



on Sunday



Gehlot says Pehlu Khan not named as accused in cow smuggling case

page 10



'One nation, one ration card' from July 1, 2020, says Ram Vilas Paswan

page 11



Imad keeps his nerve, helps Pakistan survive an Afghanistan scare

page 18



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NEARBY

India seeks Kartarpur talks from July 11 to 14

NEW DELHI
After weeks of an impasse on the Kartarpur corridor, the government has written to Pakistan, proposing the next round of talks to be held from July 11 to 14 on the Pakistani side of the Attari-Wagah border. "Meeting will discuss draft agreement on modalities for movement of pilgrims," an official source said.

NEWS PAGE 10

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Sano positions itself as the home of cricket in Japan

Nondescript town is betting big on the sport to transform its fortunes as it grapples with demographic and economic decline

PALLAVI AIYAR
TOKYO

Sano is a nondescript town bang in the centre of Honshu, the Japanese archipelago's largest island. Although only about 80 km from the capital, Tokyo, the town could be another planet, as sparsely populated and modest as Tokyo is flashy and thrumming. The abrupt appearance on its outskirts of an international standard cricket ground is therefore mirage-like. But this is no optical illusion. Sano bills itself as the home of cricket in Japan, and is betting on the

sport to transform its fortunes as it grapples with demographic and economic decline.

How this unlikely turn of events came to be is a story that includes entrepreneurial city hall officials, baseball stars-turned cricketers and a national government strategy to revitalise regional economies, stirred in with a dollop of serendipity in the form of a half-Japanese, half-Scottish cricket enthusiast called Naoki Alex Miyaji and his passion for Ramen noodles. It's also a story with a catchy headline, given that

Japan recently qualified for the first time ever to play in the Under 19 Cricket World Cup next year.

SPECIAL

The Japan Cricket Association (JCA) was an organisation that existed only in disembodied name until Mr. Miyaji, who'd learned to play cricket as a child during summer holidays in the U.K., became its first full-time chief executive in 2008. The JCA office was at first located in Tokyo, but it quickly became apparent that to find

and develop a cricketing ground in a city as congested as the Japanese capital would be impossible. Mr. Miyaji cast around for other locations and settled on Sano, a town he knew well, having lived there for a few years. It ticked several boxes, being within 100 km of Tokyo, on a relatively flat ground and, most importantly, had a mayor who happened to be casting about for strategies to revitalise the town.

Among Japan's numerous demographic challenges, the depopulation of vast tracts ranks high. The result

of a declining birth rate combined with large-scale migration to big cities, this trend means hundreds of towns might disappear altogether.

The national government has responded by providing a generous budget to regional bodies to invest in creative ways to stem depopulation. Cities and towns have taken to vying with each other in positioning themselves as centres of arts and crafts, natural beauty or specialty foods to attract tourism and businesses.



New arena: The abrupt appearance of a cricket ground in the town of Sano is mirage-like. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Crumbled and crushed



Buried under: As rain pounded Pune, 15 persons, including four children, were killed when a part of a compound wall of an apartment complex crashed on workers' hutments at Kondhwa on Saturday. The deceased hailed from Bihar. *PTI (PAGE 9)

Trump, Xi seal trade war truce

U.S. holds off on further tariffs on Chinese goods, grants relief to Huawei

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
OSAKA

U.S. President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping struck a trade war truce on Saturday, as Washington vowed to hold off on further tariffs, allow American companies to sell equipment to Chinese tech giant Huawei and declared that trade negotiations with China were "back on track".

The ceasefire that halts damaging trade frictions came in a hotly anticipated meeting between the leaders of the world's top two economies on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Osaka, Japan. Mr. Trump hailed the meeting as "excellent." "We are right back on track," he added.

There was little in the way of concrete details of what was agreed, but Mr. Trump confirmed Washington had



Deal done: President Donald Trump with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Osaka, Japan, on Saturday. *AP

committed not to impose any new tariffs on Beijing's exports and the two sides would continue talks.

Eases stance

"We won't be adding an additional tremendous amount of \$350 billion left which could be taxed or could be tariffed. We're not doing

that, we are going to work with China on where we left off to see if we can make a deal," Mr. Trump said at a press conference. "We will be continuing to negotiate."

Mr. Trump also said that U.S. companies could sell equipment to Huawei, indicating a potentially softer position on a key sticking

point in the trade war. "We're talking about equipment where there's no great national security problem with it," Mr. Trump told reporters.

It was not clear whether Mr. Trump's comment marked a material change in the stance toward Huawei, which has essentially been barred on national security grounds from accessing crucial American technology or operating in the U.S. market. A solution to the Huawei issue may have to wait until the closing stages of talks, Mr. Trump said.

He struck a conciliatory tone after his arrival for the summit, despite saying China's economy was going "down the tubes" before he set out for Osaka.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
RESOLVES TO FREE INTERNET
OF EXTREMISM PAGE 11

Muslim youth thrashed in Kanpur

He had refused to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'; search on for attackers

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

A Muslim youth was allegedly thrashed and insulted in Kanpur by some unidentified persons after he refused to chant 'Jai Shri Ram', the police said on Saturday.

The incident happened on Friday evening when the youth, identified as Taj Mohammad (20), was returning home in the Barra area after offering prayers at Usmanpur madrasa. He was riding a motorbike and wearing a skull cap.

Mr. Mohammad in his complaint said that four persons on bicycles objected to the way he was riding the

bike and asked him to stop. One of them accosted him, "How are you driving?", while another pointed out to the others that he was a Muslim, said Mr. Mohammad.

The men then asked Mr. Mohammad to park his vehicle on the side of the road.

"They asked me to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'. I said I won't. They threatened to thrash me if I didn't," said the youth, who was allegedly pushed to the ground and beaten up.

His skull cap was also forcibly removed, he said.

The attackers fled the scene after Mr. Mohammad

cried for help and some passers-by rushed towards him. A case was registered under Section 153A of the Indian Penal Code (causing enmity between people of different religions).

Footage being scanned

Circle Officer, Babupurva, Manoj Kumar Gupta said the incident took place near the Yadav Market area.

The police are going through CCTV footage and also talking to locals to identify the culprits.

"Strict action will be taken against those whose names come to light," said Mr. Gupta.

Modi holds a flurry of bilaterals on the last day of G20 summit

Discusses trade, defence and counter-terror

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
OSAKA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday held bilateral meetings with leaders of Indonesia, Brazil, Turkey, Australia, Singapore and Chile and discussed a host of key issues, including trade, counter-terrorism, defence, maritime security and sports.

Mr. Modi, who was here for the two-day G20 summit, held his first official engage-



Australian PM Scott Morrison tweeted a selfie with PM Modi on Saturday.

ment on the last day of the summit with Indonesian President Joko Widodo.

The two leaders discussed ways to deepen

cooperation on the trade and investment, defence and maritime fronts.

Soon after, Mr. Modi met Brazil President Jair Bolsonaro and held wide-ranging discussions on bilateral relationship, especially cooperation in trade and investment, agriculture and biofuels in the context of climate change. He then met Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and held talks on trade and investment, defence and counter-terrorism.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
PM HARD SELLS YOGA PAGE 11

Chacko stays Sheila's move to dissolve block panels

Move hints at differences between them

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A day after Delhi Congress chief Sheila Dikshit dissolved all 280 block-level committees of the party, AICC in-charge of the national capital P.C. Chacko overturned the decision, a move that hinted at differences between the two leaders.

Mr. Chacko "stayed" the dissolution of the panels and forwarded copies of his order to Congress president Rahul Gandhi as well as Ms. Dikshit, party sources said.

A group of Congress leaders on Saturday met party

general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal and Mr. Chacko and opposed Ms. Dikshit's move to dissolve all block committees.

"We told the two leaders that the block committees and their presidents were elected and they could not be dissolved all of a sudden before Assembly elections since it takes a lot of time to form them," said Chatar Singh, who attended the meeting.

The process of constituting new committees has already started, said a leader of Ms. Dikshit's camp.

DD wades into war over waves along LoC in Kashmir

Set-top boxes to be distributed free in 10 border districts, where antennas capture Pakistan TV channels

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

From confrontation between India and Pakistan along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir, it's a television signal war to grab the attention of locals now.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has launched a major drive in the border areas to wean locals from channels beamed from across the border.

Over 30,000 free Doordarshan (DD) dish set-top boxes have been earmarked to be distributed

in 10 border districts close to the LoC and the International Border (IB), out of the State's 22 districts. They will provide 100 channels free, including local news channels.

Only dish antennas

Hundreds of residents, especially in the Pir Panjal Valley's Rajouri and Poonch districts, have only dish antennas or traditional antennas because no cable operator can access the tough terrain.

Given their geographical location, these antennas easily catch TV channels



Out of reach: No cable operator can access the tough terrain, especially in Poonch and Rajouri districts. *NISSAR AHMED

from across the border, including the official channels of Pakistan Television. "We use dish

antennas. We easily access channels from across the border. Pakistani serials are very popular with the

population closer to the LoC," N.A. Manhas, a resident of Poonch's Meandhar, told *The Hindu*.

'A better alternative'

Doing away with the one-time fee of around ₹2,000 for these set-top boxes, the State government will make them available free. "There are undesirable channels, not approved by the Ministry, being received and watched in Jammu and Kashmir. Strategically, the move will help us reach out to people with a better alternative," a senior DD official said.

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari on Saturday demanded constitution of police teams akin to "anti-Romeo squads" in Uttar Pradesh to counter the harassment of women in public spaces as well as aboard public transport.

Party sources claimed that the North East Delhi MP was likely to broach the topic during the ongoing budget session of Parliament next week.

The sources said Mr. Tiwari was likely to seek the constitution of such squads



Manoj Tiwari

— consisting of plain-clothed police personnel deployed specifically to check the possible harassment of female citizens — in all States across the country. Politically, party insiders

admitted, the move "could" neutralise what the BJP has been decrying as the Aam Aadmi Party government's attempt to garner "political brownie points" in Delhi through its proposed scheme to provide free travel to female commuters on public transport.

"These people [harassers] must be punished as strictly as possible... even if it requires the deployment of police personnel in plain clothes like in U.P.. Whatever it takes to put the fear of the law in such people," Mr. Tiwari said in a video released on Saturday.

DELHI Timings

SUNDAY, JUNE 30		
RISE	05:27	SET 19:23
RISE	03:10	SET 16:56
MONDAY, JULY 01		
RISE	05:27	SET 19:23
RISE	03:56	SET 17:59
TUESDAY, JULY 02		
RISE	05:27	SET 19:23
RISE	04:47	SET 19:02

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	42	30
Safdarjang	42	30
Palam	45	30

Delhi Palam Today
43°C Heat wave condition may develop in parts of Delhi and NCR. Night will also remain marginally warm.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
44°C Heat wave condition will continue with light to moderate warm winds during day. Pollution to remain mainly poor over many parts.

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Air quality of Delhi-NCR		
Delhi	231	Gurgaon 192
Ghaziabad	266	Faridabad 91
Noida	255	Greater Noida 264
Good	Satisfactory	Moderate
0-50	51-100	101-200
Poor	Very poor	Severe
201-300	301-400	>401

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

DELHI TODAY

Music: 12th Quarterly Baithak: "Legends of Tomorrow" a musical event will feature sitar recital by Soumitra Thakur with Raman Khan on tabla, Kathak recital by Shrinjini Kulkarni with Anubrata Chatterjee on tabla and Zahab Hassan on vocals and Ghulam Mohd. on sarangi, at Triveni Kala Sangam, Mandi House, 6:30 p.m.

Music: Daachi Waleya Modh Muhar Wey - a nostalgic look at Pre-partition Punjab with tales from the agony of Partition told by artistes of Impresario Asia and folk and sufi music by Piyush Raj and others at Amaltes Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Assemblage 19", a group show by the students of the Delhi School of Photography at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Screening: 24th edition of European Union Film Festival will showcase a boutique of 23 latest, award-winning European films at Gulmohar Hall and Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre (IHC) and Instituto Cervantes, 48, Hanuman Road, 7 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at cityed@delhiatthehindu.co.in)

17 days in June recorded 'high' dust pollution

Spot checks across Delhi reveal CPCB norms being flouted by govt. agencies; many dust control measures not being enforced

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

On the morning of June 11, the city's pollution levels touched 'severe' category for a while and at 3 p.m., a message by a government pollution monitoring agency read: "Delhi is experiencing widespread dust lifting from 3 a.m., which is purely locally generated..."

"Localised dust lifting was high" for 17 days from June 1-29, an analysis of government-run System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) data showed.

The *Hindu* found that different measures to control dust - a major cause of air pollution during summer - are not properly being enforced by multiple government agencies.

Spot checks on 12 locations in North, South and East Delhi showed that dust control measures, including proper maintenance of pavements, covering construction materials and sand, were not being implemented in many cases. Also, construction debris that contributes to dust, was found dumped on the roads all these areas. Dust control norms were flouted at over six construction sites, including government works.

On June 19, the Lieutenant-Governor had directed different agencies to take action on "illegal dumping" of construction and demolition (C&D) waste. This, however, is yet to materialise.

Secretary at Department of Environment Sanjeev Khirwar said, "The land owning agencies such as PWD and civic bodies have to implement the dust control measures and they can impose fines. But if any specific case is pointed out, we will



(Left) No covering sheets used at a construction site in Pragati Maidan; a man caught during a dust storm near Mathura Road in the city. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR



forward it them for action."

Harmful effects

On one June afternoon, 59-year-old Pramod Singh, selling lemonade by the road between Moti Bagh and South Campus metro stations, stood next to a four-foot-high mound of soil. The road was dug up and any vehicle passing through the stretch kicked dust.

"Kam se kam 100g mitti andhar jaati he [at least 100g of dust goes inside the body daily]," Mr. Singh said, adding, "When there is a traffic jam, the dust will increase and you won't be able to stand here. After work, I go home and eat a piece of jaggery."

Dust contributes to fine inhalable particles called Particulate Matter (PM), which can get into the lungs and even into the bloodstream and cause health problems. "PM can lead to lung and heart diseases, including asthma, bronchitis and heart attacks," said a senior consultant at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital Ashwani Mehta. "An increasing number of people in Delhi are suffering nasal allergies also due to dust," he added. World's top 14 most-

Construction and demolition waste is being dumped across the city and strong action is needed against it. Also, it should be recycled

BHURE LAL
Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority Chairman

polluted cities are in India with Delhi taking the sixth position, states the World Health Organization. Air pollution has been linked to lung cancer, stroke, and heart disease.

During summer, dust from soil, road, and construction is responsible for 38% of the total PM 2.5 and 42% of PM 10 in Delhi, according to a 2018 study by the Energy Resource Institute (TERI) and Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), which has been quoted in Parliament documents.

Dust pollution is mainly from two sources: the road from where dust gets kicked up in the air, especially from streets that dug up or not asphalted. Second is from construction activities where dust control measures are not being followed and waste

is dumped in the open.

Ground reality

The road between Moti Bagh and South Campus metro stations has been dug up for laying a pipeline. Mounds of earth and construction debris are left at multiple points along the road and there is mud even on the pavements.

"Use covering sheets [plastic, tarpaulin, etc] on a construction material heap that are easily airborne. Also, use them on C&D debris that is dumped at temporary storage [construction] sites," states Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) guidelines for dust control issued in November 2017.

The road between Rajendra Place and Karol Bagh metro stations also suffers a similar fate.

Standing next to a mound of dug up earth, 36-year-old Moti Lal, who drives a rented e-rickshaw, said: "If they can dig this up night, why are they not fixing it? Who will fix it now?"

On more than a dozen locations, construction debris was found to be dumped illegally on busy roads and even under a board erected by PWD in Vande Mataram

Road, which reads: "Dumping of waste or construction debris here is strictly prohibited." The situation was no different at construction sites. Near AIIMS, there are over six-foot-high mounds of soil as the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) is constructing a fountain along the road. Some children were seen playing near it. "Sand and other fine aggregates should be stored in demarcated areas and given a covering," reads the CPCB guideline.

Two other works by Delhi Jal Board and one by the PWD were seen to not follow the dust control measures. The NDMC and DJB did not respond to these queries.

At all these sites, workers were not seen wearing masks which is mandatory as per CPCB guidelines.

Mohammad Masum (22) from Bihar and his friends were demolishing a two-storey house in south Patel Nagar without any boots or safety masks.

"When I cough, the sputum has mitti [mud] in it," he said, adding that he gets cough almost once every month. "I have been working for the past seven years but

have got a mask only twice."

Steps to be taken

"There is a lot of exposed earth across Delhi and dust control measures are mostly not enforced. Also, C&D waste is dumped in wetlands, roads, and drains in Delhi. This dust is more toxic than the road dust," said head of 'Clean Air' programme at Centre for Science and Environment, Delhi Anumita Roychowdhury.

"The rules have to be implemented," she added. Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority Chairman Bhure Lal said currently C&D waste is being dumped across the city and strong action is needed against it.

"It should be recycled," he said. "Proper sweeping and greening of roads and medians will help to reduce local dust lifting. Also, the implementation of existing rules is lacking," said Polash Mukerjee, lead, air quality and climate resilience at India Programme of the Natural Resources Defense Council, a US-based environmental advocacy group.

Gidesh then started looking for valuables and cash on the ground floor after which he went to the first floor where Santosh's grandson and his wife were sleeping. "On hearing the commotion, the couple woke up and saw the accused. He said two of his associates were downstairs with their grandmother and they should part with their belongings immediately," the officer said.

Senior citizen killed in robbery bid

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

An 80-year-old woman was killed allegedly by a man in a robbery attempt in Dwaraka's Bindapur on Saturday morning, the police said.

Gidesh (27), who was nabbed by the victim's family members, have been arrested, they said. The incident happened in the small hours when Santosh Devi had just woken up. "At 6.30 a.m., the accused saw the main door open and entered the house. He then attacked Santosh with an iron rod and slit her throat when she tried to overpower him," the officer said.

Gidesh then started looking for valuables and cash on the ground floor after which he went to the first floor where Santosh's grandson and his wife were sleeping. "On hearing the commotion, the couple woke up and saw the accused. He said two of his associates were downstairs with their grandmother and they should part with their belongings immediately," the officer said.

The couple shouted for help following which Gidesh got scared and locked himself in a room, the police said. The couple then locked the door from outside and called the police. Meanwhile, the couple went to see their grandmother, who had passed. "When the police opened the door, Gidesh was found with his wrists slit. He was rushed to a hospital where he is undergoing treatment. Santosh was declared brought dead," the officer said.

A case has been registered and further investigation is under way, the police added.

Dip/Shabdarth/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.

IN BRIEF

Minors held for killing youth, dumping body
NEW DELHI
Two minors have been held for allegedly strangulating one Nitin Mishra (20) in Anand Vihar on Wednesday, the police said on Saturday. The accused, who also dumped the body in a drain, said that the victim used to bully them and had suspected them of stealing his money on the day of the incident.

Police patrol: eight held in Outer North district
NEW DELHI
Eight persons, including a minor and a proclaimed offender, were held during routine patrolling in Outer North district on Friday night, DCP Gaurav Sharma said, adding that pistols, stolen vehicles were recovered from them among other articles. Two of the accused have been found involved in cases registered by the NIA, the police said.

Police patrolling conducted across city

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI
Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik, along with Special Commissioner (Law & Order), conducted general patrolling across the city on Friday night including areas where crime was recently reported. The police assessed the possibility of enhancing police visibility to prevent recurrence of crime and also identified stretches that required rearrangement of deployment to plug the gaps. Around 16,000 vehicles were checked, they said. Nearly 3,000 people were bound down, while 185 were checked for legal action, the police added.

2 of family, driver killed on Delhi-Meerut Expressway

10 others injured as the vehicle they were travelling in crashed into a water tanker on NH-24

HEMANGI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

Twelve members of a family were on their way to Nainital for a two-day vacation when the vehicle they were travelling in hit a private tanker on Friday night, killing the driver and two members on Delhi-Meerut Expressway near East Delhi's Kalyanpuri.

The Jain family - Premwati (63), her son Sudershan (44), his wife Kumud (38), their children Sonu (10), Monu (13) and Sneha (15), Sudershan's sister Poonam (36), her husband Mukesh (39), their children Lovish (14) and Khushboo (17), and Sudershan's cousins Priyanka (21) and Anurag (16) - had left their house in Uttam Nagar with the hired driver Nishan Singh (34), a resident of Tilak Nagar, around 10.30 p.m.

When they reached NH-24, their mini-bus hit a tanker from behind. The impact was such that the front portion of the vehicle got completely damaged. Nishan, Mukesh, and Monu were killed while



The vehicle in which the family was travelling, at Kalyanpuri.

the other 10 sustained severe injuries in the incident.

Local rushed to help
Over 100 police personnel reached the spot after a PCR call was made about the accident around 12 a.m. A police officer said that it took nearly one-and-a-half-hour to pull the driver out of the vehicle. "As a routine patrol was being conducted on Friday night, most of the policemen deployed in the district had reached the spot within minutes. Locals, however, had managed to pull all the 12 family members out of the vehicle by then. The driver, who was stuck between the seat and the steering wheel, had to be pulled out slowly," the officer said. All the injured people were rushed to different hospitals, including Lal Bahadur Shastri and MAX, where Nishan Singh, Mukesh and Monu succumbed to injuries, said DCP

(East) Jasmeet Singh, adding that two-three of them are still critical.

The family said that they had planned the trip about five days ago, as the children in the family wanted to go on one. "Ms. Poonam's children had asked Mr. Sudershan to take them on a trip. They had booked the mini-bus from a private travel house two days ago. They had left for Nainital on Friday night and had planned to return on Monday morning," said Mr. Sudershan's paternal uncle, Vimal Jain.

The Jains are in the business of property dealing and have been staying as a joint family in Uttam Nagar for the last 35 years, Mr. Vimal said. Nishan's family said that he was a divorcee and is survived by his five-year-old son who studies at a private school in Tilak Nagar. "On Friday morning, he had returned from Manali, but did not come home and instead went to Gurdwara Damdama Sahib and slept there. In the

evening, he had gone to meet our sister in Jor Bagh, after which he went to Uttam Nagar to pick them [the Jains] up," said his younger brother Manjeet Singh. Mr. Manjeet also claimed that Nishan had been a driver for the last five years and was working with a private travel house for last one year. "He did not drink and had never met with an accident. We are wondering what happened," the brother said. DCP Singh also said that a case on charges of rash driving and causing death by negligence has been registered and the driver of the water tanker has been arrested. "The driver, Santosh Yadav (34), a resident of Mandawali, who had fled the spot, has been arrested. He said that the tanker was moving slowly due to a faulty clutch and the mini-bus hit the vehicle from behind. The actual cause of the accident will, however, only become clear after further investigation," Mr. Singh said.

Kin donate eyes of two

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The families of two of the three persons killed in the accident on NH-24 on Friday night have donated the eyes of the deceased. On the other hand, one of the survivors, who sustained injuries in the incident, has lost an eye.

The tempo traveller, which the Jains were travelling in, hit a water tanker from behind killing two members of the family and their driver, Nishan Singh. Nishan's family has donated his eyes and the Jains have donated Mukesh's eyes. Vimal Jain, a relative of the Jains, said: "He is critical. Doctors said he will not be able to see from his left eye." While Mukesh's wife Poonam is critical and is unaware that her husband is no more, Sudershan does not know that he has lost his son.

Man plans armed robbery, arrested in shoot-out

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A 32-year-old man has been arrested following a shoot-out near Akshardham on Friday night, the police said on Saturday. They said that he has been planning to commit armed robberies in Delhi.

DCP (Special Cell) P.S. Kushwah said that accused Mohd Rihan alias Shamim was out on bail in a 2018 dacoity case in which he was arrested along with four accomplices for allegedly looting ₹8.9 lakh from a Gandhi Nagar trader. Rihan's accomplice Mohd Mujeeb was arrested on June 17 and he had said that Rihan was "desperately attempting to commit robberies to pay his debt and fund court proceedings".

The police received a tip-off that Rihan was coming to NH-24 to commit robbery and would also meet his accomplices near Khel Gaon bus stand. They laid a trap and when they spotted the accused, he was asked to surrender. "He immediately fired at them and the police had to fire in self defence. Rihan sustained injuries and was apprehended," Mr. Kushwah said. A loaded pistol with three live cartridges was seized from him.

Traders stage protest as NDMC holds mock drill for pedestrianisation in CP

Vehicular movement to be restricted today, tomorrow

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Traders in Connaught Place on Saturday staged protest as the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) conducted a mock drill for the pedestrianisation of the shopping hub on Sunday and Monday.

Traders who are miffed with the NDMC allegedly for not keeping them in confidence about the plan, removed barricades placed by the civic body. Vehicular movement to Connaught Place will be restricted this Sunday and Monday as the



A trader removes a traffic cone placed by the civic body in Connaught Place on Saturday.

NDMC plans to execute its pedestrianisation plan. Traders had raised objection to the plan following which the NDMC had tweaked its earlier plan. Connaught Place market along with Chandni Chowk were one of the locations initially chosen for pedestrianisation.

Man held for trying to kill live-in-partner

Accused hit woman on the head, locked room and fled

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A 32-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly trying to kill his live-in partner in outer north Delhi's Narela, the police said on Saturday.

DCP (Outer North) Gaurav Sharma said that accused Arjun Baitha, who hails from Bihar, allegedly attempted to kill his live-in partner Reeta at their rented accommodation. They have been living in the house since a few months, he said.

The police said that on June 22, the woman, who was severely injured, was found locked inside a room.

The police registered a case and started to look for the accused. "Technical surveillance was mounted on his number. The photo of the suspect was also shown around. The landlord said that the man had identified himself as Arun," Mr. Sharma said.

With the help of technical surveillance, the police came to know that the man had switched off his phone in Dehradun. They said that the accused was finally nabbed from his sister's house in Dehradun's Subhash Nagar where he had been hiding. During interrogation, the

accused allegedly revealed that the victim is his cousin's wife and the two had been living together since the last two-three months. Arjun also told the police that the relationship had become a burden for him and he wanted to get rid of the woman. "Late on June 22, he hit her on the head with a stone while she was sleeping, locked the room and left," the officer said.

Landlord booked
The police have also booked the landlord for not conducting tenant verification while renting out the accommodation.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at a few isolated places over Odisha, Konkan & Goa, Telangana, central Maharashtra, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, coastal Karnataka and Jharkhand. Heat wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over Jammu & Kashmir, Haryana, Delhi, Bihar and west Uttar Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...	35.5	25.5	Kozhikode	3.6	34.8	27.4
Ahmedabad	...	34.8	27.0	Kurnool	...	34.1	26.5
Aizawl	...	27.9	20.7	Lucknow	...	42.5	29.7
Allahabad	...	44.0	31.2	Madurai	...	41.2	25.6
Bengaluru	...	30.6	21.0	Mangaluru	...	32.6	25.8
Bhopal	...	34.0	24.0	Mumbai	234.8	27.6	23.0
Bhubaneswar	...	33.0	26.5	Mysuru	...	31.2	19.4
Chandigarh	...	41.0	29.2	New Delhi	...	42.3	30.0
Chennai	...	40.2	27.2	Patna	...	40.0	29.0
Coimbatore	...	35.4	24.0	Port Blair	...	3.6	28.6
Dehradun	...	37.9	26.1	Puducherry	...	39.0	27.6
Gangtok	...	11.2	24.7	Pune	...	59.7	25.8
Goa	136.9	28.2	23.5	Raipur	...	0.8	36.5
Guwahati	...	5.3	31.5	Ranchi	...	...	34.4
Hubballi	Shillong	...	23.8	17.1
Hyderabad	...	31.6	24.5	Shimla	...	27.8	18.7
Imphal	...	31.7	22.1	Srinagar	...	29.6	14.6
Jammu	...	41.6	28.1	Trivandrum	...	32.9	25.6
Kochi	...	31.8	28.0	Tiruchi	...	39.7	28.2
Kohima	...	32.7	18.2	Vijayawada	...	35.7	29.0
Kolkata	...	0.3	35.9	Visakhapatnam	...	35.5	30.0

Pollutants in the air you are breathing Yesterday

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	54	196	92	109	...	...
Bengaluru	6	40	64	44	101	...
Chennai	11	28	52	148	...	...
Delhi	15	22	35	96	321	...
Hyderabad	7	21	28	29	...	...
Kolkata	4	33	17	94	...	...
Lucknow	...	...	...	...	93	...
Mumbai	3	35	50	300	...	...
Pune	...	...	...	...	16	50
Visakhapatnam	18	54	41	45	...	91

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.
NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.
CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.
PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

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DELHI POLICE SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

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Decline in Heinous Crimes Against Senior Citizens

SR. CITIZENS : HELPLINE NO. 1291

2016: 118 (Down 10%)
2017: 96 (Down 18%)
2018: 63 (Down 33%)

2018: 27 (Down 15%)
2019: 23 (Down 15%)

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- House Alarm
- CCTV
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- Let visitors stay with domestic help
- Allow entry to unverified strangers

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DP/019/19

IN BRIEF



No respite from heat for Delhiites

NEW DELHI
There was no respite from the heat for the Capital on Saturday as the maximum temperature was recorded at 42.3 degrees Celsius, five degrees above the normal on Saturday. Similar weather conditions are expected to prevail on Sunday. The humidity level oscillated between 28% and 55% even as a partly cloudy sky, with the possibility of thundery development, were forecast for Sunday, according to the Met Department.

Gopal Rai inaugurates two mohalla clinics

NEW DELHI
Labour Minister Gopal Rai on Saturday inaugurated two mohalla clinics in his Assembly constituency of Babarpur in North-East Delhi here amid a protest by BJP workers. After the event, Mr. Rai shared a video of the protest on Twitter and sought to know "why the BJP is scared of opening of a mohalla clinic".

Airline directed to pay ₹79,000 compensation

NEW DELHI
A district consumer disputes redressal forum here has directed an international airline to pay ₹79,000 compensation to a Delhi-based couple after it allegedly downgraded them to economy class despite having booked business class tickets. The consumer panel said, "The inconvenience, harassment and compensation, we are of the considered view that the downgrading from business class seat to economy class was on account of last minute 'aircraft change' on account of some technical fault, which necessitated such change."

DPCC seals three more 'polluting' factories

NEW DELHI
The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) sealed three more "polluting" factories "operating without consent" in the Mayapuri scrap market in west Delhi on Saturday.

This was the second such exercise carried out in the last three days in the Mayapuri industrial area, which had witnessed violent clashes between traders and the police personnel accompanying a sealing team on April 13. On the directions of the NGT, the DPCC had carried out a comprehensive unit-wise survey in May and found several units "operating without consent".

Neeraj Sehgal, secretary of the Mayapuri Industrial Area Welfare Association, said the authorities sealed three more factories on Saturday, taking the number of units shut down in the last three days to 15.

On June 19, the authorities had served 122 notices, of which 41 were for closure of defaulting units.

According to the severity of the violations, fines ranging from ₹2 lakh to ₹6 lakh were imposed on the polluting units.

Sewer tragedy: two missing workers yet to be traced

One employee of contractor firm held; authorities not doing enough, allege kin

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Nearly 32 hours after three people fell unconscious in a 30-foot-deep Delhi Jal Board sewer line in Keshopur, west Delhi, on Friday, fate of two still remains unclear. Meanwhile, the police on Saturday arrested a man associated with a contractor firm that was involved with the work.

Body of one worker, identified as Shahrukh, was recovered on Friday. The two other labourers – Kumar, 24, and Ankit, 19 – were washed away and are still missing.

"Rescue operations has been called off for the day and it will restart from 7 a.m. tomorrow [Sunday]. The two persons are stuck in the pipeline, but chances of their survival are bleak," a Delhi Fire Service official said.

No safety gears

"We have registered an FIR against the contractors S.K. Enterprises and Sara Enterprises who were doing the work. The workers did not have any safety gears, according to other workers' statement," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Monika Bhardwaj.

The DJB had given the project to Engineers India Limited (EIL) and said that DJB "only monitors" the work and there is no "day-to-day interference" of the government agency.

The Delhi Jal Board was constructing 'Interceptor Sewer Project', which takes sewage from drains and pumps it to a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) through pipelines.

Poisonous gases

According to workers, Shahrukh went inside the drain to get a measurement of an iron grill that had to be fixed

'Operator did not close the gates of drain, ran away'

Doing so would have saved lives of fellow workers: survivor

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

On June 28, after three labourers fell unconscious in a Delhi Jal Board sewer line in Keshopur, Mohammad Imran, 19, ran to the man operating the gates of the drain that flowed into the sewer.

Imran said he begged him to close the gates but the operator ran away.

"After they [three worker] fell unconscious, I ran and told him [operator] that people are trapped inside and asked him to close the gates [to stop the inflow of water]. But he closed the room which controls the four gates and ran away," Imran said, adding, "If the gates were closed, the three could have been saved."

Broke open the gates

Imran then tried to go down the sewer line using a rope, but fell almost unconscious due to the gases and was pulled up. He, along with his friends, broke open the room and finally closed the gates.

"After we closed the gates, the water flow decreased and Shahrukh's body was recovered. But the other two



The broken lock of the room which has the controls to the gates. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

workers got washed away into the pipeline," Imran said outside the mortuary of Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital in west Delhi while waiting for Shahrukh's body.

On Saturday, the door to the room which controls the gates, was found to be open and its lock broken.

Ramrup Chaudhary, 51, who runs a tea shop next to the gates, said he had seen the workers breaking open the door of the room with a hammer.

Ram Lakhani, 25, who was also working at the sewer line said, "The water flowed in very fast leading to the death of one worker by

drowning," he said. Two people were washed away and chances of their survival are very less.

Though workers said that the gates were operated by the Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Nikhil Kumar, Secretary of the department said that it cannot be confirmed at this point. "Drains in Delhi are under different agencies and we cannot confirm whether this is under our department. Things would be clear once EIL [Engineers India Limited] submits a report," he said.

The DJB had given the project to EIL.

at its opening, the police said. He inhaled poisonous gases emanating from the drain and felt nauseous. When he signalled others to pull him up, two workers went in.

The other labourers were washed away, officials said. "The pipeline at some parts

is about 40 feet under the surface and it is very difficult to dig that deep. Also, we cannot let a man crawl through the pipeline to look for the body because of the sludge and poisonous gases in the pipeline," a DFS officer said.

Shahrukh's body was

handed over to the family after post-mortem. Meanwhile, families of the two persons who were washed away in the pipeline complained that the authorities were not doing enough. The EIL has formed a committee to look into the accident and will submit it to the DJB.

DU aspirants turn up for yoga trials for 10 seats

Confusion prevails over selection criteria; 'reduction in number of seats unfortunate'

LYDIA JAYAKUMAR
NEW DELHI

Around 70 aspirants turned up at Delhi University's Bharti College on Saturday for yoga trials.

This is the first year when yoga trials are being held as a part of the Extra Curricular Activities (ECA) category instead of the sports quota. Following the shift from sports to the ECA category, the varsity has reduced the number of seats to 10 from 23.

Rashi Yadav who has competed in various tournaments, including CBSE yoga nationals said, "I agree that yoga is too vast to be considered a sport but the reduction of seats is unfortunate."

Some of the participants complained of the lack of information pertaining to the criteria that they would be judged on. The guidelines put up by the university's website had no details about what the students should expect at the trials, they said.

"It would have been really helpful if I had known what the trial was going to consist of. The judges simply asked me to do the asana that I knew the best. I had prepared a lot of theory which did not come to use," said

Fewer positions

College	No. of seats
College of Vocational Studies	1
Deshbandhu College	1
Hansraj College	2
Janki Devi Memorial College	1
Kalindi College	2
Lakshmbai College	1
Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences for Women	2

SOURCE: DU WEBSITE, DU.AC.IN

Nancy Gautam, another aspirant.

Aniket Rana, who has been doing yoga for eight years now, said, "The only thing we were told was to bring a yoga mat. I have no idea what I am expected to do at the trials."

When asked about the criteria on which the panel would be judging, one of the panellists said, "The panel will make a collective decision but it mostly depends on the student."

Seven colleges, including Hansraj College, Kalindi College, Deshbandhu College and Lakshmbai College are offering seats under the category.

Students unable to update revised marks on portal

Issues with website mar admissions

PALLAVI KESWANI
NEW DELHI

A steady stream of aspirants lined up at the Delhi University's Conference Centre on Saturday where the varsity has set up help desks to assist the students.

Among other issues, several aspirants approached university officials with complaints of being unable to update their marks on the DU portal following revaluation by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

Shruti Rekhi, an aspirant said, "I had submitted my papers for revaluation under the CBSE, but every time I am trying to update the marks, the DU portal is not accepting the same. My marks have increased and I am eligible for a lot more courses now."

Ms. Rekhi who has scored 95% and wants to pursue psychology added, "I spent close to two hours at the Conference Centre on Fri-

day as well but there has been no significant progress. I am worried that by the time my issue is resolved all the seats will get filled up."

'No concrete answer'

Anjali Bhandari, another aspirant who wants to pursue history from DU said, "I have been waiting at the Conference Centre for the past three hours and have received no concrete answer from the officials. This is not even our fault. Even in the past, the portal has posed problems for students. Who will compensate us if we lose out on securing our seats?"

Volunteers said that other issues faced by aspirants were "minor" ones pertaining to the correction of basic details in their application forms. "Some students have filled in their marks wrong or not selected a course or put in the wrong initials," said Aakash, a volunteer.

AAP has become a laughing stock, says BJP leader

Nadda says it has 'grabbed power' by making 'false promises'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

BJP national working president J.P. Nadda on Saturday claimed that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) had become a "laughing stock" even as he alleged it had "grabbed power" by making "false promises" and needed to be dislodged.

The leader was addressing the party's State working committee meeting at the Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar International Centre here.

Other senior party leaders took the opportunity to blame both the Congress, which helmed three successive governments in the Capital before the AAP, before passing a resolution to "take the achievements of the Narendra Modi-led government to the people of Delhi" and "dislodging the government of liars" that the Delhi government had become.

'Serious vision'

Mr. Nadda exuded confidence about the BJP forming the government in Delhi.

"They [the AAP] have become a laughing stock. Delhi, being the national capital, needs a leadership which has a serious vision for the city...I am fully confident that we will succeed in



Delhi, being the national capital, needs a leadership which has a serious vision for the city... I am fully confident that we [BJP] will succeed

J.P. NADDA
BJP national working president

Delhi," the BJP leader said.

Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari presided over the meeting which also had national vice-presidents

Shyam Jaju, Dushyant Gautam, former Union Minister Vijay Goel, Leader of the Opposition in Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta, MPs Mee-nakshi Lekhi, Ramesh Bidhuri, Praveesh Verma, Hans Raj Hans and Pradesh general secretary Ravinder Gupta, who conducted the meeting, in attendance.

Membership campaign

Mr. Nadda listed the public welfare schemes of the Narendra Modi-led government and congratulated the party's Delhi unit for its performance in the recent Lok Sabha election in which party won all the seven seats in the Capital with significant margins.

The party's national secretary [organisation] Ram-

lal asked workers to ensure that the party's soon-to-be-launched membership campaign made it possible for the party to "enter every house".

Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari claimed that the AAP had "failed" to address what he termed was an "acute water crisis" in the city and announced that the BJP had prepared a "detailed plan" to address the problems being faced by the Capital faces.

"There is enough water in Yamuna which flows through Delhi but people are not being supplied water. When Kejriwal came to power, there were 6,800 buses in the fleet of the DTC but today there are only 3,800 buses by paralysing the transport system...People are suffering due to 15 years' Congress rule and now 5 years of Kejriwal's misgovernance," Mr. Tiwari said.

Court acquits man in murder case

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI

A court here has acquitted a man in a murder case as the complainant as well as all the five eyewitness turned hostile.

The material evidence – CCTV footage, recovery of the crime weapon, attack marks on the accused's kurta and the post-mortem report – were also of doubtful value prompting the court to give the benefit of doubt and acquit the accused.

The accused was charged of allegedly stabbing the victim in a market following a scuffle after the former rode his bike over the latter's foot. According to the prosecution, the entire incident was recorded on CCTV cameras installed at a nearby jewellery shop. The police did not send the footage for forensic examination.

A juvenile in conflict with law was allegedly also involved in the crime. According to the prosecution, it was the juvenile who had actually stabbed the victim. He faced inquiry by the Juvenile Justice Board.

The CCTV footage could not be made available and a vital piece of evidence was destroyed or could not be made use of. The benefit of the same would obviously go to the accused," Additional Sessions Judge Sanjay Sharma said.

"None of the material witnesses, including the complainant and the eyewitnesses could establish the identity of the accused as the assailant of the deceased," the Judge stated on the evidence by the eyewitnesses.

BJP wants panel to look into 'ad blitz' on free rides

Accuses Kejriwal of wasting money

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday urged Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal to set up an enquiry committee to examine whether an "advertising blitz" over free metro and DTC rides for women violates existing Supreme Court guidelines delineated of the Delhi government. The party also asked the L-G to seek report from the panel within three days.

Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta charged Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal of "squandering crores of rupees" from the state exchequer on publicity for the proposal.

"Kejriwal is in such a tearing hurry to take political mileage in view of the forth-

coming Assembly elections that he has gone on an advertising blitz on the proposed scheme without even submitting the mandatory proposal to the Centre and consulting the Union Urban Development Ministry," Mr. Gupta alleged.

"An advertising blitz is being carried out whilst no serious technical feasibility study has been carried out. He [Mr. Kejriwal] overlooked the fact that both the Delhi government and the Central government are equal partners in profit and loss in running the metro," he further said.

"On one hand, he is begging the Union Finance Minister for funds, on the other hand, he is wasting money from the precious public exchequer," he said.

Builder told to pay over ₹20 lakh compensation

Had 'arbitrarily' altered the specifications of Gurugram flat booked in 2012

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A private real estate developer was directed to pay over ₹20 lakh compensation to a homebuyer after it was alleged that the developers failed to deliver possession of a property booked in Gurugram in 2012.

It was alleged that the developer had "arbitrarily" altered the specifications of the flat.

Holding the developers deficient in services, the State Consumer Disputes Re-

While signing the agreement, the complainant was shocked to find out that the floor plan annexed was only of three bedrooms

COMPLAINT

dressal Forum said: "The evidence on record shows that the complainant had booked a unit having three bedrooms with a servant room, whereas the developer has arbitrarily changed the same

to only three bedrooms. The deficiency in service and unfair trade practice on the part of the developer stands established."

The directions came when a Lucknow-based couple approached the consumer panel alleging deficiency on the part of Imperia Structures Limited. "Under good faith and in absolute belief about site plans shown, the complainants booked a three-bedroom plus one servant room flat, which was to be constructed. However, while

signing the agreement, the complainant was shocked to find out that the floor plan annexed was only of three bedrooms," read the complaint.

It was further alleged that despite alerting the developers, they failed to rectify the floor plans.

Directing compensation to the complainant, the forum additionally observed that the developer had failed to "explain" why the location of the flat booked was changed "unilaterally".

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Rafique

General public is hereby informed that a Man namely Rafique, S/o: Lt. Mohd. Baksh, R/O H.No. D-5/8, Gali No. 4, 3rd Pusta, Jagjeet Nagar, Usmanpur, Delhi has been missing since 27.04.2019 from the area of P.S New Usmanpur, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 49-A, dated 28.04.2019 has been registered at P.S. New Usmanpur, Delhi. The description of missing man is as under:

Name: Rafique, **Age:** 60 Years, **Height:** 6', **Face:** Long, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** White Kurta Pajama and Black Fiber Chappal in feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing man please inform P.S. New Usmanpur, Delhi.

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, **Email:** cbc@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, **Fax:** 011-24368639
SHO
Police Station, New Usmanpur, Delhi
Ph: 011-22172410, 8750870726
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THE HINDU

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स्वात सेंट, मुरैना (म.प्र.)

क्रमांक 2158 / निविदा / नि.सू.क्र. 08 / 2018-19 मुरैना दिनांक 25-6-2019

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टेण्डर आई.डी.क्र.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (रुपयों में)	अंशुत नमी प्रपत्र का मूल्य (रु.)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (रु.)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	भौतिक दस्तावेज जमा करने का स्थान
2019-PWDRB-34059	निर्माण कार्य निदान से स्थावर सड़कपुर मार्ग लम्बाई 8.40 कि.मी. (द्वितीय आमंत्रण)	49989000.00 (दो करोड़ नवसहस्र लाख नवानी हजार)	499890-	15000.00 + Portal Charges	12 माह मय वर्षाकाल सहित	कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता (उत्तर प्रदेश) लो.नि.वि. ग्वालियर टाटापुर ग्वालियर
2019-PWDRB-34063	सड़क निर्माण कार्य 1. रामलाल का पुरा से मौर का पुरा मार्ग लं. 2.00 कि.मी. 2. सिंगरीली से माला का पुरा मार्ग लं. 2.00 कि.मी. 3. चौहंदा से किरावली मार्ग लं. 0.90 कि.मी. (I and Call)	26671000.00 (दो करोड़ छियासठ लाख हजारत हजार)	266710-	15000.00 + Portal Charges	08 माह मय वर्षाकाल सहित	कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता (उत्तर प्रदेश) लो.नि.वि. ग्वालियर टाटापुर ग्वालियर
	योग-02 कार्य	76660000.00 (सात करोड़ छियासठ लाख साठ हजार)				

- ऑन लाइन टेण्डर पॉलिसी दिनांक - 29.06.2019 समय 17:30 बजे
- निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड / विक्रय प्रारंभ दिनांक - 30.06.2019 समय 10:30 बजे
- निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड / विक्रय अंतिम दिनांक - 15.07.2019 समय 17:30 बजे
- ऑन लाइन बिड सबमिशन का प्रारंभ दिनांक - 30.06.2019 समय 10:30 बजे
- ऑन लाइन बिड सबमिशन का अंतिम दिनांक - 15.07.2019 समय 17:30 बजे
- फिजिकल डॉक्यूमेंट सबमिशन का अंतिम दिनांक - 16.07.2019 समय 17:30 बजे
- बिड ओपनिंग दिनांक - 16.07.2019 समय 11:30 बजे

(a) अनुबंध के पूर्व एवं अनुबंध अवधि में लेबर पंजीयन करना अनिवार्य होगा, निविदा की वेधता अवधि 120 दिवस होगी। (b) निविदा संबंधी संशोधन उरी टेण्डर में ऑन लाइन देखे जा सकेंगे, अतिरिक्त प्रेस नोट नहीं निकाला जायेगा। (c) समस्त अधिकारी को निविदा को बिना कारण बताये निरस्त करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित होगा। (d) उपरोक्त कार्य हेतु संबंधित मद में आवंटित उपलब्ध होने पर ही भुगतान हो सकेगा। (e) समस्त जरूरी दस्तावेज व्यक्तित्व रूप से पंजीकृत डॉक / स्वीक पोस्ट द्वारा निम्नलिखित एवं समय तक उचित कार्यालय में प्राप्त होना अनिवार्य है, अन्यथा की स्थिति में ठेकेदार स्वयं जिम्मेदार होंगे। (f) शासन द्वारा समय-समय पर जारी समस्त नियम एवं संशोधन प्रमाणित होंगे। उपरोक्त वेबसाइट ऑन लाइन भुगतान करने के उपरान्त निविदा प्रपत्र (टेंडर डॉक्यूमेंट) वेब-साइट के माध्यम से प्राप्त हो सकेंगे। विस्तृत एन.आई.डी. एवं अन्य जानकारी उपरोक्त वेबसाइट में देखी जा सकती है।

आई.एस.जादीन-कार्यालय यंत्री लोक निर्माण विभाग संभाग मुरैना फोन नं. 07532-226381

G-12970/2019

Criminals roaming around freely in U.P.: Priyanka

Crime under all major heads down by 20%-35%, reply State police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LUCKNOW

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday hit out at the Yogi Adityanath-led government alleging that criminals are "roaming around freely, doing as they like" in Uttar Pradesh. The comment drew a quick retort from the U.P. Police, which claimed that there has been a decline in crime in the State.



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

U.P. Law Minister Brijesh Pathak asserted that since the formation of the BJP government in the State, the "network of criminals" had been broken.

Ms. Gandhi said on Twitter: "In entire Uttar Pradesh, criminals are roaming around freely, doing whatever they wish. Criminal incidents continue to happen but it has fallen on deaf ears of the BJP government. Has the Uttar Pradesh government surrendered before the criminals?"

Along with the tweet, Ms. Gandhi tagged news headlines of crime reports in the State.

Nearly 10,000 criminals held Replied to Ms. Gandhi's tweet, the UP Police wrote on Twitter: "UP police has initiated strict action against serious crimes. In the past two years, 9,925 criminals were arrested and 81 killed. In action under NSA (National Security Act), property worth ₹200 crore were seized. There has been a de-

cline in incidents of dacoity, murder, loot and kidnapping."

"Visible policing, strong monitoring, effective action against hardened criminals and public interaction has enabled us to win the confidence of the people. Crime under all major heads is down by 20%-35%," it added.

Mr. Pathak said, "The network of criminals has been broken in the State. Our government is acting tough on criminals. There are incidents of crime due to enmity and prompt action is taken by police wherever crime is reported."

The Samajwadi Party too had attacked the BJP government for "spurt in crime" in the State.

After a video of two inmates flashing a country-made pistol at U.P.'s Unnao jail went viral, the SP termed the incident an "open challenge" to Mr. Adityanath. It also alleged that the jails in the State were in the pocket of criminals.

Four cops suspended for 'torturing' teenager

Was picked up on suspicion of theft

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LUCKNOW

Four police personnel were suspended on Saturday for allegedly torturing a 14-year-old boy at an outpost here after apprehending him on suspicion of theft.

The incident came to light when the family of the teenager, who used to drive an e-rickshaw, contacted social workers. Pictures purportedly showing swelling and injuries on the child's legs were widely shared on social media.

The boy was picked up by the police on Thursday and taken to the Telibagh out-

post following an FIR over an e-rickshaw theft by a suspected teen, an officer said. According to his family, the boy was tortured and forced to confess that he had committed the crime.

Senior Superintendent of Police Kalandi Nathani ordered a probe, which found that guidelines of the Juvenile Justice Act were not followed and interrogation was done illegally.

Mr. Nathani suspended Telibagh outpost incharge Rajesh Verma, head constables Dinesh Tripathi and Sandeep Singh, and constable Rajendra Patel.

Rajasthan universities to adopt villages

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT JAIPUR

All public universities in Rajasthan will adopt one village each in the State every year to convert them into "smart villages".

The focus will be on creating infrastructure and facilities for education, said the Chancellor of universities and Governor, Kalyan Singh.

Mr. Singh, who recently visited Bharatpur, said the Maharaja Surajmal Brij University had adopted two villages, Halena and Barso, and had launched efforts to im-

prove the quality of life of the villagers.

The Governor added that he would review progress of work every month.

Interacting with residents of the two villages, Mr. Singh said that tubewells would be installed in Halena to resolve water scarcity issues, and efforts would be made towards rainwater harvesting.

He further said that the lone government school in Barso would be upgraded and the Chambal drinking water project extended to cover the village.

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MATRIMONIAL BRIDES WANTED

TAMIL

AG CHRISTIAN 38 / 178 Fair, slim, BE MS Owns Software Firm, Own house in Chennai, Only Son, Parents - Retd. Govt Officers, seeks suitable bride. Subjects no bar. Ph: 9445481313

INTER CASTE 33/162 B.TECH. M.B.A working in MNC seeks educated bride. C/CSI 9884925317

INTERCASTE VELLALAR Christian (FC) M.B.A/31/175 cm Manager MNC seeks Hindu/Christian bride working in Chennai. Ct:9884600667

RAJESH 35,BSC, General Mgr (PVT), 1.40 Lac PM. Seeks Girl with Degree (Caste No Bar), whatsapp-8610014920

VANNIYAR BOY Fair 28/168 M.S (USA) Fishabam Karthigai SWE Working in CHE 12L/PA Seeks Fair and Educated Bride. Ct: 9444169764 / 044-24795764

SEEKING WORKING, good looking bride for my son, 29/174, BE Vaniyar, working in Microsoft, Hyd. Native: Neyveli. CR: No Bar. 7842374014

Alliance invited for Sozihya Vellala Bridegroom, 28yrs, B.Tech, M.B.A. Employed, Own House, Land, Wealthy Family from Suitable bride. Mudaliars also can apply. Ct:0413-2213834 / 9944064540

HINDU/KARUNEEGAR (Pillai) Viveka Vinayagam B, BE graduated, 36 yrs, ht 5'4" Chennai. Looking for suitable bride. Ct: 978978182

SAINVAPILLAI THIRUVADIRAI 23/178, B.E., SWE, Chennai, Seeks beautiful bride. Contact: 9443449314 / e-mail: chidams_mdu@yahoo.com

HINDU NADAR, 39, B.E, 170 Cm, Rs. 75000/- Pm, Divorced, All BC ok. Preferred age below 32. Ct: 9789071515

33 Tamil MD doctor working in jipmer smart good looking devandra kula Vellalar caste no bar seeking bride. Ph: 9787278408.

CASTE NO BAR, Permanent Resident in UK 37/178 / Uthiram, BE, MBA working in BT - London, Seeks Good Looking Graduate Girl. 8971526262

HINDU BC 25 Simham Poomam doing M.B.B.S Motherless, invisible Fry.handi Boy Only Father Good Retd Car. Own House, Need Graduate Decent Compassionate Family any BC. 8300370750

YENGAR BHARATHWAJ Gothram / Visakam MBA 33/173 Wheatish Colour Clean Habits seeks Graduate Bride Caste No Bar. Ct:7871137806

HINDU NADAR BE MBA /30 /175cm / 2.00.00 PM Working in Bangalore Seeks Bride (K.A.Raman Nadar 9380791999

Saiva Pillai 28/175 BE (Hons) WellEsb profani in Singapore Affluent Veg Miil seek Educd Veg Bride willing to relocate. 9150443889 / hndu28@gmail.com

ThuluvaVellala Mudaliar 32 BE (ECE) emp MNC, Chennai seek suitable (Mudaliar bride. 9840334131 / 9840898991

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER (Group 1 Officer) Commercial Taxes, 39/175, CNB, seeks suitable Girl with MBBS or Any Degree. CT: 98655-88329.

MUDALIAR/38/SECTION OFFICER, Govt. High Court, Ch. Caste No bar. 9486021062

Balija Naidu Kithigai 29/160 BE MBA Working Bangalore seeks Educated Employed Bride. Contact: 9840893887

ARCOT AGAMUDAYA MDR 41 yrs MCA, LDC Pondichery Govt. Also PGUG Emp'd / Unemp'd. Girl can also find a job in pondichery. No Demands Ct: 9940970769

AD 31/170, Kadagam, Poosam BE Mech. Site Engr. Working Saudi Seeks Bride Hindu/ Christian.

PIRAMALAI KALLAR/MADURAI LEGALLY divorced/Remarriage/Age 44/Rs. 40, 000 pm Bride wanted 8838584381

SC/AD/25/168, BE, ASWINI (RAGU/KETHU) WORK Canara Bank seeks working bride preferably Bank/LC. Ct: 9994919565

RC NADAR, 29, 178 cms, MS from USA, Software Professional, Working in US, Parents Educated and well off. Looking for a like-minded and educated match. Contact: 9444380548

Balija Naidu Kithigai 29/160 BE MBA Working Bangalore seeks Educated Employed Bride. Contact: 9840893887

TAMIL

CHENNAI BASED THEVER well to do family own business Properties, construction & Finance. MBA Age, 30,height 5.6" Fair, Exercise body, clean habits, looking a bride - a degree holder from a well settled family from same community. Ph-9444075777

REDDIYAR BOY 39, Poorrattaly, clean habits, M.E., 14 Lakhs PA, Top MNC own Flat & House seeks suitable bride. Please Ct: 9885792975.

NATTU GOUNDER, 31Y/172, Poosam, M.Sc M.Phil (Yoga), Working in Abroad seeks suitable bride in similar Pro/Qualif. Ct:9500502197, kumarygacbe@gmail.com

PILLAI, 31/179, B.E, MBA from a reputed institute, Working in an IT Product company in Chennai, 31U/PA, Well educated and well to do family, Have properties in Chennai and native, Looking for smart, good looking, educated and working girls from Pillai, Mudaliyar and Vellalar communities. Ph: 9962952629

HINDU PALLAR 32/170 BE MBA Fair ChitBank Chen IT Support seek Same Sect working FairBride. Ct:9940972228

Christian 45/177 B.Com Govt Job Chen 70K/pm Divorcee seeks Educated NoBar. 8825897792/7845791450

INTER CASTE Parent 31/182 Revathi BE MBA DyMngR, Ch seek EducdBride Dr.Nathan- 9840678020 / 9884898829

HINDU NADAR BE, MS (UK) /28/54/ Wheat ish/Business/Chennai Kadagam/Aylyam, seeks suitable Bride. Please Contact: 9884043262

CASTE NOBAR Handsome Hindu SC/AD 38/168CM BE, HCL, Chennai 16Ls/Annum. Ct: 9840368809, sbspalani@yahoo.co.in

SAIVA MUDALIYAR 34/180, BA, BL, M.Sc., Legal Company & Bank 15L, P.A Seeks Fair Good Looking Educated Family Veg Only 9800374843 / 9841288539

VISHWAKARMA GOLDSMITH Chennai, Never Married Groom 42/176, Pvt Comp'y. +2, CNB Only Hindu - 8754589314

INTERCASTE PARENTS (F-chettiar M-saiva Mudaliyar) Seeks Suitable Working Girl (Vegetarian) for their son Age 28 (B.E) / Uthiram / 178 cms / Fair / SWE, Contact 9710080772, 9442506706

HINDU Adidravadar (Kongu) 27, B.E, M.Tech., (Ph.D), seeks goodlooking bride. Ct:8760883559, 8637663072

"SAIVA PILLAI", 26, M.Tech, Star Thiruvonam, Rasi Maharam from Kumbakonam, Currently Working in MNC Chennai, Seeks fair educated Bride, Age btw 21 to 24, Ct: 9489773845

PILLAI, 30/171, B.E, MBA, Sr. Manager, Infosys, Chennai, 10Lac.PA, Well Settled, 9500085718, 9003077746

MUDALIAR, 29/175, MBBS, MS, Doctor, Pvt.Hosp, Chennai, 100000PM, Elite Fmly, Sks Dr, Eng, 91501 53813

MUDALIAR, 29/175, B.Tech, MBA, HR Manager, BPL, Chennai, 50,000PM, Well Settled, 8056174102, 8754415378

2000 CRORES Kungu Vellalar 27/B.E. (Big Group of Companies India) Educational, Medical, Engineering College, Own Buses, Hospitals etc, Groom Seeks Bride, Chennai 9176042697

PILLA(CNB) 50CRS v.handsome 26/177 BS(CSB) business family 5Lakhs p.m. No Demands 9840782222/ 984212777

ADDIVARADAR, 27/180, BE, M.Tech V.Jay in Railways, Bangalore, 60000PM, Well Settled, 9789850231, 9677086774

YER BOY 34/175 Divorcee no issues well Educated Settled in USA Seeks well educated USA Bride Preferably working in USA Ct: 98412 95395

YENGAR 60YRS Chennai Well Qualified OwnFlat Financially Strong, Seeks healthy Brahmins Bride 7010895062

BRAHMIN 36 BE LLB 13L/pa Sr. Manager Diemler Sankruthi Marriage Expense accepted all veg ok CNB 6369157055

IYER ATHैया Nov83 Pooram 165 M.Tech 10L p.a chennai seek Nice Brahmin Bride.Horoscope optional 9940360931

BRAHMIN, AGE 40, MCA, HCL - Snr Tech Manager, 70K/pm, Viant good Character, Girl, No. Qualification Needed, Borkers also Cont:750135795

VANCHA YOGI 29/180, M.Tech M.Sc 42/175 Jr Sct Officer, Seeks Girl any Degree, Sub caste also, 9488728084

BRAHMIN 36 BE LLB 13L/pa Sr. Manager Diemler Sankruthi Marriage Expense accepted all veg ok CNB 6369157055

IYER ATHैया Nov83 Pooram 165 M.Tech 10L p.a chennai seek Nice Brahmin Bride.Horoscope optional 9940360931

TAMIL

BRIDE WANTED
HINDU NADAR, 29/175, Hastham, Fair, Handsome, B.Tech., MBA, NRI Clean Habits seeks Elite NADAR BRIDE 20 - 23. Contact 7598344708

DOCTOR AGE 56 widower, Fit clean habits seeks life partner, widow, Divorce. drajkumar62@yahoo.com

Viswakharma BC 30/180 cm H.Some Born india (chennai) canadian citizen, software Engg., and working canada, residing with parents, seeking educated and working family girl (Non-Veg) or finished degree. Contact venkat2011@live.ca Canada cell#6477091791 Chennai cell# 8610261433

IYER VADAMA, Kausigam 1983, MS in US and employed in US, drawing a salary of US \$90000+ PA, clean habits, seeks any graduate Brahmin girl with good family background. Ct: 9868417417 or 080-26724422

Iyer Kasayba Chitrali Kanni 44/172 Unmarried MSc.TCS Chen seeks Educated Bride. Subsect NoBar. 9840149495

BRAHMIN HANDSOME 29yrs/181cm's, B.Tech, USA citizen, earning \$80000 p.a. seeks any Brahmin. Ph: 7358539590

IYER BHARADHWAJAM Uthiram, 37yrs/180cms, BE, MNC Chennai 15 Lakhs per annum, Own House at Chennai seeks any Brahmin Girl. Ct: 0945222214

VADAKALI SADAYAM Srivatsam 46/170 unmarried B.Amplyd seek Any BrahminBride.9444740544/9444958511

TAMIL VADAKALI Iyengar son 33yrs MBA own Business bhariasi vatsa gothram, seeks Brahmin bride frm educated decent family subsect no bar send details to iqsjn@gmail.com

IYER VADAMA, Srivatsa Moolam 37, B.Com EMP Sault 6L PA Seeks Graduate with Teaching Preferred. 9941798207

BRAHMIN, 1975, Unmarried, Pvt Comp 2t, 1month, Expecting bride from any Maritai states, Preter vegetarian. Cont:7824033219

Iyer, Well to do family, Uthram (4), 36 /178 cms, MBA, Manager, Hyderabad, seeks girl willing to settle in Hyd, caste no bar, No Demands. Ph:8106885021

Iyer Vadamal Poosam 38/175 Unmarried Catering/Business chen seek bride any Brahmin/one of the parents must be Brahmin. 9840964861 / 9841992562

ALLIANCE for our only son an innocent issueless divorcee without any financial commitments Iyer Vadamal/ Kousigam Kithigai(2P) Vrishabam 43yrs 172Cms/77kgs Fair/ Handsome/Teatotaler Pure vegetarian looking 10yrs young with clean habits traditional & accommodative working Academics seeks a suitable decently educated employed/ unemployed never married Girl Iyer Iyengar subsects no bar aged 37-43yrs & willing to settle at Hyd/ Kandi No Expectations simple marriage. Ct: 8754463854 vembushantha@gmail.com

ALLIANCE for our only son an innocent issueless divorcee without any financial commitments Iyer Vadamal/ Kousigam Kithigai(2P) Vrishabam 43yrs 172Cms/77kgs Fair/ Handsome/Teatotaler Pure vegetarian looking 10yrs young with clean habits traditional & accommodative working Academics seeks a suitable decently educated employed/ unemployed never married Girl Iyer Iyengar subsects no bar aged 37-43yrs & willing to settle at Hyd/ Kandi No Expectations simple marriage. Ct: 8754463854 vembushantha@gmail.com

Balija Naidu Magam, Simam 29/165 BABL(Hons)seek Professionaly Qualified Bride, Subsect NoBar. 9444250833(W)

BALISHA UNMARRIED 40/172, Rohini / Rishabam, MBA, Chennai, 11 L PA Caste No Bar: 9094035781

BALAJA NAIDU, 27/171, B.Tech, MBA, Consultant, INFOSYS, Ch, 6Lac.PA Well Settled, 9789850231, 9677086774

NAIDU, 29/178, MBBS, MS, Own Hosp, Chennai, Elite Fmly, Only Son, Seeks Doctor / Engineer, 8925019776

KAMMA NAIDU, 30/165, B.E, MBA, Deputy Manager, INDUS BANK, 5Lac. PA, Well Settled, 9500085718, 9003077746

BALLJANAIDU 28/183 M.Tech handsome Design Engg/Ford Motors/Chennai 12Lakhs p.a. 9385599044/9380474999

REDDY (CHENNAI) v.handsome 28/175 BE(IIT Madras) Central Govt. Emp. polyoche/Ch, 12L pa 9

U.P. adds 17 OBC groups to SC list

Move likely to benefit BJP in upcoming by-elections to 12 Assembly seats

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW

The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has included 17 communities belonging to the Other Backward Classes in the Scheduled Castes list.

A decision to this effect was taken late Friday night and authorities have been directed to issue certificate to families belonging to these 17 castes.

The additions are – Nishad, Bind, Mallah, Kewat, Kashyap, Bhar, Dhivar, Batham, Machua, Prajapati, Rajbhar, Kahar, Pottar, Dhimar, Manjhi, Tuhaha and Gaur.

This move is seen as an attempt by the Adityanath government to provide these socially and economically backward classes with the benefits of reservation after removing legal irritants that have stalled the issue in the



Yogi Adityanath • FILE PHOTO

past. The move will leave greater space in the OBC quota for the remaining OBC caste groups.

15-year-old demand
This is also the fulfilment of a 15-year-old demand by these 17 caste groups.

Coming before the by-elections to 12 Assembly seats in the State, the move is likely to benefit the BJP and further erode the vote base of Samajwadi Party and Ba-

hujan Samaj Party.

This, incidentally, is the third time that the State government will be making an attempt on the issue. Previously, both, the SP and BSP governments had attempted to include these groups in the SC category but failed to do so due to legal intervention.

The first attempt was made by the Mulayam Singh Yadav regime when it brought a resolution in 2004. The then SP government amended the U.P. Public Services Act, 1994, to include as many as 17 OBC communities in the SC category. Since the power to declare any caste as SC rests with the Centre, the then State government's decision, taken without the Centre's consent, proved futile.

The Allahabad High Court later quashed the decision

declaring the move unconstitutional and void.

Another attempt was made in 2012 when Akhilesh Yadav came to power and a high-level committee, headed by the then Chief Secretary Jawed Usmani, sought details from the Department of Social Welfare in this regard. The circular from the Chief Secretary on March 28, 2012, spoke about the government's priorities, including the inclusion of as many as 17 OBC sub-castes within the SC category. The matter, however, was rejected by the Centre.

The BSP, however, vehemently opposed the idea and demanded increase in SC quota from the present quantum in the changed scenario. It also termed the move as a "conspiracy to dilute the reservation quota for Dalits".

Indomitable spirit



First woman pellet victim Insha Mushtaq clapping during the first cricket tournament for the visually impaired in Srinagar, on Saturday. • NISSAR AHMAD

Two arrested for murder of Haryana Cong. leader

SIT formed to arrest the other accused in the case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Haryana Police on Saturday arrested two persons, including a woman, in connection with the broad daylight murder of Congress leader Vikas Chaudhary in Faridabad.

Haryana's Additional Director General of Police Navdeep Singh Virk, on Twitter, said that the police have arrested Roshni and Naresh from Gurugram, for their alleged involvement in the criminal conspiracy to murder Vikas Chaudhary.

Roshni is the wife of gangster Kaushal while Naresh is their servant.

"Roshni and Naresh made available weapons to the accused, Vikas alias Bhalla and Sachin who were involved in the firing along with one or two other persons," he said.

Mr. Virk in his statement on Twitter added that Naresh, through the CCTV



Haryana police personnel with the two accused in connection with the murder of a Congress leader. • PTI

footage, has identified Vikas and confirmed that he was the same person to whom he had made available the weapons.

The vehicle used in the murder has also been recovered.

Initial investigation revealed that the motive behind the murder was a financial dispute between

Kaushal and Chaudhary. Haryana Director General of Police Manoj Yadava, has constituted a Special Investigation Team to arrest the remaining accused in the case.

Chaudhary, a party spokesperson, was hit by multiple bullets outside a gym in Sector 9 of Faridabad on Thursday.

Tejashwi breaks silence: 'I am very much here'

Says he was undergoing long-delayed treatment for injury

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

Leader of the Opposition in Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Yadav on Saturday ended speculation over his "prolonged absence" from the State with a tweet that said he was undergoing long-delayed treatment for a "ligament and ACL injury".

He said he was "very much here" and would continue to fight with "renewed commitment on everyday life issues of the poor".

His absence from State politics after the crushing defeat of the Rashtriya Janata Dal in the recently held Lok Sabha poll had invited jibes from ruling NDA leaders over the past several days.

Earlier, BJP MLA Nitin Navin said, "Such a tragedy took place in the State when over 150 children died in Muzaffarpur district and the Leader of the Opposition was absent from the scene. He was not present even



Tejashwi Yadav. • FILE PHOTO

when the monsoon session of the State Assembly began on Friday."

Leaders of the BJP's alliance partner JD(U) also took potshots at Mr. Yadav's "sudden disappearance".

Rabri retorts

On Friday, when journalists asked his mother and former Chief Minister Rabri Devi about Mr. Yadav's whereabouts, she said: "Aapke ghar mein hain (He is in your home)." She later explained that her son was not "hiding" from anyone. "He is doing the work that is expected

of him," she said.

On Saturday, Mr. Yadav tweeted: "Friends! For last few weeks I was busy undergoing treatment for my long delayed ligament & ACL injury. However, I'm amused to see political opponents as well as a section of media cooking up spicy stories."

"We are accountable to people who look for a socialist-secular and social justice alternative in us and wish to assure that we are very much here and the fight is on... recent developments helped me study, scrutinize, analyze and appraise the things in a different way," he wrote in another tweet.

"Constantly following up the untimely loss of hundreds of poor kids due to AES... asked party workers, leaders to visit affected families without getting into Photo-OP and MPs to raise it in Parliament & that's why PM responded. My Dear Bihar! I am very much here (sic)," said a third tweet.

Irrigation hit as projects damaged in Odisha

₹176.30 crore needed to make them functional

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

Irrigation in 35,260 hectares of crop land has been affected as 534 minor irrigation projects have either become defunct or suffered partial damage, admitted the Odisha government.

To a query on minor irrigation projects, Water Resource Secretary Raghunandan Das said that the State has total 3,822 minor irrigation projects in 29 districts and 5,54,090 hectares of irrigation potential was created through these projects.

"At present, minor irrigation projects cover 4.77 lakh ha of area in the State. As many as 141 projects are completely defunct and 393 minor irrigation projects are partially damaged. Irrigation has been affected in 35,260 ha of crop land," said Mr. Das. The State government required ₹176.30 crore to make these projects functional again, he said.

Of the 35,260 hectares of the affected area, 10,152 hectares fall in Ganjam, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's home district. Here, 21 minor projects are completely damaged and 191 partially damaged.

BJP MLA gets bail in two assault cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHOPLAL

BJP MLA Akash Vijayvargiya, son of party general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, was on Saturday granted bail by a special court here in two cases related to assaulting a municipal official in Indore with a cricket bat.

Additional Sessions Judge Suresh Singh – Special Judge for cases against MPs and MLAs – granted bail to Akash, who was arrested on Wednesday on charges of assault and leading a protest without permission. District prosecution officer Rajendra Upadhyaya said the court asked Akash to furnish a personal bail bond of ₹50,000 and ₹20,000 in the two cases.

Odisha puts all District Collectors on rain alert

Low-pressure area may concentrate into a depression over north Bay of Bengal

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government on Saturday put all the 30 District Collectors on alert as the State is likely to receive heavy to very heavy rain over the next three days due to a low-pressure area that may concentrate into a depression over the Bay of Bengal.

In an emergency message, Special Relief Commissioner Bishnupada Sethi said that the India Meteorological Department sources indicated a low-pressure area was likely to form over north Bay of Bengal and its neighbourhood during the next 24 hours, which may concentrate into a depression dur-



Monsoon rain clouds hovering over Bhubaneswar. • FILE PHOTO

ing the subsequent 48 hours.

Under its influence, enhanced rainfall is likely to take place over Odisha districts, he added.

Issuing the advisory to the Collectors, the SRC said the

or waterlogging situation that may arise in the event of extremely heavy rainfall.

The Collectors have been advised to keep a close watch on the situation.

The SRC office said the rainfall, which would begin in some southern Odisha districts from Saturday night, would continue in the western districts till Tuesday. Almost all districts are likely to be impacted. "Squally weather with wind speed reaching 40-50 km per hour is likely to prevail over north and west-central Bay of Bengal during June 30 to July 2 and whoever in deep sea is advised to return to coast tonight," states the advisory.

Letter No.- Kha.up.NI-01(ChiniVitranYojna)-5/19- 829 Dated - 28.06.2019
Government of Jharkhand
Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs,
Ground Floor, Engineer's Hostel, HEC Sector-III, Dhurwa, Ranchi- 834004
Reverse Re-Auction Procurement Notice

"Tender Notice for Empanelment of Suppliers for Supply of Free Flow White Crystal Sugar (Grade-S-30/M-30) for 2nd Quarter (Jul- Sep 2019) of Financial Year 2019-20 under Reverse Auction Mode on platform of NeML"

Tender Ref no.-kha..up.NI.01 (ChiniVitranYojna)-05/2019-340 Dated-06.03.2019

1	Tender published on website	07.03.2019
2	Name of the Client	Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs, Govt. of Jharkhand, Ground Floor, Engineer's Hostel, HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
3	Address and concerned person for Correspondence	Customer servi ce Group - NCDEX e Markets limited, 101,101T, Akruiti corporate park, 1st floor, Near GE Garden, L.B.S.marg, Kanjurmarg (west) Mumbai -400078 Tel - 022- 48810555 or 7575002165 E-mail-askus@neml.in
4	Registration Fees	Rs 5000-Only(Non-refundable)+GST(as applicable)
5	EMD	2% of the value of Tender
6	Quantity (in Qt)	27215
7	Date of Reverse Re-Auction	05.07.2019

1. All eligible Individuals or partnership firm, Registered Company or Co-operative society or any legal organizations houldmandatorily register with NCDEX e-Markets Limited for participation in Reverse Auction.
2. The schedule of Auction to be Conducted on Date05.07.2019 will be posted on website-<http://jharkhand.gov.in/food>.
3. Any changes/ modification in the Tender documents in the tender documents will be posted on website: <http://jharkhand.gov.in/food>

Sd/- Director
(Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs)
P.R.210292 Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs(19-20):D

झारखण्ड औद्योगिक क्षेत्र विकास प्राधिकार (सॉफ्ट प्रोसेस)
'जियाडा भवन' नामक औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, लोवाडीह, सॉफ्ट-834010 (झारखण्ड)
Phone : 0651-2460408, Tefax- 2460125, Web- jiada.co.in, e-mail-riada.mca@gmail.com

पत्रांक-930 आम सूचना दिनांक-27.06.2019

झारखण्ड औद्योगिक क्षेत्र विकास प्राधिकार, सॉफ्ट प्रोसेस में अवस्थित डाल्टेगंज औद्योगिक प्रान्ण, सूदना में आवंटित भू-खण्डों पर औद्योगिक गतिविधि निर्माण/ निर्माण कार्य प्रारंभ नहीं करने/बंध रहने के फलस्वरूप ऐसी इकाइयों को विभिन्न तिथियों पर निबंधित पत्र द्वारा औद्योगिक गतिविधि प्रारंभ करने हेतु कारण बताओ नोटिस निर्गत किया गया है, परन्तु पत्र प्रायः वापस हो जा रहे है। औद्योगिक गतिविधि नहीं होने के फलस्वरूप राज्य को राजस्व की हानि तथा रोजगार का सृजन भी नहीं हो पा रहा है। इकाइयों के द्वारा प्राधिकार के बकाया का सुगतान भी नहीं किया जा रहा है, जो कि आवंटन आदेश, बंध पत्र एवं लीज डीड में सन्निहित प्रावधानों का स्पष्ट उल्लंघन है।

अतः एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि इस सूचना प्रकाशित होने के अधिकतम 30 दिनों के अन्दर निम्नलिखित इकाइयों अद्योहस्ताक्षरी के समक्ष उपस्थित होकर लिखित कारण बतायें कि आवंटित भूमि का आवंटन क्यों नहीं निरस्त कर दिया जाय तथा भूमि का प्रभार प्राधिकार द्वारा वापस ले लिया जाय तथा बकाया राशि की वसूली हेतु समुचित कानूनी कार्यवाई प्रारंभ की जाय। वर्णित समय-सीमा के अन्तर्गत इन इकाइयों द्वारा समुचित उत्तर नहीं दिये जाने की स्थिति में इन भूमि आवंटन आदेश को निरस्त करने की कार्यवाई प्रारंभ की जायेगी।

क्रमांक	इकाई का नाम	क्रमांक	इकाई का नाम
1-	सर्वश्री मोहन स्टील रोलर्स प्राइलि	8-	सर्वश्री महालक्ष्मी मिनरल
2-	सर्वश्री नारायणी लघु उद्योग	9-	सर्वश्री स्वस्तिक मिनरल
3-	सर्वश्री मिनरल इंडिया	10-	सर्वश्री कुमार मिनरल
4-	सर्वश्री देव केमिकल	11-	सर्वश्री पंकज इन्टरप्राइजेज
5-	सर्वश्री गणेश टाईल्स	12-	सर्वश्री क्रांति मिनरल
6-	सर्वश्री अन्नपूर्णा उद्योग	13-	सर्वश्री बालाजी उद्योग
7-	सर्वश्री सुमित्रा वैशाली इन्स्ट्रीज	14-	सर्वश्री रिच फिल्ड सर्विसेस

हो/-
क्षेत्रीय निदेशक
PR210247 (RIADA)19-20*D

Rajasthan okays DPR for Delhi-Alwar RRTS corridor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Rajasthan government has approved the Detailed Project Report for the Delhi-Alwar corridor of the Regional Rapid Transit System, an official said on Saturday.

The RRTS corridor will be executed by the National Capital Region Transport Corporation. The corridor via Gurgaon will cover a distance of 106 km.

"The Rajasthan government has conveyed its approval for the Delhi-Alwar

Rapid Rail DPR to the NCRRTC," the official said.

The RRTS has several corridors and Delhi-Alwar is one of them. In February, the Union Cabinet had approved Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor of the RRTS. Its implementation would provide much-needed additional public transport infrastructure to the NCR to address issues of congestion, air-pollution and catalyse balanced and sustainable regional development.

अधीक्षण अभियंता का कार्यालय
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ अंचल दुमका
email ID- sercddumka-jhr@nic.in, Ph. No.- 06434236025

शुद्धि-पत्र

इस कार्यालय का पत्रांक-629 (अनु0) दिनांक-25.06.2019 के आलोक में Road Safety से सम्बंधित पुनर्निविदा हेतु PR210011(Road)19-20*D द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा के Column-6 में Cost of Tender Document (in Rs.) में भूलवश रूपया 2500.00 + 12% GST प्रकाशित हो गया है, जिसे सुधार करते हुए रूपया 2500.00 + 18% GST किया जाता है।

अन्य सभी शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।
(संजय कुमार सिन्हा)
अधीक्षण अभियंता

PR 210345 Road (19-20)_D

MODERN COACH FACTORY, RAEBARELI

Tender Notice
Open tender based on Single packet system Tender Notice no.- MCF/RBL/Tender/Robotic Roof Line/C-378/2019-20 dt. 26.06.2019 is invited by Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Shell, MCF/RBL through IREPS portal www.ireps.gov.in for and on behalf of President of India for the following work:- **Description of work:** Fabrication of Roof complete on Robotic Roof line as per scope of work. **Approx. Value:** ₹ 47,94,801.00 **EMD:** ₹ 95,900.00 **Cost of Tender document:** ₹ 3,000.00 only **Quantity of work:** 200 Roof Set. **Completion period of work:** 12 Months or earlier. • **Period of submission of tender document:** From 04.07.2019 to 18.07.2019 • **Date & time of closing of tender:** 18.07.2019 at 11:45 hrs. • **Date & time of opening of tender:** 18.07.2019 at 12:00 hrs. Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility criteria, Terms & conditions are available at IREPS website: www.ireps.gov.in in tender document. **Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Shell**

Tender Notice
Tender No. RE-CAMC-CNCFM-19-20-06 Due on: 25.07.2019
Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/M&P, Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli for and on behalf of President of India, invites ONLINE open tender based on single packet system from reputed firms through Indian Railway portal www.ireps.gov.in for tender notice no. **RE-CAMC-CNCFM-19-20-06**, Due on: 25.07.2019 on prescribed format for the under mentioned work:- **Description of work:** Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (including spare parts) of 02 nos of CNC Folding Machine for 02 years. **Approx. Value in:** ₹ 28,91,826.00 (Twenty Eight Lakhs Ninety One Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Six Only) **Earnest Money rounded off to nearest multiple of 100:** ₹ 57,800.00 (Fifty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Only) **Cost of Tender document:** ₹ 3000.00 **Completion period from the date of commencement of work:** 24 Months (02 Years) **Date and Time of closing of tender:** 25.07.2019 at 15:30 hrs. • Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility criteria, Terms & conditions are available in tender document at Indian Railway portal: www.ireps.gov.in **Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/M&P**

E-Tender Notice No. 18/2019-20 (Open) of DyCE/II/MCF/RBL
Deputy Chief Engineer-II, Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli for and on behalf of President of India, invites "E-Tenders" for following works:- **SN 1 Name of work:** Annual service for maintenance of Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli Yard siding line, Traverser and inspection Pits at Lalgaon, Raebareli for Two years. **Tender No.:** 24/2019-20 **Approx Cost:** ₹ 6038077.30 **Earnest Money:** ₹ 120800/- **Cost of Tender Form:** ₹ 5000.00 **Date of Opening:** 24.07.2019 **Completion Period:** 24 Months • Tenderer's shall be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. • Earnest Money Deposit & Tender Document Cost will be accepted separately only online payment through IREPS Portal. • For detail, please log on Indian Railway IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in **Dy. Chief Engineer-II**

E-Tender Notice
On behalf of the President of India, Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Fur.Prog., Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli is inviting open e-tender (Tender Notice No.-M-200/Carpentry work/2019-20, Date:-26.06.2019) based on single packet system online through Indian railway portal www.ireps.gov.in for following work:- **Description of work:** Cutting and Profiling of panels of panel stage, W&C stage, Lav. Stage and end wall door panel for LHB type LWSCN coaches as per scope of work. **Approx. Value:** ₹ 49,57,059.50 **EMD:** ₹ 99,200.00 **Cost of Tender document:** ₹ 3,000.00 **Quantity of work:** 449 LWSCN Coach Work **completion period:** 12 Months or earlier. • **E-Tender** submitted through online up to 10:30 hrs on 22.07.2019 Manual offer will not be considered. • **E-Tender** shall be opened on 22.07.2019 at 11:00 through online on <http://www.ireps.gov.in> • Detailed Tender Notice and Terms & conditions are available at Indian Railway IREPS website-<http://www.ireps.gov.in> **Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Furnishing Prog.**

Empanelment Notice
Empanelment Notice no.- 159-GMCF/RBL/INS/AAA/Empanelment/Vol.01 dt. 29.06.2019
Chief Public Relation Officer, Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli for and on behalf of President of India, invites sealed application for following works. **1. Name of Work:** Empanelment of INS Accredited Advertising Agencies for Release of classified advertisements including tender Notices, Auction Notices, recruitment Notices etc. and Display Advertisements. **Approx Cost:** ₹ 60,00,000/- **Earnest Money:** ₹ 1,00,000/- **Cost of empanelment form:** ₹ 5,000/- **Date of Opening & time:** 24.07.2019 11:30 AM **Completion on period:** Two years Empanelment shall be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Earnest Money Deposit & Empanelment Document Cost will be accepted separately only Demand Draft with Empanelment application. For detail, please log on Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli website www.mcf.indianrailways.gov.in **Chief Public Relation Officer**
Serving customers with a smile

IN BRIEF



Rajinath, Jagan review naval projects in A.P.

VIJAYAWADA
Defence Minister Rajinath Singh and A.P. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Saturday reviewed the progress of ongoing infrastructure projects and proposals of the Indian Navy in the State. Mr. Singh directed officials to continue proactive civil-military synergies and cooperation.

20 'illegal' structures identified in A.P.

VIJAYAWADA
The A.P. Capital Region Development Authority has identified at least 20 properties on the banks of the Krishna that have been built allegedly in violation of the river conservation laws and building rules. The CRDA had issued notices to the owners of a few properties and given a week's time to explain their position.

After CMs meet, A.P., Telangana move ahead on asset-sharing

Officials to meet again in 10 days; transfer norms for staff to be made easier

**M.L.MELLY MAITREYI
HYDERABAD**

Officials of both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana governments met for the second day at Pragathi Bhavan here on Saturday to discuss issues related to division of assets of Schedule IX and X institutions - which are corporations, cooperatives and other organisations - listed in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act that have hit a roadblock. One of the factors involved is relaxation of norms for staff transfer.

Chief Secretaries of both States and Principal Secretaries of Finance and General Administration departments and State Reorganisation Cells met to discuss bifurcation-related issues.

"The purpose of the meet-



Assessing assets: Officials of A.P. and Telangana at a meeting in Hyderabad on Saturday.

ing is to see what has been resolved so far, what is stuck and how they can be taken forward," an official source said.

The meeting was a follow-up to the deliberations held in a positive environment created by the meeting of Chief Ministers K. Chandrasekhar Rao and Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy on Friday.

The officials would brief the Chief Ministers and flag contentious issues, and also suggest possible solutions

and wait for their guidance and decisions, after which they would meet again in a week to 10 days.

The issues pertaining to Schedule IX institutions are about the definition of 'headquarters building,' which led to the stalemate in the division of AP Bhavan in Delhi. Other unresolved issues were division of employees of Transco and Genco and payment of dues of over ₹1,700 crore to AP Civil Sup-

plies Corporation. Barring RTC and a few other institutions, both States agreed to abide by the Shila Bhide Committee recommendations.

The division of assets of Schedule IX and X institutions had become knotty because of the differing stands taken by the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana governments. "Now that an amicable mood is prevailing, the two States may opt for via media options," sources added.

Ola, Uber defy Karnataka diktat, offer ride-shares

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU**

App-based taxi aggregators Ola and Uber continued to offer the ride share option on their platforms on Saturday, a day after the Transport Department directed them to shut down the service on the ground that it violated the Karnataka On Demand Transportation Technology Aggregators Rule, 2016.

The bone of contention is the picking up and dropping of passengers along a route, as city buses do.

"In the city, only the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation has a stage carriage licence to operate buses. Taxis can operate on-demand services from point A to B, but they are not allowed to pick up or drop passengers en route. If ride share is provided from one point to another, we have no objections," said Transport Commissioner V.P. Ikkeri. He added that a committee would be formed to look into the issue.

Commuters unhappy

Commuters who depend on these services as they are low-cost and easily available are unhappy with the Department's move. Prefixed pick-up and drop-off points will not be convenient, they say.

Incidentally, autorickshaws offer 'ride-share' services from one point to another.

According to Mr. Ikkeri, the BMTC has been opposing ride share as it is affecting its business. "If we allow Ola and Uber to operate share ride in the city, other aggregators will approach us for operating taxis on similar lines," he said.



Minister M. Sankar Narayana, left, and Collector S. Satyanarayana with family members of the victim. • R.V.S. PRASAD

Transfusion of wrong blood type kills woman

A.P. government suspends several staff

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
ANANTAPUR**

A young woman who had just become a mother died at the Anantapur Government General Hospital in Andhra Pradesh on Thursday after being wrongly administered a wrong blood type, in a shocking case of medical callousness that is sending ripples across the establishment. The woman, Akhtar Bano, was 32 years old.

Hospital staff, several doctors included, then attempted to cover up the incident, telling Bano's shocked husband that her death was caused by a heart attack.

Gross callousness

Bano, who hailed from Tadipatri, was admitted to the Anantapur GGH on June 25 for a Caesarean section and she gave birth to a baby girl.

While both the mother and baby were in good health, doctors decided to transfuse a few units of blood to Bano the next day as her haemoglobin count was low.

In a brazen act of carelessness, the Blood Bank staff administered B+ blood to Bano, who was O+. Only 100 ml of blood was transfused, but by the end of the transfusion Bano began to

suffer extreme complications and was rushed to the hospital's Intensive Care Unit.

In the early hours of June 27, doctors told Bano's husband Habibullah that his wife died after suffering a heart attack.

Cover-up begins

Suspecting medical negligence, Bano's family refused to take her body for three hours. Word soon reached District Collector S. Satyanarayana on Friday about the incident. Mr. Satyanarayana then visited the hospital and ordered an inquiry to be conducted by Municipal Commissioner P. Prashanti. On examining Bano's health records, Ms. Prashanti found out that she had a O+ phenotype, and not the B+ that the hospital had administered her.

The State government on Saturday suspended Blood Bank in-charge doctor Shiv Kumar, gynaecologist Harshitha, lab assistant Murali Mohan, and nurses Renukamma and Praveena.

The government paid a compensation of ₹10 lakh to the family of the victim.

Minister for Backward Classes Welfare M. Sankar Narayana, along with Mr. Satyanarayana, handed over the cheque.

Malayalam film director Babu Narayanan passes away

Along with Anil, he directed several hits

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOZHIKODE**

Director Babu Narayanan, who was part of the Anil-Babu duo that made several box office hits, died at the age of 59 at Thrissur on Saturday. He had been ailing for a while.

Babu and Anil had made films separately before pairing up in 1992, and with films such as *Ponnaramthotathe Rajavu*, *Manthrikacheppu* and *Welcome to Kodakanal* they were able to



Babu Narayanan

make an impact pretty soon.

Movies such as *Sthreedhanam*, *Kudumba Vishesham*, *Welcome to Kodakanal*, *Aramanaveedum Anjoorekharum* and *Pattabhishekam* established them as a force to reckon with in main-

stream cinema. The duo split up in 2004 after *Parayana*.

Babu, on his own, had earlier directed *Anagha* and *Ponnaranjanam*. The highlight of *Anagha*, his debut film, was its music composed by Kozhikode Yesudas. Its two songs, *Paaduvanaayi vannu njaan...* and *Angakale kizhakkam dikkil...*, both rendered by K.J. Yesudas, became very popular. After the split, Babu had a fairly long interval in his career. His next film, *To Noora with Love*, would come after nearly a decade. The film failed to click at the box office. It turned out to be his last.

'T.N. officials conducted survey in Karnataka'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANDYA**

Minister for Public Works H.D. Revanna has accused the Tamil Nadu government of conducting a survey on the storage quantum of reservoirs of the Cauvery basin in Karnataka.

While speaking to presspersons here on Saturday, Mr. Revanna said that officials from Tamil Nadu had recently conducted the survey to study the availability of water in the Cauvery basin reservoirs without bringing it to the notice of the Karnataka government.

"Even the neighbouring State [Tamil Nadu] is facing water scarcity and the farming community has been

protesting for water there. But, the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) has to take a call on releasing the waters from the reservoirs," Mr. Revanna said.

The Minister said, "The water levels in Hemavati and KRS reservoirs in the Cauvery basin in Karnataka have precariously dipped." He said the water in the Jemavati reservoir would barely last a fortnight.

Referring to the protest by farmers in Mandya demanding release of water, Mr. Revanna clarified that the government would not ignore Mandya and described the protest as part of "politics" played by a few.

KPSC: Governor returns Ordinance yet again

Karnataka to table Bill in legislature

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU**

Following Karnataka Governor Vajubhai R. Vala returning the State's recommendation to promulgate an Ordinance - to protect 28 gazetted officers of the 1998 batch, selected by the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) - for the second time, the government is now planning to table a Bill in the coming legislature session.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister G. Parameshwara, who confirmed that the Governor had returned the file pertaining to the recommendation for Ordinance, said the government will now place the issue in the legislature session beginning July 12.

Major embarrassment

The Governor's refusal to promulgate the Ordinance twice has caused major em-

barrassment to the JD(S)-Congress coalition government in the State. The Governor is learnt to have directed the government to place The Karnataka Civil Services (Protection of Service of Persons Appointed in Pursuance to Final Selection List Published by Selection Authority) Ordinance Bill, 2019, in the next session of the legislature.

He is learnt to have written on the file that there should be a detailed discussion on the matter in both Houses of the legislature.

The State Cabinet had in May decided to promulgate an Ordinance for providing employment to 28 candidates who were denied the opportunity to join as gazetted probationer Group 'A' and 'B' posts in 2005-06 on their selection in the 1998 batch of KPSC owing to alleged irregularities in recruitment.

Perfect sync



All on board: Sailors arriving for the Yachting Association of India Senior Multi-class Ranking Sailing Championship-2019, at the Hussainsagar Lake in Hyderabad on Saturday. The event will be hosted by the EME Sailing Association in July. • G. RAMAKRISHNA

Keeping a bright student's dream alive

School teachers in Telangana pool funds, help him join IIT-Basara

**K.M.DAYASHANKAR
JAGTIAL**

Back-breaking poverty had forced Malliala Ajay to give up on his higher education dreams, but his school teachers have come together to remove financial obstacles in the bright student's path.

Ajay studied in the Zilla Parishad High School in Muthyampeta village of Mallial mandal, scoring 9.7 GPA in the SSC examinations, and qualified for admission into IIT-Basara. However, he was unable to pay the fee of ₹9,200 to pursue the six-year course there.

His father, a poor labourer, migrated to the

Gulf in search of employment six months ago and has been unable to send any money back home. Struggling to make ends meet, his mother Shyamala, an agricultural worker, asked him to withdraw his admission, given that Ajay has two younger siblings - a sister and a brother.

When school headmaster Venkateshwarlu heard about Ajay not being able to continue his education, he visited him along with other teachers in tow. On seeing them, Ajay broke down. Consoling him, the teachers promised to help support his education.

Soon after, the headmaster conducted a



Malliala Ajay with his teachers at ZPHS Muthyampeta village in Mallial mandal in Jagtial district. • BY ARRANGEMENT

meeting with the teachers and announced his personal contribution of ₹10,000 for Ajay's education. Two other teachers K Sujatha and Manohar Rao also pledged an amount of ₹10,000 each, followed by ₹5,000

contribution each from teachers Chandrashekar, Anji Reddy, Venugopal Rao, and Sudhakar Reddy.

With the pooled money in hand, Mr. Venkateshwarlu escorted Ajay to IIT-Basara and admitted him there by

purchasing the fee apart from purchasing clothes and study material for him. After news of this noble gesture spread, village sarpanch Tirupathi Reddy and newly elected ZPTC member K. Rammohan handed over ₹5,000 each to the headmaster.

Village Netaji Youth Club members have collectively donated ₹5,000 and the NRI association ₹15,000 for Ajay's education.

Mr. Venkateshwarlu said he would open a joint account and deposit the donation for Ajay to meet his education expenses and showered praise on the contributors for helping a bright student.

March 2020 date set for Muvattupuzha project

After four decades, it may finally become a reality

**TIKI RAJVI
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

Redemption may be in sight at last for the Muvattupuzha valley irrigation project which has been plagued by a string of delays and massive cost overruns. If things pan out, the project will be fully commissioned in another nine months - by March 2020 - more than four decades after work started.

Work on MVIP had begun in 1974 with a cost estimate of ₹20.86 crore. With delays hitting the project, the cost also shot through the roof. Kerala has so far spent a whopping ₹ 988.97 crore on MVIP which nonetheless re-

mains partially commissioned, according to data presented by Water Resources Minister K. Krishnankutty in the Assembly.

The planning board has approved an allocation of ₹50 crore for completing all pending works and commissioning the project by March 2020, Irrigation Department officials said. Ninety-five per cent of work is in fact over. The remaining works pertain largely to two of MVIP's distributaries which are yet to be completed.

"Of this, the Edayar distributary will be completed this year. Of the six reaches of the Karikkode distribu-

tary, the first and fourth have been completed. Revised estimates are pending with the government for the second and fifth," Sen T.G., Chief Engineer (Projects II), Irrigation Department, said. Construction of two bridges is pending on the Piravom distributary, which is otherwise functional.

Utilising the tailrace water from the Idukki hydel project, MVIP covers a culturable command area of 18,173 hectares spread over Ernakulam and Idukki districts. It is also one of the four big, seriously-delayed projects that the government took up for completion in 2017.

IN BRIEF



Working Women's Forum founder dead

CHENNAI
Jaya Arunachalam, founder of Working Women's Forum (WWF) and a pioneer of the women's self-help group movement in the country, died on Saturday. She was 87. Dr. Arunachalam helped lakhs of poor women to organise themselves in becoming financially independent. She was awarded the Padma Shri in 1987, and bagged the Jammalal Bajaj Award in 2009 for contributing to the welfare of women and children.

Doctor beaten up by patient's family in U.P.

UTTAR PRADESH
A doctor at a Community Health Centre was beaten up by family members of a patient who alleged that the doctor was drunk while attending to their relative on Friday. According to the patient's brother, the doctor sought a bribe of ₹10,000 to refer him to another hospital. He threatened them when they were unable to produce the full amount. "When we requested him to refer my brother, he hit me after which a fight broke out. The doctor was in a drunken state and even fell on my brother," he added. ANI

No one can destroy DMK, says Stalin

CHENNAI
DMK president M.K. Stalin on Saturday said that no one could destroy the DMK and those entertaining such ideas would only fail. Recalling his time as the Local Administration Minister, Mr. Stalin said he had provided a good and people-oriented administration and implemented several combined water supply schemes.

Wildlife survey begins at T.N. tiger reserve

ERODE
Forty-six teams, comprising 421 personnel, began on Saturday the bi-annual wildlife monitoring exercise at the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve here on Saturday. During the exercise, personnel will monitor carnivore signs, pug marks, large herbivore signs, co-predators, tree bark peelings and also direct sightings of animals.

Accused in murder of Odisha Congress candidate arrested

BERHAMPUR
Bhagaban Sahu, prime accused in the murder of Congress candidate from Odisha's Aska Assembly Constituency, Manoj Kumar Jena, was arrested by Berhampur police on Saturday. The Congress candidate had been murdered in Berhampur on May 22, a day before the counting of votes. Police had earlier arrested seven persons in relation to this case. But Sahu, the prime conspirator behind the murder, had absconded. Sahu, a liquor trader, had used hired killers to murder Jena. Sahu now has seven criminal cases pending against him, including five murder cases. According to the findings of investigating police officers, a long-standing tussle over criminal activities and the liquor trade were the reason behind this murder.

As Censor Board objects, movie name changed to Judgementall Hai Kya

MUMBAI
Balaji Telefilms on Saturday said it had decided to change the title of its upcoming feature 'Mental Hai Kya' after the Censor Board reportedly had raised objections. The Prakash Kovelamudi-directed thriller, starring Rajkumar Rao and Kangana Ranaut, has been at the receiving end for quite some time with many people calling the title derogatory and insensitive to mentally-challenged persons. The banner said the title had been changed to 'Judgementall Hai Kya'. "Given the sensitivity attached to mental health and our intention of not offending anyone's sentiments, the makers have decided to change the title. "Both Kangana and Rajkumar have outdone themselves in this thriller and we can't wait for audiences to witness it on the big screen," it said. The movie is set to release on July 26.

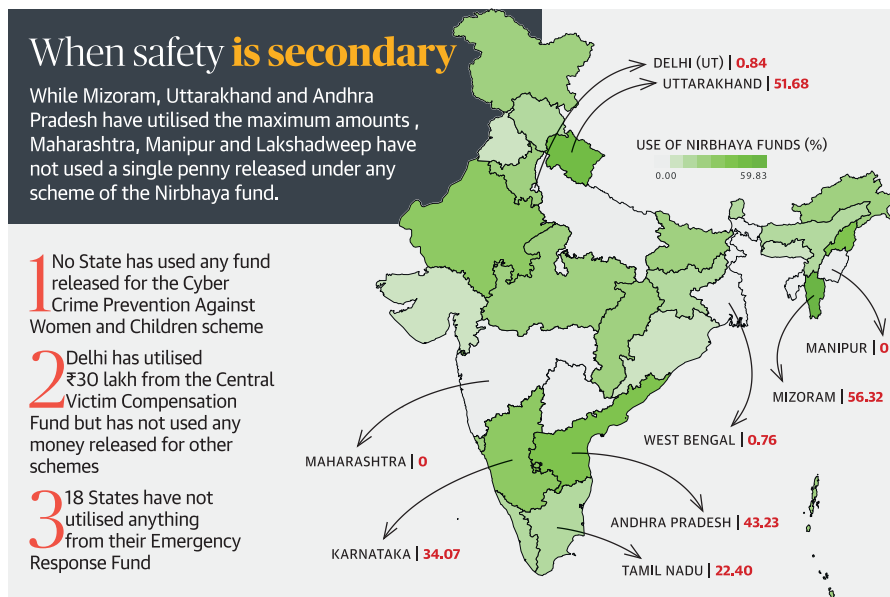
Only 20% of Nirbhaya Fund has been used by States until 2018

Centre pumped in more this year despite the poor show of some States

JAGRITI CHANDRA SUMANT SEN NEW DELHI

The States and Union Territories have utilised less than 20% of the budget allocated to them under the Nirbhaya Fund for safety of women by the Central government between 2015 and 2018, according to official data. A sum of ₹1,813 crore has been disbursed by the Centre from 2015 to 2019. Of this, *The Hindu* analysed details of ₹854.66 crore disbursed until 2018, for which utilisation details were made available by the Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Irani to the Lok Sabha on Friday. As per the data, of the ₹854.66 crore released by the Centre, a mere ₹165.48

crore has been spent by various States and UTs on different schemes launched by the Centre as well as other schemes for which the local governments sought funds. The Nirbhaya Fund was set up by the UPA-II in the aftermath of the gangrape of a paramedical student in a moving bus in New Delhi in December 2012 with an initial corpus of ₹1,000 crore. The Fund supports schemes for safety of women, and over the past six years it has swelled to ₹3,600 crore through allocation in the Finance Budgets. Though the Fund was instituted in 2013, its disbursement gathered pace only from 2015. The key schemes under which the States have been



allocated money include Emergency Response Support System, Central Victim Compensation Fund, Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children, One

Stop Scheme, Mahila Police Volunteer, and Universalisation of Women Helpline Scheme. The top five States ranked in terms of utilisation of mo-

ney across various schemes under the Nirbhaya Fund were Chandigarh (59.83%), Mizoram (56.32%), Uttarakhand (51.68%), Andhra Pradesh (43.23%) and Nagaland

(38.17%). However, the government data shows more money was utilised by Chandigarh than what was allocated to it under Central Victim Compensation Fund as well as Women Helpline Scheme. The worst five States include Manipur, Maharashtra, Lakshadweep - which didn't spend even a single penny - and were followed by West Bengal (0.76%) and Delhi (0.84%). Delhi, which was at the centre of nationwide protests following the 2012 gangrape setting the wheels in motion for introducing the Fund, didn't use any money for three of the four schemes under which it was allocated a total sum of ₹35 crore. These include schemes for emergency support, women helpline, and cyber crime prevention. The national capital used a mere 3.41% of

the money it received for compensating victims of gender based violence. However, despite a poor record by States in using the money given to them, the Centre has continued to pump in more cash for schemes like One Stop Scheme as well as Universalisation of Women Helpline Scheme - which provides for a single national helpline 181 linked with One Stop Centres for women in distress. Some of the glaring examples include Bihar, which did not use even a single rupee out of ₹5.20 crore for One Stop Centres between 2015 and 2019 but was granted ₹3.9 crore again in 2019 and 2020. Similarly, Uttar Pradesh didn't use any money from ₹1.91 crore given to it for the Women Helpline Scheme, yet it was granted ₹46.5 lakh again in 2019.

15 die as wall collapses on hutments in Pune

All the deceased were construction workers from Bihar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT PUNE

Fifteen persons, including four children and two women, were killed and three seriously injured when a section of a compound wall of an apartment complex crashed on adjacent labourers' makeshift hutments in Bada Talab Masjid locality in Pune's Kondhwa area in the early hours of Saturday. The labourers were on construction work right next to the apartment. All the deceased hailed from Katihar district of Bihar. Later in the day, the Kondhwa police filed an FIR against 15 persons, including the developers, the contractor and the engineer of the site under construction as well as the developers of the Alcon Stylus housing project, whose retaining wall collapsed. "We have arrested Vipul Agarwal and Vivek Agarwal of Alcon Landmark," said Anil Patil, senior



Caved in: Dislodged cars at the site where the compound wall of a housing society collapsed on Saturday. •PTI

police inspector, Kondhwa police station. The firm had constructed Alcon Stylus. Fire department personnel, along with a National Disaster Response Force team, managed to rescue three persons trapped under debris. Relentless showers The tragedy comes as the city is reeling under relentless showers in the past 48 hours. Meteorological Department authorities said the city received more than 73 mm rainfall on June 27 and 28. In fact, the rainfall in the past 24 hours is reportedly the second highest bout

of showers to hit the city in June since 2010. "It appears that the incessant downpour may have loosened the soil around the retaining wall... Deep excavation work was being carried out at the site adjacent to it, which only aggravated matters," said Pune Municipal Commissioner Saurabh Rao. A senior police official said the compound wall was in a poor state. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis announced compensation of ₹5 lakh each for the kin of the deceased. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh. (With inputs from PTI)

Congress MP claims 80 have died in Assam's rathole mines

'District administration is aiding and abetting the coal mafia'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

An Assam Congress MP has said rathole coal mines in the State's rainforests have killed some 80 miners in the past three years. Pradyut Bordoloi, sitting in the Lok Sabha for Nowgong, accused the Tinsukia district administration of aiding and abetting a "coal mafia," which has dug up some 5,000 rathole mines, destroying the pristine jungles along the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border. His allegations followed the Gauhati High Court's di-



Pradyut Bordoloi

rective to the district administrations to file affidavits on illegal coal mining and trading by July 31. "These mines often cave

in during the rainy season, trapping and killing miners. In the last three years, 80 miners and two baby elephants have died in these mines," Mr. Bordoloi said. The three years correspond to the rule of Sarbananda Sonowal's BJP-led coalition government. Mr. Bordoloi, said the nexus between the coal mafia and the administration kept the death of miners under wraps. The coalfields of Ledo, bordering Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh, are located in Margherita.

IAF trying to airlift stranded rescue team

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ITANAGAR
The Indian Air Force (IAF) is making all efforts to airlift the stranded 12-member rescue team from the site where the AN-32 aircraft crashed in Arunachal Pradesh, an IAF official said on Saturday. The team is stranded in the border area of Siang and Shi-Yomi districts for 17 days now at a height of 12,000 feet, where its members were airdropped and had retrieved the bodies of 13 crash victims. The team is waiting for the weather to improve so that they can be airlifted from the spot, he said.

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FROM PAGE ONE

Sano becomes home of cricket in Japan



Sporting spirit: Children playing inside a cricket dome set up at a shopping mall in Tokyo. • SANO CRICKET CHALLENGE

But what do you do when you are not particularly picturesque, historic or artsy? Sano, whose population has declined from about 1,30,000 to 1,16,000 over the last decade, was grappling with this question and the best answer its elected leaders had managed to come up with was outlet malls. But this was before they met Mr. Miyaji.

The JCA CEO began to work Sano's corridors of power through contacts made with the help of the owner of his favourite Ramen restaurant, Nikkoken. The restaurant was a hub for all those with a penchant for noodles in pork broth, which more or less included everyone in town.

"I met Miyaji san and came to know that this sport called cricket had an international viewership that could compare to soccer," recalled Kenji Yajima, the chairman of the Sano Chamber of Commerce. A 2018 International Cricket Council survey showed that the sport has over one billion fans globally. "I was stunned. I thought why not use this to help develop our town also," he said.

Mr. Yajima was aware of other Japanese cities that had latched onto niche sports. He alluded to Sapporo, on Hokkaido island, that has promoted itself as a curling centre. "If they can use curling, we can use cricket," he concluded.

Mr. Yajima teamed up with Sano Mayor Masahide Okabe to set up a cricket supporters' club that included prominent local businesses (the number currently stands at 120 companies, up from an original 40). Their aim was to find the funds necessary to develop the sport in Sano. The opening of the Sano International Cricket ground in 2016 – the first dedicated cricket pitch in Japan to meet international standards – was the crowning glory of these ef-

Prime Minister holds a flurry of bilaterals

They talked about the strong development partnership between India and Turkey.

In his meeting with his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison, Prime Minister Modi had "good discussions on enhancing cooperation in sports, mining technology, defence and maritime cooperation and Indo-Pacif-

ic." The bonhomie was on full display when Mr. Morrison tweeted a selfie with Mr. Modi and praised him in Hindi "Kithana acha he Modi!", a message which went viral.

Mr. Modi then had pull-aside meetings with his Singaporean counterpart Lee Hsien Loong and Chilean President Sebastian Pinera.

Trump and Xi reach a truce on trade war

He said he was ready for a "historic" deal with China as the leaders kicked off their meeting, and Mr. Xi told him that dialogue was better than confrontation.

In their final statement, the G20 leaders admitted that "most importantly, trade and geopolitical tensions have intensified," echoing hard-won language from their Finance Ministers at a meeting earlier this month.

The tete-a-tete between the U.S. and Chinese leaders – the first since the last G20 in December – cast a long shadow over this year's gathering in Osaka.

Trade has proved far from the only contentious issue on the summit table, with climate change another major sticking point.

A diplomatic source said it had been a "difficult" night of negotiations, with an American delegate pushing a "very tough position" and the others standing united against watering down the climate language in the final statement.

In the end, a deal of sorts was reached, with 19 members – minus the U.S. – agreeing on Saturday to the "irreversibility" of the Paris climate deal and pledging its full implementation.

Cong. resignations clock 200

Party spokesperson denies it was a way to show the door to the old guard

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

As resignations of national and State functionaries of the Congress continue to pour in, more leaders have come out with the demand that Rahul Gandhi stay as party president.

Among the latest to join the list of leaders who resigned are Chhattisgarh general secretary in-charge P.L. Punia and Kisan Congress President Nana Patole. According to sources, nearly 200 office-bearers have quit so far.

As many as 36 office-bearers of the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee resigned on Saturday.

Moral responsibility

Congress leader in the Legislative Council Deepak Singh, the State unit's senior vice-president Ranjit Singh Judev, general secretary Aradhna Mishra Mona, vice-president R.P. Tripathi and many others have resigned taking moral responsibility for the party's defeat, an official release



Rahul Gandhi must stay, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said at a press conference on Saturday. • FILE PHOTO

of the party said. The mass resignations come more than a month after Mr. Gandhi announced his decision to quit on May 25 at the Congress Working Committee meeting in New Delhi.

Many of those who resigned on Friday are demanding that the entire Congress Working Committee be disbanded and office-bearers of the 17 States where Congress did not win a single seat be dismissed.

Those States include Rajasthan, which the party

won in the recent Assembly election.

"Everybody in the Congress has only one request and one desire that Rahul Gandhi should continue as our party president. The Congress Working Committee too passed a resolution saying so. Many other State units too have passed a similar resolution," Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera told presspersons on Saturday.

He rejected reports that the mass resignations, in-

itiated by erstwhile Youth Congress functionaries, was a way to push out the old guard in the party. "In our huge family of the Congress, different people have different ways to express their request," Mr. Khera said.

Party general secretary in charge of Madhya Pradesh Dipak Babaria, Goa unit chief Girish Chodankar, Delhi unit's working president Rajesh Liloithia and Telangana unit's working president Ponnamb Prabhakar were among the 140 odd functionaries who quit on Friday.

No study

"The stalemate has continued far too long. The first step we should have taken post the debacle was to do a forensic study of the reasons why we lost the election so badly. For every constituency there is a different reason for our performance. And the more we postpone this exercise the more we will lose out," a top Congress leader said.

(With PTI inputs)

Trinamool leader killed in Hooghly

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

A Trinamool Congress leader was shot dead on Saturday morning in Hooghly district of West Bengal. The victim, Dilip Ram, was the husband of a Trinamool gram panchayat pradhan, Ritu Ram.

Party Hooghly district president Tapan Dasgupta and the wife of the deceased blamed local BJP supporters for the murder. "He was threatened multiple times. We had informed the police about the threats but they did not take any initiative for his protection," Mr. Dasgupta said. The local Trinamool leadership called for a bandh at Chinsurah on Sunday. Hooghly BJP MP Locket Chatterjee rubbished the allegations saying feuds within the ruling party over "cut money" led to the violence.

It's a celebration



Collective trek: Sadhus waiting to get themselves registered for the Amarnath Yatra at a base camp in Jammu on Saturday. • PTI

Shah's statement opens J&K debate

Karan Singh says not just Article 370, but many provisions too were temporary

VIJAYTA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Jammu & Kashmir's former head of State and senior Congress leader Karan Singh said many provisions in the Constitution were temporary in nature and even the reservation for Scheduled Castes was temporary and originally meant for the initial 10 years.

Home Minister Amit Shah said in the Lok Sabha on Friday that Article 370, which extends special status to J&K, was "temporary" and not permanent in nature.

Dr. Singh, son of the former ruler of J&K, while reacting to Mr. Shah's statement, told *The Hindu*, "There are several provisions in the Constitution, like Articles 371 (special status to Maharashtra, Gujarat), 371A (Nagaland), that are also temporary. The reservation for Dalits was initially meant only for 10 years, but it has continued for more than 50 years. It is obvious they [the Bharatiya Janata Party] want to do something, but the Constitutional, legal and political implications will have to be looked into."

Maharaja Hari Singh, the ruler of J&K, signed the Instrument of Accession on October 26, 1947 to accede in respect of only three subjects – Defence, Foreign Affairs and Communications. On April 20, 1951, Dr. Singh issued a Proclamation constituting a 75-member Constituent Assembly (CA) for the purposes of framing a Constitution for the State.

Faizan Mustafa, Vice-Chancellor of the National



It is obvious the BJP wants to do something, but the Constitutional, legal and political implications will have to be looked into. — KARAN SINGH, SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER

Minister's Kashmir speech provocative, says CPI(M)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The CPI(M) on Saturday demanded an early Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir and accused Home Minister Amit Shah of making a "provocative" speech in the Lok Sabha that would further alienate the people of the State.

The party's Polit Bureau in a statement here said if the conditions were conducive for holding the Lok Sabha election, there was no reason to believe that the same situation prohibits holding the Assembly election. The Congress too had raised the

Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR), Hyderabad, said 43 presidential orders had been extended to J&K through Article 370 and the Supreme Court had made it clear that it was temporary only in the heading.

'Cannot abrogate'

"The President cannot abrogate Article 370 unless there is a concurrence of the CA of J&K. But the CA was dissolved and not adjourned. If

For this major change, the Supreme Court will have to take the final decision. There are conflicting legal opinions and it ought to be challenged in the SC," he said.

Onus on Assembly

A senior government official said that any proposal to change the arrangement should first come from the Assembly.

Clause 3 of Article 370 states, "Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this Article, the President may, by public notification, declare that this Article shall cease to be operative or shall be operative only with such exceptions and modifications and from such date as he may specify: provided that the recommendation of the Constituent Assembly of the State referred to in Clause (2) shall be necessary before the President issues such a notification."

On June 26, the Centre informed the Rajya Sabha that "At present, Article 370 is part of Constitution of India under the title 'Temporary provisions with respect to the State of Jammu & Kashmir' and Article 35A is contained in the Constitution (Application to Jammu & Kashmir) Order, 1954 issued by the President of India under Article 370."

On December 20, 2017, the Centre informed Parliament that, "No proposal regarding abolition of Article 35A and Article 370 in respect of Jammu & Kashmir is at present under consideration of the government."

Dr. Singh concurred. "A lot of Articles have been extended to J&K with the consent of the State Assembly,

India seeks Kartarpur talks from July 11 to 14

Meeting to discuss draft agreement

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

After weeks of an impasse on the Kartarpur corridor, the government has written to Pakistan, proposing the next round of talks to be held from July 11 to 14 on the Pakistani side of the Attari-Wagah border.

"The meeting would discuss the draft agreement on the modalities for movement of pilgrims along the Kartarpur corridor and resolve outstanding technical issues related to alignment and infrastructure along the corridor," an official source said.

The government's decision to propose the fourth round of talks came a week after the External Affairs Ministry said Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote to his Pakistan counterpart Imran Khan. Mr. Modi wrote that India was keen on seeing the corridor completed in time for the 550th birth anniversary of Sikh founder Guru Nanak in November.

"We will continue to work for early operationalisation of the Kartarpur Corridor and keeping it functional all year round," Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said on June 20. However, talks had been put off as India had sought "clarifications" on several issues including whether to build a bridge or a causeway over the Ravi, proposed caps on pilgrim numbers, and the presence of Khalistani separatists in key posts of the gurdwara committee in Pakistan. Asked if the new Indian proposal for dates meant that the issues had now been resolved, a source said that the move "shows India's commitment to the corridor".

"India has also asked Pakistan to increase the number of pilgrims under the 1974 bilateral Protocol who visit annually various religious shrines in Pakistan on the occasion of Guru Nanak Dev Jayanti, to 10,000 this year," the source said.

PM Modi to visit Varanasi on July 6

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
VARANASI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit his Lok Sabha constituency Varanasi on July 6, the BJP said on Saturday.

The Prime Minister would launch the party's membership drive besides a tree plantation campaign, said Navratan Rathi, local media cell in-charge of the BJP. The plantation drive will be held along the Panchkoshi route. Around 10,000 students would join the PM, he said.

Mr. Rathi said Mr. Modi would also address party workers at Rameshwaram on the outskirts of the city, for which preparations were in full swing. Mr. Modi's visit, second after winning the Lok Sabha poll, will coincide with the birth anniversary of Bharatiya Jan Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

Chargesheet in Pehlu Khan case sparks row

CM denies he has been named accused



Pehlu Khan's wife Zaibuna with eldest son Irshad, right, and her youngest in a photo dated September 15, 2017.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

A chargesheet filed by the Rajasthan police in a cow smuggling case against dairy farmer Pehlu Khan, who was lynched allegedly by a mob of cow vigilantes in Alwar district in 2017, created a controversy here on Saturday.

Though the prosecution's papers mentioned Pehlu Khan, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said they did not include him as an accused.

The chargesheet, filed in the court of the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate in Behror town of Alwar on May 24, named Pehlu Khan's sons Irshad and Arif and the owner of a pick-up truck Khan Mohammed, as the accused against whom the offence of illegally transporting cows out of the State had been proved.

Death in 2017

The police informed the court that though the offence under Sections 5, 8 and 9 of the Rajasthan Bovine Animal (Prohibition of Slaughter and Regulation of

Temporary Migration or Export) Act, 1995, had been proved against Pehlu Khan as well, he died on April 3, 2017, in a private hospital in Behror.

Mr. Gehlot said the investigation was carried out by the previous Bharatiya Janata Party regime and his government would reinvestigate it in case of any discrepancies. "Our government will see if the probe was done with predetermined intentions ... the Congress is ideologically committed against any kind of lynching and our government is vigilant to ensure that it does not happen again," he said.

Alwar Superintendent of Police Paris Deshmukh told *The Hindu* that the chargesheet of FIR No. 253/17 was against three persons, who did not include Pehlu Khan. "Pehlu Khan's name has been exclusively dropped and the chargesheet has been filed against Irshad, Arif and Khan Mohammed," he said.

The next court hearing is on July 3.

G20 resolves to free Internet of extremism

Says that it must not be a terror safe haven

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
OSAKA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other G20 leaders on Saturday resolved to prevent the use of the Internet to fund and facilitate terrorism and extremism, saying that while the Internet must be "open, free and secure", it could not serve as a safe haven for terrorists.

In a statement after the Osaka summit, the leaders said they were committed to protecting people from violent extremism conducive to terrorism, or VECT, through the exploitation of the Internet.

Citizens' security

"As leaders, one of our greatest responsibilities is to ensure the security of our citizens. It is the state's role, first and foremost, to prevent and combat terrorism. Here in Osaka, we reaffirm our commitment to act to protect our people from terrorist and VECT exploita-



Power point: World leaders at the 3rd Session of the G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan on Saturday. PTI

tion of the Internet," the statement said.

"We issue this statement to raise the bar of expectation for online platforms to do their part. We, the leaders of the G20, reaffirm our strongest condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations."

The G20 leaders said the live-streamed Christchurch terrorist attacks in New Zealand that killed 51 people, and other recent atrocities, demonstrated the urgency with "which we must fully implement relevant UN resolutions, the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy and other instruments, including the 2017 Hamburg G20 Leaders' Statement on Countering Terrorism."

The leaders agreed that such efforts must respect human rights and the freedom of expression and access to information. The Internet must not be a safe haven for terrorists to recruit, incite or prepare terrorist acts.

"We urge online platforms to adhere to the core principle, as affirmed in Hamburg, that the rule of law applies online as it does offline. This must be

achieved in a way that is consistent with national and international law, including human rights and fundamental freedoms such as freedom of expression and access to information - we hold these in high regard. We commit to collaborate with states, international organisations, industry, and civil society in this endeavour," they said.

Speaking at the third session of the G20 Summit, Mr. Modi mentioned AYUSH (Alternative and Traditional System of Medicine) and Ayushman Bharat.

The UN General Assembly in 2014 adopted an India-led resolution declaring June 21 'International Day of Yoga', recognising that "yoga provides a holistic approach to health and well-being".

Modi hard sells Ayushman Bharat, yoga

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
OSAKA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday used the G20 Summit here to promote India's traditional healing practices, yoga and his flagship Ayushman Bharat health scheme.

Mr. Modi took part in a special session on empowerment of women. The session witnessed an in-depth dialogue on how to further women's empowerment and work towards gender equality.

Speaking at the third session of the G20 Summit, Mr. Modi mentioned AYUSH (Alternative and Traditional System of Medicine) and Ayushman Bharat.

The UN General Assembly in 2014 adopted an India-led resolution declaring June 21 'International Day of Yoga', recognising that "yoga provides a holistic approach to health and well-being".

Easy access

Under the 'One nation, one ration card' system, beneficiaries can buy subsidised foodgrains from a ration shop in any part of the country

The scheme will be rolled out across the country on: July 1, 2020



A migrant will be allowed to buy a maximum of 50% of the family quota. This is to ensure that the individual, after shifting to another place, does not buy the entire family quota in one go

Ration card-Aadhaar linkage must to access the portability scheme

States providing portability of PDS entitlements:

Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana and Tripura

A person will only be eligible for the subsidies supported by the Centre, which include rice sold at ₹3/kg and wheat at ₹2/kg

Even if a beneficiary moves to a State where grains are given for free, he/she will not be able to access those benefits

'One nation, one ration card' from July 1, 2020

Aadhaar linkage needed for it to work

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The 'One nation, one ration card' scheme, which will allow portability of food security benefits, will be available across the country from July 1, 2020. This means poor migrant workers will be able to buy subsidised rice and wheat from any ration shop in the country if their ration cards are linked to Aadhaar.

All the States have been given one more year to use point-of-sale (PoS) machines in the ration shops and implement the scheme, Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan told presspersons on Saturday. Already, more than 85% of people covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) have their cards linked to Aadhaar, he said.

While Aadhaar linkage is not necessary to access the NFSA benefits in a beneficiary's local ration shop closest to her home address, it will be necessary to access the portability scheme, senior Food Ministry officials said.

Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karna-

taka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana and Tripura already offer this portability, Mr. Paswan said.

Delhi had begun implementing portability, but was stopped for technical reasons. The States such as Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Tamil Nadu could easily implement the scheme, as they had PoS machines in all the ration shops.

A senior Ministry official clarified that migrants would only be eligible for the subsidies supported by the Centre, which include rice sold at ₹3 a kg and wheat at ₹2 a kg. Even if a beneficiary moved to a State where grains were given free, that person would not be able to access those benefits, as they were funded by the State exchequer.

In a bid to reduce nutrition deficiencies among beneficiaries, the Centre would roll out a pilot project in 15 districts to fortify rice with iron, folic acid and vitamins A and B12. It would be available in ration shops from November.

Act against fugitive economic offenders: India

We strongly feel that we as a global community must act in unison to deal with the issue: Prabhu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
OSAKA

India has pitched strongly to deal with fugitive economic offenders and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has flagged the issue at all global forums, the country's Sherpa to G20, Suresh Prabhu, said on Saturday.

"We strongly put forward the need to deal with fugitive economic offenders. It has been a strong agenda, we have been working on tax evasion, corruption,

economic offences and fugitive offenders running away [from the country]. We have also been very strongly championing this," Mr. Prabhu told a press conference, giving details of the deliberations.

"We strongly feel that we as a global community must act in unison to deal with such issues of people committing economic offences and running away from their national domicile country," he told pressper-



Suresh Prabhu

sions after the G20 Sherpas' meeting.

Asked why India did not join the Osaka declaration on digital economy, Mr.

Prabhu said the reasons had been communicated to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Digital economy

But he clarified that India strongly believed in digital economy and had taken a host of measures, including a huge number of bank accounts, to give it a thrust.

"India has a very massive programme on digital transactions. We have opened bank accounts of a large

number of people. Many transactions are happening through the digital forms."

Mr. Prabhu, Railway Minister in the first term of the NDA government, said the Railways had almost 8.1 billion passengers a year, and many of them buy tickets through digital platforms.

"So, digital is something which we all believe in, we have a market which is growing including the e-commerce market," Mr. Prabhu said.

New GST return filing system from Oct.

Focus on simplification of procedures and crackdown on tax evasion: Sushil Modi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A new return filing mechanism - Goods and Service Tax 2.0 - will be rolled out from October 2019 for big businessmen and from January 2020 for small businessmen.

The GST, which is entering the third year from July 1, 2019, will be focussing on simplification of procedures, compliance and crackdown on tax evasion, said Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi, who chaired a Group of Ministers' meeting here on Saturday.



Sushil Modi

The GST registered an average monthly collection of ₹91,334 crore in the past 21 months.

The meeting of the GoM

was held after eight months, the gap largely due to the enforcement of the model code during the Lok Sabha election.

Mr. Modi said traders and businessmen having zero transactions or nil filers could now file returns through SMS.

Those dealing with business-to-consumer with an annual turnover of less than ₹5 crore a year would have a new format, "Sahaj", and they could file returns once in four months.

A new single return for-

mat called "Sugam" is ready for those in business-to-consumer and business-to-business. Businessmen having an annual turnover of more than ₹5 crore will have to file returns every month, Mr. Modi said.

Noting that Infosys had developed the GST software, Mr. Modi said online refund from one source (central) and online refunding process would be completed by September 2019. Currently, exporters have been facing many difficulties in receiving export refunding, he said.

IN BRIEF



Sushma Swaraj vacates official residence

NEW DELHI
Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has vacated her official residence 8 Safdarjung Lane. "I have moved out of my official residence 8 Safdarjung Lane, New Delhi. Please note that I am not contactable on the earlier address and phone numbers," she tweeted. Ms. Swaraj, who has long been the BJP's most prominent woman face, did not contest the recent Lok Sabha poll. PTI

India-assisted IT-biotech park opens in Cote d'Ivoire

NEW DELHI
The Mahatma Gandhi IT and Biotechnology Park, a dedicated free trade zone built with India's assistance, has been inaugurated in Cote d'Ivoire. The facility was jointly inaugurated by the Ambassador of India and Cote d'Ivoire Vice-President Daniel Kablan Duccan at a ceremony in Grand-Bassam, Cote d'Ivoire, on Thursday, the Ministry of External Affairs said in statement. PTI

CPI(M-L) veteran Santosh Rana dead

He was an award-winning writer

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Santosh Rana, one of the foremost leaders of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist), major thinker on caste, class and tribal politics in West Bengal and winner of a top literary award in the State, passed away in Kolkata on Saturday. He was 76.

Mr. Rana, who grew up in rural Gopibhallavpur, was doing his Ph.D. in Physics at the Calcutta University when he joined the CPI(M-L), led by Charu Majumdar, in the late 1960s. He led an armed peasant uprising in his native Debra-Gopibhallavpur region of Bengal.

Mr. Rana was one of the first leaders of the original CPI(M-L), along with Satyanarayan Singh of Bihar, to differ with Mr. Majumdar on a number of key political questions such as the annihilation of class enemies and election boycott.

Mr. Rana and Mr. Singh eventually formed a breakaway faction called the CPI



Santosh Rana

(M-L) (Provisional Central Committee). He was elected its general secretary.

Mr. Rana spent a significant time in prison during the 1970s and was released during the general amnesty for political prisoners at the end of the Emergency, when the Left Front came to power in West Bengal.

CPI-ML (PCC) was one of the very first Naxalite groups to participate in elections. In 1977, while still in prison, Mr. Rana created history by contesting and winning the Assembly election from Gopibhallavpur, where he had led an armed uprising only a few years before.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Special Commissioner (Welfare)
N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002

No.: SPL/COM(W)/TENDER/05/2018-19 Date: 28-06-2019

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION-2nd Call
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (Two Cover System)

The Special Commissioner (Welfare), Head Office, Bengaluru-02 on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru invites Short Term second time tenders for Training Under Examination Integrated Course of Civil Services Conducted by Govt. Registered IAS/KAS under welfare programme for the year 2018-19.

Amount Put to Tender: Rs. 400.00 Lakhs. EMD: Rs.6.00 Lakhs.

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from e-Procurement portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> (2) Date and time of Pre-bid meeting: 03.07.2019 at 3.00 PM at above office. (3) Last date and time for submission of Tender Documents: 12.07.2019 upto 5.00 PM. (4) Date of Opening of Technical Bids: 15.07.2019 at 3.00 PM. (5) Date of Opening of Financial Bid: Will be intimated later. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Special Commissioner (Welfare), BBMP

"Pay development charges, help to develop Bengaluru"

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Government of Rajasthan
(RMSCL)

"Mukhyamantri Nishulk Dava Yojana"
'D' Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur-302005, India
Tel No:0141-2228066, 2228064 E-mail: rmsc@nic.in

Ref.No.:F.02(267)/RMSCL/ED(P)/EMPANLEMENT/D/LNB-09/2019/807 Dated:27.06.19

Notice Inviting E-bids

E-Bids are invited up to 6:00 PM of 17.07.2019 from approved Drugs Testing Laboratories situated in India for analysis of Drugs.(Ending on 30.06.2021).Details may be seen in the Bidding Documents at our office or at the website of State Public Procurement Portal <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>, www.dipronline.org, <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, www.rmsc.nic.in and may be downloaded from there.

Note:- If any amendment is carried out in the tender specifications and terms & conditions following pre-bid meeting, the same will be uploaded on the Departmental website www.rmsc.nic.in, sppp.raj.nic.in and <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>. In case any inconvenience is felt, please contact on telephone number i.e. 0141-2228064
UBN -M5C1920SLR00009
Samwad/C/1078/2019-20 Executive Director (Procurement)

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS TIRUPATI
MARKETING DEPARTMENT

e-tender and e-reverse Auction Notice

e-tenders are invited for procurement of the following items for a period of two(02) months by the Marketing Department, TTD, Tirupati. For tender Notice and tender details log on to the website: <http://www.tirumala.org> and <https://tender.approcurement.gov.in>. Click on current tenders and select "more" and "Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams - MARKETING". For further details contact phone numbers : 0877-2264079, 2264555, Fax No. 0877-2264554

Sl. No	Name of the Item	Quantity	EMD Rs.	Date of Tender	e-tender on	e-reverse auction on
1.	Cashew Splits "S" Grade	1,65,000 Kgs.	Rs. 29,60,000	15.7.2019 (03.00PM)	15.7.2019 (03.00PM)	02.00PM to 04.00PM on 16.07.2019
2.	Bengal Gram Dhall (Bold Variety) with Agmark	11,00,000 Kgs.	Rs. 17,30,000	15.07.2019 (03.00 PM)	15.07.2019 (03.00 PM)	02.00PM to 04.00PM on 16.07.2019

Detailed auction catalogue: NIT terms can be downloaded from MSTC Website: www.mstc.commerce.com/eprocurement/td. For further details contact Phone Numbers: 0877-2264079, MSTC, Mobile: 9666040607 / 9441487624

Rec. No.PR/4/13907/Adv.No.141/PRO/2019.Dt:29.06.2019 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru - 560 001. Phone No. 080 - 40931272
website : www.kiadb.in

No.IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-07/ 4164/2019-20 Date: 29.06.2019

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK e - Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tenders under two cover system are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from Class-I Contractors (Civil) registered in KPWD who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following works as per the schedule given below:

KW-4: Name of Work: (1) Formation of proposed 32M Wide road connecting road no.3 & proposed intermediate ring road, construction of RCC duct and RCC Culverts, laying of HDPE water supply pipeline at Hi-Tech Defence Aerospace Park (Hardware Sector) Near KIAL, Bengaluru Rural District. (2nd Call), Approx cost put to tender: Rs.417.00 Lakhs. EMD : Rs.6.25 Lakhs. Time for completion Including Monsoon: 3 Months, Class of Contractor: KPWD Class-I (Civil). (2) Formation of Industrial sub-Layout in Plot No. 1A, 2 to 7 & 8 Part of Aerospace Sector including asphaltting 30M wide Road (Road No. 18) 18M Wide Road (Road No.22) Construction of RCC Side drains, RCC Cross drainage works, RCC Storm water drain, HDPE dual water supply pipeline at Aerospace Park of Hi-Tech Defence & Aerospace Park, Devenahalli Taluk, Bengaluru District. Approx cost put to tender: Rs.930.00 Lakhs. EMD : Rs.13.95 Lakhs. Time for completion Including Monsoon: 7 Months, Class of Contractor: KPWD Class-I (Civil). Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>.

Scheduled of dates are as follows:

- Last date to receive pre bid Queries : 12.07.2019 Up to 05:00 pm
- Pre bid meeting will be held on : 16.07.2019 at 12:00 noon
- Last date for submission of bids is : 07.08.2019 upto 04:00 pm
- Time and date of opening Technical bids is on : 09.08.2019 at 11:30 am.

Sd/-
Chief Development Officer & Chief Engineer-1

DIPR/DDU/RD-520/2019-20

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
Construction & Maintenance Group,
ISRO HQ, LPSC Campus, 80 Ft. Road,
HAL II Stage, Bengaluru
Ph:080-25037-192/193/204 Fax: 080-25203763

e-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, item rate tenders are invited for the following work:

Name of work	Construction of Pre-Engineered Steel Building for SSA Control Centre at ISTRAC, Bengaluru- Civil & PH Works
NIT No.	CMG/ISRO-HQ/C/C/09/2019-20 Date:28.06.2019
Estimated Cost put to tender	Rs.17.41 Crore
Period of Completion in months	Five (05) Months
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	From 18:10 Hrs on 29.06.2019 to 23:59 Hrs on 10.07.2019
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Up to 14:30 Hrs on 15.07.2019
Due date and time of opening of tenders	15:00 Hrs on 16.07.2019
EMD	Rs.27,40,900/-

Interested tenderers may please refer www.tenderwizard.com/ or www.isro.gov.in for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website www.isro.gov.in

Sd/- Group Head, CMG, ISRO HQ

Trump offers to meet N. Korea's Kim

Proposes 'handshake' meet at the demilitarised zone on North-South border; Pyongyang welcomes it

REUTERS
OSAKA/SEOUL

U.S. President Donald Trump proposed a weekend meeting with Kim Jong-un at the demilitarised zone (DMZ) between North and South Korea on Saturday, an encounter North Korea said would be meaningful in advancing relations if it goes ahead.

If Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim do meet, it will be for the third time in just over a year, and four months since their second summit broke down with no progress on U.S. efforts to press North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons.

North Korea said that a weekend meeting between Mr. Kim and Mr. Trump, who is scheduled to return to Washington on Sunday, would be "meaningful", although it had not had an official proposal.

Mr. Trump made the offer to meet Mr. Kim in a comment on Twitter about his trip to South Korea, where he landed on Saturday after wrapping up the G20 sum-



Promoting peace: A banner in Seoul showing photos of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, South Korean President Moon Jae-in and U.S. President Donald Trump. ■ AFP

mit 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(!)" Mr. Trump said, later telling reporters his offer was a spur-of-the-moment idea: "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, adding he and Mr. Kim "get along very well".

'Meaningful meet'

About five hours after Mr. Trump's offer, a senior North Korean official said a summit between Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim in the DMZ would be "meaningful" in advancing relations.

"We see it as a very inter-

esting suggestion, but we have not received an official proposal," Choe Son-hui, North Korea's first Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, said in a statement, state news agency KCNA said.

"If the DPRK-U.S. 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," Ms. Choe said.

Later, Mr. Trump told a news conference: "We may be meeting with Chairman Kim... Kim Jong-un was very receptive."

He added: "We won't call it a summit. We'll call it a handshake," and said he would be very comfortable stepping over the border into North Korea if he met Mr. Kim at the DMZ.

"We're working things out right now," Mr. Trump said after his arrival in Seoul, when asked whether there

will be a three-way meeting with Mr. Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Sunday. "Were going to see."

U.S. special envoy Stephen Biegun said on Friday that the U.S. was ready to hold constructive talks with North Korea to follow through on a denuclearisation agreement they reached last year, South Korea's Foreign Ministry said.

Mr. Biegun told his South Korean counterpart, Lee Do-hoon, that Washington wanted to make "simultaneous, parallel" progress on the agreement reached at a summit between Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim in Singapore in June last year, the Ministry said in a statement.

Both sides had agreed to establish new relations and work towards denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula but talks stalled in February as the two sides failed to narrow differences between U.S. calls for denuclearisation and North Korean demands for sanctions relief.

A conciliatory tone at G20

U.S. President showed readiness to cooperate on major issues

STANLY JOHNY

President Donald Trump went to Osaka as tensions, especially trade ones, were on the rise between the U.S. and several other countries, both its friends and foes.

A day before the summit opened, he fired a salvo on India, saying India's tariffs are unacceptable. Mr. Trump had been critical of Japan's trade practices as well and has also launched a tariff war with China. Besides, the talks his administration initiated with North Korea have been stalled for months, while the U.S. was on the brink of a war with Iran a few days earlier. But at G20, despite these tensions, the world saw a more conciliatory Trump.

'Deal in the offing'

In two days, he held talks with a host of leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vladimir Putin of Russia, Xi Jinping of China and Shinzo Abe of Japan. Before the crucial talks with Mr. Modi, he said that "a very big deal" with India was in the offing. "I think we were going to have some very big things to announce. Very big trade deal," he observed.

Later, both India and the U.S. said the leaders had a "productive" meeting on subjects such as trade, 5G technology, energy security and the Iran crisis.

In the case of Japan, Mr. Trump had repeatedly attacked Tokyo for the trade imbalance. In 2018, the U.S. had a trade deficit of \$67 billion with Japan while the total trade stood at about \$220 billion. At Osaka, Mr. Abe provided the U.S. President with a list of recent Japanese investments in the U.S. "We are very very happy about that," Mr. Trump told reporters about the list.



Talking big: President Donald Trump in Osaka on Saturday. ■ AFP

Mr. Trump's most remarkable turnaround was on China with which the U.S. had a \$378.6 billion trade deficit in 2018. After trade talks between the two sides collapsed in May, he had threatened to impose tariffs on the \$300 billion worth Chinese products that are currently spared in the tariff war. The U.S. accuses China of wrong trade practices, currency manipulation and technology theft.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The Trump administration has slapped 25% additional tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese goods, prompting Beijing to retaliate. After trade talks failed, the U.S. had launched a global campaign against Chinese telecommunication giant Huawei.

Talks with Xi

In talks on Saturday, both Mr. Trump and Chinese President Xi agreed to resume trade talks. Mr. Trump said the U.S. would hold off on further tariffs and allow American companies to sell hi-tech equipment to Huawei, a key demand from China. In return, China would buy large amounts of U.S. farm goods.

The most surprising announcement, however,

came on Saturday early morning when Mr. Trump tweeted that he was ready to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in the demilitarised zone between the North and South Korea. Talks between the U.S. and North Korea have stalled after the Hanoi summit of Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim in February failed to produce any result. Mr. Trump's sudden call for another meeting suggests that he's keen on pursuing the diplomatic route with North Korea despite the recent setback.

Attack on journalists

While the U.S. President dialled down tensions and appeared more willing to work with world leaders to resolve differences and disputes, there's one section of people he continued to attack even in Osaka — journalists. "Fake news is a great term isn't it," he joked with Mr. Putin, referring to his favourite attack on America's liberal media.

When journalists surrounded Mr. Trump and Mr. Putin with questions after their meeting, the former even quipped: "Get rid of them." And then he asked the Russian leader, "You don't have this problem in Russia, but we do," to which Mr. Putin responded, "We also have. It's the same."

ELSEWHERE



Haftar vows to attack Turkish assets in Libya

Libyan strongman Khalifa Haftar has threatened to attack Turkish interests in Libya after suffering a serious setback in his push to take the capital Tripoli, accusing Ankara of backing his rivals. He accused militias backing the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord of executing his wounded troops. ■ AFP

'Nobody has blamed MBS for Khashoggi murder'

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Saturday that he is "extremely angry" about the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi but that nobody had "pointed a finger" at Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The comments came despite a recent report that judged it "inconceivable" that the Prince was unaware. ■ AFP

Taliban kills 25 pro-govt Afghan militia members

At least 25 pro-government militia members were killed in a Taliban attack in northern Afghanistan on Saturday, officials said, as the U.S. was due to start a new round of talks with the militants in Qatar. The attack happened in Nahrin district of Baghlan province before dawn. ■ AFP

Turkey confident of averting U.S. sanctions

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Saturday that he was confident there would be no U.S. sanctions against Turkey over a Russian missile deal, following reassurances from Donald Trump. Ankara's push to buy Moscow's S-400 missile system has strained ties between allies. ■ AFP

China proposes 5G tie-up with India, Russia

Xi calls for expanding cooperation in high technology, connectivity and energy

ATUL ANEJA
BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday pitched for a partnership with New Delhi and Moscow for expanding a joint footprint in the cyberspace.

In his remarks at the Russia-India-China (RIC) trilateral on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Osaka, Japan, Mr. Xi urged the three countries, in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin, to "expand cooperation in 5G network, high technology, connectivity, energy and

other areas," Xinhua reported. He also called for reforming the World Trade Organization (WTO), based on consensus.

Mr. Xi also proposed during the meeting that the three countries should become guardians of "global and regional peace and stability". Without going into details, he said the trio should "advocate a common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security concept..."

Earlier this month, the three leaders, along with heads of five other Eurasian

countries, deliberated on counterterrorism, and related common security issues, during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

The trio will meet again in Vladivostok at the Eastern Economic Forum, where Mr. Modi will be the chief guest.

Mr. Xi said the three countries should jointly combat terrorism in all forms, and work together to address global challenges such as climate change and cybersecurity. He pointed out that the rise of protectionism and

unilateralism had seriously affected the stability of the global landscape, dragged down world economic growth, and exerted a negative impact that cannot be ignored on the international order on which emerging-market countries and developing countries depend.

The Chinese President also stressed that the three countries need to promote a multipolar world and make international relations more democratic. The three leaders decided to institutionalise their "informal summit" on the sidelines of the G20.

Liberal, pro-LGBT ideas are being imposed on the majority: Putin

Russian President defends law banning gay propaganda

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
OSAKA

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday blasted ideas of freedom of sexuality and gender identity, saying that they are being forced on an unwilling majority, leading to political changes like the election of Donald Trump.

Speaking at a press conference following the G20 summit in Japan, Mr. Putin said Western liberalism is "devouring itself" and defended Russia's ban on "gay propaganda", after criticism from musician Elton John.

'An overreach'

"In some European countries, parents are told that girls can no longer wear skirts to school? What is this?" he said in a rambling monologue blasting policies meant to encourage tolerance. "There is a real overreach and this liberal idea begins devouring itself," he



Russian President Vladimir Putin. ■ AFP

said. "There are all kinds of things now — they came up with six or five genders: transformers, trans... I don't even understand what it is."

He said parts of society are "rather aggressively coercing" the majority to accept new attitudes. "You can't impose your point of view by force," he said. "Representatives of the liberal idea impose certain sexual education in schools, parents don't want it and are practically jailed... people are fed up," he said. "This may explain the Trump phe-

nomenon, his victory, this is why unhappy people take to streets in Western Europe."

While everyone is blaming Russia for political meddling, these are the real "deep reasons" for discontent, he said.

Mr. John on Friday addressed Mr. Putin with a series of tweets after Mr. Putin said Russia had "no problem" with LGBT people and wants everyone to be happy. Mr. John said it did not match Russia's actions, following recent censorship of his film *Rocketman*.

But Mr. Putin on Saturday said Mr. John is a "musical genius" who is "wrong".

"We have a very calm attitude about LGBT community," he said. "We have a law everyone criticises us for, the law on banning propaganda of homosexuality to minors... But listen, let a person grow up, become an adult, and decide who he is. Leave the children alone."

Dubai's Princess Haya flees UAE with children

She is reportedly in hiding in London

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
LONDON

Princess Haya Bint al-Husseini, the sixth wife of Dubai's billionaire ruler, has reportedly fled the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with £31 million and their two children following the break-up of their marriage.

According to media reports, the wife of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum — the Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE — is believed to be in hiding in London.

The Princess is said to be seeking a divorce after initially fleeing to Germany with her children, where



Princess Haya Bint al-Husseini. ■ GETTY IMAGES

she requested political asylum.

Princess Haya has not been seen in public since May 20 and her social media accounts, which are usually full of photos of her charitable work, have not been active since February.

'Russian official in U.K. staged Salisbury attack'

Probe pins blame on GRU network

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

An open-source investigation has found that a top Russian military intelligence officer coordinated last year's Salisbury chemical attack from a London hideout using his phone and a few messaging apps.

The award-winning website Bellingcat said late on Friday that its joint analysis with the BBC helps establish the command structure Moscow's GRU network of foreign agents used to poison former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and conduct other attacks.

The findings "shed light on the likely chain of command for this (and other) GRU overseas operations, with one coordinating senior officer communicating with headquarters in Moscow while the team on the ground receive limited to no new instructions," the report said. "Evidence obtained by us on other international operations involving the same team suggests that this is a stable GRU operational model."

British officials have identified the two Russians suspected of delivering the nerve agent to Salisbury as GRU agents Alexander Mishkin and Anatoly Chepiga.

THE HINDU GROUP

~~Ring around the Rosie~~
~~Ringa Ringa Roses~~
Pocket full of ~~posies~~ *Posies - a small bunch of flowers*
~~Husha! Bussha!~~
Atishoo! Atishoo!
Husha! Bussha!

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STEP LIVE Junior

'Flexible work hours key to choosing a job'

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

As workplaces undergo transformation, the top emerging trends impacting workforce planning and management are flexible working hours, evolving job roles, enabling technologies and automation, among others, a latest survey has found.

In the global survey, conducted by Kronos Incorporated, that included India, the youth admitted flexibility at the workplace was a key driver to take up a job. One in four (26%) admitted they would work harder and stay longer in a company that would support flexible schedules, with flexibility desired the most in Canada (33%), the U.K. (31%), and the U.S. (31%).

The same trend is expected in India shortly. Known as GenZ, the youth (35%), said they would never tolerate if forced by their employer to work when they do not want to, while 34% of the respondents said they would not work on back-to-back shifts.

With millennials making up a fair part of it, followed by GenZ, workplaces are reinventing themselves to suit the workforce and their desires without having to compromise on productivity, compliance and cost, say HR experts.

The millennial workforce desires a better working experience with more flexibility, communication, collaboration and real-time connectivity to feel engaged and motivated in an organisation, says James Thomas, country manager, India, Kronos Incorporated, a provider of workforce management solutions for corporates.

Reliance Home defers NCD repayment

Citing cash crunch, firm extends maturity of non-convertible debentures worth ₹400 cr. till October 31

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The liquidity crisis of housing finance companies deepened further with Anil Ambani's Reliance Home Finance (RHF) extending till October 31 the maturity of non-convertible debentures worth ₹400 crore that came up for repayment on June 29. This, in turn, resulted in its mutual fund arm – the holder of those NCDs – marking down the investment.

"Reliance Home Finance Ltd. today [Saturday] stated that, in view of the continuing severe liquidity crisis in the sector, the maturity of certain NCDs of ₹400 crore has been extended till October 31, 2019, with the formal written consent of the concerned Debenture Trustees and NCD Holders," the company said in a statement.

Lenders approve JSW's ₹1,550-cr. bid for ACCIL

It went into insolvency in July last year

PREST TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Lenders of Asian Colour Coated Ispat Ltd. (ACCIL) have approved the JSW Group's ₹1,550-crore bid to acquire the debt-ridden steel firm, sources said.

ACCIL went into insolvency in July last year after the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) admitted an application by State Bank of India (SBI) to initiate the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) for the company.

The Resolution Professional (RP) appointed to carry out the insolvency process was Kuldip Bassi.

The total admitted debt in the resolution process was about ₹6,500 crore. Ac-



RHF's move is to address timing mismatches in receipt of proceeds from the asset monetisation process. ■ SHASHI ASHWAL

ording to sources, the committee of creditors approved the bid of JSW Group, with nearly 80% of lenders voting in favour. For approval, a resolution plan needs at least 66% votes in favour.

To acquire ACCIL, JSW has offered ₹1,550 crore, almost all of which would go to financial creditors, they added.

SBI, Bank of Baroda and IDBI Bank are the main lenders, along with some other banks and financial institutions. ACCIL is a steel product manufacturing company and has plants near Delhi and Mumbai, with an annual capacity of one million tonnes.

holder was Reliance Mutual Fund, a group company, and as a result the company has to mark down the investment.

"As per regulatory guidelines prescribed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), we have made provisions and marked-down our investments in the securities issued by Reliance Home Finance. These provisions may/may not result in actual losses subject to the obligations being repaid in the future," Reliance Mutual Fund said in a separate statement.

Reliance MF said RHF had paid interest that was due, and the maturity of the instrument has been extended to October 31 with additional cover and coupon. The mutual fund arm said

these instruments were earlier marked down, being rated 'C' and in line with the latest development and regulatory guidelines, the company has decided to further mark down the securities issued by RHF.

This is the second housing finance company to delay repayments to investors, after Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. delayed payment to NCD holders. DHFL later partially defaulted in repaying its commercial paper investors.

Reliance Home Finance said "all categories of lenders in the country have completely frozen new lending to private sector companies for 9 months," as a result, the housing finance sector had to deal with this 'extraordinary situation'.

As it turns out, the NCD

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Falling value: High inflation makes financial asset holdings economically unattractive, says Viral Acharya. ■ V. V. KRISHNAN

'Low oil price, food supply kept inflation low'

Amended RBI Act set target at 4%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

A flexible inflation targeting framework aided by low oil prices and food supply management has helped keep the headline inflation low in the last five years, outgoing Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor Viral Acharya said on Saturday.

The RBI Act was amended in 2016 for an inflation targeting framework, that had set a target for the RBI of 4% consumer price (CPI) index-based inflation, with a deviation of 2% on both sides, for five years.

"The important reform of flexible inflation targeting, helped by low oil prices and food supply management, has kept the headline inflation under control during the last five years, relative to the MPC's (monetary policy committee) mandated target," said Mr. Acharya, who decided to quit the central bank six months before his term ends.

He said India's GDP growth had been one of the highest among large economies in the last decade and half. "Two preconditions of macroeconomic stability – stable growth and low inflation – necessary for financialisation of savings and

capital market development are now in place in India," he said in a speech on 'Development of viable capital markets – the Indian experience' at the ISB, Hyderabad. He added that high levels of inflation makes holdings of financial assets economically unattractive relative to assets such as housing and gold.

He said there had been a conscious effort by the RBI to expand the investor base and thereby, the liquidity of the markets it regulates, while preserving financial stability. "The investor base for G-Secs, for instance, has expanded over the past decade in terms of an increase in the share of holdings by insurance firms and corporates and a corresponding decrease in [that of] commercial banks," he said. "In parallel, calibrated access for global investors via the FPI route is helping broaden the investor base, while also bringing in diversity of trading views and strategies."

"However, the lack of a bankruptcy resolution framework for non-bank financial entities remains a crucial gap that deserves prompt attention of the authorities," he added.

(With PTI inputs)

HUL sets up council for digital transformation

Have 5-pronged strategy to thrive in new world, says CMD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

FMCG major Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) has set up a council for digital transformation.

"It comprises a cross functional team of leaders, who are designing and landing the agenda of Reimagining HUL," Sanjiv Mehta, CMD, HUL informed the shareholders at the company's annual general meeting.

Currently, more than 80 experiments are under way in the business to accelerate HUL's journey in digital transformation.

Mr. Mehta spoke about how HUL had created a full-fledged, end-to-end, digital



Sanjiv Mehta

transformation programme that would redefine the ways of working, going forward.

Elaborating, Mr. Mehta said, "With the world changing at a furious pace, HUL is continually adapting to remain future-fit. The compa-

ny will continue to leverage Unilever's global knowledge and HUL's deep local understanding to serve Indian consumers better - be it through path-breaking innovations or expertise in new channels."

HUL has charted out a five-pronged strategy to continue to thrive in the new world. "We have a five-pronged strategy to continue to thrive - drive purpose into our brands and enhance societal impact, build a future-fit organisation, nurture talent in the new age, innovate for the future, and reimagine the business across the value chain by leveraging data and technology," said Mr. Mehta.

'Developers may add 65 mn sq ft mall space in India'

New supply driven by increasing interest of institutional investors, including PE players, says Anarock

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Despite the fast growth in e-commerce business across India, real estate developers are heavily investing in construction of malls; and, according to a report by Anarock Property Consultants, over 65 million sq. ft (the size of 1,128 football fields) of new mall supply will be added by

2022-end across the country. And, nearly two-thirds of the new supply (40 million sq. ft) will hit the market by 2020.

Of this total new supply, the top seven cities constitute a 72% share and the remaining 28% (18.2 million sq. ft) will come up in tier 2 and 3 cities. The Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Delhi-

NCR, Hyderabad and Bengaluru together lead with new supply aggregating to nearly 34 million sq. ft. in these cities, it said.

Anuj Kejriwal, MD & CEO, Anarock Retail said, "This new supply is driven by the increasing interest of institutional investors, including private equity players, who invested almost \$1.9 bil-

lion in Indian retail between 2015 and Q1 2019."

Investments in retail "Over 60% of this investment was infused in the last two years (2017 and 2018) alone. Notwithstanding the decline in deal activity in the second half of 2018 following the NBFC-induced liquidity crisis, the retail segment at-

tracted investments of almost \$115 million in just the first quarter of 2019," he said.

Region-wise, new mall supply in west India tops with 25 million sq. ft, followed by south India with 21.7 million sq. ft, north India with 11.9 million sq. ft and east India with 6.4 million sq. ft.

Price Waterhouse quits as auditor of Eveready Industries India

'Decision based on review of annual continuance process'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Price Waterhouse & Co. Chartered Accountants LLP (PwC) has stepped down as auditor of Eveready Industries India Ltd. (EIIL).

In a letter dated June 28, 2019, PwC expressed its inability to continue as audi-

Singhi & Co. will be the new auditor of the company

tors of the B.M. Khaitan flagship company.

In a regulatory filing, Eveready Industries said that their decision was based on "review of annual conti-

nuance process " at EIIL. EIIL board had approved the appointment of Singhi & Co. Chartered Accountants in the place of PwC.

The company, which has also suffered rating downgrades, also announced the sale of its tea packet brand to Madhu Jayanti International.

INTERVIEW | ABHISHEK GANGULY

'Choice for consumers has increased'

Popularity of sportswear in daily fashion is driving India growth: Puma India MD

MINI TEJASWI

Puma, the German sportswear, clothing and lifestyle accessories brand calls India 'a strategic marketplace' among its global businesses. The brand has finalised a massive expansion and brand building exercise in the country, says Puma India MD Abhishek Ganguly. Excerpts:

How do you assess Puma India's growth so far?

■ We entered India in 2006. Today, we have established ourselves as the number one sportswear brand here. Our brand presence in the market is extremely compelling, achieving strong double-digit growth in the last 2-3 years. While we continued the growth trajectory in 2018 with a strong 21% growth, our direct-to-consumer e-commerce business has also grown the fastest in the same year.

What are your fast-moving products in India?

■ We have had huge success in the sneaker market here. Increasing popularity of sportswear in everyday fashion and for various occasions of use is driving our India growth strongly. There is huge upswing in sneaker culture and some of our most

popular products like Thunder, RS-O and RS-X have been extremely successful despite their high price points in a value-conscious country like India.

What kind of acceptance do you see for Puma products among women in India?

■ Women's category has shown fantastic growth in the country. The paradigm shift in women's lifestyle is evolving their buying behaviour. It's interesting that the growth in the women's category is outdoing the growth in men's category. Indian women are talking to various other fitness activities like callisthenics, pilates, Zumba, yoga etc. There is also growing demand for athleisure in everyday fashion and for various occasions.

You said changes that happened (in the Indian marketplace and also in customer behaviour) in the last five years have been more profound. Can you explain?

■ Retail has tremendously changed over the last five years. The marketplace has become very fast and dynamic. Dis-

The way people are consuming brands and information is continuously changing with the advent of digital

tribution networks have evolved from traditional brick and mortar to an omnichannel approach where physical and digital activities are working in tandem. We have also seen a lot of new brands enter the market, which means competition and choice for consumers have in-

creased. The way people are consuming brands and information is continuously changing with the advent of digital and social media.

Why do you call India a strategic market?

■ India is a very important market for Puma globally. With the developments in sports and also the increasing popularity of sportswear in fashion, especially among the youth, we see huge potential for growth in future. Digitisation and evolution of social media has propelled the adoption of global trends around innovative designs and latest products. We will continue to focus strongly and invest heavily in India as the market is very strategic for our future.

What are the new things in the pipeline for India?

■ We now have 360 exclusive stores and 3,100 PoS (points of sale) in India. We will add another 20 new stores in 2019. Puma India oversees the brand's operations in Nepal and Bangladesh as well.

We opened our first flagship store in Dhaka, Bangladesh and currently have three stores in Nepal at key locations like Darbar Marg.



SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Tender No.3/CE/CS/OT/2019
Dated: 27-06-2019
Principal Chief Engineer for and on behalf of President of India invites ONLINE Tenders for manufacture and supply of 1 in 16 Turnout Sleepers to DRG No.RDSO/RT-5691 with Closing Date as 14.00 Hrs. on 01-08-2019.
Further details are available in the detailed Tender Notice on website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
Deputy Chief Engineer / Track For Principal Chief Engineer

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)
UNIT-VIII, BHUBANESWAR.
e-mail: theoocitd@odishaconstruction.com
GSTIN - 21AAACO2571K2ZM
CAD-149
2nd CORRIGENDUM
e-Procurement Notice No. 01 /OCCL/2019-20 (on-line)
Bid Identification No. OCCL-MBGP/01/2019-20
1) Availability and submission of Tender (on-line) is hereby extended up to 16.07.2019, 5.00 P.M.
2) Date of opening of the Technical Bid: 20.07.2019, 11.30 P.M.
Details of the 2nd Corrigendum can be seen from the Govt. website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)
Sd/-
Managing Director

Uttarakhand Urban Sector Development Agency (UUSDA)
Urban Development Department, Government of Uttarakhand
777, Saatvik Tower, Kaulagarh Road, Rajendra Nagar, Dehradun
Telephone +91-135-2753894, Tele-fax +91- 135-2754895
Email: uusdip@gmail.com, Website: www.uusdip.org

Adv. No: UUSDIP/A-336/237 Date: 28.06.2019

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Urban Development Department, Government of Uttarakhand has submitted proposal for a loan from Asian Development Bank for financing the Uttarakhand Urban Sector Infrastructure Development in the State. The Project involves development of urban infrastructure facilities like 24X7 Water Supply, Wastewater Management, Solid Waste Management, Urban Drainage, Urban Roads and Transport, Urban Land scaping apart from capacity building and reforms under Urban Sectors in the proposed Project towns (9 towns) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services as indicated below:

Program Director, UUSDA on behalf of Govt. of Uttarakhand, invites eligible Consultants to indicate their Expression of Interest (EOI) in providing the **Design and Supervision Consultancy Services**.

The EOI proposal must be delivered to the UUSDA office on or before 29.07.2019 Based on the work experience, technical capability & financial capacity, firms shall be short-listed. The selection will be based on Quality Cum Cost Based Selection (QCBS) 90:10 method.

Date of Publication	Submission Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
29.06.2019	29.07.2019, upto 15:00 Hrs.	29.07.2019, at 15:30 Hrs.

The prospective firms can download detailed EOI and the prescribed format for submission of information from UUSDA website, www.uusdip.org or can be collected from UUSDA office.
Program Director reserves the right to shortlist or rejects any or all of the proposals or to scrap entire process without assigning any reason thereof.

Program Director, UUSDA

"हमारा संकल्प आपका सहयोग बेहतर कल"



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Measuring black money

Why is it so difficult to quantify unaccounted income both within and outside the country? What are the steps the government can take?

T.C.A. SHARAD RAGHAVAN

The story so far: The Standing Committee on Finance recently came out with its report on the 'status of unaccounted income and wealth both inside and outside the country'. It came to the conclusion, after consulting three premier think-tanks and doing multiple analyses using various methods, that there was no reliable way to quantify black money whether in India or abroad.

What is black money?

There is no official definition of black money in economic theory, with several different terms such as parallel economy, black money, black incomes, unaccounted economy, illegal economy and irregular economy all being used more or less synonymously. The simplest definition of black money could possibly be money that is hidden from tax authorities. That is, black money can come from two broad categories: illegal activity and legal but unreported activity.

The first category is the more obvious of the two. Money that is earned through illegal activity is obviously not reported to the tax authorities, and so is black. The second category comprises income from legal activity that is not reported to the tax authorities. For example, let us assume that a piece of land is sold, with the payment made in the proportion of 60% by cheque or electronic transfer, and 40% in cash. If that 40% cash component is not reported to the Income Tax Department, then it is black money. A large number of small shops around the country almost exclusively do business in cash without receipts. All of this could potentially be black money.

Another major source of black money is income earned by companies that is routed through shell companies abroad, thereby evading tax authorities.

Why is it difficult to measure it?

The very definition of black money makes it extremely difficult to quantify. How is the government supposed to measure the economic activity that is actively being hidden from it? According to the Standing Committee's report, the sectors that see the highest incidence of black money include real estate, mining, pharmaceuticals, pan masala, the gutkha and tobacco industry, bullion and commodity markets, the film industry, and educational institutes and professionals.

As the report also notes, neither are there reliable estimates of black money generation or accumulation and nor is there an accurate well-accepted methodology to make such an estimation. Every estimate depends upon the underlying assumptions made by the designers of the measurement, and so far there is no uniformity in the assumptions made by the various agencies tasked with measuring the black economy.

The estimates of the black money in the system provided by the Standing Committee vary from 7% of GDP to 120% of GDP, highlighting the wide variance in the methods of estimation.

What are some of the methods used?

One of the more popular methods is the monetary method. This method assumes that the existence of and changes in the share of unaccounted income is reflected in the stock or flow of money in the system. In other words, track the money in the economy and you'll get an idea of how much has not been accounted for.

Another method is the global indicator or input-based method. In this method, unaccounted income is modelled using a single universal variable with which it is assumed to be highly correlated, therefore these estimates are also called input-based estimates. Basically, the estimated level of activity in these indicators is compared to the reported level of GDP to arrive at an estimate of under-reporting.

One common input used in this method is the quantity of land freight transport. The idea is that matching the actual amount of freight transported in the country to the reported amount of economic activity in the related sectors could give an estimate of how much is not being reported.

A third method to measure black money is a straightforward survey. This one, however, requires voluntary information from people and businesses concealing their incomes and so is prone to inaccuracies.

How can the government curb black money?

There are several ways and the first is through legislative action. The government has already enacted several laws that seek to formalise the economy and make it necessary to report economic transactions. These include the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, the various GST Acts at the State levels, the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015, the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, and the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act to name a few.

Another method employed by the government to make it harder for transactions to be hidden is to mandate the reporting of PAN for transactions of more than ₹2.5 lakh, and the prohibition of cash receipts of ₹2 lakh or more and a penalty equal to the amount of such receipts if a person contravenes the provision.

The Income Tax Department has also started monitoring non-filers of income tax returns using third-party information to identify persons who have undertaken high value financial transactions but not filed their returns.

Should India stay with RCEP?

What are the concerns regarding the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership mooted by ASEAN? What is holding up India's entry into the trade pact?

SUHASINI HAIDAR

The story so far: The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), which announced the idea of a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) in 2012, is pushing stakeholders to conclude talks by the end of 2019 and take it forward. At the ASEAN summit which ended in Bangkok last Sunday, the Malaysian Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, said he is willing to push through the trade agreement without India "for the time being." Others said all 16 members must agree on the final RCEP document. India apart, Australia and New Zealand have raised concerns about joining such a partnership.

What is RCEP and why does it matter for the world?

Billed as the world's biggest trade agreement, the RCEP of 10 ASEAN countries with its six free trade agreement (FTA) partners India, China, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Korea could well change the face of global trade as we know it. The RCEP includes countries that make up 45% of the world's population with 33% of its GDP, and at least 28% of all trade in the world today. If the RCEP is concluded, as ASEAN countries that are driving it hope it will be, by the end of this year, it will bring stability to an otherwise unpredictable world market. The worry is that it could also make world trade less flexible, putting members into a quasi-bloc with China at the helm. Most RCEP members also conduct substantial trade with the United States, and the ongoing U.S.-China trade war may force many of them to take sides, causing a geopolitical rift within the group even before it is fully formed. As a result, the next four months leading up to the next RCEP summit will be watched closely by the entire world. Anticipation levels are high, and the ASEAN grouping even has a countdown to the summit, to be held on November 19 in Bangkok, on its website (<https://bit.ly/2XcjAe2>).

Why has it taken so long to negotiate?

This week marks the 26th round of negotiations for the RCEP, which are being held amidst high secrecy in Melbourne, Australia (June 22-July 3). So far, seven of the 18 final RCEP agreement chapters have been concluded, say officials, and ASEAN chair Thailand has committed to wrapping up all the rest in time for the November summit. The concept of the RCEP was promoted by ASEAN countries in 2011, but an RCEP declaration came at the ASEAN summit in Phnom Penh in 2012, and negotiators met for the first time in 2013. Six years later, the main stumbling blocks for the RCEP are the India-China trade relationship, as well as some concerns from Australia and New Zealand on labour and environmental protections. While much has been agreed on, and all countries remain committed to concluding the RCEP agreement, the last-mile will only be crossed when all those concerns are met. In May this year, China proposed a plan to conclude the negotiations without the naysayers, i.e. take the ASEAN+3 (China, Japan and South Korea) into the agreement, while leaving space for India, Australia and New Zealand to join later. The Malaysian Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, echoed the idea after the ASEAN summit last week, but the move was opposed by most in the grouping. As one ASEAN diplomat put it, given the size of India's market there is "no point without India in RCEP". For India, too, there are many reasons to stay in the deal. Apart from giving up the first mover's advantage, India would give up the chance to frame the grouping's rules and investment standards if it fails to join the RCEP at this stage. Staying out would also run counter to the Narendra Modi

Biggest trade deal ever?

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership is a draft trade agreement involving 16 nations (ASEAN+6). Trade data show that India has a trade deficit with 11 of these countries but its exports have gone up due to deals such as the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement. What does the RCEP hold for India?

India's concerns

- Opening its markets for cheaper goods from countries such as China, which may impact local manufacturers
- Ensuring that RCEP countries open their markets for Indian manpower (services)
- RCEP countries propose that 90% of traded items should be tariff-free

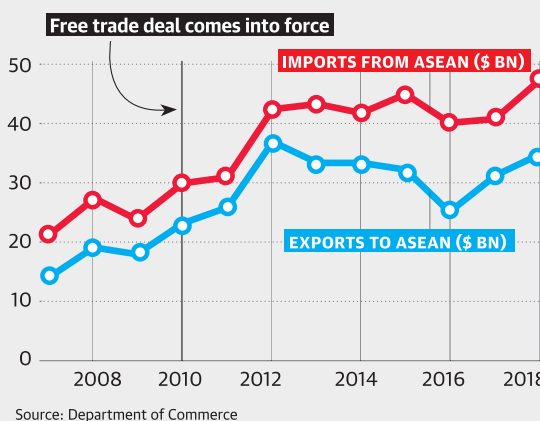
30-40% of global trade is expected to come under RCEP

1/3rd RCEP could account for a third of the global GDP (for comparison, NAFTA, the biggest trade deal in terms of value, accounts for 28% of global GDP)

6 No. of years RCEP has been under negotiation

ASEAN boost

In the past, India's trade has greatly benefited from the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area deal (which encompasses several RCEP nations)



The equation

India's biggest trade partner in the RCEP bloc is China, with which it has a huge deficit (higher value of imports than exports). Larger the deficit, higher the trade imbalance

All figures (\$ '000 mn)

Country	Imports	Exports	Total trade	Deficit
China	70.32	16.75	87.07	-53.57
Singapore	16.28	11.57	27.85	-4.71
South Korea	16.76	4.71	21.46	-12.05
Indonesia	15.84	5.28	21.12	-10.57
Japan	12.77	4.86	17.63	-7.91
Malaysia	10.82	6.44	17.25	-4.38
Australia	13.13	3.52	16.65	-9.61
Vietnam	7.19	6.51	13.70	-0.68
Thailand	7.44	4.44	11.88	-3.00
The Philippines	0.58	1.74	2.32	1.16

The Philippines (shown in table), Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia (not shown) are the only RCEP countries with which India has a surplus

government's plans to ramp up its engagement with ASEAN countries through the "Act East" policy, as well as its hopes for maritime cooperation in the India-Pacific.

Why is India holding up the deal?

India's chief concern with the RCEP is the fact that it needs to protect its economy from the flooding of cheap imports from China. Of all the countries in the RCEP, India is the only one not involved in any bilateral or multilateral negotiations for an FTA with China, and the worry for the government and industry is that an FTA within the RCEP will just become a cover for duty free trade into India for Chinese goods. RCEP negotiators have thus far agreed to allowing India a differential tariff ladder, for its FTA partners and its non-FTA partners (China, Australia and New Zealand) within the grouping. China wants zero tariffs for over 90 per cent tariff lines however, which could see low-cost "Made in China" goods kill locally manufactured goods.

Several industry groups have already petitioned the government not to go ahead with the RCEP. Adding to this is political pressure

of steel and aluminium, copper, pharmaceuticals and textile, which will be the worst hit in such a scenario. Adding to the pressure on the Modi government is its own protectionist underpinnings within the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its parent body, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). Ahead of the last round of negotiations in February 2019, the RSS's trade body, the Swadeshi Jagran Manch, had called for a clear declaration that the government would quit RCEP negotiations entirely, citing the impact the agreement would have on agriculture and dairy sectors. The SJM also pointed out,

like many other industry bodies, that India's trade deficits have only grown with each country it has an FTA with, and already has deficits with 11 of the 15 other RCEP countries. As a result, the government has been cautious about moving ahead. India has asked for strict "Rules of Origin" markings on all goods, so they don't come in through a third country. In addition, India wants to ensure the free flow of services (manpower) to RCEP countries as well, but has faced an uphill task as most countries tighten their immigration laws. During the current round of talks in Melbourne, trade negotiators are focussing on market access for goods, services, and investment as well as negotiations on Rules of Origin, Intellectual Property and e-commerce, and the outcome of this round will be most keenly watched.

What lies ahead?

Once the Melbourne round ends, a three-member delegation consisting of ASEAN Secretary General Lim Jock Hoi and representatives from Thailand and Indonesia will be coming to New Delhi to put the negotiations on a fast track. For its part, China says it is willing to reassure India on its concerns, and sent a delegation led by Vice-Minister for Commerce Wang Shouwen for talks with India's Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan earlier this month. In the past year, China has improved market access to several Indian agricultural and pharmaceutical products, and says it is working on ways to balance the nearly \$60 billion-plus trade deficit that India suffers at present. Officials privy to the discussions on the RCEP, however, said the talks were inconclusive. Last year, Mr. Modi and others at the RCEP summit had convinced the group to wait a year, given that elections in India, Indonesia, Thailand and Australia were due. With fresh mandates, each of the leaders of those countries, including Mr. Modi, is expected to have a greater ability to take tough decisions this year. The worry, say many diplomats, is that 2019 is a make or break year for the RCEP, and if it doesn't conclude now, the deal itself could be "dead in the water".

Why are monsoons difficult to predict?

Have the methods to forecast India's seasonal rain changed? What are the factors that can turn predictions awry?

JACOB KOSHY

The story so far: The southwest monsoon made a late entry into Kerala on June 8, after a delay of nearly a week. However, things haven't looked rosy. With India having posted its lowest pre-monsoon rain from November 2018 to March 2019, reservoirs were depleted and a good monsoon was necessary. As of June 27, India got only slightly more than two-thirds of rain it normally gets in this month. Many places, including Chennai, are in the grip of a water crisis and about 80% of the country's meteorological divisions have registered deficient rainfall.

What is the prediction for the months ahead?

July and August are most important for the monsoon and contribute nearly 66% of the 89 cm of rainfall that India gets from June-September. This year, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) had forecast in May that July rainfall would be 95% of what it usually gets and August 99% of its normal. These numbers were calculated on the assumption, in April, that an El Niño – characterised by a warming of the Central Pacific Ocean – that seemed to be visible on the horizon, would slowly lose steam. An El Niño is generally associated with a weakening of monsoon rains in India though there are several other climatological factors that too could cause a drying up of monsoon rains. In May, the IMD said India would get 'normal' rains from June-September. The agency, however, refrains from giving a specific forecast for the month of June. Historically, there's no correlation between the amount of rainfall in June to what lies in the month ahead. Cyclone Vayu that formed in the Arabian Sea and threatened Gujarat was a major hurdle to the progress of the monsoon. Later a western disturbance – a rain-bearing system that passes over Pakistan, Jammu Kashmir and parts of north India – was also obstructing monsoonal currents.

The delayed progress of the monsoon, that is causing national consternation, is largely due to the laggardly branch of the monsoon that begins in Kerala and travels upwards along the western coast. The monsoon branch that enters eastern India, around the same time as the southern branch, is relatively better performing thanks to convective currents formed in the Bay of Bengal.

To what extent has the monsoon covered the country?

The monsoon has covered the whole of south as well as eastern India. By July 15 the monsoon should have ideally



K.K. MUSTAFAH

covered its last outpost in western Rajasthan, but this is unlikely given the delay in the monsoon's advent. In the week ahead, it's expected to make further inroads into central India and most of Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. However, the geographic spread obscures the quantity of rain. Only two of India's 36 meteorological subdivisions have posted normal rainfall and 27 of them are grappling with deficient rainfall. By June 30, a low pressure pulse is expected to form over the Bay of Bengal and give a significant push to the monsoon.

How is the monsoon forecast?

Until about 2010, the only method employed by the IMD to forecast the monsoon was statistical models. These essentially involved identifying climate parameters linked to the performance of the monsoon – for instance, the sea surface temperature gradient between North Atlantic and North Pacific, the volume of warm water in the equatorial Pacific and the Eurasian snow cover. Their values in February and March are correlated to values of actual rainfall over a hundred years and then, using statistical techniques, extrapolated to forecast a particular year's monsoon. This has, however, proved wrong and the IMD missed its mark on forecasting major droughts and rain-deficits – particularly 2002, 2004 and 2006. The IMD responded by finding new parameters but keeping the technique essentially the same.

Only around 2015 did it start testing a dynamical system. This simulates the weather at a chosen set of locations on a given day – the land and ocean

temperature, moisture, windspeeds at various heights, etc. – and computers calculate how these weather variables will change over days, weeks, months. It's able to do this by solving physics equations that show how each of these weather variables is related to each other. Though meteorological agencies around the world are shifting to such techniques, they still aren't considered entirely reliable for forecasting the monsoon. The IMD and several private weather agencies are increasingly relying on more sophisticated and high-resolution computer models to give localised forecasts, or warn farmers of changes in weather 10-15 days ahead. Rather than long-range forecasts that only give a broad tenuous picture of the likely performance of the monsoon, these shorter forecasts are far more reliable and help farmers make decisions about sowing. These models are also useful for anticipating heat-wave or a cold-wave and therefore useful to urban planners and government. The statistical model continues to be the bedrock of the IMD's forecast philosophy but its days are numbered.

Does the monsoon have a bearing on India's water crisis?

Yes and no. India's water crisis, according to experts, is due to over-extraction of groundwater resources and not enough storage of rain water and surface water. The Central Water Commission, in its recommendation of how reservoirs should store and release water assumes

that reservoirs will be empty on June 1 and gradually refill over the course of the monsoon, and be available for the non-monsoon months. Given that June contributes only 17cm or about 20% of the monsoon rainfall and is known to progress in spurts, farmers have already delayed sowing and relying on crop varieties that grow relatively quickly. Moreover, several farmers plant intensely water-guzzling crops that aren't suited to their climate or prevalent water table. While a July rainfall can temporarily alleviate parched ground, it can't solve the graver crisis of depleting groundwater and insufficiently charged aquifers.

Though meteorological agencies around the world are shifting to dynamical techniques, they still are not considered entirely reliable for forecasting the monsoon

CAPSULE



Strong smell
It is well known that elephants have a fine sense of smell. An experiment on Asian elephants that controlled for alternative interpretations found that they could differentiate a bucket containing a lot of sunflower seeds from those with far fewer seeds, purely using their sense of smell. This study addresses bias in tests of animal perception and cognition.



Climate change guide
Dendrochronology, the analysis of tree rings to infer things about the past, can now be used to understand the future. A study, published in *Nature Communications*, of tree rings of living and dead conifers suggested that slowly growing trees sequester more carbon than fast-growing ones. This finding can inform environmental policies that rely on plantations of fast growing trees to mitigate global warming.



A fine tuning
Scientists at Massachusetts Institute of Technology have found a way to convert molecular structures of proteins into audible sounds resembling musical notes. Once the conversion is done, they can alter some of the notes and then reconvert the notes back into proteins to produce proteins that have never been seen in nature. The method translates the 20 types of amino acids into a 20-tone scale.



Malaria reaching out
A slight rise in temperature may increase the risk of malaria to hundreds of thousands of people in areas currently too cold for malaria parasites to complete their development, according to a study. This is because the parasites develop much faster at these lower temperatures than has been previously estimated, according to the researchers from Penn State University.

IIT Hyderabad fabricates device for early diagnosis of heart attack

The microfluidic device can detect the biomarker even at low concentrations

R. PRASAD

A cardiac biomarker – cardiac troponin I – that is widely used for early diagnosis of acute heart attack can now be detected in about three minutes and even when present at very low concentration. And the detection can be done at bedside. This has become possible with the development of a microfluidic device by a team of researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad.

The heart cells that get damaged during heart attack cause the expression of cardiac muscle proteins such as the biomarker cardiac troponin I, which get released into the blood. Detecting the biomarker in the blood serum helps in early diagnosis of heart attack.

Superior performance
Commercially available assays have limitations in terms of both sensitivity and time taken for detection. These assays cannot detect when the biomarker is present at concentrations below 0.02 nanogram per ml and take a long time for detection. In contrast, the microfluidic device developed by the team led by Renu John from the Department of Biomedical Engineering at IIT Hyderabad can detect the biomarker even when the concentration is



Early indicator: Heart cells damaged during heart attack cause the release of the biomarker into the blood. • V. SREENIVASA MURTHY

as low as 0.005 nanogram per ml.

“Our device can detect the biomarker over a wide range – from 0.005-100 nanogram per ml,” says Prof. John. Serum samples from patients were used for testing the device. The results were published in the *Journal of Materials Chemistry B*.

Commercially available assays as well the microfluidic device use the same antibody to bind to the biomarker. But the way the device has been constructed

makes the difference in terms of better sensitivity and rapid detection.

Rapid detection

The researchers have successfully integrated the microfluidic device with chitosan-coated nickel vanadate nanospheres to enable rapid detection and better sensitivity.

The outer surface of the nanospheres is first coated (functionalised) with the antibody that binds to the biomarker. Since the na-

nospheres have greater surface area, more antibodies are present on the surface thus increasing the chances and ability to bind to the biomarker. The functionalised nanospheres are then coated on the working electrode that is present in the microfluidic device chip.

“The integration of the nanospheres which detect the biomarker with the compact microfluidic device speeds up the detection process,” says Nawab Singh from IIT Hyderabad and first author of the paper.

“When the patient’s serum is introduced into the microfluidic device, the biomarker present in the serum binds to the antibodies present on the nanospheres. This causes a change in the current flow at a microampere level,” explains Prof. John. “The electrochemical response of the sensor changes in response to a change in the concentration of the troponin I biomarker causing a change in the current flow.”

Bedside device

Since the microfluidic device can be made tiny, detection of the biomarker can be made right at bedside.

“This is a proof-of-concept work. We have to undertake large trials involving many patient samples before it can be used commercially,” says Prof. John.

IISER Kolkata takes a step towards predicting space weather

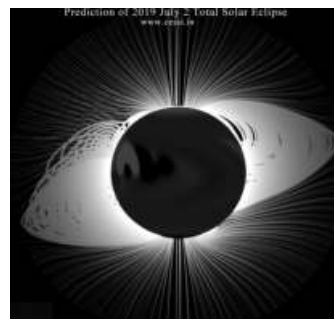
The team has predicted the shape of the Sun’s atmosphere that the eclipse will reveal

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

July 2, this year, is a special day for a team of researchers from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata as a total solar eclipse becomes visible in parts of Chile and Argentina. The team has given out a computer model-based prediction of the shape of the Sun’s atmosphere that the eclipse will reveal. Many Indian and international solar physicists will be gathering in Argentina to observe the eclipse and discuss the Sun’s influence on our space environment. If the Indian prediction works, it will help us forecast how the Sun’s temperament can affect space weather. This, in turn, can help monitor the safety of the electronic sensors in satellites, astronauts’ well-being and even the impact on Earth.

The corona

The Sun’s corona, which is like the Sun’s atmosphere, although hotter than its interior, is less dense and therefore emits fewer



Prediction: Occulted Sun will show two petal-like formations on either side. • CESSI

photons. Therefore, in normal times, the Sun’s surface shines so brightly that it obscures the corona. Only when there is a total solar eclipse does the solar disc get ‘occulted’ by the moon, exposing the corona to our view, albeit using instruments for photographing it.

The Sun’s magnetic field lines stretch out from the surface and permeate the corona. Solar plasma wind and storms including flares and coronal mass ejections are born in coronal magnetic field. Emergence of magnetic

field from below the Sun’s surface and dynamic restructuring in the outer layers changes the shape of the corona. Now a team of researchers from IISER Kolkata, has found a way to predict the shape of the corona well in advance.

Two-step process

The team uses a two-step process to predict the shape of the corona. Using a model for the way the magnetic fields emerge as sunspots and evolve on the sun’s surface, they first predict what will be the form of the sun’s surface magnetic field on the day of the eclipse. Then, they use another model to extrapolate this to reveal what the corona will look like.

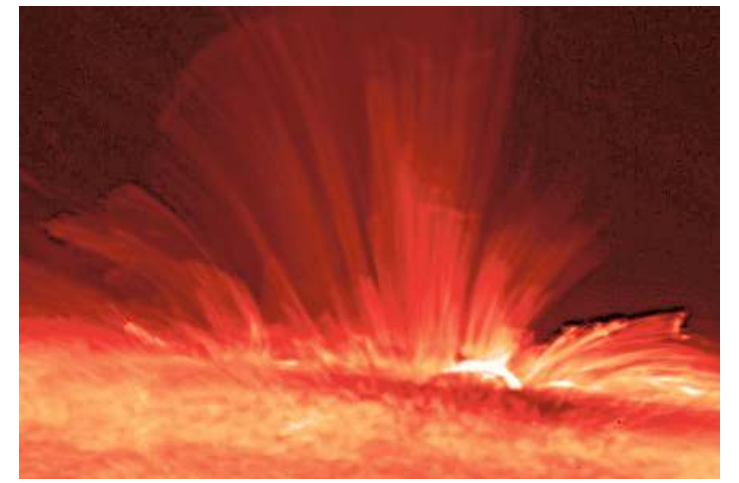
The coronal brightness and structure are determined by the magnetic fields of the Sun, which emerge out of the surface and spread out into the corona. “Using computational models, we have predicted the Sun’s surface magnetic field on the day of the eclipse. We used this as input to generate the prediction for the

coronal field,” says Dibyendu Nandi from Center of Excellence in Space Sciences and IISER, Kolkata, who led the research.

Coronal regions which have more intense, closed petal-like loop structures appear brighter because the underlying magnetic fields heat the corona and control its emission. “Observations of these bright and dark structures in the corona during the eclipse can tell us whether our underlying computational models are correct or need more refinement,” Prof. Nandi adds.

According to their calculation, the occulted Sun will show two petal-like formations on either side of the corona with extended plume like structures stretching out into the solar system from their tips. It is to be noted that while solar north points upwards on paper, the eastern side is to the left and western side is to the right, unlike the conventions for geographical maps.

The eclipse will last for four minutes and 33 seconds. It will be visible during sunset in parts of Chile and Argentina.



Coronal eruptions: This is the structure of the solar magnetic field rising vertically from a sunspot, into the solar atmosphere. • AP/NASA

Indian scientist to be Co-I for NASA’s PUNCH mission

The mission will study the Sun using four suitcase-sized microsats

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

NASA has selected Texas-based Southwest Research Institute to lead its PUNCH mission which will image the Sun. This is a landmark mission that will image regions beyond the Sun’s outer corona. Dipankar Banerjee, solar physicist from Indian Institute of Astrophysics is also a Co-Investigator of the PUNCH mission. PUNCH, which stands for ‘Polarimeter to Unify the Corona and Heliosphere,’ is focused on understanding the transition of particles from the Sun’s outer corona to the solar wind that fills interplanetary space.

“The Sun and the solar wind are one interconnected system, but [these] have until recently been studied using entirely different technologies and scientific approaches,” explains Prof. Banerjee in an email to *The Hindu*.

Focus on polar regions

Commenting on his role as Co-Investigator in the PUNCH mission, Prof. Banerjee said, “I will be working to study how the solar wind is accelerated. I will focus on the polar regions of the Sun.” The team also plans to observe the Sun using joint observations from PUNCH and Indian mission Aditya, which is underway.

India is planning to send up its own satellite Aditya-L1, a mission to study the Sun’s corona, and

Prof. Banerjee is the co-Chair of the Science Working Group. “We expect co-ordinated observations of Aditya and PUNCH in order to understand our space weather environment,” he says.

Constellation of satellites

PUNCH will consist of a ‘constellation’ of four suitcase-sized microsats that will orbit the Earth in formation and study how the corona, which is the atmosphere of the Sun, connects with the interplanetary medium. The mission is expected to be launched in 2022.

The mission will image and track the solar wind and also the coronal mass ejections - which are huge masses of plasma that get thrown out of the Sun’s atmosphere. The coronal mass ejections can affect and drive space weather events near the Earth.

Other probes

Other missions such as NASA’s Parker Solar Probe and the ESA-NASA joint project, Solar Orbiter, which is due to be launched in 2020, can study the structures of the Sun’s atmosphere. The PUNCH mission enhances these by tracking these structures in real time. Since the Sun’s corona is much fainter than its surface layers, it cannot be viewed by the instruments directly. So PUNCH will block out the light from the Sun to view its corona and the structures in it.

New approach proposed for post-stroke rehabilitation

Existing methods ignore diversity of lesions and variability of individual responses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The existing approach for brain stimulation to rehabilitate patients after a stroke does not take into account the diversity of lesions and the individual characteristics of patients’ brains, a study has found.

In recent decades, non-invasive neuromodulation methods such as electric and magnetic stimulation of various parts of the nervous system have been increasingly used to rehabilitate patients after a stroke.

Stimulation selectively affects different parts of the brain, which allows you to functionally enhance activity in some areas while suppressing unwanted processes in others that impede the restoration of brain functions.

This is a promising mean of rehabilitation after a stroke. However, its results in patients remain highly variable.

Authors of the study, which was published in the journal *Frontiers in Neurology*, argued that the main reason for the lack of effectiveness in neuromodulation approaches after a stroke is an inadequate selection of patients for the application of a particular brain stimulation technique.

They said the existing approach does not take into account the diversity of lesions after a stroke and the variability of individual responses to brain stimulation as a whole.

The researchers have proposed two criteria for selecting the optimal brain stimulation strategy.

The first is an analysis of the interactions between the hemispheres.

Now, all patients, regardless of the severity of injury after a stroke, are offered a relatively standard treatment regimen. This approach relies on the idea of interhemispheric competition.

“For a long time, it was believed that when one hemisphere is bad, the second, instead of helping it,



Wrong approach: Now, all patients, regardless of the severity of injury after a stroke, are offered a relatively standard treatment regimen. • AFP

suppresses it even more,” said Maria Nazarova, researcher at the HSE Institute of Cognitive Neurosciences.

“In this regard, the suppression of the activity of the ‘unaffected’ hemisphere should help restore the affected side of the brain. However, the fact is that this particular scheme does not work in many patients after a stroke. Each time it is necessary to check what the impact of the unaffected hemisphere is - whether it is suppressive or activating,” she said.

According to the researchers, the second criterion is the neuronal phenotype.

This is an individual characteristic of the activity of the brain, which is ‘unique to each person like their fingerprints’

Such a phenotype is determined, firstly, by the ability of the brain to build effective structural and functional connections between different areas (connectivity).

Secondly, the individual characteristics of neuronal dynamics, including its ability to reach a critical state. This is the state of the neuronal system in which it is the most plastic and capable of change.

Nipah virus: Experimental antiviral drug shows promise

Remdesivir drug used for Ebola treatment can stop Nipah virus from making new copies of its genome

ASWATHI PACHA

In a new study published last month, researchers from the National Institutes of Health, U.S., have shown that Remdesivir was able to treat four African green monkeys which were given a lethal dose of Nipah virus.

Remdesivir is a broad-spectrum antiviral drug which is currently in phase 2 clinical trial for the treatment of Ebola.

Eight monkeys were inoculated with a lethal dose of Nipah virus Bangladesh strain, and, 24 hours later, four of them were treated intravenously with the drug for 12 consecutive days.

Response in monkeys

The ones that did not receive the drug developed respiratory problems with the disease rapidly progressing in about a week. Two of these were sacrificed on day seven due to disease severity, and the remaining two were sacrificed on the eighth day when they reached the humane endpoint criteria (when the experimental animal is in pain and/or distress and the experiment is terminated).



Connection: The virus that caused Nipah in India belongs to the same genotype as that from Bangladesh used in the study. • G. RAMAKRISHNA

The four animals which were treated with the drug survived. They did not show any clinical signs up to 92 days and the experiment was terminated.

Though parameters such as body weight and temperature remained unchanged in the two groups, an increased respiration rate and decreased oxygen saturation (oxygen-saturated haemoglobin versus total haemoglobin in the blood) were seen in the non-drug group.

When asked if these results

hold true for Indian Nipah strain, Emmie de Wit, the first author of the study said in an email to *The Hindu*: “The Nipah virus that caused the outbreak in India belongs to the same genotype as the Nipah virus from Bangladesh that we used in our study. So although there are some small genetic differences between the two viruses they are very similar. It is always good to confirm, but we are confident that the drug will be effective against Indian Nipah viruses as

It is always good to confirm, but we are confident that the drug will be effective against Indian Nipah viruses as well.

EMMIE DE WIT
National Institute of Health

well.” During the course of the study, the researchers found that one of the drug-treated animals exhibited inflammation of the brain tissues.

Dr. de Wit explains, “We know from patients with Nipah virus that they also often develop this disease of the brain when they are infected. There are also patients in Malaysia who were infected with Nipah virus, survived and then got encephalitis caused by Nipah virus several months or years later.” This is most likely because the Nipah virus easily enters the brain and then slowly replicates until it causes disease. “In the animal treated with the drug that had histologic evidence of meningoencephalitis, we did not observe any signs of neurological disease at the time the experi-

ment ended, so we were very surprised to see this meningoencephalitis in a small part of the brain,” she adds.

Mode of action

When asked about the mode of action of the drug, Dr. de Wit writes “Remdesivir can stop the virus from making new copies of its genome. Because the genome is an essential part of the virus, the virus cannot replicate itself very well in the presence of the drug, and there is less damage to organs and thus less severe disease.”

“Right now, there are two promising antiviral treatments against Nipah virus that could be used in humans soon. The first is a monoclonal antibody developed by Chris Broder and colleagues at the Uniformed Services University in the U.S. The second promising treatment is Remdesivir. Both treatments are available as clinical grade material and have been safety tested in humans. These two treatments could thus be tested in Nipah virus patients in the context of a clinical trial,” explains Dr de Wit.



Post-retirement blues, paths

BETTY KURIYAN

Come the 60th birthday, sometimes even a few years earlier, it is mandatory to retire from regular service, though it's usual for the cranium contents to function well and intelligently for a good many years ahead.

But as Charles Lamb so succinctly put it, "I'm retired leisure." The encomiums by my juniors have stopped reverberating, the garlands have faded, and the gifts lavishly given no doubt, are consigned to the cupboards – for how many pieces of glassware or crystal or plaques can be put on display?

Now it takes me awhile to remember not to jump out of bed at daybreak to get the household organised before I leave for work. It matters little if the maid turns up an hour late for I have time by the bushel to potter around, make a steaming hot cup of coffee and to listen to the koel on the mango tree warbling its paeans for existence. And I leisurely can glance through the newspaper, beyond the headlines.

Still my feet yearn to saunter to my erstwhile workplace of endeavour of 30 years, the files and friendships that once matured into affection.

I walk into the department, now bustling yet quiet as my younger colleagues are now on the treadmill. They greet me with smiles of concern. They inquire about my health as though I've been an invalid all my life and forgetting that I bid farewell to them officially only a couple of years ago. Most of them hurriedly pick up their files, to attend seminars or workshops, and say "we must meet soon". Maybe some deadline or a way of saying sayonara.

Some small talk comes from those who remain. I feel aloof because the chain of interaction is now lost as rookies fumble with their newfound status and work.

So I stroll out, glad to be out before I become too mawkish for my own good. I stroll calmly through the precincts with its potted plants and colourful bushes, realising that they too will have their retirement date when their leaves fall. I sit for a while under the shade of a spreading tree, and revive my mood.

Back home, there are many books to be read, music to listen to, movies to watch, let me see beauty with new eyes, and the hope and everyday joy that retired life cannot destroy.

I've decided to live each day as it comes, rain or shine, as I hum to myself the opening lines of the theme song from *Dr. Zhivago* – there will be songs to sing, I'm now venturing into learning Japanese, calligraphy or Yiddish. The untravelled world gleams from afar for me, so tomorrow to fresh woods and pastures new.

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Friends across borders of acrimony

Traditions that live, a language that connects, a history that will tie us together

VRINDA LOHIA

It was a rainy evening in Paris, as usual. I'd just arrived at the Nord station and was trying to get to my university, located in the suburbs and almost a lifetime away from the city centre. I had some luggage with me, so I decided to book a cab. But, technology almost always fails you when you need it the most, and my phone app just wouldn't load the driver's location.

I dialled the driver's number, though I was resigned to my fate. I'd been in this situation on numerous occasions earlier. I'd already played out the sequence of events in my head. The driver would receive the message. Then I'd ask him if he spoke some English. He'd refuse and hang up. After a few minutes my ride would be cancelled and I'd be charged a fee by the app for not arriving at the indicated meeting point on time. I felt frustrated even dialling the number.

But, then again, things never happen the same way over and over again. Fate surprises you when you least expect it. I was greeted by a familiar accent on the other side. A voice that sounded like home, in that suddenly alien city. The driver heard the panic in my voice, asked me to calm down, figured where exactly I was, from what I blabbered in my flustered state, and arrived.

As I sat in the car, he looked at me and asked if I spoke Hindi. I excitedly nodded, and asked him if he was from India. He replied in Urdu, albeit shyly, that he was actually from Pakistan. Needless to say, it was the best cab ride I had in Paris.

Studying in Paris, I made a lot of friends. Some were close, others not

so much. There were a few, however, who made the unfamiliarity of the city easier to deal with. There was no need to be diplomatic or politically correct around them. There was no need to consciously avoid using any Indian references or 'Hindi' words around them. We could listen to Bollywood numbers together, discuss cricket (even though I'm not particularly fond of the sport), and relish butter naan. While yes, most of them were Indian, there was a Pakistani among them too.

They say friendship begins with a 'me too'. And, we had so many of them. We'd long for home together, we'd bond over a shared sense of ambition, discuss how our cultures were similar, how we'd been taught to hate each other, how our countries were happy and miserable in similar ways. She'd say she had met very few people who were so similar to her, not just in habits and ways of life, but in beliefs and values too. Even though we spent only a few days together, it's uncanny how much we resonated.

But life does go on, time flies and all we're left with is a quintessential 'so close, yet so far' kind of wonderment. In a land where the dividing border isn't just a line, but years of misunderstanding and insecurities leading to wars, hatred trumps love. Warmth, compassion and a shared culture feign as individuals begin to relive atrocities and disregard acts of kindness. We forget that civilians everywhere are the same. They care about their families, decent means of income and leading a peaceful life. We start labelling an entire population based on the acts of a few extremists. We stop trying to understand and start trying to distance our-

selves. Yes, we have indeed spent more than 70 years in a state of cold war that continues and reigns. Generations have grown up around media and leaders that falsify events, exaggerate violence and conceal peace efforts. And yet, we can't run away from the fact that we've also spent more than 700 years living together, building traditions together, writing our history together. Traditions that still live, a language that still connects (even halfway across the globe) and history that still does and will always tie us together.

Sitting in those artsy Parisian cafes, surrounded by Italians and Germans and a gazillion other European nationals, I'd often wonder what kept them together, despite the years of war, despite the cultural differences. I'd wonder how many years of despising thy neighbour would it take to finally erase the centuries that were spent being friends.

I know what you're thinking. How can we forget all the lives that have been lost, all the sacrifices that have been made? But that's the thing. Nobody wants you to forget any of that.

We just need to recognise, we've been counting it wrong all this while. In these 70 years, we haven't just lost our friends on this side, but those across the border too.

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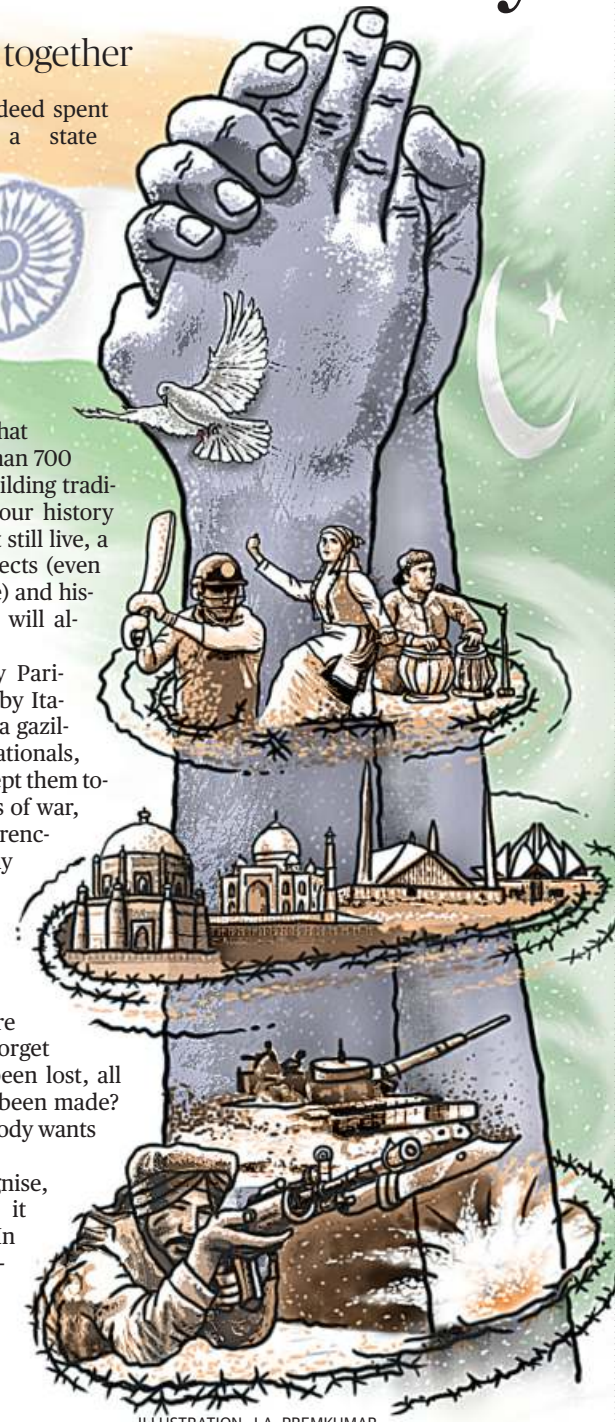


ILLUSTRATION: J.A. PREMKUMAR

Introvert's journey

SHELLY SIMON

I got into a bus, to a place far away. It isn't the destination that matters, though; it's the journey. I sat on one of the rear seats. It wasn't long before I regretted my choice, as I was tossed about whenever the bus hit a pothole. Ouch! I sat alone, with people all around me.

In front of me was a girl, a silent onlooker. She viewed the outside world with a mixture of wonderment and curiosity. Behind me sat a trio, chatting and giggling the whole time. They didn't seem my type, so I didn't bother to make conversation.

I was interested in the music playing in my ears. I hummed along and watched everything happening outside and inside. My thoughts kept returning to the girl in front. She seemed like an older version of myself; quiet, though people her age, and presumably in her class by the looks of their uniform, were talking on the seats beside her. Just like me. Thoughts ran through her mind, while music flowed through mine.

I wanted to talk to her, maybe about our mutual reluctance to socialise, or anything else we had in common. But something stopped me. Soon she leaned her head on the window and tried to take a nap. I wanted to get to know her. But she seemed at peace with herself, and I didn't want to disturb her. We reached our destination. She got off, I followed. She went her way, I went mine, wondering how the whole ride might've been had I talked to her. I guess that's how we introverts work!

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How the pursuit of perfection could drive you

And in doing so, we could forget to enjoy the journey rather than focus on the goal ahead

CHITRA SRIKRISHNA

"I want my presentation to be perfect," my daughter says on the phone. She is on her way to work on a Monday morning. "What if I make mistakes? What if my team doesn't like it?" As I try to quell her fears over the phone, I wonder what would have happened if I hadn't listened to my own advice sometime back.

With a great deal of trepidation my husband and I had followed our daughter to a small midwestern town in the U.S. when she began her undergraduate education a few years earlier. All I knew about my new hometown was that it had long and brutal winters and was crazy about American football, a sport I knew nothing about. Moving to a new town came with its own set of challenges, and 'what-if' scenarios began swirling in my head – what if I wasn't able to make enough friends? What if I didn't find something to do?



ILLUSTRATION: SATWIK GADE

A week after we had finally settled in a quiet neighbourhood, we met one of our neighbours, a middle-aged couple who lived across the street.

One thing led to another and they became our best friends in town. Over a meal at home as they wolfed down samosas and parathas, they spoke about their newfound passion, a

speakers' club. "We meet twice a month and improve our speaking skills in a non-competitive, friendly environment" they explained. "Why don't you attend a meeting and just check us out?"

"I'm not speaking. I'll not be speaking," I remember muttering all the way as my husband dragged me to a quaint cafe

where the meeting was being held. "At least we'll get to meet some people!" he argued.

Having been a professional musician all my adult life, you would think I was comfortable in front of strangers. But I had never spoken during any of my concerts and was often tongue-tied when I met people for the first time. I was used to criticism as a performer not just in private but also in public. "You need to get better!" This was the mantra that was dinned into me by family and teachers. Thus began my search for perfection – an elusive goal. And the pressure never ceased.

I recall that first speakers' meeting I attended, as though it was yesterday. Within a few minutes of our arrival, my husband seemed to be at home talking to strangers as though he had reconnected with long-lost friends. Meanwhile, I looked for a corner seat in the very last row.

There was a motley crew seated in a room at the back of

It's time to reevaluate what 'perfection' means to us

the cafe – a rabble-rouser of a grey-haired professor, a theatre-loving couple, a dyed-in-the-wool musician, student secularists, fiction writers, and others. I was reminded of John Steinbeck's description of Cannery Row in the eponymous book: "a poem, a stink, a grating noise, a quality of light, a tone, a habit, a nostalgia, a dream."

Over the next few weeks, the speeches I heard at the club became the topic of conversation at our dinner table every night. I heard personal testimonies of overcoming grief and disability to camping adventures and kitchen disasters. I watched speakers fumble and mumble their way through their speeches and then asked myself, "Why not take the plunge?"

My new club friends showed me a way to improvise without

the pressure. I shared anecdotal experiences, some funny, often reflective. And after each one I received feedback that was encouraging and energising. The watershed moment came when I demonstrated at one of our meetings how to wear a sari in six simple steps. My speech may have been imperfect, not unlike the pleats in my sari. But I was filled with an immense sense of contentment. In the pursuit of perfection I realised how I had forgotten to enjoy the journey rather than focus on the goal.

We live in a society where children are pulled up by parents for not scoring perfect grades in every test. It's time to reevaluate what 'perfection' means to us. I took the first step that day, just as my daughter was about to hang up, by reminding her of Leo Tolstoy's words, "If you look for perfection, you'll never be content."

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The long and short of a desired name

Nomenclature toss-about, and finally a seeming resolution of the issue

S.R. NAMBIAR

My parents' marriage was a union of two families from different milieus. A reflection of this can be seen in the names and the numbers of their siblings. My dad's eight siblings have names that are at least 10 letters or more in length – Ramakrishnan, Kunhiraman, Kamalakshi, and so on. In contrast, my mom's four siblings have briefer names, such as Vishnu and Girija.

So, when Uma and Ramakrishnan got married one might have expected serious negotiations to take place when the time came to name their offspring. But mom's independent streak and a difference in the respective cultural rituals precluded this – while on mom's side a newborn is by tradition named at the 28th day ceremony, on dad's side this is done along with the rice-feeding ceremony held when the child is five months old.



ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

When the time came to hold the 28th day ceremony of the first-born of my parents, in the presence of relatives from both sides, the son, lovingly called Appu, was formally named 'Prakash' – a name mom liked but dad did not disapprove. Mom did not feel the need to confer with anyone over the issue of naming her son.

As was to be expected, the relatives from dad's side were taken by surprise, though no one overtly dis-

agreed with the name, except my paternal grandmother. She was upset and quite vocal about her disappointment. For many years to come she chided mom for denying her the right to name her grandson, which she held was the prerogative of the child's father's side. She indicated she would have preferred a more traditional name such as 'Ramachandran', to go with 'Jayachandran', which was what she had named another of

her grandsons.

Mom always made light of the issue, but little did she know how fate would intervene in the matter of her son's name.

When Appu was old enough to go to school, in Mumbai where dad was employed, the school insisted on adding the father's surname to his name. In the matrilineal society of the Malabar region to which my parents belonged, the norm is that the children take the mother's surname. Mom was disappointed at this development, though not as much as Appu himself, who hated being allotted Roll No. 1, given the alphabetical slot the name brought in all lists, with all its attendant disadvantages and anxiety – for, in the school records Appu ended up as 'Aaliyot Prakash Ramakrishnan'.

Appu persevered through the 'Roll No. 1' years, till finally, when he was in Class 10, due to some administrative mix-up or other reason, the

school decided that 'Aaliyot P. Ramakrishnan' suited him better. Mom had had enough of the obscuring of the name she chose for her favourite son, and dad was coaxed to head to court to get the anomaly fixed legally – to retrieve 'Prakash' from the oblivion of being reduced to a mere initial. Thanks to dad's efforts, when Appu passed his SSLC examination with flying colours, while dad smiled looking at the list of marks, mom smiled even more looking at the name printed in bold which read 'Prakash Ramakrishnan'.

Freed from the performance anxiety of being Roll Number 1 maybe, Appu soon afterwards cracked the National Defence Academy test and became an officer in the Indian Army – a first in the family. Mom and dad were proud of his achievements. When invited for Appu's commissioning ceremony at the Indian Military Academy, they were overjoyed to see him in full formal military re-

galia for the first time.

But something rained on mom's parade – right there, on her favourite son's broad chest, was a shiny name tag that read 'P. Ramakrishnan'. And worse, as if to remind mom of her mother-in-law's disappointment over the naming, Appu's army-mates just called him 'Rama'!

Mom grudgingly resigned herself to this situation. But never one to easily admit defeat, she was keen to add to the ranks of people who called her first-born by the name she had given him. So when my parents successfully found a suitable bride for Appu, the only demand mom made of his future in-laws was that they call him by the name that she had chosen for him.

So, unlike many other wives who have special names of endearment for their husbands, mom's dutiful daughter-in-law always calls her husband 'Prakash'.

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Go, reconnect with life

Let's just raise our heads above those screens and observe and interact with the world around us
SAAVI SRIVASTAVA

The universal genius

Why it is just impossible that Leonardo da Vinci had disabilities such as ADHD
J.V. YAKHIMI

A mirror unto oneself

So, can we at all live without those window-dressing exercises?
S. SIVARAMAN

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Confident India takes on desperate England in a key clash

After two consecutive defeats, Morgan's men are in a must-win situation against an unbeaten opposition



K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
BIRMINGHAM

In quaint Birmingham, rich with tree-lined avenues, Pakistani curry joints, wood-paneled pubs, canals where house-boats sway to the lullaby of flowing water, drive-ways that curl past the 'Old Edgbaston Church' and a backyard cemetery steeped in silence, India and England will clash in a key World Cup fixture on Sunday.

Much has changed for the rivals as the global tournament finishes a month this weekend. England, home-favourite and until recently ranked No. 1 in ODIs, has slipped, while India registered clinical victories and snatched away the ICC's top-billing that was vested with Eoin Morgan's men. The opposition has its angst, Jonny Bairstow lashed at the local media for 'finding faults' and former captain Michael Vaughan, eager for a Twitter-spat, fired his riposte.

In a quandary

The losses to old-foe Australia, Sri Lanka and Pakistan have left the host in a quandary and nudged it to the points table's congested central zone. Morgan and mates need a win and it is a travesty that even the skipper's six-fest against Afghanistan has been relegated to the background. When soaked in pressure, England has wilted, be it against wily Lasith Malinga or spit-fire Mitchell Starc.

Despite late-heroics from

allrounder Ben Stokes, there is a sense of persecution within the ranks and it almost mirrors the ancient lines from W.H. Auden's poem *Funeral Blues*. The famous poet, with Birmingham roots, wrote: "Silence the pianos and with muffled drum; Bring out the coffin, let the mourners come."

Not an easy opponent

Still, England with its batting fire-power, albeit muffled for now, and a decent pace attack, cannot be labelled as an easy opponent. Injured opener Jason Roy and speedster Jofra Archer, who suffered a niggle, are in the mix and may play provided they clear their fitness tests. But Morgan's men, at least some of them, should stop being hyper-sensitive to the surround-sound or whine about surfaces that have become slow.

At the other end, India is sitting confident but never smug. Virat Kohli's men have been seemingly impervious to stress, but the skipper admitted that 'butterflies in the stomach' are still fluttering, just that he and his team have masked it well. The top-order is in fine fettle and even if the middle-rung has raised some concerns, different men have put their hands up and revved the score.

More may be needed

After a glut of centuries (Rohit Sharma 2, Shikhar Dhawan 1) in the beginning of their campaign, the Indians have dished out fifties (Kohli aced it with four), feverish cameos and some sedate knocks. This blend has proved adequate but against an England outfit that bats deep, more may be required.

The Indian team-management is thrilled by its bowlers who have defended modest totals against the

India vs England - World Cup timeline

1975, Lord's: The two teams played the first match in the history of the tournament and one India would like to forget but it is now part of folklore on how not to play a one-day match. Electing to bat, Dennis Amis, who had the privilege of facing the first ball of the World Cup, scored 137 as England amassed 334 in 60 overs. In reply, Sunil Gavaskar's 'watchful' unbeaten 36 saw India crawl to 132 in reply

1983, Old Trafford, Semifinals: England ran into a resurgent Kapil's India. The hosts could make only 213, thanks to a disciplined bowling performance. Half-centuries from Yashpal Sharma and Sandeep Patil helped the visitors register a shock six-wicket win.

1987, Mumbai, Semifinals: This time, the boot was on the other foot as Graham Gooch proved a 'sweeping' success en route to his 115. Chasing a target of 255, India was on the ropes as none, barring Mohd. Azharuddin (64), contributed. Azhar's dismissal triggered a collapse as the hosts slid from 204 for five to 219

1992, Perth: Gooch (51) and Robin Smith (91) powered England to 236. India was comfortably placed at 126 for two after Ravi Shastri (57) and K. Srikanth (39) had laid the foundation and Sachin Tendulkar had come up with a cameo. However, the side kept losing wickets and despite Subroto Banerjee's fighting innings, India fell short by nine runs. It remains England's last win over India at the World Cup

1999, Edgbaston: In a rain-interrupted match played over two days, India emerged on top in a must-win game to knock out the home side. Defending 232 - made possible by Rahul Dravid's 53 and Ajay Jadeja's quickfire effort (39) - Sourav Ganguly chipped in with three wickets as England was shot out for 169

2003, Durban: After half-centuries from Tendulkar and Dravid had propelled India to a competitive 250, the Englishmen were all sea against Javagal Srinath and Zaheer Khan under lights. Then Ashish Nehra took full advantage of the conditions and ran through the English line-up. Nehra finished with six for 23 as India won by 82 runs

2011, Bangalore: Tendulkar's 120 alongside Yuvraj Singh's 58 piloted India to a massive 338, but England skipper Andrew Strauss had other ideas. His scintillating 158 and Ian Bell's 69 kept the visitors in the hunt before Zaheer removed both. With 14 needed off the final over, Munaf Patel kept his nerve as India shared the honours

West Indies and Afghanistan. Mohammed Shami seamlessly moved into the slot vacated by the injured Bhuvnesh-

war Kumar, who will be benched again. Jasprit Bumrah's lines have sharpened and Hardik Pandya has done his bit as the first-change seamer. The spinners too

have played their parts and Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav could find some purchase on a pitch baked an 'away' game, but would hope that there is no change in its upwardly-mobile fortunes. India needs a triumph to seize the semifinal spot, a berth that seems inevitable given the way the unit has performed. The last word belongs to Javed, a cab driver, who dropped a few Indian scribes at the Edgbaston Cricket Ground: "So the favourites (England) are no longer the favourites, eh?"

The teams (from):

India: Virat Kohli (Capt.), Rohit Sharma, M.S. Dhoni, K.L. Rahul, Hardik Pandya, Vijay Shankar, Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja, Kedar Jadhav, Dinesh Karthik, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohammed Shami, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav and Rishabh Pant.

England: Eoin Morgan (Capt.),



Sir Donald Bradman has hit just 6 sixes in his entire Test career.

under the summer sun.

'Away' game jersey

The Men in Blue, will wear their new orange jersey just for this face-off, considered



Letting his bat talk: M.S. Dhoni can still play the big shots at the right time as he showed against the West Indies. *AP

Joe Root, Jonny Bairstow, Jos Buttler, Ben Stokes, Jason Roy, Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Tom Curran, Liam Dawson, Liam Plunkett, Adil Rashid, James Vince, Chris Woakes and Mark Wood.

Umpires: Aleem Dar and Kumar Dharmasena; **Third umpire:** Ruchira Palliyaguruge; **Match referee:** Ranjan Madugalle.

Match starts at 3 p.m. IST.

THE FACE-OFF		England vs India		EDGBASTON		
HEAD-TO-HEAD		Mat	Eng	Ind	Tied	NR
		99	41	53	2	3
Overall		7	3	3	1	0
World Cup						

STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & SELECT 1 (SD & HD), 3 P.M.

We can't be complacent, says Kohli

India skipper backs Dhoni and Vijay Shankar to the hilt

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
BIRMINGHAM

Virat Kohli stood in a corner and grinned. Young Edward, a wisp of a boy clad in suit and wearing a hat, stood on the podium and spoke about how Sunday's World Cup game at Edgbaston here would help raise money for children. And then Neha asked Kohli about how excited he is about the match involving England, the Indian captain, all grace and sunshine, replied: "We are very proud that we are a part of such a special game and we are very excited."

The skipper then handled the tougher queries from cricket correspondents on Saturday. He spoke at length about his team's mind-space, supported M.S. Dhoni and Vijay Shankar, refused to read much into England's recent slide and, interestingly, gave an eight out of 10 for the new orange jersey.

Excerpts:

England's woes, India's success: We thought England is probably going to dominate in their own conditions, but as I said at the beginning of the tournament, that pressure is going to be a massive factor to handle and low scores are going to be defended. Anyone can beat



Noble cause: India's game against England will be used to raise money as part of a fund-raising event 'OneDay4Children'. *AP

anyone on the day. We got a scare from Afghanistan so you can't take anything for granted. Other teams have outplayed England on occasions, and that can happen to any side. Although we haven't lost a game, we can't be complacent. The reason why we won is that we have been very professional and precise in pressure moments.

Whispers about slow pitches: We didn't come here with any kind of expectation of how the pitches are going to be. To be a quality side, you need to adapt to the situation. In the last two

games, I literally experienced that the pitch deteriorated while I was playing. I don't go with a fixed mindset and if the pitch is not according to what I am feeling, it is not as if I will slog and get out. I think it's about finding ways to win, finding ways to score runs.

A beast called pressure: The more basic you can keep things in a tournament like the World Cup, the better chances you have of being one up against the opposition. The more you attach emotion, excitement or too much pressure to an occa-

sion, you can't make good decisions. People have stepped up at different times and have given a total team performance. It's very simple - focus on your skill sets and not too much on the opposition.

Vijay Shankar at four: He had a decent game against Pakistan. Against Afghanistan and on that pitch, he looked really assured. Last game (against the West Indies), he looked really good and then he gets a beautiful ball from Kemar Roach. Sometimes in cricket, you just need a bit of luck to get over from 30 to 60, and then you play a defining knock. He is very close to that.

Dhoni's slow, steady runs: He knows exactly what he needs to do. What we know inside the change room is the most important thing to us and we have total belief in him. He has stood up for the team many times. I don't think it's fair to point out one or two performances in which anyone can falter. After the Afghanistan game, he went into the nets, worked hard and got us a winning total against the West Indies. We are very happy with where we stand as a team and how the batting is going at the moment.

A lot on the line: Morgan

Sunday's will feel like an away game

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BIRMINGHAM

Eoin Morgan drew hope from England's 2-1 victory in a home bilateral ODI series against India last year, while stepping into Sunday's big game against Virat Kohli's men. In a press conference here on Saturday, the host skipper expressed optimism over the fitness of Jason Roy and Jofra Archer, said that Jonny Bairstow is entitled to his views and countered insensitive queries on whether he is contemplating a resignation. **Excerpts:**

World Cup hopes: We are extremely lucky to be playing in a home World Cup. It



Joe Root. *AP

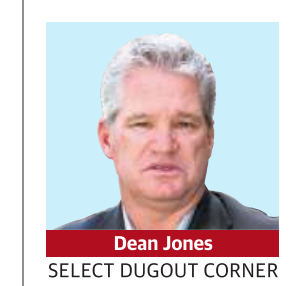
presents a huge opportunity. If we win two more group games, then we are through to the semifinals, and if we win that, we get through to a World Cup final. There's still a lot on the line. Mathematically, there's still a chance if we win one out of the two games, but certainly we want to win Sunday's game.

The Indian flavour: I sort of recall the Champions Trophy final that we played India here and it was a complete away game. We have a number of fans but the noise that the Indian fans make with their horns and various different things makes it that much more louder. So, yeah, Sunday's match will feel like an away game.

Batting pitch preferred: We want to play on the best possible wicket, preferably a batting wicket. We bat deep and tend to thrive in high scoring games. So it's an area that we would be more confident playing.

Historical clues: The last time we played India, we beat them in a series here. The team that's been together has had success against India and because we have beaten them before, we have belief.

Dhoni should bat at No. 4



Dean Jones
SELECT DUGOUT CORNER

I didn't like the comments made by Jonny Bairstow about players-turned-pundits wanting England to fail.

It feels like he is looking for sympathy after a couple of losses. Bairstow has been around long enough to know how to handle the media. If he has a problem with what the media are saying or writing, then don't watch television, don't pick up the newspaper, and get off social media. It's as simple as that. What we have to say has no impact on a team's performance on the field.

The England team was bordering on arrogant coming into the World Cup, talking about piling up 400 and 500-run scores. Now they're being dealt with a pill of humility. So in this scenario, it's best to become humble and just go about your business.

While it is good to aim for 400-run totals, you also need to be able to adapt to different conditions. You

cannot play big shots on pitches which offer turn or movement. Captain Eoin Morgan thought he could go *Tora! Tora! Tora!* - an all-out attacking approach - against Australia, and ended up hooking Mitchell Starc and being caught on the boundary.

England do not have a proper game plan. If Plan 'A' does not work, Plan 'B' should be in place. That is not the case right now. James Vince is a weakness at the top of the order. The team has been hurt by the unavailability of Jason Roy and Alex Hales.

I would open with Moeen Ali, and bring Liam Dawson into the eleven. Dawson is a good left-arm spinner, especially useful on this Birmingham pitch which could offer turn. Dawson is also a very good lower-order hitter.

As for India, I think M.S. Dhoni should bat at No. 4. Vijay Shankar has not quite come good. The No. 4 spot has been a major problem for India, but it is very rare to have an engine firing on all 11 cylinders. You can go well on 8-9 cylinders, so there is no need to get too worried. As long as the top-three bowlers and batsmen fire, India will be fine.

(Tune in to *Select Dugout* on Star Sports Select 1 on India match days and Sundays)



Remember the name! Boult became the first Kiwi to take three-in-a-row at the World Cup. *AP

Boult's hat-trick puts the skids on Australia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

Pace spearhead Trent Boult hogged the limelight with a sensational final-over hat-trick as New Zealand restricted Australia to 243 for nine at Lord's on Saturday.

He became the first Kiwi to grab a hat-trick in the World Cup.

With his swinging full-pitched deliveries, the left-arm seamer sent back the well-settled Usman Khawaja (88 off 129 balls), Mitchell Starc and Jason Behrendorff.

ter Khawaja and Alex Carey (71 off 72 balls) scored contrasting half-centuries to lift Australia from a disastrous start. The defending champion lost half its side with less than 100 on the board, but a 107-run partnership for the sixth wicket between Khawaja and Carey helped it rebuild.

It was a rare occasion as the opening duo of David Warner and Aaron Finch, in red-hot form going into this game, failed to fire.

While Finch (8) was the first to go, trapped in front

by Boult, Warner departed after making 16. Things got worse when Steve Smith was sent back by Lockie Ferguson, with Martin Guptill com-

ing up with a sharp reflex catch.

Khawaja played second fiddle as Carey hit 11 boundaries in his fluent knock.

SCOREBOARD AUSTRALIA VS NEW ZEALAND

AUSTRALIA
David Warner c Latham b Ferguson 16 (23b, 3x4), Aaron Finch lbw b Boult 8 (15b, 1x4), Usman Khawaja b Boult 88 (129b, 5x4), Steve Smith c Guptill b Ferguson 5 (8b), Marcus Stoinis c Latham b Neesham 21 (26b, 3x4), Glenn Maxwell c&b Neesham 1 (5b), Alex Carey c Guptill b Williamson 71 (72b,

11x4), Pat Cummins (not out) 23 (19b, 1x4), Mitchell Starc b Boult 0 (1b), Jason Behrendorff lbw b Boult 0 (1b), Nathan Lyon (not out) 0 (1b); Extras (lb-3, w-7); 10; Total (for nine wkts. in 50 overs): 243.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-15 (Finch, 4.3 overs), 2-38 (Warner, 9.1), 3-46 (Smith, 11.2), 4-81 (Stoinis, 19.6), 5-92 (Max-

well, 21.3), 6-199 (Carey, 42.6), 7-243 (Khawaja, 49.3), 8-243 (Starc, 49.4), 9-243 (Behrendorff, 49.5).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING

Boult 10-1-51-4, de Grandhomme 8-1-29-0, Ferguson 10-0-49-2, Sodhi 6-0-35-0, Neesham 6-0-28-2, Santner 3-0-23-0, Williamson 7-0-25-1.
Toss: Australia.

Imad keeps his nerve as Pakistan wins a thriller

Afghanistan goes down with guns blazing after being restricted to 227 by Shaheen's burst

WORLD CUP

SHAYAN ACHARYA
LEEDS

Pakistan survived an Afghanistan scare to scrape through to a three-wicket win and keep its World Cup hopes alive.

After Shaheen Afridi had scythed through the Afghanistan line-up on a bright Saturday morning at the Headingley, all-rounder Imad Wasim held his nerve and stitched together crucial partnerships with Shadab Khan and Wahab Riaz to save Pakistan from embarrassment.

Quick strikes

Pakistan looked on course for a comfortable win when Imam-ul-Haq and Babar Azam forged a 72-run partnership for the second wicket. Off-spinner Mohammad Nabi, however, removed both in quick succession to bring Afghanistan back into the contest.

The team was in dire straits at 156 for six, but Imad kept his cool. He added 50 with Shadab and an unbeaten 24 with Wahab (15 not out) to guide the team home with three wickets and two balls to spare. Wahab smashed a six off Rashid Khan to ease nerves and bring down the equation to six off six deliveries.

Skipper Gulbadin Naib's decision to bowl the 46th ov-



Rising to the occasion: When the chips were down, Pakistan found Imad Wasim. ■ AP

er, after the spinners had established a stranglehold over the Pakistan batsmen, backfired as he conceded 18 runs with 46 needed off 30 balls.

The 20-year-old Rashid Khan, who has had enormous success in various T20 leagues across the world, failed to trouble the Pakistan

Where they stand

Team	Mat	Won	Lost	NR	PTS	NRR
Australia (Q)	7	6	1	0	12	0.906
India	6	5	0	1	11	1.160
New Zealand	7	5	1	1	11	1.028
Pakistan	8	4	3	1	9	-0.792
England	7	4	3	0	8	1.051
Bangladesh	7	3	3	1	7	-0.133
Sri Lanka	7	2	3	2	6	-1.186
South Africa (E)	8	2	5	1	5	-0.080
West Indies (E)	7	1	5	1	3	-0.320
Afghanistan (E)	8	0	8	0	0	-1.418

*Till the Pakistan-Afghanistan match on June 29. Q: Qualified; E: Eliminated

batsmen, giving away 50 in 10-over spell. Earlier, skipper Sarfaraz relied on Shaheen who dishied out a blistering opening

spell to remove Naib and Hashmatullah Shahidi off consecutive deliveries. Afghanistan recovered through a 64-run stand for

the fourth wicket between Asghar Afghan and young wicketkeeper Ikrum Ali Khil before Najibullah Zadran chipped in with a 54-ball 42.

Stellar show

Apart from Shaheen who produced a stellar show, pacer Wahab Riaz and left-arm spinner Imad, who opened the bowling, took two wickets each.

The Pakistan batsmen almost failed to cash in on Shaheen's efforts before Imad came to the team's rescue.

Next assignment

AFGHANISTAN: July 4 vs West Indies, Headingley, 3 p.m.

PAKISTAN: July 5 vs Bangladesh, Lord's, 3 p.m.

SCOREBOARD AFGHANISTAN VS PAKISTAN

AFGHANISTAN

Rahmat Shah c Azam b Imad 35 (43b, 5x4), Gulbadin Naib c Sarfaraz b Shaheen 15 (12b, 3x4), Hashmatullah Shahidi c Imad b Shaheen 0 (1b), Ikrum Ali Khil c Hafeez b Imad 24 (66b, 1x4), Asghar Afghan b Shadab 42 (35b, 3x4, 2x6), Mohammad Nabi c Amir b Wahab 16 (33b), Najibullah Zadran b Shaheen 42 (54b, 6x4), Samiullah Shinwari (not out) 19 (32b, 1x4), Rashid Khan c Zaman b Shaheen 8 (12b, 1x4), Hamid Hassan b Wahab 1 (3b), Mujeeb Ur Rahman (not out) 7 (9b, 1x4); Extras (lb-8, w-10); Total (for nine wkts. in 50 overs): 227.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-27 (Naib, 4.4 overs), 2-27 (Shahidi, 4.5), 3-57 (Rahmat,

11.6), 4-121 (Afghan, 25.2), 5-125 (Ikram, 26.6), 6-167 (Nabi, 36.4), 7-202 (Najibullah, 44.4), 8-210 (Rashid, 46.4), 9-219 (Hassan, 48.2).

PAKISTAN BOWLING

Imad 10-0-48-2, Amir 10-1-41-0, Shaheen 10-0-47-4, Hafeez 2-0-10-0, Wahab 8-0-29-2, Shadab 10-0-44-1.

PAKISTAN

Fakhar Zaman lbw b Mujeeb 0 (2b), Imam-ul-Haq st Ali Khil b Nabi 36 (57b, 4x4), Babar Azam b Nabi 45 (51b, 5x4), Mohammad Hafeez c Shahidi b Mujeeb 19 (35b, 1x4), Haris 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), Wa-

hab Riaz (not out) 15 (9b, 1x4, 1x6); Extras (b-1, lb-4, w-5) 10; Total (for seven wkts. in 49.4 overs): 230.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Zaman, 0.2 overs), 2-72 (Imam-ul-Haq, 15.6), 3-81 (Babar, 17.2), 4-121 (Hafeez, 29.1), 5-142 (Sohail, 34.6), 6-156 (Sarfaraz, 38.6 ov), 7-206 (Shadab, 46.4).

AFGHANISTAN BOWLING

Mujeeb 10-1-34-2, Hamid 2-0-13-0, Naib 9.4-0-73-0, Nabi 10-0-23-2, Rashid 10-0-50-1, Shinwari 8-0-32-0.

Toss: Afghanistan.

MoM: Imad Wasim.

Pakistan won by three wickets with two balls to spare.

Of fans' scuffle and political banners

SHAYAN ACHARYA
LEEDS

As the fans walked into Headingley on Saturday morning for the World Cup fixture between Pakistan and Afghanistan, they spotted a plane flying above the stadium carrying political banners related to Pakistan. "Help end disappearances in Pakistan," read one of the banners.

Though the plane disappeared after a while, it was back again during Afghanistan's innings. This time with a message on Balochistan. While the local organising committee members had no idea about the plane, the ICC, it has been learnt, is looking into the issue.

"We work with local

police forces around the country to prevent this type of incident occurring and were assured that given Headingley is under the flight path for the Leeds Bradford Airport it would not be an issue. We do not condone any sort of political messages at the World Cup," an ICC spokesperson told Sportstar.

And even as the two teams locked horns on Saturday, there were some ugly scenes inside and outside the ground with Afghanistan and Pakistan fans getting into confrontation, forcing the security team to send them out of the ground. Police officials said that a few fans were also arrested for violating law and order issues.



Unusual sight: An aircraft with banners carrying political messages caught the attention.

■ COURTESY TWITTER

Dravid to take charge as NCA's Head of Cricket

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Batting great Rahul Dravid will move to a bigger cricketing role on Monday when he takes charge of the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru on a two-year contract.

As NCA's Head of Cricket, Dravid will groom the next generation of cricketers and chart out a roadmap for junior cricket. He will also monitor the upcoming women cricketers, besides appointing the coaching staff at NCA and the zonal cricket academies.

The new role means that he won't be able to travel with India-A and U-19 teams as he used to.



Rahul Dravid. ■ FILE PHOTO: N. SUDARSHAN

Argentina in semifinals Chile dashes Colombia's hopes



Saviour: Substitute Giovanni Lo Celso, left, scored Argentina's badly-needed second goal in the 74th minute. ■ AFP

REUTERS
RIO DE JANEIRO

COPA AMERICA

Argentina delivered a much-improved performance to beat Venezuela 2-0 in the Copa America quarterfinals on Friday and set up a mouthwatering last-four meeting with Brazil.

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.

Substitute Giovanni Lo Cel-

so 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.

In the other quarterfinal, champion Chile advanced after beating Colombia 5-4 in a penalty shootout following a 0-0 draw. Alexis Sanchez got the winning kick for Chile after William Tesillo missed Colombias last attempt.

The results:

Venezuela 0 lost to Argentina 2 (Martinez 10, Lo Celso 74). Colombia 0 drew with Chile 0 (Chile won 5-4 on penalties).

Rapinoe's double stuns France

Sweden dumps Germany; Dutch make maiden last four

WOMEN'S WC

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Megan Rapinoe admitted it had been an unforgettable night after her brace took the United States through to the semifinals of the women's World Cup on Friday, the holder beating France 2-1 here to puncture the hopes of the host nation.

Rapinoe's free-kick five minutes into this quarterfinal evaded a sea of bodies in the box on its way into the net to stun the home crowd.

The USA then soaked up pressure before delivering the knockout blow midway through the second half when Rapinoe turned in Tobin Heath's centre, although Wendie Renard pulled a goal back for France to set up a tense finish.

Jill Ellis' team held on and go through to a semifinal against England in Lyon next Tuesday as it seeks to retain its crown and win a fourth World Cup.

"We didn't have the best night on the ball but the focus defensively, and the willingness and the discipline

to do what we did tonight is tremendous," said the 33-year-old Rapinoe.

Unforgettable

"We were ruthless with our chances, so moving on to the next round, that's really all that matters. It's a game that we'll never forget here in Paris."

Goals from Sofia Jakobsson and Stina Blackstenius helped Sweden come from behind to stun Germany 2-1 in the quarterfinals at Roazhon Park in Rennes and set

up a last-four clash with the Netherlands.

Second half headers from Vivianne Miedema and Stefanie van der Gragt earned the Netherlands a 2-0 win over Italy in their quarterfinal and a first ever place in the World Cup last four.

The results (quarterfinals): France 1 (Renard 81) lost to USA 2 (Rapinoe 5, 65).

Italy 0 lost to Netherlands 2 (Miedema 70, van der Gragt 80).

Sweden 2 (Jakobsson 22, Blackstenius 48) bt Germany 1 (Magull 16).



Diva! Megan Rapinoe celebrates a strike against France. ■ AFP

Leclerc blazes to pole

Hamilton gets a three-place penalty



Great going: Ferrari's Charles Leclerc claimed his second career pole. ■ REUTERS

AUSTRIAN GP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SPELBERG

Charles Leclerc claimed pole position for Ferrari in Sunday's Austrian Grand Prix with a track record lap on Saturday as Lewis Hamilton was hit with a three-place grid penalty, demoting the World Champion from second to fourth after various penalties were applied.

Hamilton was due to share the front row with Leclerc but the stewards found the Mercedes driver

guilty of impeding Kimi Raikkonen. Leclerc will now have fellow-21-year-old Max Verstappen of Red Bull alongside him.

The two young tyros will start ahead of Valtteri Bottas in the second Mercedes and British rookie Lando Norris, 19, of McLaren.

Leclerc had secured his second career pole when clocking his best lap of one minute and 3.003 seconds in the final seconds of a dramatic session that saw his Ferrari teammate Sebastian Vettel unable to run due to an air pressure problem.

SUDOKU

4			2		5			
			7	5	4			8 3
		9			3	1		
1					7	4		
	7					3		
	9	4						8
		2	8			4		
4	6		5	1	7			
		7		4				1

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	9	5	2	8	7	1	3	6
7	2	3	6	4	1	9	5	8
8	1	6	5	3	9	4	2	7
2	5	9	1	7	6	3	8	4
6	4	8	9	2	3	5	7	1
5	8	1	4	6	2	7	9	3
9	7	2	3	1	8	6	4	5
3	6	4	7	9	5	8	1	2

RACING

It's Impavid vs War Hammer

BENGALURU: Impavid and War Hammer may fight out the finish of the Colts Championship Stakes (1,600m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Sunday (June 30).

There will be no false rails.

1. ADLER STAKES (1,600m), rated 15 to 35, 2:00 pm: 1. Revan Star (4) Shobhan 60, 2. Kirkwood (3) John 59.5, 3. Ido What I Do (8) Akshay K 59, 4. Natalma (7) Zervan 59, 5. Crack Of Dawn (2) Sandesh 55.5, 6. Debonair (1) Neeraj 54, 7. Granada (6) Md. Asif Khan 54 and 8. Tequila Tornado (5) Dhebe 52.

1. CRACK OF DAWN, 2. KIRKWOOD, 3. IDO WHAT I DO.

2. RED DIVINE PLATE (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2:30: 1. Altair (4) Irvan 56, 2. Knotty Oak (2) Antony 56, 3. Mr Humble (5) R. Manish 56, 4. Stroke Of Genius (3) Sai Vamshi 56, 5. Blue Bliss (7) Yash 54.5, 6. Constanza (8) Sandesh 54.5, 7. Donna Bella (1) Suraj 54.5 and 8. Gift Of Grace (6) Zervan 54.5.

1. CONSTANZA, 2. KNOTTY OAK, 3. GIFT OF GRACE.

3. GUINDY PLATE (1,200m), rated 00 to 20, 3:00: 1. Majestic Heroine (2) Md. Asif Khan 60, 2. Master Of War (8) P.S. Chouhan 60, 3. Regal Force (2) Koushik 60, 4. Simply Magical (3) Yash 59.5, 5. Unbroken (1) Afroz Khan 59.5, 6. Himachali (5) Trevor 58.5, 7. Natalie (1) P. Surya 57, 8. Duty Call (4) Arshad 55, 9. Desert Gilt (9) Dhanu Singh 54, 10. Kanthaka (7) Rajesh K 54, 11.

Zedclass (10) A.S. Peter 51.5 and 12. Proudwish (6) A. Merchant 50.

1. HIMACHALI, 2. REGAL FORCE, 3. MASTER OF WAR.

4. JUSTICE P. MEDAPA MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 30 to 50, 3:30: 1. Akita Pro (9) Trevor 60, 2. Game Changer (7) Arshad 58.5, 3. Corona Del Corsa (4) Suraj 56, 4. Land Of Liberty (5) Rajesh K 56, 5. Tanoura (8) Adarsh 55, 6. Star Cavalry (6) Sandesh 54.5, 7. Raw Gold (2) Vivek 54, 8. Reference (1) Dhanu Singh 54 and 9. Aceros (3) P. Surya 52.

1. AKITA PRO, 2. CORONA DEL CORSA, 3. STAR CAVALRY.

5. COLTS CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES (1,600m), 3-y-o Colts and Geldings, (Terms), 4:00: 1. Exclusive Blue (7) Akshay K 56, 2. Impavid (5) Sandesh 56, 3. Lightning Bolt (8) Zervan 56, 4. Malwa (6) P.S. Chouhan 56, 5. Mystic Bay (2) Yash 56, 6. Trafalgar (1) Suraj 56, 7. War Hammer (3) Trevor 56 and 8. Wizard Of Stocks (4) Neeraj 56.

1. IMPAVID, 2. WAR HAMMER, 3. TRAFALGAR.

6. CLASSIC AT PLATE (Div. I), (1,200m), rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over, 4:30: 1. Baymax (10) Sai Vamshi 60, 2. War Hero (9) R. Manish 60, 3. Wings Of Desire (7) P.S. Chouhan 58.5, 4. Alberetta (11) A. Qureshi 58, 5. Kerazano (3) Sandesh 58, 6. Secretsuperstar (5) Darshan 58, 7. Angels Kiss (12) Antony 57.5, 8. Kvasir (1) Akshay K

57.5, 9. Constantinople (8) Trevor 56, 10. Decisive (4) A. Imran 56, 11. Pink Smile (2) Tauseef 55 and 12. Grand Empire (6) Bhawani Singh 54.

1. ANGELS KISS, 2. CONSTANTINOPLE, 3. WINGS OF DESIRE.

7. RACING PATRONS TROPHY (1,600m), rated 75 & over, 5:00: 1. Kambaku (5) John 62.5, 2. Auburn (2) Akshay K 60.5, 3. Wave Rider (4) Koushik 57, 4. Ultimate Warrior (6) Darshan 56.5, 5. Tororosso (7) S. Shareef 56, 6. Automatic (3) P.S. Chouhan 55, 7. Isn't She Lovely (9) Sandesh 54, 8. Booker Jones (1) Irvan 51.5 and 9. Magistero (8) Neeraj 50.5.

1. ISN'T SHE LOVELY, 2. KAMBAKU, 3. AUBURN.

8. CLASSIC AT PLATE (Div. II), (1,200m), rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over, 5:30: 1. Benediction (8) Irvan 60, 2. San Bernardino (6) Sai Vamshi 59.5, 3. Star Man (11) Trevor 59.5, 4. Birchwood (9) A. Qureshi 59, 5. Amazonia (2) S. Shareef 58, 6. Florencia (7) A. Merchant 58, 7. Bold Move (4) Zervan 57.5, 8. Jayadratha (10) Dhanu Singh 57, 9. Amber Crown (3) Sandesh 56.5, 10. Papadokia (5) Raghuvveer Singh 56 and 11. Midnight Sky (1) R. Manjunath 55.5.

1. STAR MAN, 2. SAN BERNARDINO, 3. BOLD MOVE.

Day's best: ISN'T SHE LOVELY Double: CONSTANZA - AKITA PRO Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; Tr (6): 3, 4 and 5; (10): 6, 7 and 8.

Adjudicate wins main event

BENGALURU: Adjudicate (Suraj up), won the Chief Justice's Cup, the feature event of the races held here on Saturday (June 29). The winner is owned by Soom Stud Farm Pvt Ltd rep by. Mrs. D. Khaitan, Mr & Mrs. A. Khaitan and Mrs. D. Jalan & Arion Horse Co. Pvt Ltd rep by. Mr. D.A. Nanda, Ms. Esha Nanda Bhowani and Mr. Amitabh Nanda and trained by James Mckeown.

THE RESULTS

1. SIR M. VISVESVARAYA MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 60 & over: PELUCHE (Trevor) 1, Aeisir (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Sakura (Akshay K) 3 and Surf Romance (Zervan) 4. Lnk, 1/2 and 5-3/4. Im 24.04s. ₹41 (w), 12, 15 and 10 (p), SHP: 34, THP: 72, FP: 238, Q: 118, Trinella: 279 and 84, Exacta: 1,546 and 1,305. Favourite: Sakura. Owners: M R Stud Farms Pvt Ltd rep by. Mr. N. Chandrashekar Rai & Manjri Horse Breed Farm Pvt Ltd rep by. Mr & Mrs. S.P. Mistry. Trainer: Neil Darashan.

2. AMAZING GRACE PLATE (1,100m), rated 00 to 20: SONGKRAN (P.S. Chouhan) 1, All By Myself (Arshad) 2, Hunters Moon (Sai Vamshi) 3 and Savisa (A. Qureshi) 4. 3-1/4, 2 and 1. Im 06.63s. ₹28 (w), 14, 23 and 39 (p), SHP: 61, THP: 17, FP: 163, Q: 90, Trinella: 21

TV PICKS

ICC World Cup: Star Sports 1 & 2, 5S Select 1 (SD & HD), 3 p.m.
Formula One: Austrian GP, 5S Select 2 (SD & HD), 6.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Superb start by Aditi in Arkansas

ROGERS (USA)
Aditi Ashok made her best start of the season with a bogey free five-under 67 to be tied-13th on the first day of the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship. In a season, where she has not been able to find her form, Aditi is now four behind the first round leader, Inbee Park, who had five straight early birdies and shot a 9-under 62. This was Aditi's first score in the 60s in any first round in 2019 and only the second round below 70 on either of the first two days. **PTI**



Pliskova takes Eastbourne title

EASTBOURNE
World No. 3 Karolina Pliskova cruised to her second Eastbourne International title with a 6-1, 6-4 destruction of Wimbledon champion Angelique Kerber on Saturday. The Czech did not drop a set all week and raced through the final in little over an hour on court to claim her third title of the year. **AFP**

Anand draws with Aronian

SPORTS BUREAU ZAGREB
Viswanathan Anand stayed on the recovery-course after a 41-move draw with Levon Aronian in the third round of the Croatia Grand Chess Tour here on Friday.
Anand, who suffered a surprise defeat against leader Ian Nepomniachtchi in the opening round, held Magnus Carlsen in the second round.
The results (third round): Viswanathan Anand (1) drew with Levon Aronian (Arm, 1.5); Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze, 1) lost to Ian Nepomniachtchi (Rus, 3); Fabiano Caruana (USA, 1.5) drew with Magnus Carlsen (2); Anish Giri (Ned, 1) drew with Wesley So (USA, 2); Sergey Karjakin (Rus, 1.5) drew with Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 1.5); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 1.5) drew with Ding Liren (Chn, 1).

Vrushti forces top seed Saina to a draw

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOCHI
West Bengal's Aronyak Ghosh, the top seed in the open section, had a winning start in the 30th National under-17 chess championship at the Oberon Mall here on Saturday evening. He defeated Gujarat's Ajmera Tanmay.
But the girls' No. 1, Odisha's Saina Salonika was forced to a draw by 28th seed Vrushti Shah in the opening round.
Important results (first round): Open: Ajmera Tanmay (Guj, 0) lost to Aronyak Ghosh (WB, 1), Neelash Saha (WB, 1) bt S. Nithyan (Ker, 0), S. Rohith (TN, 0) lost to Vatsal Singhania (Jha, 1), Utsav Chatterjee (WB, 1) bt Shah Devansh (Mah, 0), Sanchi Mukherjee (Jha, 0.5) drew with Ayush Sharma (MP, 0.5).
Girls: Vrushti Shah (Guj, 0.5) drew with Saina Salonika (Odi, 0.5), Shanya Mishra (Del, 1) bt B. Alekha (AP, 0), Prasadhi Bhat (Kar, 0) lost to L. Jyothsna (TN, 1), Sazmidhaa Ghosh (WB, 0) lost to Diya Chowdhury (WB, 1), Shreya Das (Bih, 0) lost to Diya Chowdhury (WB, 1).



Racing away: Dean Mascarenhas of Team Champions attacking the stages on the second day. ***SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

Mascarenhas dazzles

Gill recovers to finish ninth after his car lets him down

INRC

RAYAN ROZARIO CHENNAI
Team Champions Dean Mascarenhas (co-driver Shruptha Padival) was not at his aggressive best but, he was still strong enough to finish on top of the pack on day two of the 41st South India Rally, the first round of the Champions Yacht Club - FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship here on Saturday.
It was seasoned campaigner Bikku Babu (co-driver Milen George) from the same team who shot into the lead the other day.
Team Mahindra Adventure's Super Star Gaurav Gill trailed him by just seven seconds and, obviously, one expected him to come back with a bang.
But his car let him down

for the second day on the trot but he recovered late in the evening to finish ninth.
And that saw some interesting battle between the others. Dean, the INRC 2 driver, supported by JK Tyres, squeezed the best out of his car in the first stage of the day but failed to carry it forward in the very next stage at Aavisa. And that turned the contest closer still.
The lead kept changing hands between Chetan Shivar (Dilip Sharan), Rahul Kantharaj (Vivek Bhatt) and Bikku from there.
But, at the end, it was Dean who had the last laugh with an overall timing of 54:48.8s ahead of Rahul, who timed 54:58.1s.
"The issue was with the ECU and the engine. I don't know exactly what it is but they are trying to rectify it,"

said Dean.
"We lost lots of time in the second stage but though the service crew worked on it, the problem kept coming back. But, it was far better than the morning loop," he added.
The results (provisional):
INRC overall: 1. Dean Mascarenhas & Shruptha Padival 54:48.8s; 2. Rahul Kantharaj & Vivek Bhatt 54:58.1s; 3. Younus Ilyas & Harish Gowda 55:03.0s.
INRC: 1. Amitrajit Ghosh & Ashwin Naik 55:26.1s; 2. Gaurav Gill & Musa Sherif 56:30.3s; 3) Phalguna URS & Srikanth Gowda 56:54.7s.
INRC 2: 1. Dean Mascarenhas & Shruptha Padival 54:48.8s; 2. Rahul Kantharaj & Vivek Bhatt 54:58.1s; 3. Younus Ilyas & Harish Gowda 55:18.3s.
INRC 3: 1. Fabid Ahmer & G. Sanath 55:03.0s; 2. Chetan Shivar & Dilip Sharan 55:04.3s; 3. Sahil Khanna & Rajit Kadian 57:15.7s.

Rakesh Shukla passes away

He played 121 First Class matches and one Test

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

Rakesh Shukla, former India leg-spinner, passed away in Delhi on Saturday. He was 71. He had represented Delhi and Bihar in First Class cricket and earned his Test cap against Sri Lanka in 1982.
Shukla played 121 First Class matches, claimed 295 wickets and aggregated 3798 runs.
Known for his gentle demeanour, Shukla was loved by his teammates for his nature to help anyone who sought his guidance. "I learnt my lessons from my seniors and it is my duty to pass on the knowledge to the current generation," he would often say.
Having picked early lessons from elder brother Anand, who also bowled leg-spin and played for Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, Shukla was much respected for his ability to beat the batsman in the air.
"He was not afraid of fighting the ball. What I loved most about him was his spirit to fight. No batsman could challenge him on a helpful pitch. He was a match-winner," said his long-time Delhi teammate Madan Lal.
"I had many partnerships



for Delhi cricket and Rakesh had a huge hand in it," Madan said of that effort from the all-rounder.
"A no-fuss cricketer. We played in the same team. Extremely committed with both ball and bat. Gave his 100 per cent. Had a quiet presence in the dressing room. He left the way he played his cricket - no fuss," said Bishan Singh Bedi.
"Wonderful human being, said his former Delhi colleague Surender Khanna. "Very good team man. Always positive. We were together in SAIL after sharing the Delhi dressing room for years. Have so many memories of him. Whenever the team needed him to perform, he came up with something special. That was a special quality in him. I pray that his soul rests in peace."
Shukla loved to coach youngsters and insisted they learn the basics well.
"Cricket teaches you to live life honestly. You must respect the laws of the game and never show dissent on the field," was his philosophy.
He stayed connected with the game through an academy he ran at the YMCA and was a popular expert with All India Radio.

Strong team for junior World Cup

India had topped the table last year with 26 medals

SHOOTING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
Some of the accomplished shooters like Elavenil Valarivan and Mehuli Ghosh, apart from Manisha Keer and Adarsh Singh, will be part of the strong 53-member Indian team for the junior World Cup scheduled to be held in Suh, Germany, from July 12 to 19.
While Elavenil and Mehuli have been part of the National team in the women's air rifle section, Manisha has been part of the trap team, and Adarsh has been getting close to winning the Olympic quota in men's rapid fire pistol.
In the competition that will feature rifle, pistol and shotgun events, 55 countries

are scheduled to send 652 shooters. That should underline the physical strength of India, as the host will field the second biggest contingent of 40.
Russia (36), China (34), Czech Republic (34), Italy (32), USA (31), Britain (29), France (28), Poland (25) and Japan (20) will be the other countries trying to capitalise on the best exposure for juniors.
India has reasons to field the strongest squad both in terms of quality and number, as it had topped the table last year with 26 medals including 15 gold. China had won 21 including six gold.
10-day training camp
The shooters are expected to have a 10-day training camp before they leave for Germany.
The schedule has 25-metre standard pistol for junior men and women on July 13, followed by free pistol, trap, rifle prone on the second day. The air rifle and trap finals are scheduled for the third day. After days of packed events, the event will conclude with mixed air pistol and rifle 3-position events on July 19.
Most of the shooters are in competitive mode, especially in rifle and pistol, as they have been shooting in the Kumar Surendra Singh Championship apart from the fifth National selection trials.
It may be recalled that India has topped the medals table in all the three World Cups for men and women this season in rifle and pistol, in Delhi, Beijing and Munich.

No problem with Gill's form

Sensor issues put paid to the driver's hopes in opener

RAYAN ROZARIO CHENNAI

It was a bad day in office for Gaurav Gill on the second day of the 41st South India Rally here.
The Team Mahindra Adventure's big fish, who is now back in his favourite stable (JK Tyres), was confident of punching out the rest with ease in the INRC opener. But, it came as a shocker to see him fall way behind the pack.
So, what went wrong? Is it the problem with the man or the machine (Mahindra Adventure XUV 300 R2 Petrol)? Blame it on the machine as Gill is currently in top form. Obviously, he was disappointed.
"My form is not the problem but there are some minor issues. We are trying to understand what the car wants but there's nothing wrong as well as it's all a part of the development process," said Gill.
"We thought we will use this rally as a test. We expected our results to be a little inconsistent but that's



Gaurav Gill. ***SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

We are trying to understand what the car wants but there's nothing wrong as well as it's all a part of the development process

okay as it is all about learning," he added.
But should the test not have been done before the rally?
"Quite true, but we had some unfortunate incidents

and circumstances that were beyond our reach. It does not matter as we still have five rounds to go," he said.
N. Leelakrishnan, the man who is preparing the car, was still working hard on the machine.
"The sensor actually failed, which shut the engine down. It's a small issue but unfortunately it cost us time," said Leelakrishnan.
"Motorsports is where things like this can happen. Whenever you are running a new package these are bound to happen," he added.

Confident
He further stated that the team will beat the opposition by at least three minutes in the next round at Coimbatore.
Hari Singh, Head of Operations, JK Tyre Motorsports, said: "I know things have not fallen in place but the XUV300 is a new car and the work is still going on.
"So nothing to worry as we got the best driver, tuner and the car."

India starts well in IBSF snooker WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DOHA

Defending champion India made a strong start in the IBSF snooker World Cup with victories over South Africa and Thailand here on Saturday.
Pankaj Advani and Manan Chandra had annexed the coveted title last year. This time, India's top two ranked players, Advani and Laxman Rawat, are vying to bring back the cup.
India trounced South Africa 3-0 before getting the better of the mighty Thailand 3-1.

India-1 finishes runner-up

ASIAN SNOOKER

SPORTS BUREAU DOHA
Pakistan-2 got the better of India-1 3-2 in the final of the Asian team snooker championship here on Friday.
India was outplayed in the first two matches with Pankaj Advani going down 7-9-1 against Babar Masih and Zulfiqar Qadir outplaying Laxman Rawat 7-1-1.
The Indian duo won the next match against the Pakistani pair 58-18 before Advani got past Qadir 67-39. Pakistan, however, had the last laugh with Masih over-

coming Rawat 69-9.
Earlier, in the semifinals, India and Pakistan-2 had edged past Myanmar and Thailand respectively with identical scorelines of 3-2.
The scores:
Final: Pakistan-2 bt India-1 3-2 (Babar Masih bt Pankaj Advani 7-9-1, Zulfiqar Qadir bt Laxman Rawat 7-1-1, Masih & Qadir lost to Advani & Rawat 69-9, Qadir lost to Advani 67-39, Masih bt Rawat 69-9).
Semifinals: India-1 bt Myanmar 3-2 (Advani bt Ko Htet 95-46, Rawat bt Win Ko Ko 55-42, Het & Ko bt Advani & Rawat 74-28, Htet bt Rawat 51-43, Advani bt Ko Ko 69-29); Pakistan bt Thailand 3-2.

Praful to meet I-League clubs on July 3

SHYAM VASUDEVAN CHENNAI

Amidst the growing uncertainty surrounding the future of Indian football, All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Praful Patel has agreed to meet the I-League clubs on July 3. The AIFF's executive committee meeting, initially scheduled for the same day, has now been postponed to July 9.
AIFF general-secretary Kushal Das' letter to the club owners on Saturday afternoon said: "This is to inform you that a meeting with representatives of I-League clubs with the President of AIFF has been fixed for July 3."
It may be noted that the I-League clubs had requested a meeting with Praful, once before the beginning of the season and once before the Super Cup, but the meetings did not take place.
It is expected that the roadmap of the I-League and the structure of Indian football will be discussed during the meeting as reports have suggested the AIFF is considering making the cash-rich Indian Super League (ISL) as the top division.

Sethu finishes 15th; Senthil 28th in Race 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA SUZUKA

IDEMITSU Honda Racing India's Rajiv Sethu finished 15th to grab one point, while a crash created trouble for Senthil Kumar, who ended up in 28th spot, in Race 1 of the fourth round of FIM Asia Road Racing Championship (ARRC) here on Saturday.

Indians eye medal sweep in Commonwealth chess

Four-time winner Abhijeet Gupta will face a challenge from many Indian GMs

RAKESH RAO NEW DELHI

In the absence of any quality opposition from overseas challengers, India appears set to make a clean sweep of medals in all 16 categories in the Commonwealth chess championship beginning here on Saturday.
Top seed and a four-time winner Abhijeet Gupta will be looking to add to his tally. Ranked joint-ninth in the country, Abhijeet expects serious challenge from, among others, S.L. Narayanan, National champion Aravindh Chithambaram, former champion M.R. Lalit Babu and several other Indian Grandmasters.
In a rare instance, the

event features more GMs (12) than International Masters (11). In fact, two of the IMs, P. Inian and Swayams Mishra, are awaiting confirmation of their GM titles. In all, there are 614 entries across all categories.
Divya is the favourite
Among the leading ladies, Divya Deshmukh, 14, is the rating favourite, ahead of defending champion Tania Sachdev and fellow-former Asian women champion Bhakti Kulkarni.
Divya, winner of two world (under-10 and under-12) titles, took her rating from 2127 to 2432 in just two months earlier this year, mainly after gaining whop-

ping 139 rating points on way to winning an international round-robin women event in Chennai. But this week, Divya is expected to find the going very tough when competing with the seniors.
Women players play in the Open section and the best three finishers make it to the podium. In all other categories, competitions are held separately in open and girls' sections.
For the record, out of the 94 entries, India accounts for 83. The remaining 11 entries are from Bangladesh, Botswana, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, South Africa, Seychelles and Singapore. As usual, stronger Commonwealth nations, led

by England, have stayed away. Initially, this edition was awarded to South Africa. After the country expressed its inability to host it, Sri Lanka was the likely host. But once Sri Lanka opted out, India took the responsibility.
The top-10 seeding: 1. Abhijeet Gupta (2606), 2. S.L. Narayanan (2603), 3. Aravindh Chithambaram (2598), 4. M.R. Lalit Babu (2571), 5. Deepan Chakkravarthy (2557), 6. Arjun Gaisi (2526), 7. P. Inian (2525), 8. Swayams Mishra (2493), 9. Swapnil Dhopade (2488), 10. C.R.G. Krishna (2481).
Women (top-five): 1. Divya Deshmukh (2414), 2. Tania Sachdev (2401), 3. Bhakti Kulkarni (2380), 4. R. Vaishali (2338), 5. M. Mahalakshmi (2245).

Rijiju announces increase in diet budget

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA PATIALA

The Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday announced that the diet budget of the SAI trainees, senior and junior athletes will be increased to bring parity.
Earlier, the diet budget for SAI trainees, junior athletes and senior athletes was ₹250, 480 and 690, respectively but the Rijiju has decided to make the amounts equal.
The Minister also announced that besides food, supplements required by athletes, as per prescription, will also be made available without delay.
The move will impact 12,500 athletes training in various SAI centres and the sports ministry will release an additional amount to ₹150 crore annually to fund the new diet budget.

NORTH ZONE TT

RAKESH RAO SONEPAT

Fifth seed Vishwa Deendayalan regained control when it mattered and got the better of Jeho Himnakulphingheta in a seven-set thriller to claim the junior boys' title in the National-ranking table tennis (North Zone) championship here on Saturday.
The girls title went to top seed Anusha Kutumbale. The Madhya Pradesh girl, after a fruitful outing in the women section, proved her superiority over second seed Swastika Ghosh in six sets.
In a neck-and-battle, Vishwa prevailed after managing to slow down the pace in the decider.
Jeho, gaining momentum after winning the fifth and sixth sets, failed to read the pace and committed too many unforced errors.
Before Jeho could figure out Vishwa's game-plan, the Tamil Nadu boy had moved to the threshold of an important title. In the semifinals, too, Vishwa was stretched to



Young champions: Anusha Kutumbale and Vishwa Deendayalan with their rewards. ***SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

six sets by Statemate Preyesh Suresh Raj. Jeho, down 3-0 against Shreyaans Goel fought from the brink of defeat to win the extended fourth set and raced away with the next three.
The results:
Boys: Final: Vishwa Deendayalan (TN) bt Jeho Himnakulphingheta (Miz) 11-7, 12-10, 8-11, 11-7, 12-14, 3-11, 11-8.

Semifinals: Vishwa bt Preyesh Suresh Raj (TN) 10-12, 9-11, 11-9, 11-6, 11-8, 11-5; Jeho bt Shreyaans Goel (Del) 8-11, 8-11, 10-12, 12-10, 11-7, 11-4, 11-8.
Girls: Final: Anusha Kutumbale (MP) bt Swastika Ghosh (Mah) 11-7, 6-11, 11-7, 11-7, 9-11, 13-11.
Semifinals: Swastika bt Munmun Kundu (Bent) 11-6, 13-11, 4-11, 11-8, 11-3; Anusha bt Anaragaya Manjunath (Kar) 11-9, 11-6, 11-8, 10-12, 11-4.

IN BRIEF



Auction of videotape of man's first steps on moon

NEW YORK
A former NASA intern who bought a truckload of videotapes to resell them may end up a millionaire next month when Sotheby's auctions what it says is the only surviving original recording of man's first steps on the moon 50 years ago. The tapes are expected to sell for as much as \$2 million when they hit the auction on July 20. REUTERS



40 tonnes of fishing nets removed from Pacific

SAN FRANCISCO
In a mission to clean up trash floating in the ocean, environmentalists pulled 40 tons (36 metric tonnes) of abandoned fishing nets this month from an area known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. The group then collected nets entangled with plastic chairs, bottles and other trash in an effort that cost \$3,00,000. AP



Beer, wine bottles contain toxic substances

LONDON
Bottles of beer, wine and spirits contain potentially harmful levels of toxic elements, such as lead and cadmium, in their enamelled decorations, a study by Researchers at the University of Plymouth in the U.K. has found. PTI

Cosmic waves discovery could unlock the mysteries of space

In a first, the precise source of a powerful, one-off burst of such waves spotted

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

A team of international astronomers have determined for the first time the precise source of a powerful, one-off burst of cosmic radio waves.

They have pinpointed it to a massive galaxy billions of light years away, with properties that upend what scientists previously thought they knew about the formation of mysterious fast radio bursts (FRBs). "This result is highly anticipated within the astronomy community," Casey Law, an astronomer at UC Berkeley, who was not involved in the study, said.

The findings, published in the journal *Science*, are among the most significant since the discovery in 2007



Giant leap: The team pinpointed the location of FRB 180924 about 3.6 billion light years from earth. • AFP

of FRBs, which flash for only a micro-instant but can emit as much energy in a millisecond as the Sun does in 10,000 years.

Exactly what creates these high-energy surges of long waves at the far end of the electromagnetic spectrum

remains the subject of intense debate, though scientists now agree they originate in far away galaxies.

Since the first FRB was detected a little over a decade ago, a global hunt has found 85 bursts. Most have been "one-offs".

In 2017, astronomers were able to trace the source of a repeating burst, but locating a one-off FRB presented a much more difficult challenge.

Live replay

Without the benefit of knowing where to look, a team led by Keith Bannister had to devise a new methodology.

"You can think of it as live action replay mode, where we have a computer that's actually looking for the FRB, so it looked through about a billion measurements every second and I tried to find the one that contains an FRB," Mr. Bannister said. The team pinpointed the location of FRB 180924 about 3.6 billion light years from earth.

Indian-American teenager bags \$1,00,000 quiz prize

High school student Avi Gupta wins the '2019 Teen Jeopardy' contest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW YORK

An Indian-American teenager has won a whopping \$1,00,000 prize in the most-watched individual quiz show in the U.S.

Avi Gupta, a high school senior from Portland, U.S., won the show's latest Teen Tournament, taking home the \$1,00,000 grand prize, Jeopardy! said in a statement.

His victory on the '2019 Teen Jeopardy' contest was televised on Friday, in which he beat three other Indian-American teens.

"It still feels unreal, and I honestly can't express how grateful and fortunate I feel to have had this opportunity," Mr. Gupta said.



Avi Gupta

"As a mother, my heart was beating 100 miles per hour. I think the thing about Avi is his perseverance. For him, I could see the effort he has put in throughout the year. So, I wanted him to have a happy wholesome experience. And the win was

the cherry on top," Nandita Gupta, his mother, said.

Ryan Presler, an eighth grader from Sioux Falls, came in second place, grabbing the \$50,000 runner-up prize, while Lucas Miner, a high school junior from Miami, finished third and received \$25,000.

The 2018 College Jeopardy, which also carried a prize of \$100,000, was won by Dhruv Gaur.

Jeopardy!, which featured a total of 15 students, is an American television game show which features a quiz competition in which contestants are presented with general knowledge clues in the form of answers, and must phrase their responses in the form of questions.

Medical 'selfies' help patients feel satisfied

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
SYDNEY

Taking medical 'selfies' and sharing them with a doctor empowers and reassures patients and can improve their relationship with the medical practitioner, research has found.

"Healthcare consumers feel this data is valuable. It helps them have a sense of autonomy in their care, improves their view of the service they are being provided and it enhances the relationship between doctor and patient because there is a sense of mutual respect and communication," said Kara Burns from the Queensland University of Technology in Australia.

To gauge experiences with and attitudes to con-

sumer-generated health photographs, the researchers conducted a two-part study published in the *Journal of Medical Internet Research*. They first interviewed 30 patients, clinicians and caregivers. In the second part, parents were asked to take photos of their children's surgical wounds at the hospital and send it to the surgeon so that he could review healing.

Parents said it improved their confidence and satisfaction with the medical service. Taking photos was a useful reminder for them to check how the surgical sites were healing. The findings from the photographic trial supported conclusions drawn from the study.

Assam's first superhero is a commoner and ready to fly

Advitya, unlike his counterparts elsewhere, does not hide his real identity and wears no costume, mask

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

It was with a romantic film that he wanted to make his directorial debut. But the yearning to "do something different" led Arindam Sharma to direct the first superhero film in Assamese cinema's 84-year-old history.

Mr. Sharma has almost completed the shooting of his directorial venture *Advitya*, a Sanskrit word for the Sun. *Advitya* is the name given by the people to the film's superhero who has no time to wear a fancy costume and a face mask.

A common man seeking job security and stability in life, the superhero is not ready to manage his suddenly-acquired superpowers to take on a supervillain who is



A still from the film *Advitya*. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

equally powerful.

"*Advitya* is a superhero film that has bits of romance, family drama and action besides computer-generated special effects. The lead character is an ordinary person with an understanding girlfriend and a brother who is

more like a friend. Something suddenly happens to him that gives him super strength and the ability to fly," Mr. Sharma told *The Hindu* from eastern Assam's Jorhat.

Declining to reveal the source of the superhero's superpowers, he said that the

film's supervillain is an evil scientist who derives strength from his laboratory experiments and the fury of nature.

"The underlying message of the film is that one should not go against time and nature, and that truth will always prevail over lies and good over evil," he said.

The supervillain, with powers similar to the superhero, meets his end in the film. "How he died is a mystery for the viewers to find out, since the superhero and his nemesis are not strong enough to kill each other," Mr. Sharma said.

The filmmaker, who did a course in direction from Mumbai Film Academy, is hoping that *Advitya*, who – unlike most of his Hollywood

or Bollywood counterparts – does not hide his real identity and wears formal clothes, would strike a chord with the viewers. Chiranjib Dutta, who starred in the 2017 action thriller *Gangs of North-east*, plays the superhero in *Advitya*.

Ajay Barman of Bengali TV serial *E. Amar Guru Dakkhina* plays the supervillain. Niha Rani Das makes her debut opposite Chiranjib and Assamese TV actor Bishakh Borah, who plays his younger brother.

The film, which will have a song each by popular artistes Dikshu Sarma and Sanchita Sharma, is expected to be completed for an early 2020 release. The official teaser of the film was released on June 20.

Together we can



Happy moments: People posing during the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in front of the Stonewall Inn, a well-known gay bar in New York that faced repeated police raids in June 1969. The riots became a turning point in the LGBTQ community's struggle for civil rights in the city. • AFP

Artist wields a paintbrush at Hong Kong protests

Perry Dino has painted many of Hong Kong's social movements, including the 2014 Umbrella Movement

REUTERS
HONG KONG

For 53-year-old Perry Dino, a paintbrush and canvas are weapons for opposing the Hong Kong government as it faces mass protests against a now-suspended Bill that would allow extraditions to mainland China.

Mr. Dino, who has painted many of Hong Kong's social movements including the pro-democracy Umbrella Movement in 2014, considers it important to record what is happening in the Chinese-ruled city.

"I am already one of those standing on the front line to defend Hong Kong," Mr. Dino said.

Hong Kong's government has indefinitely suspended the Bill that would allow cri-



Perry Dino painting at his studio in Hong Kong. • REUTERS

minal suspects to be sent to mainland China for trial in courts controlled by the Communist Party.

Braving tear gas, rubber bullets and beanbag rounds earlier this month when protests turned violent, Mr. Dino said he has drawn and

painted as much as he can about the mass rallies.

"I hope the future generation can understand what Hong Kong has gone through," he said.

Mr. Dino, a part-time teacher, said he hopes that when Hong Kong has true

democracy, he can donate his artwork to a "democracy progression museum".

None of his artwork is currently for sale.

"Making how much money doesn't matter to me. Only the future matters," he said.

Among his paintings, which feature colourful brushstrokes, are ones showing demonstrators' tents occupying major thoroughfares and a flower-etched tribute to a protester who fell to his death.

One painting depicts police firing tear gas, with thick plumes of smoke billowing across a mass of demonstrators.

An abstract canvas shows activists shielding their eyes as they flee while a police of-

ficer with a rifle grins.

Since he started doing protest artwork in 2012, Mr. Dino has joined the annual June 4 Tianamen vigil and he made 25 paintings during the 2014 umbrella movement, when protesters paralysed parts of the financial hub for 79 days.

Mr. Dino said that during protests, Hong Kong police have told him to paint somewhere else.

In the mainland, Chinese censors strive to erase or block news or depictions of the protests. Mr. Dino is confident he can keep doing what he is doing. "They can't hack into my computer and delete it like a photo, nor can they destroy it with a baton as I can always fix my painting," he said.

Facebook Libra may shine where banks lost their sheen

The digital currency is aimed at developing countries

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK

Europeans and Americans have their Visa and Mastercard. For everyone else, here comes... Libra?

Facebook's new digital currency Libra is aimed at a huge potential market for financial services in the developing world, where billions of people don't use traditional banking accounts.

Whether or not these billions will want to make the switch is anyone's guess.

The U.S., Europe and most developed economies already have large and efficient payment systems.

These allow people to buy and sell goods in real time and send money person-to-person through services like Zelle, PayPal and Venmo. That's why the companies that joined Facebook's Libra



Libra can 'provide a universal and stable currency' which is easily transferable. • REUTERS

association, as well as non-profits involved with similar projects, say Libra's potential lies elsewhere.

In developing countries, tens of millions still live far from a bank or money transfer centre. Libra could address this issue by providing a universal and stable currency that is easily trans-

ferable between persons or businesses without the need of setting up an entire payment infrastructure. It also potentially could work at a lower cost.

In the last decade, citizens of developing countries have widely adopted cellphones as a way to store money, sending text message-based payments.

"The entire continent of Africa skipped right over cards and went straight into mobile payments," said Sanjay Sakhrani, an industry analyst. But these payment systems are often constrained by the type of cellphone carrier each person is using. It's not uncommon in places like Africa to carry multiple cellphones in order to have the necessary access to the right money transfer system.

U.S. State to ban discrimination based on hair

LIAM STACK
CALIFORNIA

California is poised to become the first State to ban racial discrimination against people based on their natural hairstyle. The state Assembly voted unanimously on Thursday to approve the measure, which the State Senate approved in April. It now heads to the desk of Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, to be signed into law.

The Bill would update the definition of race used in existing law to be "inclusive of traits historically associated with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles." It points to the history of anti-black racism in the United States and the role it has played in shaping Eurocentric beauty standards and ideas of what constitutes a professional appearance. NY TIMES

Grain-free food may be linked to dog heart disease

119 canine deaths from 2014 to 2018 likely due to DCM

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Recent years have seen a surge in grain-free dog and cat foods, as increasing numbers of pet owners cast aside kibble packed with cheap corn, wheat and barley fillers for what they believe is a healthier alternative.

The reality may be more complex, with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announcing it was continuing to investigate a potential link between grain-free diets that have a high legume content and dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM), a canine and feline heart disease that can be fatal.



A spike in cases among smaller breeds not prone to DCM was reported. • AFP

The FDA named 16 pet food brands most frequently identified in 560 cases of individual dogs reported to have the disease between January 1, 2014 and April 30, 2018, with 119 of them dying. Among these cases, more

than 90% were fed products that were "grain-free" and 93% of the reported products contained peas or lentils as a main ingredient.

"We know it can be devastating to suddenly learn that your previously healthy pet has a potentially life-threatening disease," Steven Solomon, director of the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine said.

The FDA did not recommend switching from grain-free foods but advised pet owners to consult their vet. While DCM is not considered rare, there was a spike in cases among smaller breeds not genetically prone to the disease.