreading beyond the State; in Kolkata, hundreds of activists associated with the Bangla Pokkho civil society group took to the streets shouting slogans against the "unfair imposition of Hindi" and burning the pages of the draft policy.

Ambitious agenda

The draft NEP outlines an ambitious agenda with regard to language teaching, calling for all students from pre-school or Class 1 onwards to be exposed to three or more languages, with the medium of instruction until Class 5 to be the child's mother tongue or home language.

From Class 6 onwards, there can be greater flexibility in the choice of languages, "so long as the study of three languages by students in the Hindi-speaking States would continue to include Hindi and English and one of the modern Indian languages from other parts of India, while the study of languages by students in the non-Hindi-speaking States would include the regional language, Hindi and English," according to the draft policy.

It adds: "A multilingual India is better educated and

also better nationally integrated."

"There are scientific studies showing that basic education should be given in the mother tongue," Mazhar Asif, a professor at the School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, told *The Hindu*.

Dr. Asif's "critical knowledge of the issues of development of classical and modern languages, were central to defining a comprehensive policy in this area," according to the draft NEP's introduction.

"For the last 70 years, we have followed the same [linguistic] education policy. Let us now see how we can create a situation where every person can study in the language that he dreams in, and an atmosphere where all people in India can understand one common language," he said.

He does not believe that this one common language should be English. "...since Independence, the economic elite of India have adopted English as their language; only about 15% of the country speaks English, and this population almost entirely coincides with the economic elite (compared with, e.g. 54% of Indians who speak Hindi)," says the draft NEP.

75% of militants killed in Valley were locals

After Wani was killed in a police encounter on June 8, 2016, militancy-related incidents spiked in the Valley, and hundreds of youth joined terror groups in the past three years.

A shutdown was imposed on south Kashmir and other parts last month after Musa was killed by security forces in an encounter.

Musa, considered a "mini icon" in the Valley after Wani, was active in and around Pulwama.

A senior police officer said there had been a sharp decline in militant recruitments this year. As reported earlier, till May 25 this year, 33 locals had joined various terror groups, while 200 were recruited in 2018.

Guests at Indian envoy's Islamabad Iftar harassed

"Stopping diplomats and officials of the High Commission of India in Pakistan from discharging their diplomatic functions by intimidation and coercion is entirely counter-productive for our bilateral relationship," the High Commission of India declared.

On Sunday, a relative of the Indian envoy took to social media confirming the incident. "All those guests last evening fasting and expecting to break their roza with the Indian High Commission; many stood for almost an hour on the road in the searing heat, famished. So unfortunate. Somehow at home we never let a guest go hungry," said Bharati Chaturvedi, spouse of the Indian envoy Ajay Bisaria on her Twitter handle.

Similar comments were put out by Pakistanis who were among the invitees.

Activists protest

Politician and activist Farhatullah Babar, journalist Mehreen Zahra-Malik among others called out security forces of Pakistan for "un-

precedented level of harassment at the Iftar and dinner organised by the Indian High Commissioner at the landmark Serena Hotel of Islamabad.

"I must have been the first person to arrive at the hotel around 6.15 p.m. When I reached, security officials told me that the function has been cancelled. I said if that had been the case, the Indian officials would have informed me," said Mr. Babar recounting the harassment meted out to him.

He then returned to the front gate and said he had to go to the reception for a private function at the hotel. "I made all this up just to get in to the Serena Hotel. I was finally allowed to go in."

"When we got inside the hall, we were the only two guests there - all the others were the High Commission's own staff. Due to the aggressive security outside, most people couldn't come in... There were only six or seven Pakistani guests who made it, including us," Mr. Babar told *The Hindu*.

₹25 lakh damages for medical negligence

Dr. Singh apologised for her blunder and offered to do another D&C free of cost, during which she scratched the uterus so extensively that it damaged the wall of the endometrium causing the very rare disease known as Asherman Syndrome.

The couple had to run from pillar to post for over two years to get a competent doctor to enable her to conceive again.

The woman then moved the consumer forum for compensation.

"The act and conduct of OP-4 (Dr. Singh) in doing the

D&C a second time to remove the left out part is highly condemnable. In the process she scratched the uterus so extensively that it damaged the wall of the endometrium causing the very rare disease known as Asherman Syndrome that led to serious problems to the complainant," it added.

The consumer court held the hospitals and doctors "guilty of medical negligence and deficiency in service" and awarded compensation. However, it declined the plea to initiate penal action against them.

Cong. revamp outline still hazy

Party vows 'decisive measures', but how soon is the question now

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

After the second consecutive Lok Sabha election debacle, the Congress is getting ready to take "decisive measures" to restructure the party organisation. Sonia Gandhi, head of the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP), mentioned this while addressing the party's MPs-elect on Saturday.

"The Congress Working Committee met a few days ago to deliberate the next steps and the way forward for us. Several decisive measures to strengthen the party are being discussed," Ms. Gandhi said.

But the question that is being asked is how soon will the Congress carry out the proposed revamp and under whose leadership. On May 25, Congress president Rahul Gandhi told the Congress Working Committee (CWC) that he would step down and his decision was non-negotiable.

However, *The Hindu* reported on May 29 that the "leadership crisis" may have eased a bit as Mr. Gandhi



Looking ahead: Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi meeting the newly elected MPs in New Delhi on Saturday. •PTI

could agree to oversee the revamping exercise that aims to create a strong leadership in every State and focus on creating grassroots leaders.

Assembly polls

Party insiders, however, said the States that needed urgent attention were Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand that go to the polls later this year.

While the Congress lost all the 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana, in Jharkhand, it fared

marginally better by winning one seat while its ally, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) retained its Rajamahals seat.

In Maharashtra too, of the 48 Lok Sabha that were jointly contested by the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), the Congress won one seat while the NCP managed to win four seats.

Last Thursday, Mr. Gandhi met NCP leader Sharad Pawar in Delhi to discuss the results.

"Congress president Mr.

@RahulGandhi met up with me today at my residence in Delhi. We discussed matters pertaining to the forthcoming Vidhan Sabha elections and the drought situation in Maharashtra," Mr. Pawar tweeted leading to speculation that the two leaders discussed the possibility of the NCP's merger with the Congress.

On Saturday, the Congress reiterated the position that Mr. Gandhi would oversee the revamp in an attempt to make it a fighting organisation.

"Shri Rahul Gandhi is the president of the Indian National Congress and there are no two opinions or doubts on this issue ... The Congress Working Committee has authorised Shri Rahul Gandhi to do a complete overhaul of the organisation from top to bottom. I would request all my friends in the media whom we respect so much to wait for a while rather than fall prey to speculation," Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said at a press conference on Saturday.

Slogans allowed, but not BJP designs: Mamata

Warns against attempts to 'stir unrest'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

In the wake of the controversy over the arrest of 10 persons who shouted 'Jai Shri Ram' near the convoy of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the Trinamool chief on Sunday clarified that she had no problems with slogans, but had issues with the BJP's design to mix "religion with politics".

Ms. Banerjee sharply reacted twice over the week when a group of men shouted 'Jai Sri Ram' standing close to her vehicle. On both occasions, Ms. Banerjee came out of the vehicle and warned the crowd shouting at her, for which the BJP

leaders had severely criticised her.

Ms. Banerjee said on social media that she had "no problem regarding any slogan used by political parties". "My party has *Jai Hind*, *Vande Mataram* [as slogans]. The Left has *Inquilab Zindabad*. Others have different slogans. We respect each other," she said.

However, "the BJP is using religious slogan *Jai Shri Ram* as their party's slogan in a misconceived manner by mixing religion with politics," she said. She further indicated that action would be initiated if such religious slogans were used to stir "unrest, chaos, violence" and disrupt normal life.

Defections stir discontent in Bengal BJP

Leaders against indiscriminate moves to engineer exits from Trinamool

SUVOJIT BAGCHI
KOLKATA

The recent entry of four Trinamool MLAs has sparked unrest in the the BJP's Bengal unit. However, the State leadership indicated that such crossovers will continue, with party leader Mukul Roy saying on Sunday that "as many as 50 Trinamool MLAs are in touch" with him.

The efforts to poach Trinamool MLAs indiscriminately has been criticised within the BJP. Many senior BJP leaders and activists have in particular questioned the induction of Manirul Islam, a Trinamool MLA.

Mr. Islam, from south Bengal's Birbhum district, is



Manirul Islam (left) with BJP leader Kailash Vijayvargiya after he joined the party. •PTI

allegedly involved in the murder of personal and business rivals and has boasted publicly about it. He said in 2014 that he could "crush [his rivals] under his feet".

Mr. Islam and three other MLAs recently joined the BJP

BJP, Sena to go 50:50 in Maharashtra polls?

Both will fight 135 each: BJP Minister

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE
PUNE

The BJP and its ally Shiv Sena will contest an equal number of seats in the Maharashtra Assembly election to be held later this year, senior BJP leader and State Revenue Minister Chandrakant Patil said on Sunday.

"Of the 288 Assembly seats, the BJP and the Sena will contest 135 each and leave the remaining 18 to our allies," Mr. Patil said on the sidelines of a drought-review tour in Aurangabad district.

In the Lok Sabha election, the alliance swept the State, winning 41 of the 48 seats and securing more than 50% of the vote share for the first time in the State.

Growing influence

Mr. Patil's probable formula for seat sharing reflects the BJP's current status as the leading partner in the alliance.

Prior to 2014, the Sena, as the dominant partner, took the greater share of seats in



Chandrakant Patil

Assembly elections, while the BJP usually contested more Lok Sabha seats.

In the 2014 Assembly election, the Sena offered the BJP 119 seats, keeping 151 for itself, which resulted in both parties contesting separately.

However, neither got a majority - the BJP won 122 seats and the Sena 63.

Uddhav Thackeray's party was then compelled to form an alliance with the BJP after the NCP made an unsolicited offer to support the BJP in the "interest of a stable government".

Heroes remembered



Home Minister Amit Shah paying tributes at the National Police Memorial in New Delhi on Sunday. He said he was overwhelmed by the visit to the memorial, erected as a mark of respect to the over 34,000 policemen who died in the line of duty. •PTI

The wait to get longer for U.S. visas

All applicants must declare social media profiles under increased surveillance

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

Processing times for visas to the United States are likely to go up significantly following the implementation of a new rule since last week requiring applicants to declare their social media profiles for the last five years.

"Processing times will take much longer - as the DoS [Department of State] investigation team will undertake research based on the info and may decide to contact and look into others associated through the social media platforms," Sheela Murthy, founder of Murthy Law firm that specialises in



Students waiting at the U.S. Consulate in Mumbai. •FILE PHOTO

immigration law, told *The Hindu*.

Applicants have the option of saying they do not use social media but lying could

have "serious immigration consequences", a State Department official told *The Hill*, a Washington DC based news outlet.

The drop down list in the visa application forms now only provides options to declare major social media handles, but there will soon be options to list other sites, *The Hill* reported.

"About 10 to 12 Lakh Indian citizens will be affected annually by this social media policy," Rahul Reddy, a partner at Reddy and Neumann, specialists in business-related immigration, told *The Hindu*.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) had called the proposal "ineffective and deeply problematic" when it was initially proposed by the State Department in 2018.

Charges fly thick and fast in Punjab over 2015 firing

Badals should quit politics, says Cong.

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

With the police pointing the finger at former Punjab Deputy Chief Minister and Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Badal in the 2015 police firing incident in Kotkapura which claimed two lives, the game of allegations and counter-allegations has begun.

Last week, the Special Investigation Team filed a chargesheet in a Faridkot court claiming that the police firing (during the protests that followed the sacrilege of Guru Granth Sahib at Bargari village) was a pre-planned handiwork of Mr. Badal, former DGP Sumedh Singh Saini and Sirsa-based Dera Sacha Sauda chief Ram Rahim among others.

The ruling Congress was quick to attack the Akali Dal with senior leader and Cooperation Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa saying the "Panthic" mask was off the faces of the Badals and now the family must renounce politics. He asked Mr. Badal to step down as MP and also the chief of his party after being "exposed".

The SAD accused the



Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa

Congress of indulging in a political vendetta.

"Documents fabricated" Terming the probe "politically motivated", the Akali Dal questioned the credibility of the chargesheet.

Senior leader Daljeet Cheema said "the chargesheet was signed by IG Kunwar Vijay Pratap of the SIT on May 23 though the model code was withdrawn on May 26. Notably, he was reappointed a member of the SIT team on May 27. It's a clear case of fabrication of documents with mala fide intention." "Other members of the SIT have also questioned the partisan role of the said officer and submitted their objections to the government in writing," he said.



APPEAL

8 months old Krithvik Sai is suffering from BILATERAL HYDRO URETERO NEPHROSIS since birth and advised Surgery at Sri Kumaran Multi Speciality Hospital, Chennai. The cost of the surgery is around Rs. 1,00,000/-. He is from a very poor family. Kindly help the child to get a new life. The donations sent through ChD.D./NFTT Transfer (Syndicate Bank, Nungambakam Branch, A/C No: 60182010063310, IFSC No: SYNB0006018) favouring WOMEN'S WELFARE

SYNDICATE is exempted under 80G IT. Please give us your E-mail ID. All Correspondence is done through WWS, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, Flat No. GF 1, Cordel Apartments, O.No. 13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401 / 28235324. E-mail ID: womenwelfarefund@gmail.com Website: www.womenwelfarefund.org

WWS

IN BRIEF



Divya Spandana takes a break from Twitter

NEW DELHI
The Congress's social media in-charge, Divya Spandana, has deleted her Twitter handle, along with the tweet history, triggering speculation over her plans. The party did not say anything officially on her action, but sources close to the former MP said she was taking a break from politics. Ms. Spandana was not available for comments. PTI

Arunachal MLA killing case to be given to NIA

GUWAHATI
The Arunachal Pradesh Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Sunday decided to recommend entrusting the National Investigation Agency (NIA) with the probe into the assassination of Tirong Aboh, MLA, and 10 others on May 21. Mr. Aboh won the Khonsa West Assembly seat on National People's Party ticket posthumously.

Rajnath Singh to visit Siachen, Srinagar today

NEW DELHI
In his first trip as Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh on Monday will visit the Siachen Glacier to meet the soldiers guarding the border beyond the heights of 12,000 ft. Mr. Singh, to be accompanied by Army chief General Bipin Rawat, will also visit the headquarters of the Army's 14 Corps in Leh and 15 Corps in Srinagar, official sources said. PTI

Traders' body welcomes pension scheme

NEW DELHI
Termining it a landmark decision, the Confederation of All-India Traders (CAIT) on Sunday welcomed the Centre's decision to approve a pension scheme for traders, but sought an expansion of the age limit for beneficiaries. In a statement, CAIT national general-secretary Praveen Khandelwal said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had fulfilled his promise of providing a pension to traders, which had been a demand of CAIT for more than three years. He added that traders aged between 41 and 60 years should also be considered for the scheme. PTI

First flight via Pak. lands in India after 3 months

Ethiad jet enters through one route opened on Gujarat side

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

An Etihad Airways flight from Abu Dhabi to New Delhi on Sunday evening became the first to cross into India by overflying Pakistani territory after a gap of more than three months.

India and Pakistan had imposed airspace restrictions following the air strikes at Balakot.

Flight EY224 entered India from Gujarat at 5.34 p.m., four minutes after Pakistan opened one flight route between the two countries, a senior Civil Aviation Ministry official said.

Pakistan decided on Saturday to open the route near Lakhpat in Gujarat for flights to India with effect from 5.30 p.m. on June 2.

The Airbus A321 aircraft departed from Abu Dhabi at



Last week, India decided to lift curbs on all 11 entry and exit points for flights.

3.10 p.m. and landed in New Delhi at 7 p.m., a saving of 40 minutes from the flying time required for the re-routed flightpath all aircraft had been taking since the restrictions were enforced, says the aviation website flightradar24.com.

Last week, India decided to lift curbs on all 11 entry

and exit points for flights along its border with Pakistan. This prompted the Pakistani decision.

More routes soon

Ministry officials say the rest of the entry points are expected to be gradually opened for flight between and through the two countries.

Early in April, Pakistan opened one route for westward flights from India.

Pakistan closed its airspace for all flights on February 27, and India shut its airspace for flights to and from Pakistan as a reciprocal measure.

While Pakistan gradually reopened its airspace for most airlines, restrictions continued for flights entering from its eastern border after traversing India.

Navy steps up anti-piracy patrol

Deploys P-8I long-range maritime surveillance aircraft over Gulf of Aden

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Expanding its mission-based deployments (MBD) in the Indian Ocean region, the Navy deployed its P-8I long-range maritime surveillance aircraft for anti-piracy sorties from Salalah in Oman to patrol the Gulf of Aden.

"Long-range maritime reconnaissance anti-submarine warfare aircraft P-8I undertakes anti-piracy patrol sorties from Salalah in the Gulf of Aden and other piracy-prone areas in keeping with our MBD philosophy, to keep IOR [Indian Ocean region] safe and secure for all," Navy spokesperson Captain D.K. Sharma said in a tweet on Saturday.

The P-8I provided long-range maritime domain awareness, Captain Sharma added.

Since 2008, India has been conducting anti-piracy patrols in the commercially crucial Gulf of Aden.



The crew posing in front of the P-8I long-range maritime surveillance aircraft. • INDIAN NAVY

"This was the second time the P-8I operated from Salalah for anti-piracy this year. It was operated from there first in January," a defence source said on Sunday.

Besides escorting Indian-flagged vessels, ships of other countries have also been provided protection, a defence source said. "No ship under Indian escort has thus far been hijacked by pirates," the source added.

Till date, the Navy has es-

corted 3,440 ships, of which 3,027 were of foreign flags and 413 of Indian flag. Navy ships also made 414 interventions at sea. Seventy-three ships have been deployed till date on anti-piracy patrols.

Under the MBD concept, the Navy now maintains a ship at every choke point in the IOR at any point of time.

As part of expanding maritime engagement, India has stepped up cooperation with

Indian Ocean littoral states and maritime neighbours.

Under the "Neighbourhood First" policy, the Navy undertakes joint Exclusive Economic Zone surveillance with the Maldives, the Seychelles and Mauritius and coordinated patrols with Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand and Indonesia.

Search and rescue, capacity-building and capability-enhancement activities have also emerged as major areas.

NRC: Bengal man in jail for 2 years

He is in Assam's Goalpara detention centre due to a mismatch in father's name

SUVOJIT BAGCHI
KOLKATA

A Kolkata-born carpenter, based in Assam, is the first victim of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in south Bengal.

Ashgar Ali, 50, born in the Park Circus area of central Kolkata, has been lodged in a west Assam detention centre for an anomaly in his father's name. Family members in Kolkata furnished various papers on Sunday to establish that Mr. Ali was born in Kolkata.

For nearly two years, Ashgar Ali, aka Sheikh Ashgar, has been jailed in the Goalpara detention centre.

Unusual surname
"Our father's name is Sk Morol. But since Morol is an unusual surname and he was often questioned if he is actually a morol (village head), he changed his name to Mohammed Jarif. Hence, some of the papers identify him as Sk Morol, while some as Mohammed Jarif," Arshad Ali,



Ashgar Ali's mother Jubeda Begum, left, and sister Afrin Begum showing his papers to an official. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

his younger brother, said.

While Mr. Jarif filed an affidavit in a judicial magistrate court in the city in December 2015, declaring that he is a Kolkata-born Indian national, his son was detained in Guwahati on July 14, 2017, for the difference in his father's name.

"Ashgar Ali's son is in Class VIII and his wife is suf-

fering from acute arthritis... they are in a terrible situation. The problem occurred as the family is entirely uneducated," said Zishan Ali, a close relative of Ashgar Ali, from Guwahati.

"Three years"
"We hear that according to the court order, if his foreign nationality cannot be esta-

blished in three years, he will be released. But for one's father's mistake, is it reasonable to detain a person for three years?" asks Mr. Zishan Ali.

Abject poverty
Mr. Ashgar Ali's parents and other family members live in abject poverty in a Park Circus slum in central Kolkata.

His two brothers work as tailors, while the 83-year-old father suffers from a stomach tumour. The mother, Jubeda Begum, is frail and losing sight in both eyes. She cried incessantly while talking about his son. The family is worried about the fresh NRC in Bengal.

"We have done everything that is possible to rectify the arbitrary name change of our father. But could you tell us what else we should do to ensure that the entire family does not go to jail like our brother, if NRC is indeed started in Bengal?" asked Afrin Begum, one of Ashgar Ali's four sisters.

Switzerland to issue notices to more Indians

Union government has sought details of many clients

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI/BERN

Amid a continuing crackdown on Swiss bank account holders with suspected illicit money, Switzerland has stepped up the process of sharing details on such individuals.

Potluri Rajamohan Rao is the latest Indian national to get a notice in this regard.

At least 14 Indians with accounts in Switzerland-based banks were issued notices by the Swiss authorities last month, in which they have been given one last chance to appeal against the sharing of their details with India.

More in offing
According to officials, more such notices are in the offing in the coming weeks, as India has sought details pertaining to a large number of Indian clients of Swiss banks.



The latest notice was issued to one Potluri Rajamohan Rao on May 28. • GETTY IMAGES

involved in illicit financial activities.

The notice to Potluri Rajamohan Rao on May 28 asked him to file an appeal, if any, within 10 days, in connection with the "administrative assistance" sought by the Indian authorities.

In the preceding week, at least 11 such notices were issued on a single day, May 21,

to various Indian clients of the Swiss banks, according to the Swiss government's gazette notifications.

Financial centre
Switzerland has been striving hard to re-establish its position as a global financial centre after clamping down on the secrecy walls of its banks. There has been a significant surge in the number of cases where it has initiated processes to share information on Indians with Swiss bank accounts.

Except for his date of birth (July 15, 1951) and his Indian residency, the notification issued by Switzerland's Federal Tax Administration did not disclose any further details of Mr. Rao. However, officials said Mr. Rao has been associated with various businesses, including telecom, in the southern States.

On Twitter, Jaishankar picks up from where Swaraj left

Responds to several tweets from Indians seeking help

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Sunday responded to tweets by several Indians abroad seeking help, signalling a continuation of his predecessor Sushma Swaraj's social media outreach for people in distress.

Ms. Swaraj leaves a legacy of an easily accessible External Affairs Minister who helped the diaspora through Twitter.

In a series of tweets, Mr. Jaishankar responded to calls for help by several Indians abroad, assuring them that Indians missions in respective countries were trying to address their issues.

When one Mahalakshmi



S. Jaishankar

The Minister also responded to a Twitter user's request for help in finding her husband in Kuwait and bringing him back to India. The complainant said her husband was not responding to a court summons.

To this, Mr. Jaishankar tweeted: "Our Embassy in Kuwait is already working on it. Please be in touch with them @indembktw." In his first official Twitter post, Mr. Jaishankar on Saturday said he was proud to follow in on the footsteps of Ms. Swaraj. "My first tweet. Thank you all for the best wishes! Honoured to be given this responsibility. Proud to follow on the footsteps of @SushmaSwaraj ji."

U.S. trying to 'bully' India, says SJM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Termining the Trump administration's decision to end preferential treatment to India an attempt to "bully" the country, the Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM), an affiliate of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangha, said the U.S. wanted India to tweak its policies in the interests of Walmart and Amazon.

The U.S. has said it will withdraw incentives to Indian exporters provided under its Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) programme with effect from June 5. "What the U.S. is trying to do is bully India on certain issues, where India cannot take a decision in favour of the U.S.," SJM co-convenor Ashwani Mahajan said.

Just 20% water left in 91 major reservoirs

In western region's 27 major reservoirs, it is down to 11% of the total capacity: CWC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Water storage in reservoirs of most States of west and south India has dipped to less than the average of last 10 years, the Central Water Commission (CWC) said, indicating a worsening water crisis.

According to the Commission, "The water storage available in 91 major reservoirs of the country for the week ending on May 30, 2019, was 31.65 billion cubic meters, which is 20% of total



A man cycles on the dry Sabarmati riverbed in Gujarat. • AFP

is 3.53 BCM which is 11% of the total live storage capacity. The storage during the corresponding period last year was 15% and the average storage of the corresponding period in last 10 years was 19% of its live storage capacity," the CWC said.

Private weather forecaster Skymet said last month that rainfall in Vidarbha, Maharashtra, west Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat will be "poorer than normal", while southern India is expected to receive below normal rainfall.

storage capacity of these reservoirs. This percentage was at 21% for the week ending on May 23, 2019."

In the western region, which includes Gujarat and

Maharashtra, there are 27 major reservoirs with total live storage capacity of 31.26 billion cubic metres (BCM).

"The total live storage available in these reservoirs

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VJAYAWADA
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Sl. No.	Specification No.	Description of Equipment
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Rec. No.PRA/13907/Adv.No.93/PRO/2019, Dt.02.06.2019 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited, Bengaluru
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Document ref. 01/CO/GI/2019-20 DATED: June 03, 2019

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BRBNMPL invites Manufacturers of Plastic Based Banknote Substrate to supply of Samples of Dummy Offset Pre-printed Notes on Plastic Based Substrate suitable for Indian Bank Notes.

The samples may be submitted to the Managing Director, Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited, Corporate Office, No. 3 & 4, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, BTM Layout, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru - 560 029, India on or before 11:00 hrs. IST on July 31, 2019.

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Ext:222/555/27/02/30 Fax: 28538751
Email: kamurthy@nmdc.co.in; sansari@nmdc.co.in
CIN : L13100AP1958G0001674

Tender No. HQMM/3021-17/33ZN3/277 Date : 31.05.2019
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Prospective bidders may visit our website www.nmdc.co.in; CPP Portal <http://procure.gov.in>; <https://mstcecommerce.com> and may download the tender documents and also corrigendum if any. Kindly note that any corrigendum to the above tender notice will not be published and uploaded only on NMDC and MSTC website.

Jt. General Manager (Materials)

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3.	CIAB/2/(06)/19-20/Pur	High Pressure Homogenizer
4.	CIAB/2/(07)/19-20/Pur	UTM Machine
5.	CIAB/2/(10)/19-20/Pur	Pilot Plant Assembly
6.	CIAB/1/(11)/19-20/Pur	High Pressure and Temperature Reactor
7.	CIAB/2/(12)/19-20/Pur	Fully Automatic Fat Extraction System
8.	CIAB/2/(16)/19-20/Pur	Oxygen Transmission Rate Tester
9.	CIAB/2/(19)/GAP-18/19-20/Pur	Constant Temperature Bath with Magnetic Stirrer
10.	CIAB/2/(20)/19-20/Pur	Super Critical Fluid Extractor
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For detailed Tender's Term & Conditions, due date & time of tender submission & opening etc., kindly visit the website : www.ciab.res.in or www.eprocure.gov.in. Further changes, if any in the tender document, changes will be available only in the CIAB Website. CIAB reserves the right to accept/reject any offer in part or full without assigning any reason.

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**'No need to resume drills with S. Korea'**

SEUL
Acting U.S. Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan said on Sunday that for now it was not necessary to resume military exercises with South Korea that were suspended last year to support diplomatic efforts with North Korea. He said he had been told by military leaders that troops on the Korean peninsula had the required military readiness. REUTERS

Sri Lanka to hold election later this year

COLOMBO
The presidential elections in Sri Lanka would be held between November 15 and December 7, Election Commission Chairman Mahinda Deshapriya has said, clarifying that according to constitutional provisions, the polls must be held one month before the end of the current President's term. PTI

China defends Tiananmen crackdown

Defence Minister says the country has enjoyed stability and development due to the govt.'s action

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SINGAPORE

China on Sunday defended the bloody Tiananmen crackdown on student protesters in a rare public acknowledgement of the event, days before its 30th anniversary, saying it was the "correct" policy.

After seven weeks of protests by students and workers, soldiers and tanks chased and killed demonstrators and onlookers in the streets leading to Beijing's Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989.

Hundreds, or possibly more than 1,000, were killed, although the precise number of deaths remains unknown.

"That incident was a political turbulence and the central government took measures to stop the turbulence which is a correct policy," Chinese Defence Minister General Wei Fenghe told a regional security forum in Singapore.

Gen. Wei asked why people still say that China "did



Tanks and soldiers guarding the Chang'an Avenue, which leads to Tiananmen Square in Beijing, on June 6, 1989, two days after the crackdown; right, Defence Minister Wei Fenghe. •AFP



not handle the incident properly". "The 30 years have proven that China has undergone major changes," he said, adding that because of the government's action at that time "China has enjoyed stability and development".

Inside China, an army of online censors have scrubbed clean social media, removing articles, memes, hashtags or photos alluding to the Tiananmen crackdown.

Discussions of the 1989

pro-democracy protests and their brutal suppression are strictly taboo, and authorities have rounded up or warned activists, lawyers and journalists ahead of the anniversary each year.

Warning to U.S.

In a wide-ranging speech that came a day after acting U.S. Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan addressed the same forum, Gen. Wei vowed that China will not be bullied by the United States,

issuing a combative defence of its policies on Taiwan, the South China Sea and the restive region of Xinjiang.

China will not renounce the use of force in the reunification of self-ruled Taiwan, he said, calling it "very dangerous" to underestimate Beijing's will. "We will strive for the process of peaceful reunification with utmost sincerity and greatest efforts but we make no promise to renounce the use of force," he said.

Twitter issues apology for blocking users

REUTERS
SHANGHAI

Twitter apologised on Saturday for suspending accounts critical of Chinese government policy, days ahead of the 30th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square crackdown.

In a statement, Twitter said "a number of accounts" had been suspended as part of efforts to target accounts engaging in "platform manipulation... Some of these were involved in commentary about China. These accounts were not mass reported by the Chinese authorities — this was a routine action on our part".

Such actions sometimes "catch false positives," it added. It said it was working to "ensure we overturn any errors".

Walk away if you don't get fair deal on Brexit: Trump

President speaks ahead of U.K. visit

REUTERS
LONDON

U.S. President Donald Trump said Britain should refuse to pay a \$50 billion European Union divorce bill and "walk away" from Brexit talks if Brussels does not give ground.

Mr. Trump told *The Sunday Times* newspaper ahead of a state visit to Britain, which starts on Monday, that Britain's next leader should send Nigel Farage to conduct EU talks.

Once Britain leaves the EU, which Mr. Trump said must happen this year, then he would go "all out" to agree a trade deal. "They've got to get it done," he said in the *Sunday Times* interview. "They have got to get the deal closed."

British Prime Minister Theresa May will step down shortly after this week's Trump visit. Mr. Trump said her successor should pursue a "no-deal" Brexit if he or she could not get more concessions from Europe by



U.S. President Donald Trump and British Prime Minister Theresa May. •AP

the end of October, when Britain is due to leave.

"If they don't get what they want, I would walk away," he said. "If you don't get a fair deal, you walk away."

Mr. Trump said the U.S. could work "very, very quickly" on a trade deal if Britain was not constrained by a transition period agreed with Brussels. He also said that it was a mistake for the Conservatives not to involve Mr. Farage, the Brexit Party leader, in negotiations with Brussels after his success in European Parliament elections.

Suspended police chief blames Sirisena over terror attacks

Says his agency was asked to stop inquiry against Islamists

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

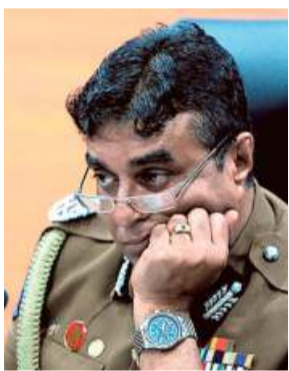
Sri Lanka's suspended police chief has petitioned the Supreme Court, accusing President Maithripala Sirisena of failing to prevent the Easter bombings that killed 258 people.

In a 20-page complaint, Inspector-General Pujith Jayasundara disclosed serious communication gaps between intelligence agencies and security arms of the government, all which fall under Mr. Sirisena.

Jayasundara's petition

In the petition submitted to court last week, Mr. Jayasundara said the country's premier spy agency, the State Intelligence Service (SIS), ordered him last year to stop ongoing police investigations into Islamic militants.

The SIS, which reports directly to Mr. Sirisena, wanted the police Terrorist Investigation Department to stop all inquiries into extremist Muslim factions, including



Sri Lanka's ex-police chief Pujith Jayasundara. •AFP

the National Thowtheeth Jama'ath (NTJ), which was blamed for the Easter Sunday bombings.

Mr. Jayasundara said the head of the SIS, Nilantha Jayawardena, did not take seriously the intelligence shared by neighbouring India which warned of an impending attack by the NTJ.

Mr. Jayasundara said despite the SIS not sharing information warnings with the police department, he had initiated action to alert his

senior men, but he had no input from the main spy agency.

Pinning responsibility

Mr. Sirisena suspended Mr. Jayasundara after he refused to accept responsibility for the deadly attacks. The Attorney General has asked for a full bench of the apex court to decide the case.

Mr. Jayasundara said he was offered a diplomatic post if he took the fall and stepped down, but he refused as he said he was not responsible for the catastrophic intelligence failure.

He said he had been sidelined by the President since a political rift between the President and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe emerged in October.

Mr. Jayasundara's petition came days after Mr. Sirisena publicly rebuked another intelligence official, Sisira Mendis, after he told a parliamentary panel that the Easter suicide bombings could have been avoided.

No talks until U.S. changes behaviour: Iran

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Tehran on Sunday ruled out talks with Washington unless it changes its "general behaviour", after U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said his country was ready for negotiations.

"The change of the general behaviour and actions of the United States of America regarding the Iranian nation is the criterion" required for any talks to take place, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran ignores word games and the use of new language to express secret aims," said Mr. Mousavi.

Mr. Pompeo appeared to soften the U.S. stance somewhat on Sunday. "We are prepared to engage in a conversation with no preconditions," he said. But he appeared to immediately back-pedal, stating that the U.S. was "certainly prepared to have (a) conversation when the Iranians will prove they are behaving as a normal nation."

Easter attacks may have swept aside these struggles for justice in Sri Lanka

Hope has faded for those affected by wartime crimes like disappearances

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

The enormity of Sri Lanka's Easter bombings was pretty clear by the end April 21. At least 250 lives had been lost and the island was jolted into realising that its relative post-war peace was far from secure.

Over a month since, as Sri Lankans grapple with lingering fear and get used to heightened security all around, some worry that the attacks could have had an impact deeper than apparent.

For those pushing for accountability in cases of wartime disappearances and murders, the prospect of justice has further paled.

According to Sandya Eknaligoda, wife of dissident cartoonist Prageeth Eknaligoda who was forcibly disappeared about a decade ago, many struggles for justice have been "swept aside or marginalised" after the Easter Sunday bombings.

Imminent change

Pointing to an "imminent political change", she said: "Gotabaya [Rajapaksa ex-Defence Secretary] is planning to contest presidential elections. Some military personnel accused of crimes may want to hinder progress in those cases [linked to military] as they feel they can en-

joy impunity. Rule of law and justice will be even more uncertain in future."

The recent reinstatement of military intelligence officer Prabath Bulathwatte, accused of carrying out targeted attacks against high-profile journalists, has amplified apprehensions. Named as a key suspect, Mr. Bulathwatte, arrested in 2017, was out on bail before he was re-inducted into a team probing the Easter bombings.

The apparent impunity, activists fear, is not confined to war-era military officers linked to the high-profile cases. The presidential pardon for reactionary monk Gnanasara Thero, weeks after the Easter attacks, sparked similar concern.

Last summer, the controversial monk — accused of instigating anti-Muslim violence in the past — was convicted for contempt of court. He had stormed the courtroom and openly threatened Ms. Eknaligoda in January 2016, when a magistrate court was hearing a case of her disappeared husband.

In her view, the pardon is a "serious blow" to the judiciary and the administration of justice. "It is a rejection of rule of law and not what we expected when we advocated for 'good governance'."



Sandya Eknaligoda, wife of Prageeth Eknaligoda. •AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

she said, referring to the central promise made by President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, before their coalition rose to power, unseating Mahinda Rajapaksa from office in 2015. The other key promise was their pledge to probe high-profile murders and disappearances during the Rajapaksa regime.

On its part, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) made "significant progress" in many of the cases, said a top official source familiar with the investigations. The "complete" file on the 2008 abduction of investigative journalist Keith Noyzahr was submitted to the

Attorney General's department almost a year ago. More recently, the probe findings of the abduction of 11 youth in 2008-09 were handed over to the AG's department.

'No progress'

"So much [of evidence] came out in the investigation, but nothing progressed beyond a point," said Ayesha Thajudeen, sister of rugby star Wasim Thajudeen, whose body was found in his car in 2012, fully charred. The case drew much attention, especially since the probe pointed to Mr. Rajapaksa's family members having had an alleged role in the murder — a charge they squarely denied.

Last week, the Colombo High Court issued summons on former Senior DIG Anura Senanayake linked to the case. Ms. Thajudeen said: "I don't know what will come of it. The CID has worked very hard on this case. Our family went through a lot... dealing with our brother's body being exhumed, for the sake of justice. They say justice delayed is justice denied," adding that the current situation gave little hope. "Elections are due this year. Maybe leaders will yet again promise justice for my brother's murder," she said.

Harris' speech interrupted by protester

Activist Aidan Cook grabs microphone from the presidential candidate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON

Indian-American Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris was interrupted on stage by a protester, who grabbed the microphone from her hand while she was answering a question on equal pay at an event in San Francisco.

Approximately 10 minutes into her speech at MoveOn's Big Ideas Forum on Saturday, Ms. Harris was asked about her proposal to address the gender pay gap by moderator Stephanie Valencia when she was ap-

proached by a tall man wearing a press badge who jumped on the stage, the CNN reported.

Ms. Harris appeared puzzled but remained calm as the protester grabbed the mic from her hand, it said.

Calling attention

While taking the microphone, the protester, identified as animal rights activist Aidan Cook, 24, said he wanted her attention for a "much bigger idea" than the gender gap she had been speaking about.

"We were protesting just a



Presidential candidate Kamala Harris. •AFP

few minutes ago asking for your attention to a much bigger idea...." Mr. Cook said, as

the moderator tried to intervene.

Ms. Harris calmly walked away from the protester as the security staff and some other people, including Ms. Harris's husband Douglas Emhoff, managed to remove the protester from the event.

No charge was imposed on Mr. Cook for his action. After Mr. Cook's removal, Ms. Harris returned to the stage and continued her speech. Meanwhile, MoveOn, the liberal advocacy group behind the event, have said they "severely regret" the security failing.

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Rising debt

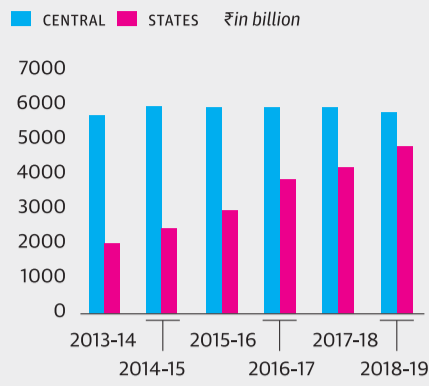
Government borrowing has steadily increased over the last five years. Cumulative borrowing by the Centre and the States has risen from ₹7,601 billion in FY14 to ₹10,493 billion in FY19. While the Centre's share has remained fairly constant during this period, borrowings by State governments have risen with each passing fiscal year.

By **Sumant Sen**

Source: RBI, CARE Ratings

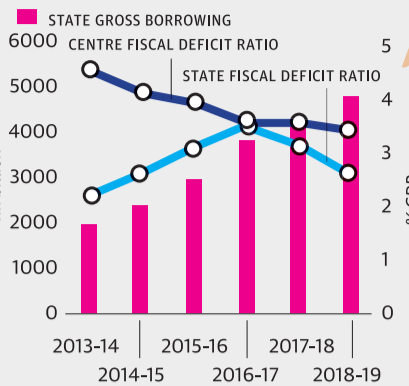
LION'S SHARE

The rise in government borrowing can be attributed to the States since their share in total borrowings has grown successively from FY14 to FY19. In this period the amount borrowed by the States has jumped by 143%



CHANGING FORTUNES

The State fiscal deficit levels increased until FY17 and declined subsequently in the next two years. However, their gross borrowings increased continuously over this period. Fiscal deficit of the Centre has seen a steady fall



HOW MUCH?

The 15 States in the table account for 90% of the total State borrowings. While Maharashtra's share fell sharply, the proportion of borrowings by Gujarat and Chhattisgarh grew the most

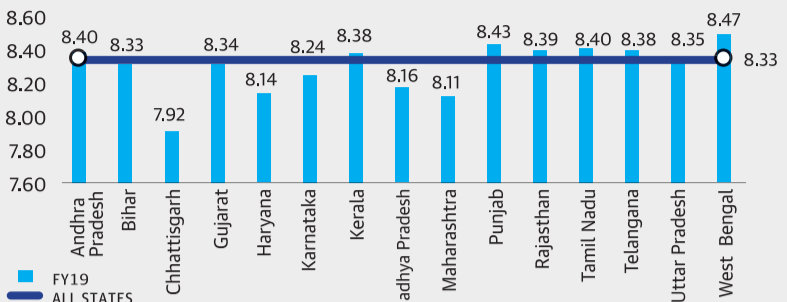
Borrowings by select States (% share)

State	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
U.P.	10.7	9.6	9.6
T.N.	9.8	9.7	9.0
W.B.	9.0	8.2	9.0
Karnataka	7.3	7.8	8.3
Gujarat	6.5	6.9	7.7
Rajasthan	4.2	7.4	6.9
A.P.	5.1	7.3	6.3

State	Share (%)	2017-18	2018-19
Telangana	5.7	5.9	5.6
Punjab	3.6	4.7	4.6
Maharashtra	4.1	4.1	4.4
M.P.	10.5	5.0	4.4
Kerala	4.2	4.2	4.3
Bihar	4.5	4.6	4.1
Chhattisgarh	1.6	2.2	2.7

COST OF BORROWING

In FY19, the average cost of borrowing for all States was 8.33%. Chhattisgarh saw the lowest weighted average yield among all other States at 7.92% while West Bengal had the highest at 8.47%



Singapore transport has an electric future with a hybrid twist

The city state is working with Volvo Buses on a technological leap that will lead to the roll-out of driverless buses

G. ANANTHAKRISHNAN

Singapore is famed both for its car-lite approach that discourages ownership of personal vehicles, and the steady expansion of its public transport system over the past three decades. The city state is now working on the next big technological leap that will potentially lead to the roll-out of driverless, fully autonomous buses in partnership with Volvo Buses.

The first trials in this race to autonomy are taking place on the smooth macadam of CETRAN, a comprehensive test centre for autonomous vehicles operated by Nanyang Technological University (NTU Singapore). Here, a Volvo 7900 series electric bus equipped with light detection and ranging sensors (LIDARS), stereo-vision cameras to capture 3D images, and a global navigation satellite system moves along test 'roads' with 'hands-free' technology in the driver's seat. It effortlessly turns at curves, and stops at traffic lights.

There are two Volvo autonomous electric buses in the trials conducted by NTU scientists. The second one is undergoing tests at a bus depot managed by local transport operator SMRT.

Smart nation status

The quest to develop autonomous vehicles is global. NTU President Prof. Subra Suresh told journalists invited by Volvo in Singapore that the country is working to be a leader in the development of autonomous vehicles, and is best placed to do so because of its goal to be a smart na-

tion, its advanced infrastructure and commitment to smart technologies.

The NTU president said many companies were actively working on autonomous vehicles. "Mercedes Daimler, BMW, Tesla have sophisticated technology, and there is Waymo [Google's project]. There are even discussions about Apple in this technology. Many universities do research. Uber and Lyft are both developing technologies for autonomy," said Prof. Suresh.

Akash Passey, senior vice president, Region International, Volvo Buses, said "Volvo is proud to have launched the world's first full-size autonomous electric bus. It represents the future of mobility."

Volvo's partnership with NTU and SMRT to test AV technologies stands out because it is a setting far from Sweden. It was made possible by the seamless links that exist in Singapore between academic institutions and the country's Land Transport Authority. There is also a strong electricity grid and an Information Technology backbone.

"There are significant challenges to the development of fully autonomous vehicles not just from a technological viewpoint, but on questions such as liability, insurance and social consequences

for countries with large disparities and inequalities," according to Prof. Suresh.

For Volvo, Singapore offers not just the test bed for new autonomous vehicle technologies but represents a market for development of the entire transport core.

Hybrids shine

"While the bus undergoes trials in Singapore, we have also delivered hybrid buses in keeping with Singapore's well-thought out e-mobility journey," Mr. Passey said.

The company has delivered 50 hybrid buses that run on both electricity and diesel, bringing down emissions and noise, cutting operating costs and raising efficiency.

Singapore has a 198.6 km urban rail network and an organised taxi fleet of 23,410 vehicles.

Its Land Transport Authority is looking ahead with Transport Master Plan 2040. New generation buses made up of a mix of clean diesel single and double deckers

and e-mobility is expanding with a small fleet of hybrid buses. Electromobility, comprising full electric and, potentially, autonomous vehicles is on the cards.

India is evolving its own public transport system, and Singapore provides a comparison at some levels. Here, Mr. Passey thinks there is an opportunity to dramatically expand India's infrastructure using urban bus systems: using clean diesel BS VI buses, hybrid buses that run on both electricity and diesel, and full electric buses as islands of excellence.

Welcoming the outlay under the FAME-II plan (Faster Adoption and Manufacture of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles), which, among other things, would help acquire over 7,000 full electric buses using the outlay of ₹10,000 crore, he said the right outcomes would come with a roadmap in place.

"From expe-

rience, I think [the shift to] BS VI fuel is good. We should not write off hybrids, because there is no infrastructure required for hybrids. While Singapore has recently inducted hybrid buses, many countries including India want to skip hybrids, and everybody wants to jump to electric. In India we are still going for BS VI and electric, but in many countries they don't have even Euro 3 but they say we will put in an electric bus. You cannot jump from 0 to 100," Mr. Passey said.

The economics of hybrid buses make them comparable to those running on clean diesel.

"Till about four years ago, the hybrid bus also had to be subsidised. Today, around the world, the hybrid is a commercial success. Fuel efficiency, based on how you drive, is 35-40% over diesel, and the price can be 1.5 times that of a

conventional bus, or 30 to 50% higher. But it pays back early because of the fuel efficiency. An electric bus is still an expensive proposition and is not a business model in itself without significant government subsidies. Almost 50% or more can be the cost of the battery. Meanwhile, the scope for buses running on clean diesel as per BS VI norms continues to be significant," according to Mr. Passey.

Volvo launched hybrids over a decade ago and has sold more than 4,000 electrified buses globally. E-mobility requires a collaboration that includes the government, traffic authorities, bus manufacturers, operators and charging system providers, besides the real estate sector and academic experts, he added.

Singapore operates over 19,000 buses, of which about 6,000 are public, each averaging 227 km per day. This represents the second highest fleet utilisation worldwide. The small nation with distances that do not exceed 40 km has 2,200 double deckers, the majority of them supplied by Volvo, including its newest B8L model.

(The writer was in Singapore at the invitation of Volvo Buses)



Coffee Board takes tech route to help growers boost yield

Apps fed with data help forecast weather, predict leaf rust

M. SOUNDARIYA PREETHA

For the 3.5 lakh coffee growers in India, 98% of whom are small-scale, challenges affecting production include labour shortage, climate change and pest attacks.

One way to manage these is by adopting technology, which the Coffee Board is trying to bring about for the growers.

Last year, Eka Software Solutions took up a pilot project for the Coffee Board of India on machine-learning based applications. According to Shuchi Nijhawan, vice president - agri business for Eka Software, the Board and the company took up three areas to try machine learning based apps. One was addressing the white stem borer problem, another was weather forecasting, and the third, predicting leaf rust.

Machine-learning

"Based on the data, photos provided, we created a machine learning algorithm to forecast each of these issues (for a grower). We worked with 20 liaison officers of the Board and they coordinated with the growers.

"The success of the app depends on the data fed in. In the case of white stem borer, the growers and the Board have validated 90%



App-solutely smart: In the case of white stem borer, growers and the Board have validated 90% accuracy. ■ REUTERS

accuracy," she says. Eka's digital platform for agriculture aggregates data from different sources and applies the algorithm to provide insight to the coffee growers.

GREEN SHOOTS

Srivatsa Krishna, chairman of the Coffee Board, adds that though there is no exact data, it is learnt that in the last 10 to 15 years white stem borer would have brought down Arabica production by 25-30%. "The growers do need solutions for such issues."

"Despite the Coffee Act having been around for more than seven decades, farmers have zero technology. The only way to increase productivity is by bringing in technology," he says. Even before smartphones became

popular, coffee growers had checked prices on the London and New York exchanges almost on a daily basis.

Hence, adopting technology should not be difficult for them. The Board has plans to scale up the analytics technology for adoption by more farmers.

Currently, 90% of the estates depend on labourers for most of the work and there is not much technology adoption among coffee growers in cultivation or to increase production.

"If someone is ready to do it [technology] for us, we will adopt it. It will help increase yield," says Sundar Subramanian, executive director of Mother Mirra Coffee Plantations. Ms. Nijhawan says the company is exploring partnerships for other crops too.

INTERVIEW | DHEERAJ HINDUJA

'Liquidity must be strengthened for NBFCs'

Search for CEO is on, the board should decide on this in a few months, says Ashok Leyland chairman

K. T. JAGANNATHAN
K. BHARAT KUMAR

The Hinduja group's flagship company Ashok Leyland Ltd.'s (ALL) search for a CEO continues. Meanwhile, chairman Dheeraj Hinduja says things are in control. In an interview, he also dwelt on the challenges facing the commercial vehicles industry. Excerpts:

When can we expect a new CEO for Ashok Leyland?

■ Our objective is to ensure that the transition is smooth. Whilst the search for a CEO is on, we are not rushing it because the team is well structured; the business leaders are good, the functional leaders are good. Seeing where the organisation is today, we said we'd do the external search, look at internal candidates and as and when we find the right candidate, we will go ahead.

That does not mean that this is a never-ending process. The board is very much on to this. I hope within the next few months, we should have someone in place.

Isn't a CEO's absence constraining your firm?

■ Not at all. We have our business heads, we have the operations supported very strongly by the back end and product development. They report directly to me. I am familiar with the objectives we have for the company. So, I do not see any disruption as far as the organisation is con-

cerned and the direction we are taking, as well.

What do you find attractive in Jet Airways to consider acquiring it?

■ I wouldn't comment on Jet, but as a family, we always look at different business opportunities across sectors. You will notice that many business families are geared towards one or two sectors. We are involved in 10 different sectors. We are constantly also looking at what the future businesses are going to be. In the last 2-3 years, we have got into cybersecurity, renewables...

So it's ever-evolving. As and when something new comes about, it's not that we will always invest in it, but we evaluate options and see if it makes sense. In that sense, some businesses are more visible and they come out more openly. Others are done more discreetly. So we may have a minority shareholding, but we will have shareholding.

We have remained a private group so not all of our investments are visible.

India is a destination - with a strong government today - that everyone is looking at.

How does the business environment look?

There is relief that there is a stable government. Every business wants stability. What a majority government brings is the ability to push through reforms faster.

In CVs, first and foremost, they must make sure that banks and NBFCs are put back [strongly]. They need to be strengthened in terms of liquidity. They have also talked about merging some of the stronger banks as well. Infusing liquidity into the economy is important.

Perhaps, along with this, reduction of interest rates will propel [liquidity]. There is a requirement for infrastructure in India. So if the government is able to attract

further FDI and keep projects available for bids, the whole process can be a lot quicker.

Of course, road construction has been happening - it has moved from 11 km a day to 25-odd km per day... immediately, the movement of traffic and the pace with which they can move back and forth, has increased. That has been a major relief.

One other thing that can help our industry is the scrappage scheme. I was pleased to see that already, there has been a discussion on the auto policy.

If scrappage comes in, it not only helps pollution, it eases fuel requirements. As a country, we are dependent on oil [imports], the scheme will improve fuel efficiencies of our products and reduce imports. That should give a fillip to this industry. They have talked about extending this to cars too so it would help the whole auto sector.

Should the government give industry more time with regard to policy changes?

■ In an ideal world, if we had the benefit of an auto policy which really laid out what changes the government requires - this is an area that SIAM has been working on as well - it would be a lot

Partnerships ensure operating standards

Reliability is based on Excess Wait Time experienced by commuters

The bus network in Singapore aims to provide commuters a safe, reliable, convenient and comfortable service. This is made possible by adopting high maintenance standards under a regulated and collaborative model.

Volvo Buses, which has supplied about 2,000 buses to the city, geared itself to meet the high operating standards of the Land Transport Authority. Uptime, which is key to operations, is ensured through Volvo's service partner ComfortDelGro Engineering (CDGE), since July 2000.

CDGE has assembled about 1,800 bus bodies for Volvo, while SBS Transit, also part of ComfortDelGro's group operates buses of Volvo as well as other makes. CDGE uses a predictive protocol to prevent bus breakdowns. The legally mandated life of a bus in Singapore is 17 years.

There is a periodic upgrade of buses, and a life cycle curve tracks a vehicle's progress. CDGE services include warranty repair support, accident repair, parts sales and component re-manufacturing for all four bus companies in Singapore, the CDGE Chief Executive Officer Ang Soo Hock said.

In Singapore, a Bus Contracting Model (BCM) was first introduced in 2014 by the Land Transport Authority (LTA) to be more responsive to changes in ridership patterns and commuter needs. LTA owns all public buses and related infrastructure and retains fare revenues, while operators are paid to serve bus routes. Commercial vehicles in public transport go through two inspections a year and customer satisfaction is assessed through official surveys.

SMRT, another of Singapore's four public transport operators, highlights reliability as being key to its service standards. "SMRT is committed to deliver a positive experience to commuters - one that is safe, reliable and comfortable," said Tan Kian Heong, President, SMRT Roads.

Reliability is measured by Excess Wait Time which is the commuter's waiting time. The service is reliable if the bus arrivals at each stop become more regular and more evenly spaced, with less bunching.

As part of a planned transition, Mr. Tan Kian Heong said, "we will need to replace operator-owned buses that have reached end of life with new government-owned buses. As route packages get awarded, some of the buses operated by us may be transferred to other operators and vice-versa."

Another area is factory-built cabs, which has also been discussed. We are constantly under this uncertainty, whether the government would do it immediately. So you have to keep capacity and product plans ready. But if we are given a time frame, then we can optimise resources better, prioritise on other areas. It's like always being on your toes to make sure you meet up.



ASK US

AARATI KRISHNAN

Retiring early
Q. I am 21 years old. I have just finished my B Tech and have been placed with a management consulting firm on a salary of ₹6 lakh per annum. I wish to build my wealth to retire early in life by building passive sources of income. My risk appetite is medium to high. How should I go about my personal investments?

AMARTYA GUPTA

A. It is quite creditable that you should think of building up passive sources of income so early in life. Given that you are quite young, the best investment vehicle for you to beat inflation and maximise wealth creation is equity mutual funds. You should start saving 15 or 20% of your salary and investing this sum in SIPs with multi-cap and mid-cap funds. Select funds with a good 10-year track record or take the help of an adviser to do so. Once you've begun, stay the course and do not panic if the stock markets do badly for a year or two. Losing part of your capital or returns to market corrections, is part and parcel of equity investing. Also, step up your investment in line with your income increases every year.

While many young people dream of attaining financial independence and retiring early, putting this into practice is difficult. Most Indians of this generation will not earn any assured pension and live quite long. This effectively means saving and investing enough during your working life of 35 years (assuming you work from 25 to 60) to take care of your lifestyle for another 30 years (60 to 90). The more you shorten your working years, the more you will have to invest to attain financial independence. The high rates of inflation and low rates of real returns in India make this task that much harder. Do use an online retirement calculator to get a realistic grasp of how much money you will need to retire.

Buying a house

Q. I am a 25-year-old unmarried man working in a nationalised bank as a clerk. I want to invest in mutual funds. My aim is to buy a house at the age of 30. I can take risks. Which funds will be suitable for me to achieve my goal? Please tell me how I can invest in funds directly without intermediaries?

VIJAY RANJAN

A. Mutual funds, particularly equity mutual funds, are long-term vehicles where you need to seven or 10 years for the investment to really pay off. Investing in them will therefore not help you to build a corpus large enough to buy a house in five years' time. You can, however, build up a reasonable portfolio to help you with the down payment on your home by investing in conservative hybrid funds. These funds invest 65-75% in debt instruments and the rest in equities. Given that these funds are mainly invested in debt securities, you can start with any lump sum amount that you have and add on to your portfolio through monthly SIPs for the next five years. There are many avenues available today to invest directly in mutual funds. You can register directly through individual AMCs' website and start investing once you fulfil KYC formalities. There are also a number of online platforms and mobile apps that help you invest in the direct plans of mutual funds.

However, as you seem to be a first-time investor in mutual funds, you need to first evaluate if you are qualified to make your own financial decisions and to make changes to your portfolio when needed. You will need to work towards many more financial goals in future apart from buying a home. Prioritising your goals will be key to whether you succeed. There is also a lot more to investing than choosing the right funds and doing SIPs in them. Getting your debt-equity mix right (asset allocation), working towards specific targets (goal-based investing) and saving and investing enough each month to get to your goals are all much more important than selecting the right funds. Do measure the cost savings on direct plans, against whether you have the time and expertise to work out such detailed financial plans.

Readers can send in queries on personal finance and investing to moneywise@thehindu.co.in. Our experts who write on personal finance will answer these queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

The great NRI dilemma — rupee or dollar?

Non-resident Indians have a plethora of investment options and have to choose the one that suits them best

VIDYA BALA

Every NRI has surely been troubled by this question: should I invest in India or should I not? A complex cocktail of emotions ranging from love for their motherland and a sense of guilt for not giving back to it combine with personal choices to often lead to a wrong answer to the question above.

So, what's the deal like?

NRIs typically fall into three broad categories: one, those who are abroad on an assignment and will come back.

Two, those who are settled abroad and do not plan to come back. Three, those who are abroad, have no immediate plans to come back but 'may' decide to come back at some point. This last category is the problem one and accounts for the majority, unfortunately.

Planning to return

This category of NRIs either have their families in India or plan to return to India with their families, have income and expenses in rupees and remit money into India regularly.

For these NRIs, investing in their home country for their goals and objectives is logical. However, I have trouble with their following habits:

First, while they obsess over currency conversion, they fail

Note this

- Do not 'concretise' investments in India, if you do not plan to return
- You can look at dollar-denominated options to invest even if you are not in the U.S
- An NRI can earn 4-5% by simply holding money in dollars instead of rupees

to do the 'mental accounting' of segregating for aspirations like education, wedding or retirement. For example, many of the NRIs let their child continue education abroad. In this case, they would have been better off holding and investing in dollar-denominated (or foreign currency) assets to help them with such an expense. A proper goal-planning exercise will help them decide on where to invest in. Second, their obsession for real estate. This craze has partly come down in the last few years as the real estate sector was down, and rental yields went even below 2.5% and NRIs struggled to even find tenants for their properties.

Third, some NRIs who have held only NRE deposits all their life, retire, come back and then, entirely shift to high risk products like PMS, AIFs equity funds or stocks. They do this

since NRE deposits lose their tax-free status once they become residents.

Here, special mention must be made about NRIs from the Gulf as opposed to those from the West. Having paid little or no tax in India (NRE deposits) or the Gulf almost all their lives, their only overriding criteria is about investing where the tax is less. But assuming risks suddenly, especially, post retirement, can leave them in trouble unless they have other sources of income

Settled abroad

These NRIs are permanently employed abroad (say U.S./Canada/U.K./Australia) and settled there with their families and do not plan to come back to India. In this case, typically, they may have their aged parents or siblings in India. Other than that, there is little at stake locally. Their key goals — whether to buy a house or educate their children — will all transpire in their residing country.

What is their motivation to invest in India? If it is to provide some income for their parents or relatives, then investing in NRE deposits, having an NRE account and providing power

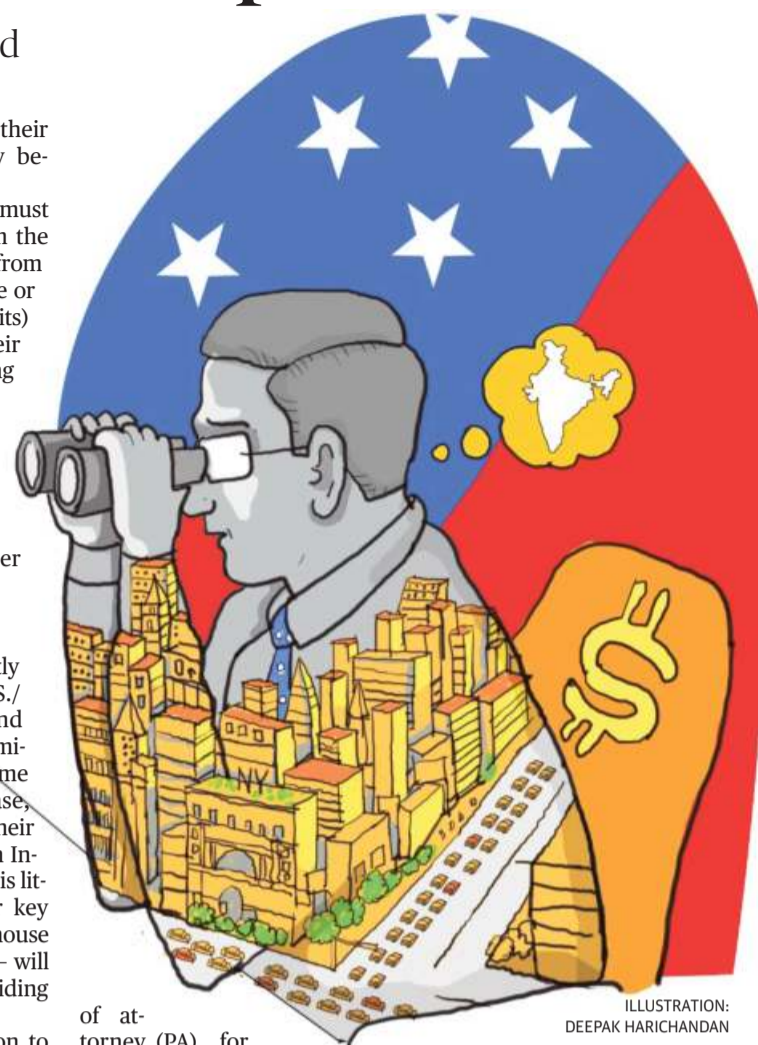


ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

of attorney (PA) for somebody locally to withdraw the money for their needs is a simple and an efficient way to achieve this. Since NRE deposits and savings

accounts are tax free, it is easy from a taxation perspective. If the NRI's intention is to keep money locally to serve local needs, this should suffice.

Investing in property or other assets and the hassle of repatriating it later and losing on rupee depreciation are all avoidable. Participate in the Indian markets but know this:

The MSCI India index delivered 9.5% in rupee terms in the past 10 years but returned just 5.4% in dollar terms. Indian markets are great only if the NRI plans to use the money in India. It is best to keep Indian finances and taxes simple if the intention is not to return.

The 'maybe' category
I wish to tell them this: if you never had a clear idea or desire to come back to India, you probably will not! Do not 'concretise' your investments in India, if you do not have concrete plans to come back.

This category of investors should invest assuming they are settled abroad. They can look at dollar-denominated options to invest even if they are not in the U.S. Please remember, the long-term depreciation of the rupee against the dollar is 4-5% annually. Even if they decide to eventually come back, they would have earned 4-5% by simply holding in dollars instead of the rupee.

(The author is head, MF Research, FundsIndia.com)

COVER NOTE: TRAVEL INSURANCE

Taking cover in foreign land

Overseas medical insurance is much more than a hospitalisation policy

K NITYA KALYANI

It is summer, and foreign holiday time! What if you have to go to hospital while abroad? Your hospitalisation policy covers treatment only within India.

Enter a specialised, short-term policy for hospitalisation outside India. Brand-named Overseas Mediclaim Policy by the public sector general insurance companies or Overseas Travel Insurance, International Travel Insurance and various other names by other companies, it has a cashless medical facility for claims administered through third party administrators operating in the destination countries.

But it is more than a hospitalisation policy. It bundles several covers including against loss of baggage/ passport, flight delays and trip cancellations, emergency medical evacuation, emergency cash advance, personal accident cover, funds for repatriation of remains, personal liability, hijack distress and even a burglary at your home during the trip! Different companies offer varying combinations of options in their packages.

The policy is available for a wide age range with medical screening required beyond a certain age or under certain conditions and premiums increase in case of adverse medical history.

A key feature of the policy is that it covers you from the time you leave India until you step



Healthy option: Medical screening is required beyond a certain age or under certain conditions for taking the policy. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

What you get

- Policy covers you from the time you leave India until you step back. Premium rates are tailored to these time-frames
- The policy is available for a wide age range
- Look for sub-limits on room rent and other expenses

back in, and the premium rates are tailored to these time-frames. The rates differ significantly if the U.S. is or is not part of your travel plans. Sometimes a policy is a visa condition. For example the Schengen visa requires you to have a minimum cover of \$50,000 in all its member States.

You can buy a policy for a single trip of one week at the minimum to 180 days at the maximum and even 365 days from some select companies. Annual policies covering multiple trips of 30 days to 90 days per trip and longer are also available.

A 35-year old male travelling to the U.S. for 30 days pays anything between ₹1,700 to ₹4,000 for a \$1,00,000 sum insured (SI) policy. If the U.S. is not part of this travel, the premium ranges between ₹1,300 and ₹3,000.

Cover for several trips

If you are taking an annual cover for several trips (including to the U.S.) of maximum 30 days per trip, the premium is about ₹3,500. The same cover with-

out the U.S. would cost about ₹2,000.

Please note that this SI is across all its sections, medical coverage and all the rest and so, only part of it is your medical expenses cover. Read the fine print!

Most terms and exclusions are similar to a domestic hospitalisation policy.

The usual exclusions apart, if you are travelling abroad for medical treatment you are not eligible for this policy. Some companies and policies cover accident-related dental expenses, out-patient treatment and even compassionate visits to and fro during your hospitalisation.

Religare Health Insurance Company Limited, for example, offers a cover for pre-existing conditions in case of life-threatening conditions.

Look for sub-limits on room-rent and other expenses and also check for co-pay or deductible clauses. Waivers on all these are also available on some policies as optional extras.

An interesting tip: When you are travelling abroad, your domestic hospitalisation insurance is a waste.

But, if you take both policies from the same company, your domestic policy will be suspended for that period and its expiry/ renewal date extended appropriately!

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance and corporate history)

TECH TRAIL: PRECIOUS METALS

Gold price recovers

Weak stocks, buying boost price

B. KRISHNAKUMAR

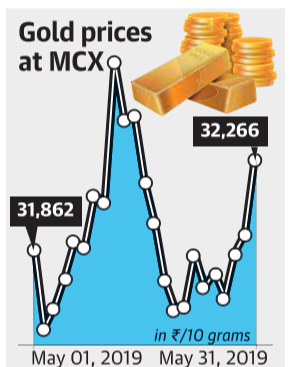
The prices of gold and silver have recovered off recent lows, aided by buying interest, weakness in stock markets and the U.S. dollar.

Gold price at the Comex closed at a seven-week peak of \$1,311.1 an ounce at the end of May.

The price of silver, however, did not reflect the same buoyancy and it closed at \$14.57 an ounce by the end of May 2019. This represents a month-on-month fall of about 2.2% while gold gained almost 2% in May.

In the domestic market, the price of gold futures at the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), closed on a firm note at ₹32,237 per 10 gram. After a brief rally early in May, the price of gold and silver eased during the middle of the month. The escalation in the U.S.-China trade dispute weighed on stock markets globally boosting demand for precious metals.

Based on the recent price action, the short-term outlook for gold appears marginally positive. The price of gold at the Comex is likely to edge higher to the immediate resistance area at \$1,322-\$1,325 range in the near term. A breakout past \$1,326 is likely to push the price to the next target of \$1,335-\$1,340 an ounce. Until the support level for gold at \$1,260 is not breached, a



rise to \$1,322-\$1,325 would be the favoured view.

Domestically, gold price at MCX is likely to rise to the immediate resistance level at ₹32,750-32,800 per 10 gram. A fall below ₹31,500 would invalidate the short-term positive outlook. Below ₹31,500, gold price could drop further to the ₹30,550-30,700 zone. Until the price falls below ₹31,500, a rally to ₹32,800 would be the preferred outcome.

To summarise, the outlook for precious metals appears moderately positive.

The overall long-term trend however remains neutral to weak. Based on the recent price action, it will not be appropriate to entertain any significant upside in precious metals. A mild recovery after the recent slide seems likely.

(The author is a Chennai-based analyst/trader. This is not meant to be a trading or investment advice.)

LOOSE CHANGE

RAVIKANTH



"All I say is, shopping used to be all about taking consumer decisions; not financial ones!"

Education loans for studies in India

Lenders	Loan amount (₹)	Interest rate	Processing fee	Margin requirement	Maximum Tenure	Moratorium period
State Bank of India	Upto 40 lakhs	8.65%-10.7%	NIL	Upto ₹4 lakhs: NIL Above ₹4 lakhs: Upto 5%	15 years	Course period + 1 year
Punjab National Bank	No limit	8.45%-11.05%	NIL	Upto ₹4 lakhs: NIL Above ₹4 lakhs: Upto 5%	15 years	Course period + 1 year
Andhra Bank	No limit	8.95%-10.75%	NIL	Upto ₹4 lakhs: NIL Above ₹4 lakhs: Upto 5%	15 years	Course Period + 1 year or 6 months after getting job, whichever is earlier
Syndicate Bank	Upto 20 lakhs	9.25%-11.5%	NIL	Upto ₹4 lakhs: NIL Above ₹4 lakhs: Upto 5%	15 years	Course period + 1 year
Avanse	1 lakh onwards	12.65% + spread	1-2% of loan amount	Upto 100% funding	10 years*	6 months after course completion or 3 months after getting job, whichever is earlier
Axis Bank	50,000- 75 lakhs	13.7%-15.2%	Upto ₹10 lakhs: NIL Above ₹10 lakhs: ₹ 5,000	Upto ₹4 lakhs: NIL Above ₹4 lakhs: 5%	15 years	Course Period + 1 year or 6 months after getting job, whichever is earlier
Bank of Baroda	Upto 80 lakhs	8.7%-10.7%	NIL	Upto ₹4 lakhs: NIL Above ₹4 lakhs: Upto 5%	15 years	Course period + 1 year
Union Bank of India	Upto 37 lakhs	8.6%-11.75%	NIL	Upto ₹4 lakhs: NIL Above ₹4 lakhs: Upto 5%	15 years	Course period + 1 year
HDFC Credila	1 lakh onwards	12.55% + spread	1-2% of loan amount	Upto 100% funding	12 years	6 months to 1 year after the course completion
Federal Bank	Upto 20 lakhs	10.85%-15.25%	NIL	Upto ₹4 lakhs: NIL Above ₹4 lakhs: 5% (For select premier institutes-Up to ₹10 lakhs-NIL; Above ₹10 lakhs-5%)	15 years	Course period + 1 year
Canara Bank	Upto 36 lakhs	8.9%-10.7%	NIL	Upto ₹4 lakhs: NIL Above ₹4 lakhs: Upto 5%	15 years	Course period + 1 year
South Indian Bank	Upto 25 lakhs	9.05%-15.8%	NIL	Upto ₹4 lakhs: NIL Above ₹4 lakhs: Upto 5%	15 years	Course Period + 1 year or 6 months after getting job, whichever is earlier

* Tenure includes course duration

Record-breaking Bangladesh ambushes South Africa

After the Shakib-Mushfiqur combine takes the Tigers to 330, the Proteas batsmen fail to overhaul the challenging total against an inspired attack



REUTERS
LONDON

Bangladesh piled up its highest One-Day International score and bowled superbly to upset South Africa by 21 runs at The Oval on Sunday.

It was a major scalp for Bangladesh, underlining its reputation as a dangerous outsider at the tournament, while South Africa slumped to its second successive defeat.

Mushfiqur Rahim (78) and Shakib Al Hasan (75) put together a record partnership as Bangladesh made 330 for six after being asked to bat.



Driving force: Mushfiqur Rahim was in full flow. • AP



Star-of-the-match: Shakib Al Hasan complemented his impressive half-century with some productive spin bowling. • REUTERS

Under threat

It meant South Africa needed to pull off the highest run-chase in World Cup history, but it ended on 309 for eight and with its next game against India on Wednesday, the chances of making the semifinals are already under threat.

Mushfiqur and Shakib added 142 runs for the third wicket to notch up Bangladesh's highest World Cup partnership in an aggressive batting display backed by enthusiastic support.

Bangladesh moved on to 217 for two before Shakib was bowled for 75 by Imran Tahir, playing his 100th ODI. Mushfiqur went for 78 not long after, caught on the boundary.

But South Africa was unable to apply the brakes and continued to leak runs.

Mahmudullah hit an unbeaten 46 and Mosaddek Hossain scored 26 off 20 balls as the Asian side smashed 54

runs off the last four overs.

"It was one of our top innings. We've had some previous upsets but this is a World Cup where we really want to do well," said man-of-the-match Shakib. "It's the way we wanted to start."

South Africa's gamble to put Bangladesh, four places below it in the ODI rankings, into bat and hoping to bounce it out cheaply with its pace attack fell flat on a docile wicket, and was exacerbated by a hamstring injury to Lungi Ngidi.

South Africa's target was a tough one and after Quinton de Kock departed, Aiden Markram (45) was bowled by Shakib to make the top-ranked all-rounder, playing his 199th ODI, the fastest to the double of 5,000 runs and 250 wickets.

Captain Faf du Plessis threatened to lead a successful chase but was bowled for

INNINGS SCAN

BAN	RSA
1	1
37	23
3	3
142 (3rd)	55 (4th)
6.60	6.18

TOP SHOWS

For	Batting	Bowling
Bangladesh	Mushfiqur 78 (80b, 8x4)	Mustafizur 3/67 (10)
South Africa	du Plessis 62 (53b, 5x4, 1x6)	Phehlukwayo 2/52 (10)

PROGRESSION

BAN	RSA
65/1	51/1
124/2	105/2
190/2	169/3
244/4	228/5
330/6	309/8

Next assignment

SOUTH AFRICA
June 5 vs India, Southampton, 3 p.m.

BANGLADESH
June 5 vs New Zealand, The Oval, 6 p.m.

63, followed by David Miller (38) and Rassie van der Dussen (41) as South African hopes slipped away.

Mustafizur Rahman had the best figures (three for 52) but all six bowlers contributed to keeping South Africa in check.

STAT SPHERE



1 First time South Africa has lost the opening two matches of a World Cup

1 Bangladesh's 330 for six is its highest in the World Cup as well as ODIs. This is also the 'lowest' highest total among the 12 Test-playing nations

IN WORLD CUPS
330/6 vs SA, The Oval, 2019

322/4 vs Sco, Nelson, 2015

288/7 vs NZ, Hamilton, 2015

283/9 vs Ind, Dhaka, 2011

Mustafizur's telling blows put the slides on South Africa's chase

IN ODIS
330/6 vs SA, The Oval, 2019

329/6 vs Pak, Dhaka, 2015

326/3 vs Pak, Dhaka, 2014

324/5 vs SL, Dambulla, 2017

This is the first 100-over game of the tournament

5 Shakib (199 matches) became the fifth player to achieve the double of 5,000 runs and 250 wickets in ODIs. He is the fastest to the feat

THE OTHER FOUR
Razzaq (258)
Afridi (273)
Kallis (296)
Jayasuriya (304)

2 Bangladesh scored its second win against South Africa in the WC, after the one at Providence in 2007. This is more than what India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have managed -- one win each

12 This is Bangladesh's 12th victory in the World Cup. It has defeated England, Scotland and South Africa twice and got the better of Pakistan, India, Netherlands, Afghanistan, Ireland and Bermuda once

14 Number of times South Africa has conceded 300-plus after opting to bowl first in ODIs. It has won just one of those games

SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH

Tamim Iqbal c de Kock b Phehlukwayo 16 (29b, 2x4), Soumya Sarkar c de Kock b Morris 42 (30b, 9x4), Shakib Al Hasan b Tahir 75 (84b, 8x4, 1x6), Mushfiqur Rahim c van der Dussen b Phehlukwayo 78 (80b, 8x4), Mohammad Mithun b Tahir 21 (21b, 2x4, 1x6), Mahmudullah (not out) 46 (33b, 3x4, 1x6), Mossadek Hossain c Phehlukwayo b Morris 26 (20b, 4x4), Mehedi Hasan (not out) 5 (3b, 1x4); Extras (lb-9, w-12): 21; Total (for six wkts. in 50 overs): 330.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-60 (Tamim, 8.2 overs), 2-75 (Sarkar, 11.4), 3-217 (Shakib, 35.1), 4-242 (Mithun, 39.4), 5-250 (Mushfiqur, 42.1), 6-316 (Mossadek, 48.6)

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING

Ngidi 4-0-34-0, Rabada 10-0-57-0, Phehlukwayo 10-1-52-2, Morris 10-0-73-2, Markram 5-0-38-0, Tahir 10-0-57-2, Duminy 1-0-10-0.

SOUTH AFRICA

Quinton de Kock run out 23 (32b, 4x4), Aiden Markram b Shakib 45 (56b, 4x4), Faf du Plessis b Mehidy 62 (53b, 5x4, 1x6), David Miller c Mehidy b Mustafizur 38 (43b, 2x4), Rassie van der Dussen b Saifuddin 41 (38b, 2x4, 1x6), Jean-Paul Duminy b Mustafizur 45 (37b, 4x4), Andile Phehlukwayo c Shakib b Saifuddin 8 (13b, 1x4), Chris Morris c Sarkar b Mustafizur 10 (10b, 1x4), Kagiso Rabada (not out) 13 (9b, 1x6), Imran Tahir (not out) 10 (10b); Extras (b-4, w-9, nb-1): 14; Total (for eight wkts in 50 overs): 309.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-49 (de Kock, 9.4 overs), 2-102 (Markram, 19.4), 3-147 (du Plessis, 26.4), 4-202 (Miller, 35.1), 5-228 (van der Dussen, 39.1), 6-252 (Phehlukwayo, 42.5), 7-275 (Morris, 45.5), 8-287 (Duminy, 47.1).

BANGLADESH BOWLING

Mustafizur 10-0-67-3, Mehidy 10-0-44-1, Saifuddin 8-1-57-2, Shakib 10-0-50-1, Mortaza 6-0-49-0, Mosaddek 6-0-38-0.

Toss: South Africa.

MoM: Shakib Al Hasan.

Bangladesh won by 21 runs.

Injured Indian skipper 'doing fine'

There is nothing to worry, say team sources

INDIA CAMP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SOUTHAMPTON

India captain Virat Kohli "is doing fine" despite being hit on his thumb in a training session ahead of the team's World Cup opener against South Africa here on Wednesday.

"He is doing fine. There is nothing to worry," team sources.

Kohli hurt his right thumb during practice at the Ageas Bowl here on Saturday, prompting physiotherapist Patrick Farhat to attend to the Indian skipper.

Farhat was first seen using magic spray on the thumb and then applied tape on it. Later Kohli was seen leaving the field with his thumb dipped in a glass of ice.

India, one of the favourites for the title, was hit by injuries in the run up to the World Cup.

While all-rounder Vijay Shankar had to sit out of the warm-up game against New Zealand after hurting his elbow, Kedar Jadhav is still recovering from a shoulder injury he picked up during IPL and missed India's both warm-up games against the Kiwis and Bangladesh.

Having made significant recovery from his shoulder injury, Jadhav's active participation in successive net sessions augurs well for the Indian team even though he remains a doubtful starter for India's opener against South Africa.

Close to full fitness

Jadhav has batted without any apparent discomfort during the sessions, which was a fair enough indication that he is nearing full fitness.

He has also started bowling in the nets, something he was not doing during the IPL due to his dodgy hamstring.



In holiday mood: Virat Kohli and some of his team-mates hit the gym on their off-day in Southampton.

• COURTESY: VIRAT KOHLI/INSTAGRAM

The Indian team had an off-day on Sunday.

However, most of the players, including Kohli, Jadhav, Hardik Pandya, Jasprit Bumrah, K.L. Rahul, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Vijay Shankar, hit the gym.

England will stick to winning formula

Pakistan was undone by a barrage of bouncers against the West Indies

PREVIEW

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NOTTINGHAM

England captain Eoin Morgan played a straight bat when asked about the chances of bolstering his pace attack for the side's second match against Pakistan at Trent Bridge on Monday.

The way Pakistan's batsmen were undone by a barrage of bouncers from the West Indies in their opening defeat has led to suggestions England could recall fast bowler Mark Wood.

But given World Cup host and favourite England started its campaign with a 104-run thrashing of South Africa at the Oval on Thursday, it may decide to stick with a winning formula rather than bring Wood in alongside fellow 90 mph plus paceman Jofra Archer.

"I think there's a good case for playing any of our bowlers," Morgan told reporters on Sunday.

"We'll have to adapt to anything the wicket throws up.

"If there is anything to exploit, hopefully we'll select



Time to regroup: Skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed, centre, will hope that his batsmen handle the short-pitched stuff better. • AFP

the right team."

But Morgan was well aware of the attraction of the Archer-Wood partnership.

"It is exciting. It's like saying can you add a Jason Roy 180 to a Jos Buttler 150 off 70 or 80 balls -- it might happen and if it does that would be awesome."

England has twice set world records for the highest score in a one-day international at Nottinghamshire's headquarters -- posting 444

for three against Pakistan in 2016 before closing in on the 500 barrier with 481 for six against world champions Australia last year.

But having seen England beaten by eventual tournament winner Pakistan in the semifinals of the 2017 Champions Trophy in Cardiff, Morgan was taking nothing for granted.

"We're preparing for Pakistan at their best," he insisted.

	Matches	ENG	PAK	Tie	NR
Overall	87	53	31	0	3
World Cup	9	4	4	0	1

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 (SD & HD, 3 P.M.)

WORLD CUP DIARY

Windies can cause a few upsets, says Lloyd

The current West Indies team has the firepower to cause a few upsets, said Clive Lloyd. Lloyd, who captained the West Indies in three World Cups, said: "I thought the West Indies were quite clinical against Pakistan. They used the pitch to their advantage in the sense that it had a bit of life and they put pressure on Pakistan. I'm sure they will upset a few of the big boys if they play like that." Lloyd said West Indies was capable of making the semifinals. "From what I've seen so far, though, I think the West Indies do possess enough to qualify for the last four," he said.



No one in the team believes in my bowling, but I do: Kohli



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SOUTHAMPTON

He broke many a records with his batting but Virat Kohli, the medium-pace, could have had a lot more than eight international wickets if his teammates believed in his bowling ability like he himself does.

Kohli, albeit in a lighter vein, explained why he has not bowled in internationals since December 2017.

"It was during the ODI series in Sri Lanka (in 2017) where we had almost won everything, I asked MS [Dhoni] if I could bowl. Just when I was getting ready to roll my arm over, Bumrah shouted from the boundary

and said 'no joking around, it is an international game'.

"No one in the team believes in my bowling, but I do. After that I had back issues and never bowled," said the Indian captain.

Kohli, however, still bowls in the nets, most recently in a practice session here earlier this week.

The star batsman also shared an anecdote which shows that he has always taken his bowling seriously. "I used to follow James Anderson's action when I was at the academy [in Delhi]. Later, when I got to play alongside him, I told him about that story. We had a good laugh over it."

Get ready for chin music, Coulter-Nile tells West Indies

Australia has warned Chris Gayle and company to be ready for 'chin music'. Nathan Coulter-Nile said the bowlers were ready to give West Indies a taste of its own medicine -- bouncers.

"You've got to give it (bouncers) to the Windies, otherwise they just get on the front foot and hit you everywhere," he said. "We'll definitely give it to them -- we give it to every team. You've got to use your two (permitted bouncers per over).

"The grounds are so small and the wickets are generally pretty flat, so you've got to use bouncers when you can," he added.

In Coulter-Nile, Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins, Australia boasts of a fiery pace battery.

"Oh Starc (Mitchell Starc) will knock his off pole out. It will be easy," he said jokingly about the 39-year-old Gayle.



Aussies shut out the boos

Australia launched its World Cup campaign with an efficient victory over Afghanistan -- and appeared totally unfazed by the hostile reception given to Steve Smith and David Warner. Warner and Smith, both banned over the 'sandpapergate' scandal, were subjected to jeers from the crowd after suffering a similar fate during last week's warm-up match against England. Two fans even watched the game in Bristol from a nearby balcony dressed as sandpaper.

Leg-spinner Adam Zampa, who took three wickets, said Australia was prepared for barracking from spectators throughout the tournament.

"We have spoken a bit how we are going to handle that situation," he said. "Obviously, we coped it in the warm-up game against England, too. But I think we are expecting it." AFP

Liverpool earns redemption in Europe

Wins its sixth Champions League title beating Tottenham in a less than exhilarating final

REUTERS
MADRID

Liverpool ended an incredible season by winning Europe's biggest prize after beating Tottenham Hotspur 2-0 in Saturday's all-English Champions League final, earning sweet redemption after agonisingly missing out on the Premier League title.

Mohamed Salah scored the second-quickest goal in a Champions League final by converting from the penalty spot in the second minute while Divock Origi sealed victory in the 87th after Liverpool survived some heavy late pressure from Spurs.

Tottenham, in its first European Cup final, kept its heads after the early setback and came to life when semifinal hat-trick hero Lucas Moura was brought on but, with Harry Kane lacking sharpness, another European comeback was beyond it.

Debatable

Liverpool, which missed out on the Premier League title to Manchester City by one point, did not produce its usual whirlwind attacking game but Salah's debatable penalty and Origi's arrowed finish sealed a sixth European Cup triumph.

The win at the Wanda Metropolitano was sweet redemption for Salah and especially Klopp, who had suffered defeat in his last six major finals, including Champions League showpieces with Borussia Dortmund in 2013 and Liverpool last year.

His opposite number Mauricio Pochettino praised his team's determined efforts to get themselves back into the game.

It was Liverpool's first Champions League triumph since its incredible comeback against Milan in 2005 and, while this victory lacked the blockbuster drama of that night in Istanbul, it was not exactly a smooth ride in a lacklustre affair.

Gamble backfires

Tottenham manager Pochettino took a bold but ultimately misguided gamble in fielding Kane, who had only returned to full training a week ago after almost two months out with a serious ankle injury and struggled to influence play.

The England striker was far from the only player from both sides who lacked sharpness in a game with few moments of quality, a possible effect of neither side having played any competitive games for three weeks after the domestic season.

Under pressure

Spurs put Liverpool under real pressure in the latter stages as Dele Alli headed over and Son Heung-min and Moura forced impressive saves from Alisson, who also pulled off his best effort to



Cup that matters: Manager Jurgen Klopp leads the celebrations after engineering Liverpool's return to continental glory. ■ AFP



Stat Attack

No opposition player has completed a dribble past Virgil van Dijk in any of his last 64 appearances in all competitions for Liverpool

Trent Alexander-Arnold (20y 237d) is the first player aged below 21 to start in consecutive finals

Mohamed Salah's opener for Liverpool is the second fastest goal in a final behind Paolo Maldini (00:50) for AC Milan versus Liverpool in 2005

Divock Origi is only the second Belgian to score in a final after Yannick Carrasco for Atletico against Real Madrid in 2016. He scored with all three of his shots in the CL this season

Jurgen Klopp is the fourth Liverpool manager to win the title after Bob Paisley, Joe Fagan and Rafa Benitez

Salah is the fifth African player to score in a final after Rabah Madjer, Samuel Eto'o, Didier Drogba and Sadio Mane 6 Liverpool's triumphs in the European Cup/Champions League. Only Real Madrid (13) and AC Milan (7) have won more. It also means that the Reds have twice as many titles as any other English team (Manchester United 3)

Alisson Becker has made more saves without conceding than any other goalkeeper in a final since at least 2003/04

Harry Kane had just 11 touches during the first half, fewer than any Tottenham player

Tottenham attempted as many shots after half-time as Liverpool in the entire final

There has been at least one French player on the pitch in 24 of the 27 finals in the history of the CL, more than any other country

Liverpool is the first side to win the final despite having less possession than its opponent since Jose Mourinho's Inter Milan beat Bayern Munich in 2010, also in Madrid

Klopp has won his first major trophy after 2576 days and 6 losses in finals

beat away a free kick from Christian Eriksen.

The Brazilian keeper's reliable display was in stark contrast to what happened last year in Kiev, when Liverpool's Loris Karius made two horrendous errors which cost his side two goals in the painful 3-1 defeat by Real Madrid.

When the final whistle went, Alisson was mobbed by his team mates while Klopp ran on to the pitch to embrace Origi, one of the heroes in the stunning semifinal second-leg turnaround against Barcelona, who killed the game with a ruthless finish.

We were crying on the pitch: Klopp

Promises to go mano-a-mano with Guardiola next season

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

Liverpool's celebrations stretched long into the night after it became six-time European champion, giving a first win in seven finals for coach Jurgen Klopp.

"We were all pretty much crying on the pitch, because it was so emotional, it was so big, it means so much to us," Klopp said.

Klopp revealed he had received a congratulatory call

from Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola.

"We promised each other already that we will kick our butts next year again," Klopp said of his brief exchange with Guardiola.

"We will go for everything and we'll see if we get something."

Centre-back Virgil van Dijk, named man of the match, said the team would try to put the disappointment of losing the Premier

Salah inspired by 2018 loss

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

Mohamed Salah revealed he had drawn motivation from the disappointment of losing the final in 2018, a match in which he left the pitch in tears with a shoulder injury.

"Before the game, I looked at a picture of last year and we were so disappointed to lose the final," Salah said.

"I was very disappointed after that injury, I went off after 30 minutes and we lost the game. It motivated me to win today. When you know how it feels to lose, you say to yourself 'Let's go and win that'."

"I think our game is more mental. You have to believe in yourself," added Salah.

Proud Spurs

Meanwhile, Spurs manager Mauricio Pochettino said, "it's so painful but at the same time we need to be calm in the way that we talk and analyse things. Because the season was fantastic and we need to feel proud."

Wawrinka wins a marathon

Sets up mouth-watering quarterfinal clash with Federer

ROLAND-GARROS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Former champion Stan Wawrinka downed Greek star Stefanos Tsitsipas in the longest match of this year's French Open on Sunday to set up a quarterfinal clash with Roger Federer.

Wawrinka sealed a stunning 7-6(6), 5-7, 6-4, 3-6, 8-6 fourth-round victory with a magnificent winner from yards behind the baseline after five hours and nine minutes on Court Suzanne Lenglen. He has a 23-3 losing head-to-head record against close friend and fellow Swiss Federer.

"It's incredible, lots of emotions. Thanks to all the fans for staying and (the) support," said the 34-year-old Wawrinka after the third longest match in the last 20 years at the French Open.

It is the first time Wawrinka has reached a Grand Slam quarterfinal since losing to Rafael Nadal in the 2017 Roland Garros final, and completes an amazing turnaround from 12 months ago.

Earlier, Federer made short work of Argentinian Leonardo Mayer to become the oldest man in 28 years to reach a Grand Slam quarterfinal at Roland-Garros on Sunday.

The 37-year-old claimed a 6-2, 6-3, 6-3 win over World

Monday's picks

MEN

- 1-Djokovic vs Struff
- 4-Thiem vs 14-Monfils
- 5-Alexander Zverev vs 9-Fognini
- 8-del Potro vs 10-Khachanov

WOMEN

- 3-Halep vs Swiatek
- 8-Barty vs Kenin
- 14-Keys vs Siniakova

No. 68 Mayer in a sweltering 32 degrees.

Federer, the 2009 champion in Paris, is the oldest man to make the quarterfinals of a Slam since Jimmy Connors at the 1991 US Open.

"It's fabulous that I can spend this time in Paris," said Federer, who last played the tournament in 2015 when he lost in the quarterfinals to Stan Wawrinka.

Federer said he still remembers his quarterfinal loss to his friend in Paris four years ago. "I have a bad memory of it. Stan beat me in three sets with his terrible shorts! But he played really great that year and won the title."

Nadal's 90th win

Defending champion Rafael Nadal racked up his 90th win at Roland Garros as he stormed into the quarter-

finals for the 13th time. Nadal, bidding for a 12th title, swept past Argentina's Juan Ignacio Londero 6-2, 6-3, 6-3.

"It's an incredible feeling to be in another quarterfinal at this tournament which has been the most special of my career."

In a wide-open women's draw after the shock exits of top seed Naomi Osaka and 23-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams on Saturday, 19-year-old Marketa Vondrousova reached her maiden major quarterfinal by thrashing Anastasija Sevastova. The unseeded Czech, ranked 38th, eased past Latvian 12th seed Sevastova, winning 6-2, 6-0 in only 59 minutes.

THE RESULTS

Men: Fourth round: 24-Stan Wawrinka (Sui) bt 6-Stefanos Tsitsipas (Gre) 7-6(6), 5-7, 6-4, 3-6, 8-6. 3-Roger Federer (Sui) bt Leonardo Mayer (Arg) 6-2, 6-3, 6-3; 2-Rafael Nadal (Esp) bt Juan Ignacio Londero (Arg) 6-2, 6-3, 6-3.

Doubles: Third round: Dusan Lajovic & Janko Tipsarevic (Srb) bt Rohan Bopanna & Marius Copil (Rou) 1-6, 7-5, 7-6(8).

Women: 7-Sloane Stephens (USA) bt 19-Gabrine Muguruza (Esp) 6-4, 6-3; 31-Petra Martic (Cro) bt Kaia Kanepi (Est) 5-7, 6-2, 6-4; Marketa Vondrousova (Cze) bt 12-Anastasija Sevastova (Lat) 6-2, 6-0; 26-Johanna Konta (GBR) bt 23-Donna Vekic (Cro) 6-2, 6-4.



Gung ho: Stan Wawrinka needed five hours and nine minutes to overcome Stefanos Tsitsipas. ■ REUTERS

Move out Thiem, Serena is here

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Austrian star Dominic Thiem was left fuming after apparently being kicked out of his Roland Garros media conference so that Serena Williams could be accommodated instead.

Thiem, the fourth seed and 2018 runner-up, was conducting his post-match press obligations after reaching the last 16 on Saturday. However, he was informed that the main interview room was needed by American superstar Serena who had



Thiem. ■ AP

suffered a third round loss to Sofia Kenin.

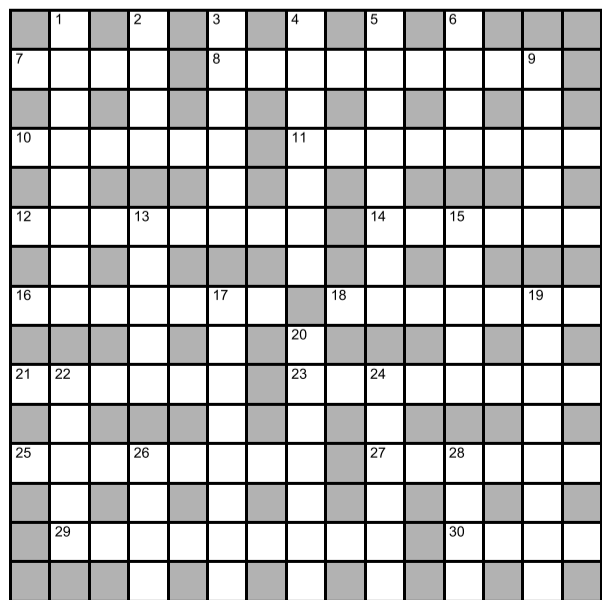
"It's a joke," said the 25-year-old Thiem to media

officers after being told he should finish his interviews in a smaller room. "I have to leave the room because she's coming. What the hell, I don't care. I can also do whatever I want."

There was no indication as to who had decided to shift Thiem mid-stream. However, French sports daily L'Equipe claimed that Serena had no preference over where she carried out her press conference.

"Put me in another room, a smaller one, but now," she was reported to have said.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12642



ACROSS

- 7 Stop Hindustan Aeronautics Limited transportation at first (4)
- 8 Engineer's direction leads to decapitation (9)
- 10 Slow music played by Lady Lovelace and soldier with love (6)
- 11 Irrate since den is demolished (8)

DOWN

- 1 Male venturing to take a risk (though not fully) for a type of Chinese fruit (8)
- 2 Does not allowed at this party? (4)

(set by Incognito)

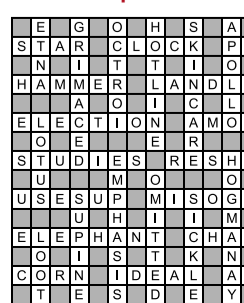
- 12 Spanish fortress where, initially, Public Relations Information Officer went around after reorganising side (8)
- 14 Mother's with graduate setter in Bombay (6)
- 16 On the way, defeat in east-north-east (2,5)
- 18 "Undress United Nations doctor! Copy?" (7)
- 21 Relatives behind tree produce 9 imperial gallons of beer (6)
- 23 Persons held in captivity for long periods behind Head Office by saint (8)
- 25 He hid behind cot before alien got a coverlet (3,5)
- 27 Enjoy a condiment (6)
- 29 Form filled in with expectation of a refund (3,6)
- 30 Eat food somewhere in the midst of sardines (4)
- 3 Dancing aboard overseas (6)
- 4 Choirs arranged by Frenchman producing baptismal robe (7)
- 5 Sentries arranged new match (8)
- 6 Nile was diverted to get some security (4)
- 9 Greek letter for Ms. Garbo (5)
- 13 Spy's trail where one king replaces another (5)
- 15 Trapp stepmother returned a top quality male sheep (5)
- 17 Soft editor made an offer (8)
- 19 Almost please soldier, being nice (8)
- 20 Type of wedding where groom is seated next to the driver? (7)
- 22 Inefficient in English exercises (5)
- 24 Trick-cyclist's contract (6)
- 26 Religious extra-terrestrials have a prayer at noon (4)
- 28 Boy with unknown female (4)

SUDOKU

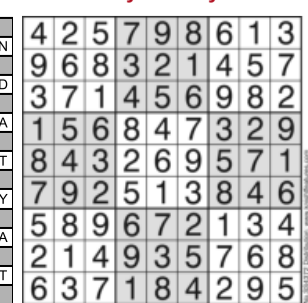


DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12641



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



FAITH

Sin and virtue

Duryodhana says he knows about dharma and adhama and yet he is unable to follow the former, while he is compulsorily drawn towards the latter. He accepts that pursuit of dharma is not his way. He then alludes to the Divine Will that is behind every action. All this makes one wonder about sin and virtue and why people engage in sin even when they know that it is to be avoided and that it brings sorrow? Even Arjuna wonders whether individuals are led to commit sin as if by force, even against their will. Krishna puts an end to all vague notions and specious arguments through His insightful reading into human nature and its propensities towards sinful acts, Nannilam Sri V. Rajagopala Ganapadigal said in a discourse.

Sin arises not because an individual is forced to commit it even against his will but owing to his succumbing to desire and anger, the enemies within each one that are nurtured by rajas. They prompt people to do either good or bad deeds, and there is no external instigator. One should try to overcome these and avoid being victimised by them. One may think that desires can be quelled by fulfilment, that is, enjoyment of the objects of desire. But sadly it is not the case. Desires only rise again with greater vigour and attack the individual even when one keeps them well fed just as the fire to which fuel is added blazes.

Krishna then provides three illustrations to show how wisdom is enveloped by desire which is the only perennial foe. Just as the smoke and soot can hide the fire, or the mirror laden with dust cannot reflect objects and the foetus is enveloped in the womb, the raga and dvesha nurtured in one's mind prevents the recognition of one's atma jyothi within each one.

TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Ten 1, 3 (SD & HD), 5.30 a.m.
Roland Garros: SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 2.30 p.m.
ICC World Cup: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 3 p.m.
FIFA U-20 World Cup: Sony Ten 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 9 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Ruiz shocks Joshua, takes heavyweight world title

LOS ANGELES Andy Ruiz knocked down Anthony Joshua four times to take the World Boxing Association, International Boxing Federation and World Boxing Organization titles. Ruiz came into the fight as a massive 20-1 underdog. But he won in the seventh round when the referee stopped it at 1:26 after the fourth knockdown. Ruiz, sent to the canvas once himself, knocked Joshua down twice in the third round and twice more in the seventh. Ruiz, who has won four fights in a row, looked fearless and poised while Joshua — who had won all 22 of his previous bouts — never seemed to recover from the first knockdown early in the third. **AFP**



Neymar denies rape allegation

SÃO PAULO Brazil and Paris Saint-Germain star Neymar Jr. denied accusations early on Sunday that he raped a woman in a Paris hotel last month. The rape allegation, filed in Sao Paulo on Friday, was reported in Brazilian news portals and confirmed to Efe news by the Secretariat of Public Security of Sao Paulo. The incident allegedly occurred at a hotel in Paris on May 15. Neymar, meanwhile, posted a video on Instagram denying the accusation, claiming he is the victim of a "trap." "It was a trap that I ended up falling into, but this will serve as a lesson going forward," Neymar said. **IANIS**



Petrucci pips Marquez for first MotoGP win

MUGELLO Daniilo Petrucci, an Italian riding for local team Ducati, held off Marc Marquez to gain a first ever MotoGP victory on Sunday in the Italian Grand Prix. The second place allowed Spaniard Marquez to increase his lead in the World championship ahead of another Italian on a Ducati, Andrea Dovizioso, who finished third on Sunday. Marquez on a Honda briefly took the lead in the last lap but Petrucci recaptured first place. **AFP**

Aditi Ashok slips to T-53 at US women's Open

CHARLESTON (USA) Aditi Ashok failed to find a single birdie on way to a 75 and slipped to T-53rd with a five-over 218 after the third round of the US Women's Open here on Sunday. Meanwhile, Yu Liu of China and Celine Boutier of France, who played college golf together, were tied for the lead after three rounds with a 206. **PTI**

India U-21 women beat Ireland 2-1

The Indian women's hockey team came from a goal down to beat Ireland 2-1 and register its second win at the Cantor Fitzgerald U-21 International four-nation tournament here on Saturday. Laura Foley gave Ireland the lead in the 10th minute before India scored through Reet in the 35th and Sharmila Devi in the 53rd. India will play Scotland next on Monday. **PTI**

Chahar carries the day for India-A

His all-round performance puts the visiting Sri Lankans in big trouble despite Rajapaksa's century

SL-A IN INDIA

ASHWIN ACHAL HUBBALLI

Rahul Chahar (84 and three for 73) put India-A in firm control against Sri Lanka-A, on the penultimate day of their second unofficial 'Test' at KSCA Stadium here on Sunday. Faced with a huge 430-run target, Sri Lanka-A was reduced to 210 for seven at close of play.

Earlier, Chahar came good with the bat, making a 109-ball 84. His aggressive approach, which yielded seven fours and two sixes, took him well past previous best First-Class highest score of 36.

He received a life on 35, when Sadeera Samarawickram put down a regulation chance at deep square-leg. Fast bowler Lahiru Kumar got Chahar to top-edge a bouncer, only to watch in horror as Samarawickram fluffed it.

Century stand

Chahar went on to record a 123-run eighth-wicket stand



Gone! Bhanuka Rajapaksa, who stood firm for Sri Lanka-A with a ton, succumbs to a Rahul Chahar googly. **KIRAN BAKLE**

with Jayant Yadav.

Lahiru eventually got Chahar to edge one to the 'keeper', but by then, the damage was done.

Jayant (53, 96b, 3x4) lost his stumps to an inswinger from left-arm speedster Vishwa Fernando.

And soon after, India-A

was bowled out for 372.

Sri Lanka-A lost the first three wickets — Samarawickram (4), Pathum Nissanka (5) and skipper Ashan Priyanjan (6) — in quick time, leaving the side in trouble at 56 for three.

Bhanuka Rajapaksa (110, 112b, 17x4, 3x6) then played a

brilliant counter-attacking knock to keep the Indians at bay.

Silly error

Rajapaksa benefitted from a shocker involving wicket-keeper K.S. Bharat and silly-point fielder Abhimanyu Easwaran. Batting on 40, Ra-

japaksa's sweep off Jayant lobbed up ever so gently to Bharat. An eager Easwaran, however, stuck his hand over Bharat's gloves, leading to a comical drop.

Bharat and Easwaran proceeded to argue over whose catch it was, and it was left to a young child in the audience to provide the answer. "That's the keeper's catch," the child yelled from the stands, evoking laughter from the rest of the crowd.

The home team had to wait until the final session to send Rajapaksa back. The southpaw failed to read a Chahar googly, and was castled.

Chahar also scalped the key wickets of Niroshan Dickwella (18, 39b) and Priyamal Perera II (20b) to put India-A on top.

The scores: India-A 269 & 372 in 82.2 overs (Anmolpreet Singh 60, K.S. Bharat 60, Siddhesh Lad 58, Rahul Chahar 84, Jayant Yadav 53, Vishwa Fernando three for 68, Lakshan Sandakan three for 87) vs Sri Lanka-A 212 & 210 for seven in 51 overs (Bhanuka Rajapaksa 110, Kamindu Mendis 33 batting, Chahar three for 73).

Warriors and Curry — the trendsetters



Changing perceptions: Curry's uncanny ability to create opportunities has earned him recognition as a 'transformational player'. **AFP**

NBA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE TORONTO

Stephen Curry's record-shattering 3-point shooting and Golden State Warriors' run to five consecutive NBA Finals have transformed basketball with more long shots, versatile play-makers and switching defensive schemes.

It's an evolution on display in this year's best-of-seven championship series as Warriors, seeking a third consecutive title and fourth in five seasons, meet a Toronto squad fashioned in Golden State's image.

"They have definitely left a stamp on basketball in this league," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said.

Sinking the threes

Curry's uncanny ability to sink 3-pointers — he stretched his NBA Finals career 3-pointers record to 102 with four in game one — and create opportunities along with backcourt partner Klay Thompson has led a push outside from eras when giants dominated inside or stars like Michael Jordan or LeBron James ruled with

acrobatic shot-making.

"I call him a transformational player," Nurse said of Curry. "He has got kids all over the world shooting from 40 feet away. 'You've seen the 3-point shot become so rapidly used in the last three or four years, a lot of that is because of Golden State and Steph and Klay,'" said Nurse.

The risk of a long shot is being more than overtaken by the benefits of an extra point. Curry warns, however, that it takes exceptional work to sink them often enough to make it worth doing.

"You don't just wake up and accidentally or coincidentally be great at something. You got to put the time in," Curry said.

Role model

Parents say kids want to mimic the highlights they see on TV and Curry is proud to be a role model.

Curry works not only on accuracy but on creating opportunities.

"He's got an incredible shooting stroke from anywhere," Nurse said. "When people are chasing him, he just dribbles and gets around them."

Stimac names six newcomers in squad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Indian football head coach Igor Stimac on Sunday named six newcomers in the final list of 23 players for the King's Cup, to be held in Buriram, Thailand from June 5.

The six are Rahul Bheke, Brandon Fernandes, Raynier Fernandes, Michael Soosairaj, Abdul Sahal and India U-17 World Cup team captain Amarjit Singh.

The final list: Goalkeeper: Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Amrinder Singh, Kamaljit Singh.

Defenders: Pritam Kotal, Rahul Bheke, Sandesh Jhingani, Adil Khan, Subhasish Bose.

Midfielders: Udanta Singh, Jackichand Singh, Brandon Fernandes, Anirudh Thapa, Raynier Fernandes, Pronay Halder, Vinit Rai, Sahal Abdul, Amarjit Singh, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Michael Soosairaj.

Forwards: Balwant Singh, Sunil Chhetri, Farukh Choudhary, Manvir Singh.

Sethu picks up four points by placing 12th

Senthil Chandrasekaran slips to 20th in Race 2

ARRC

ANIRUDH VELAMURI BURIRAM (THAILAND)

Making amends for a disappointing Saturday, Rajiv Sethu finished 12th in Race 2 of the FIM Asian Road Racing Championship (ARRC) Round 3 at the Chang International Circuit here on Sunday.

While Round 1 of the Asia Production 250 category saw him making a bad start, he showed better control from the get-go on Sunday. Despite dropping a place to eighth by the end of the first lap, he stayed less than three seconds behind the race-leader in the opening laps.

The second lap saw the good and bad of the Idemitsu Honda Racing India driver. Bunched together, he showed his guile to stay in a slipstream and overtake three riders in one go but went too wide at a turn immediately to fall back to se-



Burning rubber: Rajiv Sethu, foreground, speeding around the Chang International Circuit. **SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

venth. By lap seven, the leading group (of eight) pulled away leaving the 21-year-old in a murky midfield fight for a top 10 finish — something he could not keep up with. He eventually finished 12th, picking up four points from a lukewarm weekend in Thailand.

Starting 18th, teammate Senthil Chandrasekaran lost two positions to finish 20th.

With 22 points, Sethu stays 14th in the riders' championship standings

while the team, with 22 points, is still seventh in the team championship standings.

ARRC now moves to the Suzuka Circuit in Japan, a track where Sethu's best — in four attempts — has been a 24th place finish twice in the last two years.

Upbeat

Despite a weekend of mixed fortunes, Sethu remained upbeat. "Today was my best race out of my 24 ARRC races

in 3 years," he said. I fought with the top five during a race for the first time in my career. Overall, I have learnt a lot in this round and will be using this experience going forward.

"I am taking part in the Suzuka 4 Hour Endurance race next weekend and will apply my learnings from that in the upcoming June-end (ARRC) round in Suzuka."

(The writer is in Buriram at the invitation of Honda Racing India)

India emerges champion again

The team did not lose a set in 20 matches

R.LY. TENNIS

SPORTS BUREAU ALBENA (BULGARIA)

The Indian team maintained its impressive record of not dropping a set in 20 matches as it beat Czech Republic 4-0 in the super league and retained the title in the 21st USIC World Railways tennis championship.

The Czechs put up a better performance than the one in the league phase, but the Indian players did not drop more than four games in a set in any con-



Merry run: The Indian team brooked no challenge in the World Railway tennis championship. **SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

test. It was a consistently solid performance by Nitin Kumar Sinha, Mohammed

Fahad, P.C. Vignesh and Prithvi Sekhar. Coach Nitin Kirrtane was happy that

the team was able to defend the crown which Vignesh, Saurav Sukul, Udaya Kumar and him had won in Nuremberg, Germany, in 2015.

In the league stage, India had beaten Slovakia and Czech Republic.

Defeats Belgium

With two teams each qualifying from the three groups for the next stage, India beat Belgium in the elimination round.

Thereafter, it defeated Bulgaria and Czech Republic in the three-team super

league to emerge the champion.

India wins 40 sets

Every tie featured four singles matches.

India won 40 sets without dropping one in a competition that featured 10 teams.

The results (super league):

India bt Czech Republic 4-0 (Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Michal Cepak 6-0, 6-0; Mohammed Fahad bt Michal Weber 6-4, 6-1; P.C. Vignesh bt Alan Brunsbauch 6-3 6-4; Prithvi Sekhar bt Juri Hipsky 6-1, 6-1).

War Hammer notches up another win

BENGALURU: War Hammer (Trevor) won the Karnataka Juvenile Million, the chief event of the races held here on Sunday (June 2). The winner is owned by Dr. C.A. Prashanth, Mr. Gautam Basappa, Mr. Manjunath B.S and Mr. Apana Subaiya P. and trained by Prasanna Kumar.

1 GLORIOUS COLOURS PLATE (1,600m), maiden 3-y-o only. (Terms): WIZARD OF STOCKS (Trevor) 1, Francis Bacon (Neerar) 2, Invicta (Dhebe) 3 and Mustering (Darshan) 4. 4, 1-1/2 and 1-1/4. Im, 37.38s. ₹16 (w), 10, 26 and 23 (p), SHP: 65, THP: 44, FP: 97, Q: 72, Trinella: 554 and 215, Exacta: 3,650 and 2,384. Favourite: Wizard of Stocks. Owners: Mr. Rakesh R. Jhunjhunwala, Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta & Mr. Berjis Minoo Desai. Trainer: P. Shroff.

2 IFLOOSCOULDKILL PLATE (1,100m), rated 00 to 20: ZAFRINA (A. Merchant) 1, Queen Isabella (A.S. Peter) 2, Arrogance (Suraj) 3 and High Hawk (S. Mubarak) 4. Not run: Country's Star. 3/4, 4 and 1. Im, 08.05s. ₹76 (w), 19, 14 and 12 (p), SHP: 40, THP: 52, FP: 560, Q: 175, Trinella: 647 and 203, Exacta: 11,020 and 8,501. Favourite: Arrogance. Owner and Trainer: Mr. K.P.G. Appu.

3 BERGAMO PLATE (1,200m), rated 30 to 50, 5-y-o & over: STANDOUT (John) 1, San Bernardino (Koushik) 2, Bold Move (S. Shareef) 3 and Emidio (S. Mubarak) 4. Lnk, 1-1/4 and 1-3/4. Im, 12.93s. ₹23 (w), 13, 18 and 40 (p), SHP: 57, THP: 85, FP: 138, Q: 86, Trinella: 1,564 and 756, Exacta: 17,690 and 22,744. Favourite: Standout. Owners: Mr. Kersi H. Vachha & Sarainaga Racing Pvt Ltd. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

4 BRIG. R.C.R. HILL MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,600m), rated 45 to 65: IMPAVID (Sandesh) 1, Blue Moon (T.S. Jodha) 2, Exclusive Blue (Zervan) 3 and Masada (Akshaya) 4. 2-1/4, 1-3/4 and 3. Im, 37.26s. ₹13 (w), 10, 15 and 17 (p), SHP: 25, THP: 33, FP: 30, Q: 49, Trinella: 102 and 34, Exacta: 719 and 494. Favourite: Impavid. Owner: Dr. Nevill R. Devlalwalla. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

5 KARNATAKA JUVENILE MIL-LION (1,400m), 3-y-o, (Terms): WAR HAMMER (Trevor) 1, Mystic Bay (Yash) 2, Trafalgar (Sandesh) 3 and Missing You (Suraj) 4. Not run: Princess Annabel. 2-3/4, 12, 17 and 37 (p), SHP: 47, THP: 72, FP: 92, Q: 61, Trinella: 673 and 456, Exacta: 2,147 and 649. Favourite: War Hammer. Owners: Dr. C.A.

Prashanth, Mr. Gautam Basappa, Mr. Manjunath B.S and Mr. Apana Subaiya P. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

6 PRABALO PLATE (1,200m), rated 15 to 35: HARMONIA (P.S. Chouhan) 1, Ashoka The Great (Zervan) 2, Slovenia (Trevor) 3 and Areca Angel (Rajesh K) 4. Not run: Admirable. 5-1/4, 3/4 and 2-3/4. Im, 13.86s. ₹27 (w), 12, 41 and 11 (p), SHP: 131, THP: 50, FP: 912, Q: 387, Trinella: 1,095 and 184, Exacta: 7,882 and 18,579. Favourite: Slovenia. Owners: Mr. Rajan Aggarwal & Mr. Gautam Aggarwal. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.

7 BELMONT PARK PLATE (1,600m), rated 00 to 20: WINX (T.S. Jodha) 1, String Of Pearls (A. Merchant) 2, Princess Amu (A.S. Peter) 3 and Identiti (C. Umesh) 4. 1/2, 2-3/4 and 3-3/4. Im, 40.03s. ₹37 (w), 14, 29 and 36 (p), SHP: 120, THP: 86, FP: 858, Q: 310, Trinella: 11,153 and 14,340, Exacta: 24,855 and 26,629. Favourite: Apollo Bay. Owners: Mr. Gautam Makhija & Mrs. Sangita Vashisth. Trainer: Imtiaz Khan.

Shubhankar moves to T-31; Lahiri slips

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DUBLIN (USA)

Shubhankar Sharma played a fine round of 69 despite a few mishaps to rise to be tied-31st in the third round but Anirban Lahiri had a disappointing day as he slipped to T-63 at the Memorial golf tournament here on Saturday.

Martin Kaymer who has not won since 2014 and Adam Scott who has not won since 2016, were first and second.

Tiger Woods was re-signed to the fact that he won't be claiming a title here, lamenting half a dozen lip-outs and a double-bogey as he carded a two-under 70 that left him 11 adrift.

Ekansh shines in Air India's triumph

Delhi Under-19 batsman Ekansh Dopal stepped up to the big occasion, scoring a match-winning 109 as Air India clinched the 44th Lala Raghuraj Singh hot weather cricket tournament title at the Modern School grounds on Sunday, defeating Collage Sports Club by four wickets in the final. Put in, Collage managed a competitive 293 for nine. Robin Bisht top-scored with 79 for Collage with handy contributions from Pragam Sharma (52) and Surrender Dahiya (41). Air India overhauled the total with four wickets and five balls to spare. Lalit Yadav and Rajat Bhatia were the other scorers for the winner. **The scores:** CSC 293 for nine

DELHI ROUND-UP

in 40 overs (Robin Bisht 79, Pragam Sharma 52, Surrender Dahiya 41) lost to Air India 295 for six in 39.1 overs (Ekansh Dopal 109, Lalit Yadav 44 n.o., Rajat Bhatia 33; Pragam Sharma three for 41). Man-of-the-Match: Ekansh Dopal; **Best batsman:** Robin Bisht; **Best bowler:** Nitin Yadav; **Man-of-the-Tournament:** Shahbaz Khan; **Best upcoming player:** Divij Mehra. **More than 3000 participate in IAAF 24:1 run** More than 3000 runners participated in the India leg of the second edition of the IAAF 24:1 here on Sunday. With temperatures crossing 45°, the run had to be advanced following the Met Department's 'red code' warning. The run was organised by the Athletics Federation of India in

association with the Territorial Army and the Indian Army at the Cariappa Parade Ground. The event was also a curtain raiser for the Territorial Army & Athletics Federation of India Run, the official National marathon of India. "The participants did an excellent job. The Army gave us full support, both as participants and organisers," AFI president Adille Sumariwalla said. The 24:1 run is a series of one-mile runs conducted in 24 cities across 15 time zones over 24 hours around the world to celebrate the Global Running Day on June 2. More than 12,000 runners had participated in the inaugural edition in 2018.

The experience

I wore Ayurganic all through our Kerala visit. When I got the invite talking about ayurvedic and organic clothing, I didn't expect the garments to also look, well, expensive. The first day, I chose the Bindu wraparound skirt, which I combined with a simple back vest. We travelled by boat and by bus from Poovar island to Balarampuram. Still, after 10 hours of wear, the skirt was relatively uncreased and fell beautifully till my feet. The next day, I wore the Veda top with crushed harem pants and got similar results. My favourite piece is the Guna hooded bathrobe, which falls beautifully, cinches in the waist – and if it were socially acceptable, I'd happily wear it out for dinner.



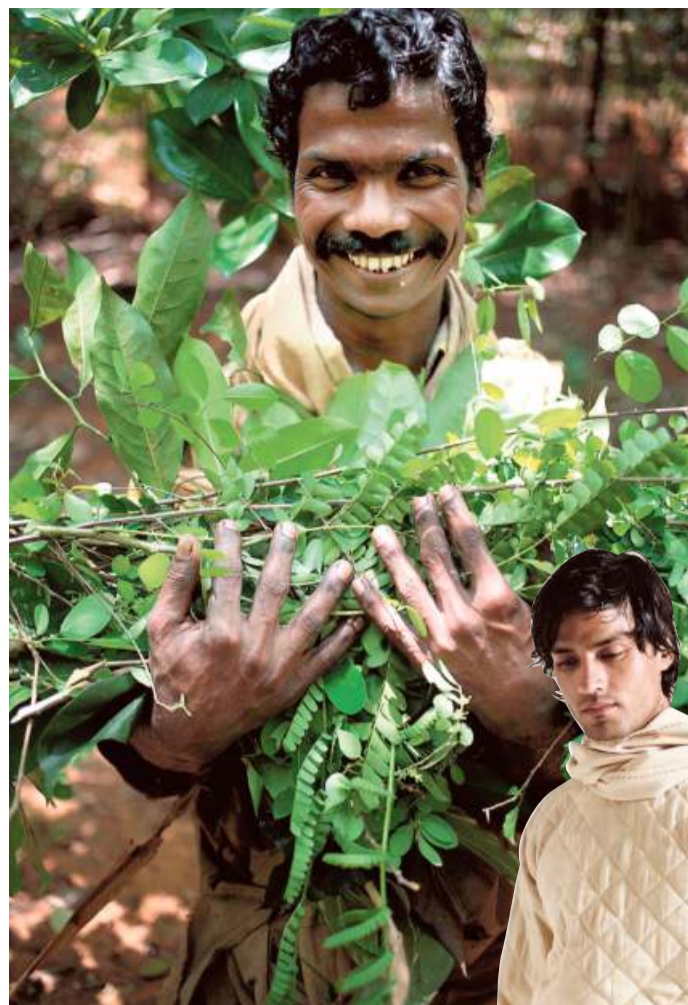
organic. At their factory in Balarampuram, where the bricks are infused with healing herbs and the walls plastered with neem paint and sandalwood oil, Hemant Sagar takes us through the painstaking process of it all.

ing properties," explains Rajan.

The processing unit is located in the heart of the Agastya forest, where Rajan and his team source more than 1,200 herbs, used for various combinations that range from immunity, to better sleep, to glowing skin. The water used to dye the fabric is believed to be medicinal as well, to be consumed or bathed in to enhance health and beauty. Interestingly, we're told that when the

From the forest

The first step is to procure GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard) certified organic cotton from Tamil Nadu. Once the swatches are delivered to



From the earth (Clockwise from below) The Guna bathrobe; herbs collected from the Agastya forest; Hemant Sagar; Didier Lecoanet; from the men's collection; and the process of dyeing



Immunity in a bathrobe

Designer duo Lecoanet Hemant revive the art of *ayurveda* in Ayurganic, their line of medicinal clothing

VASUDHA RAI

It's noon in Kerala, and we're sweating bullets, trying to understand the nuances of *ayurveda* – fabric that has been dyed with medicinal herbs to enhance health and beauty. Rajan, who's explaining this to us, is the sixth generation (on record) of the Kuzhivila family who's trading in this fabric. Their lineage goes back to the



Silk Route, when they supplied *rajaa* with turmeric-dyed cloth.

And perhaps this would have been a dying art, if it were not for the curious minds of designer duo Lecoanet-Hemant. The multi-award winning designers, who began their journey as couturiers in Paris, are now refining the concept of *ayurveda*, with a line of garments under the label Ay-

cloth is washed in the nearby Neyyar River, there is an increase in the fish population (because of the various healing herbs).

The challenges

In this world of fast fashion where garments are constructed in as less than a couple of hours, delving into a project such as Ayurganic requires not just patience but also a desire to redefine the industry. Some of the things Sagar and Didier Lecoanet struggle with include the time taken to create the dyed fabric before it's delivered to their Gurugram atelier, and the fact that production halts during the Kerala monsoon.

"The one time we insisted, we got fabric that was incredibly patchy because everything gets mildew," says Sagar. And because it's a traditional process, there's no way to ensure uniformity of colour.

We must credit the designers for their intelligence – by adding a satin weave through

the organic cotton, they have made the fabric richer and more pliant. Currently, the garments are only available in one light yellow shade till they can perfect the colour uniformity. The blend for this shade is used to enhance overall health and immunity. Many different herbs (including red sandalwood, sweetflag, vetiver, wild turmeric) are used; however, *neem* is the main ingredient with 20% concentration.

The inside story

Not many people know that they had begun work on Ayurganic much before Genes, their ready-to-wear collection. Back in their Gurugram home, Sagar recalls how it all started back in 2008, thanks to an eclectic Frenchman they employed. "For three years, he travelled around India, before he discovered *ayurveda*. We changed the concept by bringing in certified cotton," he says. For the first couple of years, they were simply experimenting, until they got a call from

the first ayurveda website in Germany (ayurveda-portal.de) who became their partners in Deutschland. This gave them access to more than 30 top ayurvedic institutes in that country, who loved the garments.

But wellness isn't just a business deal for them. Outside the work environment, Sagar is usually seen walking barefoot to stay connected to the earth. He also has a healing crystal ca-rafe to charge his drinking water and is into bio-hacking, a light hypnosis programme that you can use for anything – from enhancing well-being or to stop smoking. Lecoanet meditates regularly, and works on three-week detoxes. Even their 1,00,000 sq ft, five-floor atelier features recycled grey water, and natural light floods the building. It's a far cry from sleepy Balaramapuram, but a fitting climax, for a brand that creates these easy, elegant and very refined outfits.

The writer was in Kerala at the invitation of Lecoanet Hemant.

Id at Bachchon-ka-Ghar

How the boys at this orphanage in the Walled City, celebrate the festival



R. V. SMITH

Id-ul-Fitr at Bachchon-ka-Ghar in Daryaganj is the second joyous occasion after Id-uz-Zuha or Bakrid. That's the time when the children of this orphanage-cum-destitute home for boys get new clothes and more appetizing food than the frugal fare they are generally served. The Ghar was built in 1882-83 by the legendary physician Hakim Ajmal Khan. That was also the time when the first Delhi Gazetteer was published by the Raj government. In those days, except for the British Cavalry lines and iconic Agra Hotel, the area was sparsely populated compared to the old Daryaganj on the other side of the road.

Hakim Ajmal Khan, who was born in 1863 and died in 1926, belonged to the Sharifi family of royal hakims (physician) and was a leader of the freedom movement, besides being a great philanthropist. People seem to have forgotten him now and his grave near the shrine of Hazrat Rooh Numah on Panchkuin Road lies in a neglected state. But Bachchon-ka-Ghar has flourished to perpetuate his memory.

I remember spending a whole afternoon at the now 136-year-old institution on an Id day. The atmosphere was one of merriment, with the stern disciplinarians taking it easy and allowing the boys to have a jolly good time. It was reminiscent of the Id



Children's day (above) A file photo from 2006 when then President APJ Abdul Kalam invited the children for Iftaar; (top) Bachchon-ka-ghar

day described by Munshi Premchand in his own semi-rural locality in U.P. Written in Urdu at the flag-end of the 19th century, it recounts the pell-mell ambience of a colony of poor people who had saved money the hard way to celebrate Id. Someone ran to the tailor's shop for a newly-stitched kurta to which the old darzi (tailor), spectacles on his nose bridge, was still giving finishing touches. Another boy made for the dhoobi's shack for a shirt given to be washed the previous evening.

His sister meanwhile hurried to the bharbhujia (gram roaster) for seviyan (roasted vermicelli), while her mother paid a quick visit to the co-wards for milk to boil the most famous Id dish.

The men were not idle: some hewed wood to light the chulha for the good wife, others made for the well to bring a few buckets of water and yet others headed for the butcher's shop to buy meat for the korma to be eaten with tandoori rotis bought from the dhaba owner.

The inmates of Bachchon-ka-Ghar however did not have to worry about seviyan, milk, meat or rotis as benefactors and the orphanage kitchen took care of all this. But they did rush to the darzi for the new clothes that had been ordered for them by some patron, like Dr Shroff, the eye-specialist who had set up his clinic in Daryaganj before it became a prestigious hospital run by his family. The late Haji



Zahooruddin was another benefactor who sent biryani in tiffin-carriers for the children. The Sajjadada Nashin or hereditary caretaker of the nearby shrine of Hazrat Sabri sent a basketful of seviyan along with milk, as a sweet dish for lunch. The shrine outside also has an interesting history. Outside it is the grave of Sayyid Baba, which divides the locality road in front as it's situated right in the centre under a tree. It is said that the British, while laying the road, tried to remove it but failed. The children of Bachchon-ka-Ghar regard the grave as that of their patron saint. Every Thursday some of them sneak out of the orphanage to light joss-sticks at the grave and seek favours.

For the Id celebrations, just before the festival, the senior boys climb up to the roof to look for the new moon. As soon as they see the shimmering wisp suspended like a silver thread in the western sky, they let out an almighty roar of "Chand ho gaya" (the moon has been spotted), after which they and the younger boys greet each other with "Chand Mubarak". This means that the month-long fast has ended and no Rosa the next day. Wearing new clothes, mostly donated, and skull caps, they celebrate Id after namaz the next morning and then assemble for a feast of mouth-watering seviyan. Lunch follows later and the merriment continues. Had Munshi Premchand been alive he might have been able to better his earlier description of Id day after a visit to Bachchon-ka-Ghar.

Diamonds for closure

de Sede's line of hand-stitched leather bags come with precious detail, for the understated Indian

SUSANNA MYRTLE LAZARUS

You'll find a curved, dark brown de Sede couch in Giambattista Valli's Sloane Street store in London. The Swiss brand's iconic Skeleton chairs have also made appearances in James Bond films and in the British sitcom, *The IT Crowd*. No doubt, the leather furniture from this brand is in fine company indeed, so can its fashion accessories be far behind? Designed for the boardroom and power circles, more than the red carpet, the bags were recently introduced in the country. The 54-year-old brand, headquartered in Klingnau, has been in the Indian market for about two years now. The bags will be equally successful, says Ursula Grenacher, chief of marketing at de Sede.

Shine on

The line includes a tote, three sizes of clutches, a men's clutch, a practical twin bag, a generous weekender and a messenger bag. While the bags, with clean lines, are generally unembellished, the limited edition Angel is the exception. Sonal Saxena, sales head for de Sede bags in India and several other South East Asian countries, says, "These are produced completely by hand in Switzerland, and feature 166 diamonds on the clasp and the handle attachments. There's a two month wait period, and the production is capped at 100 pieces."

The hardware too is made of gold and platinum, customised to match the colour of the leather (in a dozen shades). Gold appliqués by Zurich-based Blum Jeweller are hand-cast in white, rose or yellow gold. A smaller clutch version has a modest 18 diamonds, and comes in black, white and grey.



Stitch in time (Clockwise from left) Hand-stitching on de Sede leather furniture, the DS Shopper, the Angel bag



Grenacher says they will be collaborating with a soon-to-be-named Indian jewellery designer to create a new diamond bag for this market. "We want it to be an investment, similar to expensive jewellery, and will present it as a new way to sport diamonds as part of an ensemble. We're planning to present it in autumn, with exclusive private parties for a select target group," she says.

Leather loving

Like their furniture, the bags are made of semi-aniline leather, where the natural grain and markings can be seen through a thin layer of pigment coating. It's weather-resistant and dirt and water-repellent. A signature of the craftsmanship is the hand-sewn seam, while the handles

are embellished with cross-stitch. Saxena says that the range is targeted at buyers looking for understated elegance. "The pricing is on par with brands like Louis Vuitton, but without explicit branding that might make it look too flashy," she says. Like you can tell a Bottega Veneta by its signature weave, the tear-drop detailing on all the bags is a tell-tale sign of a de Sede.

It's also very functional. For those endlessly rooting through the dark interiors of bags for keys or a pen, the bright yellow lining helps. "It's meant to increase visibility. The men's bags have a pale blue lining for the same reason," she explains.

From ₹1 lakh upward, at De Sede Studio, MG Road, Delhi and online on desede.ch

Abhay Deol doesn't **FIT** in

The *Chopsticks* actor on why he isn't a 'Bollywood star' despite his pedigree, and why digital means democratic

KENNETH ROSARIO

Abhay Deol doesn't like the word 'Bollywood'. For him, it's a genre and not a film industry. He prefers 'Hindi cinema' instead – a space that accommodates both the likes of Naseeruddin Shah and Amitabh Bachchan. It's somewhere in this spectrum that he is trying to fit in, albeit with much struggle. "I don't see myself being perceived as a Bollywood star and I wouldn't want to be that either," says Abhay, hiding behind large yellow-tinted sunglasses in a Mumbai hotel room.

Disrupting distribution
With one foot in the city and the other in Los Angeles ("I have a community and family there"), the bohemian actor, wearing yellow floral prints, doesn't subscribe to the idea of borders or of committing to one medium or industry. His latest outing as an actor is a Netflix film, *Chopsticks*, and he has three international co-productions, *Jungle Cry* (Indo-British), *JL 50* (Indo-Canadian) and *Line of Descent* (Indo-American) in advanced stages. As producer, he is backing the coming-of-age series, *The Odds*, which closed this year's Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles.

For the famously picky actor, this is a resurgence of sorts, driven by possibilities on streaming platforms. "I was making content-driven stuff in 2007, 2008 and 2009, and back then, I managed to release those movies because the multiplexes were coming up and suddenly, there was more exhibition space," recalls Abhay, who sees a simi-

lar trend today. While the multiplex boom, owing to its real estate logistics, soon crashed, Abhay believes that the digital space is here to stay. For him, there's no dearth of talent to make "relatable and entertaining" films, but there is a lack of distribution support. "And that wasn't going to come from Bollywood," he says. "So it took someone like Netflix, who have been disruptive from the word go – even in Hollywood – to replicate that here."

The rebellious Deol aimed to be equally disruptive with his production house Forbidden Films, but it soon folded up. In 2014, he debuted as a producer with *One by Two* under his new banner, i.e. Films. "But I've always kind of been active in some producerial capacity and never taken the credit, so to speak," he informs. Whether it is acquainting Sunny Deol with Imtiaz Ali for *Socha Na Tha* (2005), raising funds for *Manorama Six Feet Under* (2007) or giving Anurag Kashyap the idea to give *Devdas* a contemporary twist in *Dev.D* (2009), he

often went beyond the traditional responsibilities of an actor in the early days of his career. "Because I wanted those stories to materialise," he explains. Currently, he is developing a few indie projects as a producer – including the Tamil-language, *Idhu Vedhalam Sollum Kathai* – but refuses to speak about them.

Refusing stardom

In his almost 15-year career, Abhay has sporadically acted in mainstream films like *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara* (2011), *Shanghai* (2012), *Raanjhanaa* (2013) and *Happy Bhag Jayegi* (2016). "But I'm not very competitive," he confesses. Unlike many Bollywood celebrities, he has been vocal about issues like wage gap, sexism and patriarchy in the

I am a citizen of the planet and I want to do films that appeal to people, not communities

ABHAY DEOL

industry on Twitter, and has a fairly active presence on Instagram, even when he was absent on the big screen. While filmmakers and Bollywood audiences have expressed their desire to see more of the actor on-screen, he has abstained from "marketing himself" or picking projects that lack authenticity. "I always wanted my work to speak for itself but I realised you have to show people a little bit of yourself and interact with them, especially before your film releases," he concedes. "It does not mean that you're a sellout."

Despite a Bollywood pedigree, the 43-year-old actor believes he is not a "huge star". He realises this the most when he markets movies by debut filmmakers. "Stardom is something you pay for and buy," he declares. The actor refuses to be known for advertisements rather than movies, even if it involves "going deliberately slow" with his choices. On the flip side, he is often perceived as a "lazy talented actor", as Anand L Rai called him in an interview before the release of *Happy Phirr Bhag Jayegi* (2018). "That's the filmmaker's perception of me," responds Abhay. "I can be lazy, don't get me wrong. But it's not laziness that's holding me back, it's the system where I don't fit in."

But the plan is to stick to his gun while experimenting with newer models of distribution – primarily digital – and exploring international markets and co-productions. "I am a citizen of the planet and I want to do films that appeal to people, not communities," he concludes.

Chopsticks is streaming on Netflix

The lineup

Adventures with a goat, a magical coming-of-age tale and a sports biopic – a closer look at what's in store for the actor this season



The Odds
This whimsical series about a Mumbai-based teenager features Abhay as both actor and producer, and is slated to hit OTT platforms this year.



Jungle Cry
Based on a true story about a coach (Abhay) who leads a team from Odisha to the Junior Rugby World Cup, this upcoming film had its trailer release at Cannes.



Chopsticks
The quirky tale of a girl, a conman (Abhay), a gangster and a goat is now on Netflix.



Making his mark (Right)
Abhay Deol and Mithila Palkar in a still from *Chopsticks*
NETFLIX

POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



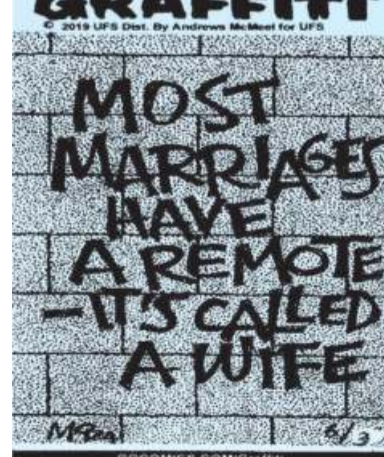
CALVIN AND HOBBS



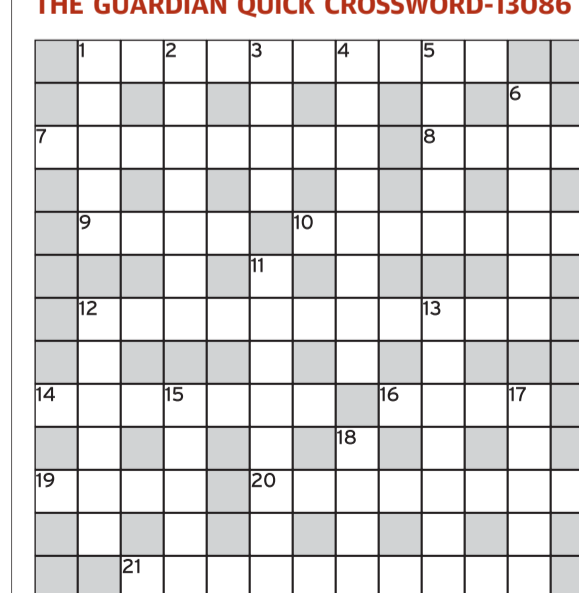
TIGER



GRAFFITI



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13086

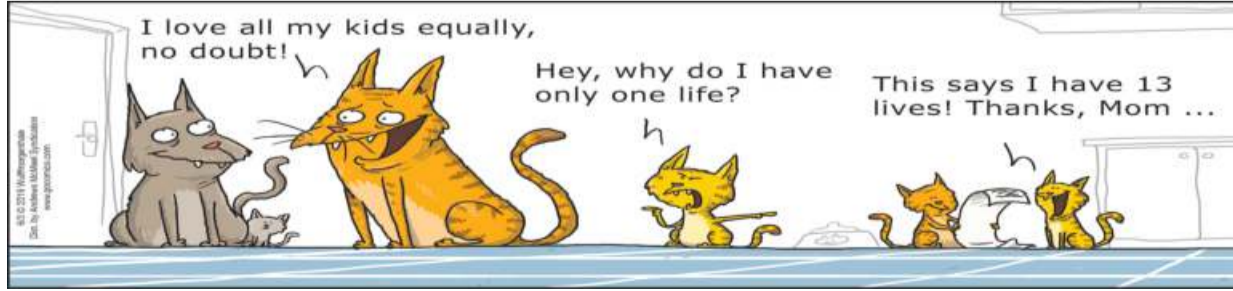


- pre-1925 (8)
- 5 Bring to mind (5)
- 6 Portuguese North Atlantic islands (6)
- 11 Swollen-headed (8)
- 12 Decrepit old car (6)
- 13 Minaret (anag) – clothing (7)
- 15 Provide accommodation for (5)
- 17 Pungent vegetable (5)
- 18 Penny-pinching (4)

Solution will appear in *The Hindu* dated June 4, 2019.

Solution No. 13085

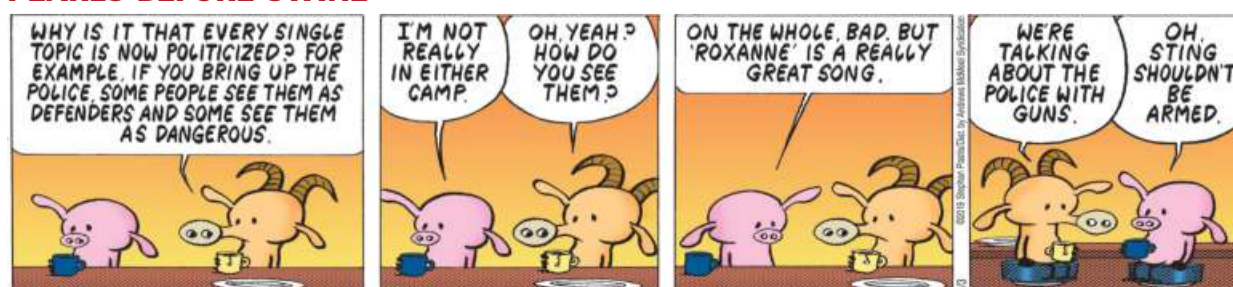
WUMO



HEALTH CAPSULES

WHAT IS BALM OF GILEAD?
BALM OF GILEAD
ALTHOUGH BALM OF GILEAD NORMALLY REFERS TO A PERFUME, THIS ARABIAN 'SHRUB IS AMONG THE MOST RESPECTED OF HERBAL PLANTS, DATING BACK THOUSANDS OF YEARS. THE PLANT BLEEDS OR LEAKS ITS OIL, OR 'BALM,' WHICH IS COLLECTED AND PROCESSED AS A REMEDY FOR A NUMBER OF AILMENTS.
Health Capsules is a trademark of Dr. J. S. Duggan.

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



- Across
- 1 Duke of 21's horse at Waterloo – capital city (10)
- 7 Parts of speech – poor nuns (anag) (8)
- 8 Greek aniseed liqueur (4)
- 9 Arrangement for deferred payment (4)
- 10 Unpaid debts (7)
- 12 Capital city – uneasier sob (anag) (6,5)
- 14 Interminable (7)
- 16 Habitual drunk (4)
- 19 Bonce (4)
- 20 Extremely agitated – if recent (anag) (8)
- 21 Kind of boot (10)
- Down
- 1 French landscape painter, d. 1875 (5)
- 2 Flamboyant style (7)
- 3 Common sense (4)
- 4 Hitler's nationality



IN BRIEF



Ship slams into Venice wharf, four injured

A massive cruise ship lost control as it docked in Venice on Sunday, crashing into the wharf and hitting a tourist boat after suffering an engine failure. Tourists on land could be seen running away as the 13-deck MSC Opera scraped along the dockside, its engine blaring, before knocking into a tourist boat, amateur video footage posted on Twitter showed. Four people were slightly injured in the accident. AFP



Biologists probe deaths of 70 gray whales

U.S. biologists have launched an investigation into the deaths of at least 70 gray whales washed ashore in recent months along the West Coast, officials said on Friday. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration declared the whale die-off an "unusual mortality event," a designation that triggers greater scrutiny and allocation of resources to determine the cause. REUTERS



Brain zapping can help retrieve lost memories

Forgotten memories can be retrieved by stimulating a specific brain region using electrical currents, scientists have found for the first time. The research, published in the *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, shows that stimulation in the left rostralateral prefrontal cortex helps in memory recall. PTI

Immunotherapy boosts survival chances for lung cancer patients

Patients who took Pembrolizumab without chemotherapy had better results

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
CHICAGO

An immunotherapy treatment helped significantly boost survival rates among patients suffering from advanced lung cancer, according to the results of a clinical trial cited by researchers on Saturday.

Almost 25% of patients who received the drug Pembrolizumab and had not previously received chemotherapy were alive after five years, said the study which was presented at annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

The figure dropped to just over 15% for patients who had previously received chemotherapy.

"The uniformly negative outlook that has been associated with a diagnosis of ad-



Extending life: Immunotherapy leverages the body's immune system to fight disease. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

vanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is certainly no longer appropriate," said lead author Edward Garon, an associate professor at UCLA.

The five-year survival rate was 5.5% in the pre-immunotherapy era.

Unlike chemotherapy, immunotherapy works by le-

vancing the body's own immune system to fight disease.

More effective T-cells

In this case, the drug acts by turning off a brake in the immune system, a protein called PD-1, which then allows cancer-fighting T-cells to attack faster and more ef-

fectively. "I describe it as sort of changing the thermostat, in terms of how willing the immune system is to tolerate something versus reject it," Mr. Garon said.

David Graham, an oncologist at the Levine Cancer Institute in Charlotte, North Carolina, who was not involved with the study, said: "It's truly remarkable that for more patients than ever before, we no longer have to count survival in months."

According to Mr. Garon, the trial proved there are groups of patients "who do have long-term survival prospect, and that does change the way we talk to our patients about the disease."

Moving forward, his team would like to identify other biomarkers to further improve survival rates.

Yoga's Instagram provocateur

Slams wellness industry for commodification of the discipline

KATHERINE ROSMAN

You cannot swing a cat (pose) on Instagram without hitting photographs of yoga instructors with perfect figures twisted into perfect shapes, selling essential oils and greeting-card spirituality.

Alex Auder is not one of them.

Ms. Auder, 48, is something of a yoga auteur, sharing homemade videos that are more performance art than content. In them she satirizes, mocks and sometimes fillets the wellness industry, its relentless marketing and "the commodification of yoga," as Ms. Auder calls it.

She writes, stars in and films a regular series of videos in which she has painted a dollar sign on her forehead in eyeliner and plays a character hawking essential oils with names like "urine mist," "feces" and "The One Per Cent."

She also plays a Wall Street dropout who has invested in wellness companies and thanks yoga instructors for continuing "to convince your fellow women to buy into me. I'm making more money than I did on Wall Street and you are still poor."

Then there is the series in which she plays the role of an exacting yoga instructor who berates her students, played by naked dolls whose bodies are covered with dollar signs and the names of yoga clothing brands like Spiritual Gangster.

In one popular video, Ms. Auder has herself wrapped in what appear to be Ikea rugs as she exits a car. "Being a healer who is sponsored by more than 500 brands is a lot of pressure," she says. "Mercedes gets me to my ayahuasca ceremonies quickly and efficiently and Coke keeps me hydrated."

Her Instagram feed is not one for glamour shots celebrated by 10,000 prayer-hand-emoji comments. She has about 6,000 followers, many of whom seem to delight in antics of someone trying to cling to the last ves-



Provoked to think: Alex Auder in Philadelphia. • NYT

I think it's ridiculous for gorgeous wealthy white women to tell anyone what they should love about themselves

ALEX AUDEY
Yoga Instructor

tiges of yoga's counterculture roots.

Ms. Auder has been an instructor for decades, teaching for many years at Kula Yoga Project in New York. She now runs a studio called Magu Yoga in Philadelphia, where she and her husband, filmmaker Nick Nehéz, moved with their two children five years ago. She has been practicing yoga since the late 1980s and teaching it since 1994.

She said she is not making fun of any one Instagram yoga celebrity, but all of them. "It's a conglomeration of personalities, and when people say they see themselves in my characters, I think that is their problem, not mine."

Affordability factor

"I think it's ridiculous for gorgeous wealthy white women to tell anyone what they should love about themselves," Ms. Auder went on. "Rosemary oil is great for the immune system, fine. But the people who really need a boost for their immune system can't afford rosemary oil, and they can't even go to the doctor. So let's give an Instagram heart for that, shall we?"

Ms. Auder's is one of a

handful of social media feeds that holds to account (as it were) the overly branded, idealised version of the yoga lifestyle that has exploded on social media. Others include @shallow_yoga, which features a Barbie doll named Skye Moondust Shallow doing ridiculous yoga poses in ridiculous locations (with captions like, "I hope this picture of me holding my leg up in the air in front of a mirror inspires you to say 'Because of you, Skye, I didn't give up!'").

Ms. Auder is in fact a performance artist IRL, on many different stages. She has made guest appearances on the HBO series *High Maintenance*, which depicts the interactions between a weed delivery man in Brooklyn and his clientele. (On the show, Ms. Auder plays Gloria, a yoga instructor who tries to win a dance world record.) She also regularly walks the runway for fashion designer Rachel Comey.

She comes from a family of activists and artists. "She's always been outspoken, outrageous, passionate, sensational," said Ms. Auder's sister, actress Gaby Hoffmann. (They have matching "SIS" tattoos on their wrists.) "Now it's playing out on Instagram, instead of just on the dance floor and the yoga studio and on the sidewalk." Put another way: "When the machine is corrupted, you are the grit that gums up the works."

Now in Philadelphia, she is devoting as much time to social media. NY TIMES

Riot of colours



Participants throw coloured powder as they celebrate after finishing the Colour Run race in Moscow on Sunday. • REUTERS

Babies crawl to the Lithuanian finish line



Baby Race event in Vilnius, Lithuania. • AP

ASSOCIATED PRESS
VILNIUS

In Lithuania, the rat race of life apparently starts early.

Twenty-five babies have taken to the red carpet in Lithuania in a crawling race as their parents, grandparents and onlookers

cheered the spectacle.

Teams waved toys and even banged baby food cans to spur the 7-to-11-month-old babies to move faster on the carpet.

An 11-month-old baby boy named Ignas managed to reach the finish line first.

Pope apologises to Roma for 'discrimination'

The community is among the poorest in Europe and has faced mistreatment for centuries

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BLAJ

Pope Francis apologised on Sunday to the Roma ethnic minority for their history of discrimination in Europe and paid homage to Romanian Catholics persecuted during communist rule as he wrapped up his third and final day with a message of forgiveness.

Pope Francis reached out to the minorities of Transylvania during a deeply symbolic visit to Romania about 20 years after St. John Paul II made the first papal trip to the majority Orthodox country.

Pope Francis visited a community of Roma, also known as Gypsies, in a newly built Catholic church that was so small organisers



Making it right: Pope Francis arrives to attend the beatification ceremony of seven martyr bishops in Blaj, Romania. • REUTERS

asked the clergy to leave to make more room for Gypsy families to get in.

There, Pope Francis apologised for the "many experiences of discrimination, segregation and mistreatment

experienced by your communities," a reference to the second-class status of the Roma minority in Romania and throughout Europe, where Roma are more likely to be poor, uneducated and at risk

of harassment, according to European Union studies.

"History tells us that Christians too, including Catholics, are not strangers to such evil," Pope Francis said, in an apparent reference to Second World War-era deportation of Roma along with Romanian Jews that is commemorated by a Holocaust memorial in Bucharest. "I would like to ask your forgiveness for this," Pope Francis said.

Marginalised section

Roma are often among the poorest and least educated citizens in Central Europe. Neighbouring Hungary, for example, has been warned by the EU about the discrimination of Roma children in education. The EU Agency

for Fundamental Rights reported last year that 80% of the Roma population in Europe is at risk for poverty, and that hate-motivated crime and harassment were preventing their inclusion in society.

When Communist regime assumed power following Second World War, thousands of priests were incarcerated in prisons, including the seven being beatified on Sunday. The Catholic Church's property was seized. The refusal of the Orthodox church to return those Catholic assets remains a source of tension between the two today.

"This is a holy day for all Catholics," said 50-year old Emanuela Canta, who arrived in the Blaj field early Sunday to get a spot.

Psychedelic rocker Roky Erickson dies



Roky Erickson. • AP

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK

Roky Erickson, the blue-eyed Texan who headed the Austin-based 13th Floor Elevators, a pioneering psychedelic rock band in the 1960s that scored with *You're Gonna Miss Me* has died. He was 71.

Mr. Erickson's sinuous lead guitar and wailing vocals made him a musician's musician. Among his fans were Lenny Kaye and the Swedish metal group Ghost

Descend, eat and marvel at Europe's first underwater restaurant

Serves up delicacies in an architectural showpiece that stretches five metres down below, offering a unique close up of ocean life

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LINDSNES

For the chef and diners alike, each meal beneath the waves at Europe's first underwater restaurant is a thing of wonder.

"We have this small window next to the kitchen and every time some special kind of fish comes by, I always start thinking about how it would taste," says chef Nicolai Ellitsgaard.

The aptly named new restaurant Under opened a few weeks ago in Lindesnes on Norway's southern tip.

It serves up delicacies in an architectural showpiece that stretches down 5 metre underwater, offering a unique closeup of ocean life.



Aquatic show: An aerial view of restaurant Under in Lindesnes, Norway; and a diver, right, cleaning the viewing window. • AFP



From the outside, the giant concrete monolith juts out from the craggy shoreline, while its other end tips down into the North Sea.

Customers enter the res-

taurant onshore through a wood-panelled passage and descend down a long, oak staircase into a dimly lit dining room.

The 36-square-metre win-

dow – "like a sunken periscope" in the words of its designers – offers a panoramic view of the ever changing live aquatic show.

"It is the largest one in the

world and the only one in Europe," said Stig Ubostad, who co-owns the eatery with his brother, Gaute.

There are no clown fish or sharks, like at other under-

water restaurants in more tropical locations such as the Maldives or Dubai.

Adventurous trip

"It's an area on the southern tip where the brackish water from the east meets the salty water from the Atlantic, so the richness of the species is very high," says Trond Rafoss, a marine biologist involved in the project.

In addition to its distinctive architecture and fine dining, Under wants to shine a spotlight on environmental issues.

The international waiting staff are trained to provide guests with information about the aquatic show they are watching.

"The guests are on an adventure. They are exploring the nature themselves, because this is not an aquarium."

"The fish might look at us as an aquarium because what's happening outside here is under natural control," Rafoss says.

"You will never be disappointed, nature is never disappointing."

Algae dessert

The restaurant is a 34-metre monolith designed by Norwegian firm Snohetta, known for its celebrated buildings such as the Oslo Opera and the 9/11 Memorial Pavilion in New York.

It can serve up to 40 din-

ers during its one sitting a day, five nights a week.

In the kitchen, Danish chef Nicolai Ellitsgaard and his staff let their imaginations run wild when creating seasonal menus based primarily on what the sea has to offer, including a dessert composed of five different types of algae collected from a nearby shore.

"We try to use things that are in the area, and also use things that nobody else is using," Ellitsgaard says.

The restaurant however is probably not for everyone's budget. The menu, consisting of 16 to 18 dishes, costs 2,250 kroner (€230 \$258) per person – and double that when wine is included.

Always be more than you appear and never appear to be more than you are.

ANGELA MERKEL



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HYDERABAD
MONDAY • JUNE 3, 2019

Choosing the right college is important, and pre-planning at every step is the best way to go about it

■ DR. MINU MADLANI

Class XII results are out, and most students would now be in a dilemma to choose the right career path and thereby, the right college to apply. In a world driven by marketing and advertising, institutions have also joined the bandwagon in order to gain brand recognition and visibility. Thus, it is necessary to consider various parameters in order to know the true worth of a college and choose the right one to fulfil your career goals.

Here is a look at a few parameters that are worth considering before choosing a college that is right for you:

Return on investment

Education demands time, money, and resources from an individual to develop his/her professional skills in order to earn a good livelihood. Therefore, it is imperative for students to calculate their return on investment based on factors such as brand

- Calculate return on investment based on factors such as brand reputation of the college, placement record and average pay package offered.

- Invest time in looking for various majors offered by an institution and the core curriculum.

- Gather information through various sources including seniors, friends, and the Internet.



Road to your future

reputation of the college, placement record and average pay package offered during placement. Enrolling oneself in a reputed college can ensure a good return, as well as, an accelerated growth for the future.

Best course offered

A college may offer various courses under its umbrella, however, it

may not specialise in all. For example, it is possible that a college may offer Bachelor of Mass Media (BMM) and Bachelor of Management Studies (BMS) but the quality of BMM faculty and the placements for that course might be better than what is offered for BMS.

Investing time in looking for various majors offered by an institution

and the core curriculum, could help in narrowing down the final list of colleges to apply.

Student-teacher ratio

Personalised interaction is one of the main reasons to choose a college with a low student-teacher ratio. Smaller classrooms also mean less competition and more opportunity to participate and

learn better.

Statistically, colleges with a low student-teacher ratio have fewer students enrolled; this directly increases your chances of scoring high and getting a job.

Alumni

Another important parameter to take into account before making your final decision is to map the

college alumni's career path. If a college has an active alumni network, it can help existing students find internships and jobs. Also, mapping the career planning opportunities offered by the college can influence a person's choice of college.

Campus culture

While large campuses tend to

Extracurricular activities provide a platform for students to become involved and to interact with other students, thus leading to increased learning and enhanced development.

have more resources and better infrastructure, smaller colleges tend to have a close-knit community of students which can help inculcate organisational skills like teamwork.

Extracurricular activities

Holistic development is the need of the hour. Colleges play a key role in students' personal development. Apart from academic activities, cultural activities like college fests need to be an important part of your research before picking the right college. These are not meant only for entertainment, but also for networking and improving one's skills.

Extracurricular activities provide a platform for students to become involved and to interact with other students, thus leading to increased learning and enhanced development. So, choosing a college that focuses on the well-rounded development of its students is imperative.

Considering the above parameters and its alignment to your career goals will help in choosing the right college. Simply put, thorough research about what lies in store for you once you enrol is the best way to decide.

There are many ways available to gather this information – feedback from seniors, siblings or parents, being the most convenient. Alternatively, the Internet has the world's information available for students at the click of a button.

The writer is Principal, K.P.B Hinduja College, Mumbai.

ADMISSIONS

B.Sc (Hons) Computer Science programmes

INSTITUTION: University of Dundee, the U.K.

DURATION: Four years

ELIGIBILITY: Indian students must have overall 60% in CBSE, ISC or leading state board class XII exams. Applicants should also have an overall IELTS score of six with a minimum 5.5 in listening, reading and speaking, and six in writing.

COURSE FEE: €20, 950 per year.

Deadline: June 30

<https://www.dundee.ac.uk/study/ug/computing-science/>

B.Sc (Hons) and Graduate Diploma Courses

INSTITUTION: Indian School of Business and Finance (ISBF)

ELIGIBILITY: Candidates who have completed

class XII this year, are eligible to apply to undergraduate programmes, provided they have studied math upto class X. Applicants to B. Sc (Hons) Economics and Finance programmes must have math studied in class XII. Candidates who have completed or pursuing full-time undergraduate programme are eligible to apply for the Graduate diploma programmes. In order to apply for the graduate diploma programme in economics and data science, applicants must have studied math up to class XII.

ADMISSION: Based on ISBF Entrance Test scores for undergraduate admission and IGDET for graduate admissions, and personal interview

DEADLINE: Undergraduate programmes: June 3; Graduate diploma programme: June 7

<https://www.applytoisbf.com/HomePage/ug/>

[ApplyUG.aspx](#)

Advanced Metallurgy Masters in Distance learning

INSTITUTION: University of Sheffield, the U.K.

ELIGIBILITY: Students currently employed or engaged with materials-related company.

COURSES: Fundamentals of thermodynamics of structure and mechanical behaviour, advanced topics such as engineering alloys, processing, physical metallurgy, modelling and performance in service. Students will be assessed by formal exams, course work assessment, research reports and presentations. Students will be required to make one visit to the university at the end of the course for exams and project presentation.

<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/materials/masters/metallurgydl>

Internship on Python for IT students of Malla Reddy college

A 10-day internship on Python was organised for second year Information Technology (IT) students of B. Tech course from Malla Reddy Engineering College (MREC) in association with Scube Future Technologies, Hyderabad, and WebCognize Softech Private Limited.

"It is an eye-opener session for budding engineers to choose their right coding domain," said Harish Saripalli, Managing Director (MD) of Scube Future Technologies, Hyderabad.

He added that the internship was scheduled with hands-on sessions in such a manner that it covered right from installation of required software to developing a small project by a student.

Dr. S. Sudhakara Reddy, Principal, MREC, said that the internship was organised with hands-on session to give real world experiences to students along with direction to decide their careers in the right path.

Dr. S. Kannan, HoD of the IT department, and Y. Naveen Reddy, senior corporate trainer, WebCognize Softech, meticulously planned the schedules.

Blackboard

The Hindu EDGE invites teachers to send in their contributions on issues and challenges they face. The article should be about 500 words. Please email it to educationplus@thehindu.co.in

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Couldn't Complete Degree, What Next?

There are many who could not complete degree due to reasons beyond their control. All these people have been cursing their luck and have remained either unemployed or under employed. Some, by sheer hard work and determination have found jobs, but are still staring at a not-so-bright future due to lack of graduate/postgraduate qualifications. In the present competitive environment, graduate and postgraduate qualifications are a must for career progress.

GEMS B SCHOOL – Bangalore in association with an international US university is offering a three year BBA+MBA specially tailor made for Diploma holders and non-graduates. Thousands who have completed this program have come out of the stigma of being a non-graduate and have witnessed a dramatic change in their professional, personal and social lives.

Candidates who join this program are expected to work Monday to Friday and attend classes on Saturdays and Sundays. GEMS B SCHOOL will find a job for them in the specialisation of their choice, a job which will pay them a salary and not a stipend. On completion of the course, the student earns a BBA and an MBA with 3 years of work experience.

This is an internationally recognised BBA+MBA which will open up job and promotion opportunities both in India and abroad for the hardworking. This is a golden opportunity for non-graduates to acquire graduate and post-graduate qualifications.

Many students who completed this BBA+MBA are currently working for organizations like Accenture, TESCO, Convergys, Cap Gemini, HP, HSBC, Infosys, IBM, Mphasis, Wipro and many more multinationals. Many have migrated abroad.

Students are also offered an opportunity to parallelly pursue a BBA degree from a UGC recognised University, to help them with applying for Government jobs.

Hostel facility is also available for students from outside Bangalore.

Candidates who want to apply for this course have to clear an entrance test which is available online, 24/7, the link to the test is www.gemsadmissiontest.com.

This program is only for under graduates (10+2) who are above 21 Years of age. Students who have just completed 10+2 are not eligible for this program.

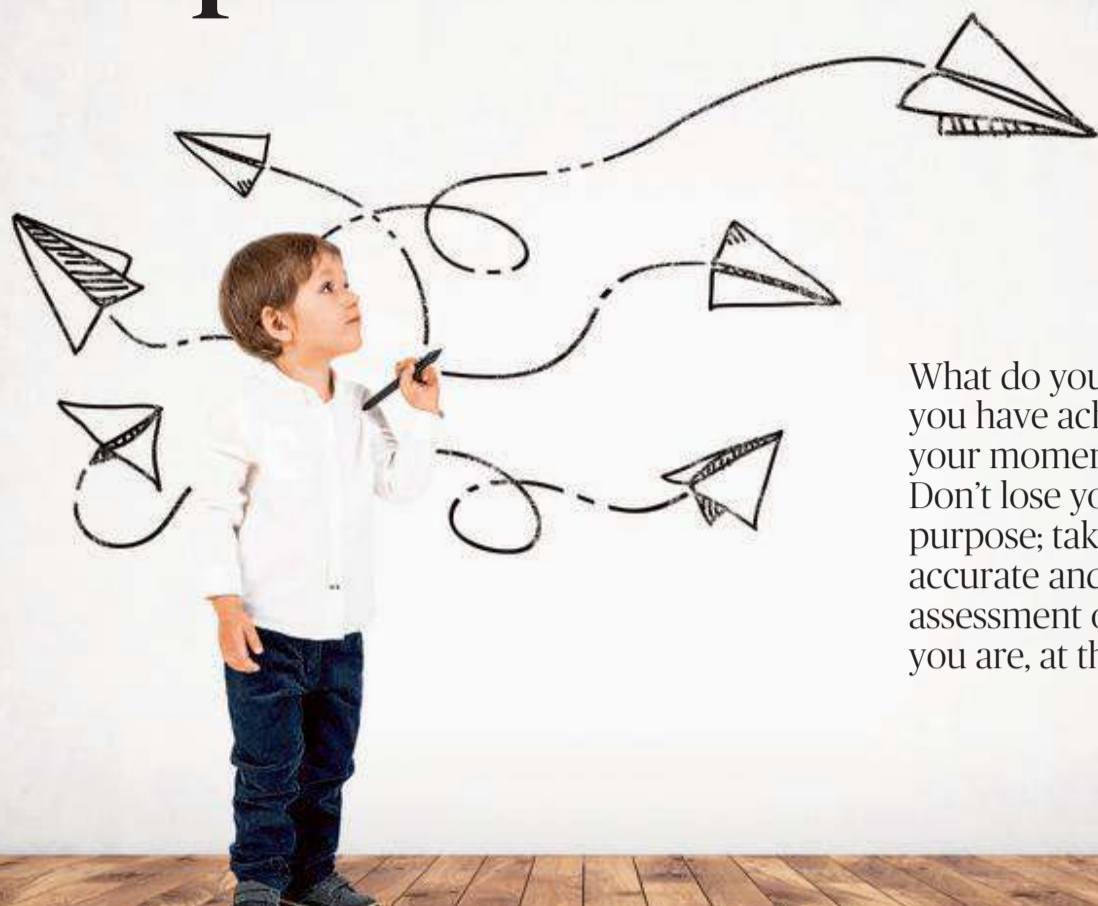
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Entrance test: www.gemsadmissiontest.com

That phase of lull



What do you do when you have achieved your momentary goal? Don't lose your purpose; take an accurate and real assessment of where you are, at this juncture

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LIVE LIGHTLY
NIVEDITA DAS NARAYAN

The season of exams, results and entrances are nearing the end of their cycle. The hard work that began a few years back is circling back to its logical end. Those months of intense hours that were about focus, purpose, hard work,

sleeplessness and anxiety are now asking you 'what next, though?'

You scored high, or perhaps did not, but you did your best. Surely, you touched the limits of your capacity. Parents are off your back, and social approval, too, has run its course, bringing to a close some of the toughest months of your life. There is a sense of relief and the high adrenaline is perhaps being replaced with an unusual wave of weariness. You may wonder, 'is this all

this was for?'

Loss of purpose

In the dimming glow of the arc lights, after all, the attention and delicate care that you were treated with, is there, now, a growing vacuum? A certain emptiness made of the unknown ahead, the uncharted yet to be chartered, the equity and acceptance that will need to be rebuilt, the journey of belonging and recognition that will have to be trudged again. 'Was this all

it was for?' is the tug of anxiety.

This is the human dilemma – the inevitable loss of purpose after you have come through for yourself. In so many ways, it is like quashing the climber's high, after summiting a cherished peak, with the urgency of

You can reach the top, yet you cannot stay there forever. The natural order of life – ebbs and flows – does take over.

climbing down to safer altitudes. You can reach the top, yet you cannot stay there forever. The natural order of life – ebbs and flows – does take over.

In competitive sports and high adrenaline-induced professions, there is a period called 'the achiever's curse': a phase of lull once the contest is over. Olympians and astronauts, sometimes, go into depressive phases after achieving the highest goals they worked towards for years. The audience moves on after the

act, but the performer cannot switch off as swiftly, and yearns in the emptiness of purpose and action.

We all behave a certain way under pressure. When the pressure has run its course in action, we experience a loss of purpose, and human beings don't do well without purpose. It is Ironic, but true.

Rekindling purpose

Reorienting to small purposeful goals is a way out. 'Who did I miss being when I was in the midst of chasing the big goal?', 'can I do what I missed doing while laboring towards the big goal?'. Rekindling purposeful living till the next big goal dispels the dissonance of a period of limbo. We need to find creative ways of transitioning to low action, high-engagement and high-fulfilment goals.

There is something else, the experience of backbreaking hard work holds many clues for braving intense pressure. You owe it to yourself to reflect on the moments that were lesson-laden. The un-replicable crossroads and the decisions taken midway; how you handled yourself and found a way out; the ways in which you fell short – the answers to these questions are loaded with lifelong learning. Reflect and heed them. This is you taking an accurate and real assessment of where you are at this moment. You are paying attention, and nourishing from your own purposeful past. While the results from the exams will determine reputation and forward choices, the interlude will build character and integrity.

The writer is a life coach, blogger and writer who simplifies the patterns and archetypes she encounters at work and in life. nivedita@lifealigncoaching.com

BON APP-ETIT

■ ARATHI MINI

You are just out of school and into college. Things can be overwhelming, and the assignments seem endless. Irrespective of whether you are a fresher, final-year college student, or a PhD candidate, here are some apps that will help you research topics and write comprehensive papers.

Researcher

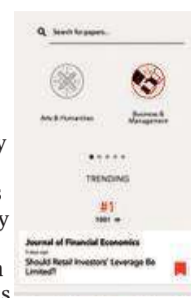
This app has content from 10 research fields and comprises thousands of academic papers. Researchers help you find necessary papers by using filters, notifications and bookmark libraries. It also adds more than 35,000 papers a week, by working with publishers. The app has over 8,00,000 researchers from 180 countries associated with it, thus providing you access to important papers published across the world. The app has a feature that lets you see trending papers in your area of interest and also lets you share the content with colleagues and friends through email or other such mediums. (<http://bit.ly/2Yt4jgh>)

Research Methodology Notes

The free app uses various features to select, analyse and evaluate the credibility of different papers and studies, which is a necessary, yet tedious task, especially when you have a lot of papers to go through. It also finds out how the data for the study was collected and how researchers came to the final conclusion. The app also contains easy references and necessary guidelines for qualitative, social and quantitative research. It comprises useful tips, citation rules and notes regarding research processes that will help you progress, in your work. (<http://bit.ly/2E8Y5UH>)

Research Methodology

This app simplifies the methodology used to collect content for the papers you intend to write. The app features include – what is social research, social science research methodology, variables, measurements, research process, APA Style Guide, APSSA Style Guide, ASA Style Citations, Quantitative Research, Qualitative Research, and so on. It has comprehensive papers of various research fields and also has the feature to disseminate information in the form of presentation, for better viewing. The app also helps you pursue new subjects that interest you, by providing details on how to work on them. (<http://bit.ly/2Vz6NX3>)



The happiness quotient

Emotions have the tendency to fluctuate through the highs and lows, but we have the ability to enhance our own sense of well-being



GETTY IMAGES/FREPIK

THINK
ARUNA SANKARANARAYANAN

Waiting. That's what most of us do on a practically habitual basis. Waiting for admission into a Master's programme, a plum job, a dream date. Or, waiting to get married, rent an apartment, buy a house. At a more prosaic level, we may wait for our acne to clear out, the order from Amazon to arrive, or simply the weekend. We expend an inordinate amount of time and energy waiting because we truly believe that the change we anticipate will enhance the quality of our lives. And, we stubbornly cling to this position even though life's circumstances don't really alter our well-being as profoundly as we think they should.

Positive psychology researcher, Sonja Lyubomirsky, asserts that a person's happiness level rests on three dimensions. First, everyone is born with a heritable predisposition that determines your happiness set point. The ever-smiling babies are more likely to have sunnier temperaments while their distraught peers may tend to see the glass as half-empty. So, your set point essentially ordains whether you are characteristically a smiley or a frowny.

Second, fluctuations in life's vagaries do raise or reduce our happiness levels. When you earn the coveted promotion, your joy surges initially. But within a few weeks, your euphoria melts away and before you know it, you are back at your set point. This tendency to swing back to our happiness set point is termed "hedonic adaptation." While studies indicate that married people are typically happier than singletons, Lyubomirsky says that the "happiness boost" from marriage usually lasts for only a couple of years, with each partner seesawing back to their baseline.

If hedonic adaptation tapers our joys, what about our misfortunes? Fortunately, the same principle helps us cope with our woes as well. Suppose you meet with a road accident, your happiness levels will definitely plummet. With your leg in a cast and searing back pain, you may be squarely unhappy. But as you hobble back to normalcy, your mood also elevates.

Surprisingly, even if your accident resulted in more permanent damage such as paralysis or an amputation, your happiness level would eventually bounce back to its set point. Lyubomirsky writes, 'we have a phenomenal ability to recover much of our happiness after a debilitating illness or accident.' Yet, if you ask people if they think they would be unhappier after losing a limb, most would readily agree that they would be devastated. Apparently, we are more resilient than we believe.

Happiness level

Most people maintain that the above two factors, innate temperament and life's circumstances, circumscribe our happiness. Well, not entirely. Lyubomirsky argues that even as your happiness set point is genetically determined, it doesn't imply that "your happiness level cannot be changed." Researchers have found that we can "construct" our happiness by our "intentional activities." In other words, "the things we do" can have a fairly profound effect on how we experience our lives.

While we can control our circumstances to an extent, many situations are beyond our pale. But even if we cannot rewrite our destinies, how we choose to spend our days or direct our attention can have a significant contribution to our happiness levels. So, regardless of the genetic lottery you were born with or your lot in life that the stars ordained for you, you can still enhance your happiness by following certain strategies. In her book, Lyubomirsky offers a dozen tips that can enhance your day to day well-being. As each of us is unique, you may pick the approaches that appeal to your personality and predilections. In next month's column, I will lay out Lyubomirsky's blue print. Apologies for keeping you waiting!

The writer is Director, PRAYATNA. Email: arunasankara@gmail.com

Don't download and drown

For any project, it is working strategically that matters.



BACKPACKER'S GUIDE
USHA RAMAN

Some years ago, a senior scholar referred to a problem peculiar to the Internet era. In the old days – in other words, in the pre-Internet era – when setting out to do research, one would go to the library stacks and get a sense of all the books and journals in a given area. But today, it is hard to know where any field begins and ends, making us wonder if we can ever know just how much we need to know.

Depending on the scope of the field, a good library could hold anywhere from just a few books on a single shelf to numerous shelves. You could roughly estimate the range of information that you needed to survey for your particular project. You sampled from that range, and felt comfortable if you had gone through a reasonable number of books and articles, making sure that you read the important ones (or the ones that were referred to in most of the collection). Those dusty library stacks have for the most part receded into memory, as easy and near-instant information availability has made it possible for students to find large amounts of material on almost any subject without moving away from their computers. Granted, many students still go to the physical library for books to begin with, but very soon the research moves almost entirely to the Internet, where spidery searches can lead

you to an unimaginably large network of information sources.

Choices

In the effort to find enough material to inform our specific project, we run in multiple digital directions, frantically pulling pdfs and html files into our computer folders, amassing in a few hours hundreds of articles that might even remotely relate to our work. We open a few of these, and find that there is even more to look for, and so go back to those search engines to track down those publications. This becomes an unending loop, unless your advisor (or a hard deadline) puts a stop to it. And even after you pull out of the search cycle, you are plagued by the nagging doubt that there is so much you haven't found – after all, the first set of keywords yielded no fewer than six million results! This doubt seeps into the next phases of your work, and even as you start reading the downloads, you keep going back to the Net to seek more. Finally, with just a few days left till your submission deadline, you scramble to put together a

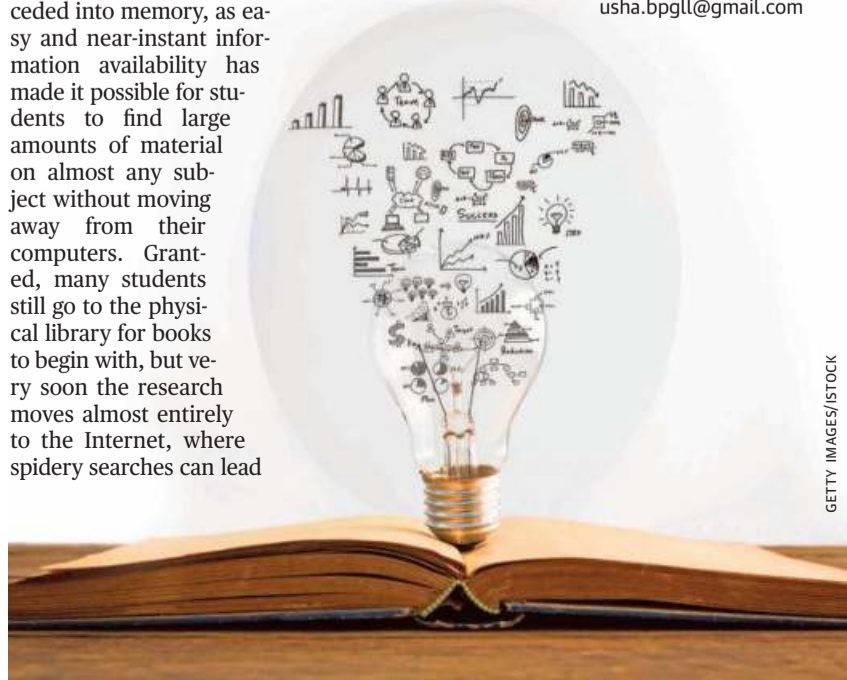
paper, with a huge reference list, but little substance, because you just haven't had enough time to read and assimilate everything.

We have all heard of information overload, but it is important to think about how this has affected particular domains of activity. Generally, as a student researcher, you need to plan your work along very clear time lines, allocating chunks for the different activities in a project. Looking for information should not take so much time that you don't have enough left to read, think and actually write.

It can help to start with the acceptance that you are never going to find everything. You have to be strategic and disciplined about how you search, and how long you search for. Set yourself a time limit for this phase, so that you have enough time to read deeply and write carefully and thoughtfully.

It is not the number of items in your downloads folder that matters; it is the quality of the words in the paper you turn in.

The author teaches at the University of Hyderabad and edits Teacher Plus. usha.bpgll@gmail.com



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

VIDEO CAFE

■ SARADHA UDAYAKUMAR

How to enjoy the process of finding your ideal job



Often, collectively, as a society, we fall prey to stereotypes and typecasting. Despite conscious efforts taken to untangle the preconceived knots in our head, we fail to do so. The constant need to fit into a certain box, in order to be the kind of person one wants to be is also one such notion that we perpetuate. However, Priya Malik, the speaker breaks this myth by taping a tale of her professional life.

She explains why one need not necessarily fit into a box, and can move from one box to the other, if needed. From being a high school English teacher, quality analyst, call centre agent to an actor, writer, stand-up comedian and radio broadcaster, she has done it all. She began her journey with the quest of finding the ideal job.

Her ideal job was one that she wanted to settle in for someday, and she wanted to do so by trying a variety of jobs. Now, instead of completing the quest, she wants to enjoy the process, and the professional fluidity that comes with it.

"I am 30 years old and in the last 30 years, I think I've done almost 30-odd jobs, chosen 30 professions only to find out that doing a variety of things is what makes me who I am."

Priya Malik claims her story to be an average one, but the role it has played in breaking stereotypes and discovering new paths is what makes it different.

Watch the video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cuRosvFINs>

EAR SHOT

ASHOK RAJAGOPALAN



MY COLLEGE YEARS

Don't compromise on your passion

Those intense days in college helped Amanda Sodhi shape her career. She owes her creative journey to her training and internships.

MADHUMITHA SRINIVASAN



Amanda Sodhi was in a hurry to graduate because she wanted to jump into her career ASAP – a career she has worked hard at and scripted a success story on her own.

The Indian-American singer-songwriter has worn multiple hats as a filmmaker, model, theatre professional and entrepreneur (she is the founder of the startup Pen Paper Dreams). More recently, she is the lyricist for the web series “Made in Heaven”.

Born and brought up in Washington DC, Sodhi relocated to Mumbai in 2012 to pursue her career.

Media had always been her calling. “I always knew I wanted to pursue a creative career in India ever since I was a child,” says Sodhi, who studied at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia, the U.S. She describes her college experience as being intense thanks to her hurry to graduate.

“I double majored in Communications and English and minored in Business. Normally, this is a four-year programme. But, I took a ton of classes during summer sessions and actually graduated in three years. I was on a generous merit-based scholarship that covered most of my tuition, so I had to make

sure my GPA was high. It was pretty intense because I was also interning and juggling a part-time job in retail.”

Learning ground
On the other hand, she also owes a lot of the initial push to her passion to her college. “I think the professor who really played a huge role in my life would have to be Professor Ellen Herbert. She helped me discover the writer within me. She helped me find my voice.”

“Another element of my college education that really helped me with my career goals is that my professors allowed me to explore my film passion through independent projects. For example, one of my marketing professors allowed me to do a large-scale Bollywood marketing research study, which ended up generating a lot of marketing buzz because there was no data available in the public domain about this subject back then,” adds Sodhi.

Internships have played a big role in guiding Sodhi towards her career goals. “At one point, when I was taking on internships related to public relations and marketing, it helped me realise what sort of work environments do and do not work for me, so I could make well-in-

formed and healthier career choices later on that would suit my personality and needs.”

She also undertook an internship at the Voice of America Hindi Services’ radio department which helped her connect with a lot of industry professionals in Mumbai.

Carving a niche
Despite the learning, training, and contacts, the music industry is tough to crack. Take it from someone who chose to shift base from Mumbai to Kolkata in 2017 after encountering a lot of harassment. And this was after her three singles – “Jigsaw Puzzle”, “Behind My Sunglasses”, and “MainKhaali” – had released and were received well.

Sodhi feels despite the music industry not changing for the better, there is still hope for those willing to work from the ground up. And here’s her secret to not having to compromise on one’s passion: “I have personally chosen to juggle freelance work as a content writer and social media consultant alongside my creative projects in music, theatre and film so I don’t have to compromise on what sort of creative work I dabble in. The minute your passion

becomes what you depend on to pay the bills, it becomes difficult to say no to shitty work if good work isn’t coming your way. Of course, everyone has their own journey.”

Loopholes
Having pursued her education in the U.S., and based on conversations she had with students here, Sodhi has a few observations about what the education system in India lacks – three in particular. First is the diversity of classes that a student can opt for: “Abroad, even if you’re majoring in Biology, you still need to take classes in other subjects like literature, philosophy, visual arts, and so on. It makes one more well-rounded and well-informed.”

Second – independent thinking: “Students abroad are really pushed to think independently, troubleshoot and question things. Here, a lot of students seem afraid to say anything “wrong.””

And third – communication skills. “The Indian education system seems to be failing in making sure all students walk out of college with strong communication skills. Written and verbal communication skills, in my opinion, are necessary in any field, so you’d think this would be a no-brainer!”

DIGITAL OVERHAUL

Hubs for creativity

There is a need to set up digital scholastic centres in our universities and colleges to enhance the teaching-learning experience

R.W. ALEXANDER
JESUDASAN

Digital Scholastic Centre or DISCO, is a new approach embarked by overseas institutions, to provide the right ambience for the faculty and students, to make best use of their facilities and amenities in the centre, to hone one’s interests in academics, including learning, teaching and research.

The teaching-learning process has witnessed a remarkable evolution across the decades, from the traditional board-and-chalk method, to the use of digital and electronic gadgets, as well as services available through web-based sources. The use of such gadgets, today, makes the academic experience more enjoyable and long-lasting, for teachers and students. In the course of this evolution, classrooms have transformed from what it was then, to the rigorous use of overhead projector, epidiascope, slide projector, power point presentations, smart classrooms, Wi-Fi facilities, and so on.

Today, it is insisted that classroom teaching should be through intense use of digital technology, for which computer knowledge and its related operations is imminent. Even today’s smartphones are geared towards handling such tasks, which makes digital operations more user-friendly.



Innovation: Adopting technology

While there is a phenomenal change in the use of modern technology, through the application of electronic and digital tools by the teaching faculty in India, there is much scope for effective use of those devices in almost all fields of study.

Innovation
Digital scholarship centres abroad, bring to their library, expertise in publishing, digitisation of documents, research metrics, data management, e-learning and open education resources. Thus, it is an uncompromising fact that libraries, in educational institutions, should be the home for hosting such facilities on campuses, which are necessary, in most of institutions, in India.

Such centres must always be given due recognition, as they are hubs for creativity and innovation. Study carrels, preparation, AV, and discussion rooms, for pro-

jecting digital movies, documentaries, and reprographic facilities, are some essentials needed in today’s libraries.

In making education interesting, libraries abroad have catchy ways to capture and retain the interest of students and faculty through not only the amenities they have created, but also in arranging them in a lucid way and using appropriate titles for different sections.

In one of the places of interest in South Korea, I found the use of an important centre as ‘history’ and ‘heritage’, with a stress on *his* and *her*, in the nomenclature, thus making it attractive to everyone, especially visitors.

Digital scholastic centres ought to be “all under one roof” with necessary equipment and gadgets knitted together – from the colouring and painting material to electronic gadgets – so that those concerned will be able

to shape the innovation at one place, thus minimising moving from one place to another and loss of interest, eventually. I found this to be the secret of the academic community abroad, as those concerned, thronged towards the scholastic centre where they stayed for long hours to complete the varied tasks set before them. Adequately trained faculty, on the areas specified above, are a prerequisite to meet the need.

Such centres facilitate student-faculty consultations, collaborative research in digital arts and science, while serving as incubation centres for startups and path-breaking research avenues. Thus, they must receive due attention in Indian universities and colleges, as it will provide avenues towards excellence and relevance in higher education.

The writer is Principal and Secretary, Madras Christian College, Chennai.

ETCETERA

Computer Science Excellence Scholarship

INSTITUTION: University of Sheffield, the U.K.
ELIGIBILITY: Scholarships will be awarded as a one-off payment, in recognition of academic excellence to overseas students starting their undergraduate.
SCHOLARSHIP VALUE: €2,000
COMMENCES: September
<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/faculty/engineering/study/scholarships>

MBA Leadership Scholarship

INSTITUTION: Newcastle University Business School
ELIGIBILITY: Applicants must demonstrate leadership experience and potential through application and at interview. They must hold a conditional or unconditional offer of admission to the full-time MBA programme, this year, and must have managerial experience of minimum three years. They must hold the equivalent of a UK 2:1 honours degree.

However, applicants who do not meet this requirement but demonstrate relevant work experience may be considered. They should hold an English language qualification of IELTS 6.5 or its equivalent, with no sub-skill below 6.0.
SCHOLARSHIP VALUE: €11,000
COMMENCES: September
DURATION: One year
mba@ncl.ac.uk

Purdue and 2 Andhra universities collaborate

Purdue University, USA, partners with AU and SVU over entrepreneurship and pharmaceutical sciences

Purdue University, USA, has announced a partnership with two universities in Andhra Pradesh – Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, and Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati – to collaborate on capacity-building activities focusing on entrepreneurship and pharmaceutical sciences.

The partnership is part of the Government of India’s Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) programme to improve entrepreneurial talent in Indian universities for job creation and overall economic prosperity.

The 12-month projects will focus on entrepreneurial ecosystem development, research collaboration and core facility training. The Purdue Foundry will also play a critical role in the collaboration with its premier ideation workshop “Firestarter”.

The Purdue Foundry,

which designed this curriculum, has a proven track record of assisting innovators move their ideas to impact. During the first five years of its existence, the Foundry helped kindle the creation of 203 start-up companies using this methodology.

The Firestarter digital platform perfectly suited to this Purdue-India collaboration as the digital materials and train-the-trainer approach allow large-scale dissemination, with a potential to impact the entire university community at a low cost. It will be custom-designed for pharma or drug discovery sector, but the broad basis of Firestarter provides flexibility to generalise local curricula to serve prospective entrepreneurs from multiple sectors.

Andhra University’s registrar Prof. Kandula Niranjan says, “This will be an oppor-

tunity to strengthen AU’s entrepreneurial ecosystem as well as its pharmacy programmes, which will ultimately provide more opportunities to Andhra faculty, students and the community at large.” SVU’s vice-chancellor Prof. V.V.N. Rajendra Prasad says, “We anticipate that this RUSA programme will be just the beginning of a lasting partnership between our institutions.”

The project is scheduled to kick off this month with a visit of the administrative and technical leaders from both the universities to Purdue’s campus, followed by a Firestarter intensive facilitator training in the fall.

Suresh Garimella, executive VP for research and partnerships, said that Purdue has been consistently recognised for its programmes in fostering entrepreneurship, start-ups and commercialisation of research.

Scholarship for UoH student

Nalin Venkat Sameera, a University of Hyderabad (UoH) student of Integrated M.Sc - Chemical Sciences, has been offered a fully-funded graduate position at the Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), Ohio, USA.

She will be at the Solar Durability and Lifetime Ex-

tension (SDLE) Center, CWRU, a world-class research centre dedicated to lifetime and degradation science of solar photovoltaics (PV), and working under the supervision of Prof. Roger H. French.

Ms. Sameera did her Master’s project based on inor-

ganic materials for photovoltaic applications under the guidance of Prof. K. Muralidharan, School of Chemistry, at UoH. In 2018, she was awarded “The Chennupati and Vidya Jagadish Endowment Fund” to do a short-term project at The Australian National University.

EFLU offers course in Korean language

The first batch of basic Korean language course, jointly conducted by the English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU) and the Honorary Consulate General of the Republic of Korea, saw 18 students passing out.

EFLU Vice-Chancellor Prof. E. Suresh Kumar and Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Hyderabad Suresh Chukkappalli presented the certificates.

The course is offered free of cost as part of the University Social Responsibility (USR), a novel initiative introduced by Prof. Suresh Kumar for the first time in any Indian varsity.

“The University Social Responsibility is a platform that helps universities bring to fruition their res-



EFLU Vice-Chancellor Suresh Kumar with students who took the Korean course.

possibility towards society and in the process, enliven engagement with the community,” he said.

The six-month course of 120 hours was held on weekends to students with no prior knowledge of Korean. It helped them learn the

Korean script ‘Hangul’ and its usage, number systems (Native and Sino), sentence structures, basic verb tenses and Korean culture.

The second batch for the course will commence on June 8 at the Phoenix Arena, Hyderabad.

TOEFL Test

TOEFL iBT has made changes to the test format and score reporting, while easing out the registration process, starting this August. The test timings are reduced to three hours, with slight changes in the question pattern of listening, reading and speaking sections. The new MyBest scores feature allows candidates to show their overall performance from each section score of the last two years. All TOEFL iBT score reports will be sent after August 1 regardless of the test administration date. Along with the improvement in test taking, ETS has developed a new registration and account management system which helps candidates register easily. Visit https://www.ets.org/toefl/better_test_experience

Lucrative offer for VNRVJIET student

Sivaramakrishna Neerukonda gets Amazon package of ₹28.75 lakh per annum

Satya Sai Sivaramakrishna Neerukonda, a student of B.Tech (CSE) from VNRVJIET, has been offered a position as Software Developer-I at Amazon with a pay package of ₹28.75 lakh per annum, including stock options.

This CTC is the highest for any student of a private engineering college from any company this year, Dr. Pardha Saradhi, Director for Training & Placements at VNRVJIET, said.

Congratulating the student, Dr. Pardha Saradhi said that efforts by initiating several training interventions on the latest digital technologies, right from first year to final year, had resulted in hike in average salary with 200 students getting offers over ₹6 lakh per annum and 30 students getting



Sivaramakrishna was offered a position as Software Developer-I at Amazon.

more than ₹10 lakh per annum package.

Principal Dr. C.D. Naidu said that the institute’s students had bagged over 1,200

offers through campus placements in 2018-19. Director for advancement Dr. B. ChennaKesava Rao and students’ mentor S. Jahnavi,

placement coordinator P. Ramakrishna and teachers Y. Bhanusree, V. Baby and B.V. Kiranmayee, congratulated the student.

VALUE ADD

Rightfully placed

Earlier, having a degree from prestigious institutes like the IITs would be enough to guarantee students a good placement. However employers are looking for more

■ HARSHITH DIVAKAR

Placements at any corporate are not solely based on the ranking of an institution or the academic performance of a student. Academics seem to play a smaller role in the process of campus recruitments compared to the skills a candidate is expected to possess.

There is a common crib among recruiters at IITs that although students are bright, when it comes to academics, many of them are inadequate in soft skills.

Every institute should concentrate on special sessions to hone students' soft skills including communication, teamwork, and leader-

- Although the students are bright when it comes to academics, many of them are inadequate in soft skills.
- There is a huge gap in the market between job-hungry candidates and companies.
- The goal is to be industry-ready and not just job-ready.

ship. This will make them ready to face the interviews.

Today, core companies want a student to be good in problem-solving skills than his/her academic record.

"Start small, and grow big" – If nothing else works and you are getting an internship opportunity in a field that is not of your choice, you should take it. The amount of practical learning and the network you would build, would eventually come handy in the pursuit of your true passion.

100% placements – myth or reality?

In this era of rapidly evolving technologies, students tend to believe in the concept of more companies equalling more opportunities. This may be true in some cases but as one looks deeper into the placement scenarios in various colleges, one gets to understand that there is a void that has to be filled from the students' side too, to grab the existing opportunities out in the saturated job economy. What is this void?



B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

The amount of practical learning and the network you would build would eventually come handy in the pursuit of your true passion.

Having relevant skills set to fit the company requirements. This goes to say that there is a huge gap in the market between job-hungry candidates and companies. So many graduates still spend their time and money on outdated technology and the corresponding syllabi in college curricula. The solution here

is to not depend entirely on the course that students follow in college, and instead, work and update themselves on trending technologies, frameworks and languages used in the industries today.

The goal is to be industry-ready and not just job-ready. Therefore, 100% placements are possible only when this gap is taken care of from both ends.

One job policy

To rein in the possibility of more students getting placed, all institutions should adhere to the 'One Job

Policy', which essentially means that a student who is placed in a company should not be allowed to appear again for placements unless the next company is categorised under tier-1 or tier-2 (dream and core respectively) with comparably higher salary packages. This ensures that every student gets an equal opportunity to attend placements and graduate with at least one job offer in hand.

The writer is the placement officer at the National Institute of Engineering (NIE) Mysore.

IN BRIEF



Honorary degree

The Yale University recently held its commencement ceremony, where Indra K. Nooyi, one of Amazon's board of directors, along with 10 others received honorary degree. Others awarded included Chimamanda Adichie, Lawrence S. Bacow, James A. Baker III, Mary Beard, Carmen de Lavallade, Sheila Hicks, Strive Masiyiwa, Cynthia Moss, Sister Helen Prejean, and Gloria Steinem.



Grants awarded

SRM Innovation and Incubation Center (SIIC) recently awarded students startups with seed grant of ₹2.5 lacs for each team. The SIIC is funded and supported by NSTEDB, DST, Government of India. Currently, seven students and alumni companies are incubated in the center and over 20+ student startups are in the pre-incubation stage. The companies included Sure Local, Rizel Automotive, Monkwise and Mithril Energy, among others.

SCHOLARSHIP

■ INSEAD L'Oreal Scholarship, December 2020

INSEAD Business School and L'Oreal are inviting MBA applicants to get scholarships for studying there. The scholarship programme will provide fixed financial assistance to selected students for encouraging their entrepreneurial spirit and creativity in management.

ELIGIBILITY: Students applying for MBA programmes at INSEAD Business School, France, who are able to prove their financial need for the scholarship, are eligible.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Selected scholars will be awarded with a one-time fixed scholarship award worth €20,000 for tuition fees and academic expenses.

APPLICATION: Online
DEADLINE: June 03
<http://www.b4s.in/EDGE/ILS3>

■ SERB Core Research Grant (Individual Centric)

Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), Government of India, is providing research grants for financially strengthening emerging scientists and active researchers in science and engineering. Selected scholars can avail research grants for scientific projects spanning three years.

ELIGIBILITY: Active Indian research scholars, with regular academic/research position in recognised institutions or R and D institutions in India (private or government), may apply. Applicants should have secured a Ph.D. degree in science, math, engineering or M.D / M.S. / M.D.S. / M.V.Sc degree for application.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Financial support to individual researcher or a group of researchers for equipment, manpower, consumables, travel and contingency expenses for three years will be provided to selected scholars.

APPLICATION: Apply online
DEADLINE: June 10
<http://www.b4s.in/EDGE/SCRG30>

■ Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarships for College of Technology Students 2020

Government of Japan invites Indian students to pursue graduate studies at premier institutions in Japan with scholarships to pursue technical education in Japan and enhance cross-border academic relations.

ELIGIBILITY: Indian students born after April 1995, who have cleared their class XII exam and are applying for admission to technical courses of graduation, at recognised Japanese Institutions, may apply.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Selected scholars will be awarded a monthly allowance of JPY 1,17,000 along with regional allowance worth up to JPY 3,000. They will also be provided financial support for travelling expenses and airfare (to-and-fro) for Japan to India.

APPLICATION: Online
DEADLINE: June 14
<http://www.b4s.in/EDGE/JGS6>

Courtesy: www.buddy4study.com

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