



A magician died in Kolkata, trying to replicate American stuntman Harry Houdini's famous escape act. Is it a sign of the flailing fortune of magic in India?

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SUNDAY STORY PAGE 13

Modi II, Budget I

The Budget will be watched as much for any big ideas to kickstart growth as the BJP Cabinet's patchy record on fiscal prudence

BIG PICTURE PAGES 14-15

Bringing up baby

Lying abandoned for four days, a 2-year-old fought wounds, heat, hunger, thirst and maggots. The next chapter for Gudiya



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The site of the wall collapse in Pune on Saturday. The victims were construction labourers and their relatives. Arul Horizon

15 killed in Pune as housing society wall collapses on makeshift shelters

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 PUNE, JUNE 29

FIFTEEN PEOPLE, including four children and three women, were killed when the wall of a housing society collapsed on some makeshift tin sheds, which housed labourers working at a neighbouring construction site, in Kondhwa area of Pune on Saturday.

Three others were injured in the incident. The victims, all construction workers and their relatives, were sleeping when the wall of the Alcon Stylus housing society, near Talab Park on the outskirts of the city, collapsed at about 1.30 am, said officials.

According to Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) officials, it appeared that the compound wall, about 150 feet in length, was not strong and had been further weakened by the excavation work underway at the neighbouring construction site, which had caused the wall to tilt slightly. The rainfall may have aggravated the situation — the city received 132.7 mm of rainfall in the 24 hours between Thursday 8:30 am and Saturday 8:30 am.

"The victims are from Balrampur and Mahisal tehsils of Katihar district in Bihar... Their bodies will be sent by flight to Patna, from where they will be sent to their homes," said Pune District Collector Naval Kishore Ram.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Kartarpur: India proposes next round of talks in July

SHUBHAJIT ROY
 OSAKA, JUNE 29

A WEEK after a bridge at Zero Line on the India-Pakistan border at Dera Baba Nanak emerged as the latest bone of contention between the two countries on the Kartarpur corridor issue, New Delhi has proposed to Islamabad that the second round of meeting on the modalities could be held between July 11 and July 14.

Sources said the meeting, proposed to be held at the Attari-Wagah border on Pakistan's side, would discuss the draft agreement on the modalities for movement of pilgrims and resolve outstanding technical issues related to alignment and infrastructure along the corridor.

So far, three rounds of technical-level discussions have been held at the experts' level to try and finalise the alignment, crossing point and infrastructure.

Sources said that after the decision taken by the Cabinet on November 22, 2018, India is "expeditiously building the requisite infrastructure", including a



Meeting to discuss draft agreement on modalities

four-lane highway and a state-of-the-art passenger terminal.

"More than 45% of work on the Indian side has been completed. It is targeted to complete the road by end of September and the passenger or pilgrim terminal by end of October this year, in time to operationalise the Kartarpur corridor on the occasion of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev in November," the source said.

"The government's effort is to ensure that pilgrims can visit the holy Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib easily and smoothly in a safe and

'Significant drop' in infiltrations this year

BASHAARAT MASOOD & NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
 SRINAGAR, MUMBAI, JUNE 29

WITH NO encounter being reported at the Line of Control (LoC) between militants and security forces, police and security officials say there has been virtually no cross-border infiltration so far this year — a marked departure from previous years.

The Army usually tracks infiltrations through the number of face-offs at the LoC and this year, there has been none. The J&K Police, on the other hand, uses ground intelligence to find out new faces from across the border. Police say there has been a "significant drop" in infiltrations.

While Jammu & Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik has

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Under PMJAY, most claims for dialysis

ABANTIKA GHOSH
 NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

NINE MONTHS after the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) was launched, dialysis has emerged as the most claimed package under the scheme. This, despite the fact that the Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme, which was rolled out in 2016, also provides free dialysis to kidney patients in district hospitals.

The rising number of claimants under PMJAY is proof of India's hypertension and kidney disease burden.

Of the 30.78 lakh beneficiaries in the 277 days since the government's flagship health scheme was launched, 4,55,155 claims of hemodialysis — a procedure where the kidney function is performed by an external contraption when the organ is not working at full capacity — have been cleared. According to

TOP FIVE PROCEDURES

PACKAGES	CASES	MONEY SANCTIONED
Hemodialysis per sitting	4,55,155	Rs 175.89 cr
Cataract with foldable intraocular lens	1,11,469	Rs 79.24 cr
Caesarean delivery	89,749	Rs 101.55 cr
Cataract with foldable hydrophobic acrylic intraocular lens	88,249	Rs 68.77 cr
Other deliveries	82,302	Rs 82.17 cr

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Amid video & bhog, Haryana village mourns six-year-old girl who died in Arizona desert

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA
 JALANDHAR, JUNE 29

THOUSANDS OF miles from the arid deserts of Arizona, where six-year-old Indian girl Gurpreet Kaur died reportedly of heat stroke while on her way with her mother to the US, a village in Haryana is still in shock. Amid preparations for her bhog (last rites) to be held on Sunday, a video has emerged from the US, of a happy Gurpreet and her mother alighting from a bus in



A video grab of Gurpreet and her mother Satwinder



the desert. The Sunday Express spoke to her family members and others in Gurpreet's Hasanpur village in Thanesar sub-division of Kurukshetra district of Haryana. Gurpreet's paternal grandfather Gurmit Singh said his daughter-in-law Satwinder Kaur, 27, got in touch with him after the incident and told him that after their bus entered the US, they were walking when Gurpreet asked for water. Satwinder, he said, left her

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

I am scared, says official attacked by Vijayvargiya's MLA-son

DIPANKAR GHOSE
 INDORE, JUNE 29

THREE DAYS after he was attacked by BJP Indore MLA Akash Vijayvargiya, Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) officer Dharendra Bayas said he lives in fear and has sought police protection. Speaking to The Sunday Express at length for the first time since the attack on Wednesday, Bayas said that there was no provocation for the attack and that he was simply doing his job.

Vijayvargiya, who was sent to jail for the assault, was granted bail by a special court in Bhopal on Saturday.

Explaining the sequence of events of June 25, Bayas, who has been working with the IMC since 1992 and is now zonal officer, said, "When we reached the spot, police personnel were with us. Akash (Vijayvargiya) ji said, 'We are also coming, wait for us'. We said okay. My senior officer Ashish Khare was the one speaking to him, not me. He told him that this building is deteriorating, it has to be demolished, and that we had issued a circular (for the demolition) on the 19th (of June)."

Bayas said, "When they

WORLD



TRUMP LANDS IN SOUTH KOREA, OFFERS TO MEET NORTH'S KIM AT DMZ
WILDFIRES, POWER CUTS IN EUROPE AS HEATWAVE BREAKS RECORDS
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HEALTHCARE

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Auto-driver to IIM case study: His journey on uncharted highway

VIVEK DESHPANDE
 NAGPUR, JUNE 29

IN 2004, when 26-year-old auto-rickshaw driver Pyare Khan approached the Nagpur branch of ING Vysya Bank for a loan to buy a truck, branch manager Bhushan Bais wasn't impressed since Khan had little by way of collateral. Yet, after Khan's relentless pursuit, Bais finally sanctioned a loan of Rs 11 lakh. Khan bought his truck and repaid the loan within two years, at least two years ahead of the deadline.

transport company, Ashmi Road Transport, leading the charge on Khan's behalf was Bais as the company's Head of Finance, a position he took up after he quit ING Vysya in 2016.

Between the story of these two loans lies the story of how Khan, now 41, scripted one of the most heartwarming entrepreneurial success stories. Registered in 2013, Khan's Ashmi Road Transport Pvt Ltd is now a Rs 400-cr-turnover company that owns a fleet of 125 trucks and hires a fleet of over 3,000 trucks to do ferry steel and power infrastructure across the country, and even abroad. The company has 10 branch offices across the country, with about



Khan's loan application to buy a truck was almost turned down in 2004; now owns fleet of 125 trucks. Monica Chaturvedi

500 employees.

Talking of his days of struggle, Khan says, "My mother Raisa Khatun did odd jobs to feed the four of us — my two brothers, a sister and me. We chipped in by selling oranges at the Nagpur railway station. As soon as I got a driving licence, I joined a courier company as driver but left the job after an accident in Odisha when I was 18. In the late nineties, I bought an auto-rickshaw and ran it for a while," says Khan, adding that in those days, he played the keyboard and was part of Nagpur's Melody Makers group.

"I thought I should buy a bus to ferry our group to programme venues. So I bought one by sell-

ing some of my instruments and other valuables," he says. That venture, however, soon went bust and in 2004, he decided to buy a truck.

There has been no looking back since then. By 2007, Khan had a fleet of eight trucks and in 2013, he registered his company. Khan now undertakes deliveries for companies such as KEC International, JSW Steel, Tata and SAIL.

"In 2016, I undertook an assignment for KEC International to transport their transformers to Bhutan. The transportation entailed laying a 30-km road by cutting trees in some of the troubled areas of the Northeast and propping up weak bridges on the

way to our destination. We reached Bhutan after doing all that but our trucks were stuck at a welcome arch that was lower than the height of our assignment. I requested the Bhutan authorities to allow me to dig the ground and promised to re-lay it later. They agreed and it was done. They issued me a special commendation letter for that," he says.

Those who have known Khan vouch for his integrity. "He is gritty, confident and delivers the assignment without thinking about profit and loss. He even takes up challenging assignments that others refuse," says JSW Nagpur plant

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Trump flips on Huawei at G20, says US firms can sell to Chinese firm



VIDEO OF THE DAY



EXPLAINED: HOW US COINED 'INDO-PACIFIC' TO REDEFINE GEO-POLITICS

The "Indo-Pacific" has evoked mixed reactions in the Indian strategic community, with some cautioning that such positioning should not prove to be a disruptor of Delhi's tensions with Beijing. In geographical terms, the Indo-Pacific refers to the two oceans — the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean



FULL COVERAGE

G20 SUMMIT CONCLUDES
US-China trade talks, climate change dominate final session

EXPRESS AUDIO

First openly gay Afghan man, Nemat Sadat

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In this episode of The Sandip Roy Show, Sandip talks to Sadat about what made him finally come out, why people around him saw that as an act of cowardice and his skepticism of 'liberal' Islam

FROM PAGE ONE

Trump meet

known to share his personal telephone numbers with world leaders, including French President Emmanuel Macron and Canadian PM Justin Trudeau in the past.

Sources said the US President — who had tweeted against India's "very high tariffs" barely 24 hours before the meeting — displayed "no bitterness".

The leaders first met on Friday at about 9.15 am, as Trump and Abe walked to Modi after they finished their bilateral meeting at the International Exhibition Centre (INTEX) — the summit venue which is about an hour away from the Swissotel Hotel in Namba district, where Modi is staying.

They held their Japan-US-India (JAI) trilateral meeting for about 15-20 minutes, and then Modi and Trump walked to their meeting room, which was a little distance away. Sources said they chatted on the way to the meeting room.

After they reached the room, although Trump was hosting the meeting, Modi asked if he could speak first. According to diplomatic protocol, the host is supposed to speak first. Trump agreed.

Modi then listed the issues in his agenda — Iran, 5G, bilateral relations and defence ties — for the 40-minute meeting. Sources said that by speaking first, he set the agenda for the meeting. While Modi did not put trade on the agenda explicitly from the Indian side, Trump made it clear that trade was on the agenda, along with 5G, but also added that the two countries were "great friends" and have "never been closer". The tone of the meeting was positive, as Modi displayed warmth

and Trump reciprocated.

Sources said that Trump, who sprang a surprise on Thursday morning with his tweet which had the Indian side worried, was a completely different person during the meeting. "There was some trepidation about the bilateral meeting after the tweet. But, at the meeting, he was not the same person who had tweeted the day before," a source said.

However, Indian diplomats cautioned against any celebratory approach after the meeting, since the relationship is going through challenges and issues — and is a "work in progress". And they didn't rule out similar tweets in the future as well.

Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale made it clear on Friday, after the bilateral meeting, that "negotiations are not done at the level of leaders. The idea was to clear the air, and then to set the agenda for discussions in resolving trade matters. In that direction, both leaders have directed officials to now move forward. And that's where we found the discussions to be very open and very productive."

While both leaders were supposed to meet for about 40 minutes, they overshot the time allocated because of the nature of the discussions. In fact, sources said the issue of defence relations was not discussed in detail since they ran out of time, and the protocol officials from both sides were keen to stick to the schedule. So, they could only cover only three of four issues listed for discussion.

On Saturday, White House advisor and Trump's daughter, Ivanka Trump, gave a glowing summary of the meeting as a "productive conversation" and

also termed India as a "critical ally". While India has been described by US diplomats and leaders as a "natural ally", Ivanka's description of "critical ally" puts it a notch higher — in diplomatic parlance.

"We are here at the G-20 in Osaka and Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Abe just concluded a meeting with the President talking about 5G technology, particularly with a focus on its security implication," said Ivanka Trump, in a 48-second video tweeted by the White House on Saturday.

"...A subsequent productive conversation, a one-on-one meeting between the President and Prime Minister Modi (was held) where the same issues were covered, of course, 5G, as well as trade relationship between the United States and India, a critical trading partner, a critical security partner and a critical ally. So it was a productive discussion, everything from Iran to national security was covered by the President and the US delegation with their Indian counterparts. And it's been a productive morning, to say the least," Ivanka, who was present at the bilateral meeting, said.

She, and her husband Jared Kushner, who is also senior advisor to the President, accompanied Trump at the G-20 Summit.

The US readout of the Modi-Trump meeting was quite bland. "The two sides had the opportunity to share their concerns and priorities with regard to trade issues. They called on their respective economic teams to work constructively toward finding solutions that would benefit both economies," the White House statement said.

Wall collapse

The victims have been identified as Alok Sharma (28), Mohan Sharma (24), Ravi Sharma (19), Aman Sharma (19), Laxmikant Sahani (22), Sunil Singh (35), Ovi Das (2), Sonali Das (6), Bhima Das (38), Sangeeta Devi (26), Ajitkumar Sharma (7), Rekhalkumar Sharma (5), Neeva Devi (30), Deepranjan Sharma (30) and Avadesh Singh (34).

While the Alcon Stylus housing society was developed by Alcon Landmark Group, owned by Jagdish Prasad Agarwal, the construction site where the labourers worked was being developed as a housing project by SVG Kanchan Group, owned by Pankaj Vohra, Suresh Shah and Rashmikant Gandhi.

A criminal case has been registered against the builders, site engineers, supervisors and labour contractors of both the companies. They have been booked under Indian Penal Code (IPC) Sections 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 34 (common intention). The FIR names Jagdish Prasad Agarwal, Sachin Agarwal, Rajesh Agarwal, Vivek Agarwal and Vipul Agarwal (all partners in Alcon Landmark Group) and Pankaj Vohra, Suresh Shah, Rashmikant Gandhi of the SVG Kanchan Group.

Both Vivek Agarwal and Vipul Agarwal were arrested late on Saturday evening. Residents of the Alcon Stylus housing society said the builder had ignored their warning about the wall being weakened due to the construction work at the neighbouring site. "We had informed the builder about the hazards of the weakened wall and expressed fears that a major catastrophe was waiting to happen," said Abdulla Parker, a resident.

"The fire brigade got a call at about 1.50 am. When we reached the spot, there was

No safe haven for economic offenders: Osaka declaration

with Trust" concept, a compromise formulation — acceptable to India and China on one side of the divide, and US and other developed countries on the other side — was adopted, in which domestic laws will be respected along with international laws. This gives policy space to India, which is pushing for data localisation and doesn't want to commit to an international framework right now.

But, on the issue of "quality infrastructure", the declaration gave prominence to "sustainability of public finances", taking into account "environmental and social" factors — all pointing towards China's Belt and Road Initiative. Quality infrastructure has become a euphemism for a critique of the BRI at the Osaka summit.

On terrorism, the Osaka declaration gave primacy to the FATF: "We welcome the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2462, which stresses the essential role of the FATF in setting global standards for preventing and combatting money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing. We reiterate our strong commitment to step up efforts to fight these threats, including by strengthening the FATF's global network of regional bodies. We call for the full, effective and swift implementation of the FATF standards." India has been quite active at the FATF with Pakistan's grey-listing, and China will now hold the chair after the US.

In the Buenos Aires declaration in December 2018, the paragraph on terrorism was much stronger: "We reaffirm our strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We commit to the full implementation of The Hamburg G20 Leaders Statement on Countering Terrorism. We will step up our efforts in fighting terrorist and proliferation financing, and money laundering. We urge the digital industry to work together to fight exploitation of the internet and social media for terrorist purposes." It also talked about regulating crypto-assets for anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism in line with "FATF standards".

Titled "anti-corruption", Paragraph 20 of the Osaka declaration said they would work

on a scoping paper on international cooperation dealing with "serious economic offenders" and recovery of stolen assets — this has been portrayed by the Indian government as a priority objective.

"We will intensify our efforts to combat foreign bribery and to ensure that each G-20 country has a national law in force for criminalising foreign bribery as soon as possible. We will continue practical cooperation to fight corruption and reaffirm our commitment to deny safe haven to persons sought for corruption and their proceeds of corruption consistent with our G-20 and international commitments and our domestic legal systems and will work more closely on asset recovery cooperation," it said.

The 2018 declaration had just said that they would further explore the links between corruption and other economic crimes and ways to tackle them, including through "cooperation on the return of persons sought for such offences and stolen assets". But they had called for effective implementation by all G-20 countries of the UN Convention Against Corruption, including criminalisation of the bribery of foreign public officials.

On climate change, Washington was able to get a paragraph to enunciate its position. "The US reiterates its decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, and affirms its strong commitment to economic growth and energy access and security, utilising all energy sources and technologies, while protecting the environment."

In the Hamburg communique in 2017, the G-20 had said: "We take note of the decision of the United States of America to withdraw from the Paris Agreement. The leaders of the other G-20 members state that the Paris Agreement is irreversible."

Cross-border data flow became a hot-button issue in Osaka, as India on Friday refused to become a signatory to the declaration on digital economy that was signed by 24 countries and groupings. While a majority of G-20 countries signed off on the launch of "Osaka track", an overarching framework promoting cross-border data flow with enhanced protections launched by Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, India was joined by South Africa and Indonesia in keeping away.

The issue figured prominently in the Osaka declaration. "As digitalisation is transforming every aspect of our economies and societies, we recognise the critical role played by effective use of data, as an enabler of economic

growth, development and social well-being. We aim to promote international policy discussions to harness the full potential of data," it said.

"Cross-border flow of data, information, ideas and knowledge generates higher productivity, greater innovation, and improved sustainable development, while raising challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security. By continuing to address these challenges, we can further facilitate data free flow and strengthen consumer and business trust. In this respect, it is necessary that legal frameworks, both domestic and international, should be respected," it said.

"Such data free flow with trust will harness the opportunities of the digital economy. We will cooperate to encourage the interoperability of different frameworks, and we affirm the role of data for development. We also reaffirm the importance of interface between trade and digital economy, and note the ongoing discussion under the Joint Statement Initiative on electronic commerce, and reaffirm the importance of the work programme on electronic commerce at the WTO," it said.

In Buenos Aires, the issue was not top of the mind, and the statement just said that they recognise the importance of the interface between trade and the digital economy.

On quality infrastructure — which was put on the agenda by Japan — the G-20 statement said: "We stress the importance of maximising the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development while preserving the sustainability of public finances, raising economic efficiency in view of life-cycle cost, integrating environmental and social considerations, including women's economic empowerment, building resilience against natural disasters and other risks, and strengthening infrastructure governance."

The criticism against the Chinese initiative, BRI, includes unsustainable financing and poor environmental considerations.

In 2018, the infrastructure was formulated as "a key driver of economic prosperity, sustainable development and inclusive growth".

heavy rainfall and complete darkness. Our personnel heard a man crying for help and found that he was clinging to a tree. We first saved him and then called for additional help — five fire brigade vehicles, three mini-vehicles, two ambulances and two JCB earth-movers for removing the debris," said Prakash Gore, Fire Officer, Kondhwa.

PMC Commissioner Saurabh Rao said prima facie, it appeared that there was negligence on the part of the builders.

State Irrigation Minister Vijay Shivtare said the wall had been constructed in 2012. "From what I have seen, I can say that what was going on was completely wrong," he said.

Meanwhile, expressing grief over the deaths, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis Saturday ordered a detailed inquiry. "No doubt strict action will be taken but we will also find out at which level lapses have taken place. A committee will look into the factors like legality of the construction etc," he told reporters in Nagpur, according to PTI.

The state government has announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh each to the families of victims, and Rs 25,000 each to those injured.

"A committee comprising an additional collector, a senior PMC officer, the local Deputy Commissioner of Police, and an expert from the College of Engineering, Pune, has been set up to probe the incident. They have been asked to submit a primary report within 24 hours. Based on the report, further legal action will be taken," said State Revenue Minister Chandrakant Patil, who is also the Guardian Minister for Pune district.

"The committee has been given the mandate to look into who were the developers, architects, structural engineers involved... It will also look at how these labourers were brought to the site, and if all the procedures for their employment were completed," said Patil.

At least four vehicles and a two-wheeler parked near the wall were also damaged. The intensity of the impact increased as when the wall caved

in, the vehicles parked along the wall inside the housing society fell on the tin sheds.

Vijayvargiya son

came, we showed them the building. (Vijayvargiya) then said leave this place in 10-15 minutes or you will be chased away from here. This is all that was said. I was standing at the side - you will see in the videos that I was standing at the side. I said nothing to anyone. My relationship with him is good - he calls me Bayas ji, I call him Akash ji. I don't know what happened suddenly. I was doing some work on the phone and he began (attacking with the bat). When he started, then the people with him also attacked."

Bayas, who spoke to the Express over the phone from a private hospital, said that despite the attack, he had no serious injuries. "I have some old medical problems which flared up, which is why I am resting. I don't have any injuries from that day," he said.

With the BJP alleging that Vijayvargiya was angered by officials misbehaving with

women tenants at the structure in Ganji complex, Bayas said, "Nothing like this happened at all. Everyone was there, the media was there, police were there. Why would we do anything like this? There is no proof to any of these things because it simply didn't happen. I didn't enter the house at all that day. Who would have the courage to enter such a crumbling house?"

Asked if he was afraid, Bayas said, "If you look at the others who were attacking me, they are all goons. Who can tell what they have in their mind for the future? Bhay hai, bilkul hai. Mujhko bhi hai, mere bhaiya ko bhi hai, sabko hai (Of course I am scared. I am, my brother is, everyone's scared). I have written to the Superintendent of Police for protection, because the matter has become so big. I was just doing my job, and people were attacking me. Despite that, I kept my cool. Many workers from that area were protecting me because I have worked there for 15 to 20 years. Goons from other areas were the ones hitting me. This was the situation. People of three wards under me are all shocked

that I was attacked."

Bayas added that in his professional opinion, the dilapidated structure is a public safety hazard and must be brought down. "In my professional opinion, that house has to be hundred per cent brought down. Anyone who goes there can see parts have already collapsed. It is not like that building will stay up at all," he said.

Kartarpur

secure manner, throughout the year," the source said.

Besides, India has also asked Pakistan to permit and facilitate Nagar Kirtan to be organised by SGPC and Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee at Gurdwara Nankana Sahib in July and then in October-November to mark the year-long celebrations of the 550th anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

Sources said India has also asked Pakistan to increase the number of pilgrims, under the 1974 bilateral Protocol, who visit religious shrines in Pakistan to 10,000 this year.

The two countries have had run-ins in the past over the corridor, including over pro-Khalistani faces in a committee set up by Pakistan and over Pakistan's refusal to allow at least 5,000 visitors a day from India.

While India wants a bridge over the Zero Line and has already begun constructing one on its side, Pakistan is insisting on constructing a causeway, sources said. India is of the view that not building a bridge would lead to flooding of Indian areas during monsoon when the Ravi river overflows.

The issue was discussed at a technical meeting held between officials of the two countries at the Attari-Wagah border on May 27. Sources said that despite the differences, Delhi is pushing for the meeting so that the corridor can be operationalised by November this year.

Haryana village

with other immigrants, who had alighted from the bus, to look for water. But Satwinder got lost in the desert and did not return for long, upon which their fellow travellers "left Gurpreet alone and walked away". The US Border Patrol later found Gurpreet's body west of Lukeville, Arizona, where temperatures had reached a high of 42 Celsius.

Gurpreet parents could not be contacted despite several attempts by The Sunday Express to do so.

Gurpreet's grandfather Gurmit Singh, a farmer, said the girl, a Class 1 student, was excited about meeting her father "for the first time". Her parents, Satwinder Kaur and Avtar Singh, 33, last met in 2013 - a year after their marriage, with Gurpreet barely six months old - when Avtar Singh left for the US. A month and a half ago, Satwinder, a panchayat member in Hasanpur, and Gurpreet left for the US.

Sikh Coalition, a US-based organisation that has taken up the case of Gurpreet's parents, told The Sunday Express that the girl's mother Satwinder was released from the Eloy Immigration and Customs Enforcement processing facility on June 18 and permitted to travel by bus from Arizona to New York City, where her husband resides. She arrived in New York City on June 21 and Gurpreet's funeral was conducted on June 28.

A statement issued by the Sikh Coalition on behalf of Gurpreet's parents read: "Our family is heartbroken by the loss of our daughter, Gurpreet Kaur. We wanted a safer and better life for our daughter and we made the extremely difficult decision to seek asylum here in the United States."

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Programme : B.Tech (CSE)

No. of companies visited: 150+

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Scholarship	UG Prog.	PG Prog. (Non MBA)	Grad.	Scholarship	CAT/MAT Percentile	GMAT
100%	93%	93%	80%	100%	90	650
50%	88%	88%	75%	50%	85	600
25%	80%	-	-	25%	80	500

Merit Based Direct UG Admission: 80% aggregate in 12th

Amity University, Amity Education Valley, Gurugram | Email: admissions@ggn.amity.edu

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Amity Education Group | 1,50,000 students | 10 universities | 6,000 faculty | 1,100 patents filed | 14 overseas campuses

उ.प्र. पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि. ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना अनुभववी फर्मों/टेकेदार/ कार्यदायी संस्थाओं से विद्युत पारेषण मंडल मेरठ के अंतर्गत निम्न कार्य/ आपूर्तियों हेतु मोहर बंद ई-निविदाएं ई-पोर्टल (www.etender.up.nic.in) पर दो भागों में आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। भाग-1 में ई-निविदाओं के प्रपत्र निर्धारित शुल्क आर.टी.जी.एस./ एन.ई.एफ.टी. एवं निर्धारित धरोहर राशि आर.टी.जी.एस./ एन.ई.एफ.टी./ बैंक गारन्टी (अलग-अलग) के माध्यम से अधीक्षण अभियंता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, मेरठ के पक्ष में State Bank of India, Cantt Branch, Meerut Account No. 11047201099, IFSC Code SBIN0000680 में जमा करायी जायेगी। बैंक जमा की साक्ष्य यथा योज्य यू.टी.आर. संख्या, पे-इन स्लिप मूल की प्रति निविदा के प्रथम भाग के साथ संलग्न किये जाये। ई-निविदा के प्रथम भाग (यू.टी.आर. संख्या, पे-इन स्लिप मूल की प्रति, पैन कार्ड, इन्कम टैक्स रिटर्न, जी.एस.टी. प्रपत्र की स्वयं प्रमाणित छायाप्रति एवं तकनीकी अनुभव आदि मूल रूप में) ई-पोर्टल पर स्कैन्ड प्रतियाँ (PDF format) तथा ई-निविदा के द्वितीय भाग (प्राइजबिड) में दरे एवं वाणिज्यिक नियम व शर्तें ई-पोर्टल (www.etender.up.nic.in) पर निम्नलिखित तालिका के अनुसार अपलोड की जायेगी। निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि एवं अन्य व्यवसायिक प्रपत्र हार्ड कॉपी में अथवा व्यक्तिगत संवाहक के माध्यम से इस कार्यालय में प्राप्त नहीं किये जायेंगे। ई-निविदा का द्वितीय भाग (प्राइजबिड) खुलने की तिथि हेतु तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जाएगी। ई-निविदा का प्रथम भाग, तालिका में अंकित दिनांक एवं समय अनुसार सार्वजनिक रूप से खोला जायेगा। ई-निविदा खुलने की तिथि पर अवकाश होने की स्थिति में ई-निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस पर निर्धारित समय तक स्वीकार की जाएगी एवं निर्धारित समय पर खोली जाएगी। ई-निविदाओं को बिना कोई कारण बताए ई-निविदा/ ई-निविदाओं को अस्वीकार/ विभाजित करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। धरोहर/ ई-निविदा राशि रहित व सशर्त ई-निविदाएं स्वीकार नहीं की जाएंगी। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी, डाउन लोड, अन्य संशोधनों एवं ई-निविदा प्रस्तुत करने के दिनांक तक विस्तार आदि के संबंध में कृपया www.etender.up.nic.in पर लॉग आन करें। निविदाओं का विवरण निम्न प्रकार है:-

क्रम सं. 1 निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी-48/19-20 (अल्पकालिक):- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड मेरठ के अंतर्गत 220 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र शताब्दीनगर से 20/35 KL क्षमता के ऑयल टैंक को लादना एवं 400 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र मुरादनगर-द्वितीय तक लाना तथा उतारने से सम्बन्धित कार्य। धरोहर राशि 1000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य 295.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय 09.07.2019 सायं 05 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 10.07.2019 प्रातः 12 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। क्रम सं. 2 निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी-49/19-20:- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड बड़ौत के अंतर्गत 220 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र बड़ौत पर पुराने क्षतिग्रस्त विभिन्न प्रकार के सामान को अन्य स्थान पर रखने से सम्बन्धित कार्य। धरोहर राशि 2000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य 590.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय 31.07.2019 सायं 05 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 01.08.2019 प्रातः 12 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। क्रम सं. 3 निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी-50/19-20:- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड बड़ौत के अंतर्गत 132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र निरपुडा पर पुराने स्टोर से विभिन्न प्रकार के सामान को नवनिर्मित स्टोर में रखने से सम्बन्धित कार्य। धरोहर राशि 2000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य 590.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय 31.07.2019 सायं 05 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 01.08.2019 प्रातः 12 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। क्रम सं. 4 निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी-51/19-20:- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड बड़ौत के अंतर्गत 132 के.वी. बड़ौत-सिंघावली लाइन के क्षतिग्रस्त कण्डक्टर की रिपेयरिंग से सम्बन्धित कार्य। धरोहर राशि 2000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य 590.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय 31.07.2019 सायं 05 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 01.08.2019 प्रातः 12 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। क्रम सं. 5 निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी-52/19-20:- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड मेरठ-द्वितीय के अंतर्गत 132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र कंकरखेड़ा-द्वितीय पर अनुरक्षणार्थ विभिन्न सामग्री की आपूर्ति। धरोहर राशि 2000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य 590.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय 31.07.2019 सायं 05 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 01.08.2019 प्रातः 12 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। क्रम सं. 6 निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी-53/19-20:- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड बड़ौत के अंतर्गत 132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र बागपत एवं हरसिया पर स्थापित 63 एवं 40 एम.वी.ए. परिवर्तकों हेतु OTI एवं WTI मीटर की आपूर्ति। धरोहर राशि 2000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य 590.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय 03.08.2019 सायं 05 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 05.08.2019 प्रातः 12 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। क्रम सं. 7 निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी-54/19-20:- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड बड़ौत के अंतर्गत विभिन्न 220/132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्रों पर अनुरक्षणार्थ सामग्री की आपूर्ति। धरोहर राशि 2000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य 590.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय 03.08.2019 सायं 05 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 05.08.2019 प्रातः 12 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। क्रम सं. 8 निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी-55/19-20:- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड बड़ौत के अंतर्गत विभिन्न 220/132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्रों पर विभिन्न अग्निशामक यंत्रों की आपूर्ति। धरोहर राशि 2000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य 590.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय 03.08.2019 सायं 05 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 05.08.2019 प्रातः 12 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। क्रम सं. 9 निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी-56/19-20:- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड बड़ौत के अंतर्गत विभिन्न 220/132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्रों पर विभिन्न डिजिटल मीटरों की आपूर्ति। धरोहर राशि 2000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य 590.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय 03.08.2019 सायं 05 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 05.08.2019 प्रातः 12 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। अधीक्षण अभियंता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, 130-डी, "पारेषण भवन", विक्टोरिया पार्क, मेरठ। "राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचाएं" पत्रांक/ No. 1555 वि.पा.मं./ ETC/ मेरठ /MT/TEN- DER दिनांक: 29/06/2019

जायेगी। क्रम सं. 6 निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी-53/19-20:- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड बड़ौत के अंतर्गत 132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र बागपत एवं हरसिया पर स्थापित 63 एवं 40 एम.वी.ए. परिवर्तकों हेतु OTI एवं WTI मीटर की आपूर्ति। धरोहर राशि 2000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य 590.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय 03.08.2019 सायं 05 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 05.08.2019 प्रातः 12 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। क्रम सं. 7 निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी-54/19-20:- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड बड़ौत के अंतर्गत विभिन्न 220/132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्रों पर अनुरक्षणार्थ सामग्री की आपूर्ति। धरोहर राशि 2000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य 590.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय 03.08.2019 सायं 05 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 05.08.2019 प्रातः 12 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। क्रम सं. 8 निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी-55/19-20:- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड बड़ौत के अंतर्गत विभिन्न 220/132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्रों पर विभिन्न अग्निशामक यंत्रों की आपूर्ति। धरोहर राशि 2000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य 590.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय 03.08.2019 सायं 05 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 05.08.2019 प्रातः 12 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। क्रम सं. 9 निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी-56/19-20:- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड बड़ौत के अंतर्गत विभिन्न 220/132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्रों पर विभिन्न डिजिटल मीटरों की आपूर्ति। धरोहर राशि 2000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य 590.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय 03.08.2019 सायं 05 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 05.08.2019 प्रातः 12 बजे तक, ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। अधीक्षण अभियंता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, 130-डी, "पारेषण भवन", विक्टोरिया पार्क, मेरठ। "राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचाएं" पत्रांक/ No. 1555 वि.पा.मं./ ETC/ मेरठ /MT/TEN- DER दिनांक: 29/06/2019



DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA





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OUR EFFORTS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Decline in Heinous Crimes Against Senior Citizens



Year	Crimes
2016	118
2017	96
2018	63



Year	Crimes
2018	27
2019	23

(Figure Upto 15th June)

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Dip/Shabbir/D/0034/19-20



ARVIND KEJRIWAL
Chief Minister, Delhi

Invitation of Application for Grant of Licence for Collection, Transportation and Disposal of Septic Tank Waste

Government of NCT of Delhi notified the Delhi Water Board Septage Management Regulations 2018. As per the Regulation, Septic Tank Waste shall be collected, transported and disposal only by an agency having a valid license for the purpose issued by Delhi Jal Board.

Address for submitting application:

**The office of Executive Engineer (SDW) XIV,
Delhi Jal Board, Kilokari Sewage Pumping Station,
Jal Vihar, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi-110024**

Last Date: 31st December 2019 upto 03:00 PM

The above said regulations, application Proforma, Terms & Conditions of License and notified sites for disposal of waste can be downloaded from Delhi Jal Board website www.delhijalboard.nic.in or may be obtained from the office of Executive Engineer (SDW) XIV, Delhi Jal Board.

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HEALTH CARE

Diet, exercise: cornerstones of treating Fatty Liver



Dr Anil Arora has completed all his academic studies of MBBS, DNB(MED), MD(MED), DM(Gastro) from the prestigious All India Institute of Medical Sciences. He subsequently obtained his liver transplantation fellowship from Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, in 1999 and was awarded fellowship of Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, FRCP(Edinburgh) in 2004 and fellowship of Royal college of physicians of London, FRCP(London) in 2014, Fellowship of American Association For The Study of Liver Diseases FAASLD 2019. At present, he is the chairman of Institute of Liver Gastroenterology and Pancreaticobiliary Sciences at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital. Besides providing a high standard of clinical care to the patients, he has been regularly writing scientific articles in national and international journals leading to over 190 publications in the indexed medical journals

THE liver is the largest internal organ in the body (weight approximately 1.5 kg). Healthy liver is a boon to healthy life as liver is responsible for many functions in our body. Liver is responsible for processing, digesting, assembling and storing everything we eat and drink. It also clears harmful substances from the blood; hence acts as a detoxifying factory of our body. Too much fat in the liver impairs all these useful functions of the organ.

To know more about the same, Somdatta Saha reached out to Dr Anil Arora, Chairman, Institute of Liver, Gastroenterology and Pancreaticobiliary Sciences at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital. Here is an excerpt from the interview:

What is fatty liver?

Fatty liver or hepatic steatosis means excessive amount of fat in the liver. It is one of the most common causes of liver disease. Normally liver has small amount of fat which is less than five percent of liver weight. However excessive amount of fat in your liver (>20 per cent) can become a health problem as it may damage liver and can cause serious liver related problems like liver cirrhosis (irreversible liver damage). There are two basic types of fatty liver: nonalcoholic (development of fatty liver when the person is not consuming significant amount of alcohol) and alcoholic (it is the earliest stage of alcohol-related liver disease). Fatty liver is also often associated with diseases unrelated to liver like diabetes, hypertension, cholesterol problem (dyslipidemia) and heart failure.

What leads to fatty liver disease in a person?

Change in the economic patterns of the society, increase in the day to day stress, overwork, lack of exercise, easy availability of the fast food and excessive consumption of alcohol lead to fatty liver disease. It has become almost an epidemic because of the changing lifestyle of the individuals. In fact, almost one-third of the human population is suffering from fatty liver disease. 25 to 40 per cent of patients with fatty liver develop inflammation in the liver which is called NASH or Nonalcoholic steatohepatitis; and one-fourth of those with NASH develop end-stage liver disease called chronic liver disease or cirrhosis of the liver.

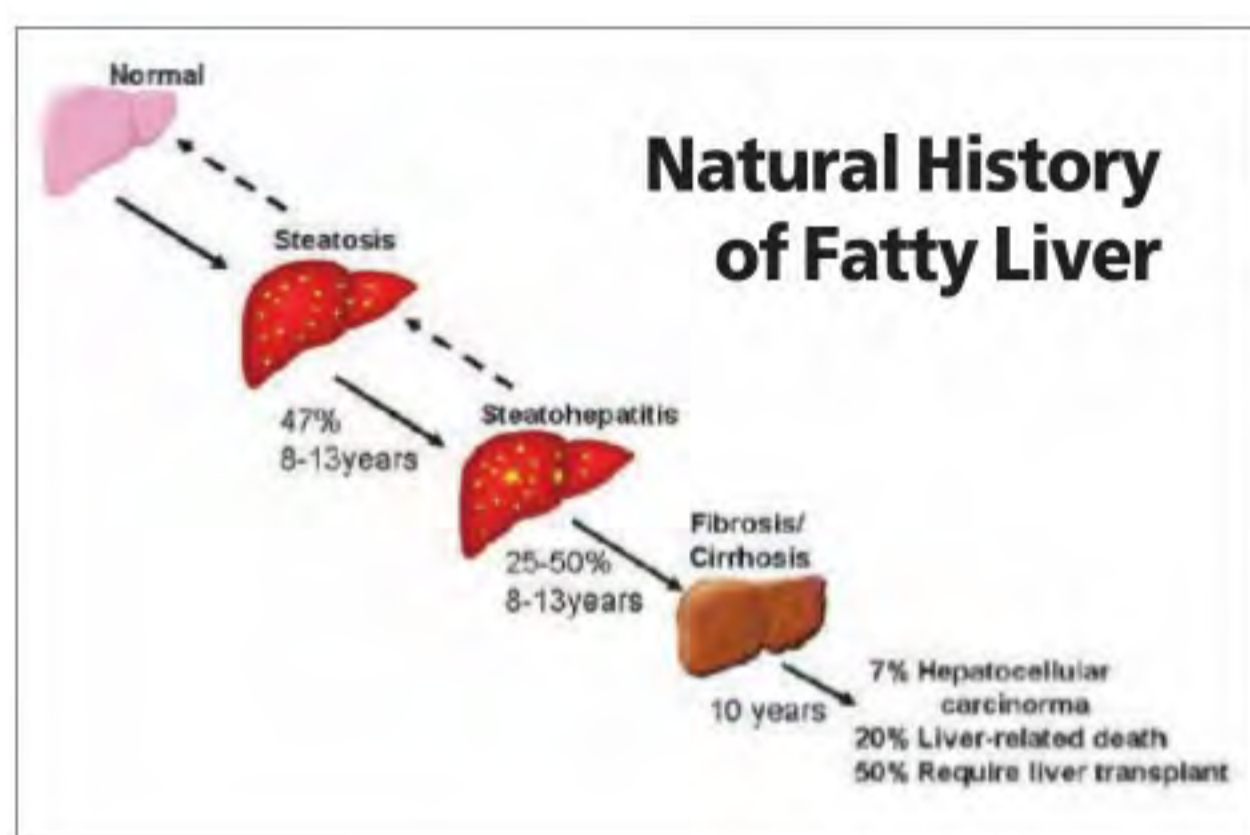
Can you explain cirrhosis of the liver?

Cirrhosis of the liver is an end-stage liver disease which comes with complications like development of jaundice, blood vomiting, black stool and altered behaviour or altered sensorium. There are two types of cirrhosis — compensated cirrhosis and decompensated cirrhosis. If it is compensated cirrhosis, then there is 80 per cent 10-year survival rate. People with compensated cirrhosis often don't have any symptom because their liver is still properly functioning. As liver function decreases, it leads to development of decompensated cirrhosis. People with decompensated cirrhosis are nearing end-stage liver failure and are usually candidates for liver transplant. Symptoms of decompensated cirrhosis are jaundice, blood vomiting, fatigue, weight loss, ascites (bloating abdomen due to fluid accumulation), spider veins, hepatic encephalopathy (confusion, slurred speech, or drowsiness) etc.

Every year three to four per cent of the patients with liver cirrhosis tend to develop cancer in the liver, which is called hepatocellular carcinoma. Unfortunately in country like ours, once liver cancer is detected, it is usually of an advanced variety. Recently we published an article in liver disease journal called *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Hepatology*, where we published our patient data showing that two-thirds of the liver cancers in India may be preventable by stopping the consumption of alcohol and by reducing body weight, controlling diabetes thereby reducing the fat related liver disease because of obesity and metabolic syndrome like controlling blood sugar, blood pressure, and taking care of altered lipid profile.

How can fatty liver disease be diagnosed? What kind of treatment is being offered?

Diagnosis of liver disease is very easy. A simple ultrasound examination can quickly find out whether one has fatty liver disease. There are various grades of fatty liver- mild, moderate and severe variety. The more the amount of fat in the liver, the more likely it is to trigger NASH and gradually and slowly may progress to end-stage liver disease called cirrhosis of liver. Transient elastography (Fibro Scan) is a new, non-invasive, rapid and reproducible technique just like an ultra-



sound, which allows evaluation of liver fibrosis and liver fat and tries to reliably diagnose advanced liver disease requiring urgent attention.

Fatty liver disease occurs due to several reasons, and the most important ones are alcohol consumption and obesity. So by simply cutting down on alcohol and taking good care of your health one can prevent the disease. Another point one must know that there is a bidirectional relationship between fatty liver and diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia. A patient with diabetes or heart problem or dyslipidemia is more likely to develop fatty liver disease. Again, patient with fatty liver disease is more likely to develop diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemia, and coronary artery disease. In fact the most common cause of death in patient with fatty liver disease is cardiovascular accidents and the second most common factor is cancer. So one needs to break this vicious cycle to prevent the disease and that can be done by reducing weight, controlling diabetes and controlling blood pressure. To sum it all, lifestyle modification is of

utmost importance in treating patients with fatty liver.

What kind of diet a person with fatty liver disease should follow?

A person with fatty liver disease should restrict calorie intake. In fact there are various types of diets like Mediterranean diet, Keto diet etc. But there is a lot of controversy regarding which type of diet is good for the liver. Whatever it is, the fact ultimately zeroes down to one moot point i.e. to decrease the intake of calories. One needs to restrict calories, avoid sugar in the diet, and avoid fatty foods and saturated fats. Calorie-free diet, coupled with exercise, is a hallmark and most important aspect of management of fatty liver.

How much exercise should be done?

- Physical activity more than 150-200 minutes/week or increase physical activity level by more than 60 minutes/week gradually who do less exercises;
- Daily exercises are best but if one can do exercise five times a week is still okay;

- Moderate exercise (carrying light loads, riding bicycle at a steady pace or playing tennis for at least 10 minutes)
- Exercise alone in adults with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease may prevent or reduce hepatic steatosis, but its ability to improve other aspects of liver histology remains unknown. Combination of weight loss and exercise helps in improving the liver fat and its stiffness (histology) in long term; so both should be practiced.

When does a person need to consult a doctor?

Ideally everybody should go for a routine check-up. But if a person is overweight, if one consumes alcohol, if the blood sugar is high, or if one has a family history of liver disease or dyslipidemia, then consulting a doctor and going for a check-up is a must. It is important to understand that if the disease is diagnosed at an early stage, then the treatment is much better and further advancement (NASH or cirrhosis) can be prevented.

One must keep in mind that liver is a large organ and liver enzymes, total bilirubin will not increase until there is a significant liver injury. A normal liver function test will not exclude significant liver disease. The treating doctor will decide for other tests if required to assess liver damage.

What are the advancements in medical science in terms of treatment?

The ideal scenario is when above discussed preventive measures are taken. But a significant proportion of the patients visit us when they already have an established NASH or cirrhosis of the liver. So a large number of the drugs including Pioglitazone, PPAR agonist, vitamin E and other medicine come into being. In fact the pharmaceutical industry is actively involved in development of newer medicines for controlling fatty liver disease. Newer drugs are in the pipeline which will try to reverse fibrosis as well as fatty liver. It is the need of the hour because up to two billion population in the world is suffering from fatty liver disease. The pharmaceutical industry is researching the molecules which will prevent the downstream signaling of the molecules which trigger the inflammation of the liver due to presence of fat. A large number of the drugs are in the experimental stage and

are expected to be in the market by next year. As of now, none of these drugs are recommended for treatment. So we are primarily dependent on diet and exercise.

Tell us about the experiments your team is doing under your supervision at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

We have been trying medicine for treatment of NASH. One of the drugs which we have tried is bilypsa — it is a drug which is known to reduce the triglycerides and lipid in the blood, thereby decreasing the deposition of carbohydrates and sugar in the liver. It is a PPAR agonist. It is a good drug, but is still not recommended for non diabetic patients; it is recommended for treatment of fatty liver patients who also have dyslipidemia. This drug is still in the experimental stage to find out whether it can be recommended for standalone fatty liver disease treatment.

We did a study at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, where we gave the patients this drug coupled with diet and exercise. We found out that patients, who were able to reduce weight, were able to achieve substantial reduction in liver fat.

What has been the government's role in creating awareness?

For the time being, the government is looking into the other aspects of liver disease (we recently had a national viral hepatitis programme in which the government is trying to eradicate Hepatitis B and C from India). But for the fatty liver disease, I will urge the government to take effective step to decrease the consumption of alcohol by restricting the outlets and educating the mass about it. Not only the government, it is the responsibility of every single influential person in the country to set example by quitting alcohol and tobacco.

Your message for the readers

Try to avoid alcohol as much as you can. No amount of alcohol is safe. Safety limit varies from person to person. If one has fatty liver or any liver disease, any amount of alcohol is injurious to health. If alcohol is avoided, then 30-40 per cent of the liver disease can be mitigated in India. There is no medical treatment for alcoholic liver disease or NASH. Only thing that one needs to do is stop consuming alcohol, reduce weight, and lead a healthy life. If these simple measures are taken care of, then 70 percent of the liver disease in India can be effectively controlled.

PREVENTION OF FATTY LIVER	
DO'S	DON'T'S
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Exercise daily ■ Take more fruits and fibre ■ Better control of your diabetes, blood pressure and cholesterol level ■ Take medicines as prescribed by your doctor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Consumption of alcohol ■ Excessive red meat, oily food and refined sugars ■ Carbonated beverages and juices

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Makers of



Makes The Liver Live Again...

BRIEFLY

Minor girl 'raped', 1 held

Gurgaon: A minor girl was allegedly raped by a resident of a Haryana village Saturday morning. The accused has been arrested, said police. According to police, the child was playing in the village, when a man from the same area allegedly lured her to an isolated area. "When the girl did not return home for a long time, her parents began searching for her. The child returned later, and told her parents that a man from the village had taken her with him and allegedly raped her in an isolated area," said Assistant Sub-Inspector Manju Devi, SHO of the women's police station.

'JNU planning to fail 100 BA students'

New Delhi: The Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union has alleged that the administration is "planning to fail" around 100 BA first year students by stopping their registration "in violation" of the JNU prospectus. "The administration has failed numerous students who have secured a grade between 3 and 3.99 and is denying them registration to the upcoming semester," alleged JNUSU President N Sai Balaji.

Auto driver shot at

New Delhi: An 18-year-old auto-rickshaw driver was shot at outside his house in South Delhi's Tigris Friday night, allegedly by five unidentified men. According to police, the victim's sister has claimed that he had a heated conversation with another rickshaw driver a couple of days ago.

Out on bail, man arrested after firing

New Delhi: A 32-year-old man out on bail in connection with a robbery case has been arrested by police following a brief exchange of fire at East Delhi's Akshardham. **ENS**

Man strangled by juveniles

New Delhi: A 22-year-old man was strangled to death, allegedly by his two juvenile friends, after an altercation over money in Shahdara's Anand Vihar, police said.

DPCC seals 3 factories

New Delhi: The DPCC sealed three more "polluting" factories "operating without consent" in the Mayapuri scrap market in West Delhi Saturday. This was the second such exercise carried out in the last three days in the area, which had seen clashes between traders and police during a sealing drive on April 13. **PTI**

DU ADMISSIONS

Many courses full despite high cut-off, will impact second list

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

SKYROCKETING CUT-OFFS seem to be no barrier to admissions in Delhi University's undergraduate courses, with many top colleges admitting more students than the sanctioned strength, on just the second day of admissions Saturday.

What this means, effectively, is that there won't be a second cut-off list for many courses in top colleges. Students still have time on Monday to take admission on the basis of the first cut-off. As per university rules, students who clear the cut-off cannot be denied admission to the course. Some courses, which are popular across colleges this year, are Political Science, BA Programme and Physics.

Hindu College, which had the highest cut-off at 99% for Political Science, has admitted almost double the number of unreserved category students than it is meant to. Against a sanctioned strength of 19 in Political Science course for general category students, the college has already admitted 36. In total, the course has seen 72 admissions against 43 seats.

In Physics, which had a cut-off of 98.33%, the college has admitted more than 100 students in its 68 seats, and for Philosophy, where the cut-off is 92.5%, it has 59 admissions for 39 seats.

Principal Anju Srivastava said this would lead to many courses being shut in the second

At Miranda House, Saturday. The college has recorded 800 admissions so far. *Gajendra Yadav*

list. "It seems like only four courses will remain open in the second list — Economics, B.Com, Physical Sciences and Zoology. We have already over-admitted in several courses, and we still have another day of admission to go for the first list," she said, adding that a total of 750 admissions had taken place till Saturday.

Miranda House, too, saw around 800 admissions till Saturday. "In some combinations of BA Programme, we have admitted more students than the sanctioned strength. Similarly, we have also hit 100%

admissions in Political Science. In Physics too we are seeing a great response. These courses are not likely to be open in the next list, unless there are withdrawals, which we are not expecting since many students are coming to the college keeping in mind its rank," said a college official. The MHRD has awarded rank 1 to the college for three years in a row.

PRO of Lady Shri Ram college Kanika Ahuja could not specify the number of admissions, but said in courses such as Political Science and Psychology, the college had admitted students

above the number of available seats. LSR saw over 700 admissions till Saturday, said the principal.

Ramjas College and Kamala Nehru College both completed around 450 admissions till Saturday. "In Political Science and BA Programme, we have admitted more students than permissible. Both courses have around 90 seats each, and we have admitted around 100 students each," said Ramjas Principal Manoj Khanna.

In SRCC, while there are around 130 admissions that

have taken place for 135 Economics seats, in B Com (H), more than half of the 552 seats are yet to be filled. "This means that in the second list, the cut-off for B Com is likely to drop by 0.5%," said Ashwini Kumar, member of the Admissions Committee.

However, the situation is different in some colleges. SGTB Khalsa has admitted around 220 seats till Saturday, not much more than Sri Venkateswara College, which had seen 202 admissions. In both colleges, seats have not completely been filled for any course.

Gangster's wife, help arrested for murder of Cong spokesperson

SAKSHI DAYAL
GURGAON, JUNE 29

TWO DAYS after the Congress's Haryana spokesperson Vikas Chaudhary was shot dead outside a gym in Faridabad, two people — including the wife of gangster Kaushal — have been arrested for the crime, said police, adding that Kaushal and two other accused are absconding.

According to police, Kaushal's wife Roshni and one Naresh alias Chand, who had been working as Roshni's domestic help for several years, have been arrested from Gurgaon. While Roshni lives in Gurgaon's Naharpur, Naresh lives in Damdama, said police.

"Initial investigation has revealed that Roshni allegedly plotted the murder, allegedly on the directions of her husband, Kaushal. She later roped in Naresh. They provided weapons to two others, Vikas and Sachin, who carried out the crime," said ACP (Crime) Anil Kumar.

"Prima facie it seems Kaushal was upset with Chaudhary over a money matter," ACP Kumar said. "On the basis of information provided by Naresh, the SX4 car used in the crime has been seized. The arrested accused will be produced in court today and taken into police remand."

In a tweet Saturday, Haryana ADGP (Law and Order) said a Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been formed to arrest Kaushal and the other accused. "DGP Haryana has consti-



Vikas Chaudhary was gunned down Thursday

tuted an SIT today, headed by CP Faridabad...," stated the tweet.

The order of the DGP states: "The SIT shall take over the case file immediately for further investigation and make energetic efforts for arrest of the remaining accused. It should be ensured that the investigation of the case is conducted on day-to-day basis and weekly progress reports shall be sent to this office regularly."

The incident took place on Thursday morning outside Equilibrium Gym in Faridabad's Sector 9. CCTV footage of the incident showed Chaudhary parking his Fortuner car outside the establishment, as two men get off a white SX4 and open fire at him 8-10 times before fleeing the spot.

Chaudhary was rushed to Sarodaya Hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. According to police, Chaudhary had 13 cases registered against him. According to police, Kaushal's gang is involved in several cases of murder, attempt to murder and extortion.

Three dead after mini-bus rams tanker on Expressway

ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

THREE PEOPLE, including a 13-year-old boy, were killed after the mini-bus they were travelling in rammed into a water tanker on the Delhi-Meerut Expressway Friday night. Two victims were part of a 12-member family and the third was their driver. They were headed towards Nainital for an impromptu holiday.

"The incident took place around 12 pm. The driver of the water tanker Santosh Yadav (34) has been arrested," said DCP (East) Jasmeet Singh.

A police officer said "slow-moving vehicles are not allowed on the Expressway"

"The tanker driver said that he was driving slowly as the clutch was faulty," said Singh. The victims were identified as Arshit Jain (13), his uncle Mukesh Jain (39) and the driver Nishan Singh (34).



The family was travelling to Nainital when it hit the truck

"They made a last-minute plan to escape the heat," said Anil Jain, a relative.

Arshit's grandfather Chandiram Jain (65), however, stayed back home. "My daughter-in-law called around 11.30 pm, saying they met with an accident... she said there was blood everywhere..." he said.

Anil said locals took the victims to LBS Hospital, from where

they were referred to a private hospital. Arshit, Mukesh and Nishan were declared dead on arrival at Max Hospital, Patparganj. Mukesh's wife Poonam suffered serious injuries, said Chandiram. "She suffered hand and chest injuries and doctors are saying her condition is critical," he said.

(The writer is an intern with *The Indian Express*)

'AAP laughing stock... Delhi needs serious leadership'

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

TAKING AIM at the Aam Aadmi Party while addressing Delhi BJP leaders, the party's working president J P Nadda Saturday said AAP has become "a laughing stock" and that the capital needs a leadership with a "serious vision" for its betterment.

Addressing workers on the second day of the state working committee meeting, Nadda said: "They have become a laughing stock, Delhi is a capital and needs serious leadership. Now, even people of Delhi are saddened with them... the (BJP) party workers will have to work hard and I am confident we will succeed in Delhi." This was Nadda's first address to a state unit since taking charge as BJP working president.

Nadda, in his half-hour speech, spoke on the Central



Nadda told Delhi unit workers to bring more people on board

Government's schemes, including Ayushman Bharat and Jan Dhan Yojana, and congratulated BJP's Delhi unit for its victory in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections. He also emphasised on bringing new people on board.

"Many people tell me they have been working for the party for years...but I tell them that I see them alone. You come to party

programmes, well-dressed, but you do not bring people along. So you are in the party, but you are not contributing."

Asking party workers to assess their contribution to the party, Nadda said: "How many new people have joined the party because of you?... If you do this (bring new people), then your strength will increase and so will that of the party."

He told party workers that he could "read their faces and see some of them worried about the way they are positioned in the party."

"There is work for everyone, space for everyone and the party will stand for everyone," he said.

Senior party leaders, including Delhi BJP in-charge Shyam Jaju, senior leaders V K Malhotra and Vijay Goel, Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari, and BJP MPs Parvesh Sahib Singh, Hans Raj Hans and Meenakshi Lekhi were present at the meeting.

'Need measures like anti-Romeo squads in city'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

DELHI BJP chief Manoj Tiwari Saturday said that a special squad — on the lines of "anti-Romeo" squads in Uttar Pradesh — should be formed in the capital to check crimes against women.

"A squad comprising policemen in plainclothes should be deployed at bus stands, Metro stations and other public places...there has been an increase in crimes against women



Tiwari claimed crimes against women have been increasing

and women's safety is a major concern," said Tiwari.

He was speaking to the media on the sidelines of the BJP state working committee meeting Saturday.

"Our daughters are teased

outside Metro stations, bus stands, schools, and the miscareans doing so should be caught. The squad need not be named anti-Romeo, as I believe Romeo was a good person," he said.

Tiwari said he will write to the Delhi Police chief in this regard.

The Aam Aadmi Party, on the other hand, took a dig at BJP, with AAP MP Sanjay Singh saying that the party was trying to hide the "failure of the city police force."

"We saw what anti-Romeo squads did in Uttar Pradesh,

wherein they caught brothers and sisters going together. We will not let that happen in Delhi. BJP will spread anarchy in the city by doing this," the AAP leader said.

"Figures have proved that crime is rising in Delhi, but by bringing in such squads, they will beat students, brothers and sisters," he added.

Tiwari, however, rejected AAP's charge. He said, "We are not of the view that brothers and sisters or anyone should be troubled. The intention is to only stop crimes against women."

Elderly woman stabbed to death in failed robbery bid

New Delhi: An 80-year-old woman was stabbed to death at her home in Dwarka's Bindapur Saturday, allegedly by an armed assailant, said police. Initial investigation has revealed that after allegedly stabbing her, he proceeded to loot the house, but was locked inside a room by the victim's daughter-in-law, who later called police.

According to police, the elderly woman, Santosh Devi, was staying with her son's family in Bindapur. "The accused, Jivesh,

barged into her house... and stabbed her. He then went to the first floor of the house where the victim's daughter-in-law and grandson were sleeping," a senior police officer said.

Police said that as the accused was collecting all belongings, the daughter-in-law and her son locked him in the room: "The woman then called police."

The accused stabbed himself before cops arrived: "He was taken to DDU hospital...An FIR has been registered." **ENS**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

A DAY after top leaders from Delhi Congress met Rahul Gandhi and promised to present a united face as it moves ahead, the party is left divided over the decision to dissolve all 280 block-level committees. The AICC in-charge of the capital P C Chacko has overturned the decision taken by the party's Delhi chief Sheila Dikshit and written a letter to Gandhi and Dikshit.

Chacko's decision to "stay" the dissolution is expected to strain the relationship between the top leaders. On Friday, Dikshit dissolved all block committees after a five-member committee formed to probe the party's debacle in recent Lok Sabha polls suggested an overhaul.

Speaking to *The Sunday Express*, Chacko said, "This is an internal organisational discussion and I don't want to talk about it."

"I have heard about the letter but I am yet to receive it," Dikshit said. A group of Congress leaders Saturday met Congress general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal and Chacko and protested the move to dissolve the block committees. "We told the two leaders that the block committees and their presidents were elected and that they cannot be dissolved...before Assembly polls," said Chatar Singh, a senior Congress leader.

Several senior leaders in the party claimed that the decision to dissolve the committee was taken "unilaterally" without keeping them in the loop. **ENS**

SAFETY, STAFF CRUNCH MAJOR CONCERNS

In shambles, centuries-old Tughlaqabad Fort awaits a facelift

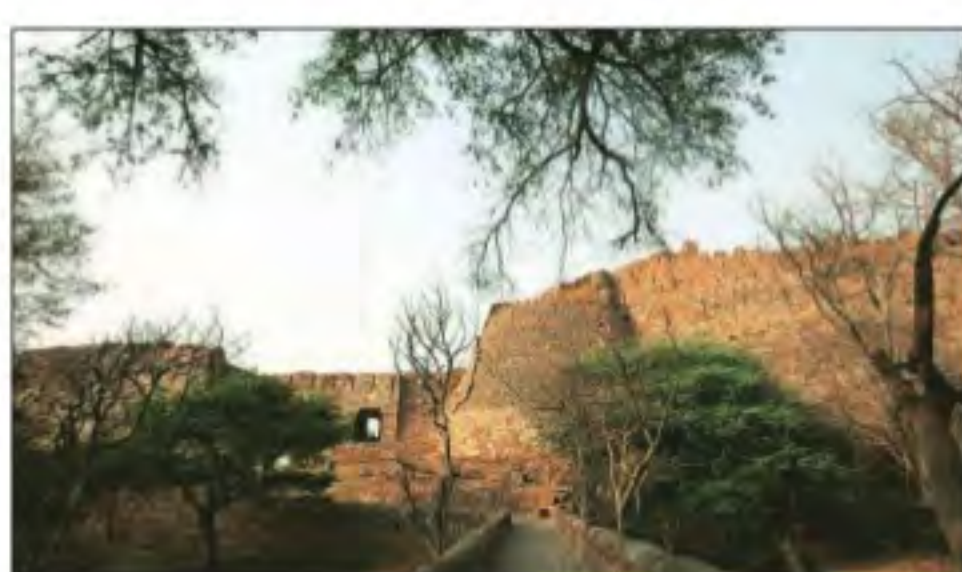
ASHNA BUTANI
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

DELHI QUARTZITE stone bricks, almost 700 years old, are strewn across the Tughlaqabad Fort, waiting to be picked up for restoration.

"The conservation process is underway. Plans to restore the broken walls and the palace area, which is in ruins, are in place. We have recently received the Director General's approval. The work should begin soon," said Dr N K Pathak, Superintending Engineer, ASI, Delhi Circle.

"The bricks in Meena Bazaar continue to fall... Over the years, the molecules have contracted and expanded due to atmospheric conditions. This is inevitable, hence restoration work is necessary in the fort," said Md Imran, Senior Conservation Assistant. "Tughlaqabad Fort is the largest fort in the city. The fort has such potential, if only it is maintained well," he said.

The fort, built in 1328, spreads across a six-and-a-half kilometre stretch and is broken into several parts. Across the street, the Ghiyasud-din Tomb has undergone major conserva-

The fort, built in 1328, spreads across a six-and-a-half kilometre stretch and is broken into several parts. *Archive*

tion work in the last three years. Tourists flock to the lush green area, while avoiding the fort. "Safety is a concern in the fort. Phones get stolen and people get robbed easily, but we cannot do anything about it," said a security guard.

Around 4:30 pm, few students call a guard and ask him to escort them. "I am very scared of monkeys, especially since there are no lights. They attacked me in the dark," says Hargun Kaur, a student who just gave her class XII examinations.

The 20 guards of the fort share concerns about being

short-staffed. "People can enter from the village behind. It would be better if a boundary was made to avoid that and a back gate was in place instead," they said. "We have been maintaining the area since 1993. The biggest issue in Tughlaqabad is encroachment. The matter has gone to court, but not much has been done about it," said Praveen Singh, the Deputy Superintending Archaeologist. ASI is currently working on fencing the area, including the encroached areas, with barbed wire, say officials.

"During the Commonwealth

Games, the front facade was illuminated by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA). But over the last few years, many of them got stolen or stopped working. We have requested DDA to install lights again," said Singh.

Washrooms have been built in the tomb and the fort area, but are yet to be opened to the public. "The washrooms are almost complete. Only 5% of the work is left," said Pathak, referring to the two large structures built in the middle of the tomb area and the fort.

Singh added that ASI has also asked DDA to create a parking

space in front of the fort and restore two of the four *baolis* (stepwells) in the area.

Restoration of the internal pathway and conservation of Meena Bazaar has been proposed this year.

The proposals first get accepted, then the estimates are sent and tender floated, after which the work begins. "Conservation can take years as they have to find old bricks that fit into the structure, and then replicate the structure to perfection," said Imran. The funds assigned are not always sufficient, rued officials.

MISHAP AT INTERCEPTOR SEWAGE PROJECT

A day later, no trace of two labourers on DJB project

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

A DAY after a labourer died at an under-construction "interceptor sewage project" in West Delhi, the search for his two colleagues continued in the Keshopur drain Saturday.

The fire services were joined by a 16-member team of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to locate the two missing labourers — Ankit (19) and Devender Sharma (25) — who were working on the Delhi Jal Board project Friday morning.

"Access to a drain is very little as it's a confined space. The water is muddy and contaminated, the oxygen level is low and there are hazardous gases inside. It's unlike other underwater rescue operations. We presume the men are dead," said NDRF Commandant P K Srivastava.

On Friday morning, at least nine labourers were deployed for construction of the interceptor



One labourer died after drowning in the drain at DJB's under-construction interceptor sewage project Friday

sewage project. Around 1 pm, a PCR call was made about three men having drowned in the drain.

One labourer, Shah Rukh Khan (25), was pulled out of the site by the fire services, but was declared dead on arrival at the hospital. Ankit and Devender have not been found yet, said DCP (West) Monika Bhardwaj. A contractor was arrested Friday, and a case was registered at Khyala po-

lice station. Police said they will make more arrests soon.

Meanwhile, relatives and colleagues of the two missing labourers faced a long and hard wait. A relative of Sharma said, "We are angry and helpless, we are waiting for officials to tell us where he is... we are losing hope with time."

Imran Khan (19), a labourer at the site, said, "I returned to the

spot Saturday and saw rescue officials enter the drain to find the bodies of the other two labourers. But I couldn't breathe and came back up after some time," Srivastava corroborated this claim and said, "There are hazardous gases inside, it is difficult to stay in for too long."

The NDRF has installed cameras inside the drain to try and "capture photos of the bodies". Srivastava, however, said, "It's not very effective as the water is not clear." A Jal Board official said, "Technical details of the pipeline system — from the interceptor site to the Keshopur sewage treatment plant — have been provided to the NDRF."

At least two fire tenders and seven fire service officials have been stationed at the spot since the incident. "The length and the depth of the pipeline differs every few metres and that's a challenge. We punctured parts of the pipeline to create access. The NDRF, police, fire services and the Jal Board officials are at the spot."

At mohalla clinic opening, AAP alleges ruckus by BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

THE AAP Saturday alleged that some BJP workers created a ruckus at the inauguration of a mohalla clinic at Ghonda in Babarpur. The party claimed the BJP workers raised slogans demanding the clinic be shut and held placards that read — 'first open the old clinics, then start the new'.

AAP councillor Rekha Tyagi said BJP workers thronged the inauguration venue, but "our people forced them to run away." AAP minister Gopal Rai, who inaugurated the clinic, shared a video on Twitter, which showed

people raising slogans. "People said mohalla clinic will open and we are with Arvind Kejriwal. Why is BJP worried about opening of a mohalla clinic (sic)," Rai said in the tweet.

BJP Poorvanchal Morcha secretary Neeraj Tiwari, who led the protest, said the "whole (mohalla clinic) exercise is an election gimmick."

"The structure was there for the past few years, but now that polls are round the corner, AAP is inaugurating it... they do not even have enough medicines or staff," Tiwari alleged: "People used to gamble here, but AAP didn't care then. Most mohalla clinics are closed in nearby areas, so we held a protest."

Plan to make CP walking friendly to be tested today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

VEHICULAR MOVEMENT to Connaught Place will be restricted Sunday, as the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) plans to execute its pedestrianisation plan in the shopping hub.

Following opposition from market associations, the NDMC has tweaked its earlier plan to make the inner circle completely car-free to focus on pedestrianising the blocks, and has given car users access to all parking lots in the inner and outer circles of the hub, a senior official said.

"In the new plan, cars can only

access the parking lots. The inner circle will be barricaded to cordon off the public area with the car parking line," the official said.

The restricted movement on Sunday will be between 9 am and 9 pm. Based on the feedback, the NDMC will decide the future of the plan, he said.

On Saturday, traders in CP staged a protest as NDMC conducted a mock drill of the pedestrianisation plan, miffed with the council for allegedly not keeping them in confidence about it.

Fearing it would affect business, traders had earlier objected to the plan, to make the inner circle completely car-free, following which the NDMC had tweaked it.



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Dr. Arun Gupta
President

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(i)	Artificer Apprentice (AA)	Born Between 01 Feb 2000 to 31 Jan 2003 (Both dates inclusive)	Must have passed 10+2 examination with 60% or more marks in aggregate with Maths and Physics & atleast one of these subjects :- Chemistry/Biology/Computer Science from educational boards recognized by MHRD, Govt of India	After successful completion of training, will be placed in level 3 of Defence pay Matrix (Rs.21,700/- to 69,100/-) & MSP @ RS.5200/- per month plus DA (as applicable)
(ii)	Senior Secondary Recruit (SSR)		Must have passed 10+2 examination with Maths and Physics & atleast one of these subjects :- Chemistry/Biology/Computer Science from educational boards recognized by MHRD, Govt of India	

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8 GOVT & POLITICS

G-20 leaders for free, fair trade environment



EXPRESS IN OSAKA

SHUBHAJIT ROY
JUNE 29

FACED WITH challenges of protectionism across the world, the Osaka declaration on Saturday said that the G-20 leaders will strive to realise a "free, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable" trade and investment environment, and to keep "markets open".

At the end of the G-20 summit here, the declaration also said they would work to ensure a level playing field to foster an enabling business environment.

US President Donald Trump has attended all the meetings, and has signed off on it, along with other leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping among others.

Stressing that there are growing risks to the global economy, leaders of the group of 20 major economies Saturday called for a free and stable trade environment and reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

"We strive to realize a free, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment, and to keep our markets open. International trade and investment are important engines of growth, productivity, innovation, job creation and development," the Osaka declaration said.

The last Buenos Aires declaration in 2018 did not have such a clear enunciation of the goal.



PM Narendra Modi with Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Osaka on Saturday. AP

"We reaffirm our support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions. We will work constructively with other WTO members, including in the lead up to the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference. We agree that action is necessary regarding the functioning of the dispute settlement system consistent with the rules as negotiated by WTO members. Furthermore, we recognize the complementary roles of bilateral and regional free trade agreements that are WTO-consistent. We will work to ensure a level playing field to foster an enabling business environment," it said.

"Growth remains low and risks remain tilted to the down-

side. Most importantly, trade and geopolitical tensions have intensified. We will continue to address these risks and stand ready to take further action," the G-20 leaders said in a declaration.

The group decided to step up "dialogue and actions to enhance confidence" and use all policy tools to achieve strong and inclusive growth, and safeguard against downward risks.

To enhance cooperation, the G-20 members called for carefully calibrated macroeconomic and structural policies "tailored to country-specific circumstances" to address excessive current account imbalances and mitigate the risks to achieving the G-20 goal of strong and inclusive growth.

Calling on the International

Monetary Fund to expedite its work on its resources and governance reform on a priority basis, the G-20 urged the IMF and World Bank Group to continue efforts to strengthen borrowers' capacity in the area of debt recording, monitoring and reporting among others under their multi-pronged approach.

The group further said that it will redouble its efforts for a consensus-based solution on tax challenges arising from digitalisation with a report by 2020.

"We call on all jurisdictions to sign and ratify the multilateral convention on mutual administrative assistance in tax matters. We reiterate our support for tax capacity building in developing countries," the declaration said.

Modi, Erdogan talk S-400 air defence deal, US sanctions

SHUBHAJIT ROY
OSAKA, JUNE 29

IN A bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan held forth on the S-400 air defence system deal and how his government is trying to deal with the US sanctions under its Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), sources said.

India and Turkey are both buyers of the air defence system from Russia, but are facing a threat of sanctions from the US for buying Russian defence equipment. India has said that it will be guided by its own national interest, and Turkey too has decided to go ahead with the S-400 deal.

Ministry of External Affairs' official spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said the discussions held by Modi and Erdogan focused on trade and investment, defence, counter-terrorism, IT, and civil aviation.

"The two leaders discussed defence manufacturing, explored trade opportunities, decided to hold the joint economic committee, and increase flights for more people-to-people exchanges," Kumar said.

The Prime Minister's Office in a tweet said, "The interactions in Osaka continue. A productive meeting with President @RT Erdogan on the sidelines of the #G20 Summit. Both leaders talked about the strong development partnership between India

India and Turkey are buyers of the air defence system from Russia, but are facing a threat of sanctions from the US for purchasing the same

and Turkey."

However, US President Donald Trump, who also met Erdogan on Saturday, was much more cautious about sanctions on Turkey owing to the S-400 deal.

When asked, Trump said, "We have a complicated situation because the (Turkey's) President was not allowed to buy the (American) Patriot missiles. So when he bought the other ones — the S-200s or 400s — when he bought them, he wanted to do this (buy the Patriot missiles), but he wasn't allowed by the Obama administration to buy them until after he made a deal to buy other missiles. So he buys the other missile (the S-400s) and then, all of a sudden, they (the US Congress) say, 'Well, you can now buy our missile.' You don't — you can't do business that way. It's not good. It's not good."

Trump said that they are looking at "different solutions". He said, "It's a problem, there's no question about it. We're looking at different solutions".

He added that Turkey is a NATO member, and "I don't think he (Erdogan) was treated fairly".



Home Minister Amit Shah at the 'Annual Conference on Capacity Building of SDRFs, Civil Defence, Home Guard and Fire Services' in New Delhi on Saturday. Amit Mehra

Shah: Need to respond effectively to growing threat of forest fires

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

HOME MINISTER Amit Shah on Saturday expressed concern over growing forest fires in the hills and asked the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Forces (SDRFs) to be prepared for the same.

Addressing the 'Annual Conference on Capacity Building of SDRFs, Civil Defence, Home Guard and Fire Services', organised by the NDRF in New Delhi, Shah said, "Frequent forest fires breaking out in hilly regions is a growing threat. It needs to be responded to effectively."

The Home Minister also laid stress on Make in India and exhorted the NDRF to coordinate with agencies such as DRDO to get the disaster relief equipment manufactured indigenously. He also urged the NDRF to try seek-

ing the assistance of PSUs and private enterprises in procuring disaster relief equipment which could be used in rescue and relief operations.

Shah asked all those working in the disaster response and mitigation sectors to make India number one in the world in responding to natural disasters. He cited the Orissa cyclone in 1999 in which more than 10,000 people had died as compared to the recent cyclone Fani that claimed 64 lives, which reflected the enhanced capabilities of disaster response mechanisms.

"But we should not rest till we make our country number one in the world in mitigating and responding to natural disasters," he said.

The Home Minister assured that the government would provide all necessary resources and equipment to realise this objective.

TO BEGIN WITH 15 DISTRICTS IN NEXT KHARIF SEASON

Pilot scheme for rice fortification on cards

LALMANI VERMA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

UNION MINISTER of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan on Saturday said the government will implement a new Centrally-sponsored pilot scheme for the fortification of rice and its distribution from the next Kharif season.

Fortification is a complementary strategy to fight malnutrition under which key vitamins and minerals are added to staple foods. The rice crop will be fortified with iron, folic acid, Vitamin A and Vitamin B-12 in rice mills before packaging for distribution.

The scheme, 'Fortification of

Rice and its Distribution under Public Distribution', was given administrative approval on February 14, Paswan said. The pilot scheme has been approved with a total budget outlay of Rs 147.61 crore for a period of three years beginning 2019-20, and would be funded by the Centre in the ratio of 90:10 with respect to the Northeast, hilly and island states and 75:25 for the remaining ones.

It will focus on 15 districts from as many states and nine of them — Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Assam — have already agreed to the scheme and identified the districts. The remaining states have



Ram Vilas Paswan

been requested to select the districts and work on the implementation by identifying agency mills for fortification of rice.

He also asserted that the government is going to implement the 'One Nation One Ration Card' scheme in the entire country by

June 30, 2020. Addressing the media on Saturday, Paswan said that work on linking all the ration cards across the country with Aadhaar cards and organising the food grain distribution mechanism in its entirety through Point of Sale (PoS) machines is in the final stage.

"Work is being done on war footing to ensure 'One Nation One Ration Card' scheme is implemented across the nation and for that, data of all ration cards will be connected to one server and any beneficiary, anywhere in the country, will be able to pick up their grain from any public distribution system of their choice after June 30, 2020," Paswan said.

STRANDED FOR 17 DAYS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

Recovery team for An-32 airlifted from crash site

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, JUNE 29

A 15-MEMBER rescue team that recovered the bodies and debris from the An-32 crash was airlifted on Saturday from the site, after being stranded there for 17 days due to inclement weather. They were rescued from an altitude of 12,000 feet.

"Today evening around 5.15 pm, the search and rescue team which was camping at the crash site since June 12, was retrieved by IAF choppers. The 15-member team comprising 8 from IAF (including 2 officers), 4 from Army (including 1 officer) and 3 civilians, was recovered using ALH and Mi-17V5 helicopters,"

IAF spokesperson Wing Commander Ratnakar Singh said. The three civilians are mountaineer Taka Tamut, who scaled Mt Everest last year, and two local hunters who assisted him.

The An-32, which took off from the Air Force Station in Assam's Jorhat on June 3 at 12.27 pm, never landed at the Mechuka Advanced Landing Ground in Shi Yomi district. The aircraft's last contact with ground staff was at 12.55 pm.

On June 11, IAF had said that the wreckage was spotted 16 km north of Lipo, northeast of Tatu at an approximate elevation of 12,000 ft by the Mi-17 helicopter. The location lies where adjacent districts of Siang and Shi Yomi border each other.



The recovery team at Along on Saturday. Express

The next day, a team of mountaineers comprising personnel from the IAF, Army and civilians were air dropped to the nearest possible location to the crash site. The recovery operation faced serious difficulties and finally on the morning of June 20, remains of all 13 personnel on board were recovered.

Eventhough the bodies were handed over to the families, the rescue team was stranded in the

mountains. IAF was facing extreme difficulties in retrieving them since the incessant rains and cloud cover would not let helicopters to enter the area. IAF had air-dropped ration and other essential materials to help them sustain.

"The effort to retrieve them was delayed due to inclement weather and rain, which improved slightly in the evening today, allowing the risky helicopter operations to be undertaken. All members are fit and in good health," Singh said.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Siang district, Rajeev Takuk told *The Sunday Express*, "After the recovery operations completed, the rescue team had been waiting each day at this high altitude for the weather to clear. With the rains continuing, helicopters just could not go in."

"There is no mobile network there — but somehow they had managed to call me. I think from a satellite phone," added Takuk.

STRENGTHENING DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN HARYANA

WHAT TO DO DURING EARTHQUAKE

- Drop**
- Cover**
- Hold**
- Escape through the shortest & safest way out of unsafe building**
- Use stairs to go out in the open area**
- Leave building immediately instead of standing in the doorway**
- Stay away from objects prone to fall or collapse**
- Stay away from buildings made of glass**
- If driving, then park vehicle on the side of road**

In case of any disaster dial

Police 100

Fire Brigade 101

WHAT NOT TO DO DURING EARTHQUAKE

- Don't leave if the building is safe**
- Don't use lift / elevator**
- Don't climb down if you are in one of the top floors**
- Don't use damaged bridges**

Sh. Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana

Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Haryana

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Bid Identification No.: 01/EE(P&C)/2019-20.

Name of the Work : Procurement of different Stationary items for various offices of UJVN Ltd located at Dehradun

Estimated Cost	: ₹18.91 Lac Only (Excluding GST)
Tender Documentation fee	: ₹1180.00 (Including GST)
Earnest money	: ₹47500.00 Only
Period of Completion	: One Year
Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	: 22.07.2019 up to 16:00 Hrs.
Last Date/Time for receipt of bid in the portal	: 22.07.2019 up to 16:00 Hrs.
Date of opening of bid on the website	: 26.07.2019 from 13:00 Hrs

Name & Address of the officer inviting the bid : EE(P&C), Ganga Bhawan, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun

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पत्रांक सं 332 / दिनांक 29.06.2019 Executive Engineer (P&C)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

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The details of the RFP documents is available in the websites : www.ocac.in & www.odisha.gov.in which may be downloaded by the interested firms.

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General Manager (Admin), OCAC, Plot No.-N/17-D, Acharya Vihar, P.O.-RRL, Bhubaneswar-751013, Ph.: 0674-2567280/2567064/2567295

Alwar lynching: Pehlu named but later dropped from chargesheet, say police

DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, JUNE 29

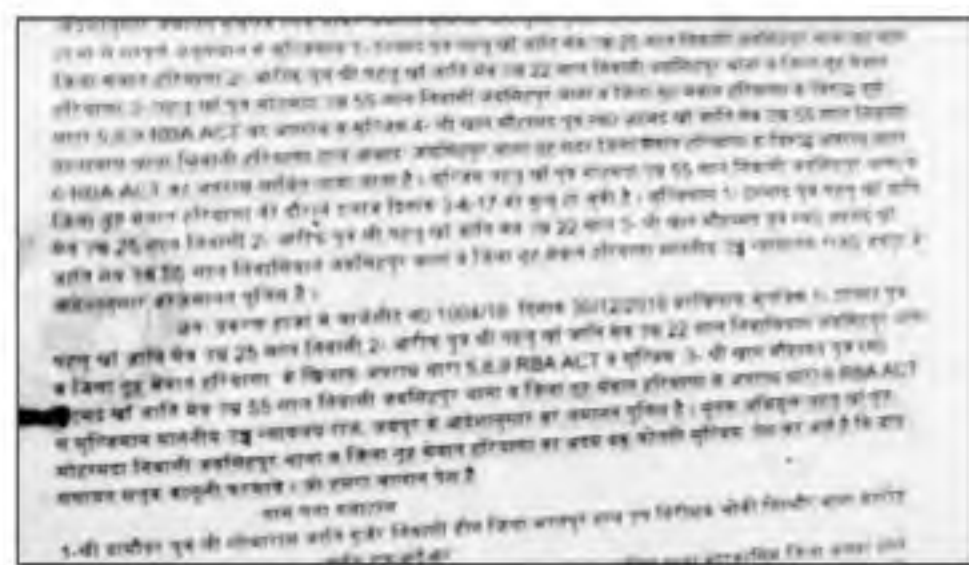
A DAY after *The Indian Express* reported that the Congress government in Rajasthan has named Pehlu Khan — the dairy farmer lynched two years ago in Alwar — in a chargesheet for cow smuggling, police on Saturday said Khan's name was later dropped from the chargesheet.

The confirmation from the police comes even as Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said Saturday the June 28 report in *The Indian Express*, which noted that Khan's name was on the chargesheet prepared on December 30, 2018, was "factually incorrect".

The chargesheet was prepared days after the new Congress government came into power in Rajasthan, and was presented in the court of the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate in Behror on May 29.

On Saturday, Inspector General of Police (Jaipur range) S Sengathir told *The Indian Express* that the cow smuggling chargesheet did name Khan, but given that "a dead man can't be tried... therefore we haven't chargesheeted Khan".

Sengathir affirmed that Khan was indeed accused of offences under the Rajasthan Bovine



(Left) Offences found to be proven against Pehlu Khan, says chargesheet; (right) A screengrab of the video of the lynching.



Animal (Prohibition of slaughter and Regulation of Temporary Migration or Export) Act, 1995 in the nine-page chargesheet.

In a statement Saturday, Alwar SP Paris Deshmukh said Khan was named in an FIR for cow smuggling along with his sons and the owner of the pick-up truck that was used for transporting the cattle on April 1, 2017 — the day the lynching took place near Behror. "Pehlu Khan's name has been exclusively dropped and chargesheet has been filed against Irshad and Arif (Khan's sons)... and Khan Mohammad (truck owner)".

Meanwhile, Gehlot, stating that Congress is "ideologically committed against any kind of lynching", said that the June 28

report in *The Indian Express* was "factually incorrect".

"Name of Late Pehlu Khan is not there in the chargesheet submitted by Rajasthan Police in December 2018. This is a separate case which was registered and investigated under previous government in 2017-18 against Mr Arif, Mr Irshad and Mr Khan Mohd (Transporter), since accused name in the chargesheet were not present at the time of the submission in December 2018, the District court accepted the Challan on 24th May 2018. However, our government will see if investigation was done with predetermined intentions," Gehlot said on Twitter.

However, on page 8 of the chargesheet, a copy of which is

with *The Indian Express*, Khan's name is clearly mentioned.

The chargesheet states, "After complete investigation in the matter, offences under sections 5,8,9 RBA Act is found to be proven against accused Irshad, Aarif and Pehlu Khan while offences under Section 6 RBA Act is found to be proven against accused Khan Mohammed."

"Therefore, in the matter, chargesheet no. 1004/18 date 30.12.2018, against accused 1. Irshad, 2. Aarif under sections 5,8,9, RBA Act and against accused 3. Khan Mohammed under section 6 RBA Act., and the accused are on bail as per the order of the honourable High Court Rajasthan."

On the same page, the

chargesheet mentions Pehlu Khan again, and states: "Mratak abhiyukt Pehlu Khan ka adam baki fotgi muljim pesh kar arz hai ki bad samayat saluk kamuni farmave. Jo hamara challan pesh hai (Deceased accused Pehlu Khan is presented as an accused and requesting that further legal proceedings be taken up)."

Pehlu Khan's family's lawyer Gopesh Saini said: "The police have found the offences against Pehlu Khan true and have mentioned him as an accused. The very fact that he is dead shows that the charges against him have been dropped as a dead man can't be tried. But that doesn't change the fact that the police have found Khan guilty of cow smuggling."

After poor poll show, more resignations: 35 UP Cong office bearers quit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JUNE 29

AT LEAST 35 Congress leaders, who are also office-bearers of the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee (UPCC), Saturday resigned from their posts in a show of support for party national president Rahul Gandhi and claiming that they were all responsible for the party's debacle in the recent Lok Sabha polls.

The party's media coordinator, Rajiv Bakshi, who is among those offered resignation, Bakshi said, "We have taken the decision collectively and we feel that it is not just Mr Rahul Gandhi who should be held responsible for the Congress's performance in the Lok Sabha polls. We should all share the blame and we want Mr Gandhi to continue in his post and restructure the party as he feels is required."

Among those who offered their resignations from party posts include Congress Legislative Party deputy leader Aradhna Mishra and senior vice president Ranjeet Singh Judev.

Vice president RP Tripathi has also resigned, taking moral responsibility for the party's defeat, an official statement said. Others who quit party posts include media coordinator Piyush Mishra, Onkar Nath Singh, Amarnath Agarwal and Mukesh Singh Chauhan, Priyanka Gupta and Ashok Singh.

More resignations were likely in the party's state unit, a senior party leader said. --WITHPTIINPUTS

With UP set for bypolls to 12 seats, BJP assigns senior ministers to prepare ground

LALMANI VERMA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

THE RULING BJP has deputed 13 senior ministers of the state cabinet and 24 other leaders of the party organisation as in-charge of 12 Assembly constituencies in Uttar Pradesh, where the Yogi Adityanath government is set to face a major test of its performance in upcoming bypolls.

The leaders have been asked to hold meetings up to the booth level in each of the 12 constituencies, address the grievances of the ground workers and assess anti-incumbency.

The bypolls will be held in Gangoh, Iglas, Tundla, Govind Nagar, Manikpur, Hamirpur, Lucknow Cantonment, Zaidpur, Balha (all won by the BJP in 2017), Pratapgarh Sadar (Aparna Dal-Soneylal), Rampur (SP) and Jalalpur (BSP).

While 11 of these seats will go to bypolls because of the recent election of sitting MLAs to the Lok Sabha, there was a vacancy in Hamirpur after BJP MLA Ashok Singh Chandel was sentenced to life imprisonment in a 22-year-old murder case.

"As these bypolls are going to be held in the middle of the five-year term of BJP government in the state and the results would be seen as a re-act to the performance of Adityanath's rule, the party has chosen both senior ministers and leaders from party organisation for a balanced preparation. At least one minister, on organisation office-bearer and one vistarak from the party has

EXPLAINED Disappointing record behind BJP's caution

CITING THE party's disappointing performance earlier in bypolls held in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP is cautiously preparing for the elections in 12 Assembly segments where the results will indicate the public response to the Yogi Adityanath government's tenure. The BJP had lost three Lok Sabha seats of Kairana, Gorakhpur and Phulpur besides the Nootpur Assembly segment in bypolls held last year. In 2016, the party won only one of five Assembly seats that went to bypolls. BJP lost two Assembly bypolls in 2015. In the bypolls held on 12 Assembly seats after election of sitting MLAs to the Lok Sabha in 2014, BJP had lost eight seats to the SP.

been engaged in each Assembly constituency," a BJP leader said.

"The ground cadre has become relaxed after the Lok Sabha polls victory and we have to re-activate them. We will hold a meeting with booth committees of mandal, booth and sector units, will listen to grievances of local workers, and address them. Feedback will be taken about anti-incumbency — if there is any — to resolve it timely with the help of government," said a party leader in-charge of a constituency. He said necessary changes in the local organisation will also be made considering the social equations.

Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya has been deputed in Govind Nagar where sitting MLA and former UP minister Satyadev Pachauri was elected as the Kanpur MP. Deputy CM Dinesh Sharma

has been given charge of SP stronghold Rampur where senior SP leader Azam Khan, who was elected as MP in 2017, recently got elected as MP.

In Balha (Scheduled Caste) segment of Bahraich district, BJP has deputed two ministers — Ramapati Shastri (a Dalit) and Upendra Tiwari (a Brahmin) — considering local caste equations. These ministers and other leaders were informed of their tasks in a recent party meeting held in the presence of Adityanath and BJP's UP chief and Union minister Mahendra Nath Pandey.

Meanwhile, the BSP and SP earlier announced to contest these bypolls separately. According to sources, the two parties have to rework on booth level committees and draw a separate strategy for these areas where they recently contested in an alliance.

Very much here, recuperating after surgery: Tejashwi on his absence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA, JUNE 29

RJD LEADER Tejashwi Yadav on Saturday accused the opposition and a section of media of "cooking up spicy stories" about his prolonged absence, claiming that he was convalescing after undergoing a "long delayed surgery" for a ligament injury.

In a statement, the RJD heir apparent expressed his "wish to assure the people of Bihar as well as our spirited cadre, we are going to fight with renewed commitment on everyday life issues of poor".

The statement was shared by his party and on his Facebook and Twitter accounts. It, however, did not reveal his location.

Yadav is the leader of the opposition in the Bihar Assembly and his absence on the inaugural day of the Monsoon Session on Friday had also raised eyebrows.

He said that since his birth, the RJD had been at the centre of poor people's struggle and the position was not lost "only because of an electoral defeat", referring to the recent Lok Sabha elections in which the party failed to win a single seat.

He also claimed that he had been constantly following up on the "untimely loss" of lives of children due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES).

Striking a philosophical note, Yadav, who is often accused of lacking in maturity, said, "We are accountable to people who (want) socialist-secular... alternative... and wish to assure that we are very much here and the fight is on."

TMC leader shot dead in Hooghly, party blames BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JUNE 29

A 40-YEAR-OLD TMC leader was shot dead at Bandel station in West Bengal's Hooghly district on Saturday morning. The deceased has been identified as Dilip Ram, husband of Bandel Panchayat Pradhan Neetu Ram. No arrest has been made yet.

TMC has called a 12-hour shutdown in Chinsurah on Sunday in protest against the murder.

The incident took place near platform No. 5 when Ram, a railway employee, was moving towards crossing a railway fence.

"He was shot at his head from behind, when he was going to work today," said a senior police official.

Sources said a gun shot was heard and people rushed towards him. However, taking advantage of the crowd, the attackers managed to flee. He was found lying on the tracks. Ram was rushed to Imbambazar hospital in a critical condition. From there he was referred to a hospital in Kolkata. On his way to Kolkata, Ram succumbed to his injury near Serampore, added sources.

"Ram was shot at point-blank range. A case will be registered by GRP and police will assist them. Prima facie it appears to be a planned murder. Investigation is on," said Police Commissioner Akhilesh Chaturvedi.

The deceased's wife, Neetu, claimed that he had been killed by anti-social elements of the area. However, TMC claimed that he had been murdered by the BJP.

TMC MLA Asit Majumdar said, "Ram has been murdered by BJP goons. He was my close associate, which didn't go down well with the local BJP leader. They were insecure as he had a huge mass support. He was also threatened a few days ago. The BJP is trying to create a Bhatparali situation here."

Bhatpara, a TMC citadel for long and home to migrant jute



TMC workers block a road with the body of party leader Dilip Ram in Hooghly district. PTI

factory labourers, has been witnessing frequent post-poll violence between BJP and TMC. The fight has intensified ever since Arjun Singh crossed over from TMC to BJP and won the Barrackpore Lok Sabha seat, under which Bhatpara falls.

Minister Tapan Dasgupta, who is also a local resident of Hooghly, accused the BJP of the murder.

"Senior party leaders have been informed about the incident. Ram was getting threat calls. The local MLA has informed the police about it," said Dasgupta.

However, BJP has denied all allegations. Hooghly BJP MP Locket Chatterjee and the party's state president Dilip Ghosh denied the charges saying "cut-money" and faction fight in TMC were behind the killing.

A district-level BJP leader said, "The BJP has no connection with the murder. Let police investigate the matter. As far as we know he had a lot of personal rivalry, for which he has been murdered. It seems he was the target of anti-social people in the area."

A team of police officials, under Additional Deputy Commissioner of Chandernagore Police Commissioner Swati Bhangalia, and other GRP officials visited the spot.

--WITHPTIINPUTS

'TMC vs BJP' again: 50 hurt as 2 groups clash

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JUNE 29

NEARLY 50 people were injured in a clash between two groups, allegedly supporters of BJP and TMC, in Keshpur in West Bengal's West Medinipur on Saturday.

Police said a bus was going towards Anandapur in West Medinipur to the venue of a public rally by senior BJP leader Mukul Roy, Dilip Ghosh and others. When the bus reached Keshpur area, a group allegedly vandalised a portion of the bus, leading to a clash. A police team soon reached the spot. The injured were taken to Keshpur Rural Hospital and are under treatment, sources said.

The police claimed to have arrested more than ten people from both sides in connection with the clash. BJP supporters later staged a protest at Keshpur police station.

Meanwhile, tension prevailed in Mangalkot area of Purba East since late evening Friday, after supporters of BJP and TMC clashed in the area and stones were pelted, claimed police. Police force has been deployed in the area.

AULI WEDDINGS

Guptas fined Rs 2.5 lakh for littering, open defecation

SOMYA LAKHANI
AULI (UTTARAKHAND), JUNE 29

AFTER THE five-day wedding extravaganza of the controversial Gupta family from June 17-23 in Uttarakhand's Auli, the Joshimath municipality has fined them Rs 2.5 lakh. A senior Chamoli district official told *The Indian Express*, "On June 22, we issued a challan of Rs 1 lakh to the Gupta family for littering in Auli; and Rs 1.5 lakh for open defecation."

A Joshimath municipality official said that "the hotel where the wedding took place was also fined Rs 25,000".

The official said that the Gupta family has responded to the Rs 2.5 lakh challan, which will be a part of the report to be submitted in the Uttarakhand High Court in July, where a petition was filed against the two weddings being held in Auli. The HC had slammed the Uttarakhand government for allowing the events to take place at the ecologically fragile hill.

From June 17-23, Suryakant

and Shashank, who are members of the controversial Gupta family of South Africa — known for their dubious links to that country's former president, Jacob Zuma, and who are facing corruption charges — got married in Auli.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat and yoga guru Ramdev attended the wedding, while actors Katrina Kaif and Sidharth Malhotra performed at the event, which is estimated to have cost Rs 200 crore.

The HC ordered the Guptas to deposit Rs 3 crore to the District Magistrate of Chamoli for restoration after the event. On June 23, The Indian Express reported that the daily dry and wet waste collected from across Joshimath had gone up to 40 quintal instead of the standard 20 quintal. Chamoli DM Swati Bhadoriya formed a 13 member team comprising members of departments such as the Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board, the PWD, the Joshimath municipality, among others.

Make TMC leaders return 'cut money' with interest: BJP

Kolkata: BJP Bengal state president Dilip Ghosh on Saturday urged people to rush to houses of TMC leaders and panchayat members, make them write undertakings to force them return 'cut money' with interest. He also urged people to ask for 'cut money' from police.

"Those people who have taken cut money from people here will not be spared. Go to the homes of those panchayat leaders, zilla parishad members and councillors, who have taken cut money. Make them write an undertaking and make them return the cut money. Not only the original amount but interest too..." Ghosh said in West Medinipur.

TMC, on its part, took out rally in Belegghata on Saturday, as part of its own mass outreach programme. "BJP and the media are cooking it up. Not even 0.1 per cent of our leaders, panchayat members or councillors are corrupt. It is only a handful of leaders among thousands, against whom government is taking steps," said Kolkata mayor Firdah Hakim. ENS

BIHAR

Behind AES toll: Poor nutrition, underutilised rehabilitation centres

SANTOSH SINGH
MUZAFFARPUR, PATNA, JUNE 29

RAJA BABU (3), lost his life to acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) a fortnight ago. His father, Birendra Sahni from Sivuri Bihabar village in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district, said he could barely afford to provide his four children with milk on the Rs 300 he earned per day, and said that rice, lentil pulse and potato were all he could provide to his family.

Sahni said he had not heard of the nutrition rehabilitation centre at Muzaffarpur town for severely malnourished children below five years.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday expressed dismay and sorrow over the deaths of children due to AES — including around 150 children in Bihar alone — calling it a "matter for shame" for governments and

society. Experts have blamed heat, humidity and malnutrition for AES. The fourth National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4), released in 2015-16 — the latest credible findings of health indices — had pointed to the malnutrition factors being prevalent in the country.

Some of the key findings of the NFHS-4 were:

■ **NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF CHILDREN** (percentage below three standard deviations of weight for age, weight for height and weight for age): The survey showed instances of stunting — the main fallout of malnutrition — in 8.2 per cent children below six months, 9.9 per cent children between six and eight months, 14.9 per cent children between nine and 11 months, 21.1 per cent children between 12 and 17 months, 29 per cent children between 18 and 23 months, 28.2 per cent children between 24

and 35 months, 25.9 per cent children between 36 and 47 months and 24.7 per cent children between 48 and 59 months.

■ **CHILDREN BETWEEN 0-71 MONTHS WHO RECEIVED ANY BENEFIT UNDER (ICDS):** The survey, done once every 10 years, showed that aanganwadi workers were able to provide the scheme benefits (distribution of three and half kg rice, 1.5 kg pulse and 500 gm soybean to parents of children below three years and providing meals at aanganwadi centres to children between three and six years, immunisation) to 53.2 per cent children below 12 months, 57.8 per cent children between 12 and 23 months, 51 per cent children between 24 and 35 months, 47 per cent children between 36 and 47 months and 43.4 per cent children between 48 and 59 months and 39.6 per cent children between 60 and 71 months.



AES patients at Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital, Muzaffarpur on June 23. Ritesh Shukla

■ **PREVALENCE OF ANAEMIA IN CHILDREN BELOW FIVE YEARS:** The NFHS-4 survey showed high prevalence of moderate anaemia (7-9.9 gm/dl) among children. While children between six and 11 months reported 38.9 per cent moderate

cases of anaemia in children between six and 11 months, 43.7 per cent in children between 12 and 23 months, 33.5 per cent between 24 and 35 months, 26.5 per cent between 36 and 47 months and 20.3 per cent between 48 and 59 months.

■ **VACCINATION:** The survey showed that 61.7 per cent children between 12 and 23 months were vaccinated. Muzaffarpur district registered 55 per cent vaccination in this age group.

■ **POOR DIARRHOEA MANAGEMENT:** The survey showed a high percentage of children not receiving any treatment for diarrhoea. The survey showed 42.2 per cent children below six months had not received any treatment for diarrhoea. The survey, however, showed that 70.7 per cent people between 15-19 years age group had knowledge of ORS. About 70 per cent people of 20 and 49 years also had knowledge of ORS packets.

An interaction with the families of some AES-affected children in Bihar reveals that many were not receiving a supplementary diet (such as milk) from aanganwadi centres under the ICDS, and none of the families confirmed having sent their children

to a nutrition rehabilitation centre.

Raj Kishor Ram, a resident of Jagarnathpur Dok village in Bihar's Saraiya, lost his four-year-old son Subodh a fortnight ago. "Khichri is all that my child got at the aanganwadi centre. We were not told about any nutrition centre," said Ram.

It is job of aanganwadi sevikas and ASHA workers to recommend severely malnourished children to a nutrition rehabilitation centre, where a child below is kept for a month.

A visit to the Muzaffarpur nutrition rehabilitation centre revealed a 20-bed centre in a two-storey building. The centre has 20 beds, of which only seven were occupied at the time of the visit. Since June 1, 40 children have been admitted to the centre, but though a child has to be kept there for a month, most children were discharged within 15 days.

At the centre, two auxiliary nurse midwives (ANMS) work in

two shifts. Since a dietician left the centre this January, no dietician has been posted. Rice, lentil pulse and potato vegetables (dry and with gravy) are served during the day.

Sujata Devi brought her six-month-old son to the centre a few days ago. "Every child gets 75 ml milk in the morning. Parents get two meals for free. It is surely better than what we eat, but a child should be given more milk," she said.

As per norms, a nutrition rehabilitation centre has to provide treatment and management of patients besides "nutritious food". ANM Vimla Kumari said: "Our job is also to create nutrition awareness and tell parents how to prepare nutritious diet from available food and vegetables."

Meanwhile, Muzaffarpur civil surgeon SP Singh said: "We are too busy with AES awareness campaign to talk about other things."

FROM PAGE ONE Drop in infiltrations

already pronounced "zero infiltration" this year, security forces, though in broad agreement with Malik, are slightly more circumspect. "It is too premature to say that cross-border infiltration has ceased completely but definitely there has been a significant drop this year," a senior police officer told The Sunday Express.

"By this time last year, around 15 militants had been killed while trying to infiltrate into Kashmir. But as of now, there has been no report of an encounter between militants and security forces on the border," he said.

Police sources say that this year, only one encounter took place in the border area. On June 22, a Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) militant was killed in a gunfight at Boniyar in Uri.

"Our information says the killed militant was already active in the Valley," said a police officer. "He was either trying to exfiltrate back to Pakistan or was there to receive a new militant group. But he was eliminated before he could do anything."

The figures are in contrast with the infiltration figures for the corresponding period last year. Speaking in Parliament, then Minister of State for Home Hansraj Ahir had said that militants made 133 infiltration attempts in the first six months of 2018. From January to June last year, 14 militants and one security force personnel had been killed on the border during encounters between the infiltrating militants and security forces.

Security officials say there could be a number of reasons for the decline: the post-Pulwama, post-Balakot international pressure on Pakistan; the scrutiny of the Financial Action Task Force; Pakistan's need to project Prime Minister Imran Khan's offer of talks with India as genuine; or, a temporary pause.

"This winter there was heavy snowfall in the Valley and traditional infiltration routes were closed, thus delaying the infiltration. But by now, the snow in many areas has already started to melt and there is still no significant movement of infiltrators," said a senior officer. "It seems that the international pressure on Pakistan and the threat of FATF blacklisting is holding Pakistan back".

Lt General Hooda (ret'd), who was Northern Army GOC-in-C from 2014-2016, said every year, the infiltration usually begins mid-May, when much of the snow has melted, in the window before the Army starts repairing portions of the LoC fence that collapse every year under snowfall.

"In the Army, we would call this (the absence of infiltration)

an 'early indicator'," Lt Gen Hooda said, "pointing to some checks by the Pakistan Army on these fellows (militants). They have their own launch pads, but they do require permission from the Pakistan Army before they cross the border".

While the decline in infiltration and cross-border terrorism may be good news tactically, security agencies have also warned against "triumphalism", and are even advocating some swift confidence-building measures at this time, such as reaching out to members of Kashmir's civil society, engaging with the youth, improving governance, strengthening pro-India stakeholders, even reaching out to Pakistan to find out if its present "unsolicited cooperation" — including intelligence tip-off of an imminent terror attack in the Valley earlier this month - is genuine outreach or just tactical.

The Sunday Express has learnt that security officials have redflagged the dangers of "destroying assets" in Kashmir, and highlighted the importance of taking the aggressive campaign launched by Central agencies against corruption in the Valley to Jammu as well.

The situation, sources said, continues to be volatile with home-grown radicalism still high, even though, besides the drop in infiltration, militant attacks in the Valley have also reduced after the Pulwama attack that brought India and Pakistan to the brink of conflict. Officials figures reveal that while 71 security forces personnel were killed so far this year, only 27 were killed after the Pulwama attack.

Most of the security force personnel were killed during anti-militancy operations. "Though there have been grenade attacks here and there, after the Pulwama attack, militants carried out only two major attacks - a suicide attack in Anantnag and an IED blast at Pulwama," said a police officer. "Only eight security force personnel have been killed in militant attacks since Pulwama and the rest in anti-militancy operations."

The figures reveal that 120 militants and three of their associates were killed in the first six months of this year. Ninety-four of them were killed after forces intensified anti-militancy operations following the Pulwama attack in which 40 paramilitary personnel were killed.

There have also been fewer hartal days in the Valley after February. Haji Yasin, President of the Kashmir Economic Alliance, said there were only six hartal days after the Pulwama-Balakot episodes in February this year.

Auto-driver to IIM case study

head Mukul Verma. Says Bais, "Though I had my reservations about granting him the loan in 2004, I had a gut feeling that he was perhaps an honest man. He proved me right. In 2016, I accepted his offer to join him."

Khan's moment of glory came in 2018, when he won the top prize in a contest for young transport entrepreneurs, a programme organised jointly by IIM-Ahmedabad and Mahindra Truck & Bus. Unlike 18 other contestants, two of them from the US, who were equipped with laptops and PowerPoint presentations, Khan simply stood up and presented his case, in Hindi.

"When the organisers of the contest asked me to take part, I wasn't sure. I didn't even know what IIM was. So I went there reluctantly, without knowing what to say," says Khan. But when he was declared winner and he received the award, tears rolled down his cheeks, Khan says.

For now, Khan is focussed on expanding his business. Ashmi Road Transport Private Limited will soon shift to a Rs 7-crore corporate office on three acres close to Nagpur city. "I intend to expand my business in a couple of years and generate more jobs, which is what our country needs the most," says Khan.

Under PMJAY most claims for dialysis

government data, every year, about 2.2 lakh new patients with end stage renal disease get added in India, resulting in additional demand for 3.4 crore dialysis every year.

Cataract surgeries, which in the initial days of PMJAY had emerged as the most claimed procedure, have been pushed to second position with 1,99,718 claims. The third most claimed procedure are deliveries - 1,72,051, with 89,749 of the claims having been made for Caesarean deliveries and 82,302 for other kinds (normal/breach/forcep/vacuum). Both deliveries and cataract surgeries are also available free of cost under the Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK) and the National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCBVI) respectively.

Under PMJAY, Rs 2,000 is paid per hemodialysis sitting to any empanelled government or private hospital. For deliveries, the

amount paid is Rs 9,000 and for cataract surgery, depending on the type of surgery, Rs 6,500-10,500. Under the national programmes, each of these is done free of cost at designated government facilities. Caesarean deliveries, in most states, have been placed either on the list of procedures for which either a pre-authorisation is required for reimbursement at a private hospital or can only be done under PMJAY at a government facility.

PMJAY is the tertiary care arm of Ayushman Bharat under which eligible families are provided an annual health cover of Rs 5 lakh. So far, Rs 175.89 crore has been sanctioned for dialysis under PMJAY, Rs 148.02 crore has been sanctioned for cataract surgeries and Rs 1,837.25 crore for deliveries. While NHA CEO Dr Indu Bhushan refused to comment on whether there is a need to relook packages, sources said the authority was looking at weeding out procedures that are

15 KILLED IN PUNE WALL COLLAPSE

'Wanted to shout, couldn't find voice'

ATIKH RASHID
PUNE, JUNE 29

BIMAL SHARMA had come to Pune from Bihar's Katihar district about 15 years ago in search of livelihood. A few years later, he had brought several others from his village, including his younger brother, to work in the city as construction labourers. On Sunday, he will travel with the bodies of over a dozen of them back home.

On Friday night, Sharma and 17 others had retired to their tin shelters adjacent to Alcon Stylus housing society's compound wall. They were asleep when the 150-foot wall collapsed over them.

"I thought the entire building had come down. I couldn't see anything, but could hear only muffled voices... some were crying, a few others were shouting for help. I wanted to shout out too, but couldn't find my voice," Sharma, who works as a carpenter at the construction site, said.

Sharma said his torso and limbs were all under debris, but luckily there were no injuries on his head. A tree trunk, he said, had blocked the sliding stones and soil from falling on his head. "I kept lying there for around 10-15 minutes before some labourers from the other side of the compound and a few residents of the adjacent housing societies reached the spot and started looking for survivors. I somehow managed to shout for help and was finally rescued," he said.

Ravi Goyal, a resident of Euphoria society adjacent to Alcon Stylus, was about to go to sleep when the sound of a loud crash outside made him rush to wards the balcony. "In the dark, I could see that the compound wall of adjacent Alcon Stylus housing society had collapsed on the tin shanties occupied by some construction labourers. The shanties looked completely smothered," said Goyal, an entrepreneur. He rushed to the accident site immediately with his roommate



Bimal Sharma, a survivor. Arul Horizon

to rescue people.

"We saw that cars and a school van, which were parked near the compound wall, had slid down in the crevasse. We tied one of the cars with ropes so that it did not slid off and crash on the shanties below," Goyal, added.

Vaibhav Singh, another resident of Euphoria who had also rushed out to help, said the muffled cries of help had filled up the air. "It was horrifying... We found a person stuck underneath a tree. He was almost unscathed and we managed to pull him out immediately," Singh said.

A fire brigade team, which had reached the accident site in some time, extricated the survivors stuck under the debris one by one. Along with an NDRF team, the firefighters managed to rescue all the men and pull out the bodies of all the 15 men killed in the accident by 11 am on Saturday.

Prakash Gore, fire officer, Kondhwa said: "Looking at the magnitude of the incident, our team, which had initially reached the spot, asked for additional help from the fire office. As the road is very narrow, there was some problem in reaching the site. Even before the NDRF team could reach, we had extricated half-a-dozen bodies from the debris."



Rescue personnel at the site of the wall collapse in Pune on Saturday. Arul Horizon

Activists point to negligence in safety of labourers, police deny

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, JUNE 29

AT LEAST one labourer dies every day at a construction site in Pune, claim labour activists, accusing government authorities and builders of neglecting safety of the workers.

"We try to maintain a record of all accidents and deaths at construction sites across Pune district. On an average, at least one death takes place every day at various construction sites in the city. However, we often do not have full information. The police and labour commissioner's office refuse to share information," said Jayant Shinde, who heads the Bandhkaam Kamgar Sena, which has been campaigning for improvements in the working conditions of construction workers.

Shinde said they had records of 110 deaths of construction workers in 2018.

"We have gathered this information from our own efforts while monitoring accidents at construction sites. But we know

EXPLAINED Talk of tough action, but builders let off

THERE HAS been a pattern in the responses of Pune Municipal Corporation to such tragedies. A look at the recent cases, including the 2016 Pride Purple incident in Balewadi, shows that although the PMC talks of tough action against erring builders at the time of the incident, and even stops works at the site, everything returns to normal after a few months. The builders are cleared in the inquiries, apparently because of the reasoning that people who have already paid money to buy homes should not be allowed to suffer because of the failure of the builders to provide safety to the workers.

the actual numbers could be higher because we are unable to monitor all construction sites. Shockingly, when we sought information from the office of the Labour Commissioner through an RTI application, we were given information of only 40 deaths. Information about workers' deaths is being concealed," Shinde said.

Police chiefs of both Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad, R K Padmanabhan, said "Whenever such cases are brought to us, action is promptly taken. We do not protect anyone."

builders or contractors.

"Enforcement of building regulations and labour laws are with specialised agencies. Whenever a willful lapse takes place, causing grievous injury or death, it attracts provisions of IPC. Swift and firm action is always taken." Pune police commissioner K Venkatesham said.

His counterpart in Pimpri Chinchwad, R K Padmanabhan, said "Whenever such cases are brought to us, action is promptly taken. We do not protect anyone."

Residents say they warned builder in Feb

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, JUNE 29

HOURS AFTER 15 labourers were crushed under a 150-foot compound wall in Kondhwa Budruk, residents of Alcon Stylus housing society said they were apprehensive about it for months and had written to the builder - Alcon Landmarks - about it months ago.

According to residents, ever since work on the adjacent site had commenced three months ago, they feared that the wall may collapse. They claimed that they had also written to the builder in February this year pointing out that deep excavation work on the adjacent site had exposed the retention wall dangerously.

Ayyaz Mahaphale, a resident, said, "The builder has not yet handed over the charge officially and quite a few issues are yet to be addressed. In February, we had held a meeting with all the flat owners and one of the prominent concerns that had emerged was the danger posed by the digging in the neighbouring plot. The retaining wall, constructed for our building, was dangerously exposed due to digging right next to it." Alcon Landmarks is owned by Jagdishprasad Agarwal.

Residents also met Pune Mayor Mukta Tilak and Municipal Commissioner Saurabh Rao and demanded a structural audit of the building.

Builder Pankaj Vohra, one of the partners of Kanchan Group that was developing the site on which the workers died, has blamed Alcon Stylus for the tragedy. In a statement issued by his lawyer, Vohra said that he started work on the site after meeting all legal requirements.

"We didn't imagine that it could be a kaccha wall. We had not undertaken any digging work near the retaining wall," he said.

Tribal youth first in Gujarat's Dang district to get admission in IIT Delhi

KAMAAL SAIYED
SURAT, JUNE 29

SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD Aviraj Chaudhary, one of 11 children of poor, illiterate tribal farmers, has become the first person from Dang district to have secured an admission in IIT Delhi. Chaudhary will soon be joining the Textile Technology Engineering course at the premier technological institute.

Aviraj, the youngest of 11 children of Sakharam Chaudhary and Sevantiben Chaudhary, has five brothers and five sisters. They live in a *kutchha* house where his mother still uses firewood to prepare meals. Chaudhary's achievement, however, brought him and his family to the notice of the district administration. District Education Officer (DEO) Magan Bhusara and District Collector N K Damor felicitated him on Friday for becoming the first student from



Aviraj Chaudhary with his family at Dang on Saturday. Express

Dang district to qualify for the JEE Advanced and to get admission in IIT Delhi.

"My parents do not know the importance of IIT. They only know that I am going to Delhi for further studies," Aviraj told The Sunday Express. "My family members are happy and they wish me the best of luck for further studies in Delhi."

While one of Aviraj's broth-

ers, Bharkiya Chaudhary, is a graduate of Arts and works in the State Reserve Police and is posted in Valsad district, another brother Ramubhai Chaudhary, who also did his graduation in Arts, is employed in a private firm. The other brothers help parents in the agricultural fields to earn their living.

Aviraj completed his primary education at the village school,

after which he enrolled in Santokba Dholakiya Vidhya Mandir Higher Secondary School and hostel in Malegaon, where he studied from Class 9 to 12. The ashram school, run by diamond merchants and other Patidar community businessmen in Surat, enrolled him in a private coaching centre in Surat at Nana Varachha, which he attended on weekends and during vacations, staying in the Patel Samaj Bhavan at Mini Bazaar in Varachha. All his expenses, including the school and coaching fees as well as lodging were borne by the school.

DEO Mangan Bhusara said, "Till now not a single student from Dang district has reached any premier engineering institute such as IIT. He is the first. He also stood first in 10th board and 12th board in entire Dang district. He has become a role model for tribal students in the entire Dang district by securing admission in IIT Delhi."

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
VADODARA, JUNE 29

PUDDLES AND leaking roofs Saturday welcomed the visitors at the Statue of Unity, which is experiencing its first monsoon after its inauguration in October last year.

The roof of its exhibition hall was leaking, while tourists waded through the puddles at the viewing gallery of the statue, which is at a height of 153 m, on Saturday morning as heavy rainfall continued to lash several parts of Gujarat. Rainwater seeped in the viewing gallery through the open iron mesh installed on the periphery. Videos of water dripping from the ceiling of the gallery also went viral in no time on Saturday morning as rain intensified overnight.

Officials, however, stated that the accumulation of water on the floor of the viewing gallery could not be termed as leakage.

"Water accumulated in the gallery as it is open. The entire purpose of keeping the viewing gallery open is to allow the people to enjoy the scenic beauty of



Buckets kept at the exhibition hall after roof started leaking. Bhupendra Rana

the place. There is a glass enclosure at the back and there is no water there. However the front of the gallery at the chest (level of the statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel) is open as per the design and it is natural that the rainwater will come inside the standing area. There is no leakage in this part as the water dripping from the ceiling is also just a trail of the same rainwater," I K Patel, Chief Executive Officer of the Statue of Unity, told The Sunday Express.

Patel, however, agreed that water leaked through the ceiling of the exhibition hall, on Saturday,

KERALA LAND DEAL ALLEGATIONS

Ernakulam priests to boycott functions of Cardinal Alencherry

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
JUNE 29

A SECTION of priests in the Ernakulam archdiocese have decided to boycott the functions and pastoral letters of Cardinal George Alencherry, who has been reinstated as their archbishop by the Vatican.

Alencherry had been removed as the head of the archdiocese a year ago after he came under the shadow of dubious land dealings, which caused a loss of Rs 90 crore for the Church. However on Thursday, the Vatican reinstated him as archbishop and removed auxiliary bishops Sebastian Adayanthrath and Jose Puthenveetil. The Vatican has also asked the Synod of the Syro-Malabar Church to rehabilitate the auxiliary bishops during its the next meeting, slated for August.

After the Vatican's decision, priests gathered and passed a resolution against the re-entry of Alencherry as the administrative head of the archdiocese and suspension of two auxiliary bishops. Catholic priests en bloc raising their voice against a decision by the Vatican is unheard of.

On Saturday, a senior priest of the archdiocese said, "We priests have decided not to cooperate with him. We would not read out in churches his pastoral letter meant for the Syro-Malabar Church Day, which falls on July 3. Besides, we would not invite Alencherry for any functions in parishes nor would attend his events."

Archdiocese Priests' Council secretary Fr Kuriakose Mundadan said, "Our major concern is that auxiliary bishops have been suspended without citing any reason. What crime they had committed to get suspended in this manner? Even a

killer gets better deal."

However, there are sections of the church that back Alencherry.

Syro-Malabar Church media commission chairman Bishop Joseph Pamplany said, "There had been an issue at Ernakulam archdiocese. The Vatican has studied it and taken a decision. When the Pope takes a decision in the Catholic Church, his word is final and everyone is bound to obey it."

Pamplany, who belongs to the North Kerala lobby of Catholic Bishops, said the suspension of the auxiliary bishops is an extraordinary situation in the Church. "The Vatican thought their removal was necessary for the smooth running of Ernakulam archdiocese. But don't construe it as a punishment. We knew only the decisions from the Vatican, but don't know the situations that led the removal of the auxiliary bishops."

RASHTRASANT TUKADOJI MAHARAJ NAGPUR UNIVERSITY, NAGPUR

APPOINTMENT OF FULL-TIME TEACHERS ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS IN THE UNIVERSITY

No. RTMNU/GA/853 Date: 28 June, 2019

Applications in the prescribed form are invited from eligible candidates for appointment on full-time teaching posts of ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, on contractual basis, in various Post Graduate Teaching Departments, Conducted Colleges / Institute and Centres of Specialized Studies of the University, in the Academic session 2019-2020 for the period from the date of joining to 30th April, 2020, on consolidated salary of Rs. 24,000/- per month.

Prescribed Application Form and detail information regarding particulars of the posts advertised alongwith the requisite qualifications and specialization, if any, is available on the University's website : www.nagpuruniversity.org

Complete application, in NINE COPIES, alongwith ONE SET of self-attested copies of Certificates / Testimonials / Registration FEE of Rs. 500/-, for Open Category, and Rs. 300/- for SC/ST/AJ(A)/NT(B/C/D) Categories, by way of Demand Draft drawn in favour of "Finance & Accounts Officer", Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, Nagpur, shall be submitted in the University on or before 15 July, 2019.

(Dr. V. S. DESHPANDE) Registrar (Officiating)

We ask politicians if they have ever felt the need to have ECA on eggs or milk... Recently, Bengal put potatoes under ECA... that did a lot of harm to the state. Today's India and its commerce are different"



WHY RAMESH CHAND

A member of the NITI Aayog, Ramesh Chand is seen as key to the Narendra Modi government driving agriculture sector reforms, especially in its second innings. A farm economist of repute, he has been an advocate of dismantling provisions under the Essential Commodities Act and APMC laws that enable restrictions on

stockholding, domestic movement and exports, besides preventing large retailers from buying directly from farmers. These views may find resonance in a context where food inflation and shortages have ceased to be a major worry, with the focus now shifting to addressing agrarian distress and doubling farmers' incomes



"Subsidies in water and power are serious issues... We calculated how many irrigations a farmer would apply if charged for power. Farmers will use 40% less irrigation on paddy. Also in most cases, yield will not fall

RAMESH CHAND: Agriculture has been in focus for both positive and negative reasons. The sector provides livelihood to close to half of India's population and it is very important for inclusive growth, which also matters for this government's agenda of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas. Sometime back, I did a study on how much decline in poverty was witnessed when there was 1% growth in agriculture and 1% growth in non-agriculture. I found that agriculture growth had much more significant impact than non-agriculture growth. We should recognise some of the positive changes that have taken place in the agricultural sector. In the 1970s, we were producing 1 kg of food per person per day — and food here includes not just foodgrains, but also fruits, vegetables, milk etc. At that time, our population was about 56 crore. Now, that has gone up to more than 130 crore, but our per capita food production today is roughly 1.74 kg food per day. This has its own implications, as we are no longer living in scarcity.

HARISH DAMODARAN: Do you think the Narendra Modi government in its first innings was excessively pro-consumer and not pro-producer?

I doubt the government was pro-consumer at the cost of producers. We draw this conclusion only because producer prices have risen at a very low rate after 2014-15, when this government came to power. But agricultural prices historically move in cycles. During 2006 to 2012, there was a sharp increase in global agricultural prices, which fell just around when this government came. In 2012, they were at their peak. But still if one looks at the terms of trade for agriculture — the prices that farmers pay and what prices they receive — these had been improving up to 2015-16. Only in the last two years, the prices paid by farmers have increased at a slightly higher rate compared to the prices received. But overall, the terms of trade figure for 2018-19 is higher than 2011-12... This government has tried hard to keep these prices high with a new formula for fixing MSP (minimum support price) and also through procurement. So it is a combination of factors — international prices, demand and supply cycle — that is responsible for the current agrarian distress. It is very difficult for the government to influence prices beyond a point.

HARISH DAMODARAN: As you say, the scarcity of the past is over. Is it time now to scrap the Essential Commodities Act (ECA), export controls and other restrictions that are clearly anti-farmer?

The farmer is a consumer too. But I agree, the sector's interest today lies in scrapping these restrictions. In the last (June 15) meeting of the NITI Aayog's Governing Council, we proposed some reforms, including on the ECA, APMC (agricultural produce market committee) reforms and enabling contract farming. The Prime Minister announced that a high-power committee of chief ministers would be constituted to examine these reforms. In 2016, the Union government passed an order, after which there are no real restrictions on food commodities with regards to stocking, movement or exports. But people say that a similar order was issued in 2002, but when prices increased in 2006, the controls were brought back. So they believe that unless the Act changes, the government will always find ways to bring back control if things are seen as going against the consumer. The NITI Aayog has suggested a way out — classifying commodities into two categories: foodstuffs and others. There are some commodities such as drugs where the ECA is needed, but not in case of agri produce. If the ECA has to be used, let us clearly define the conditions. If, say, there is a 20% decline in production because of natural calamity of an extraordinary order, or a war, only then can the provisions be brought back.

RAVISH TIWARI: How do you deal with political opposition to these reforms being suggested?

The supply situation is much better than in the past. The need for ECA to stop hoarding or black marketing does not arise in the case of most commodities, where even exports are happening. When we meet politicians, we give them examples by asking them if they ever felt the need to have ECA on eggs or milk (which are non-perishable and cannot be hoarded). Price volatility may be extreme in onions, but not in most other commodities. The best way to address volatility is

'Indian agriculture has reached a stage where more the govt intervenes, lower will be the growth'

NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand says time has come to free farm sector from controls, shift from input subsidies and procurement to income support and deficiency payments, and create an enabling environment for greater corporate investments in agriculture



NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand with National Editor (Rural Affairs and Agriculture) Harish Damodaran at *The Indian Express* newsroom in Delhi. Abhinav Saha

through buffer stocks, not by ECA. Recently, West Bengal, for example, imposed movement controls in potatoes under ECA, but that only did a lot of harm to its farmers. Today's India and its agriculture situation are very different.

PRABHUDATTA MISHRA: How does the NITI Aayog plan to make MSP more effective on the ground?

Everybody wants only the Centre to act. But agriculture is a state subject. It can only be the joint responsibility of the Centre and the states. The total production of all commodities where MSPs exist will be about 300 million tonnes. If the Centre is taking care of rice and wheat, whose production is about 200 million tonnes, can't all the states combined take care of the remaining one-third production? Under PM-AASHA (Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan), states were given the option to implement MSP by procuring up to 30 per cent of the produce (similar to what the Centre is doing for rice and wheat). If in the process of procurement and disposal, the states incurred a loss, the Centre would bear it up to 30-35%. But the states did this only at a very small level. When the financial cost is being borne by the Central government, the states should come forward and take advantage of PM-AASHA by putting in place a procurement mechanism.

HARISH DAMODARAN: But instead of physical procurement, why can't we have direct benefit transfer and simply pay the difference between MSP and market prices into farmers' accounts?

The NITI Aayog has suggested this as well. If you take the MSP of wheat today, it is actually 30% higher than the international price. So if you procure wheat at MSP, you will only distort the market and exports will be hit, as domestic price is very high. Stocks, too, will pile. Direct benefit transfer is a very good idea and under PM-AASHA, we have the option of physical procurement as well as provision of deficiency price payments. In this case, we don't have to look at the price received by each and every farmer. Farmers just have to register the area

they are sowing under different crops before the season's start on a portal. For every state, the harvest season is defined. So, at the end of the season, we monitor the actual price received by farmers in every district. Every district has 3-4 mandis. We take the average price at these mandis for the produce of Fair Average Quality. If that price is lower than the MSP, the difference can be paid for the area that has been reported by the farmer on the portal and taking the average yield for the crop in the district. I think the Madhya Pradesh government's Bhavantar programme, despite the criticism it faced from some economists, was a good initiative. Today, the Food Corporation of India incurs a cost of Rs 700-800 per quintal in the process of paying Rs 1,600 as MSP to farmers. That can be avoided through direct payment of the price difference.

PRASANTA SAHU: Following the implementation of PM-KISAN, should the government now use this scheme to replace fertiliser and other input subsidies to farmers?

Income support and subsidies are two different things. PM-KISAN is the former. Subsidy was originally meant to promote the use of a particular input to ensure increase in productivity. When Dr C Rangarajan was the chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory

Council (2009-2014), he asked me to find out the impact on the country's food security and agriculture production if fertiliser subsidy was completely withdrawn and it was sold at market price. At that time, I calculated that if we do it suddenly in a knee-jerk manner, there will be 10% decline in foodgrain production. I look at PM-KISAN in a different way. It was brought in as some sort of income support, as crop prices remained low, and farmers in many places could not get the MSP. Subsidies are a different issue and they exist in many countries. We must try to make subsidies more efficient than they currently are. Subsidies in water and power are serious issues and must be addressed. Agricultural power subsidy for the country as a whole is about Rs 1 lakh crore. We did calculations to find how many irrigations a farmer would apply in case he is charged for power or if he is not charged anything. They will use 40% less irrigation on paddy alone if power is fully priced. Also in most cases, the yield will not fall.

SANDEEP SINGH: Rural consumption is slowing down. The government had talked of doubling farmers' income. Where are we on that?

It is not proper to use agriculture and rural synonymously today. In rural India, only one-third of the income now comes

from agriculture and two-third from non-agricultural activities. The last five years have been unique. For the first time in 65 to 70 years, we have had five consecutive years of less than average rainfall and the current one could even be the sixth. But Despite that, the annual growth rate of the value added in agriculture has been 2.9%, which is not bad. If growth rate becomes 5%, prices will crash and farmer incomes may decline by 30-40%. The slowdown in rural demand may be due to many reasons. One of it could be that loan waivers have reduced the flow of bank credit to rural areas. Industry people were happy when rural demand was good. But much of this demand was debt-based, with people taking loans to buy commodities. But families don't have internal income to buy resources. As far as agriculture is concerned, for doubling farmers' income, you need it to rise by over 10% every year. In the last three years, the growth rate, according to my calculation, has been 6%. We can still achieve the target if we are able to do something to prices. If farmers get 10% more than what they are getting, the income elasticity with respect to price would be 1.6. Then, farmer's incomes will increase by 16%.

RAVISH TIWARI: How can we improve the current level of private and public investment in the agriculture sector?

If you look at public investment in agriculture as percentage of the GDP, the latest available data for 2016-17 shows it at 2.35%. For most of the recent period, it was 3%. Almost 85% of public investment in agriculture comes from the states. The Centre invests about 15% and that includes investment on irrigation and agriculture technology. Within private investment, the bulk of it comes from farmers themselves. If investment has to go up, that should now come from the corporate sector, which is currently very low. That is why the Prime Minister said last week in Parliament that corporates should not only see investments in agriculture in terms of making and selling tractors. They should make investments in agriculture, including in back-end extension and working directly with farmers. This government wants to create an enabling environment for corpo-

rates to invest in agriculture. That will also require making changes in the regulatory environment, particularly facilitating contract farming.

RAVISH TIWARI: The private sector can invest in technology. But given the kind of protests against GM technology, how can the private sector be confident about investing?

GM technology is not the only technology through which countries have made progress in agriculture. There is public sensitivity about GM technology. But the biggest damage was done when Jairam Ramesh (former environment minister) took the issue of whether GM technology should be adopted to the streets and not leaving it to be decided by an expert body. On GM crops, the NITI Aayog's stance has been — there should not be a blanket ban on the technology. It should not be encouraged in areas where we are able to get success through conventional means. The other thing that we emphasised was to finance public sector research in GM technology in a big way. This was mainly to allay the fears of people that private sector developers were charging hefty royalty. Some of our public sector research institutions were very close to developing a GM chickpea. Moreover, there are many more opportunities for the private sector other than GM. That includes GE or gene editing, which is different from modification (through introduction of alien genes).

RAVISH TIWARI: Cattle trade rules enforced two years back disrupted the market. Do such rules help farmers or create trouble for them?

The livestock sector grew by more than 6% in the last five years. If there were so many problems, it would not have been growing so fast. On the other hand, the crop sector, particularly cereal, oilseeds and pulses, is growing at just around 1.15%. This is why the overall agricultural growth rate comes down to 2.9%. But on the whole, I would say that Indian agriculture has now reached a stage where more the intervention by government, the lower will be the growth. The more the sector is liberalised, the higher will be the growth rate.



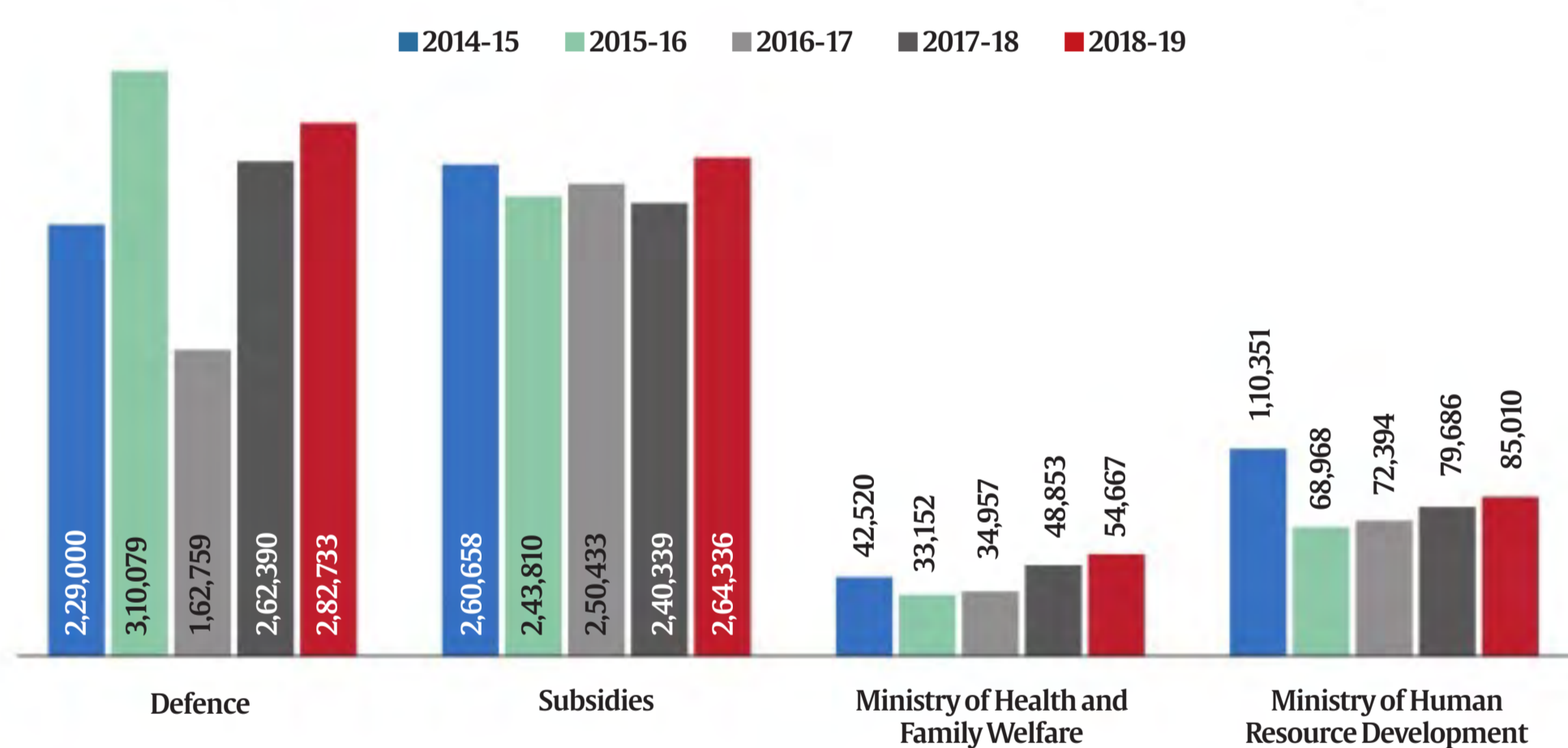
"The biggest damage to GM technology was done when Jairam Ramesh (then minister) took the issue, to be decided by experts, to the streets... There should be no blanket ban



MODI II, BUDGET I

Expected to outline the economic trajectory of the new NDA govt, the Budget, come July 5, will be watched as much for any big ideas to kickstart growth as the government's patchy record on fiscal prudence. AANCHAL MAGAZINE and ANIL SASI do the maths

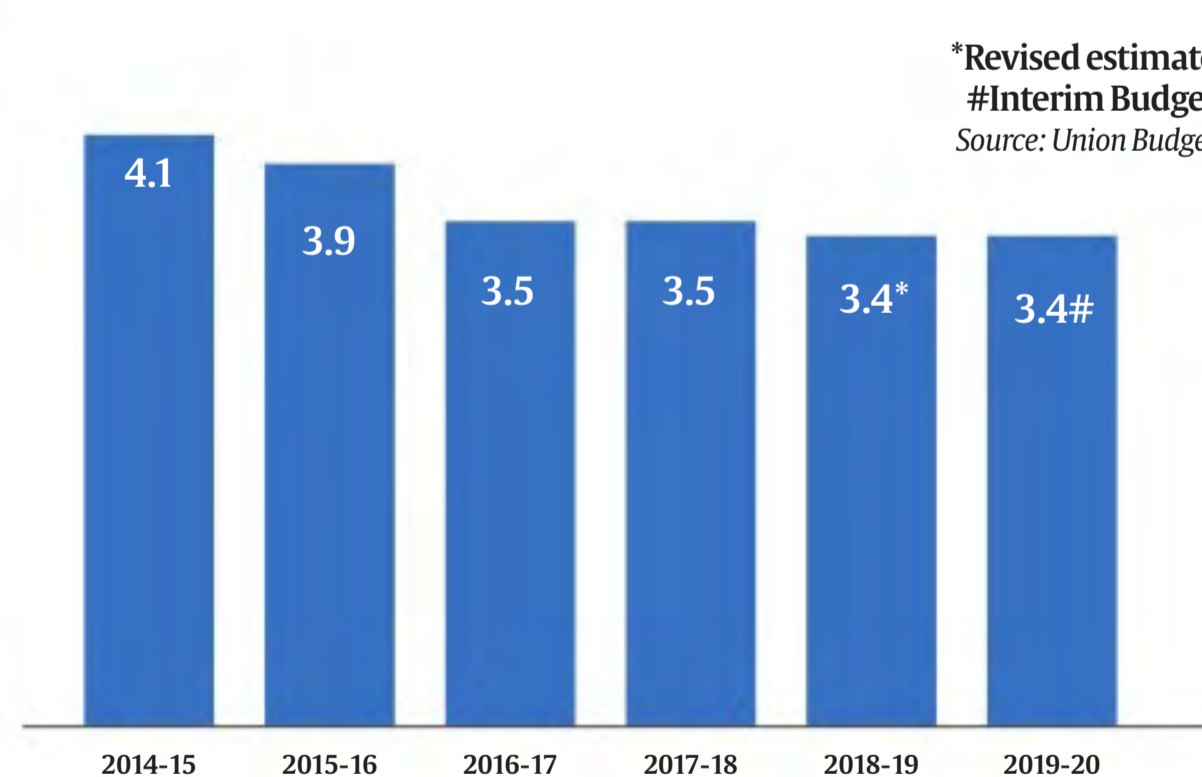
BUDGET ALLOCATIONS OVER THE YEARS *



SENSEX ON BUDGET DAY



FISCAL DEFICIT (% OF GDP)



ON FEBRUARY 28, 2015, at the customary post-Budget press conference, then finance minister Arun Jaitley, who had presented his second Budget, was asked why his Budget lacked even a single big-bang idea. Jaitley was ready for that question. "Many people have told me that you must have a big-bang idea, and I have asked them to suggest one," he countered. "Give me one big idea that isn't there." His questioner was effectively disarmed; no suggestion was offered.

The question over the uninspiring Budget was prompted by the circumstances of that time: it came in the backdrop of a macroeconomic environment that was dramatically on the mend, markedly improved investment sentiment and a sharp turnaround in the global headwinds. So much so that that year's Economic Survey, the government's report card tabled in Parliament a day before the Budget, proclaimed that "India has reached a sweet spot — rare in the history of nations — in which it could finally be launched on a double-digit, medium-term growth trajectory".

Four years down the line, as the newly appointed Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman gears up to present the Union Budget for 2019-20 on July 5, that double-digit growth trajectory is still elusive. While the Budget is expected to outline the economic trajectory for a government that is faced with the onerous task of building on the massive electoral mandate and begin the task of reviving the economy — rekindling growth, arresting flagging consumption and fostering employment opportunities — those watching from the sidelines would be keen to spot that one big idea or policy push. But even before Sitharaman gets up to present her Budget at the appointed hour, an hour before noon, she is headed for the record books — becoming the first full-time woman finance minister (and the second woman ever) to present the Union Budget in Indian Parliament. In 1970-71, then prime minister Indira Gandhi took charge of the finance portfolio after Morarji Desai's resignation.

Budgets have moved down in relevance since then, primarily because there is much greater clarity on policy direction and tax trajectory now than a few decades ago, when abrupt changes in licensing rules or tax rates could make or break industries and companies. The Budget format has not changed much either, save for some tinkering with the timing of the presentation and the merger of the railway budget into the main Budget from 2017-18. Despite the progressive loss of relevance, a lingering thread that ties Gandhi's budget with Sitharaman's upcoming presentation, through, is the intrigue in the Budget preparation process.

To maintain secrecy, there is a "lock-in" of the officials involved in making of the Budget in the period leading up to its presentation. These officers and staff gain touch with their families only after the presentation of the Budget by the Finance Minister in Parliament. The Budget was earlier printed in Rashtrapati Bhavan, but after an incident in the 1950s, when Budget-related information was leaked by a Rashtrapati Bhavan staffer to some businessmen in Mumbai, the printing of Budget documents was eventually moved to North Block.

While the Budget is set to be printed in the press at the basement of the Finance Ministry in North Block, the general refrain among officials is that its broad contours are being drawn across the road in South Block. Either way, the biggest significance of the exercise perhaps lies in the signals that the Budget sends out and the broad direction that it charts for the economy. In that sense, there are perhaps four major questions that the upcoming Budget would have to attempt answering:

- Is there a plan to revive growth, especially consumption growth that had been buoyant but is now flagging, alongside other sectors that are visibly struggling — exports, government expenditure and private investment?
 - Given that the revenue growth assumptions in the interim Budget presented in February appeared optimistic, due to the slowdown, there is the looming prospect of a downward revision in the revenue expected from taxes in the upcoming Budget. Would this lead to an increase in the targeted fiscal deficit relative to the estimates put out in the interim Budget?
 - Will the Budget do anything to sort out the widening mess in the financial sector and where will it find the money to infuse capital into a debt-laden, increasingly stressed sector — the backbone for any resuscitation effort for the broader economy?
 - Does the government have the appetite to wade into tougher reform areas that it kept away from in its first stint, including land reforms, labour issues, genuine disinvestment and privatisation etc?
- Apart from addressing some of these uncertainties, the Budget could herald a winner in the tug-of-war between those advo-

ating staying the course with fiscal consolidation and those arguing for dithering on the target to enable that there is elbow room to revive the investment cycle by hiking public spending.

Any deviation from the pre-defined fiscal consolidation glide path could alarm the financial markets and result in a backlash from rating agencies. But given the strained corporate and banking sector books, public spending is necessary to catalyse a rebound in investments. The pro-growth lobby argues that the small fiscal cost would be more than offset by the potential gains from revival of growth. But there's already a damper. The fiscal deficit for April-May, the first two months of this financial year, has reached Rs 3.66 lakh crore or a whopping 52 per cent of the budgeted target for fiscal deficit for 2019-20, according to official data released on June 28. That seems to suggest that the elbow room is well and truly diminished.

While sticking to fiscal targets has not really been a strong point for the NDA government, each of the six Budgets presented by the Modi government in its last term —

though devoid of that one overarching idea — were characterised by a number of piecemeal objectives. This included hikes in income tax exemption limit to Rs 2.5 lakh (Budget 2014-15), a roadmap for cut in corporate tax and the introduction of accident insurance and pension schemes (Budget 2015-16), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (Budget 2016-17), electoral bonds (2017-18), and National Health Protection Scheme (2018-19). In its second stint, concerns of the agriculture sector amid a lacklustre monsoon, solutions to tackle unemployment, and a flagship water supply/conservation scheme by the newly formed Ministry of Jal Shakti could be among the priority areas for the government.

Budget 2019-20 also comes in the backdrop of looming systemic risks and headwinds, both global and local. While India's financial system remains stable in the back-

drop of improving resilience of the banking sector, the emerging trends in the global economic as well geopolitical environments pose challenges, according to the 19th issue of the Financial Stability Report (FSR) issued by the RBI on June 27. Among the global and domestic macro-financial risks, the report flags significant headwinds faced by global economic activity since the second-half of 2018, culminating in a lower global growth forecast of 3.3 per cent in 2019. Besides, "adverse geopolitical developments and trade tensions are gradually but predictably taking a toll on business and consumer confidence".

The trade wars playing out across geographies is a broader risk to recapitalisation. Money has to be set aside for that, at a time when tax revenues have slowed and new revenue streams are elusive. With the bulk of the legacy non-performing assets (NPAs) already recognised in the banking books and the NPA cycle hav-

ing seemingly turned around, recent developments in the non-banking financial companies or NBFC sector do not inspire confidence. A cascading impact of the widening NBFC crisis is a big worry, given that these shadow banks have largely fuelled growth outside of the metros so far.

A keenly watched element would be if the Budget factors in a one-time transfer from the RBI for the year. Headed by former RBI governor Bimal Jalan, a panel that is working on recommending an appropriate economic capital framework for the central bank is divided on the issue of transferring past reserves. While most committee members are in favour of reducing RBI's excess reserves in a phased manner, Finance Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg is learnt to have differed on this view.

Deutsche Bank India said in an internal report to its clients earlier this month that the Centre may have windfall gains this fiscal in the form of higher central bank dividend at Rs 1 lakh crore. "There is a possibility that the authorities will likely use the Rs 1 trillion one-off transfers from RBI to fund social welfare programmes and boost the expenditure side of the budget," the Bank said in its note.

Analysts do not see any radical alterations in this Budget. According to Aditi Nayar, Principal Economist of credit rating agency ICRA, "With few expenditure allocations expected to be altered from the interim Budget estimates, the upcoming Budget is unlikely to reveal revised priorities of the new government. The long-term path for fiscal consolidation will become clear after the recommendations of the FFC (Fifteenth Finance Commission) become available."

Explained

A complex balancing act

THE BUDGET, though expected to be broadly in line with the interim Budget presented in February by the previous NDA government, will be watched for whether the government opts for fiscal stimulus to spur growth or sticks to fiscal consolidation with an eye on the widening fiscal deficit.

Moreover, the magnitude of central transfers to states, particularly through tax devolution, would also become clear after the FFC report, which would significantly impact the government's fiscal balances in the future.

A nudge would also be required for sectors that have been displaying symptoms of slackening demand and structural constraints. Two sectors, which played a pivotal role in the UPA growth years and that are now struggling — telecommunications and aviation — are crying for attention. The Telecom Ministry has started work on a revival package for BSNL and MTNL, while the state-owned carrier, Air India, may again go through the disinvestment route after a failed attempt last May.

Some of the changes that India, as well as other emerging market economies, have progressively incorporated in the broader Budget-making process, have been received well internationally, including quantitative output and outcome performance indicators established for each ministry's spending plan.

"While many emerging market governments present their Budgets on a programme basis, since 2010, a number have implemented reforms designed to link these allocations to performance. Both China and India have established quantitative output and outcome performance indicators for each of their line ministries' expenditure programmes. From 2014, annual reporting on the achievements and efficiency of each government programme will be a requirement in Russia," the International Monetary Fund has noted in report on budget processes across countries.

By contrast, countries such as the UK have removed centrally imposed and monitored performance targets on line ministries since 2010, which, according to the Fund, could make it difficult to assess the impact of expenditure reductions on public service delivery.

But a number that international observers such as the IMF, global investors and rating agencies would be keenly watching out for is the fiscal deficit estimate. That could be the real test of how well the mandarins in North Block balance the looming financing constraints and the compelling growth imperative. Over to B-day.

BRINGING UP BABY

Lying abandoned for four days in a field, a two-year-old fought stab wounds, heat, rain, hunger, thirst and maggots. While her survival was a miracle, could the rest of her story in a child care home in west UP also turn out the same? AMIL BHATNAGAR & MALLICA JOSHI on the next chapter for Gudiya

PHOTOGRAPHS: TASHI TOBGYAL

HOLDING AN arm and index finger out, pointing towards a gate, Gudiya coaxes the caretaker of a government-run child care home in west

Uttar Pradesh to take her to her favourite person, the home guard posted there.

Seeing the woman dressed in a khaki uniform, the toddler jumps into her lap. A month ago, it was another woman in a similar uniform who had taken care of her for nine days, after Gudiya was found in a sugarcane field in Baghpat, wounded and bleeding. A search revealed the decomposed body of a woman a few metres away.

While the woman is unidentified still, and the case remains stuck, police believe she was the mother of the child. With little to go on, including the child's name, they estimate her age to be around two, and have christened her Gudiya, or doll.

At the children's home, it is not hard to see why. With her long, curled eyelashes and wavy brown hair, Gudiya looks like one, though her face and head still bear the scars and wounds of the violence she survived.

It was early morning on a Friday, May 17, that a group of villagers visiting a dargah for prayers were startled by the faint

wail of a child. They looked around the sugarcane field nearby, situated close to the road that leads to the main Baghpat city, and discovered Gudiya. Just 50 metres away lay a woman with her face decomposed beyond recognition and bearing wounds similar to that of the child.

The villagers visiting the shrine called for an ambulance and the village head informed the police. But the horrors of what Gudiya may have gone through kept unfolding over the next 24 hours, as doctors at the Aastha Multi-Speciality Hospital in Baghpat, where she was taken, estimated that her wounds may have been inflicted four days ago.

Gudiya was found to have been attacked with a sharp object on the head and side of her face, her wounds deep enough to have impacted her skull. The woman next to her had stab injuries. Police concluded that the attack had taken place somewhere else and the two had been dumped in the field. The assaulters perhaps never expected the toddler to survive her injuries.

Gudiya would prove them wrong — as she continues to do again and again since.

Doctors believe Gudiya remained unconscious for most of the time she lay in the field,



Under the glass cover of his work table, the child care home's director keeps markers and souvenirs of successful adoptions from the centre, like this snapshot sent by a seven-year-old former ward who now lives in Spain with his adoptive family; as children spill into the play area and open ground of the centre, Gudiya, who struggles to speak and rarely laughs or smiles, heads to a gate to look for a home guard with whom she has bonded



When she was brought to the centre, Gudiya was 8.5 kg, 3.5 kg below the WHO median weight for her age



possibly due to a heat stroke from temperatures hovering around 40 degrees Celsius at the time. Then came the rain, and consequently maggots. The worms are believed to have infested the dead woman's open wounds, leading to the decomposition, and attacked the bleeding flesh on Gudiya's face as well as the skin close to her pelvis.

Gudiya fought on, including against four days of hunger and thirst.

Dr Ajay Garg of Aastha Multi-Speciality Hospital says, "It appears that she woke up at some point and began crawling. It is possible she was dehydrated and wanted water."

He adds that the timing of when she was found was propitious too. "The wounds had begun to rot and any delay could have been fatal. The child has good immunity which helped her survive without food and water for so many days, especially under such circumstances."

In the register maintained at the home, Gudiya's date of birth was put down as June 28, 2017 — the date that she was brought to the centre by Child Welfare Committee officials, the year from two years ago.

At the hospital, Gudiya was attached to intravenous drips feeding her water and iodine. Lying on the mattress, she slept for hours as hospital staff made a baseline for the first-floor ward to catch a glimpse of the "miracle child". She woke up only the next day — with Rekha Nagar next to her.

As it opened investigation into the case, police assigned the constable belonging to the Baraut Police Station to take care of Gudiya. Within days, Nagar and Gudiya were inseparable.

"When Gudiya woke up, a nurse offered her a small bottle of water. She drank it all up as she was so thirsty. She did the same with a bottle of milk. But when nurses came to change her diaper or clothes, she resisted. She appeared to be in trauma and have issues trusting people. I started sleeping next to her on the same bed and parted her slowly to convey she was safe," says Nagar.

A mother of a five-year-old, Nagar says she didn't mind spending up to 12 hours a day with Gudiya. The little girl felt like her own child, she adds.

A month on, Gudiya is more friendly than most children her age. She clings on to anyone who picks her up at the centre.

The children's home starts stirring to life around 7 am. Sharing a room with 10 girls between the ages of 15 days and three years — including two premature babies — and a 15-day-old baby boy, Gudiya wakes up rubbing her eyes. In no time, she is in the lap of one of the two caretakers, who bathes and feeds her, and is by her side almost at all times.

The woman is hearing impaired, and Gudiya hasn't started talking, which is a nagging worry for officials. Despite it or maybe because of it, the two have become close.

The other caretaker adds that the trauma Gudiya went through has left few unmoored at the centre, just like at the hospital. So, from everyone, she gets that little extra attention, the caretaker says.

Apart from the 15 toddlers, spread over two rooms (separate for boys and girls), the centre has 36 other children, till the age of 10. The 51 children are looked after by two caretakers at all times in shifts of eight hours each. A home guard sits at the gate and a nurse carries out periodic checks. A cook comes in at 7 am and makes breakfast, lunch, snacks and dinner.

The older children too are distributed across two rooms. All rooms have coolers and fans, but on a hot afternoon, the children are sprawled out on the cool marble floor.

Adjacent to the sleeping area is the entertainment room where children spend most of their time. Common toilets, a kitchen and dining area and two classrooms make up the rest of the ground floor, in the middle of which a courtyard is used for playing cricket. On the first floor are 10 other rooms, in two of which the caretakers live.

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sure the toddlers are the first ones to be fed. Since they can fall off the high benches, they are seated on the floor. The older children eat at the table.

Gudiya is a newcomer, but children make friends easily at the home. And consensus is uniform, among caretakers as well as the children, that Gudiya, despite not speaking, knows how to get her way. However, she barely smiles or laughs, even as children around her play or watch TV.

"She comes and sits next to me for hours sometimes. There is a mango tree in the yard and this is the time when unripe mangoes fall to the ground. They are neither too sour nor very sweet. She loves them. I try to make her laugh, tell her stories, but never has she broken into a smile. She is usually lost in her own world. Maybe it is a sad one. With the trauma she has undergone, I am not surprised," the home guard says.

The 47-year-old says she has two children of own, a daughter who is married and a son who is studying. As she picks up Gudiya who is seeking to be lifted, she corrects that, "My daughter recently had a child. I am a grandmother now."

The child care home is located next to an intermediate college (up to Class 12), and only recently a wall came up constantly between the two. The home guard has to constantly ensure that the gate in the wall is bolted, so that the older children at the centre don't run away.

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While Gudiya's case has caught the attention of everybody, tragedies like hers are not new to the centre. A few weeks before Gudiya arrived, a six-month-old girl had been brought to the centre by Sambhal police. She was found next to the bodies of her mother and older brother. The father, the accused, is now in police custody.

But unlike the infant's case, Gudiya is so close to a breakthrough. The heat, rains, maggots, all contributed to the destruction of any leads police may have lifted from the site where she was found. With little to go on, they are banking on a picture of her presumed mother's decomposed face, the greenish suit she was wearing, and Gudiya.

"No ID was found on either the woman or the child. The post-mortem report says the body was found a week after the woman died. This rules out a lot of biological information we could have retrieved. I have personally visited the gram pradhans of every Baghpat village and shown them Gudiya's picture for possible identification, but to no avail," says Dharmendra Sandhu, the initial investigating officer (IO) in the case. Since he was made the Station House Officer of another police station, a new IO, Jahid Khan, has been appointed. "We have put up posters on social media and on walls. We have even extended our search to the NCR region, but no clue has been obtained."

Police say they could not conduct a DNA test on the woman to determine if she was related to Gudiya as her body was too decomposed. So she was cremated within 72 hours of being found.

Sandhu says police are looking at all angles. "There is a possibility the two lived in a different region and were dumped here. People in Baghpat district have been questioned extensively. We increased our investigation radius to 150 km but nothing turned up. Another problem is that there is no missing person's complaint at the region's police stations that matches the description of the two," the SHO says.

Gudiya is police's strongest lead. But no one has come forward to claim her so far.

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At the children's home, as the clock strikes noon, the cook, an elderly woman referred to by everyone as "Cook Aunty", is putting the final touches on a meal of rice, *daal* and *sambhar*, with lots of vegetables.

Gudiya is hungry and, like everyone at the centre attests, makes her wishes clear. She screeches and kicks till she is led to the dining room. The cook lifts her up and puts her on the counter, besides the vessels holding food for the 51 children and the staff members.

The cook selects a *thaali* with raised edges and places a small heap of rice on it.

As Gudiya looks on, she pours a ladle of *daal* over the rice and places slices of cucumber and tomatoes besides it. Gudiya sits down to eat, with a red tumbler holding water next to her. While a small herd of goats outside the window briefly distracts her, she has no interest in the TV that is on, unlike the other children.

When she arrived at the centre, Gudiya weighed 8.5 kg, 3.5 kg below the median weight for a two-year-old, as per WHO parameters. Her current weight will soon be taken as part of the monthly check for weight and height.

The antibiotics that the doctors started her on in the hospital were continued for only about a week at the centre. Now, apart from ointments for her scars, Gudiya is given only multi-vitamins and calcium.

None of the children at the centre goes to school, but two teachers come and teach them. "We aren't sure if sending the kids out to study is safe. We don't have any means of transport," says the director, who has been posted at the centre for three years.

Referring to Gudiya, he says, "She has been with us for a month and is healthy. She is active and is making friends." Also using the word 'miracle' to describe her story, he adds, "It just proves that if God doesn't want you to die, no one can harm you."

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Miracles, few contest, are rare at the centre, which houses children either orphaned or abandoned by their parents, and who spend years waiting to find a "forever family". The home is an adoption centre registered with the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), a unified umbrella for adoption process in the country.

The director has markers and souvenirs of successful adoption stories at the centre under a glass top on his work table. A note below a photograph reads "Mom, Dad and your brother". It was sent by a seven-year old, from Spain, where he now lives with his adoptive family.

"So far, eight children under my tenure here since 2016 have been adopted by families abroad. America, Spain, France, parents have come to us from different parts of the world. It is these families who adopt differently abled children and those older than three years. In our country, everyone wants a fair and young child," he says.

At the centre, 24 parents are in the waiting list for adoption (centrally, the number of applicants is higher compared to the children up for adoption). "Most of them want a girl child, though under the age of three. We have 15 children under that age," he says.

The oldest child ever adopted from the home was an eight-year-old boy, who also lives in Spain now.

For Gudiya, the possibility of adoption opens up after two months. Now that she is better, the government has put out advertisements in national newspapers looking for a family member to claim her. If there is no response in 60 days, Gudiya will be put up for adoption.

"We don't disclose the identity or the case background of children to prospective parents, but even without her back story, Gudiya will be adopted very soon I think. She has an angelic face," the director says.

As the sun sets slowly, a cool breeze rolls in, providing relief from the humidity. One by one, the children emerge for their scheduled play-time, and take over the three swings and an open space, while preparations begin for a cricket match. Two children lie in the shade of the mango tree, munching on the fallen mangoes.

Still struggling to rouse herself from her afternoon siesta, Gudiya is not among the children. But soon she is standing close to the gate, ignoring the children who are calling out her name, looking around for the home guard.

Could the "miracle child" see perhaps another miracle? Communicating with gestures, Gudiya's caretaker says she doesn't like milk and keeps asking for water. Gudiya also keeps repeating one word — the only word they have heard her speak at the centre — "Maa".

(The Sunday Express is not revealing the location of the child, or of the officials part of her story, to protect her privacy)

She comes and sits next to me for hours. There is a mango tree in the yard and this is the time when unripe mangoes fall to the ground. They are neither too sour nor sweet. She loves them. I try to make her laugh, tell her stories, but never has she broken into a smile. She is lost in her own world. Maybe it is a sad one... I am not surprised

THE HOME GUARD AT THE CENTRE

Gudiya's case is no closer to a breakthrough. The heat, rains, maggots, all contributed to destruction of leads. With little to go on, police are banking on a picture of her presumed mother's decomposed face, the greenish suit she was wearing at the time, and Gudiya. "I have personally visited pradhans of every Baghpat village and shown them Gudiya's picture, to no avail," says Dharmendra Sandhu, initial investigating officer in the case

We don't disclose the identity or case background of children to prospective parents, but even without her back story, Gudiya will be adopted very soon I think. She has an angelic face (the authorities will wait for two months for someone to come claim Gudiya, before starting the adoption process for her)

THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE

The colour of money

A stipend for priests, after one for imams. In divided West Bengal, all eyes on the other side of the coin

SWEETY KUMARI

AMIDST accusations from a resurgent BJP of the Trinamool Congress being pro-minority, the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) had announced a stipend for Hindu priests, to match a government grant for imams of mosques, soon after the Lok Sabha elections ended. While the state government had instituted the Rs 2,500 monthly stipend for imams in March 2012, the Trinamool-run KMC will soon start giving out Rs 380 to priests for every cremation that they preside over at the seven crematoria in the city. The beneficiaries have been identified and the KMC is in the process of drawing up a list.

The *Sunday Express* meets a *purohit* at Nimtala Ghat in Kolkata and an imam at Lal Masjid in the city's Topsis area to find out what the government grant means for them:

NARESH MISHRA, 60

The *pandit* who traces his roots back to Bihar says he has been carrying out last rites at the Nimtala Ghat since he was a child. This is the third generation of his family doing this work at the ghat, where the funeral pyres never go out due to the number of bodies that come every day.

With a family of seven, and earnings of around Rs 7,000 a month, Mishra says every additional paisa is welcome. The stipend could on paper surge his earnings to around Rs 34,000. "We get three to four cases a day on an average," he says.

However, Mishra fears the fact that he is from Bihar may be a drawback. "*Jajmans* (clients) who are Bengali prefer a Bengali *purohit* while others come to us. I hope this stipend is for everyone and not just limited to Bengali *pandits*," says the 60-year-old, adding, "She (Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee) is openly saying people from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are outsiders. I doubt if we will benefit from this stipend."

Calling it little more than a political gesture, Mishra also asks why the Mamata government waited till after the election results, which gave the BJP 18 seats, to announce the stipend. "They should have done this much before. They choose imams over *pandits*, now they will further divide and enrol Bengali *pandits* and not us. I am not too hopeful... When you are an administrator, you should be fair to everyone and refrain from appealing a particular class."

He is not surprised the BJP made such massive gains, the priest says. "Didi understood late. She did a lot for things without realising Hindus were feeling left out. The BJP understood the growing sentiments of the people and took advantage of that."

About the BJP's politics, he adds, "No political party is secular... *Bhai, seedhi baat hai, humein do-chaar paisa milen na milen, zaroorat padne par Pakistan ko to jawab degi ye sarkar* (Plus, it is simple. Whether we get extra money or not, when time comes, this government at least has the guts to give a fit an-



Both Mishra (left) and Gyasuddin say they don't want their children to follow in their footsteps. *Sweety Kumari*

"The government should have given the stipend much earlier. They choose imams over *pandits*, now they will give the money to Bengali *pandits* and not us (from Bihar). I am not too hopeful"

"I remember the first time the stipend money was credited into my account. I spent it on grocery... The money isn't much, what is more important is the government's intention"

swer to Pakistan)."

Denying the accusation of bias, Kolkata Deputy Mayor Atin Ghosh says, "*Purohits* do not have regular income and are dependent on what the bereaved family members give them. To help them, we decided to give the stipend." Officials, who refused to come on

record, claimed that the decision had been taken much before the Lok Sabha elections but could not be announced due to the model code of conduct.

Mishra, who stays in a one-storey house close to Nimtala Ghat with other *purohits* but spends most nights at the ghat, says "a lot has

changed" since he was a child and spent all his time around bodies with his late father. "Electric ovens have come up, chimneys which suck up the foul smell have been installed. The whole place now looks quite welcoming. Things are much more organised." However, he wouldn't want his children to

follow in his footsteps. Walking between rows of little stalls selling flowers and other items needed for cremation, as well as soft drinks and samosas, he says, "*Itna padhaya isiliye thodi na ki woh hamara wala kaam karen* (I didn't educate them just to see them become like me). Gone are the days when people used to see us with pride and respect. Now it's all about completing the last rites in minimum time, at minimal rate. People don't want to spend time and money on someone who has already died."

Of his six children, including two sons and four daughters, the eldest is 34 and works as a taxi driver while the youngest (15) is in school. While worried about his eldest son's "low earnings", Mishra adds proudly that one of his sons is doing B.Com from Calcutta University.

Pointing to a young man dressed in pink *kurta* and *dhoti*, he says, "Look, that is my nephew Bablu Mishra. In his mid-20s, he couldn't complete his schooling but knows English. He went from pillar to post to get a government unemployment card but failed. Now he has joined us and probably will be the last one from this generation of our family to work as *purohit*."

IMAM HAFIZ MD GYASUDDIN, 40

An imam for over 25 years at a mosque commonly referred to as Lal Masjid, Gyasuddin gets Rs 2,500 as stipend on the first day of every month.

"I remember the first time the money was credited into my account. I spent it on grocery," the 40-year-old smiles, thanking the CM for "giving us a great sense of security". His six-member family, which lives near the mosque, struggles to make do on his monthly income of around Rs 5,000, paid by the Waqf Board. Gyasuddin also sees in the measure the Mamata government's commitment towards "everybody". "All sections of society are being taken care of under Mamata Banerjee's government, whether Hindu or Muslim," he says. Pointing out that the money they receive as stipend isn't much, he adds that what is more important is the government's intention.

While four of Gyasuddin's children are in college, one will finish school next year. He says the children meet their needs by taking private tuitions, and he doesn't want any of his sons to become an imam like him. "My children are good academically, have studied in good colleges, one is also doing a computer course. *Jo main karta hoon woh kamane ki liye nahin karta. Ye ek paak kaam hai aur mere bachchon ki duniya alag hai* (What I do is not for earning money. It's pious work and my children's world is different)."

About the rise of the BJP and the changed fortunes of the Trinamool, Gyasuddin says, "All problems are being created by the BJP. Our Hindu brothers didn't seem to have any problems before in Bengal."

Which is why, Gyasuddin adds, though he hopes the Mamata government would increase their stipend, he dare not speak his mind.

"This will again give many an opportunity to create a new controversy."

TAKE 5

FACES ON THE FRINGES OF NEWS

PARMESHWAR SUTHAR, 28,
FORMER SHO, KALU
POLICE STATION, BIKANER



Best police station in the country, says Union Home Ministry survey

'Visitors to our police station were made to feel as if they had walked into a corporate office'

Last week, a 2018 survey released by the Union Home Ministry ranked Kalu Police Station in Rajasthan's Bikaner district as the best in the country. The parameters included, among other things, crime prevention, community policing and child-friendly rooms. SHO Parmeshwar Suthar of Chunavadh Police Station in Rajasthan's Sri Ganganagar district, who earlier served at the Kalu Police Station, speaks about how the police station made it to the top

1 What did Kalu Police Station do differently to achieve this feat?
When I was posted at Kalu Police Station in February 2018, my focus was to take preventive measures to stop crime. We increased the number of meetings with community liaisoning groups and these meetings were held in all 25 villages that came under our jurisdiction. In case of petty crimes, fights and assaults, we would restrain both the parties. We also prepared a detailed list of history-sheeters, who were stopped from committing further offences.

2 What measures were adopted to tackle criminal activities?
Gambling and assaults over personal enmity were the main issues in areas under the Kalu Police Station's jurisdiction. Gambling in turn feeds into other crimes such as theft and results in deteriorating law and order. We used the Goonda Act to bar people from gambling. This helped us to a large extent in controlling other crimes.

3 People often complain that police do not listen to their grievances. Was anything done to change this perception?
We created a reception room in the police station with sofa sets and provided other facilities such as water and tea. Visitors to our police station were made to feel as if they had walked into a corporate office. I used to stay in office the entire day and personally hear grievances of people, however petty their case may be. This encouraged more residents to file complaints and see the police as their friend.

4 Were the staff happy with the changes at the police station?
The police force is a disciplined force. We made a badminton court for the staff inside the compound and also planted 150 trees. We also started growing vegetables using organic farming methods and the produce was used for cooking food in the mess of the police station.

5 When did you join the police force?
I joined the police force in 2014. I am originally from Shri Balaji village in Nagaur district. The posting at Kalu Police Station was my second. After Kalu was adjudged the best police station in the country, I received the DGP disc and was felicitated by the Union Home Ministry.

DEEP MUKHERJEE

A boy named Narendra Damodardas Modi

Less than a month after her story hit headlines, the UP woman who named her child after the PM blames a journalist cousin for perpetrating a "fraud". She now wants a new name for her son — Aftab Alam Mohd Modi. More simply, Aftab

ASAD REHMAN

IN THE days following May 23, when the BJP returned to power riding on another Narendra Modi wave, came a breezy news from a village in Gonda, Uttar Pradesh: of a Muslim woman who had named her child — "born on the day of the election results" — 'Narendra Damodardas Modi'.

Less than a month later, sitting in her unplastered, two-storey house in Parsapur Mahraur village, Mehnaz Begum, 25, says she regrets naming her child that, and blames her journalist cousin for allegedly convincing her to pull off the 'fraud'. The child, it now turns out, was born on May 12, not 23, as Mehnaz declared in an affidavit addressed to the district magistrate and submitted to Assistant Development Officer (Panchayat) Ghanshyam Pandey.

Pandey confirms that he received Mehnaz's affidavit with the child's name as 'Narendra Damodardas Modi' and that he forwarded it to the DM's office.

"*Humein kya pata tha ki itni aafat aa jayegi. Hum toh apne khala ke ladke ke behkawe mein aa gaye* (I had no idea it would become such a big issue. I fell for what my aunt's son told me)," Mehnaz says.

She alleges her first cousin, Mushtaq Ahmed, a journalist with Hindi daily *Hindustan* in Gonda, not just convinced her to name the child after Modi but also spread the word that the child was born on May 23. On May 25, *Hindustan's* Lucknow edition carried a story on Mehnaz and baby 'Modi' on page 12, with Ahmed sharing the byline with Bureau Chief Qamar Abbas.

"Mushtaq made me mug up a short speech and tell mediapersons that my son was born on May 23 and that I have decided to name him after the Prime Minister. I am illiterate and don't even know much about



"Villagers are boycotting us. Only a few came for Eid," Mehnaz says. *Taha Ahmad*

Narendra Modi," says Mehnaz as neighbours gather at her house.

Denying the allegations and accusing Mehnaz of lying about the child's birthday, Mushtaq says on the phone: "It was not my suggestion. She told me she would name her child Narendra Damodardas Modi and I agreed to write about it in the newspaper I work for. But I didn't know she had lied about the child's date of birth."

Dr Ashutosh Shukla, Superintendent of the Community Health Centre at Wazirganj, 15 km from the village where Mehnaz delivered her child, confirmed that the boy was born on May 12. "It was a normal delivery and Mehnaz was discharged from hospital on May 13," Shukla told *The Sunday Express*. K K Upadhyay, who was Editor,

Hindustan (Lucknow), when the story was published, said, "We got the story from the village and published it. The story is not false and the child's name remains the same. The story was verified and the mother later told all mediapersons what she told us. Her story was published in all newspapers the same day." Teervijay Singh, who has been appointed Editor, refused to comment, saying he would take charge only in July.

Senior Reporter Qamar Abbas, who shared the byline with Mushtaq, said, "After the whole thing got a lot of attention from the media, the woman may have been under pressure from her community. She probably fears that her child will be boycotted. Which explains why she is levelling these allegations

against my colleague after 10-15 days."

Mehnaz's husband Mohd Mushtaq Ahmed works as a mason in Dubai and last came home in November 2018. "He is angry with the whole controversy and has not sent me any money for June. He usually sends Rs 4,000 a month. Only when he comes again for Diwali this year will I be able to explain to him what happened. I hope he sends me money from next month. This house belongs to my father-in-law and I don't have any other source of income except for what my husband sends me every month," she says, wiping her tears and cradling the little "Modi".

"He has had a cough and cold for a couple of weeks. I have to take him to the doctor every day and he charges me Rs 200 per visit," she adds. Mehnaz has two other children — Mantasiha Fatima, 7, and Zoya Fatima, 4.

Saying no local politician or leader visited her and the child, Mehnaz adds, "Only the media visited us, took photographs, interviewed us and left. They stopped visiting us after the issue about my son's date of birth came up," she says, asking the neighbours to leave her alone.

After they have moved out, she says, "Some people belonging to my community have boycotted us because they had issues with me naming the child after a Hindu leader. This Eid, very few people came home to eat *sewai*, whereas every year, we would be tired washing the dishes."

"Some people in the village have been saying that I will be sent to jail for lying. Now I am scared. If I go to jail, who will look after my children?" she adds.

"My husband is angry with me and has not sent me any money for June. Only when he comes home for Diwali this year will I be able to explain to him what happened"

Standing outside Mehnaz's house are neighbours Deepak Singh, 28, and Mohd Shamsuddin, 27. "She can name her child what she wants. Why should anyone have a problem?" argues Shamsuddin, as Deepak nods.

Sitting at a tea shop with others, Mehnaz's father-in-law Mohd Idris, 61, blames his daughter-in-law and her cousin for the controversy. "On May 22, she and Mushtaq were talking and planning something. I don't interfere much in her life. On May 24, Mushtaq wrote in the newspaper about her naming the child Narendra Modi. After that, several other media people came and interviewed us. When I asked Mehnaz about the child's name, she said she had discussed it with her husband," says Idris, dejected.

Speaking on behalf of his mother who is the village pradhan, Riyaz Ahmed, 35, accuses Mehnaz of lying. "She was told that if she names her child after Narendra Modi, the baby would be adopted by the government and would get benefits. Someone in the village let out to the media that the child was not born on May 23. After that, reporters went to the hospital and checked. No one has boycotted the family. She is saying that because she was caught lying," says Riyaz.

At home, peeling potatoes for dinner with little 'Modi' by her side, Mehnaz says she now wants to name the child Aftab Alam Mohd Modi, but needs help filing a revised affidavit.

"Anyway, at home, I simply call him Aftab," she says.

DEATH IN THE CITY



Shailendra Yadav cleaning the glass facade of the 14-storey Vatika City Point in Gurgaon. One round, all the way down, takes about 45 minutes. Photos by Gajendra Yadav

Outside looking in

The world is many storeys down from where Shailendra Yadav spends 6 days a week. But thoughts of death are never too far away, as the recent killing of two building cleaners like him from a fall showed

SAKSHI DAYAL

SHAILENDRA YADAV, 20, remembers the first time he hung down the side of a multi-storey building to clean its windows, back in 2016. He felt "a mix of fear and excitement", he says. A resident of Uttar Pradesh's Kannauj area, he had only arrived in Gurgaon a year earlier, and was barely accustomed to seeing "buildings that touch the sky".

Now, six days a week, Yadav scales one such structure, a bucket of soapy water hanging from a harness around his body, a wiper in one hand, cleaning the facades of office buildings, hotels and hospitals in the city.

Today, he leaves at 8 am from his rented accommodation in Delhi's Rajokri on his motorcycle for Gurgaon. The building allotted to his team for this fortnight is Vatika City Point, a 14-floor commercial space on M G Road.

Taking the service elevator, Yadav goes to the terrace where, against a backdrop of high rises, he is greeted by his co-workers — three other cleaners like himself, and their supervisor.

"Our team currently cleans three buildings in the city, all of which belong to Vatika. We spend 15 days on each structure, after which we move on to the next one," he says, putting on a harness and a helmet, as his colleagues attach a bucket of water, carrying an alkaline 'degreaser' mix, to a safety lock at the back of the harness. A couple of wipers and mops lie immersed in the solution. He is also handed a suction pump, meant to anchor him to any spot on the building.

Next, Yadav climbs up a parapet and, holding onto a rope, hoists himself to the side of the building. Sticking the suction pump to the glass exterior to stabilise himself, he runs a mop across a small part, soaping the glass. The traffic from the busy M G Road wafts up as a faint, distant sound.

Yadav says he followed his elder brother into the trade, after finishing his Class 12 from a government school in Kannauj and trying his hands at other things. The firm he joined, TechoClean, is a 'facility management company', and has been outsourced the task of window cleaning by another company.

Apart from the three buildings that Yadav's team cleans, the 55 cleaners associated with TechnoClean maintain the facades of several other structures in Gurgaon,



Yadav started doing this job in 2016, and says he is now over his fear

Noida, and Delhi. Pankaj Thakur, a Senior Supervisor at the company, says, "We started with a team of 10, 25 years ago. As Gurgaon and the surrounding areas grew, and the number of highrises rocketed, our team expanded as well."

Before he began work, Yadav says, he underwent one month of intensive training, both in handling technical equipment to descend from buildings as well as safety measures. "After the training, I was made to clean buildings that were not so high, or to clean lower floors of buildings. The first structure I was ever sent to was seven-storey-high. I was very scared when I first dropped from the top, but I also felt very excited. It was overwhelming... In my village in UP, the highest I had ever been to was four floors. Now, I clean the windows and glass walls of buildings as high as 19 floors, and feel no apprehension at all. I got used to the height," he says.

By 9.55 am, Yadav has made his way down to the ground, his first round of cleaning done. Removing his harness and helmet, he takes the elevator back to the terrace, where he hands the equipment to another window cleaner, who will now make his

way down another section of the building.

Seeking a small shade in a corner to settle down, Yadav says, "Each of us make two trips down the building daily — before lunch and after. It takes around 45 minutes for us to usually complete the task once."

By 12.30 pm, each of the members of Yadav's team have completed their first round of cleaning. They go down to the sixth floor, which is currently unoccupied, to have their lunch. Before they open their tiffins, they spread out three discarded paperboards to fashion a makeshift mat.

"During summers, we usually take a two-hour lunch break. We can't work in the afternoon heat," says Yadav.

Senior Supervisor Thakur says the company understands the limitations imposed by heat. "Officially, they are supposed to clean 1,500 sq ft daily. But in summers, at most they manage 800-900 sq ft."

Thakur says the weather can also be a factor in the safety of the cleaners. "Monsoon is when we have to be the most cautious. If there is even the slightest chance of rain, work is suspended... It is not just that the men will become wet, problems can arise with equipment. The rope, for exam-

ple, will get wet and can expand, because of which it can get jammed, making it impossible for our cleaners to manipulate it to descend or ascend."

Leaning back against a wall, Yadav speaks of his family back home, including his parents and wife. They got married only in February this year. While none of the three has ever been to Gurgaon, they have heard of the buildings marking its skyline and fear Yadav will plunge to death during his work. "They keep telling me I should take up some other work. But the money is decent and I do not mind the work. I have no intention of switching as of now," says Yadav, who earns Rs 10,000 a month.

His co-worker Pappu, on the other hand, has told his family back home he works in "security". "I took up this work around three years ago, after hearing of it from my cousin, who was also a window cleaner at the time. He advised me to not tell my family about my actual job because they would panic and protest," says the 23-year-old, asserting that like Yadav he has got over the initial nerves.

Although both Yadav and Pappu have heard of window cleaners or construction workers suspended from buildings like them falling and getting injured or killed, they claim to be unaware of the recent death of two cleaners in Delhi, when the electronic outdoor lift they were standing on plummeted seven floors down.

Says Pappu, "There is a certain amount of danger in every task, even in simply crossing the road. As long as we take precautions, we can protect ourselves. If we stop doing certain jobs because of such fears, we will never be able to provide for our families."

Thakur says that while hiring, safety is paramount for the company, and that it takes into account both the age and weight of workers. "We hire people only up to the age of 40, and prefer those around 25 because the work becomes more difficult with age. In terms of weight, we don't hire people who weigh more than 55 kg because they won't be able to get the momentum needed to clean the glass while hanging," he says.

At 2.30 pm, Yadav's team makes it way back to the terrace, and he is again the first one to be trussed up, for his second and last trip down the building. The bucket contains fresh water and degreaser. By 5.15 pm, the men is done.

Next week, another building awaits.

Monika & Angoori

On June 18, a 3-yr-old tied to her mother's back died at a construction site in Noida. Work took barely a pause in hundreds of sites all around, where labourers, their children flirt with danger



AMITAVA CHAKRABORTY

BARELY A few metres from a prestigious school in Noida Extension's Sector Tech Zone 4 near the national capital, five scantily-clad children sit down for lunch on the footpath in front of their tarpaulin house. With the mercury touching 40 degrees Celsius, the children struggle to shield their plates from the sand and dust blowing in from the tens of under-construction buildings in the area.

"My husband and I have worked for top real estate groups. Numerous projects are coming up here and as blacksmiths, we are in demand," says 31-year-old Sangeeta, serving rice to the children, adding, "It is one of those rare days when we are both at home. Even on our off days, we sell momos from a cart."

Parents of four — three sons and a daughter, all below eight years — Sangeeta and her husband mould iron products needed for strengthening foundations of buildings. "We set up a *bhatti* (a small furnace) at the construction site, where we beat the iron to shape and size. It is not only a tiring but also a risky job," she says.

But it is not work that worries Sangeeta. Her concern is the safety of her children who accompany her to work. "They play among themselves but because of the *bhatti*, I feel scared," she says.

Mishaps leading to loss of lives are not uncommon at sites such as Sangeeta's. On June 18, a three-year-old girl, Monika, tied to her mother Angoori's back, died after the walls of a ditch being dug at a site in Greater Noida collapsed. Three others, also allegedly forced into the ditch despite the earth being loose, were injured in the incident.

The news hasn't made its way though to these parts.

"I don't want to take my children to the site. But where will they stay after school is over at 2 pm? I have to work till 5 pm," Sangeeta says, turning to her elder son Veer, who, she claims, is learning nothing at school but keeps getting promoted every year.

Most labourers in the area send their children to a nearby public school.

A little over a kilometre away is a slum, the residents of which work at adjacent construction sites, many of which are closed now because of fund crunch or legal issues.

Sitting in their one-room, unplastered home are 37-year-old Ashok and Chanchala. Natives of Bihar's Jamui district, the couple migrated to Noida about eight years ago and have been working as labourers since.

As she is off from work today, Chanchala is taking care of as many as seven neighbourhood children, apart from her three daughters — two of them eight and six and school-going, and the youngest who is nearly three and needs support to walk.

"We are scared of taking her (the youngest) with us to the site. So we leave her with our neighbours if they are at home," says 30-year-old Chanchala. But since such days are rare, Chanchala, who earns about Rs 250 a day plastering walls, ends up mostly



(From top) Off today, Chanchala is looking after 7 neighbouring children; Sangeeta, her husband and children

leaving the girl at home alone. "I keep water and food in separate vessels. She drinks and eats from them. Once my elder daughters are back from school, they take care of her. Even when I am working, my mind is at home. Before she was born, I had two miscarriages," says Chanchala, suddenly sombre.

Ashok says the nature of his job makes things harder for Chanchala. "The *thekedar* (contractor) sends me to different locations — often Sector 150 (about 30 km away) and Gurgaon (nearly 55 km away). On days I finish late, I am not able to return home."

Sitting on a muddy road next to a construction site in Sector 4 in Noida Extension is 35-year-old Sangeeta, who has been working as a labourer for nearly 12 years now. Hailing from Bihar's Bhagalpur district, Sangeeta is leaving five hours earlier than usual today. "I am working half day as I have to visit a relative. My husband is taking care of our three children (a daughter and two sons) at home," she says.

On most days though, her younger son, who is not yet enrolled in school, accompanies Sangeeta to work. Pointing to the 10-storey building where she works, the 35-year-old says, "You think it's safe to bring him? The upper floors don't even have walls. But I have no option... Many other labourers also bring their children, he plays with them. I earn Rs 300 every day and I have to pay Rs 3,000 every month as school fees for my two kids. Then, there are other expenditures. I am not left with enough money to send the youngest one to school. But I know, if he doesn't go to school, he will end up working like me."

It is the same thing that bothers Ashok. Sitting in his jhuggi about 8 km away, he rues, "I grew up in Bihar. Only if my parents had sent me to school, taught me how to hold a pen, I could have done something better. Now, it is the fear that my daughters may sleep on empty stomach that keeps me going."

'People stuck in jams get frustrated... a majority of IT sector follows our advisories'

Since a four-hour-long traffic jam on June 21 following a spell of heavy rain in the IT corridor in Cyberabad area of Hyderabad, the Cyberabad Traffic Police has started issuing advisories to office-goers, primarily in the IT field, to either leave work an hour before peak traffic or leave later if rain is anticipated. In a first, it would also issue updates if rain is expected during peak hours

TAKE 5

FACES ON THE FRINGES OF NEWS

DCP, CYBERABAD TRAFFIC POLICE, S M VIJAY KUMAR

1 Have you had success with these traffic advisories?

If it rains during peak traffic hours, especially in the evening, a combination of factors creates huge jams, including waterlogging, road damage and bottlenecks. People get frustrated and vent out their ire on traffic police and municipal authorities. The jams can be avoided if fewer vehicles are on roads... A majority of the people in the IT sector follow our advisories. They are in touch with their security officers and also follow the Cyberabad Traffic Police on social media.

2 How about people not on social media?

We also issue advisories over all the FM radio channels. There is no other way to inform everybody.

3 What is the Cyberabad Traffic Police doing to ease these jams and congestion?

We are working in coordination with municipal authorities to repair potholes and to deploy water pumps to clear waterlogged areas. We also issue maps

showing alternative routes so as to avoid waterlogged areas.

4 How many bottlenecks and waterlogging points have you identified in the Hi-Tech area and IT corridor?

There are 30 places which see traffic jams, mostly due to waterlogging or bad patches of roads. About 150 traffic cops are there during peak hours.

5 What happened on June 21?

There was a brief spell of heavy rain in

the evening. All traffic policemen as well as many police officials handling law and order were summoned to help regulate the traffic in Hi-Tech and Gachibowli areas. Senior police officers stuck in the jam also got down from their vehicles to help manage the jam. But it was difficult because all the roads were choked. Finally some two-lane roads were made single-lane and incoming traffic was diverted to clear the jam.

SREENIVAS JANYALA



The June 21 jam following rain

ACROSS THE AISLE



P CHIDAMBARAM

One Nation, One Election, Many Fears

YOU HAVE to give it to Prime Minister Modi to throw up issues that will distract the attention of the people. He bets on the fact that the Opposition will respond by speaking in multiple voices and not always with irrefutable facts or logic.

Pulwama was a telling example. By every account, there was a massive intelligence failure. The governor of Jammu & Kashmir admitted as much when he said on February 15, 2019, "We could not detect or check the vehicle full of explosives moving on the highway... The fact that we did not know that there was a *fi-dayeen* among them (local militants) is also part of the intelligence failure."

No government could keep quiet after the attack. Balakot was the answer, the Pakistan Air Force was half-prepared, the Indian Air Force hit the targets, and Pakistan shot down an IAF aircraft. The doubts are not about the strike but about the number of casualties. So, what do we have? — a worrying failure in Pulwama and a significant success in Balakot.

DISTRACT ATTENTION

Mr Narendra Modi successfully fused Pulwama and Balakot. Anyone questioning the intelligence failure in Pulwama (and the tragic loss of 40 lives) was mischievously interpreted as if he was questioning the IAF's success in Balakot, and labelled an anti-national. The Opposition — at least in the Hindi-speaking states — was not able to respond to this clever election tactic and make the people understand the distinction between the

Pulwama failure and the Balakot success. Mr Modi successfully distracted the people and took the election discourse away from the sluggish economy, unemployment, farmers' distress, communal hatred, lynching, etc.

After the election to the Lok Sabha, the focus should return to the sluggish economy, unemployment, farmers' distress, communal hatred, lynching, etc. That should have been the thrust of the President's Address; that should have been the core of the Prime Minister's replies in Parliament; and that should be the theme of the pre-Budget debates. Alas, it is not so, and what is hogging the public space is Mr Modi's slogan of One Nation, One Election. It is the new distracting tactic.

UNCONSTITUTIONAL

In a federal parliamentary democracy, the council of ministers in the Central government and the state government shall be collectively responsible, respectively, to the House of the People [Article 75(3)] and to the Legislative Assembly [Article 164(2)]. The 'responsibility' to the Legislature means that the council of ministers must enjoy the confidence of the majority in the Legislature every day and every hour. The moment the council of ministers loses the support of the majority, it should go. The notion that such a council of ministers can continue in office until another council of ministers proved it has the support of the majority is antithetical to the fundamental principles of a parliamentary democracy.

Suppose a government is voted out, but no other person can muster the support of a majority in the Legislature, will the defeated prime minister or chief minister continue in office? That would be parliamentary sacrilege. Mid-term election is the only legitimate answer.

Equally antithetical to a parliamentary democracy are suggestions to the effect that the tenure of a Legislative Assembly can be extended or curtailed despite the prescribed term. The people elect candidates for a prescribed term: it will be an affront to the people if the term is extended or curtailed.

Eventually, the campaign for One Nation, One Election has been launched with the full knowledge that it is unconstitutional under the present Constitution. Although the protagonists will not admit it yet, their real intention is to change the Constitution. The direction of change is also visible: unitary, not federal; stronger Executive, weaker Legislature; uniformity, not diversity; common identity, not multiple cultures; and majoritarian, not consensual. The direction is toward a presidential system of government.

BEWARNED OF CHANGES

All of the above can be achieved only by amending, extensively, the present Constitution of India. It appears that the BJP is not averse to the idea of drastically amending the Constitution because they believe that, since the RSS was not represented in the Constituent Assembly, they

are not obliged to take ownership of the present Constitution. It is obvious that the RSS and BJP want a Constitution of their liking and the One Nation, One Election campaign is a precursor to changing the Constitution.

No comparable country with a federal system of government has simultaneous elections to the national parliament and to the state/provincial legislatures — notable examples are Australia, Canada and Germany. The United States has a presidential system of government and hence is not comparable. Besides, the US has simultaneous elections and non-simultaneous elections (one election every four years and one election every two years). The argument that a country cannot be in perpetual election mode is also hollow: what does it matter if in a handful of state elections are held when due? If any country is in so-called perpetual election mode, it is the US where the House of Representatives is elected every two years! The US seems no worse for it.

The BJP should make plain its intentions. If it wants a presidential system of government, let it say so openly. Let the people decide if the priorities before the country, at this stage, are the sluggish economy, unemployment, farmers' distress, communal hatred and lynching, or installing the first Executive President, subservient Cabinet and powerless Parliament.

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FIFTH COLUMN



TAVLEEN SINGH

No rule of law, no democracy

FROM INDORE last week came pictures of the son of a senior BJP leader using a bat to attack officials on government duty. From a village in Jharkhand came a video of the latest lynching. Tabrez Ansari was tied to a pole and, while being beaten with sticks by a mob, ordered to repeat 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Jai Hanuman'. The video of his terrified face was too awful to watch, but went viral on social media as did the news that the local police, instead of taking him to hospital, locked him up. It took him four days to die. And in his last days his family was not allowed to meet him.

In Mumbai a Muslim taxi driver, Faizal Usman Khan, was beaten by a Hindu mob, who ordered him to say 'Jai Shri Ram' as they beat him. He later told reporters that his cab stalled and, while he was trying to fix it, some men came by on a scooter and started beating him for what he thought was no reason till they ordered him to say 'Jai Shri Ram', till he became unconscious.

In Kolkata, a Muslim teacher, Hafiz Mohammed Shahrukh Halder, was thrown off a train because he refused to say 'Jai Shri Ram'. He sustained severe injuries but lived. He told reporters that his attackers had first mocked him for his clothes and his Islamic beard and then ordered him to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'.

In Kasganj, Uttar Pradesh, a policeman was threatened by a local BJP legislator because he arrested his friends for rowdiness. The MLA warned him that he had the power to have him transferred.

In Parliament, meanwhile, the Prime Minister made two fine speeches in which he painted a glowing picture of the 'new' India he promises he will build. A prosperous, powerful, secure India in which every citizen will be treated equally. In his speech in the Rajya Sabha, he mentioned Tabrez Ansari. He was saddened, he said, by the death of this youth and hoped that those responsible would be given the severest punishment. He denounced violence in general and said nobody had the right to break the law, whether in Jharkhand, West Bengal or anywhere else.

As I listened, I found myself wishing that the Prime Minister had put more emphasis on the significance of the rule of law for the survival of democracy. I found myself wishing that he had pointed out that without the rule of law there can be no democracy. If he had said something like this, it is possible that his message would have been clearer to his partymen and to the killer mobs who now defile Ram himself with their craven brutality. It is no longer about cows. It is about the rule of the mob.

No excuse is needed for violence. In the case of Akash Vijayvargiya, an MLA in his own right, when asked why he was beating up the officials in Indore, he defended himself proudly. On camera he announced that it was his policy to first make a polite request and, when this was refused, he did not think it wrong to use violence.

He was arrested for attacking the officials. But, has so far not been sacked from the BJP. What signal does this send?

Let me answer my own question. The signal this sends is that taking the law into your hands is kind of acceptable in the eyes of those who the Prime Minister has made responsible for laying the building blocks of the 'new' India. It is not even about Hindus attacking Muslims any more because once mob rule becomes acceptable, it becomes the norm. In Patna last week, when a drunken driver (Hindu) ran over children sleeping on a pavement, he was not caught and handed to the police but killed on the spot by a mob.

In India the wheels of justice turn slowly. Sometimes they do not turn at all. If the victim is poor and helpless and the culprit rich and powerful, justice is unattainable in many cases. So a degree of rough justice has always existed. But, in the past few years, cow vigilantism has given a whole new facet to rule by the mob. The vigilantes have mostly got away with what they did. Inevitably, now that Narendra Modi's mandate is bigger than the one that he got last time, many of his supporters see it as sanction for them to carry on with their violent activities.

After making his first speech to his newly elected MPs in Parliament's Central Hall, the Prime Minister bowed his head before the Constitution as if it were a sacred text. This wonderful gesture will soon seem meaningless unless mob rule is brought to a swift end. A good first step would be to expel Akash Vijayvargiya.

Follow Tavleen Singh on Twitter @tavleen_singh

INSIDE TRACK



COOMI KAPOOR

CONGRESS IN LIMBO

THE CONGRESS is in limbo with Rahul Gandhi remaining adamant that he will not continue as party president. A few alternative scenarios are being talked about. The old guard is pushing three names for president — Mallikarjun Kharge, Ashok Gehlot and Sushil Kumar Shinde — since they are considered loyalists and have the requisite experience. Kharge's performance as the party's leader in the previous Lok Sabha gives him an edge, particularly as he is from the south. Another proposal is for Manmohan Singh to be made party chief. His name has been floated by backers of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who want her to eventually take over the party. An alternative is that Sonia Gandhi becomes party chief temporarily. Meanwhile, there is a buzz in the Congress that someone close to the Gandhi family could jump ship. Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's appointment as Congress leader in the Lok Sabha has not been well received. No name has been announced as deputy leader in the Lok Sabha since Manish Tewari and Shashi Tharoor are most reluctant to work under him.

POETIC ADVICE

With opposition parties yet to recover from their devastating defeat, the mood is palpably glum in Parliament. Kapil Sibal, the Congress's legal brain and the party's in-house poet, has, however, not lost his equanimity. When asked if he had composed a poem to suit the occasion, he rattled off a verse: "Chal chod batein kal ki/Mat pooch kiski galti/Is mein milega na kuchh bhi/Har kadam pe kismat badalti (Forget yesterday's events/Don't ask whose fault it is/You will get nothing out of this/With each step, one's fortunes keeps changing)."

NO ROOM LEFT

A group of first-time YSR Congress MPs were noticed in Parliament's Central Hall, intently studying portraits on the wall of some of the biggest names in Indian politics. They especially examined the placement of a recently installed portrait of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The YSR Congress wants to put forward a demand that the portrait of the late Y S Rajasekhara Reddy, former Andhra Pradesh CM and father of party

OUT OF MY MIND



MEGHNAD DESAI

IT IS a constant of Indian history since time immemorial. India never had a central empire which covered the entire subcontinent as China had through its history. In India there were occasionally large regional empires, mainly in the Doab region. But never the South or the Northeast. Most empires broke up into small principalities after lasting a century at most.

The kingdoms in South India were maritime, spreading to South East Asia,

president and present CM Jaganmohan Reddy, be installed in Central Hall. The problem is that there is not an inch of space to accommodate another frame. Vajpayee's portrait had been squeezed in with great difficulty. A friendly journalist suggested that the party should instead petition for a statue of YSR Reddy to be erected in the Parliament complex.

LIMELIGHT STOLEN

Trinamool leader Derek O'Brien is used to being the centre of attention in Delhi. But last week, first-time Trinamool MP Mahua Moitra stole the limelight. O'Brien tweeted and re-tweeted his speech in the Rajya Sabha but it was Moitra's maiden speech in the Lok Sabha which grabbed all the attention. The former investment banker's hard-hitting address on fascism was noticed and went viral on social media. Though he was not in the chair when Moitra spoke, the new Speaker, Om Birla, has been praised for letting first-time MPs speak at length. Among those to avail of the opportunity to make a maiden speech, this time in the Rajya Sabha, was KJ Alphonso, who was Minister of State for Culture and Tourism in the last government. But as minister, Alphonso was never able to answer questions or make statements on behalf of his ministry due to continuous disruptions.

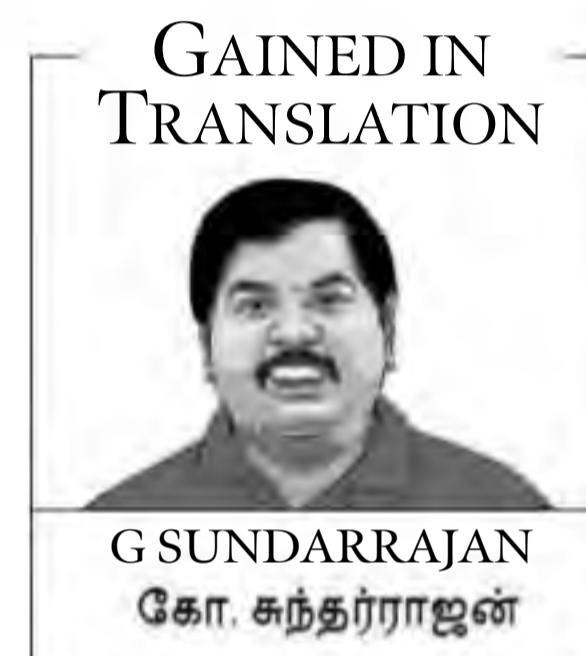
NOTABLE OMISSION

With S Jaishankar and Jugal Thakor filing their nominations for the two Gujarat Rajya Sabha seats, which have been vacant since the resignations of Amit Shah and Smriti Irani from the Upper House, Gujarat OBC leader Alpesh Thakor's nose is slightly out of joint. Thakor, who heads a popular anti-prohibition movement and helped a resurgent Congress during the last Assembly polls, recently quit the party. It was expected that he would join the BJP and be suitably rewarded. Thakor, along with two other Congress MLAs, should normally have been disqualified for violating the anti-defection law by quitting the party. However, Gujarat Assembly Speaker Rajendra Trivedi of the BJP is yet to give his ruling.

BACK SOON

Manmohan Singh's Rajya Sabha term expired on June 14. The Congress had planned to bring back the former prime minister to the Upper House from Tamil Nadu. There are three vacancies from the state and the DMK is reportedly agreeable to offering its extra votes. But with the death last week of Rajya Sabha BJP MP Madan Lal Saini, the Congress does not require the DMK's help. Singh can now be elected from Rajasthan.

A world without water



G SUNDARRAJAN
கோ. சுந்தரராஜன்

GAINED IN TRANSLATION

AROUND 2,000 years ago, in his immense and matchless wisdom, the sage-poet Thiruvalluvar said there was no world without water, *Neer indri amaiyathu ulagu*. Today, even as Chennai has come to the streets searching for water, the words shine a light on the immortality of the truth yet again.

Chennai is parched. So is Tamil Nadu. Women of already water-stressed districts like Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram have to walk several kilometres daily to fetch water. The walks offer no assurance of the availability of water. On many days, they have to do without the "luxury". Temporary wells have been dug in several villages in and around these districts for the poor to access some water. Early this March, the state government declared 24 districts as hit by hydrological drought, and allotted close to Rs 900 crore to handle the scarcity. That has not seen an end to women walking miles looking for water. Nor has it ended the midnight queues next to water tanks in Chennai.

Though the entire state is reeling under a debilitating water crisis, the focus is largely on Chennai. The state capital has a population of about a crore — the density making it enormously difficult to handle the crisis. The four reservoirs in and around Chennai — Red Hills, Sholavaram, Poondi and Chembarambakkam — have completely dried up. The four reservoirs were essential to quench the city's thirst. Not so long ago, in 2015, Chembarambakkam had filled up and the overflow had flooded Chennai. But the flood that brought the city's residents to the streets is now a distant, fading memory for those who have returned to the streets, this time to demand water.

As an environmentalist, I have reasons to believe that this drought is the result of human follies. Chennai has seen some rain-deficient years in the past. While it received less rainfall last year than usual, it could still manage the drought. So, to



Illustration Suvajit Dey

blame low rainfall is clearly an attempt by the authorities to pass the buck. Such excuses offer a convenient blindfold against actual solutions. The crisis Chennai is currently facing is drought-accumulation stress: in other words, our own failure to take concrete steps over the past decades. Several of us saw this coming. Chennai's water need is about 12 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) per year and desilting all the four reservoirs would take its capacity to well over the city's requirements. That has not happened!

Chennai has lost over 350 lakes in the past several years. Over the years, Chennai has also lost its green cover which, in turn, has led to the loss of groundwater. With no path for rainwater to seep down, Chennai is facing the danger of exploiting all its groundwater by 2020, according to a NITI Aayog report. This year, the groundwater level has gone down drastically in many districts, including Chennai, compounding the crisis.

It is perhaps time the state turned to ancient wisdom for solutions. The Chola kingdom was particularly known for exemplary water management by way of constructing lakes. Kallanai constructed by the Chola king, Karikalan, remains a fine example of constructing a dam without causing environmental damage. Two lakes constructed by the Chola kings over a thousand years ago — in Madurantahakam and Veeranam — cater to the needs of the public till date.

Ancient Tamil literature, especially of the Sangam era, is replete with ideas on water management and its importance. Elango Adigal, the author of *Silappadhikaram*, one of the five great epics of Tamil, describes the qualities of a good king thus: *Idiyudai perumazhai eitha ega*

pisiyavilaiyu peruvalam tharappa mazhai pinithu aanda mannavan (A good king is one who saves rainwater in tanks and lakes, and enriches his land).

A poem from the Sangam-era anthology *Akananooru* compares a mother watching over her child without sleeping to a soldier guarding a lake: *Perungula kaavalan pola arungadi annaiyum thuyil maranthanale*. Another Sangam poem says that a king will remain victorious and immortal if he takes steps to ensure water resources in low-lying areas: *Aadupor sezhiya igazhaathu valle nilaneli marungin neermilai peruga*.

And, of course, Thirukkural speaks at length on the importance of water and its management.

When elders have handed down such priceless wisdom, it is ironic that our rulers think it fit to hold *yagnas* to propitiate the rain gods. Reports suggest that a permanent solution to the water woes of Chennai — and Tamil Nadu — lies with the monsoon. Metro water authorities are raving how only rain can solve this crisis. But that is only half-truth. It is our ability to harvest rains for our own future needs that can address the crisis. During the December 2015 deluge in Chennai, 320 TMC water drained into the sea. Our consistent failure to harvest rainwater for our use and needs of future generations will only result in recurrent drought and eventually, a permanently parched Tamil Nadu.

Sundarrajan writes on ecology and volunteers with Poovulagin Nanbargal, a voluntary environmental collective in Tamil Nadu

Translated by the author from Tamil

It is democracy that unites India

but seldom went North to win territory. The first person to rule over all India (excluding what became Pakistan) was Dr Rajendra Prasad. India had to become a sovereign democratic republic to achieve a single geographical shape.

Democracy is not native to India though there were republics in the old days. Yet India took to democracy and stayed democratic. It is too problematic to say whether it was British imperialism which bred democratic culture in the Indians. Pakistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar were also part of the same Empire but their democratic record is patchy. China could not face the breakdown of its empire and, within 40 years of becoming a republic, became communist but without democracy.

So what explains India's fondness for democracy?

My answer is one which people may not like because it goes against much received wisdom. Indians have been searching for a single narrative as to what defines them. The Partition is both the cause and the result of the anxiety to find a single story which would fit all the people of the subcontinent. Hindu identity was sought by many great leaders, starting with Swami Dayanand Saraswati, Swami Vivekanand and of course, in his own way, Mahatma Gandhi. Yet again these ideas were mainly confined to the North. Even after a century and a half, the issue of Hindu nationalism has not been resolved.

This is partly because Hinduism/

Sanatan Dharma is not easy to encapsulate in a single simple message. There is no single book, no original founder, no single God. Hinduism is a multi-layered, multi-lingual, polytheistic religion. India is as large as Europe and has just as many languages. Christianity united Europe till it broke up into rival sects, Catholic and Protestants, which led to many wars. Religion split Europe till after two bloody world wars people came to their senses and created the European Union.

A country as large and as diverse as Europe, with as many religions as you can wish for, plus the multi-coloured rich Hinduism, has never been conquered by a single ruler. It was democracy which united the Doab and Punjab with Bengal and Assam plus the South. No region, no

language can ride roughshod over others. Democracy allows disputes and complaints to be resolved peacefully. India has set up mechanisms for reconciliation, such as federalism with the statutory Finance Commission, Judiciary which is unitary, the Election Commission holding regular elections where millions express their voice.

Even over the last 72 years, there have been deep divisions between the North and South on the national language question. The Assamese felt their identity threatened by influx of 'other' people, and India is still sorting that issue. The Nagas in the Northeast and the people of the Kashmir Valley have yet to feel fully Indian. Democracy will provide the answer.



USA
AFTER DEBATE, HARRIS RAISES \$2M IN 24 HRS
Kamala Harris reports that she raised \$2 million in the 24 hours after her breakout performance during the Democratic debates. Figures provided by the California senator's campaign indicate that over half of the contributions came from people who had never given to her before.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Richard Ratcliffe with a photo of his wife Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, outside the Iranian Embassy in London Saturday. AP

IRAN
Jailed UK aid worker ends hungerstrike
London: Jailed British-Iranian aid worker Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe has ended a hunger strike in Tehran designed to push for her release, her husband told the BBC on Saturday. Zaghari-Ratcliffe, a project manager with the Thomson Reuters Foundation, began the hunger strike roughly two weeks ago. She was arrested in April 2016 at a Tehran airport as she headed back to Britain with her daughter after a family visit and was sentenced to five years in jail after being convicted of plotting to overthrow Iran's clerical establishment.

PAKISTAN
Local ANP leader shot dead in Peshawar

Peshawar: A local leader of the Awami National Party (ANP) was shot dead by unidentified men in front of a shopping store here on Saturday, police said. Unidentified armed men, who were riding a bike, opened fire at Sartaj Khan, president of the district unit of ANP, as soon as he came out of the shopping store, they said. Eye witnesses said that the accused opened fire after Khan resisted a robbery bid. The leader, who was in his early thirties, was rushed to hospital where he was declared dead, doctors said, adding that Khan was shot on the head.

GERMANY
Painting stolen by Nazis to be returned to Italy

Berlin: German says it will return to Italy a painting by Dutch artist Jan van Huysum that was stolen by Nazi troops during World War II. The government said Foreign Minister Heiko Maas and his Italian counterpart Enzo Moavero will travel to Florence soon to hand the still-life *Vase of Flowers* back to the Uffizi Gallery. Its director, Eike Schmidt, had made an appeal for the return of the painting earlier this year. The oil painting had been part of the Pitti Palace collection in Florence from 1824 until the outbreak of World War II.

U.S. PRESIDENT GOES TO SOUTH KOREA AFTER G20 SUMMIT IN JAPAN

Trump offers to meet Kim at DMZ

North Korea says suggestion 'very interesting', but yet to receive official proposal

ROBERTA RAMPTON & JOYCE LEE
OSAKA, SEOUL, JUNE 29

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Saturday proposed a weekend meeting with Kim Jong Un at the demilitarised zone (DMZ) between North and South Korea, an encounter North Korea said would be meaningful if it goes ahead.

If Trump and Kim do meet, it will be for the third time in just over a year, and four months after their second summit broke down with no progress on US efforts to get North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons.

North Korea said it had not had an official proposal.

Trump made the offer in a tweet about his trip to South Korea, where he landed on Saturday after the Group of 20 summit in Osaka, Japan.

"While there, if Chairman Kim of North Korea sees this, I would meet him at the Border/DMZ just to shake his hand and say Hello(?)" Trump tweeted, later telling reporters his offer was spontaneous: "I just thought of it this morning."

"If he's there, we'll see each other for two minutes, that's all we can, but that will be fine," he said.

About five hours after Trump's tweet, the state news agency KCNA quoted Choe Son Hui, North Korea's first vice-minister of foreign affairs, as saying: "We see it as a very interesting suggestion, but we have not received an official proposal."

"If the DPRK-US summit meetings take place on the division line, as is intended by President Trump, it would serve as another meaningful occasion in further deepening the personal relations between the two leaders and advancing the bilateral relations," Choe said in a statement. She was referring to North Korea by its official name — the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. **REUTERS**

EXPLAINED

A DMZ meeting may be low on content, but high on symbolism

IT IS NOT clear if a Trump-Kim meeting will take place at the demilitarised zone (DMZ) that separates North and South Korea, but if it does, it's likely to be a short photo opportunity that is heavy on symbolism.

If the meeting does happen, Trump said he would prefer not to call it a summit. That means the meeting may not lead to much progress on their many differences that exist despite the apparent bonhomie between the two leaders during their two historic summits in Singapore and Hanoi. The latter of those meetings was quickly cut short with Trump and Kim unable to agree on a deal.

While a handshake at the DMZ won't solve those problems, it could be hugely symbolic if, as Trump has said he is willing to do, he crosses over to the North Korean side with Kim, becoming the first US President to do so.



Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman with US President Donald Trump at the G20 leaders summit in Osaka, Japan, on Saturday. Reuters

Trump says no one blames MbS for Khashoggi killing

AGENCIES
OSAKA, JUNE 29

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump said Saturday he is "extremely angry" about the murder of a Saudi journalist but that nobody had "pointed a finger" at the Kingdom's Crown Prince.

"I am extremely angry and unhappy" about the murder of Jamal Khashoggi at Saudi's consulate in Istanbul, Trump said.

But "nobody has directly pointed a finger" at Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the US President added

It's an honour to be with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, a friend of mine.

— DONALD TRUMP
US PRESIDENT

when asked about whether he raised the issue during a meeting with the royal.

Trump also said he appreciated Saudi Arabia's purchase of US military equipment, calling the Crown Prince a "friend of mine" who had worked to open up the country with economic and social reforms.

G20 MEMBERS, EXCEPT U.S., PLEDGE COMMITMENT TO PARIS CLIMATE DEAL

Osaka: Nineteen members of the G20, except the US, on Saturday reaffirmed their commitment to the "full implementation" of the Paris climate deal, agreeing to look into a wide range of clean technologies and approaches. As at the 2018 G20 meeting in Buenos Aires, the new declaration said that the US reiterated its decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement "because it disadvantages American workers and taxpayers". The G20 nations "will look into a wide range of clean technologies and approaches, including smart cities, ecosystem and community based approaches, nature based solutions and traditional and indigenous knowledge," the final document said. **PTI**

PUTIN TAKES AIM AT LIBERALISM

Osaka: Russian President Vladimir Putin fired a new broadside against Western liberalism Saturday, saying that policies such as welcoming migrants have hurt people's interests. Speaking after the G20 summit, Putin charged that Donald Trump's victory in the 2016 US election and a drop of popularity of traditional parties in Europe have been rooted in growing public dismay with mainstream liberal policies. "The liberal idea has started eating itself," Putin said. **AP**

US, Taliban to open Doha talks in fresh effort to end war

KATHY GANNON
ISLAMABAD, JUNE 29

A FRESH round of talks between the US and the Taliban began in Qatar on Saturday, just days after US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Washington is hoping for an Afghan peace agreement before September 1.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid confirmed that negotiations had begun. Originally scheduled to begin in the morning, the two sides sat down mid-afternoon for the seventh time in a series of direct talks that began last year following the appointment of US peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad.

As in previous talks between Khalilzad and the Taliban, the focus will be on the withdrawal of US troops and Taliban guarantees to prevent Afghanistan from again hosting militants who can stage global attacks.

Both sides say they have come to an understanding on the withdrawal and the guarantees, but the details have yet to be worked out. Both Khalilzad and Pompeo have said that agreements with the

TALIBAN KILL 25 PRO-GOVERNMENT MILITIA MEMBERS

Kabul: At least 25 people from pro-government militias were killed in a Taliban attack in northern Afghanistan Saturday, officials said, as the United States was due to start a new round of talks with the militants in Qatar. The attack happened in Nahrin district of northern Baghlan province before dawn when the militia members attempted to rescue a group of soldiers surrounded by Taliban militants, Fawad Aman, a defense ministry spokesman, said. "As they were going to help the soldiers, they got ambushed. Unfortunately, 25 members... were killed in the attack," he said. **PTI**

Taliban will come hand in hand with agreements on an intra-Afghan dialogue and a permanent ceasefire. **AP**

Nepal govt 'deports wrong Tibet activist', US protests

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE
KATHMANDU, JUNE 29

THE NEPAL government deported an activist in compliance with a Chinese request to deny entry to a "Free Tibet agent" in the country. However, sources said the deported man was not the one blacklisted by China. Immigration authorities at the Tribhuvan International

Airport deported Penpa Tsering, an American citizen of Tibetan origin after the Chinese embassy here had alerted Nepalese authorities not to let someone of the same name enter Nepal, home ministry sources said.

But officials deported the wrong Tsering when he landed in Kathmandu on Saturday.

The US embassy in Kathmandu has sought details and a clarification over the incident.

European heatwave breaks records

GUSTROMPIZ & JOAN FAUS
PARIS, MADRID, JUNE 29

HUNDREDS OF firefighters brought wildfires under control in southern France on Saturday as a stifling heatwave brought record-breaking temperatures to parts of Europe, killing at least six people.

In the worst-hit Gard region, where France's highest-ever temperature was registered on Friday at 45.9 degrees Celsius, scores of overnight fires burned some 550 hectares of land and destroyed several houses and vehicles.

"We came very close to a disaster," Didier Lauga, prefect of the Gard, said. "There are still firefighters in place in case fires break out again."

In the neighbouring Vaucluse region, authorities said a man who had been cycling in a mountainous area had died after collapsing due to the heat.

In Germany, organisers of Sunday's Frankfurt Ironman made contingency plans to keep athletes from overheating in temperatures expected to reach up to 38 degrees.

The World Meteorological Organisation said the European heatwave was "absolutely consistent" with extremes linked to greenhouse gas emissions.

In Spain, the mercury hit 43.3 degrees at a Catalan meteorological station, close to an area hit by wildfires, officials said. **REUTERS**

WILDFIRES, SCORCHING HEAT ACROSS THE CONTINENT



A helicopter drops water to extinguish a wildfire near Toledo, Spain, on Friday. Reuters

FRANCE
In the Gard region, where France's highest temperature on record was registered on Friday at 45.9 degrees Celsius, scores of fires burned 550 hectares of land and destroyed several houses and vehicles. On Saturday, Paris was due to experience its hottest day of the season so far with a high of 37 degrees.

BRITAIN
Britain saw its hottest day of

the year on Saturday, with temperatures expected to reach up to 35 degrees, according to the Met Office.

SPAIN
For a fourth consecutive day, unusually high temperatures above 43 degrees were forecast on Saturday across Spain. Forty of the Spain's 50 regions have been placed under weather alert, with seven of them considered to be at

extreme risk. Two wildfires are still burning in the central Toledo region, officials said.

ITALY
The heat killed at least three people as temperatures soared in central and northern Italy, while hospitals in the financial capital Milan saw a 35% rise in emergency visits due to heat-related conditions, local media reported.

4 Indian women forced to work as bar dancers rescued from Dubai: Report

PRESS TRUST IF INDIA
DUBAI, JUNE 29

FOUR INDIAN women, who were allegedly tricked into working as bar dancers, flew back home Friday after being rescued by Dubai Police following a tip-off from the Indian consulate.

The four women — from Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu — were

allegedly made to believe they would be working for an event management company before they came to Dubai. However, when they reached Dubai, their employer locked them in a room and forced them to work in a dance bar and solicit customers, Consul General of India to Dubai, Vipul, told *Gulf News*.

According to reports, one of the women managed to send a

message to her family back home via WhatsApp. After the message was brought to the attention of Vellamvelly Muralaiah, India's Minister of State for External Affairs, he alerted the consulate, which then informed Dubai Police.

Vipul said he was thankful to Dubai Police for their swift response to rescue the four women, who are all in their twenties.

Migrant aid ship captain detained after docking vessel without Italy's approval

ANNALISA CAMILLI & FRANCES D'EMILIO
LAMPEDUSA, JUNE 29

THE CAPTAIN of a rescue ship with 40 migrants aboard was detained in Italy after the vessel rammed a border police motorboat blocking its way as it docked without permission at the Mediterranean island of Lampedusa early Saturday, officials said.

The migrants finally stepped onto Italian soil after disembarking from the *Sea-Watch 3*, which rescued them more than two weeks earlier. Italy's anti-migrant interior minister, Matteo Salvini, had refused to let the migrants disembark on Lampedusa until other European Union countries agreed



Carola Rackete, the 31-year-old *Sea-Watch 3* captain, is taken off the ship by police in Lampedusa, Italy, on Saturday. Reuters

to take in the asylum-seekers. After 17 days at sea, the migrants hugged the crew and kissed the dock upon arrival.

After five countries offered on Friday to take in the migrants, but still without any disembarkation

permission, the Dutch-flagged *Sea-Watch 3*'s captain, Carola Rackete, steered her rescue vessel toward Lampedusa's dock before dawn Saturday, hitting the much smaller motorboat from the border protection force. **AP**

IN SAN MARTIN, EL SALVADOR, TRUMP'S EFFORTS TO BLOCK MIGRANTS HAVE LITTLE IMPACT ON THOSE PLANNING TO MAKE THE JOURNEY

Didn't want them to go: In hometown of drowned migrants, hardship & grief

KIRK SEMPLE
SAN MARTIN, JUNE 29

ROSA RAMIREZ pleaded with her son, urging him not to leave El Salvador and head north with his wife and young daughter. The risks were simply too high.

He saw no other choice. Their neighbourhood was controlled by a gang that enriched itself through drug-dealing, extortion and violence. But most pressing of all, Ramirez said, they could barely make ends meet on their jobs at fast-food restaurants, and had pinned their hopes on making it to the United States.

They never did. Last Sunday, after weeks on the road, Ramirez's son, Oscar Alberto Martinez Ramirez, 25, and his 23-month-old daughter, Angie Valeria, drowned while trying to cross from Mexico into Texas.

Their fate, captured in a searing photograph of father and daughter lying face down in the muddy waters of the Rio Grande, her arm limply wrapped around him, has quickly become a focal point in the debate over the stream of migrants pushing toward the US border — and President Donald Trump's determination to stop it.

But for many residents here in Martinez's hometown, San

Martin, the heated political battle in Washington has barely registered, and Trump's repeated efforts to block migrants have had little impact on the decision to make the perilous journey.

The death of Martinez and his daughter has given an urgent and poignant face to a major driver of migration from Central America and elsewhere: economic duress.

Much attention in recent years has been given to the rampant violence that has compelled so many Salvadorans and residents of neighbouring Guatemala and Honduras to head north. But perhaps a bigger impetus, officials and residents here say, has been



In the town of San Martin in El Salvador. NYT

economics, especially poverty and the lack of good jobs.

The Martinez family made it as

far as the northern Mexican border city of Matamoros last weekend, where, according to relatives,

they hoped to cross into the United States and apply for asylum.

Told the bridge was closed, however, they decided to ford the Rio Grande on Sunday afternoon instead.

Martinez went ahead with the couple's daughter, carrying her on his back, tucked under his T-shirt. His wife, Tania Vanessa Avalos, followed behind, riding on the back of a family friend, she told Mexican officials.

As Martinez, carrying their daughter, approached the opposite bank, he was visibly tiring in the rough water. Avalos told the authorities. Unnerved, she decided to swim back to

the Mexican side, but she saw her husband and daughter, close to the American riverbank, sink into the water and get swept away.

"I didn't want them to go," Ramirez, Martinez's mother, said this week in an interview at the small, two-bedroom row house she had shared with her son and his family. "But they didn't take my advice."

Residents and officials here say a gang dominates the neighbourhood, Altavista. But Ramirez and another relative said the immediate family had not been directly imperiled by the gang.

Instead, like so many others

here and throughout the working class of El Salvador, the family was struggling to get by, living on the edge of poverty.

"There isn't opportunity, there's no work," said Victor Manuel Rivera, the mayor of San Martin. He estimated that about 50 per cent of the municipality's residents with a high school degree are unemployed.

"Every day I hear it: 'I'm leaving for the United States,'" he said.

People here talk about "la situación" — the situation — shorthand for the economic struggle many face. The counterpoint is often simple: "The American dream." **NYT**

SALIENT FEATURES OF NORTHERN RAILWAY'S NEW TIME-TABLE (EFFECTIVE FROM 1ST JULY, 2019)

NEW TRAINS

22425/22426 New Delhi - Chandigarh - New Delhi Tejas Express train (6 Days)					
Train No. 22425			Train No. 22426		
ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.	
09:30		New Delhi	17:30		
		Chandigarh		14:35	

Date of Introduction : To be decided later
DAYS OF RUN : 22425 from New Delhi & 22426 from Chandigarh Everyday (except Wednesday) **ACCOMMODATION :** 1st AC & AC chair car.

12585/12586 Lucknow Jn. - New Delhi - Lucknow Jn. Tejas Express train (5 Days)					
Train No. 12585			Train No. 12586		
ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.	
06:50		Lucknow Jn.	22:05		
		New Delhi		15:35	

Date of Introduction : To be decided later
DAYS OF RUN : 12585 from Lucknow & 12586 from New Delhi Everyday 5 day week (except Thursday & Sunday) **ACCOMMODATION :** 1st AC & AC chair car.

EXTENSION OF TRAINS

Train No. & Train Name	From		To		W.E.F.
	From	To	From	To	
12205/12206 New Delhi - Dehradun - Nanda Devi Exp.	New Delhi	Kota	Dehradun	Kota	25.08.2019
54391/54392 Aligarh - Moradabad Passenger	Moradabad	Gajraula	Moradabad	Gajraula	01.07.2019
74991/74992 Ambala-Amb Andaura DEMU	Amb Andaura	Daulatpur Chowk	Amb Andaura	Daulatpur Chowk	01.07.2019
12037/12038 New Delhi - Ludhiana Shatabdi Exp.	Ludhiana	Lohian Khas	Ludhiana	Lohian Khas	To be decided

INCREASE/ DECREASE IN FREQUENCY

Train No. & Train Name	Frequency Increase/Decrease		W.E.F.
	From	To	
12275/12276 Allahabad - New Delhi Humsafar Exp.	Tri-Weekly	4 Days	14.09.2019
12037/12038 New Delhi - Ludhiana Shatabdi Exp.	5 Days	2 Days	To be decided

RENUMBERING OF TRAINS

Existing Train No.	Frequency Days	From	To	Revised Train No.	W.E.F.
14369	2,4,8	Singrauli	Tanakpur	15073	01.07.19
14370	1,3,5	Tanakpur	Singrauli	15074	01.07.19
24369	1,3,5,7	Shaktinagar (T)	Tanakpur	15075	01.07.19
24370	2,4,6,7	Tanakpur	Shaktinagar (T)	15076	01.07.19
15209	Daily	Saharsa Jn.	Amritsar	14617	18.04.09
15210	Daily	Amritsar	Saharsa Jn.	14618	16.04.19
14115	2,4,7	Prayag Ghat	Haridwar Jn.	14229	05.09.19
14116	1,3,5	Haridwar Jn.	Prayag Ghat	14230	06.09.19
12205	Daily	Kota	Dehradun	12401	26.08.19
12206	Daily	Dehradun	Kota	12402	25.08.19

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS

Train no. 54393/54394 (Moradabad - Gajraula Jn. -Moradabad Passenger) will be permanently cancelled between Moradabad - Gajraula Jn.
 Train no 54651/54654 (Jammu Tawi - Udhampur - Jammu Tawi Passenger) will be permanently cancelled between Jammu Tawi - Udhampur

NEW CONNECTIVITY

54391/54392 Aligarh Jn - Gajraula Jn. - Aligarh Jn.
 New connectivity to train no 54391/54392 (Aligarh-Moradabad-Aligarh Pass.) between Aligarh -Gajraula by eliminating terminal at Moradabad as per timings given below:

Train No. 54391			Train No. 54392		
ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.	
04:45		Aligarh Jn.	22:05		
		Gajraula Jn.		14:20	

CHANGE IN NOMENCLATURE OF TRAINS

Train No.	Station From - Station To	Existing Type	Revised Type	W.E.F.
12207	Jammu Tawi - Kathgodam	Garib Rath	Express	14.07.19
12208	Kathgodam - Jammu Tawi	Garib Rath	Express	16.07.19
12209	Kathgodam - Kanpur Central	Garib Rath	Express	15.07.19
12210	Kanpur Central - Kathgodam	Garib Rath	Express	16.07.19
12037	New Delhi - Ludhiana	Shatabdi	Intercity	To be decided later
12038	Ludhiana - New Delhi	Shatabdi	Intercity	To be decided later
12043	New Delhi - Moga	Shatabdi	Intercity	To be decided later
12044	Moga - New Delhi	Shatabdi	Intercity	To be decided later

CHANGE IN DEPARTURE TIME OF TRAINS AT TERMINALS

Train No.	Station From	Existing Dep.	Revised Dep.	Train No.	Station From	Existing Dep.	Revised Dep.
Dehradun (Moradabad Division)				Chandigarh (Ambala Division)			
12056	Dehradun	5.05	5.00	12218	Chandigarh	9.30	9.20
12091	Dehradun	16.15	15.45	12232	Chandigarh	21.10	21.05
14114	Dehradun	13.25	13.20	22356	Chandigarh	22.05	21.30
15002	Dehradun	15.25	15.20	15904	Chandigarh	23.15	23.20
15006	Dehradun	15.25	15.20	22452	Chandigarh	5.45	5.40
14042	Dehradun	21.25	21.20	12411	Chandigarh	7.00	6.40
14120	Dehradun	22.35	22.25	14613	Chandigarh	16.30	16.10
12206	Dehradun	23.30	22.50	12241	Chandigarh	17.10	16.50
Haridwar (Moradabad Division)				Ambala Cantt. (Ambala Division)			
54481	Haridwar Jn.	5.10	5.05	64521	Ambala Cantt.	5.50	5.40
54476	Haridwar Jn.	4.10	4.25	54757	Ambala Cantt.	6.25	6.35
18478	Haridwar Jn.	6.10	6.45	64523	Ambala Cantt.	8.35	8.30
14711	Haridwar Jn.	14.20	14.15	54551	Ambala Cantt.	12.35	12.55
14718	Haridwar Jn.	16.25	16.20	64517	Ambala Cantt.	11.40	11.45
19032	Haridwar Jn.	16.40	16.35	14524	Ambala Cantt.	22.45	22.20
14116	Prayag Ghat	16.25	16.20	14503	Kalka	19.00	18.40
14605	Haridwar Jn.	17.05	16.50	Kalka (Ambala Division)			
12370	Haridwar Jn.	23.50	23.45	52458	Shimla	14.20	14.15
Rishikesh (Moradabad Division)				Shimla (Ambala Division)			
54482	Rishikesh	7.30	7.35	52452	Shimla	17.50	17.55
14609	Rishikesh	16.20	16.35	52454	Shimla	18.30	18.35
54486	Rishikesh	22.30	18.30	52444	Shimla	9.40	9.20
24887	Rishikesh	17.50	18.05	Saharanpur (Ambala Division)			
Moradabad (Moradabad Division)				New Delhi (Delhi Division)			
54398	Moradabad	13.30	13.35	14546	Saharanpur	6.05	6.15
54393	Moradabad	10.15	9.25	Delhi (Delhi Division)			
54055	Moradabad	16.00	15.50	12040	New Delhi	6.00	6.20
54396	Najibabad	9.05	8.40	12037	New Delhi	7.00	7.05
64565	Moradabad	18.20	18.30	12043	New Delhi	7.00	7.05
74302	Moradabad	5.05	6.15	Delhi (Delhi Division)			
74304	Moradabad	10.55	11.10	14001	Delhi Jn.	23.10	23.50
55301	Moradabad	14.40	14.45	14556	Delhi Jn.	6.00	6.10
55303	Moradabad	6.25	6.05	12226	Delhi Jn.	7.15	7.10
54312	Moradabad	7.15	7.05	54031	Delhi Jn.	11.45	12.00
54314	Moradabad	18.00	17.55	74003	Delhi Jn.	13.50	13.45
Bareilly (Moradabad Division)				Delhi S Rohilla (Delhi Division)			
54352	Bareilly	4.48	13.12	51915	Delhi Jn.	18.55	18.35
54354	Bareilly	2.24	1.12	Delhi S Rohilla (Delhi Division)			
14314	Bareilly	2.24	6.00	22950	Delhi S Rohilla	16.20	16.15
14320	Bareilly	2.24	6.00	12066	Delhi S Rohilla	16.20	16.15
54311	Bareilly	8.24	1.12	22986	Delhi S Rohilla	16.20	16.15
Shahjahanpur (Moradabad Division)				Jind (Delhi Division)			
55046	Shahjahanpur	13.35	14.45	74030	Jind	6.55	4.55
64222	Shahjahanpur	6.10	4.55	H Nizamuddin (Delhi Division)			
54330	Shahjahanpur	8.15	6.35	12191	H Nizamuddin	14.20	14.15

54048	Jind	17.45	17.35	54383	Gajraula	19.00	18.50
Rohtak (Delhi Division)				Moradabad (Moradabad Division)			
54013	Rohtak	14.05	13.55	74301	Sambhal Htm Sar	10.25	10.45
54025	Rohtak	11.15	11.55	55302	Kathgodam	11.35	11.30
Sonapat (Delhi Division)				Bareilly (Moradabad Division)			
74029	Sonapat	9.30	9.40	54391	Aligarh	9.30	9.10
74019	Sonapat	13.30	13.35	54313	Chandausi	22.20	23.40
74039	Sonapat	15.30	18.10	Bareilly (Moradabad Division)			
Meerut City (Delhi Division)				Shahjahanpur (Moradabad Division)			
54541	Meerut City	5.15	5.25	54461	Bandikui	6.30	6.20
22454	Meerut City	5.00	6.45	54078	Delhi Jn.	9.45	9.40
Qasimpur Khari (Delhi Division)				Balamau (Moradabad Division)			
74028	Qasimpur Khari	18.40	18.30	54312	Moradabad	11.45	11.05
Kurukshetra (Delhi Division)				Chandigarh (Ambala Division)			
54041	Kurukshetra	18.20	17.55	12242	Amritsar	9.20	9.45
54047	Kurukshetra	21.50	21.55	12412	Amritsar	21.55	22.20
Barabanki (Lucknow Division)				Ambala Cantt. (Ambala Division)			
64271	Barabanki	13.20	13.35	74992	Amb Andaura	11.50	11.35
64273	Barabanki	16.35	16.15	Kalka (Ambala Division)			
64275	Barabanki	19.55	20.15	12311	Howrah	4.40	4.35
Varanasi (Lucknow Division)				Shimla (Ambala Division)			
19058	Varanasi	5.20	5.15	14888	Barmer	5.50	5.55
19058	Varanasi	5.20	5.15	52452	Shimla	22.45	22.50
20904	Varanasi	6.10	6.15	52454	Shimla	23.30	23.35
14203	Varanasi	16.20	16.15	Shimla (Ambala Division)			
54291	Varanasi	17.15	17.10	52443	Kalka	19.30	19.35
14853	Varanasi	17.20	17.15	Nangal Dam (Ambala Division)			
11108	Varanasi	17.45	16.40	64515	Ambala Cantt.	10.05	9.55
14235	Varanasi	23.30	23.10	14505	Amritsar	19.50	20.35
Faizabad (Lucknow Division)				Saharanpur (Lucknow Division)			
54110	Faizabad	3.20	3.25	64513	Saharanpur	22.40	22.35
Lucknow Charbagh (Lucknow Division)				Bathinda (Ambala Division)			
64257	Lucknow Charbagh	22.10	21.20	54551	Ambala Cantt.	17.45	18.25
Lucknow Charbagh (Lucknow Division)				New Delhi (Delhi Division)			
54232	Lucknow Charbagh	4.25	4.10	12206	Dehradun	5.20	4.35
54254	Lucknow Charbagh	5.00	5.25	12273	Howrah	6.15	6.25
54334	Lucknow Charbagh	10.35	10.55	12281	Bhubaneswar	6.15	6.25
54256	Lucknow Charbagh	11.10	11.15	12039	Kathgodam	21.10	20.50
64207	Lucknow Charbagh	11.20	11.10	12038	Ludhiana	22.10	22.05
54331	Lucknow Charbagh	16.45	16.50	12044	Moga	22.10	22.05
64221	Lucknow Charbagh	18.40	18.45	12446	Shri Mata V.D. Katra	6.45	6.40
54284	Lucknow Charbagh	18.40	18.30	Delhi (Delhi Division)			
12231	Lucknow Charbagh	22.30	22.25	14002	Atari	3.20	3.35
Lucknow Charbagh (Lucknow Division)				Anand Vihar T. (Delhi Division)			
12229	Lucknow Charbagh	22.10	22.00	14007	Raxaul	4.00	4.50
Lucknow Charbagh (Lucknow Division)				Partargarh (Lucknow Division)			
54232	Lucknow Charbagh	4.25	4.10	14013	Sultanpur	4.00	4.50
54254	Lucknow Charbagh	5.00	5.25	14015	Raxaul	4.00	4.50
54334	Lucknow Charbagh	10.35	10.55	14017	Raxaul	4.00	4.50
54256	Lucknow Charbagh	11.10	11.15	22437	Allahabad Jn.	6.15	6.05
64207	Lucknow Charbagh	11.20	11.10	12427	Rewa	6.35	6.4

22 ECONOMY

BRIEFLY

Reliance arm extends NCDs maturity date

New Delhi: Anil Ambani-led Reliance Home Finance Saturday said it has extended by four months the maturity date on its bonds worth Rs 400 crore due to continuing liquidity pressure. In view of the continuing severe liquidity crisis in the sector, the maturity of certain NCDs of Rs 400 crore has been extended till October 31, 2019, with the formal written consent of concerned debenture trustees and non-convertible debenture holders, Reliance Home Finance said in a release.

IL&FS securities case: Payment obligation stayed

New Delhi: NSE Clearing Limited Saturday said a Supreme Court order has stayed payment obligation under option contract in a matter related to IL&FS Securities Services. "The Supreme Court in matter of ILFS Securities Services Limited Vs SEBI & others, has passed an order dated June 26, 2019 wherein payment obligation under the option contract (NIFTY CE 5000 27-JUN-2019) has been stayed," NSE Clearing said in a release. PTI

Honda recalls another 1.6 mn vehicles in US

Washington: Honda said Friday it will recall 1.6 million vehicles in the US as it moves toward wrapping up the process of replacing defective Takata air bags in cars sold in America. It said the plan involves Honda and Acura vehicles with air bag inflators used in earlier recall repairs. AFP

FOR LIFE POLICIES, DEDUCTION IS ALLOWED ONLY UP TO ₹1.5L

Life insurers seek tax parity with National Pension Scheme

The firms also want principal amount in an annuity to be given tax exemption

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JUNE 29

THE LIFE INSURANCE industry, including 23 life insurers and Life Insurance Corporation, has sought further tax exemption for the industry in the maiden Union Budget to be presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on July 5.

They want parity to be given to the life insurers vis-a-vis the National Pension Scheme (NPS) scheme which has been allowed tax exemption of an additional amount of Rs 50,000. The additional deduction of Rs 50,000 allowed for investment in NPS is over and above the limit of Rs 1.5 lakh since Budget 2015.

"Separate deduction of Rs

EXPLAINED Deduction demand as firms give life cover with long-term savings

LIFE INSURANCE players are seeking parity vis-a-vis the National Pension Scheme (NPS) scheme, which has been allowed tax exemption of an additional amount of Rs 50,000 over and above the limit of Rs 1.5 lakh.

Life insurance players are seeking separate deduction of Rs 50,000 for their products as they provide products that extend life cover as well as long-term savings.

50,000 should be allowed in the case of life insurance products as life insurance companies provide products which cover life cover as well as long-

term savings," said V Manickam, Secretary General, Life Insurance Council.

For life policies, deduction is allowed only up to a maxi-

mum of Rs 1.5 lakh.

Life insurers also want the principal amount in an annuity to be given tax exemption. Currently, the entire amount including principal and interest are getting taxed.

"Like a housing loan in which the principal amount enjoys the tax benefit, in the annuity also, principal should be allowed tax benefit. An EMI like formulae should be considered to compute the income component of each payout," said Manickam.

"Parity should be given vis-a-vis interest deduction in the case of senior citizen. Deduction of Rs 50,000 should be granted in the case of accretion income earned under annuity pension products of life insurers," insurance officials said.

'Falling LNG prices to revive prospects of stressed units'

Falling spot prices of liquefied natural gas (LNG) makes this an opportune time for revival of stressed gas-based power assets in the country, according to a report by Crisil

NEW PROJECTS: Decline has been due to increasing supply in global markets from newly commissioned projects in Australia and the US

TREND LOWER: It expects spot LNG prices to trend lower in 2019, averaging \$5-6 per mmbtu. Beyond this year, prices could increase slightly to \$6-7 per mmbtu, as the demand in winter season improves

KEY REASON: Higher prices of LNG made the power generated through this route far more expensive compared with conventional sources, deterring offtake by power distribution companies



LNG prices, down from a peak of \$10 per million metric British thermal unit (mmbtu) as recently as November 2018

(discoms)

STIFF COMPETITION: Crisil said to make matters worse,

the cost of power generation through renewable sources has dropped significantly in the last 3-4 years, posing

stiff competition to gas-based power

2.57%: Government plans to waive off customs duty of 2.57 per cent as well as bring natural gas under the GST regime. This will reduce the delivered cost of LNG further, reducing the cost of generation for power plants

14GW: As per the report of Parliamentary Committee on Energy, nearly 14 GW of gas based capacity is stranded due to lack of domestic gas, of which 11 GW is operational and generating on an intermittent basis, resulting in low average plant load

HUL creates end-to-end digital transformation system, says Mehta

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JUNE 29

FMCG MAJOR Hindustan Unilever (HUL) on Saturday said over 80 experiments are underway to accelerate the company's journey on digital transformation.

HUL has created a full-fledged end-to-end digital transformation programme that will redefine the ways of working going forward, HUL chairman and managing director Sanjiv Mehta said in his address to the shareholders at the 86th AGM. The company has set up a digital council comprising a cross-functional team of leaders, for its 'Reimagining HUL'.

"With the world changing at a furious pace, we are continually adapting to remain future-fit. We will continue to leverage Unilever's global knowledge and our deep local understanding to serve our consumers better be it through path-breaking innova-

"Despite being one of the fastest growing markets globally for FMCG products in recent times, the per capita FMCG consumption spend in our country is still amongst the lowest in the world, giving the sector a long runway for growth,"

SANJIV MEHTA
CHAIRMAN AND MD, HUL

tions or our expertise in new channels," he said.

On the FMCG sector, Mehta said faster economic growth and technological changes provide an exciting future for the industry.

"Despite being one of the fastest growing markets globally for FMCG products in recent times, the per capita FMCG consumption spend in our country is still amongst the lowest in the world, giving the sector a long runway for

growth, Mehta said.

"Key factors like rising affluence, changing family structures, emerging new large cities and a young working population will positively impact growth of the industry," he said.

He noted that if the country can bend the growth curve and deliver a consistent growth rate of 9 percent and above, it could transform into a \$10 trillion economy by 2032.

On the rapidly evolving technology and its use at workplaces, Mehta said, "Re-skilling of our workforce will become a national priority. Machines will augment human cognition and it will be imperative for companies to optimally leverage human talent and machines at the same time".

He noted that HUL's focus is on reimagining itself from the lens of portfolio, organisation, capabilities and culture. "We are clear that we do not want to simply follow, we will lead the change," he said.

Acharya credits low crude prices, better food supply management for lower inflation

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, JUNE 29

OUTGOING DEPUTY governor of the Reserve Bank of India Viral Acharya credited flexible inflation targeting, low crude prices and efficient food supply management for successful taming of headline inflation in recent years Saturday.

The RBI shifted to flexible inflation targeting with a headline target of 4 percent (+/- 2 per cent) when the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) was instituted in 2016.

"The important reform of flexible inflation targeting, helped by low oil prices and better food supply management, has kept the headline inflation under control during the last five years, relative to the mandated target," Acharya was quoted as saying in a statement on RBI website.

Acharya, whose resignation

was announced early this week, delivered a lecture on 'Development of viable capital markets- The Indian Experience' at the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad. He said two preconditions for macro-economic stability - stable growth and low inflation - which are also necessary for financialisation of savings and capital market development, are now in place in the country.

The deputy governor said major segments of capital markets - central government securities (G-Sec), state development loans (SDL), corporate bond market and equity markets - have experienced consistent growth during the past few decades in terms of primary issuance, market capitalisation and trading volumes in the secondary market.

Though the equity market remains the largest segment, G-Secs, SDL and corporate bond markets have also grown steadily.

BANKING WATCH

SYNDICATE BANK TO RAISE UP TO ₹500 CR

New Delhi: State-owned Syndicate Bank said Saturday it will raise Rs 500 crore during this fiscal by various means, including QIP or preferential allotment. The decision was taken at the board meeting of the bank held Saturday, it said in a regulatory filing. PTI



US President Donald Trump and China's President Xi Jinping at the start of their bilateral meeting at the G20 leaders summit in Osaka, Japan on Saturday. Reuters

US PRESIDENT, CHINESE COUNTERPART MEET DURING G-20 SUMMIT

Trump says China trade talks 'right back on track,' new tariffs on hold

ROBERTA RAMPTON
& MICHAEL MARTINA
OSAKA, JUNE 29

THE UNITED States and China agreed on Saturday to restart trade talks after President Donald Trump offered concessions including no new tariffs and an easing of restrictions on tech company Huawei in order to reduce tensions with Beijing.

China agreed to make unspecified new purchases of US farm products and return to the negotiating table. No deadline was set for progress on a deal, and the world's two largest economies remain at odds over significant parts of an agreement. The last major round of talks collapsed in May.

Financial markets, which have been rattled by the nearly year-long trade war, are likely to cheer the truce. Washington and Beijing have slapped tariffs on billions of dollars of each other's imports, threatening to put the brakes on an already slowing global economy. Those tariffs remain in place while negotiations resume.

"We're right back on track," Trump told reporters after an 80-minute meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping at a summit of leaders of the Group of 20 (G20) major economies in Osaka, Japan.

"We're holding back on tariffs and they're going to buy farm products," Trump said, without giving details about the purchases.

The US president had threatened to slap new levies on roughly \$300 billion of additional Chinese goods, including popular consumer products, if the meeting in Japan proved unsuccessful. Such a move would have extended existing tariffs to almost all Chinese imports into the United States.

In a lengthy statement on the two-way talks, China's foreign ministry quoted Xi as telling Trump he hoped the United States could treat Chinese companies fairly. "China is sincere about continuing negotiations with the

US ALSO EASES RESTRICTIONS ON HUAWEI

■ Easing restrictions on Chinese gear maker Huawei, Trump said he did not think that was fair to US suppliers, who were upset by the move. "We're allowing that, because that wasn't national security," he said

■ China agreed to make unspecified new purchases of US farm products and

return to the negotiating table. No deadline was set for progress on a deal

■ "China is sincere about continuing negotiations with the United States ... but negotiations should be equal and show mutual respect," the foreign ministry quoted Xi as saying.

United States ... but negotiations should be equal and show mutual respect," the foreign ministry quoted Xi as saying.

Trump offered an olive branch to Xi on Huawei, world's biggest telecom network gear maker. The Trump administration has said the Chinese firm is too close to China's government and poses a national security risk, and has lobbied US allies to keep Huawei out of next-generation 5G telecommunications infrastructure.

Commerce Department has put Huawei on its "entity list," effectively banning the company from buying parts and components from US companies without US government approval. But Trump said on Saturday he did not think that was fair to US suppliers, who were upset by the move. "We're allowing that, because that wasn't national security," he said.

Trump said the US Commerce Department would study in the next few days whether to take Huawei off the list of firms banned from buying components and technology from US companies without government approval. China welcomed the step. "If the US does what it says, then of course, we welcome it," said Wang Xiaolong, the Chinese foreign ministry's envoy for G20 affairs. US microchip makers also applauded the move.

"We are encouraged the talks are restarting and additional tariffs

are on hold and we look forward to getting more detail on the president's remarks on Huawei," John Neuffer, president of the US Semiconductor Association, said in a statement.

Trump said he and Xi did not discuss the extradition proceedings against Meng Wanzhou, Huawei's chief financial officer, who was arrested in Canada in December on charges alleging she misled global banks about Huawei's relationship with a company in Iran. Huawei has come under mounting scrutiny for over a year, led by US allegations that "back doors" in its routers, switches and other gear could allow China to spy on US communications. The company has denied its products pose a security threat. It declined to comment on the developments on Saturday.

The problems at Huawei have filtered across to the broader chip industry, with Broadcom Inc warning of a broad slowdown in demand and cutting its revenue forecast. Financial markets and businesses worldwide were eager to get relief from the US-China trade war.

"Returning to negotiations is good news for the business community and breathes some much needed certainty into a slowly deteriorating relationship," said Jacob Parker, a vice-president of China operations at the US-China Business Council. REUTERS

'New GST return filing system will simplify process'

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU, JUNE 29

THE NEW GST return filing system will enable traders to file returns in a single format once a month instead of multiple formats, Bihar deputy chief minister Sushil Modi, who heads the GoM to look into revenue shortfall after the Goods and Services Tax rollout, said Saturday.

Modi said the GST council has decided that new filing system would be launched from October 1. The deadline for implementation of new system for small taxpayers is January 1, 2020 whereas for big taxpayers above Rs 5 crore, it is October 1, 2019, he said, adding the prototype of the filing system will be made available Monday. New forms, Sahaj and Sugam, have been developed for different class of traders, he said, adding the GST implementation would complete two years on July 1 and emphasis would be on more simplification of process, compliance and how to check tax evasion.

BS-VI transition may lead to dumping of old stock: Bajaj Auto

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

TERMINING THE transition to Bharat Stage VI (BS-VI) emission norms from April next year as "joker in the pack", Bajaj Auto Ltd has cautioned that there could be dumping of old BS-IV stock in the domestic market, triggering an "unwarranted price war" in the second half of the ongoing fiscal.

In its Annual Report for 2018-19, the Pune-based firm said while its motorcycles, three-wheelers and quadricycles will be "fully BS-VI compliant not just on April 1, 2020 but some months earlier"

"For the industry as a whole, we believe that the joker in the pack will be the tough Bharat Stage VI, or BSVI, emission norms that will come into play from 1 April 2020," the company wrote to its shareholders.

"However, it is difficult to anticipate the state of BSVI readiness of our competitors. If some, or most, of them have a large stock of unsold BS-IV vehicles in the sec-

The firm said its motorcycles, three-wheelers and quadricycles will be fully BS-VI compliant not just on April 1, 2020 but some months earlier

ond half of FY2020, they will perforce have to dump these in the market before the advent of April 1, 2020. "That could trigger an unwarranted price war, to the detriment of all. We cannot claim that such a scenario will definitely play out; equally we cannot ignore a distinct risk overhang on that account," it added.

Bajaj Auto further said the domestic market will get more competitive across the various segments and "the days when a manufacturer could claim quasi-monopolistic presence in one or more segment is rapidly coming to an end".

It, however, said "armed with a surplus of over Rs 16,000 crore, we at Bajaj Auto have the strength to deal with such competition".

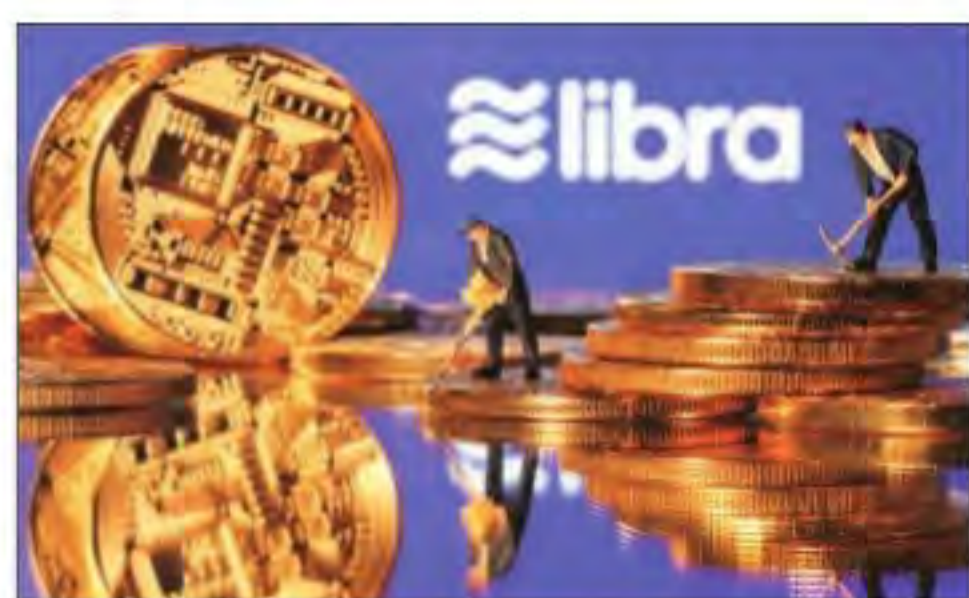
FB ARM FORMED TO HANDLE TRANSACTIONS APPLIED FOR MONEY-TRANSFER LICENCES IN US

Libra may face unprecedented regulatory scrutiny

ANNA IRRERA
& KATIE PAUL
NEW YORK/SAN FRANCISCO,
JUNE 29

FACEBOOK INC will face unprecedented regulatory scrutiny over a new digital currency that the social media company hopes will become globally recognised legal tender within a year.

Since Facebook unveiled its cryptocurrency, called Libra, 10 days ago, Reuters has spoken with more than a dozen people with experience in financial regulation, financial technology, payments or cryptocurrency. Few expected government agencies to proceed lightly. The company's announcement was met with immediate backlash from US lawmakers and regulators across the globe, who are con-



Small toy figures are seen on representations of virtual currency in front of the Libra logo. Reuters file photo

cerned that Facebook is already too massive and careless with users' privacy.

Randal Quarles, chair of the Financial Stability Board, which

coordinates financial rules for G20 countries, warned this week that wider use of crypto-assets for retail payments needs close global scrutiny by regulators.

Cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin remain one of the least-regulated areas of finance.

"It's a complete disaster from a regulatory perspective," said Barry Lynn, executive director of antitrust advocacy group the Open Markets Institute. "This is a corporation that's got fires all over the world with regulators. It's only going to get worse."

The plan for Libra involves taking customer deposits, investing them in government bonds, holding traditional currencies in reserves and offering cross-border services and transacting in the new coin will require engagement with central banks, financial regulators and enforcement authorities around the globe. The Facebook subsidiary formed to handle Libra transactions, called Calibra, has applied for money-transfer li-

cences in the United States and registered with the US Financial Crimes and Enforcement Network (FinCEN) as a money services business, a spokesman said. It has also applied for the license required to operate a cryptocurrency business in New York from the state's Department of Financial Services, a person familiar with the matter said.

Representatives of Britain's Financial Conduct Authority, the Bank of England, and Switzerland's financial regulator FINMA have also said Facebook has been in touch.

"The scrutiny that we've seen is something that we expected and welcome," a Facebook spokesman said. "We announced this early by design in order to have this discourse in the open and gather feedback." REUTERS

BRIDGE

When one defender is presumed to be guarding two suits, it is often possible to throw that defender in with one of the suits to force a favourable return in the other. Dr. West; Vul: Both

NORTH			
♠	762		
♥	762		
♦	9542		
♣	872		
SOUTH			
♠	AQJ1085		
♥	A		
♦	AQ		
♣	AK6		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
3H	Pass	Pass	6S
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: HK
You win the opening lead (rice play) and plunk down the SA. East discarding a diamond. Plan the play.

With West holding a likely 10 major suit cards, your best bet is to play East to have the DK and be the only defender guarding clubs. Play off each and every one of your spades reducing to the AQ of diamonds and the AK6 of clubs. Assuming East is guarding both minors, East's last three cards will surely be three clubs and Kx of diamonds. Play the AK and a club. After East wins and returns a diamond, stick in the Queen. You only live once.

The West hand: S-987H-KQ82 D-876 C-Q10 B
The East hand: S-QJ H-54 D-K10763 C-J10943
Try this problem now:
Dir: North; Vul: E-W

NORTH		SOUTH	
♠	A	♠	QJ1098753
♥	JB42	♥	K
♦	QJ6	♦	None
♣	AQ1086	♣	J754

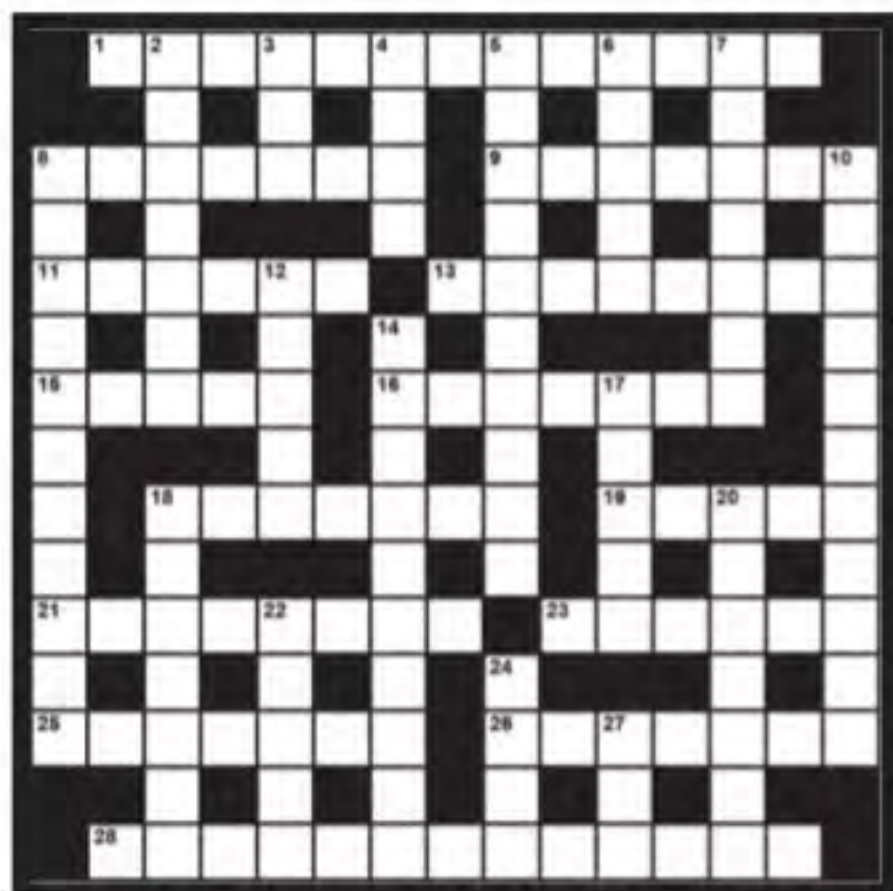
NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1C	1H	4S	Pass
Pass		Pass	

Opening lead: C-3
Plan the play

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2223

QUICK CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Pa.'s only President (5,8)
 - More prepared to start any particular activity (7)
 - Besmeers or tarnishes (7)
 - Home of Saint Francis (6)
 - Magnificent, befitting a king's house? (8)
 - Puppeteer Lewis (5)
 - Exhibits an oscillatory movement of the axis of a rotating body (7)
 - Dormant, inactive or immobile (7)
 - SBI, BOB, et al. (5)
 - Beat soundly (8)
 - Capital of Eritrea (6)
 - Establish or indicate the place of, put in a context (7)
 - Facial squinter (7)
 - Innovatorily creative skill (13)
- DOWN**
- Asian body of water (4,3)
 - "Center" or "gram" lead-in (3)
 - ___ of Avon; Shakespeare, of course? (4)
 - Informal neckwear? (10)
 - ___ in one's ears: a severe reprimand (1,4)
 - Friendships (7)
 - Puts parts together again? (11)
 - Nevada (6,5)
 - Removes the top portion (5)
 - Temptation or seduction, coaxing (10)
 - Cylinders (5)
 - Scrupulous in religion or morals? (7)
 - Does some tidying? (7)
 - Accepted practice (5)
 - Seventh-century date (4)
 - Cable News Network, in short (3)



CRYPTIC CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Pretty conventional symbol of Unions (6-7)
 - Lay it on thick, but not so lumpy (7)
 - Threatened males got perfect scores (7)
 - Well, that's what my reed might make one (6)
 - Girl goes to town, that's the truth (8)
 - A girl's returned for some medicinal stuff (5)
 - Makes straight for it (7)
 - Bills for publicity (7)
 - I got by in Los Angeles or a North African state (5)
 - Ran slowly, but by a stratagem got ahead (8)
- DOWN**
- They acted to the ways of the world! (7)
 - By the sound of it, wait up for the tie (3)
 - Arne given order of merit (4)
 - Poor explanation for disappointing progress (4,6)
 - He'll get the sack, once a year (5)
 - An alternative child has point in flowers (7)
 - End of barn the roofers wrongly represent as reduced (11)
 - The opposite of having night vision? (11)
 - They take heavy loads from different yards (5)
 - Coarse toast enjoyed by those who are fit (4,6)
 - Advance with Normandy's second Norse conqueror (5)
 - Artist keeps a boat by the bank (7)

Solutions to 2222

QUICK CLUES Across: 1 Faouf Bacchus, 8 Akee, 9 Intermary, 10 Gapes, 11 Haes, 12 Bad at, 14 Sider, 15 Enchantment, 20 Extrapolate, 21 Napes, 23 Gaped, 25 Fane, 26 Gaper, 29 Medical aid, 29 Debt, 30 Streets ahead.
Down: 1 Frighten, 2 Outreach, 3 Darc, 4 Agama, 5 Cartagena, 6 Salami, 7 Referee, 13 Jades, 14 Stook, 16 Tete-a-tete, 17 Database, 18 Defended, 19 Palaces, 22 Everts, 24 Evict, 27 Baba. **CRYPTIC CLUES Across:** 1 Empty vessels, 8 Erer, 9 Stormbound, 10 Bevel, 11 Why, 12 Betty, 14 Alley, 15 Robert burns, 20 Luggage-rack, 21 Paisy, 23 Beefy, 25 Jail, 26 Fakir, 28 Tambourine, 29 Fine, 30 Swallowtails. **Down:** 1 Eastward, 2 Proverbs, 3 Yarns, 4 Elope, 5 Sanitaria, 6 Sewell, 7 Delated, 13 Wryly, 14 Askew, 16 Bugle-call, 17 Haru-kin, 18 Skillet, 19 Bavaria, 22 Spices, 24 Fabio, 27 Duct.

If it's your Birthday

Sunday June 30

Your greatest strengths over the next year include a brilliant mind, irresistible charm and to see the best in everyone. You may make a dream come true. You may lose your grip on practical matters

Monday July 1

Today's stars are poetic. But also inclined to caution and security. It's a perfect moment for either forming long-term partnerships, or re-establishing your vows.

Tuesday July 2

You may not be ready to compromise, yet you might have to. Your stars are looking excessively complex, and if you push hard in one area there may be unexpected consequences in another.

Wednesday July 3

Your strongest advantage this year is your ability to plan your moves. Get whatever support you need, but make sure that you are totally in charge.

Thursday July 4

There is certainly a lot of suppressed passion around. This may not be a time for straight talking, but it's definitely a moment for decisive action. At home a younger relation needs your firm support.

Friday July 5

Beautiful, harmonious and creative celestial alignments shine on you today. Everything looks set to bloom just as long as you follow this advice: don't be too sensitive.

Saturday July 6

Expect positive prospects in your home life and professional connections, but all because you're on a quest for the truth.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You're eager to transcend the limits of your life and, when it comes down to it, that can mean bending the rules. And that, in turn, requires great care and integrity. Also, do spare more than a little thought for your finances. You must also get to grips with deeper long-term issues.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

For once you have a clear head, so all other eleven signs should look to you to take their decisions for them. Dispense good advice with your normal magnanimity, but always do so in accord with the facts, not in line with your private fantasies. Someone who has done you a good turn is waiting for you to return the favour.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

In love, the golden rule is to keep talking. If you make sure that a partner knows what you're thinking, then you'll steer clear of potential pitfalls. If you're planning a shopping trip, you may wish to concentrate on luxuries rather than necessities. Plus, please put your ideas across with confidence.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

There's a difference between being assertive and aggressive. It's right that you stand up for yourself, but don't throw your weight around; otherwise you may take on more than you bargained for. You would do better to exercise a little tact and seduce people with your poetic tongue. It is your sweet words which win the day.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

What a fantastic combination of stars you're under! Mars will help you get the better of anybody. Jupiter will ensure that you are successful. If it's love you're after, you may have to be a little devious - just a little, mind you! You may double-book yourself socially. At the heart of the matter is money and your future security.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Even if you have other ideas, home and family matters will impose themselves upon your time, not to mention your good nature. The key to success lies in a simple change of attitude. If you can make relations, children, parents, and anyone else you live with, see the world anew, so much the better.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

You may take an easy-going approach at work, but assert yourself socially. In other words, let colleagues get away with murder professionally, but let friends know just what you want. When it comes to ideas and opinions, you should give fantasy preference over the facts. Stick to your principles and your chances of success sharply increase.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Nothing wrong with a spot of day-dreaming this week. In fact, those of you who give full rein to your imaginations, instincts and visions of the future will be on the ball, far more than those safe souls who choose to play by the so-called facts.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)

A spot of financial confusion should be in the past, and you may be able to get back onto a steady footing. At work, share your ideas and let everyone know what you're thinking. Keep your feelings to yourself, though, otherwise family and friends will see just how businesslike you are!

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

The prospects for love are good, perhaps best at the weekend. Financial trends look equally promising, even though expenditure will probably exceed income. At work you should spread yourself around as much as possible, keeping all the balls in the air at once. You have to tell a few home-truths, but pick your words with care.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

If you're planning changes at home, stop and think for a moment. You'll find that although you believe you know what you want, it is not easy to translate your dreams into practice. If you can get away with a major social initiative, so much the better. Your enthusiasm could win over the doubters.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Venus is in an ideal position for love. Mars and Jupiter are blessing your ambitions and efforts at work. Mercury gives force to your ideas and the Sun takes care of family and domestic arrangements. What a truly perfect combination of planets this is, to be sure! Remember, persistence is rewarded.

JUMBLER WORDS

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

A ___ is a man who expects his ___ to be as good a man as he meant to be. - Frank Clark (6...3)

FERIA

ARTYNT

JTUOS

ALOOFH

SOLUTION: AFBRE, JOSTYRANT, LOOFAR, TYRANT. Answer: A father is a man who expects his son to be as good a man as he meant to be.

SUDOKU 3893

Difficulty Level 1s

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

Difficulty Level

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



SOLUTION SUDOKU 3892



Pradeshik Cooperative Dairy Federation Ltd.
29, Park Road, Lucknow-226001, Ph: 0522-2236469
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) (E-tender mode only)
E-NIT No. 01/PCDF/Mtl/Medicine Pur/19-20 Dated: 28.06.19
E-bids are invited under two bid system from eligible bidders for supply of Veterinary Medicines at various Milk Unions located all over U.P. in prescribed format. The details & submission of e-Bids are only available on the e-tender portal <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Any corrigendum of this tender, if required, will be published on e-tender portal <http://etender.up.nic.in> only. PCDF reserves the right to cancel any or all e-Bids or annul the Bidding process without assigning any reason thereof.

SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI SHRINE BOARD, KATRA
DATE EXTENSION NOTICE
Due to poor response received, the last date for receipt of tenders for supply of Spices (Masala items) without Onion and Garlic of Tata/ Catch/ MDH/ BMC/ Everest Brand only in reference to this office Notice Inviting Tender No. CO/PUR/NE/368/2037 dated 24.05.2019 is hereby extended on or before 09.07.2019 upto 3.00 P.M. IST. Other terms and conditions of the bid NIT shall remain the same.
Sd/- (Amit Vermani) KAS,
Dy. Chief Executive Officer.
No.: CO/PUR/NE/368/3890
Dated: 29.06.2019

G.B. PANT NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HIMALAYAN ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
KOSI-KATARMAL, ALMORA-263643, UTTARAKHAND, INDIA
Walk-in-Interview will be conducted on **12.07.2019 (11:00 hrs.)** for purely project based temporary position of **Himalayan Research Associate (01 No.)** under the Mountain Division at Kosi-Katarmal (Almora) campus of the Institute. For details (age, emoluments, qualification, etc.) please see Institute website (www.gbpihed.gov.in).
Administrative Officer

C.G. Rajya Beej Evam Krishi Vikas Nigam Ltd., Telibandha, G.E. Road, Raipur (C.G.)
Phone No.- 0771-4212203/15/12/24 Website <http://agriportal.cg.nic.in/beejnigam>
S.No./HO/BKVN/RCO/2019-20/3378 Date: 29/06/19
आर.सी.ओ.-04 निरस्तकरण सूचना
समस्त निविदाकारों को सूचित किया जाता है, कि पूर्व प्रकाशित RCO-04 Quality Planting Material (Fruits/Flowers/Seed & plants of Horticultural Crops) Tender No.-50741 में पर्याप्त प्रतिस्पर्धा के अभाव में उक्त आर.सी.ओ. निरस्त किया जाता है।
प्रबंध संचालक

NOTICE BOARD



INAUGURATION-AAI
Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra, Chairman, AAI, inaugurated the SMU for in-country repairing of ELDIS Radars in presence of Ambassador of Czech Republic, H.E. Milan Hovorka on 24th June, 2019.



MEET-BIS
BIS organized a consultative meeting in association with CDI & IICT with stakeholders of Pashmina, Carpet & Handloom on June 18 at Bemina, Srinagar. The meeting was attended by Rubina Counsar, Director, Handloom, J&K Govt & others.



MEET-NTPC
NTPC held its 17th Foreign Lenders Meet in Mumbai on 25th June. The meet was aimed to brief the representatives of the foreign banks and financial institutions about the company's Operational & Financial performance during fy 2018-19.



CONFERENCE-NHPC
NHPC organized a conference on 'Cyber Security for CERT Hydro Constituent Organization' on 24th June at Faridabad. It was inaugurated by B Joshi, CMD, NHPC in the presence of J Choudhary, Dir (Technical) NHPC, and others.



MEET-SCOPE
Rakesh Kumar, Chairman, SCOPE and CMD, NLC India Limited made a courtesy call to Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State for Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises and Parliamentary Affairs.



MoU-NHPC
B Joshi, CMD, NHPC & AK Bhalla, Secy (Power), GOI signed an MoU for '19-20 at New Delhi in the presence of A Kumar, Jt Secy (Hydro), MoP, R Kumar, Dir (Projects), M.K.Mittal, Dir (Fin) and other senior officers of Ministry of Power and NHPC.



INT'L YOGA DAY-ITBP
S.S. Deswal, DG, ITBP participated in the Yoga sessions alongwith jawans at the height of approx 14000 ft near Lukung at the banks of Pangong Tso, Ladakh, on the eve of 5th Int'l Yoga Day.



INT'L YOGA DAY-CWC
CWC observed International Yoga Day at Corporate Office, New Delhi, RK Sinha, Director (Pers.) officers and staff of the Corporation took part actively. Significance of yoga and its benefits towards holistic health was highlighted.



MEET-CORPORATION BANK
PV Bharathi, MD & CEO, Corporation Bank & Chairman, TOLIC, Mangaluru, addressed during 66th Half-yearly meeting of TOLIC in the presence of Birupaksha Mishra, ED, Corporation Bank, and others.



INAUGURATION-GSL
Defence Minister of Russian Federation, General of the Army Sergey Kuzhugetovich Shoygu inaugurated International Military-Technical Forum Army 2019 at Kubinka, Moscow, Russia. He visited Goa Shipyard Limited stall at at IndiaARMY2019.



AWARENESS PROG-GOVT OF SJ&E
Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment flagged off "17th Run Against Drug Abuse" on the occasion of "International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking" at JawaharLal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi.



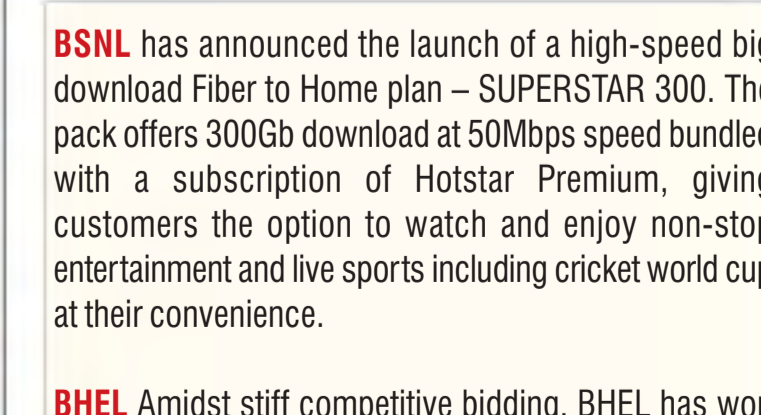
MoU-THDCIL
THDCIL signed an MOU defining the Performance Guarantee Parameters for fy '19-20 with MOP in New Delhi on June 26. On behalf of MOP, AK Bhalla, Secy (Power), & on behalf of THDCIL, D.V. Singh, CMD signed the MOU.



MEDICAL WORKSHOP-SSB
A workshop on Gynecological issues was organized under the aegis of Sandiksha at 25th Bn SSB on June 25. It was held under the guidance of leading Obstetrician and Gynecologist Dr. Anita Kant, HOD and Dr. Amrita R. Kaul of AllMS.



MoU-NHDC
NHDC Limited has signed and MoU for the financial year 2019-20 at Faridabad on June 21 with NHPC Limited. The MoU was signed by Balraj Joshi, CMD, NHPC and Md. A.G. Ansari, MD & Chief Executive Director, NHDC.



BHNL has announced the launch of a high-speed big download Fiber to Home plan - SUPERSTAR 300. The pack offers 300Gb download at 50Mbps speed bundled with a subscription of Hotstar Premium, giving customers the option to watch and enjoy non-stop entertainment and live sports including cricket world cup at their convenience.



"I have been impressed by India. I think the winner of the whole thing is going to be one of them or Australia. Any team that wants to lift the trophy will have to beat India — they are a very well-balanced side."

CLIVE LLOYD

I feel pressure, but am good at hiding it: Kohli

REUTERS
BIRMINGHAM, JUNE 29

VIRAT KOHLI shows no signs of pressure when he bats but the India captain says it's because he knows how to fake it.

Arguably the greatest batsman of his generation, Kohli also has possibly the toughest job in international cricket — of captaining the national team of a cricket-crazy nation of 1.4 billion. The 30-year-old, however, seems immune to pressure that comes with his twin roles as could be gauged from his nerveless half-centuries in each of India's last four matches which includes a narrow escape against Afghanistan.

"That would be a lie if I say I'm not under pressure. I'm probably good at hiding it," Kohli told reporters ahead of Sunday's group match against England. "Everyone feels butterflies in their stomach. I'm glad that I feel like that. If I don't, then probably I don't have enough motivation to play anymore."

"I look forward to that, and maybe that's why my body language is the way it is. But in all honesty, everyone feels pressure. It's just the way you portray it to the opposition is what makes all the difference."

In January, Kohli became the first player to win all three major ICC awards and completed 20,000 international runs in their win against West Indies, quickest to the mark.

India, the tournament's only unbeaten team, take on an English side who are under pressure after back-to-back defeats jeopardised their semi-final prospects.

Eoin Morgan's men need to beat India and New Zealand — two teams they have not defeated in World Cup since 1992 — to make the semi-finals without bothering about other results. Kohli admitted being surprised by the struggle of the hosts who entered the tournament as the top-ranked ODI team.

"Everyone is a bit surprised because we thought England is probably going to dominate in their own conditions," he said.

"But as I said at the beginning of the tournament, pressure is going to be a massive factor and low scores are going to be defended. "We got a scare from Afghanistan... So you can't take anything for granted."

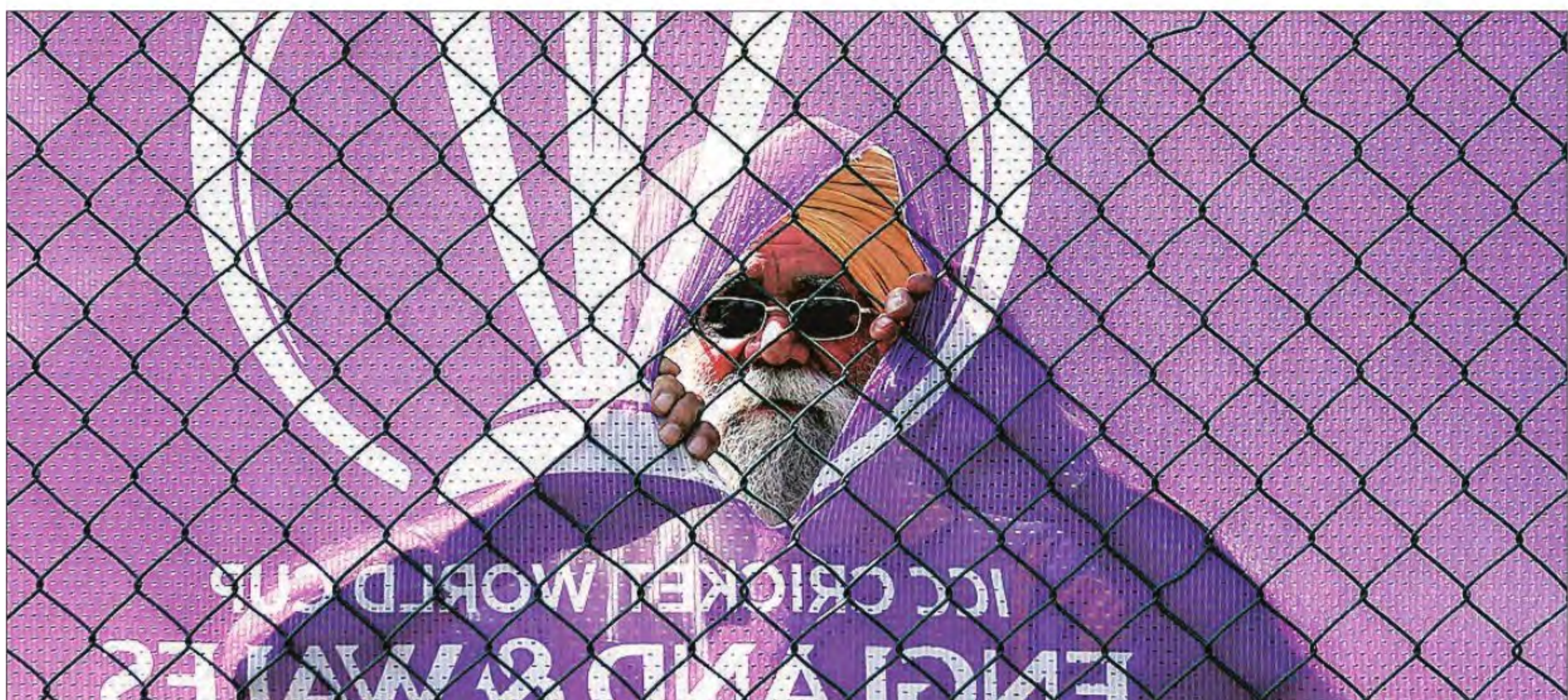
Kohli suggested India would field an unchanged squad with quick Bhuvneshwar Kumar continuing his recovery from a tight hamstring and Vijay Shankar retaining his place at number four.

Roy set to return

England opener Jason Roy is set to return from a torn hamstring in Sunday's crucial Cricket World Cup match against India, said captain Eoin Morgan who is optimistic quick Jofra Archer will continue to play through a side strain. England need all hands on deck after back-to-back defeats complicated their semi-finals passage ahead of their last two group assignments against India and New Zealand — teams they have not beaten in World Cup since 1992.

Roy smashed 153 against Bangladesh but has since sat out with the injury, while replacement James Vince managed 40 in three innings. "Jason is preparing to play tomorrow," Morgan told reporters at Edgbaston on Saturday. "Providing he gets through to today's practice and tomorrow morning unscathed, we think that he might be fit to play."

Roy has been crucial to England's rise to the top of one-day rankings and Morgan said he would risk playing the 28-year-old unless it meant long-term injury for the opener. "Depending on the significance of the risk. If it was going to rule him out long term, absolutely not. If it was going to rule him out for a couple of weeks, yes," he said.



COMPLIMENTARY PASS

An India cricket fan watches the team train through a gap in the covered fence at Edgbaston in Birmingham on Saturday. AP

Fly in the ointment

India's middle-order — No.4 & No.5 — has not inspired confidence in an otherwise well-rounded and unbeaten team



EXPRESS AT WORLD CUP

SRIRAM VEERA
BIRMINGHAM, JUNE 29

WHEN WILL India's soft underbelly, the middle order, trip and topple them? Or will the bowlers keep squeezing them through? That will decide India's fate in the world cup. We might get a preview of what they are capable of if England bat first and roll up a big score.

Before the world cup began, after the team was selected, it was clear that India's run will come down to two men: Shikhar Dhawan and Hardik Pandya. The other good things were a given: the bowlers' great show, Rohit and Kohli's run-fests.

Dhawan was an extremely vital cog: not just for his left-hander's advantage at the start but how he could ease the burden and almost nullify the need for middle order to contribute heavily.

And Pandya for two things: for his finishing that takes the pressure off MS Dhoni, and his bowling, that can ease or increase the captain's burden. Thus far, Pandya has held his end. If Dhawan was there, the chances of all three — him, Sharma, and Kohli — failing was rare. The middle order would have come into the match that much later, and India could have had the luxury of sending Pandya ahead of Dhoni — because there won't be much



MS Dhoni's timing and pacing of innings is not what it used to be.

overs left, no need for consolidation, and Pandya could do his thing standing from outside off stump. That hope has long been buried.

With Dhawan gone, now the middle order has to earn its bread. Prove its worth. But nearly everyone there seems to be batting one slot too high for them. And it then creates turbulence in Dhoni, who now has to be everything: the anchor to finisher and the man who sets targets for India when batting first. But what would happen when India are chasing and one of the two (Rohit or Kohli) don't fire.

Of course, there is KL Rahul and India would hope he steps up. He is bit like early Sharma, in the effect he has on the fans and

former players. 'Oh he looks so good,' they would draw, eyes twinkling away in love. Now they do it with Rahul. Cheteshwar Pujara had a wry observation to make on the "looks good" phenomenon that delayed his Test debut by at least 3-4 years. Seven years ago, just three Tests old, he had told this correspondent about the painful wait. "There is no use hitting two sixes and getting out. Those on-the-up shots gets the commentators and fans talking but no one really looks what happens after that. People can get found out in tough conditions. I think people have realised that now."

Now Rahul is in that boat. He is obviously a good batsman but somehow, he has been unable to get his act together. Right through

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS

ENG vs IND

3 pm onwards from Birmingham

WEATHER FORECAST
Partly sunny

the last Test series in England, the problem was obvious almost: he just played from the crease, rarely getting forward or going back. He never changed it, and it's still the same now. It should work on flatter tracks but quality in world cup teams means the bowlers keep testing him out. Even West Indies figured him out. 'Even' because it seemed they had got carried away with the short-ball stuff in some of the previous losses, triggering ire from the likes of Clive Lloyd. But with Rahul, after serving back of length stuff, they would suddenly hurl one fuller to check — and it was on one of those times, he was bowled. Driving from the crease.

Focus on Shankar

Rahul has to find a way out but if he doesn't then the pressure comes to the middle order. Vijay Shankar needs that one big knock to settle down but more the delay in its arrival, the worse the confidence is likely to go. In IPL, the problem was much clearer to spot. He would dawdle along on arrival, pushing and tapping around, and then say around the 15th over mark, he would go for a big hit. Usually an ill-advised pull or pre-determined

lofted hit that would invariably drop into a fielder's palms.

The longer 50-over scenario should help his batting style but he has come in pressure situations. He has this tendency to keep pushing (or driving) his bat inside the line. Inevitably, one arrives with his name on it. The Kemar Roach delivery was a pretty good one, it came in with the angle before seaming away a touch, or rather holding its line and for a man who loves swishing inside line, it was game over.

One of the reasons for Shankar's presence is for exactly this situation. When there is a semi-crisis in the middle overs, he can stabilise the innings with his steady conventional batting.

Then comes Kedar Jadhav. He has a pretty good defensive technique actually, but that urge that batsmen who bat lower in the order have — the itch to keep feeling for the ball gets him into troubles. Otherwise, he has that nonchalance in the middle that captains like. An illusion that there is no crisis when there is a crisis. He can push and tap, he can run hard if needed, and he can of course hit out too.

All this would be almost immaterial if the Dhoni of old was around, of course. He could have taken command, dragged the innings ahead and then decided to stun everyone with the way he would finish. That isn't a given now.

It can happen of course but it's not a certainty anymore. It can't be the match plan. It can't be India's way anymore. They need the middle order — that No. 4 and No. 5 — to fire. And now. But what's a world cup campaign without one or two hurdles? You got to earn that cup.

1 WORLD CUP • 10 COUNTRIES • 1000 OPINIONS

Doomsday talks are here again

FROM HYPING up England as outlandish favourites the English press have plunged into panic. "England can still win the World Cup, but do they deserve it" from the Guardian stable or the more resigned "We are at it again" tone of the Daily Mail. The Independent sensed melancholy and blared: "Ghosts of England's past loom large ahead of crunch clash with India." Two defeats were all it took for the slumberous English media, their gaze swayed by the women's football World Cup, to stop yawning and trundle out doomsday script. A perception Jonny Bairstow agrees: "They were waiting for us to fail." But don't they do it with some relish!

And in a season of uncanny coincidences, they are harping on another one (unrelated to Pakistan and 1992): Two decades ago, India knocked England out of their home World Cup at Edgbaston.

Warning, an Indian bear-pit

England won't be intimidated by just Kohli or Bumrah. 19.8 percent of England's population comprises Indians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis, so the un-English feel and tenor. Some, who were part of the 2013 Champions Trophy final at the venue, which India snuck in by five runs, actually fear the crowd. James Tredwell, who faced the final ball of the match, when he let a Miandad moment slip through him, recalled the match to The

Telegraph with a sense of dread, as if the memories hung over uninvitedly: "The vast majority of the crowd were Indian supporters. It was really loud the whole day with trumpets and various instruments."

Moeen Ali was stunned when he was booed by a majority of the fans at this venue. Well, it was his hometown too. An emotional Ali had then burst out: "The only thing that really hurt me was the booing. I live 10 minutes away [from Edgbaston] and I'm getting booed by people who I feel I'm supposed to represent, which is a big shame. I don't know what it is, maybe it's because my background is from Kashmir. People have the right to support who they want of course but I'm hoping in the future maybe they or their kids will become England fans and players." Five years, though, has calmed Moeen. In a column for the Guardian, he wrote: "I probably took it more personally than I would do now. I'd like to think we've all grown up a bit since."

Eng rely on Afghan foresight

Nasser Hussain feels India may not be able to cope if the England batsman play to their usual standard on Sunday. "I am not sure they (India) can go up if England do raise the bar in terms of a batting total. That, plus the fact that India's batsmen did not particularly play the Afghanistan spinners well and



ORANGE IS THE NEW BLUE

Virat Kohli with the team's away jersey which they will wear on Sunday. AP

England's recent statistics versus spin are excellent, is why I think they are vulnerable," Hussain wrote in Daily Mail.

The absence of Shikhar Dhawan has also left India a bit short, he felt. "It must not be forgotten that Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and MS Dhoni are three of the best players in ODI

history but the loss of Shikhar Dhawan to injury, and moving of KL Rahul to open, has left a hole at No 4. This is one of the areas to be exploited.

"When batting, England have to target India's fifth bowler in Hardik Pandya. If it is a spinning pitch, he cannot be allowed to bowl

his 10 overs for 40-50 runs. He has to 'go'."

Contrary to criticism, Hussain doesn't feel England are one-dimensional. "It is not, as some people are saying, that they have been caught out. It is that they have not adapted as well recently... They have been a bit reactive and it is important not to be so. India and Australia have realised that this has become a slightly old-fashioned World Cup, where a score of 250-280 will do nicely. That is a thing England have to be discussing."

Dossier ready, execution awaited

Ahead of the win-or-bust game against India on Sunday, The Telegraph (London) has tried to make the job a tad simpler for Eoin Morgan and Trevor Bayliss. In an article: "How to dismiss India's top order", Cricviz analyst Patrick Noone has laid down the plans for the England bowlers to be employed against Virat Kohli and company.

For Rohit Sharma, away-goer is the gun ball, with the paper mentioning that the Indian opener's "strike-rate against away-swingers is 52.90, and to balls that move away off the pitch he scores at just 70.83". For KL Rahul, it's the other way round. "Rahul can be targeted with the full in-swinging aimed at his stumps. His strike-rate to balls that swing in is just 48.71 and he averages 10.50 against balls from seamers that are going on to hit the stumps." Rahul, ac-

ording to the analyst, is also vulnerable to the deliveries that land a fraction short of the block-hole. "Across all formats in England, he has been bowled or LBW nine times by quick bowlers."

Kohli doesn't have any discernable weakness. Still, the England bowlers have been advised to "try and get the ball to nip back in to him — his strike rate against in-seamers is 60.97." It added: "If the ball is swinging, Kohli is weaker when it moves away from him — his strike-rate is 72.27 and his average 39.75 to away swingers, compared to 90.03 and 93.33 to in-swingers."

While "good length outside off" slows down Vijay Shankar "significantly", Kedar Jadhav can be "tied down" by "seamers bowling a tight stump-to-stump line, ideally with the ball seaming in towards him". Jadhav's strike-rate "to balls seaming in is 69.23"...

Taking pace off the ball and/or spin "restricts" MS Dhoni. "Slower balls are a good attacking option to Dhoni early in his innings. He averages 10.50 against balls below 75mph and has a strike rate of just 75 against those balls. Alternatively, bowling spin to Dhoni restricts him (strike-rate of 60.73, 80.21 v seam) but he is harder to dislodge with a spin than seam" ... As for Hardik Pandya, it should be "tight outside off — no spin". "Do not bowl spin. Hardik averages 73.00 against spinners in the early part of his innings and strikes at 136.87," the analyst said. **ENS**

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SCORECARD >>
AFG vs PAK

Leeds | Toss: Afghanistan

AFGHANISTAN 227/9 IN 50 OV
Rahmat Shah c Azam b Imad 35 (43b, 5x4)
Gulbadin Naib c Sarfaraz b Afridi 15 (12b, 3x4)
Hashmatullah Shahidi c Imad b Afridi 0 (1b)
Ikram Alikhil c Hafeez b Imad 24 (66b, 1x4)
Asghar Afghan b Shadab 42 (35b, 3x4, 2x6)
Mohammad Nabi c Amir b Riaz 16 (33b)
Najibullah Zadran b Afridi 42 (54b, 6x4)
Samiullah Shinwari not out 19 (32b, 1x4)
Rashid Khan c Zaman b Afridi 8 (12b, 1x4)
Hamid Hassan b Riaz 1 (3b)
Mujeeb Ur Rahman not out 7 (9b, 1x4)

Extras: (lb 8, w 10) 18

Fall of wickets: 1-27 (Gulbadin Naib, 4.4 ov), 2-27 (Hashmatullah Shahidi, 4.5 ov), 3-57 (Rahmat Shah, 11.6 ov), 4-121 (Asghar Afghan, 25.2 ov), 5-125 (Ikram Alikhil, 26.6 ov), 6-167 (Mohammad Nabi, 36.4 ov), 7-202 (Najibullah Zadran, 44.4 ov), 8-210 (Rashid Khan, 46.4 ov), 9-219 (Hamid Hassan, 48.2 ov)

Bowling:
Imad Wasim 10-0-48-2
Mohammad Amir 10-1-41-0
Shaheen Shah Afridi 10-0-47-4
Mohammad Hafeez 2-0-10-0
Wahab Riaz 8-0-29-2
Shadab Khan 10-0-44-1

PAKISTAN 230/7 IN 49.4 OV
Fakhar Zaman lbw b Mujeeb Ur Rahman 0 (2b)
Imam-ul-Haq st Alikhil b Nabi 36 (51b, 4x4)

Babar Azam b Nabi 45 (51b, 5x4)
Mohammad Hafeez c Shahidi b Mujeeb 19 (35b, 1x4)
Harris Sohail lbw b Rashid 27 (57b, 2x4)
Sarfaraz Ahmed run out 18 (22b, 1x4)
Imad Wasim not out 49 (54b, 5x4)
Shadab Khan run out 11 (17b, 1x4)
Wahab Riaz not out 15 (9b, 1x4, 1x6)

Extras: (b 1, lb 4, w 5) 10
Fall of wickets: 1-0 (Fakhar Zaman, 0.2 ov), 2-72 (Imam-ul-Haq, 15.6 ov), 3-81 (Babar Azam, 17.2 ov), 4-121 (Mohammad Hafeez, 29.1 ov), 5-142 (Harris Sohail, 34.6 ov), 6-156 (Sarfaraz Ahmed, 38.6 ov), 7-206 (Shadab Khan, 46.4 ov)

Bowling:
Mujeeb Ur Rahman 10-1-34-2
Hamid Hassan 2-0-13-0
Gulbadin Naib 9.4-0-73-0
Mohammad Nabi 10-0-23-2
Rashid Khan 10-0-50-1
Samiullah Shinwari 8-0-32-0

Pakistan won by 3 wickets

Battleground Af-Pak

A political message in the sky, a clash in the stands overshadow the contest as Pakistan edge out a spirited Afghanistan



SRIRAM VEERA
JUNE 29

AFGHANISTAN LOST, Pakistan won and a new cricketing rivalry is born. The others — England vs Australia, or India vs Pakistan, or the World vs England — have now been dwarfed by the latest.

Scenes similar to football hooliganism erupted at Headingley in Leeds as Pakistan squeezed through in a last-over thriller that will be remembered for a long time, especially in Afghanistan.

At the start of the match, the fans from both countries clashed; irrespective of who started the fire, it all got ugly very quickly, ending in physical blows and police had to intervene. It was apparently triggered by the sight of a plane with a banner trailing in the air about 'Justice for Balochistan'. Now, Leeds' Air Traffic Control will investigate how that plane was able to fly over the stadium with the message.

There is a reason why Afghanistan president Ashraf Ghani visited the tomb of the great philosopher-poet from Pakistan Allama Muhammad Iqbal on Friday in Lahore. The poet was fond of Afghanistan and realised as early as 1910 that the region's peace depended on that country. In a private notebook, that year, he penned a poem: "Asia is a body of water and clay, of which the Afghan nation forms the heart. The body is free only as long as the heart is free. The heart dies with hatred but lives with faith."

In his peace moves, Ghani paid his respects to the poet, who died in 1938, and has also met Prime Minister Imran Khan.

The heart, in Iqbal's words, is in trouble, politically. The heart is also in a delirious mood, cricketing wise. The heart is also in raging in rumours, though.



FAN THE FLAMES

Afghanistan fans clash with Pakistan supporters during the match between the two teams in Leeds on Saturday. Reuters



Imad hugs Riaz after hitting the winning runs against Afghanistan.

itor at 'Pajhwok Afghan' is a mixed bitter-sweet feeling. Some happy that their team made Pakistan sweat, and some angry that they couldn't just get through.

The cricket stadium in Kabul and other parks in Jalalabad have been showing cricket on big screens and they would have gasped when the captain, Gulbadin Naib, brought himself on for the 46th over.

The equation was 44 from 5 overs. He went for 18 in that over as Pakistan's hero Imad Wasim cut loose to turn the match on its head.

The spinner Samiullah Shinwari had just given away 2 runs in the 45th over. Did Naib have an option? Rashid Khan had two overs, Mujeeb ur Rehman had one, but Hamid Hasan, their fast bowler, was injured after just two overs.

Could he have given one over to Rashid here and got Shinwari from the other end? In the 41st over Shinwari had given away just 4 runs. He was then brought back for 45th; 2 runs. But as things would turn out, he wouldn't get a over again. In an effort to preserve Rashid for the last overs, Naib chose to bring himself on. "We were waiting for the fast bowlers to come," Imad Wasim would say later. Wasim would also talk about how he couldn't pick Rashid. Naib ended up serving a full toss, a wide, a short-and-wide one, a length outside off. The equation came down to 28 from 24. Then Rashid gave 10 runs in the 47th over.

Mujeeb ur Rahman brought it back with

just two runs but Wahab Riaz, playing with a fractured finger, went down on his knees to smash Rashid over the cow corner on the second ball of the 49th. And Imad finished it off in the final over — bowled by Naib — with a hit to the cover boundary.

Until then, Pakistan had threatened to make a mess of it. Some were due to the brilliance of Afghanistan bowlers like Rashid who befuddled the likes of Harris Sohail, and Mohammad Nabi, who took out Babar Azam. Some were downright bad decisions made under pressure, like Sarfaraz Ahmed running himself out in the 39th over. A desperate push for the second — greed and silliness combined in pressure and the captain was out. That should have been the final nail but Pakistan, as ever, found a hero to revive. Imad Wasim. Also, a hero to crunch two powerful game-turning blows in Riaz.

Iqbal once wrote: "Mohabbat Mujhay un Jawanon say hay, Sitaron pay jo daltay hain qamand (I love those young people who aim at stars). Afghanistan dared to dream and look at the stars, but were just about brought back to earth by Pakistan.

POINTS TABLE

Team	M	W	L	T	N/R	PT	NRR
Aus	7	6	1	0	0	12	0.906
Ind	6	5	0	0	1	11	1.160
NZ	7	5	1	0	1	11	1.028
Pak	8	4	3	0	1	9	-0.792
Eng	7	4	3	0	0	8	1.051
Ban	7	3	3	0	1	7	-0.133
SL	7	2	3	0	2	6	-1.186
SA	8	2	5	0	1	5	-0.08
WI	7	1	5	0	1	3	-0.32
Afg	8	0	8	0	0	0	-1.418

Keep calm and Carey on: How footie's loss was Aussie cricket's gain

GAURAV BHATT
JUNE 29

CRICKET'S BEEN keeping Aussie rules legend Mark Williams up at night.

It was during Australia's World Cup match against West Indies at Nottingham that Williams — 17,000km and nine time zones away in Melbourne — bolted upright, whipped out his smartphone and clicked a picture of the previous Australian captain and the current vice-captain together.

"It was tight (Australia 79/5) and Alex (Carey) came in and steadied the ship with Steve (Smith). That's when it suddenly hit me. I went 'wow'", Williams told *The Indian Express*. "It got me a bit teary-eyed. This is a kid who was down, was wondering about his future. His football career didn't go the way he wanted, and the way he responded is a wonderful story."

Seldom has Australia lost their cool after being tested in England, for the mantra has always been there: Keep calm and Carey on. Coming in at number seven, the keeper-batsman has scored 244 runs at an average of 61 and strike rate of 110. Depending on the situation, Carey either has to launch an all-out assault or a rescue act. Or sometimes both, like against New Zealand on Friday, where he came in at 92/5 and helped Australia to 243 with a 72-ball 71.

Ricky Ponting has called him a complete package and a potential Australia captain. Steve Waugh sees in him a mix of Michael Bevan and Michael Hussey. Two World Cup-winning captains singing praises would make you believe Carey is some cricketing prodigy, and not a player who has been delisted twice,

from two sports.

A quintessential Aussie teen, Carey grew up in Loxton playing both cricket and Australian rules football. Named in the 2009 Redbacks squad, Carey instead chose the oval ball, siding with the expansion team Greater Western Sydney Giants.

In many ways, Giants was the house that Williams and Carey built; Williams as the 2004-Premiership winning coach and Carey as the captain and the best-and-fairest, the MVP of the club in its inaugural season. A second successful season got Giants into the AFL. And then, Carey was found surplus.

"They had a heap of young draft picks, up-and-coming players and boys that were on contracts for three or four years and it just pushed me down the list," Carey told Cricket Australia last year. "I guess I didn't really have that X-factor as a footballer, the leg speed or the height that was needed and that was it."

The 5'8" midfielder was disowned and shattered.

"This was a boy who wanted to be the best he could," says Mark. "A very honest, hard-working person. And he was always a team player, sharing the love. It wasn't just about what he needs to work on, but what was going around him. His teammates would get all his awareness and care. Needless to say, he was very disappointed that he couldn't take his career further."

Enter Jenny Williams — Mark's sister, 1986 lacrosse world champion, South Australia wicketkeeper and a sports psychologist. A chance run-in with Carey's mother set the ball rolling.

"Even after Alex was delisted, he remained friendly with Mark. I had a chance meeting with Alex's mum at a local store and we talked



(Left) Alex Carey (l) with coach Mark Williams (r) during his footie days. (Right) After getting delisted from his AFL team, Carey pursued cricket full time.



about his development. He had such a great relationship with Mark so I said if he wanted to come and have a couple of sessions with me."

Jenny's assignment was to lift Carey out of the funk of rejection and self-doubt. "I simply thought maybe he just didn't know how good he was, and often after delisting young men temporarily lose their mojo. Alex did so and we looked at some ideas to not only go back into cricket but also to see just how far he wanted to go."

Carey returned to the bottom rung of cricket, his club in Glenelg where his clean-striking ways caught the eye of former

Australia coach Tim Nielsen.

"I'm sure the delistment knocked his confidence around, and created confusion for him," says Nielsen, the high performance boss of South Australian Cricket Association. "He had committed to the AFL system and then been told he wasn't good enough after a relatively short period. To his ultimate credit, he used this as motivation, and after a flirtation with footy here in Adelaide, Alex made the decision to commit fully to his cricket."

But it was another false start. Carey struggled as an opener, and a top score of 31 in six innings landed him his second delistment, and a

cubicle job at a financial firm.

"Having a bad day on the sporting field is still a lot better than spending your whole week in an office and doing a job you're not so passionate about... because playing cricket is not really a job, it's a love," Carey said last year.

Recalled after two years in the wilderness, Carey took up gloves as a value-addition, and eventually replaced Tim Ludeman as the top wicket-keeper at South Australia. So meteoric was his rise behind the stumps that Adam Gilchrist, while watching a South Australia match on mute, was impressed by a sharp catch by 'Ludeman', before a double take at the team sheet introduced him to the name 'Carey'.

"Alex picks up things. You tell him once, he goes away, thinks about it, comes back and says 'I haven't slept last night but I understand what you mean,'" was former Test keeper and current fielding coach Brad Haddin's assessment. Williams testifies to Carey's determination and tendency to spend countless hours toiling away just to pick up a new skill.

"He started out perfecting his cover drives, and now you see him playing ramp shots and reverse sweeps," says Williams. "He will give it a try and perfect it to bring into his repertoire."

Twin heartbreaks, a nine-to-five job, support of a pair of siblings and learning how to adapt to the situation has tempered Carey to the point of being identified as a future captain. His presentation last year to secure the deputy gig left a panel of Mark Taylor, Greg Chappell and Justin Langer impressed, and Nielsen believes he could shine in the role.

"Alex is a strong leader, usually by example, and a player that trains extremely hard and spends time supporting and working with his teammates and staff for the groups growth,"

says Nielsen. "The challenge will be opportunity, both here in SA and with Australia. However, the success of Tim Paine as Australia Test captain may well have changed the adage that it is very difficult for a wicket-keeper to lead a team."

Williams too gives a vote of confidence and the character certificate.

"Form is obviously the important thing. But when it comes to the character of a person, what you can do and how you can build the team, there will be no one better," says Williams. "He remembers the words, he remembers the people he has talked to on the way."

Jenny points out how the the AFL heart-break couldn't sour him on the sport or his teammates, including flatmate Dylan Shiel. "Over the years I have sat with Alex at the Adelaide Oval stands watching our mutual friend Dylan play football. He takes great joy in watching others succeed."

Before Carey, Williams' cricketing claims included going to the St. Leonard's — the primary school of the Chappell brothers — and a cricket bat signed by Donald Bradman and Sachin Tendulkar. ("Probably need Virat Kohli on it now too.") But his ward's performance has rejuvenated his interest in the sport.

"Here, the trouble is we can watch the first innings, then there's a break and then it's 12:30 am which makes it difficult. With work the next day, you just go to bed hoping something good happens. But if Alex is just about to bat, I'm sitting there watching," says Mark. "I always end up looking back at those footy days, everyone who was involved with that team is so proud of Alex. And honestly, we follow cricket a bit more attentively because of him."

Sweden come from behind to stun Germany

REUTERS
JUNE 29

GOALS FROM Sofia Jakobsson and Stina Blackstenius helped Sweden stun Germany 2-1 in the women's World Cup quarter-finals at Roazhon Park in Rennes on Saturday and set up a last-four clash with the Netherlands.

After enjoying an early spell of possession, midfielder Lina Magull put the Germans in front in the 16th minute with an acrobatic volley through the legs of Swedish goalkeeper Hedvig Lindahl.

Sweden equalised six minutes later when winger Jakobsson latched onto a long ball straight down the middle from Linda Sembrant, and slotted home past goalkeeper Almuth Schult.

German coach Martina Voss-Tecklenburg threw on midfielder Dzsenifer Marozsan, who had not played since breaking a toe in their tournament opener against China, at the start of the second half but it was Sweden who took a shock lead. Schult did well to turn away a powerful header by Fridolina Rolfö but the rebound fell kindly for striker Blackstenius, who fired home from point blank range to get her second goal in as many matches.

Rapinoe the star again

Megan Rapinoe struck twice as the United States beat hosts France 2-1 in the women's World Cup quarter-finals at the Parc des Princes on Friday to set up a last-four clash with England.

Rapinoe, who was involved in a spat with U.S. President Donald Trump during the build up to the game, opened the scoring in the fifth minute with a low-struck free-kick from the left that went in untouched through a crowd of players. The 33-year-old Rapinoe added their second goal in the 65th minute and although France got back in the game with a Wendie Renard header in the 81st, the US held firm to maintain their record of never missing out on the World Cup semi-finals. A night which showed just how far the women's tournament has grown, with thousands of travelling American fans in a sell-out 45,000 crowd, ended in disappointment for the hosts.

Mates keep Messi's dream alive

Martinez, Lo Celso step up in 2-0 win over Venezuela to bag semi spot even as talisman struggles for form

VENEZUELA 0 ARGENTINA 2
Lautaro Martinez 10'
Giovani Lo Celso 74'

REUTERS
RIO DE JANEIRO, JUNE 28

ARGENTINA CAN look forward to a mouth-watering Copa America semi-final clash with Brazil after delivering a much-improved display to beat Venezuela 2-0 in the quarter-finals in their first game at the Maracana since losing the 2014 World Cup final. Striker Lautaro Martinez scored for the second game running to put Argentina in front in the 10th minute with a clever back-heeled finish, diverting in a shot from Sergio Aguero following a corner swung in by captain Lionel Messi.

Lionel Scaloni's side had to weather a series of attacks from Venezuela in the second half and it took a strong save from Franco Armani to prevent Ronald Hernandez from levelling. Substitute Giovani Lo Celso scored Argentina's badly-needed second goal in the 74th minute, passing a loose ball into an empty net after another shot from Aguero squirmed through the hands of Venezuela goalkeeper Wuilker Farinez.

Lo Celso's tap-in sealed a therapeutic win for Argentina in their first game back at the iconic Maracana stadium since their 1-0 extra-time defeat to Germany, which began a cycle of three consecutive losses in major finals. "We knew it wasn't going to be easy and we're happy to have reached the semi-finals. Even though we made it hard for ourselves, here we are," Argentina striker Aguero told reporters.

"Argentina-Brazil causes a lot of excitement around the world, it's a game you don't get to play every day but we've got here and we'll try to do as well as possible."

Argentina had scraped into the last eight with a nervy 2-0 win over Qatar in their final group-stage game after losing to Colombia and drawing with Paraguay, but they expected a sterner test from Venezuela.

Venezuela once lost 11-0 to Argentina in the 1975 Copa America but they have made remarkable advances in recent years despite a backdrop of political turmoil, reaching the 2017 under-20 World Cup final under cur-



Lo Celso scored Argentina's badly-needed second goal in the 74th minute. Reuters

rent coach Rafael Dudamel. They were unbeaten in their last three games with Argentina which included a resounding 3-1 win in a friendly in March, and captain Tomas Rincon said ahead of the game it was time his side "made a statement".

But they failed to live up to the hype and barely got into Argentina's area before half-time. "We weren't at the level we're capable of, we struggled to get into the game and we couldn't offer the physical and mental intensity that was needed," said Dudamel.

"We worked hard but we needed to have cooler heads, we spent a lot of energy on battling for the ball but didn't manage to create much. We leave here feeling bitter but we know we did ourselves proud."

Chile on course

Champions Chile maintained their hopes of a third straight Copa America victory after beating Colombia on penalties on Friday

SHOOTOUT	
COLOMBIA	CHILE
✓ Rodriguez	✓ Vidal
✓ Cardona	✓ Vargas
✓ Cuadrado	✓ Pulgar
✓ Mina	✓ Aránguiz
✗ Tesillo	✓ Sánchez
Chile win 5-4 on penalties	

to reach the semi-finals.

Chile could have won the game in normal time but had two goals ruled out for marginal decisions in a scoreless draw, before Alexis Sanchez stroked home the winning spot-kick. It was just rewards for the champions after dominating a match in which Colombia held on thanks to a couple

of tight VAR calls.

Charles Aranguiz had a goal ruled out in the first half for a marginal offside against Sanchez in the build up to the move.

And after Arturo Vidal shot low into the far corner on 70 minutes, that was chalked off for a handball against Guillermo Maripan, who had teed up the Barcelona midfielder. Following eight successful penalties, William Tesillo casually put his effort wide for Colombia, leaving Sanchez to be the hero, as the Manchester United forward continues to make up in Brazil for a dreadful club season.

"We dominated practically the whole match. It was a great match against a team with a lot of quality," said Vidal.

"We scored two goals that unfortunately VAR annulled. We deserved to have won in normal time, we couldn't, but we managed to score the five penalties and went into the next round."

India Cements job delays Dravid's elevation to NCA head

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, JUNE 29

Former India captain Rahul Dravid will have to pick between being head of cricket at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru and the vice president of India Cements. The Committee of Administrators approved his appointment at the NCA on Saturday but the BCCI's legal team has raised the issue of Dravid being a paid employee of India Cements. The Indian board wants clarity from Dravid on whether he can go on 'leave without pay' from India Cements once he takes over as head of cricket to avoid falling foul of conflict of interest recommendations.

"We want Dravid on board as NCA's head of cricket and he will have to work at the academy full time. He is also a vice-president at India Cements. He will have to choose one of the posts. The board is ok if he goes on 'leave without pay' from India Cements and then joins NCA. Once he clarifies his appointment will be made public," sources in the BCCI informed.

Dravid's contract as India Under-19 and India-A coach ends this month and if all goes well he will take charge at the NCA from July 1. Dravid's new role will make him the point man to groom the next generation of cricketers.

Meanwhile, COA will take the view of the Supreme Court appointed amicus curie PS Narasimha if ethics officer DK Jain's ruling that VVS Laxman and Sourav Ganguly were flouting the recommendations on conflict of interest — as they were holding multiple positions — was 'restrictive'.

Jain in his order had stated that Laxman will have to choose between commentary, Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) post and being mentor of Sunrisers Hyderabad. Whereas Ganguly will have to pick between CAC member, mentor of Delhi Capitals and Cricket Association of Bengal president. Ganguly is also a commentator. Jain in his order had directed BCCI to implement his direction in two weeks, however, the COA is all set to get a legal opinion.



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