



Search for IAF's missing aircraft continues in Arunachal Pradesh

Page 9



ED may record Praful Patel's statement on aviation deals today

Page 12



In a first, China launches space rocket from Yellow Sea

Page 14

**PLAYING TODAY**

ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP 2019

Australia vs West Indies

VENUE: Trent Bridge

Live on STAR Sports 1, 2 (SD & HD), 3 p.m.



**NEARBY**  
**Winds hamper efforts to retrieve bodies**

**PITHORAGARH**  
 Indian Air Force helicopters on Wednesday undertook three sorties to retrieve bodies of five mountaineers lying near the Nanda Devi East Peak in Uttarakhand but high-speed winds hampered their efforts, Pithoragarh DM V.K. Jogdande said.

**NORTH & EAST** PAGE 5

**8 injured as speeding car hits crowd near mosque**

**NEW DELHI**  
 At least eight persons were injured when a speeding car hit them while they were coming out of a mosque in Shahdara's Khureji after offering Id prayers on Wednesday.

**CITY** PAGE 3

**IAS PHYSICS**  
 by D.P. VAJPEYI  
 Free Seminar & Interaction with toppers on 9th June 10.00am  
 9350934622  
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## T.N students crack NEET code, 49% of the candidates qualify

Nalin Khandelwal of Rajasthan emerges the all-India topper with 701 out of 720

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ  
 NEW DELHI

After fighting tooth and nail against the introduction of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for undergraduate medical and dental courses, Tamil Nadu has seen a quantum jump in the performance of its students in 2019.

Almost half the applicants (48.57%) from the State have qualified, up from just 39.56% last year. However, this was still lower than the national qualifying percentage of 56.5%.

Overall, almost eight lakh students have qualified for counselling, said the National Testing Agency (NTA), which conducted the examination and released the results on Wednesday.

The highest qualifying

**Healthy scores**

In Delhi nearly 75% of the students qualified in the NEET, the highest in India while only 34.52% of the students cleared the exam in Nagaland, the least in the country

State/UT	Qualifying candidates (%)	State/UT	Qualifying candidates (%)
Delhi	74.92	Nagaland	34.52
Haryana	73.41	Mizoram	35.79
Chandigarh	73.24	Meghalaya	36.27
Andhra Pradesh	70.72	Maharashtra	39.26
Rajasthan	69.66	Daman & Diu	40.06

The percentage of those qualifying improved the most in Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and Daman & Diu and fell the most in Meghalaya, Mizoram and Rajasthan

percentage was recorded in Delhi, where almost 80% of the applicants qualified.

The only large State that saw a major drop in performance was Rajasthan. Its qualifying percentage dropped from 74.3% to

69.6%. However, the all-India topper Nalin Khandelwal is from Sikar district of the State and studied at a coaching centre in Jaipur. He scored 701 out of a possible 720 marks.

The Tamil Nadu govern-

ment had objected to the introduction of NEET from 2012 and fought an extended but unsuccessful legal battle to keep the State out of its purview.

**Rural obstacles**

Concerns about State autonomy and the ability of rural students to match NEET standards fuelled its opposition. The death in 2017 of S. Anitha, the daughter of a Scheduled Caste labourer from Ariyalur after she failed to qualify in NEET, focussed public anger against the examination. Anitha, who got 1,176 out of 1,200 marks in the State Board exams, only managed 86 out of 720 in NEET as she could not afford the coaching required.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## Path in politics now open, says Akhilesh

'Tie-up with BSP was a trial that failed'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
 LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday equated his party's *gathbandhan* (alliance) with the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) in Uttar Pradesh to a "trial" that didn't succeed, and declared that the "path in politics" was "open" for his party.

"It's fine, trials happen. Sometimes you don't succeed. But at least you come to know of the weaknesses," he told reporters at an Id event in Lucknow.

**Eyes on 2022**

Mr. Yadav said if his party was to contest the coming bypolls alone, he would chart out a strategy in discussion with his colleagues to bring the "Samajwadi people" to power in 2022.

"As far as the question of



Akhilesh Yadav

alliance and contesting alone goes, now the path in politics is open," he said.

The SP chief, however, kept the window for compromise open, just like BSP chief Mayawati did a day earlier, when she praised Mr. Yadav and his wife Dimple. Ms. Mayawati said their personal relationship would never end despite the "political compulsions" of putting the alliance on hold.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## PM to head committee on economic growth

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
 NEW DELHI

To address the twin problems of sluggish economic growth and rising unemployment, the government has constituted two Cabinet committees to be chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A formal notification by the Cabinet Secretariat would be issued by Thursday.

The five-member Committee on Investment and Growth consists of Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister for Road Transport and Highways and MSME Nitin Gadkari and Railways Minister Piyush Goyal.

This committee will be a focussed group to take measures to bring investments and spur growth in the critical sectors including infrastructure, manufacturing and agriculture, as the economy is passing through a highly volatile period.

Another 10-member Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development has also been formed.

With the GDP falling to 5.8% in the last quarter of 2018-19, lowest in last five years, the committee will prepare a road map to bring the economy back on growth trajectory.

The GDP growth for 2018-19 was 6.8%, against the target of 7.2%.

The fall in growth is result of dip in the performance of the core sectors of the economy, as the eight core sectors recorded a growth of just 2.6% in April, compared with 4.6% in the same month last year.

EMPLOYMENT FOCUS PAGE 12

## India starts off with emphatic win over South Africa



**Winning knock:** Rohit Sharma guided India to victory in its first outing against South Africa at the Hampshire Bowl in Southampton, England, on Wednesday. • REUTERS

Chahal's four for 51 and Rohit's unbeaten 122 prove decisive

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR  
 SOUTHAMPTON

India commenced its World Cup campaign on a rousing note, with a six-wicket triumph over South Africa at a packed Hampshire Bowl here on Wednesday.

Ardent fans, notably the 'Bharat Army', were ecstatic after witnessing a command performance that found its twin pillars in opener Rohit Sharma's unbeaten 122 and leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal's four for 51.

South Africa was restricted to 227 for nine in 50 overs after Chahal snapped up key wickets. His two spells kept the South Africans on a leash. None from the opposi-

tion line-up got a grip on the spinner, and perished. For all the noise about 300-plus scores in England, this World Cup seems to be slowly shifting the balance towards bowlers and both speedster Jasprit Bumrah, who grabbed two wickets, and Chahal reiterated that point.

The chase was never going to be easy under cloudy skies and with a rival pace attack that was potent despite the absence of Dale Steyn. Kagiso Rabada prised out Shikhar Dhawan but India had a string of partnerships that ensured the target was within reach. 'Man of the Match' Rohit braved past the initial nerves, smote a few sixes

and fours and dropped anchor while the others batted around him, ranging from skipper Virat Kohli to M.S. Dhoni. K.L. Rahul, too, contributed at number four.

South Africa never got wickets in clusters and its fielding too wilted while the noise from the stands acquired an ear-splitting pitch.

A relieved Rohit said: "It was a small total, but since there was something in it for the bowlers, it was tough and we needed partnerships." A happy Kohli summed up the game, saying: "Hats off to Rohit, and also the guys who batted around him."

MORE REPORTS PAGE 17

## Co-living special

Co-living is the sequel to co-working, a form of renting, sans brokers, hidden costs, and curfew time. Accommodation is designed around independent rooms, with shared spaces that build a sense of community. Ideal for those new in a city, it's an alternative to cramped PGs, strict hostels, and expensive shared apartments.

Page 20

## NRC casts shadow over Id in Assam

Celebrations muted for some families

RAHUL KARMAKAR  
 GUWAHATI

The detention centre at Goalpara in Assam for those declared foreigners following the NRC exercise and subsequent verification process, played a key role in the Id celebrations of two families, living some 40 km apart.

For the first time in her almost 30 years of married life, Samina Begum did not celebrate Id-ul-Fitr. Her husband, ex-serviceman Mohammed Sanaullah, was taken from their home in Guwahati to the detention centre on May 28, five days after a Foreigners Tribunal order.

"How can I?" was all an inconsolable Ms. Samina could say.

**Bleak Id**

Members of her family said Id has never been so bleak for them, though there were occasions earlier when Mr. Sanaullah, who retired from the Army as an Honorary Captain in August 2017, had to be away on festive days for military assignments.

Members of Mr. Sanaullah's family did not go to the detention centre to meet him on Id, their lawyer Sahidul Islam said.

Some 40 km away in Khopankuchi village the family of Rehat Ali had invited almost the entire neighbourhood for a exuberant Id celebration. Rehat Ali was released on May 7. Home after three years at the very same Goalpara detention centre, Mr. Ali said "My children insisted on a large-scale



Rehat Ali with his son Lukman Ali.

festivity because Id for them and me has been subdued for three years."

He recalled the years when his family would meet him at the detention centre ahead of Id, give him new clothes, some grain and money to celebrate in captivity.

The story of Id at the Sanaullah and Rehat Ali homes was replicated across the State depending on the result of the decisions on citizenship.

The Assam government had in April told the Supreme Court that more than 900 "declared foreigners" were lodged across six detention centres - essentially central jails - in the State. More than 200 others have since added to those remanded after the court pulled the government up for slackness. "About 70% of the inmates in these centres are Muslims," said Aman Wadud, an advocate who represents suspected foreigners *pro bono*.

"We used to fast for Ramadan and celebrate Id from the gifts received by the more prosperous among us. Jail authorities never stopped our celebrations, which fellow Hindu inmates would participate in," Mr Ali said.

## T.N. CM deletes tweet on teaching Tamil in other States

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
 CHENNAI

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami, who tweeted on Wednesday morning recommending the study of Tamil as an optional language in other States, found himself in the midst of a con-

trovery, with his stand being viewed by the Opposition as endorsing the three-language formula. Mr. Palaniswami, who had posted the original tweet on his personal Twitter handle @EPSTamilNadu, later deleted it.

In his tweet, he requested

Prime Minister Narendra Modi "to include Tamil as an optional language for study in other States". He added that "this will be a great service to one of the most ancient languages of the world".

DETAILS ON PAGE 12

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11.06.2019	MODERN HISTORY	GEOGRAPHY	11.06.2019	MODERN HISTORY	11.06.2019
12.06.2019	GEOGRAPHY	CURRENT AFFAIRS	12.06.2019	GEOGRAPHY	12.06.2019
13.06.2019	CURRENT AFFAIRS	INDIAN POLITY	13.06.2019	CURRENT AFFAIRS	13.06.2019
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- Essay Test Series 14<sup>th</sup> June
- Ethics Regular Batch 2019 - 2020-10<sup>th</sup> June
- Ethics Content Enrichment Batch - After PT result
- Ethics Case Study 2019 - 2020 -17<sup>th</sup> June
- GS Mains Test Series 09<sup>th</sup> June
- Essay Test Series 14<sup>th</sup> June
- Law Optional - 2020 24<sup>th</sup> June

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NAME	RANK	ETHICS MARKS	GS MARKS
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NAMRATA	12	125	464
K. V. REDDY	07	121	448
ALOK	41	119	455

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<b>15 May</b>	<b>3 June</b>	<b>15 May</b>	<b>22 June</b>

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**Air quality of Delhi-NCR**

Delhi	192	Gurugram	215
Ghaziabad	186	Faridabad	132
Noida	171	Greater Noida	150

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

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

**DELHI TODAY**

**Talk:** A two-day workshop on 'Chemistry and Environment' at Seminar Room - II & III, 10 a.m.

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

**Exhibition:** "Breathless: An artistic call to India's air pollution crisis" a photo project shot by photographer Ishan Tankha at Bikar House, Pandara Road, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. (Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@thehindu.co.in)

# Airline, travel agency told to pay ₹30,000 as damages

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

A District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum here has directed Qatar Airways and a private travel agency to compensate two complainants by paying over ₹30,000 after it was alleged that the tourists were served non-vegetarian meals on the flight despite booking vegetarian meals.

Holding the airline and the SOTC, Kuoni Travel (India) deficient in services, the con-

sumer panel held, "The non-provision of the vegetarian food does have an impact on the religious aspect of vegetarians. We are of the considered view that [both the opposite parties] are jointly and severally guilty of deficiency in services."

The directions came when the panel was hearing a complaint moved by a city resident Gurnam Singh Randhawa alleging deficiency in services on the part of the travel agency and the airline.

"It was alleged that while on board the flight from Doha to London, the air hostess conveyed to the complainants that they could get vegetarian food only in case if there is surplus as it was not endorsed in their air tickets and she was doing a favour to the complainants by providing vegetarian food," the consumer panel observed.

Also, it was alleged that they were refused vegetarian meals in the flight from Frankfurt to Doha as well.

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RISE 05:23 SET 19:17  
RISE 09:05 SET 23:06

SATURDAY, JUNE 08

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RISE 10:10 SET 23:53

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**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
42°C Dry and hot weather with mainly clear sky to continue. Night will be warm. An uneasy afternoon.

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# Sympathy can't be allowed to substitute justice: HC

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has declined to grant relief to a B.Com (Hons) student, who fell short of the requisite attendance due to his heart ailment, seeking permission to write the 4th semester examination.



"The claim of the petitioner is effectively for the court to grant relief solely on the ground of sympathy, even though it is an admitted position that grant of such relief would fly in the face of the applicable statutory provisions," the High Court said.

"Sympathy must always inform and temper, but can never be allowed to substitute justice," the High Court remarked.

affiliated to Guru Govind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPU). GGSIPU has refused to issue an admit card to him despite his request that he be treated as a special case in view of his long-standing medical history.

However, the Ordinance governing GGSIPU requires a student to attend 75% classes in order to be eligible to appear in the end-semester examination.

The court noted that there is no prescription or other document which would explain the shortage of attendance. "In any event, it is not possible for this court to issue any mandamus to the GGSIPU, directly contrary to Clauses 9.1 and 9.2 of Ordinance II, which binds it," it said while rejecting his plea.

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# Teen held for opening fire at friend's house in Dwarka

Accused got incident recorded and made it public

**STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI**  
A 17-year-old boy has been apprehended for allegedly firing at his friend's residence in Dwarka to threaten the latter, the police said on Wednesday. The boy also got the video of the incident shot and circulated it, they said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Anto Alphonse said that on Saturday, they received a complaint from a woman, a resident of Uttam Nagar's Nawada Extension. "The complainant, who is the mother of the victim, said that the accused had come to their residence along with another man around 2.30 a.m. They asked her about her son. The ac-

**6** The accused got the video of the incident filmed and shared it on the social media to incite fear among the people

**POUCE**

cused, she said, started firing and abusing her and also threatened to kill her son," Mr. Alphonse said.

The woman told the police that her son and the accused became friends around three years ago, adding that they had a fight a few months back after which they were not on talking terms.

The police said that a case under IPC Sections 440 (mis-

chief committed after preparation made for causing death or hurt) and 34 (common intention) was registered and an investigation was taken up.

Mr. Alphonse said that a video of the incident had emerged on the social media that was widely shared.

Acting on a tip-off, a trap was laid near Uttam Nagar bus terminal from where the accused was apprehended and a pistol with a live round was seized from his possession, the police said.

The police also said that the accused had got the video filmed by his friend and later shared it on the social media to incite fear among the people.

# Man held for extortion, blackmail

**STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI**

A 26-year-old man, identified as Akhil Ajayan, a resident of Kerala's Kollam, has been arrested for allegedly extorting money from girls by blackmailing them, the police said on Wednesday.

The accused would blackmail the victims, saying he would make their morphed pictures and videos public, the police said.

DCP (Cyber Crime) Anyesh Roy said that the accused, a former petrol pump manager, is an English graduate. He had plans to settle in Brazil and had asked a victim to pay ₹8 lakh if she did not want her pictures to be uploaded on porn websites.

# Over 571 kg sandalwood worth ₹2 crore seized

Darjeeling resident arrested in city

**STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI**

A 41-year-old man has been arrested from Asola village here for allegedly supplying fine-quality red sandalwood, the police said on Wednesday.

Accused Amit Verma is a resident of Darjeeling in West Bengal. A total of 571.4 kg sandalwood worth ₹2 crore in the international market was seized from him.

The police were informed on Monday that a person had taken a godown on rent in Asola village where he had kept some illegal red sandalwood, officers said.

"A trap was laid and the accused was arrested on Monday around 7 p.m. Eight logs of red sandalwood were seized from the godown which were concealed under



Amit Verma

heap of clothes," Ram Gopal Naik, DCP (Crime), said.

During interrogation, Amit said he, along with his accomplice, had been smuggling the red sandalwood from Karnataka in trucks concealing those under heap of clothes, Mr. Naik said.

The main receivers of the sandalwood in Delhi-NCR hail from Nepal.

The receivers would then smuggle the sandalwoods to China and other countries, the DCP said.

# 8 hurt as car swerves into crowd outside mosque

Case filed, manhunt for driver on: cops

**STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI**

People were dispersing after attending prayer at a mosque in Shahdara's Khureji on the occasion of Id on Wednesday morning, when they were hit by a rashly driven car. At least eight of them sustained injuries in the incident, the police said.

Locals staged a protest and disrupted traffic in the area for around an hour, they said.

The police received a call around 8.30 a.m. regarding a white car which had hit several people outside Khureji Masjid. A police team reached the spot and took the injured persons to a hospital where all were discharged after first aid.

"The accused driver

managed to drive away with the vehicle after hitting several people. We have procured the footage of the CCTV installed in the area. The footage shows the car entering the area and fleeing after hitting the people," said a police officer.

Agitated over the incident, around 50 people staged a protest outside Jagatpuri police station. The crowd also pelted stones on a DTC bus and smashed its windshield. The protesters left only after police officers assured them of strict action against the accused in the matter.

DCP (Shahdara) Meghna Yadav said they have registered an FIR under IPC Sections 279 (rash driving) and 307 (attempt to murder) at Jagatpuri police station.

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- PRAYAGRAJ (ALLAHABAD) **10 JUNE | 7:30 AM & 6:00 PM**
- LUCKNOW (ALIGANJ) **8 JULY | 8:30 AM & 6:00 PM**
- LUCKNOW (GOMTI NAGAR) **10 JUNE | 5:30 PM**
- GREATHER NOIDA **10 JUNE | 3:30 PM**
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PART-II

# Sewage chokes Yamuna as DJB continues to miss deadlines

As the city waits for the govt. agency to take action, untreated sewage flows into the river through 22 natural drains making it a cause for concern

NIKHIL M BABU  
NEW DELHI

The slightly discoloured river water at Wazirabad barrage turns black about 150 metres downstream. This point is where the smelly, mucky sewage from the about 10-metre wide Najafgarh drain empties into the Yamuna.

In the second part of a three-part series on Yamuna's pollution, *The Hindu* explores how the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), responsible for laying sewer network and treating sewage, has missed multiple deadlines for projects to treat sewage generated by the city.

The DJB has missed deadlines of June 2019 for setting up of a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), to increase utilisation of the existing STPs to 99%, plugging of four drains which fall into the river and setting up of an Interceptor Sewer Project (ISP) to treat sewage in areas without sewer lines.

Both experts and a monitoring committee (MC) appointed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) state that untreated sewage flowing into Yamuna through 22 natural drains in the city is a major cause of pollution.

Our team travelled along the Najafgarh drain – the largest drain in the city – to find out that sewage from slum clusters and unauthorised colonies flow directly into the drain and eventually the river, untreated.

The Yamuna is one of the "most polluted rivers in the world" and is getting more polluted, say experts. "The heavy metals from industrial effluents present in the water can affect the heart, brain, and even cause cancer," said Dr. S.P. Byotra, senior consultant physician at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

"In unauthorised colonies, sewer lines were not

laid before developing them. Now, the streets are very narrow and when we excavate, we cannot go deep as it would endanger the buildings on either sides. Sewer lines have to be laid in all the unauthorised colonies to trap the sewage which is difficult now," said DJB member R.S. Negi.

**Sewage generated**  
Delhi generates 720 million gallons per day (MGD) of sewage whereas the STPs have a capacity of 617 MGD. However, of the total capacity, only 500 MGD is utilised, according to the DJB, leaving about 220 MGD of untreated sewage into the river.

The DJB had informed the monitoring committee that they would increase the sewage treatment capacity to 657 MGD by June 2019, by starting a 40 MGD plant at Coronation Pillar. However, they missed the deadline.

"We will examine the delay and if it is not justified, then penalty will be imposed on the company [who is working on the project]," said a senior DJB official. But, the official said that no such review has been done so far.

The DJB has also not met the deadline to start ISP and of 99% utilisation of the existing STPs by June 2019.

"The ISP will be ready by July, but it will be operational only by December 2019, as the sewage has to be supplied to a plant at Coronation Pillar, which would be ready only by that time," the official said.

The Interceptor Sewer Project has been in the pipeline since 2006 but delayed multiple times.

The DJB told the monitoring panel that they would be able to achieve 95% utilisation by December 2019.

"The monitoring committee expressed concern that

## The murky truth

Yamuna has become one of the most polluted rivers in the world. It is particularly polluted downstream on the Delhi stretch

Heavy metals from industrial effluents present in the water can affect the human system

### SEWAGE PROBLEM

Sewage and industrial effluents flowing into the Yamuna through 22 drains in the city is one of the major causes of pollution

Lack of capacity and utilisation of STPs has resulted in 30% gap between sewage generation and treatment

Only 345 of the city's 1,700 unauthorised colonies have sewer lines

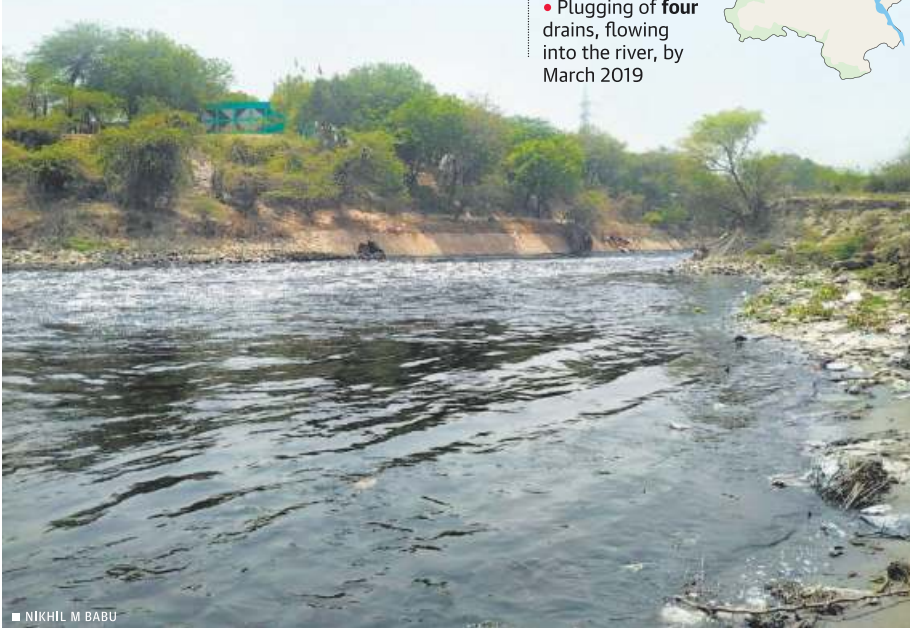
### DEADLINES NOT MET BY DJB

Increasing utilisation of existing STPs to 99%

Interceptor Sewer Project (ISP)

Starting a 40 MGD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at Coronation Pillar

Plugging of four drains, flowing into the river, by March 2019



NIKHIL M BABU

the Board (DJB) first gives very soft timelines but even those timelines are rarely met. This defeats the sanctity of fixing timelines and defeats the exercise of monitoring," the panel said in a report.

Different authorities not meeting deadlines have been a problem in the past too. In a January 13, 2015 judgment, the NGT had put forward a plan to clean the Yamuna and set a deadline of March 31, 2017. It did not materialise. "These 22 natural drains are storm water drains which were the Yamuna's tributaries

and they used to bring rainwater from different areas to it. But now they bring only sewage," said Manoj Misra, a former IFS officer, convener of Yamuna Jiye Abhiyaan – a group fighting to clean the Yamuna.

"It is also a moral question to Delhi, as people downstream in Agra, Mathura and other places are drinking the waste water we are releasing," he added.

"Cost of treatment of drinking water will be more in any place downstream of Delhi such as Agra and Mathura," said Sushmita Sengupta,

programme manager of water programme, Centre for Science and Environment.

**Tracing the largest drain**  
At Nandlal jhuggi, when asked about where their waste water goes, everyone pointed to the nearby drain, which the locals call "ganda naala". The slum cluster consisting more than 1,000 houses has no sewage system.

Pramod Mandal, 58, pointing to a green hose from the slum to the drain, said, "The waste water gets



Sewage and solid waste flowing into the Yamuna near a colony in Wazirabad. FILE PHOTO: V.V. KRISHNAN

accumulated in a pond in the slum and then the government get it pumped out to the drain through a pipe." A worker at the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) office who operates the pump, said that they do it at least once in a day.

The channel joins the Najafgarh drain about 500 metres from the slum cluster, near C block of Nehru Vihar. About 1 km from there, the Najafgarh drain flows into the Yamuna near Wazirabad barrage, turning the river also black and mucky.

In Gokulpuri, an unauthorised colony, sewer lines are being laid and a board reads: "Delhi Jal Board Work in Progress."

### Way forward

There are about 1,700 unauthorised colonies in Delhi with a population of about 40 lakh.

Only 345 of these have sewer lines, according to DJB. In the rest of the colo-

nies, sewage goes to drains, which eventually flow into the Yamuna.

"From YAP [Yamuna Action Plan] 1 to YAP 2, the money spent increased, but the pollutants also increased. It did not work as the focus was on creating sewer lines and STPs," Ms. Sengupta said. "It is difficult to lay sewer lines in areas that are already developed. In these areas, sewage should be treated in open drains with plants and microbes," she added.

"In the last hearing on January 29, the NGT had categorically stated that if the timelines are not met, the DPCC and the regulatory bodies will be at liberty to levy environmental compensation," the monitoring panel stated in its report. Experts said it is a welcome move, but has to be executed.

"The whole city has to be sewered. We have the plan, we have the technology, now it should translate into action," Mr. Misra said.

## NGT seeks report from DPCC on pollution

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Following a plea alleging air pollution around Shakurbasti railway station, allegedly caused due to the loading and unloading of cement, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) to carry out an inspection and accordingly take action.

A Vacation Bench comprising NGT judicial member K. Ramakrishnan and expert member Nagin Nanda also directed railway officials to furnish a report on the allegations.

"We direct the Station Superintendent or Terminal Manager, Cement Siding and Chief Goods Supervisor, Cement Siding at Shakurbasti railway station, to submit a report as to what all are the activities undertaken by them in the area to prevent air pollution caused on account of their activities," it said.

Directing the pollution control body to carry out inspections, the Bench said, "We feel it necessary to get a report from the DPCC who shall inspect the area in question and ascertain the genuineness of the allegations made and if there is any infraction of any law relating to pollution, then action if any, to be taken in this regard, in accordance with the law."

The directions came when the green panel was hearing a plea which alleged that cement was being stocked in an open area, without any cover, causing pollution. "In spite of the fact that several representations have been made, railway officials are not doing anything in this regard," the petitioner said.

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



Haseena Khatoon

General Public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Haseena Khatoon D/o Sh. Noor Aslam R/o Jhuggi No. 180, Gazipur, Dairy Farm, Delhi Age-12 years, Height-4'6", Face-Long, Complexion-Fair, Wearing-Blue Colour Suit & Salwar** has been missing/kidnapped since dated 05.05.2019 from the area of P.S. Gazipur, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **FIR No. 118/19 U/s 363 IPC Dated 05.05.2019** has been registered at P.S. Gazipur, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this girl please inform undersigned.

E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax : 011-24368639

SHO  
P.S. Gazipur, Delhi  
Ph. : 011-22610068  
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स्वच्छित एवं राष्ट्रप्रति में कर्मा बर्बाद। कृपया अपनी शिकायतों को 18003456570 (कील सेक्टर) पर दर्ज करायें।  
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PR No. 200400  
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Memo No.- 6776 Dated:-28/5/19

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR THE WORK OF CANTEN CONTRACTOR

Sealed tenders/quotation for providing Canteen Services in the Premises of Govt. Polytechnic, Hisar in prescribed format under Two-Bid system i.e. Technical Bid & Financial Bid from reputed agencies, either by themselves or as joint venture/Partnership, possessing valid registration and license under the relevant statutes, for a period of one year and extendable on mutual consent and the terms & conditions agreed upon. The tender document can be obtained from the office of the Principal, Govt. Polytechnic, Hisar after paying the tender fee of Rs. 500/- in cash (non-refundable) on any working day between 11.00 AM to 4.00 P.M w.e.f. 03.06.2019 or downloaded from the Institute website: [www.gphisar.ac.in](http://www.gphisar.ac.in).

The tender complete in all respects shall be submitted with a Demand Draft/Pay Order as an earnest money of Rs 20,000/- of a scheduled bank in favour of the Principal, Govt. Polytechnic, Hisar payable at Hisar. Last date for submission of tender/quotation is 25.06.2019 up to 11.00 A.M. The Technical & Financial Bids shall be opened on the same day i.e. 25.06.2019 at 03.00 P.M. in the office of Principal in the presence of bidders who wish to remain present. In case, any holiday falls on the day of opening, the tenders/quotation will be opened on the next working day at the same time. No tender/quotation will be accepted without Earnest Money. Only those bidders whose Technical Bid is found complete will be eligible for Financial Bid. The tenders/quotation received after the above said scheduled date and time will not be considered. Offers by Fax/E-mail/Telephone will be summarily rejected. The Contractor must have at least three years working experience in running of Canteen in the University / College institute of repute.

The under signed reserve the right to accept or reject any tender/quotation without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Principal  
Govt. Polytechnic,  
Hisar  
PRDH 76672

## SEARCH FOR MISSING



Kajal

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Kajal D/o Sh. Raghuvir Singh, R/O H. No. B-464, GD Colony, Mayur Vihar-III, Delhi.** The girl has been missing from the area of P.S. Gazipur, Delhi since 22.05.2019.

In this regard **FIR No. 137/19 U/s 363 IPC dated 22/05/2019** has been registered at P.S. Gazipur, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the missing girl is as under:  
**Name:** Kajal, **Age:** 16 Years, **Height:** 4'6", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Green Colour Top and Blue Colour Jeans Pant.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing girl, kindly inform SHO/P.S. Gazipur, Delhi.

Email: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in), Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
Ph. : 011-23015228, 23015218  
Fax: 011-23011334

SHO  
P.S. Gazipur, Delhi  
Ph. No. 011-22610068, 8750870625

## कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

पंनिविदो, पथ प्रमंडल, मनोहरपुर।  
शुद्धि -पत्र

अति अल्पकालीन ईओ-निविदा आमंत्रण  
सूचना संख्या -RCD/MANOHARPUR/01/2019-20 दिनांक : 24.05.2019  
एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि (पीओआर नं०) - 206857 (West Singhbhum) 19-20\_D के माध्यम से प्रकाशित निविदा संख्या - RCD/MANOHARPUR/01/2019-20 दिनांक 24.05.2019 के योजना मद अन्तर्गत "मंत्रगाँव-जैतगढ़-नोवामुण्डी पथ (MDR-184) के कि०मी० 30.00 से कि०मी० 58.20 (लम्बाई 28.20 कि०मी०) " तक का राईडिंग क्वालिटी में सुधार कार्य " के क्रमांक-4 में वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि 30.05.2019 के स्थान पर 04.06.2019 पढ़ा जाय तथा क्रमांक-5 में वेबसाइट पर निविदा उपलब्धता की अंतिम तिथि 05.06.2019 के स्थान पर 10.06.2019 पढ़ा जाय। शेष यथावत रहेगा।

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पंनिविदो, पथ प्रमंडल, मनोहरपुर।  
PR 207941 West Singhbhum(19-20)D

## E-Procurement Cell

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
MIHIJAM NAGAR PARISHAD, JHARKHAND.

### e-Procurement Notice

Tender Reference No.-MNP/SBD/01/2019-20 Date:-03/06/2019

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Construction of Municipal Office Building at MIHIJAM.
1.	Estimated Cost (Rs.) Approx.	Rs.2,61,77,610.00 (Two Crore Sixty One lakhs Seventy Seven thousand Six hundred ten only)
2.	Time of Completion	15 Month
3.	BID document fees	10,000.00 (Ten Thousand) (non refundable)
4.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	12/06/2019 15:00hrs
5.	Date of Pre Bid Meeting	15/06/2019 at 11:00 hrs Office of Executive officer, Mihijam Nagar Parishad.
6.	Closing date/Time for receipt of bids	21/06/2019 17:00Hrs
7.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Office of Executive officer, Mihijam Nagar Parishad.
8.	Contact no. of Procurement officer	+91 9279239910
9.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	+91 9308987593
10.	Date of Receiving of Hard Copy Tender Fee/EMD/Copy of all uploaded Documents	22/06/2019 (11:00 Hrs to 16:00 Hrs)

Note: Authority reserves right to cancel tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>  
Executive officer  
Mihijam Nagar Parishad.  
P.R.207935 Urban Development(19-20)-D

## GMDA to start bus service to IMT Manesar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM

Keeping in view the long-pending demand of the workers and industrialists at the Industrial Model Township (IMT), Manesar, here, the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) has decided to start a bus service to the industrial hub.

The buses would run between IFFCO Chowk and IMT Manesar.

Gurugram Police Commissioner Muhammad Akil will launch the service on Thursday by flagging off the service from IMT, Manesar. Eleven buses running on this new GMDA city bus service route, numbered 134, will be available at a frequency of 15 minutes. Already, 81 buses are plying on six routes in the city.

Starting at IFFCO Chowk, the stops on the route are Signature Tower, Star Mall, Sector 31 NH-48, Rajiv Chowk, Rajiv Colony, Naharpur Rupa Village NH-48, Hero Honda Chowk, Khandsa Village Foot Over Bridge (FoB), Narsinghpur FoB, Kherki Daula NH -48, Rampura Chowk, IMT Chowk, HS-IDC Complex, Naharpur Turn T-point, Banskushala, Maruti Circle, Aliyar Bus Chowk, Maruti Gate No. 2, Maruti Gate No. 4 and Dhana Mod. The service on the route will start from IFFCO Chowk at 6 a.m. and the last bus will depart from IMT Manesar at 7.25 p.m.

Manesar Industries Welfare Association general secretary Manmohan Gaiand said the association had been pursuing this issue for a long time. "We always required linkages with good frequencies, especially during morning and evening rush hours. And we are glad that we have been heard," said Mr. Gaiand.

## It's a wonderful life



Children celebrating Id-ul-Fitr at the Jama Masjid in the Walled City on Wednesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

## City drains not yet desilted: BJP MLAs

Hit out at Kejriwal govt.; say tall claims stand 'exposed'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

BJP legislators on Wednesday inspected desilting work at large drains following which they alleged that the "tall claims" of the Arvind Kejriwal government in this regard stood "exposed".

Alleging that they found significant irregularities regarding the progress of such work, the BJP will meet Bhure Lal, Chairman of the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority on Thursday to submit the inspection report.

Five MLAs, led by Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta, inspected large drains which fall under the jurisdiction of the Irrigation and Flood Control Department and the Public Works Department located in the trans-Yamuna area.

"We found that 85% of the big nullahs have not been desilted yet. Desilting should have been completed by June 15. However, as a result,



BJP MLAs inspect a drain in the trans-Yamuna area on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

dirty water from these is flowing on to the roads which is increasing pollution," Mr. Gupta alleged.

**Inspection report**  
"We will meet the EPCA Chairman on Thursday to present the inspection report. The exercise has exposed the hollow claims of the Kejriwal government...The ground reality is that desilting of large number of drains has not even commenced because the party has been busy with campaigning during the last three months that it did not

focus on desilting...and held no serious meetings on this issue," Mr. Gupta alleged further.

With the monsoon arriving in just 10-15 days, and more than 85% of the big nullahs yet to be desilted, how would the Kejriwal government ensure cleaning of 1,034 big drains in the Capital, Mr. Gupta asked.

He also cautioned the people to be ready to face the "flood-like situation" and traffic jams during the upcoming rainy season due to the "negligence" of the Kejriwal government.



## Lynching accused yet to be identified

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

Three days after a mob killed an alleged rapist of a nine-year-old girl in Punjab's Jalandhar, the police have not yet been able to identify the accused.

Police said a case against "unidentified persons" has been registered under Section 304 of the Indian Penal Code and investigation was under way.

"So far no arrests have been made. We are yet to identify the accused who were part of the mob that killed 39-year-old Pappu Kumar, who they caught raping the minor girl," Har-simrat Singh, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Jalandhar, told *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

"We have examined the CCTV footage in the area but could not gather much about the suspects," Mr. Singh said.

## Trinamool leader shot dead; triggers fresh war of words

CM likely to meet family members of the deceased in Nimta

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

A Trinamool Congress leader was shot dead at Nimta in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district on Tuesday evening.

A video footage captured by closed-circuit television cameras installed near the leader's house shows a man slumping on the road even as a motorcycle speeds away.

Nirmal Kundu was declared brought dead at a hospital. Two persons have been arrested in connection with the murder.

A police officer in Barakpore municipality said one of the persons, Suman Kundu, arrested in connection with the murder was a BJP supporter.

Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chairperson



CM Mamata Banerjee

Mamata Banerjee is likely to visit Nimta on Thursday and meet the family members of the deceased.

The killing triggered a fresh war of words between the TMC and the BJP.

Earlier in the day participating in Id-ul-Fitr celebrations, Ms. Banerjee said "whoever messes with us will be decimated. This is our slogan".

West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh refuted the allegations of a BJP supporter

being involved in the murder. "Whenever there is any political murder, the TMC blames the BJP. The TMC has tried to link even my name in the murder of a person in Kharagpur," Mr. Ghosh said.

### 'Infighting to blame'

The BJP leader blamed the infighting in the TMC and the deteriorating law and order situation in the State for the murders. After the results of the Lok Sabha poll, political murders have continued unabated in Bengal and supporters of both the parties have died in the violence.

Meanwhile, a number of local leaders of different political parties and Anju Ghosh, actor of well known Bengali film *Beder Meye Josna*, joined the BJP on Wednesday.

## Arunachal Minister's son gets life term

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

A court in Arunachal Pradesh's Lepa Rada district has convicted the son of State Industries Minister Tumke Bagra for murder and sentenced him to life imprisonment.

The court also ordered him to pay ₹5,000 as fine to the wife of the deceased.

Kajum Bagra had on the night of March 26, 2017, fatally shot the victim named Kenjum Kamsi outside a hotel in Aalo, the headquarters of West Siang district, after an argument. A CCTV camera installed outside the hotel had captured the incident.

Bagra had pleaded not guilty to the charges for murder and violation of the Arms Act.

His father was the Deputy Speaker of the 60-member Arunachal Pradesh Assembly at that time.

## Sharp winds scuttle efforts to retrieve bodies of mountaineers

IAF helicopters could not hover over the spot near a peak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PITHORAGARH

Indian Air Force helicopters on Wednesday undertook three sorties to retrieve bodies of five mountaineers lying near the Nanda Devi East Peak in Uttarakhand but high-speed winds hampered their efforts.

"Considering the tough terrain, the operation of retrieving the bodies might extend beyond a week," Pithoragarh District Magistrate V.K. Jogdande said.

He said three sorties were undertaken from Pithoragarh to retrieve the bodies but the helicopters could not hover over and get down

at the spot where five bodies were found.

"Besides the aerial operation, the administration will also try to reach the spot by the land route tomorrow to retrieve the bodies," he said.

"We are being joined by 35 State Disaster Response Force men tonight who will be divided into two groups. One will be sent to the spot by land route while the other will try to reach the spot by air," the DM said.

The IAF helicopters had on Monday spotted the bodies of five of the eight mountaineers who went missing recently on way to the Nanda Devi East peak.

The bodies had been sighted near an unscaped peak adjoining the Nanda Devi East peak. They were of mountaineers belonging to a team comprising climbers from the U.K., the U.S. and Australia.

### 'Perished in avalanche'

Apparently they perished in an avalanche while ascending an unscaped peak near the Nanda Devi East peak after they failed to scale the latter, the DM had said. The bodies were sighted after an air search over the peak on the basis of clues provided by four climbers rescued on Sunday.

## Studying Olive Ridleys

Research centre to be set up on Odisha coast

STAFF REPORTER  
BERHAMPUR

A proposal has been made to establish a permanent research centre near the Rushikulya rookery on the Odisha coast to study the mass nesting of Olive Ridleys and the environmental factors related to it.

Berhampur Divisional Forest Officer Ashis Behera said a detailed project report had been sent to the State government.

The research centre is expected to be established at a cost of more than ₹9 crore. The Forest Department is planning to have it in the Khallikote forest range, near the Rushikulya

rookery.

The centre would be involved in a detailed study of the habits and the habitat of the turtles and the coastal flora and fauna. It would have a museum for the general public where skeletons and eggs of different marine turtles would be displayed. It would also include models and interactive displays.

A scientist of Wildlife Institute of India Bivash Pandav – considered to be the first wildlife researcher and documenter of the mass nesting at the rookery – said the centre should start functioning as early as possible. He said it would make the Odias realise that since generations the local fishermen had been protecting the now endangered marine turtles.

**Mubarak Mandi Jammu Heritage Society**  
**Royal Dogra Palaces, Panjthirhi Jammu**  
Gmail: [mubarakmandiheritagesocietyjmu@gmail.com](mailto:mubarakmandiheritagesocietyjmu@gmail.com)  
Tele Fax: 0191-2563084

**EXTENSION NOTICE**

Sub:- (a) Conservation of Durbar Hall at Mubarak Mandi Palace Complex, Jammu  
(b) Conservation of Dogra Museum at Mubarak Mandi Palace Complex, Jammu.  
Ref:- (a) E-NIT/MMJHS/01 of 2019-20 dated: 11-05-2019  
(b) E-NIT/MMJHS/02 of 2019-20 dated: 11-05-2019  
Due to poor response, the critical dates for above mentioned NITs are extended as under  
Last date of submission of online bids = 14-06-2019 upto 4.00 PM.  
Date of opening of Technical bids = 15-06-2019 at 12.30 PM.  
All terms and condition shall remain the same as already advertise.

(Er. Mohd Ayub Wani)  
Executive Engineer

DIP/J-913-P

**GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**PUNASI DAM DIVISION, PUNASI CAMP DEOGHAR**

**e-Procurement Tender Notice**

Tender Reference No. :- WRD/Punasi Dam Div., Punasi Camp Deoghar/SBD-IFB-01/2019-20 Dt: 04.06.2019

1.	Name of the work	Rip-rap work of hillock U/S portion adjacent of Punasi Dam and Spillway from ch. 70.00 to ch. 85.50
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 4,96,41,184.29 (Rupees four crore ninety six lakh forty one thousand one hundred eighty four and paise twenty nine) only
3.	Time of Completion	450 days
4.	Last date & Time for receipt of bids	27.06.2019 Up to 5:00 P.M.
5.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	07.06.2019 11:00 A.M.
6.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer Punasi Dam Division, Punasi Camp-Deoghar
7.	Contact no. of Procurement officer	09431365175
8.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	06432-232477

Note :- Only E-Tender will be accepted  
Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> Executive Engineer  
PR 207976 Water Resource (19-20)\_D Punasi Dam Division, Punasi Camp – Deoghar

**GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS**  
**DIVISION, BHANDARA (Phone No. 07184-252412)**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE No. 04 of 2019-2020**

Online e-tenders in B-1 forms for following works are invited by the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Bhandara from the eligible contractors. Tender document may be downloaded at Govt. Website <http://mahatenders.gov.in>. Rights to accept or reject the tender without assigning any reason reserve with Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Bhandara

Sr. No.	Name of Works	Estt. cost. (Rs. in Lakhs)	Earnest money (Rs. in Lakhs)	Cost of E-Tender documents	Class of Contractor
1	Green Belt Development Work (Tree Plantation) in Taluka Bhandara at Nandora and other places, Tahsil & District Bhandara	154.64	1.50	1120.00	Registered / Unregistered
2	Green Belt Development Work (Tree Plantation) in Taluka Lakhandur At Dighori, Malda, Tavsi, Khairi/Rithi and other places, Tahsil Lakhandur, District Bhandara	119.85	1.20	1120.00	Class IV & above
3	Green Belt Development Work (Tree Plantation) in Taluka Tumsar at Deosarra, Deorideo, Chargaon and other places, Tahsil Tumsar, District Bhandara	119.85	1.20	1120.00	Class IV & above
4	Green Belt Development Work (Tree Plantation) in Taluka Mohadi at Bondri, Hardoli and other places Tahsil Mohadi, District Bhandara	119.85	1.20	1120.00	Class IV & above
5	Green Belt Development Work (Tree Plantation) in Taluka Pauni at Nilaj, Nishiti and other places Tahsil Pauni, District Bhandara at Maregaon and Kharbi in District Bhandara	119.85	1.20	1120.00	Class IV & above

Note :-  
1 Other terms & condition can be seen in the bidding documents.  
2 The details tender notice can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the e-tendering portal <http://mahatenders.gov.in>

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Public Works Division  
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# Govt. may cut 'excess' water supply to Baramati, Indapur

Pawar cautions against discrimination, politics over water allocation

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE  
PUNE

Amid speculation that the Bharatiya Janata Party-led State government was considering halting 'excess' water supply for agriculture to the Baramati and Indapur talukas, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Wednesday said any comment on the drought must be made with extreme sensitivity.

"The whole of Maharashtra is in the grip of an unprecedented water crisis. At such a time, there is a need to speak with extreme sensitivity on this issue. One must ensure there is no discrimination between different regions and talukas in the State as regards the distribution of water," Mr. Pawar said, urging the government not to resort to politics over drought and water allocation.

The NCP chief, who was on a tour of the drought-hit parts of Baramati, was responding to the rumours that State Water Resources Minister Girish Mahajan was think-



Sharad Pawar

ing of cutting the allegedly excess water supply from the Nira left bank canal to Indapur and Baramati.

Mr. Mahajan has said that Baramati and Indapur — strongholds of the Pawar clan and Congress leader Harshvardhan Patil respectively — have been receiving more water than required. He implied that Mr. Pawar and his nephew, senior NCP leader Ajit Pawar, had tweaked rules to divert more water to Baramati when the Congress-NCP government was in power.

The Nira project consists of a storage reservoir on the Yelwandi river near Bhatgar and two canals. The left

bank canal, which originates from the Nira river at Vir, irrigates areas of Pune district, including Baramati and Indapur, and parts of Solapur district. The right bank canal irrigates some other tehsils in Solapur.

Mr. Mahajan said more water was diverted to the left canal that passed through Baramati and Indapur, while areas in Solapur district like Malshiras, Madha and Sangola were left high and dry.

"The local MP from Madha and other leaders from Solapur district have complained that five talukas are receiving only 40% water from the Nira left bank canal, while Baramati and Indapur are receiving the remaining 60%," Mr. Mahajan told a vernacular television channel. It is believed that the newly elected Madha MP Ranjitsinh Naik-Nimbalkar and other leaders from Solapur like Ranjitsinh Mohite-Patil, son of former NCP MP Vijaysinh Mohite-Patil, met the minister on this matter.

According to rumours, Mr.

Mahajan is expected to issue an ordinance on this matter soon. The move, if implemented, is seen as a stratagem on part of the BJP to break the Pawars' stranglehold on Baramati ahead of the Assembly elections.

Ajit Pawar, who toured Baramati with his uncle, said, "I have yet to hear anything said by Mr. Mahajan on this issue. I am not aware if such a decision has been mooted... But the government should know that there are people living on both sides of the Nira canal."

Senior Congress leader Harshvardhan Patil, whose bastion is Indapur, however warned of a strong agitation if such an ordinance comes into effect. "The Water Resource Department has no right to take such a decision, if at all it is being mullied. Indapur and Baramati are catchment areas. If water supply to these talukas is going to be stopped, we will be compelled to launch an agitation and take legal recourse," Mr. Patil said.

# NCP to highlight water crisis on foundation day

ALOK DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI

With the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar kicking off his drought inspection tour in Baramati on Wednesday, the party has said that it will be using its foundation day celebrations on June 10 to highlight the issue of water scarcity in the State.

Following the Lok Sabha poll debacle, the NCP is looking to connect the party machinery with workers at the village and tehsil level. The party has asked all its units across the State to observe June 10 as Jaldin Sanalp (resolution to save water). NCP State unit chief Jayant Patil said, "Maharashtra is reeling under drought and people are facing severe water shortage. As a political party, it is important that we highlight this issue." He said the foundation day would be the perfect occasion for party workers to begin working with the common man to resolve the water crisis.

Mr. Patil said the party will organise in each tehsil and district headquarters an awareness rally, which will culminate at the party

office. He said, "We have asked all units to invite a famous personality working in the field of water conservation and management to give a special lecture on the topic at the party office."

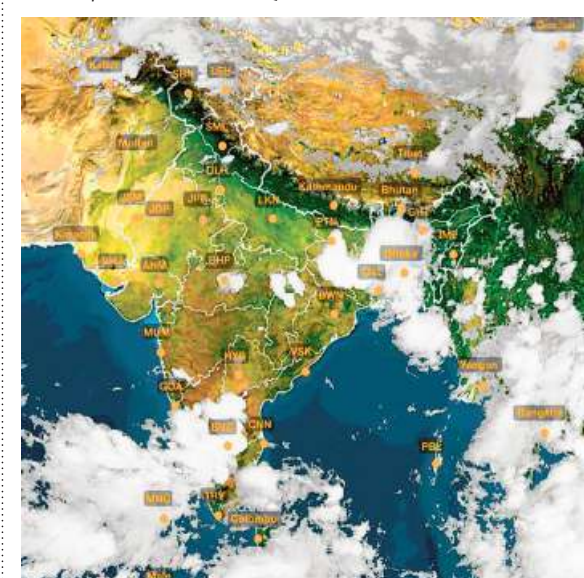
## 'No' to felicitations

While the party attempts to connect with ground realities, its leaders have decided to avoid felicitations during the drought inspection tour. Senior leader and former deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar on Tuesday declared that he will be staying away from felicitations.

Meanwhile, the party has acted on its promise to give prominence to new and young faces in the organisation ahead of the Assembly polls. The first major change has taken place in the party's youth wing with Mehabub Sheikh from Beed being appointed the State president, and Ravikant Varpe and Suraj Chavan as the working presidents. The three do not hail from political families and have risen up the party ranks. A senior party leader said, "We will be bringing about positive changes in the party organisation in future as well."

## WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18:00 HRS)

**Forecast for Thursday:** Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Gangetic West Bengal, south interior Karnataka and Rayalaseema. Heat wave conditions likely in many/some/isolated parts over Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, west Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	5.1	31.4	24.4	Kozhikode	0.4	35.2	26.4
Ahmedabad	—	43.6	28.2	Kurnool	—	41.7	29.7
Aizawl	21	26.8	18.6	Lucknow	—	42.0	30.1
Allahabad	—	44.7	30.8	Madurai	0.1	39.2	25.9
Bengaluru	—	32.4	23.4	Mangaluru	—	35.5	25.6
Bhopal	—	45.4	31.2	Mumbai	—	34.4	28.5
Bhubaneswar	—	37.2	28.4	Mysuru	—	33.2	22.8
Chandigarh	—	37.1	30.2	New Delhi	—	42.5	29.8
Chennai	—	37.0	23.0	Patna	—	37.0	27.6
Coimbatore	24.8	35.0	23.0	Port Blair	—	33.8	25.8
Dehradun	—	39.3	24.0	Puducherry	—	36.2	28.0
Gangtok	—	26.2	22.9	Pune	—	40.1	24.9
Goa	—	35.2	27.4	Raipur	—	45.6	30.8
Guwahati	—	33.8	25.3	Ranchi	—	38.1	25.0
Hubballi	—	36.0	22.0	Shillong	—	17.1	22.7
Hyderabad	—	40.5	27.1	Shimla	—	29.2	20.8
Imphal	0.9	31.2	20.1	Srinagar	—	23.3	11.3
Jaipur	—	44.1	34.1	Trivandrum	0.8	33.0	25.7
Kochi	—	32.4	26.0	Tiruchirappalli	—	40.5	26.2
Kohima	1.8	25.3	15.7	Vijayawada	—	41.2	29.4
Kolkata	3.4	31.6	29.1	Visakhapatnam	—	33.8	29.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad	—	71	52	—	65	—	—
Bengaluru	11	69	56	—	55	—	—
Chennai	18	—	37	—	140	—	—
Delhi	30	60	58	—	124	251	—
Hyderabad	11	32	24	—	60	87	—
Kolkata	—	28	14	—	62	82	—
Lucknow	—	6	35	—	223	—	—
Mumbai	24	14	79	—	21	48	—
Pune	—	42	29	—	74	70	—
Visakhapatnam	—	9	36	—	86	105	—

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**  
In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Jodhpur, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 293 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Eloor, Kerala recorded a healthy AQI score of 44

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

**SO<sub>2</sub>:** 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.

**NO<sub>2</sub>:** 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

# To mark Environment Day, Rupani kicks off Sabarmati clean-up drive



A worker looks at industrial effluents being released into the Sabarmati at Vasna industrial area in Ahmedabad. •VIJAY SONELJI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
AHMEDABAD

A drive to clean the polluted Sabarmati river was launched on Wednesday to mark World Environment Day. Sabarmati is counted among the most polluted rivers in the country, under the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) National Water Quality Programme.

The 'Swachh Sabarmati Maha Abhiyan' was launched by Chief Minister Vijay Rupani from the banks of the river near the historic Sabarmati

ashram. The drive will continue till June 9.

Mahatma Gandhi had set up the ashram on the banks of the river after his return from South Africa in 1915.

## Thousands participate

On Wednesday, thousands took part in the drive to clean a stretch between Dufnala and Vasna barrage in Ahmedabad. Mr. Rupani also participated in cleaning a part of the riverbed, which has almost dried up.

"Sabarmati is a historic

river, and such a drive is being undertaken for the first time in many years. Due to the initiative of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, people have come out in thousands to take part in the cleanliness drive," the Chief Minister told reporters. "Sabarmati will flow as a clean river after monsoon," he said.

The CM also appealed to citizens to voluntarily take part in the campaign.

As per a CPCB study based

on the biological oxygen de-

mand, Sabarmati is amongst the most polluted rivers in the country, and among the top three polluted rivers in Gujarat, the other two being Amlakhadi and Khadi.

Ahmedabad Municipal Commissioner Vijay Nehra, the brains behind the campaign, tweeted, "No words to explain what's happening today in Ahmedabad. The city has come together to clean Sabarmati river. Such huge turnout that there is no space for ppl in the riverbed!"

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27655134, 9810651005

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The original sale deed registered as document no. 11910 dated 14th March 1994 executed by DLF Hotels LTD in favour of Mr. Surinder Kumar Gandhi and Mrs. Indu Gandhi in respect of property situated at Plot no.1 Road no. G-18 in DLF City Phase-1, Gurgaon stands misplaced by Mr. Surinder Kumar Gandhi. However, the FIR and Public notice filed in the Times of India and Navbharat Times dated 9th April 2007 were not proper. The said property is currently owned by Mr. Anil Kumar Mehra and Mrs. Nisha Mehra vide Sale deed registered as Document no. 13365 dated 21st September 2008. Any person finding the original Sale Deed dated 14th March 1994 may kindly return the same to undersigned. Any misuse of the said document shall lead to criminal liability against the miscreant.  
Anil Kumar Mehra  
Address: G-18/1, DLF CITY, Phase-1 Gurugram, Haryana 122001 Ph-9810185313

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
E-11, SOUTH EXTENSION PART II, NEW DELHI  
Be it known to all concerned on behalf of our client(s) that the original Sale Deeds bearing Registration Nos. 3261 dated 21-Nov-1955, 7075 dated 31-Aug-1987, 7399 dated 11-Sep-1987 and 9753 dated 28-Dec-1987 in respect of the aforesaid property are misplacated and are not traceable, and report in this regard has been lodged with P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi, vide LR.No. 1104352/2019 dated 01-Jun-2019. Any person(s), Association, Company, Firm, Bank, Financial Institution and/or any other Legal Entity finding the same are requested to return the same to the undersigned forthwith. Any person(s) having any sort of right, claim, title or interest in the subject property under or on the basis of the said lost/misplacated document, or otherwise may put forth his/her/its claim, along with the document(s) in support thereof, to the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen) days from the publication of this notice, failing which, no claim of any kind whatsoever shall be entertained thereafter.  
Divan & Company LLP Advocates & Solicitors House No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex, New Delhi-19 priyaranjanpsingh@gmail.com

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Be known to all the members of public at large through this public legal notice issued by me, Dr. Priya Ranjan P. Singh, Advocate Supreme court of India the undersign for and on behalf of and also under the instructions of my client, Dr. Jalaluddin ("client") s/o late Hakim Zahooruddin, aged 74yrs and permanent resident of 1787, Katra, Sheikh Chand, Lal Kuan Delhi 110006, measuring 150 sq. yds. Approximately (captioned property) along with all its fully built up and constructed 11 shops at ground floor all inclusive, all 1st floor and all constructed 2nd floor with exclusive terrace/roof rights within the permissible limit as per the law of land.

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**OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE**

**DEATH**  
**SAD DEMISE**  
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Lalitha (99584 46427)  
Usha (93825 53133)  
Ravi (99625 23030)  
and Daughters in Law, Sons in Law Grand and Great Grand Children and a host of RELATIVES, FRIENDS & ADMIRERS  
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S/O (Late) B V Meenakshisundaram  
Deeply mourned by  
S P Anuradha, M V Vijayalakshmi (Puja), K Poornima, S Deepa, M Anand, families and friends  
044-24951646 (Home) and 98841 90178 (Brother)  
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## IN BRIEF


**One held for threatening V. Muraleedharan**

**KOZHIKODE**  
The Kozhikode police on Thursday arrested a 33-year-old man attached to the Kozhikode Commissionerate of Central Tax, Central Excise and Customs on the charge of causing harm to the BJP office and Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan (in picture). The police said Badal Gafoor of Kothathara had called the Kozhikode city police chief threatening the BJP Minister.

**H1N1 patient dies after being 'denied treatment'**

**KOTTAYAM**  
A H1N1 patient died on Wednesday after he was allegedly denied admission by the Government Medical College in Kottayam. According to the hospital officials, Jacob Thomas, 63, a native of Idukki, was brought to the hospital on Wednesday. The hospital denied admission citing shortage of ventilator facility. He was then taken to a private hospital which too denied admission. The relatives had approached the GMC again. By the time the ambulance reached the hospital, the patient died.

**Three to be detained for gold smuggling bid**

**KOCHI**  
The Central Economic Intelligence Bureau has issued orders to detain three persons, including a Customs head havidar at the Cochin International Airport in Nedumbassery here, for attempting to smuggle out 3 kg of gold through the airport on March 1. The trio — Customs official Sunil Francis, Adhinaran Khalid and Faisal P.A. — will be detained for a year at the Poojapura Central Jail in Thiruvananthapuram.

# Nipah case: 7 in isolation, 314 quarantined

CM Pinarayi to visit Kochi today; livestock status being monitored; epicentre of fever not identified yet

G. ANAND  
SHYAMA RAJAGOPAL  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM  
/ KOCHI

A total of 314 people have been quarantined and placed under observation for having been in immediate contact with the 23-year-old youth from Vadakkera in Paravur in northern Ernakulam, who has been diagnosed as having contracted the Nipah virus. Authorities at a private hospital in Kochi where he is under treatment said he was stable and taking food.

Two more persons were admitted to the Government Medical College (GMC), Ernakulam, on Wednesday, taking the numbers of suspected Nipah infections to seven. Samples collected from all the patients in the isolation ward of the GMC have been sent to the National Institute of Virology (NIV) labs at Alappuzha and Pune.

Human monoclonal antibodies, considered effective in treating the zoonotic virus infection, have been brought to Kochi and would be administered to those admitted to the isolation ward, after results of the laboratory tests become available.

Ernakulam District Collector K. Mohammed Y. Safirulla, in a bulletin, said the district administration had ensured all measures were in place to ensure prevention and spread of the infection.

**Experts arrive**

Dr. Balamurali from the NIV at Alappuzha, and Dr. Rima Sahay and Dr. Anita from the NIV at Pune, reached the district on Wednesday.

A six-member team of Central experts led by Dr. Ruchi Jain, Joint Director in the Union Health Ministry, visited the Vadakkera Panchayat in the Paravur taluk.

A team led by Dr. Tarun of the National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE) trained doctors and health workers in handling the situation.

The surveillance call centres for Nipah tracking and sensitising the public received 372 calls, a communication issued by the Collector said. Besides 1077, a new line, 0484-2425200, has been added to the call centre.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan is expected to reach Kochi on Thursday to review the situation. Earlier on Wednesday, Health Minister K.K. Shylaja, reviewed the situation. It was decided that there was no need to postpone reopening of schools, as the situation was well under control.

**Adequate stocks**

"Adequate stock of Ribavirin is available in the district. A viral transport medium for sending samples is also ready. That apart, there are sufficient numbers of N95 and three-layer masks," the communication said.

The District Collector has issued instructions to the animal husbandry department to monitor the health condition of livestock and to immediately report back in case of any animal showing Nipah-like symptoms.

The Labour Department carried out inspection at migrant labour camps in the district and issued notices to those found to be unhygienic. Safety precautions were being maintained while transporting body fluid samples, and people with suspected Nipah infection in ambulances. Three-layered N-95 masks have been stocked, the District Collector said in his statement.

(Inputs from K.S.Sudhi, Kochi)



**Handling with care:** Health officials clearing waste from isolation ward of Ernakulam Medical College in Kochi on Wednesday. •PTI

## Two held on the charge of spreading rumours

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala police have booked two suspected conspiracy theorists, who claimed that the reappearance of the Nipah virus in Kerala was an elaborate hoax by pharmaceutical companies to ratchet up their product sales.

S. Surendran, district police chief, Kochi, told *The Hindu* that the falsehoods spread by the accused had threatened public interest at a critical time.

The police have booked the duo on the charge of creating mischief and

spreading falsehoods in society. Investigators had zeroed in on two proponents of magic cures and quack treatments.

One posted a video of himself eating what he claimed was a mango discarded by a fruit bat to dispel the scientific finding that the mammal could transmit the virus to humans. The other argued against hospitalising persons suspected of Nipah and claimed he could treat viral affliction without drugs and through dietary adjustments.

Both have a substantial presence on social media.

## Focus is on encephalitis, meningitis

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOZHIKODE

The Health Department is reportedly keeping a close watch on encephalitis and meningitis cases in Kozhikode and Malappuram districts to zero in on possibility of Nipah infection in patients admitted to hospitals. Encephalitis, caused by a virus infection, is the inflammation of the brain, and meningitis, caused by bacterial infection, is the inflammation of the meninges or tissues that surround the brain or the spinal cord.

# 'Coalition govt. will collapse on its own'

'No need for Operation Kamala'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

BJP national general secretary P. Muralidhar Rao predicted on Wednesday that the Janata Dal (Secular)-Congress coalition government in Karnataka will collapse soon.

"Everyone in the ruling coalition is trying to bring down the other, which will soon result in collapse of the government itself," he said at a programme organised by the BJP to felicitate its newly elected MPs.

He disputed claims that the results of the Lok Sabha polls were not a referendum on the coalition government's performance as the elections were not held for the State Assembly.

"This is a referendum as the JD(S) and Congress, who fought against each other in the Assembly, forged an alliance to form the government later on. Therefore, the Lok Sabha polls were an

opportunity for the people to express their views on the alliance and the mandate went against it."

The BJP, he said, would not indulge in 'Operation Kamala' (a codename for wooing MLAs from rival camp) to topple the government. "People themselves have done the operation by giving a mandate against the ruling coalition in Karnataka," he said.

**'Many eager to join'**

BJP State president B.S. Yeddyurappa claimed that a large number of leaders from the coalition parties were eager to join the BJP and asked his party leaders to identify the worthy and facilitate their entry into the party organisation.

Mr. Yeddyurappa learnt to have asked the party legislators to wait for about two months to decide on forming its government in the State.

## TTD chief's refusal to resign kicks up a row

STAFF REPORTER  
VIJAYAWADA

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) chairman Putta Sudhakar Yadav's refusal to tender his resignation has kicked up a controversy. A war of words between the ruling YSR Congress Party and the TTD members followed it.

Even as the demand to tender his resignation and those of other members of the TTD is on, there were reports that the Andhra Pradesh government is contemplating bringing an ordinance to dissolve the temple trust boards.

Social media was agog on Wednesday over the reported ordinance and that the State Cabinet (which is yet to be constituted) would take a decision on the TTD at its meeting on June 8.

But the government seems to be treading cautiously on promulgating the ordinance in view of complications involved.

The government is considering various options to overcome legal hurdles.

In the past, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government had issued an ordinance to dissolve the trust boards.

# TDP MP Kesineni turns down Naidu's offer of party whip post

Makes it clear that he has no plans to join the BJP

STAFF REPORTER  
VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada TDP MP Kesineni Srinivas (Nani) on Wednesday refused to accept the post of party Whip in the Lok Sabha.

Thanking party's national president N. Chandrababu Naidu for offering him the post, Mr. Nani said he humbly requested Mr. Naidu to appoint someone "who is more capable and efficient than me".

A day after Mr. Naidu made the appointment, he took to Facebook to state that he was turning down the offer.

Mr. Naidu appointed Guntur MP Galla Jayadev as the parliamentary party leader and Srikakulam MP K. Ramohan Naidu as the floor leader nearly a week ago. Mr. Nani, who was the only



Kesineni Srinivas

Speculation was rife that Mr. Nani was contemplating joining the BJP. He met Union Minister Nitin Gadkari "to take his blessings". He had been avoiding party leaders for the last few days. On Tuesday, he even skipped the Ifar party hosted by Mr. Naidu in Vijayawada.

Mr. Naidu summoned the MP over the reports in the media. Mr. Nani told him that he would not desert the party.

"There is no truth in those reports. My defection to the BJP is as true as Mr. Naidu joining the YSR Congress Party," he clarified.

But his open refusal created ripples in the party circles. Mr. Nani, however, said self-respect was more important for him than the post.

other MP to be elected, was not given any post at that time.

Sources close to Mr. Nani said the MP got upset and felt that the party leadership should have offered him a post along with others. He thought it was better to focus on constituency development rather than any post, they added.

## On cloud nine



**Ready to pour:** Clouds covering the skies near the Mysore Road in Bengaluru on Wednesday. According to Meteorological Department, the onset of monsoon is likely in neighbouring Kerala on June 7. •K. MURALI KUMAR

## Vijaya Sai Reddy is YSRCP leader

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA

The YSR Congress Party, which bagged 22 out of 25 Lok Sabha seats in the recent general elections, has appointed party's Rajya Sabha member V. Vijaya Sai Reddy as the Parliamentary party leader.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy in a letter to the Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister informed him that Mr. Vijaya Sai Reddy was appointed the leader of the Parliamentary party. The Parliamentary party meeting held on May 25 authorised Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy to nominate the leader.

The Union Minister was also informed that the party candidate who won from the Rajampet Lok Sabha constituency P.V. Mithun Reddy was appointed leader of the party in the Lok Sabha.

# Telangana's women farmers get their due

UNDP announces six women from DDS groups as winner of 'Equator Prize'

R. AVADHANI  
PASTAPUR

It's one of the memorable days in the life of several women, most of whom are from oppressed sections, working with the Deccan Development Society (DDS). More than three decades of their work in the farming sector following age-old practices has brought them laurels from none other than the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It has announced six women from DDS groups as winner of 'Equator Prize' for 2019. The award sights DDS sangham women as 'an outstanding example of a local, nature-based solution to climate change and sustainable development'.



**Moment to cherish:** Women farmers being felicitated at Pastapur in Sangareddy district on Wednesday. •MOHD ARIF

Celebrating the announcement of the award, the DDS felicitated six women who took the lead role in various activities on the occasion of World Environment Day.

**Global solution**  
Addressing a gathering, V. Usha Rani, Director General

of National Institute of Agriculture Extension Management (MANAGE), said the DDS has been offering a global solution to climate change, a crisis being faced across the world. She said the women of DDS have been working relentlessly for the past three decades to protect the

environment by following the traditional systems. "Consume fresh food grown locally to protect your health. This will be helpful in protecting the soil health as well," she said. Ashish Kothari, environmentalist and founder of Kalpavriksh, Pune, said the DDS offered solutions to global challenges about two decades ago, but everyone failed to recognise that which they accept now. "You have proved that gender and caste discrimination will not come in the way of achieving self reliance and autonomy. The women have ensured food security and have achieved food sovereignty," he said.

# Berth not now for Reddy: Siddaramaiah

H.K. Patil seeks Rahul's intervention to settle differences in party's State unit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

Former Karnataka Chief Minister and coordination committee chairman Siddaramaiah said on Wednesday that three vacant Cabinet berths will be filled first and Ramalinga Reddy, Congress MLA, will be made Minister at the time of the reshuffle.

"I will speak to Mr. Reddy..." he said in reply to a question on Mr. Reddy's outburst over senior leaders in the party and government being ignored. "I had told him that he will be made Minister during the Cabinet reshuffle. We are not doing a reshuffle now."

"We have decided to fill one post that fell vacant from Congress's share of ministerial berths) following former Minister C.S. Shivali's death. When the reshuffle happens, Mr. Reddy will get an opportunity."



**I had told him that he [Ramalinga Reddy] will be made Minister during the Cabinet reshuffle**

Currently, three posts are

vacant — two from the JD(S)'s share of ministerial berths and one from the Congress's share.

Reacting to JD(S) leader A.H. Vishwanath's allegation that coordination between the two coalition partners was poor because of Mr. Siddaramaiah, he said: "Mr. Vishwanath is not our party man. He is from the JD(S). I will not speak about JD(S) leaders. Their own leaders will do that."

**'Pacify leaders'**

Meanwhile, former Minister H.K. Patil has appealed to AICC president Rahul Gandhi to immediately intervene and pacify party leaders who have expressed their difference of opinion on the functioning of the State Congress unit.

Speaking to mediapersons here, Mr. Patil said senior leaders such as Roshan Baig and Mr. Reddy had expressed their anguish at the functioning of the KPCC and criticised Mr. Siddaramaiah for the party's dismal show in the Lok Sabha elections. In this context, he said, Mr. Gandhi should immediately intervene and find a solution to ensure smooth functioning of the party.

"It is not right to blame Mr. Siddaramaiah alone for the party's poor performance. Each one of us is collectively responsible for the results and we need to introspect," Mr. Patil said. There were differences within the party. They needed to be sorted out not by going to the media, but through mutual discussions, he said.



IN BRIEF



**Veteran actor Dinyar Contractor passes away**  
MUMBAI  
Veteran actor and theatre legend Dinyar Contractor, who appeared in films such as *Baadshah* and *Khiladi*, passed away on Wednesday morning here. He was 79. According to his family, the actor died due to old age-related health issues. The actor was best known for his comic roles. He was awarded the Padma Shri earlier this year. PTI

**Chanda Kochhar seeks time to appear before ED**  
NEW DELHI  
Chanda Kochhar, the former ICICI Bank managing director and CEO who was summoned again by the Enforcement Directorate for questioning on Thursday in connection with the Videcon Group loans case, has sought an extension. "Another summons may be issued," said an ED official.

**Earthquake in parts of Gujarat and Rajasthan**  
AHMEDABAD  
An earthquake of 4.3 magnitude struck parts of north Gujarat and Rajasthan at 10.31 p.m. on Wednesday. According to the Gandhinagar-based Institute of Seismological Research, the epicentre was 31 km from Palanpur in Banaskantha district of north Gujarat. There were no reports of any injury or loss of property.

**Assam police's cheeky tweet on ganja seizure**  
GUWAHATI  
The Assam police on Tuesday posted a cheeky tweet on seizure of ganja in Dhubri district, which got huge traction on Twitter. "Anyone lost a huge (590 kg) amount of Cannabis/Ganja and a truck in and around Chagolia checkpoint last night? Don't panic, we found it," the tweet read. PTI

# Imperative to test all pregnant women for gestational diabetes

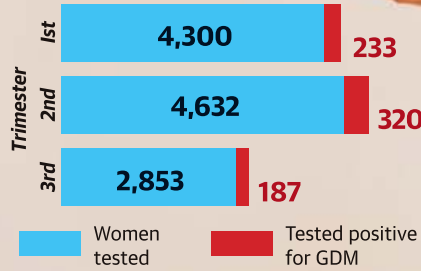
## What is GDM?

Gestational diabetes mellitus is defined as any degree of glucose intolerance with onset or first recognition during pregnancy

### RISKS ASSOCIATED

- Low birth weight of baby
- Elevated risk for diabetes, obesity, hypertension and cardio vascular diseases
- Intergenerational transfer of risk

11,785 pregnant women in Tamil Nadu were tested for GDM over 6-8 months in 2014. A look at the results below\*



\*SOURCE: INDIAN JOURNAL OF ENDOCRINOLOGY AND METABOLISM, JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 2016



This can prevent children from becoming predisposed to diabetes or other NCDs

RAMYA KANNAN  
CHENNAI

It has become imperative that every pregnant woman be screened for high blood glucose even if no symptoms are exhibited, a recent paper published in the *Journal of the Association of Physicians of India* has posited. Arguing that primordial prevention or, in this case, at the earliest stage of development of the foetus, is essential to prevent children from becoming predisposed to diabetes or other non-communicable diseases (NCD), the paper by V. Seshiah and his team from the Diabetes in Pregnancy Study Group India (DIPSI) makes a case for testing all pregnant women.

"The aim should be to target keeping the new born's birth weight appropriate for

the gestational age (2.5-3.5 kg) to prevent the offspring developing NCD in the future," the authors have stated.

"It is essential to make an early diagnosis and ensure the mother maintains ideal blood sugar levels (fasting glucose under or 90 mg/dl, and post prandial under or 120 mg/dl)," explains Dr. Seshiah, lead author and patron, DIPSI.

### Intra-uterine period

The paper states that while several reasons have been ascribed for the rising trend of NCD, the concept of intra-uterine programming has not received adequate attention.

Quoting David Barker's 'Fetal Origin of Adult Diseases' theory, it says the body's susceptibility to lifestyle dis-

eases was programmed in the intra-uterine period.

Higher glucose transfer to the foetus, when the mother has high blood sugar, stimulates the foetal pancreatic cells to start secreting insulin earlier and in higher quantities. Once initiated, it becomes self-perpetuating. In addition, when the maternal glucose reading is over 110 mg/dl, the amniotic fluid becomes glucose enriched, and after 20 weeks, when the foetus begins to swallow the amniotic fluid, which further stimulates production of insulin.

### National guidelines

The Ministry of Health has developed national guidelines for testing, diagnosis and management of hyperglycaemia in pregnancy, and they recommend early test-

ing at the time of contact (during the first trimester) and if the test is negative, yet another test should be done between 24-28 weeks.

### 'Implemented by U.P.'

"Uttar Pradesh has implemented this programme extremely well. They are even using advanced testing equipment not seen in other parts of the country," Dr. Seshiah says.

"Testing all pregnant women has become the norm across the world," explains V. Balaji, secretary, DIPSI.

"The common test is the single dose oral glucose, because it is simple and economical." A single reading of blood sugar two hours after the ingestion of 75 gm oral glucose solution is taken. A value of 140 mg/dl or more indicates GDM.

## Workshops on prevention of drug use to be held for students

Social Justice Ministry to roll out plan with help of States

DAMINI NATH  
NEW DELHI

Workshops focussing on prevention of drug use would be conducted for about 8 lakh students around the country with the help of State education boards and NGOs this year, senior officials of the Union Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry said this week.

Apart from programmes for de-addiction and rehabilitation of those affected by drug abuse, the Ministry's National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (2018-2025) highlights the need for education to pre-

vent use of drugs among children.

### High-risk groups

A top Ministry official said the workshops would be conducted for 8 lakh students with the aid of State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs) and NGOs working in the field. This, according to officials, would be in addition to targeted drug demand reduction programmes to be rolled out in 127 districts that will focus on high-risk groups and youth.

According to the Magni-

tude of Substance Use in India report submitted by the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre of the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences to the Ministry in February this year, 1.3% of children between 10 and 17 years reported current use of alcohol, 0.9% reported use of cannabis, 1.8% reported use of opioid and 1.17% reported use of inhalants.

The Ministry official said the drug demand reduction programmes would emphasise on not stigmatising addicts, but rather trying to educate people, particularly school and college students.

## 24x7 helpline for medical students soon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Indian Medical Association is planning to set up counselling centres at all medical colleges and teaching institutions and a 24x7 helpline to help students deal with mental health issues.

This comes days after Dr. Payal Tadv, 26, allegedly committed suicide after facing harassment by seniors at a Mumbai hospital.

The IMA has launched an initiative named Doctors 4 Doctors (D4D) aimed at preventing burn out, addressing mental health challenges and reducing incidents of suicide among residents and clinicians.

## No trace yet of missing An-32 in Arunachal

Aircraft, ground forces conducting search operation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

An aerial survey to locate the Indian Air Force's An-32 transport aircraft, missing over Arunachal Pradesh since Monday with 13 on board, resumed on Wednesday afternoon after the weather improved.

Earlier in the day, inclement weather affected the search and rescue efforts.

Wing Commander Ratnakar Singh, Shillong-based IAF spokesperson, said a C130J four-engine turboprop transport aircraft, a Sukhoi Su-30, two Mi-17 helicopters and two Advanced Light Helicopters - one from the Army - have resumed the search and rescue operations.

"Ground parties of the Army, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, local police and other State [Arunachal Pradesh] agencies have also been scouting the area," he said.

Ground search by the Army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police along the flight path of the missing An-32 has failed to yield any result so far.

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu and Chief Secretary Satya Gopal



The An-32s are equipped with an emergency locator transmitter, which remains active for a few days after a crash.

promised help in mobilising the police, local administration and villagers in locating the missing aircraft.

The An-32 took off from Jorhat in Assam at 12.27 p.m. on Monday for the Mechuka Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) in Shi Yomi district of Arunachal Pradesh but lost contact 33 minutes later. The ALG is about 30 km from the nearest point on the India-China border.

On Tuesday, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Air Command Air Marshal R.D. Mathur visited Air Force Station Jorhat and met families of the missing personnel.

They are being regularly updated on the progress of the search for the missing aircraft, the IAF said.

Tuesday also saw the Navy's P-8I aircraft join the search operations. The aircraft, which took off from INS Rajali off Arakkonam in Tamil Nadu, has a powerful synthetic aperture radar considered ideal for search and rescue sweeps to locate the missing aircraft.

The P-8I has electro-optical and infra-red sensors to penetrate thickly forested areas. The aircraft has not reconnoitred the area since Tuesday afternoon, officials said.

The An-32s are equipped with an emergency locator transmitter (ELT), which remains active for a few days after a crash. No signal had been detected so far from the missing aircraft, IAF officials said.

## Seized bombs explode at Forest Dept. office in Pune

The 'handmade explosives' were confiscated from poachers, who use them to hunt wild animals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PUNE

A major explosion, believed to have been caused by confiscated handmade bombs, ripped through the office of the Maharashtra State Forest Department early on Wednesday.

According to the Pune rural police, the incident oc-

curred between 4 a.m. and 4.30 a.m. No casualties were reported as the office, located 30 km from Pune, was closed at the time.

"These handmade 'bombs' comprise explosive powder, small pellets and stones and are used by poachers. Around 90 such bombs were seized from the

Tamhini Wildlife Sanctuary by forest officials sometime back. They were stored at the Forest Department's rented office in Paud," Ashok Dhumal, Police Inspector, Paud Police Station, told *The Hindu*. Local villagers too often use these bombs to kill stray dogs.

Such was the intensity of

the blast that the shutter of the office was ripped off and it fell several feet away from the premises.

### 'Improper storage'

Furniture and walls were damaged and a number of files are believed to have been destroyed.

Mr. Dhumal said improper

storage or even rodents may have triggered the explosion. "It is fortunate that it did not occur during office hours. We are probing into the causes of the blast," said Mr. Dhumal.

Forest Department authorities have launched a separate investigation into the blast.

## Monthly sum for widow whose husband granted property to neighbour

Will is genuine, we can't do anything; SC

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

An elderly widow whose husband bequeathed his entire agricultural property and house to their neighbour in what seems to be an overdose of the maxim 'do thy neighbour good' had to finally settle for a monthly amount for her sustenance following a prolonged legal battle which spanned over a decade.



A Vacation Bench of Justices M.R. Shah and A.S. Bopanna concluded that the husband's will in favour of the neighbour was genuine, and that there was nothing the court could do.

Shewantabai, the widow, who appealed the Bombay High Court decision in the apex court in 2016, was left with no choice but take a monthly maintenance of ₹7,500 from the neighbour. The neighbour would have to pay the sum on a monthly basis during the widow's lifetime. The amount would be derived out of the income from the agricultural property.

"Merely because the testator executed the will in favour of the neighbour, the genuineness of the will cannot be doubted," the court observed in a recent order.

The court described the predicament of the widow, describing her as "an old lady" who would find it "difficult to maintain herself in this old age".

The court however noted that the neighbour wanted to do her a good turn by allowing the widow to stay on in the house, which apparently was once hers, and he would look after her. He had said he was even "ready and willing" to pay her ₹3,000.

Shewantabai had initially refused the offer, but later accepted the alternative provided the maintenance amount was enhanced. The apex court said ₹7,500 would "meet the ends of justice".

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No. 07/01/2019/AIIMS Raipur (Academics)/1207, Date: 06/06/2019

**Admission Notice**  
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur invites online applications for Entrance Examination for admission to **Post Doctoral Certificate Course (PCC) - July 2019 Session**. The details are given below:

Department	Name of Course	Seats	Duration of Course
Anaesthesiology	Neurosurgical Anaesthesia	2	1 Year
	Critical Care	2	
Paediatrics	Paediatric Critical Care	4	1 Year
	Neonatology	4	
Radiology	Cardiothoracic and Vascular Imaging and Interventional Radiology	2	

STARTING DATE OF ONLINE APPLICATION FORM : 06.06.2019  
LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF ONLINE FORM & APPLICATION FEE : 25.06.2019

**Dates of Entrance Examination**

Date of Exam	Duration of Exam	Exam Centre
12/07/2019 (Written Examination)	11 AM to 12.30 PM	AIIMS Raipur
13/07/2019 Practical / Viva	10 AM onwards	

Important: For detailed information please visit the website of AIIMS Raipur (www.aaimsraipur.edu.in). All applicants are required to visit the website regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum/Updates will be uploaded on the website of AIIMS Raipur only. Dean (Academics)

**अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, रायपुर (छ.ग.)**  
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No. 07/01/2019/AIIMS Raipur (Academics)/1205, Date: 06/06/2019

**Admission Notice**  
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur invites online applications for Entrance Examination for admission in **Master of Public Health (MPH), Course - July 2019 Session**. The details are given below:

Name of Course	Total Seats	UR	ST	SC	OBC	Duration of course
Master of Public Health (MPH)	6	3	0	1	2	2 years

STARTING DATE OF ONLINE APPLICATION FORM : 06.06.2019  
LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF ONLINE FORM & APPLICATION FEE : 25.06.2019

**Dates of Entrance Examination**

Date of Exam	Duration of Exam	Exam Centre Location
15/07/2019 (Written Examination)	10 AM to 11.30 AM	AIIMS Raipur
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Bachelor in Audiology and Speech Language Pathology (BASLP)	4	2	0	1	1	-	3 years + 1 year internship
B.Sc. in Medical Laboratory Technology	8	4	2	1	1	-	3 Years
Advanced Diploma in Radiotherapy Technology (ADRT)	2	1	0	0	1	-	2 years + 1 year internship
Pre-Hospital Trauma Technician (PTT) (Certificate Course)	10	4	1	2	2	1	1 Years

STARTING DATE OF ONLINE APPLICATION FORM : 06.06.2019  
LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF ONLINE FORM & APPLICATION FEE : 25.06.2019

**Dates of Entrance Examination**

Date of Exam	Duration of Exam	Exam Centre
14/07/2019 (Written Examination for all courses except PTT)	10 AM to 11.30 AM	Raipur
15/07/2019 (Interview for ADRT course only)	10 AM onwards	AIIMS Raipur

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## The healing touch

Sri Lankan leaders must move to end the demonising of Muslims

The mass resignation of two Muslim governors and nine Ministers in Sri Lanka deepens a new fault line that has emerged in the island nation after the Easter Sunday blasts perpetrated by a fanatical Islamist group. Sinhala Buddhist hardliners had demanded that the Governors, Azath Salley and M.L.A.M. Hizbulah, and Cabinet Minister Rishad Bathiudeen, be removed for allegedly backing the terrorist group and interfering with the investigation. Stung by the aggressive demand at a time when investigators had not found any evidence implicating the three, all Muslim Ministers resigned in an act of solidarity. The campaign intensified mainly because of an indefinite fast by Athureliye Rathana Thero, a Buddhist monk, in Kandy. Thousands marched in his support. It is clear that the upheaval caused by the blasts, in which more than 250 people were killed in churches and luxury hotels, has caused widespread fear and mistrust across ethnicities. In a development that seemed too organised to be a spontaneous, emotional backlash, a campaign of violence and intimidation was launched against the Muslim community. This despite the fact that the National Thowheed Jamaat, the group behind the blasts, which included suicide bombers and was led by the radical preacher Zahran Hashim, has been dismantled. Hundreds have been arrested and the plot possibly inspired by Islamic State propaganda has been unravelled. It is intriguing that the government is not made accountable for the failure to act on advance intelligence on the attacks, but the community is being targeted.

Ever in need of new enemies and a blameworthy 'outsider', the majoritarian impulse in any society is likely to be awakened by an event as catastrophic as a religiously motivated attack. However, it is Sri Lanka's misfortune that anger against the perpetrators has been turned by some influential sections into fear and hatred towards Muslims. The President and the Prime Minister, who belong to the two main national parties, have not taken a firm stand against the disproportionate influence some Buddhist monks have on the political situation. Not many have called out the campaign of hatred. Finance Minister Mangala Samaraweera has decried the allegation that one of his ministerial colleagues is in league with terrorists, and has boldly challenged "politicians, religious leaders and media moguls trying to incite racial and religious hatred". Last month, a wave of violence swept through some Muslim habitations. A concerted campaign is now on to demonise the community, and one extreme example is the allegation that Muslim doctors were surreptitiously rendering Sinhala women infertile. Having emerged from a destructive civil war, Sri Lanka needs to focus on rebuilding inter-ethnic trust and ushering in a new egalitarian order. It will be ill-served by a conflict between communities.

## Caught napping

Kerala makes up for lost focus by acting quickly on the Nipah outbreak

A year after Kerala's prompt action quickly brought the deadly Nipah virus infection outbreak under check in two districts (Kozhikode and Malappuram), the State has once again shown alacrity in dealing with a reported case. A 23-year-old student admitted to a private hospital in Ernakulam on May 30 tested positive for the virus on June 4. But even as the government was awaiting confirmation from the National Institute of Virology, Pune, steps had been taken to prevent the spread of the disease by tracing the contacts, setting up isolation wards and public engagement. Two health-care workers who had come into contact with the patient exhibited some symptoms and are being treated. While 311 people who had come in close contact with the student are kept in isolation to prevent the spread of the disease, the numbers might be more — the student had reportedly travelled to four districts (Ernakulam, Thrissur, Kollam, and Idukki) recently. Containing the spread of the Nipah virus is important as the mortality rate was 89% last year, according to a paper in the journal *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. The source of infection in the index case (student) remains unknown. However, transmission to 18 contacts last year and the two health-care workers this year has been only through the human-to-human route.

If Kerala was taken by surprise by the first outbreak last year, its recurrence strongly suggests that the virus is in circulation in fruit bats. After all, the virus isolated from four people and three fruit bats (*Pteropus medius*) last year from Kerala clearly indicated that the carrier of the Nipah virus which caused the outbreak was the fruit bat, according to the paper in *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. Analysing the evolutionary relationships, the study found 99.7-100% similarity between the virus in humans and bats. The confirmation of the source and the recurrence mean that Kerala must be alert to the possibility of frequent outbreaks. Even in the absence of hard evidence of the source of the virus till a few days ago, fruit bats were widely believed to be the likely candidates. That being so and considering the very high mortality rate when infected with the virus, it is shocking that Kerala had not undertaken continuous monitoring and surveillance for the virus in fruit bats. One reason for the failure could be the absence of a public health protection agency, which the government has been in the process of formulating for over five years, to track such infective agents before they strike. Not only should Kerala get this agency up and running soon, it should also equip the Institute of Advanced Virology in Thiruvananthapuram to undertake testing of dangerous pathogens. Known for high health indicators, Kerala cannot lag behind on the infectious diseases front.

# Hindi or English, comparing apples and oranges

The project to remove English from India remains misplaced and dangerous to development and integration



D. SHYAM BABU

True to their well-earned reputation, the people of Tamil Nadu have once again stood up against attempts to 'promote' Hindi in non-Hindi States. It would be a pity if we dismissed the protests as regionalism or separatism. The three-language formula (TLF) under the draft National Education Policy (NEP), now modified, stipulated mother tongue and English compulsory everywhere till class X, and Hindi in non-Hindi States and non-Hindi languages in Hindi States to be taught. The proposal was rightly seen as a Trojan horse to smuggle Hindi into non-Hindi States. History vindicates the fear.

The old TLF under the Official Language Resolution of Parliament in 1968 was never implemented either in letter or in spirit. While Hindi-speaking States never bothered to promote non-Hindi and "preferably one of the Southern languages", non-Hindi states continue to teach Hindi (Tamil Nadu obtained an exception to this irrational policy).

Is it such a crime that one part of the bargain has not been honoured? One might as well argue that the Hindi States deprived their students of learning an additional language, while non-Hindi States are better off with a third language in the toolkit of their students. But the irony of the TLF is that to be an Indian one must have fluency in two Indian languages, in addition to English which we originally wanted to disappear from the land.

By dropping the clause for com-

pulsory teaching of Hindi, the government has merely averted the backlash from several non-Hindi States, but it is persisting with the TLF. Unless the government amends Part XVII of the Constitution (which deals with the language policy) to be in sync with the global trend of mother tongue plus English, we are bound to witness many an avoidable controversy.

### Absurd policy

Our language policy is based on a honourable objective: decolonising all walks of our national life. Therefore, progressive replacement of English with Hindi was thought to be a sound beginning. But things didn't work out the way we hoped in 1950.

One, the project to remove English has become redundant. From being a language of colonialism, English transformed itself into a global language of culture, science and technology, and world politics. Its universalist claims are also backed by its capacity to absorb words from other languages.

Two, the intent to replace English with Hindi is based on an erroneous understanding that all languages are similar. All Indian languages are languages of identity and cultural expression whereas English is a language of mobility and empowerment. There is no point in comparing apples and oranges.

However, history also teaches us that primacy of a language is rather transient. There was a time the English (and even Germans) were communicating in French. One cannot now rule out the possibility of Mandarin replacing English as the global language in future.

Three, though Tamil Nadu's position is seen as 'anti-Hindi', it contains an implicit question: why on earth should students learn a third



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language which they, after they leave high school, are unlikely to use? There was a time Bihar opted for Telugu as the third language, just as Andhra Pradesh chose Hindi. But Bihar reneged on the TLF and Andhra Pradesh persisted with the same. How would Bihar students have benefited from Telugu being a third language on their school-leaving certificate? How are students in non-Hindi states benefiting from Hindi as a third language? Wouldn't it be sensible if the policy replaced the third language and allowed students to choose a subject or a skill?

Four, the TLF in any form is unconstitutional. A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court ruled in 2014 (in *Karnataka v. Recognised-Unaided Schools*) that imposition of even the mother tongue as the medium of instruction is violative of one's fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression [Article 19(1)(a)]. If the government cannot even force students to learn in their own mother tongue, where does it obtain the right to make language(s) teaching compulsory?

Reflecting the 'condition' that Article 344(3) imposes on the language policy that it must "have due regard to the industrial, cultural and scientific advancement of India," the Bench advanced the rationale for English: "For example, prescribing English as a medium of instruction in subjects of higher education for which only English books are available and which can

only be properly taught in English may have a direct bearing and impact on the determination of standards of education."

Five, the TLF is not only irrational but impractical as well. Consider a scenario even under the revised NEP: every State is required to teach one modern Indian language, in addition to mother tongue and English. Bihar, say, re-opts for Telugu but it has hardly any teachers proficient in that language. Should it import Telugu teachers? Create an academy? How long does the venture take and how much will it cost?

Six, a case can be made that India ought to introduce English throughout school and college education so that all Indians will be conversant in their mother tongue and English. Such a policy will be beneficial to the Hindi States. Consider the demographic trends: by 2060, non-Hindi States, especially in the south, are projected to experience demographic decline and attendant labour shortage. The situation in the north will be the opposite. Embracing English as the second language will promote mobility and economic development, especially in the north, and make India a more legible place to its citizens.

### The Macaulay test

The common thread that runs through issues such as language in administration, medium of instruction and inclusion of a third language in curriculum is the project to remove English. Until the project is dismantled, the forces it unleashed through Part XVII will continue to wreak havoc with the country. The draft NEP recommends English throughout school education but it is, strictly speaking, counter to the spirit of Part XVII.

Several States have already made their respective languages

the sole language of administration. As if to hurt the prospects of students from poorer sections, States stipulate mother-tongue instruction being mandatory only in government and aided schools. The well-off are free to access English medium education in private schools.

While English stands dismantled as a second/link language in administration, Hindi remains unacceptable to non-Hindi States. So, an educated person from a non-Hindi State will be clueless in a Hindi State and vice-versa. It does not matter whether he is transacting some business or attending an official meeting. Therefore, instead of promoting national integration, the official language policy has accomplished the opposite.

While firing the opening salvos in India's language war, Lord Macaulay suggested a simple test of asking people on what language they prefer. The least a government in a democracy can do is to fathom the people's will and act accordingly.

### Unpack what is at stake

The non-Hindi States habitually join Tamil Nadu against any attempts to impose Hindi but they never bother to unpack what is at stake. Is it merely their cultural pride that cannot reconcile to Hindi? Sub-national aspiration can go only thus far. Instead of merely opposing Hindi imposition, they can build a better case for English as the second language throughout the country. That process will also expose their own hypocrisy. For starters, why don't they formally align their positions with Tamil Nadu and demand similar exemption that the former enjoys from the three-language formula?

D. Shyam Babu is Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi. The views expressed are personal

## Making sense of Hindutva

The present political moment requires a renewed look at nationalism, communalism and majoritarianism



AJAY GUDAVORTHY

We are witnessing epoch-making changes to how democracy is working itself in India. It is often lamented as the new rise of cultural nationalism, majoritarianism and communalism. Earlier, historians had differed on how nationalism relates to communalism. Some felt nationalism itself was the product of colonialism and thereby the source of narrow identities. Therefore, one could not productively make a distinction between communalism and 'ethno-nationalism'. Others argued that nationalism was different from communalism: the first was about the 'making of a nation' and inclusive, while the second was divisive and caste-Hindu in its character.

### Pointer to deeper changes

Today, for all effective purposes, this distinction has collapsed with the emergence and consolidation of majoritarianism. However, the framing of the recent changes and electoral outcomes cannot be fully captured through these categories as they now refer to a new sociological reality.

The unprecedented rise of the Bharatiya Janata Party-Rashtriya

Swayamsevak Sangh (BJP-RSS) combine since the 1990s, and the simultaneous and gradual decline of the Congress cannot be understood merely as the rise of communalism or majoritarianism; even as it carries these tendencies, it has become a viable project and a part of popular politics because of deeper changes in questions of identity, emotions and representation. A relevant question to ask is whether the majoritarian-Hindutva politics is essentially about cultural subalterns who include both traditionally dominant castes as well as the subordinate castes, and classes. Would it not be right to argue that the upsurge of Hindu nationalism has paved the way for the mainstreaming of a 'way of life' and modes of thinking that lay at the margins of liberal democracy?

The complexity of the current moment in Indian politics is precisely this overlap between marginalised cultural groups that are asserting their identity but through conservative social ideology. The BJP-RSS combine, especially after the neoliberal reforms, has succeeded in combining aggressive pragmatism with regressive idealism. It is simultaneously inclusive and polarised; it provides mobility yet reinstates traditional hierarchies. Unless we unpack the irony of how contradictory processes are getting combined into a seamless process, a mere moral critique of the process would be inadequate, if not irrelevant. Unpacking



REUTERS/KONWAR

is a possible way to avoid the elitism of the liberal-secular critique of the current upsurge of cultural nationalism. The secular-liberal critique, in fact, further justifies the cultural nationalist project, enabling it to take on more majoritarian proportions.

In one sense, the political project of the Right, has subverted the binary distinction B.R. Ambedkar made between revolution and counter-revolution. He had observed that in Indian history, Buddhism was a revolution that privileged the shudras and provided them with dignity and equality, while a counter-revolution was forged by Brahminism and Vedic Hindu rituals to subjugate and marginalise the Shudras. What we are witnessing today is a counter-revolution that has the promise of being a revolution. It has managed to bring under-privileged castes and social groups to challenge the hegemony of caste Hindus/liberal elites over liberal, democratic institutions.

### Inclusion of the marginalised

The wide gap that was created between tiny liberal elites and

swathes of cultural subalterns due to the failure of the developmental state is being short-changed and subverted by muscular inclusion of the groups that lay at the margins. The resurgence of the 'Hindu' identity is not merely about communalism or majoritarianism but also about identities that had little hope of moving up the ladder within the limits of constitutionalism.

The BJP-RSS in this sense represent the cultural subalterns that cut across caste and class hierarchies. They are bringing with them social groups that suffered from routine inferiority and lack of mobility. The moral legitimacy of Hindutva lies in this silent change or subversion they are bringing about.

It needs to be added that this change cannot but be illiberal and is not necessarily anti-democratic as it might hold the promise of representing the majority. This change therefore cannot be captured in traditional or conventional caste and class categories; it goes beyond and cuts across the categories creating new divisions and social constituencies.

While communalism offers a sense of inclusion, majoritarianism offers a sense of mobility and the muscularity necessary to wedge open opportunities that otherwise looked closed; nationalism then offers a necessary moral antidote to exclusion and violence that are ingrained in the processes of communalism and majoritar-

ianism. Nationalism is therefore not merely about an exalted sense of the nation, it also plays a significant and a deeper role of providing moral-emotional succour to the narrow-violent sensibility that is understood to be indispensable to set right 'historical injury'/communalism (against Muslims) and achieve mobility/majoritarianism (against the traditional elites). Violence (found in mob lynching), mediocrity (in seeking quick mobility — for instance as found in the recent recruitments to universities), and even crime and criminality (for instance, alleged accusations against Pragya Thakur) can compromise the moral legitimacy of the project.

Moral legitimacy of any political project is to be found in notions of justice and universality, and nationalism works as a conduit that precisely fills this space. Nationalism allows the self-belief that Hindutva is not about narrow interests, or not just about 'Hindus' but about restoring the glory of a 'lost civilization'. It includes everyone who resides in 'Bharat'. This higher purpose offsets guilt and inconvenient pressures of conscience. Nationalism serves the purpose of providing 'mobility with dignity'.

Unless one makes sense of the 'positive' and affirming aspect of right-wing politics, one cannot get a full sense of the surge in cultural nationalist politics.

Ajay Gudavorthy is Associate Professor, Centre for Political Studies, JNU

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

### Sorting out Chagos

The UN General Assembly vote and the ruling by the International Court of Justice against the United Kingdom do not mean anything if status quo on the U.S. military base is going to be maintained. The decision on whether or not to allow the base should be left to the people of Mauritius. If India voted for Mauritius claims of sovereignty, then it cannot mediate for the right of that sovereignty to be curtailed to serve the interests of colonial ambitions and military powers. India will do well to uphold its stature with the former colonies by taking a clear stand against the militarisation of the Indian Ocean and a complete decolonisation of remnants of colonial

occupation (Editorial page, "The immediate neighbourhood", June 5).  
FIROZ AHMAD,  
New Delhi

### Cracks in the Congress

It is unfortunate that the Grand Old Party, the Indian National Congress, is facing bad days after the results of the 2019 general election ("Desertion, discord rattle Cong. ahead of revamp", June 5). Cracks in party units in Congress-ruled States such as Rajasthan, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh should not be allowed to widen. The leaders of the party need to discuss the issues in a frank manner. The party needs to be in tune with the nation's aspirations, or vanish soon.  
SHARADCHANDRAN S.,  
New Delhi

### Space for cycling

Cycling as a replacement for motoring, more so in cities, is a sound option as far as its impact on an individual's health and the environment are concerned. The recent move by the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Harsh Vardhan, to ride to work is profound, especially in terms of the ministry he heads. Officials can encourage cycling in the metro cities if, for instance, they ensure that there is extra space on buses or trains (as an extra coach). Cycle lanes in select areas could help. However, cyclists' concerns about traffic hazards and accidents must be addressed. Two days in a week should focus on cyclists and commuters

using public transport.

B.N. GANGADHAR,  
Bengaluru

### Water security

Chennai is perhaps facing its worst water crisis in recent times. It was not so long ago that large parts of the city were under water but residents need to acknowledge the fact that most water sources are almost bone dry. Could there have been a better way to manage all this? Possibly yes. There should have been stringent measures to reduce wastage with no efforts being spared to communicate this at regular intervals to citizens and users. Chennai cannot depend on rainwater any more. Desalination plants must

supplement the needs of the city, rain or shine. There have to be curbs on reducing groundwater extraction. Boring deeper may have other environmental consequences. Recycling and treating grey water at a central source must be thought of. Finally, the city may not be able to handle further growth and

planners have to think of satellite towns with good infrastructure that are not reliant on city water resources. There is a need for a water management revolution in Chennai with the full participation of all stakeholders.

C.K. MOHAN,  
Chennai

MORE LETTERS ONLINE:  
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### CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

A clarification on the story headlined "Scientists edit chicken genes to make them resistant to bird flu" (some editions, June 4, 2019): The penultimate paragraph had referred to a 2009 pandemic caused by H1N1. That entire paragraph on H1N1 should not have been mentioned as the story is related to bird flu (H5N1).

With reference to the "Between Wickets" column titled "India have the team to win the World Cup, so do at least three others" (May 22, 2019), a reader has pointed out that for the record, England reached only one final (1979) when they hosted the event (from 1975, 1979, 1983 and 1999) and not two as the column said. On two other occasions England made it to the title clash: in 1987 (Kolkata) and in 1992 (Melbourne). The reader is right.

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# Needed: a solar manufacturing strategy

Despite making significant progress in solar power generation, India still relies on China for equipment



SANTOSH MEHROTRA

India has made significant progress in creating capacity for solar energy generation in the last few years. The Prime Minister's emphasis since 2014 has given a new fillip to solar power installation. The unit costs of solar power have fallen, and solar energy has become increasingly competitive with alternative sources of energy. India expanded its solar generation capacity eight times from 2,650 MW on May 26, 2014 to over 20 GW on January 31, 2018, and 28.18 GW on March 31, 2019. The government had an initial target of 20 GW of solar capacity by 2022, which was achieved four years ahead of schedule. In 2015, the target was raised to 100 GW of solar capacity by 2022.

## Relying on imports

This rapid progress should have been made earlier, however. India is energy deficient, yet blessed with plenty of sunlight for most of the year. It should have taken a lead in solar panel manufacture to generate solar energy long ago. Despite the new policy focus on solar plant installation, India is still not a solar panel manufacturer. Just as India has had no overall industrial policy since economic reforms began, there is no real plan in place to ensure solar panel manufacture. The share of all manufacturing in GDP was 16% in 1991; it remained the same in 2017. The solar power potential offers a manufacturing opportunity. The government is a near monopolistic buyer. India is regarded by the global solar industry as one of the most promising markets, but low-cost Chinese imports have undercut its ambitions to develop its own solar technology suppliers. Imports, mostly from China, accounted for 90% of 2017 sales, up from 86% in 2014.

Substituting for imports requires human capabilities, technological capabilities and capital in the form of finance. On the first two capabilities, the supply chain of solar photovoltaic panel manufacturing is as follows: silicon production from sili-



"Low-cost Chinese imports have undercut India's ambitions to develop its own solar technology suppliers." A solar panel being installed on the rooftop of a house in Nada, a village near Mangaluru. ■ AP

cates (sand); production of solar grade silicon ingots; solar wafer manufacturing; and PV module assembly. The capital expenditure and technical know-how needed for these processes decreases from the first item to the last, i.e. silicon production is more capital-intensive than module assembly. Most Indian companies are engaged in only module assembly or wafer manufacturing and module assembly. No Indian company is involved in silicon production, although a few are making strides towards it. According to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (2018), India has an annual solar cell manufacturing capacity of about 3 GW while the average annual demand is 20 GW. The shortfall is met by imports of solar panels.

So we may not see domestic players, in the short term at least, replacing imported ones. While the safeguard duty now puts locally made panels on par with imported ones in terms of cost, the domestic sector needs to do a lot more to be effective. For instance, it will have to go down the supply chain and make the input components locally instead of importing them and putting the modules together here. Public procurement is the way forward. The government is still free to call out bids for solar power plants with the requirement that these be made fully in India. This will not violate any World Trade Organization commitment. However, no bids will be received as manufacturing facilities for these do not exist in the country. But

as Ajay Shankar, former Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, argues, if the bids were large enough with supplies spread over years, which gives enough time for a green field investment to be made for manufacturing in India, then bidders will emerge and local manufacturing can begin.

## Lessons from China

China's cost advantage derives from capabilities on three fronts. The first is core competence. The six largest Chinese manufacturers had core technical competence in semiconductor before they turned to manufacturing solar cells at the turn of the century. It takes time for companies to learn and put in action new technologies. When the solar industry in China began to grow, Chinese companies already possessed the know-how. Experts suggest that the human and technical learning curve could be five to 10 years. Indian companies had no learning background in semiconductors when the solar industry in India began to grow from 2011. State governments need to support semiconductor production as part of a determined industrial policy to develop this capacity for the future.

The second source of cost advantage for China comes from government policy. The Chinese government has subsidised land acquisition, raw material, labour and export, among others. None of this is matched by the Indian government. Perhaps even more important is commitment by the government to

procure over the long run – without that the investment in building up the design and manufacturing for each of the four stages of production of solar power equipment would come to nought.

The third is the cost of capital. The cost of debt in India (11%) is highest in the Asia-Pacific region, while in China it is about 5%.

Fifteen years ago, the Chinese could also have remained dependent upon imports from Korea or Germany; they did not. Remaining dependent on imports only leads to short-term benefits for India. A continuation of the current approach means India's energy sector will be in the same condition as its defence industry, where enormous amounts of money have been spent procuring weaponry – so much so that India has been the world's second largest importer of defence equipment for years.

In the solar panel manufacturing sector, the Indian government allows 100% foreign investment as equity and it qualifies for automatic approval. The government is also encouraging foreign investors to set up renewable energy-based power generation projects on build-own-operate basis. But the Chinese government is clearly adopting an aggressive stance while the demand for solar power in India continues to grow, as does the government's commitment to renewables. In 2018, China cut financial support to developers and halted approval for new solar projects. As a result, Chinese producers will cut prices to sustain their manufacturing plant capacity utilisation by sustaining exports to India. In other words, the Chinese strategy is to undercut any planned effort by India to develop the entire supply chain capacity within India so that dependence on imports from China continues. As a counter, India needs a solar manufacturing strategy, perhaps like the Automotive Mission Plan (2006-2016), which is credited with making India one of the largest manufacturers of two-wheelers, three-wheelers, four-wheelers and lorries in the world. This would also be a jobs-generating strategy for an increasingly better educated youth, both rural and urban.

Santosh Mehrotra is Professor of Economics, JNU, New Delhi

# Helping strangers

Only by cultivating a strong sense of citizenship and respect for the rights of all can philanthropy in India grow



RAJNI BAKSHI

After the din of a bitterly contested election, it is easy to forget that society is the foundation on which political parties and the entire edifice of democracy actually stand.

One indicator of the vibrancy of Indian society is the 'Everyday Giving in India Report 2019' which shows that Indians, some of them not even in the middle class, donate a total of about ₹34,000 crore every year to help others, mostly strangers. And according to the World Giving Index of 2018, by the U.K.-based Charities Aid Foundation, India tops the list of countries in the number of people donating money (although it ranks only 89th for participation rates when calculated as a proportion of the population). India is followed by the U.S. and China. However, it is significant to note that 90% of India's 'everyday giving' is to religion and community; only 10% goes to social purpose organisations.

## Increase in everyday giving

The good news of the 'Everyday Giving in India Report 2019', conducted by the Bengaluru-based Sattva, is that over the last 10 years there has been a significant increase in citizen engagement and volunteering – not just the act of giving money. Present-day 'everyday giving' is largely a continuation of a long-standing Indian tradition of citizens giving money to religious and caste-based organisations. India's freedom struggle inaugurated the practice of donating in cash or kind for larger social causes and for the welfare of underprivileged communities without religious or caste considerations. This kind of donation saw some decline immediately after Independence, but has re-emerged over the last few decades. One of the most famous examples of this is Child Rights and You (CRY), an organisation founded in the 1979 by Ripan Kapur, an airline purser who in his spare time sold greeting cards to raise money for disadvantaged children. Over 40 years, CRY has benefited millions of children of all religions, castes and regions, by raising small donations from lakhs of supporters.

With the earning capacity of both Indian residents and the Indian diaspora rising, India's 'everyday giving' has the potential to grow four times in the next 3-5 years, accord-

ing to Sattva.

What drives people to donate? About 74% of respondents in the Sattva survey said they are moved to support a cause that needs urgent attention. Some givers said they felt a sense of affiliation to a cause, whether related to health, environment or education. Half of those surveyed said they went by the recommendations of friends and family.

Among the most common ways of collecting donations are door-to-door collections, telemarketing, payroll giving, crowdfunding, and e-commerce-based giving. All of these are projected to grow strongly.

However, many of the people surveyed said their willingness to engage with social causes was impeded by lack of information on reliable organisations. More significantly, the report says few civil society organisations make citizen engagement the core of their mission; they instead prefer to reach out to large donors (high-net-worth individuals) or international funding agencies.

There is indeed a big role to be played by large-scale philanthropy by the rich.

For instance, the rich can help to plug a part of India's ₹533 lakh crore funding shortfall to meet the targets set by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. But as Chairman of the Mahindra Group, Anand Mahindra, says in this report, the Indian context needs "a billion givers rather than a billion dollars by a single giver".

## Supporting good ideas

This potential of a billion givers can only fully be realised if the giving is connected to cultivating a strong sense of citizenship and respect for the rights of all. At present, NGOs which foster this commitment to citizenship receive a small fraction of everyday giving. Secularised organisations need to reach out much more to engage the everyday giver. At the same time, religious and community-based institutions that are recipients of large-scale everyday giving need to expand beyond welfare programmes directed at their 'own' congregations to include work that cultivates respect for constitutional guarantees – most importantly, the right to dignity for all.

This report is of interest because it highlights the importance of making it easy for large numbers of people to support good ideas, good individuals and good institutions. In a society that appears to be bitterly polarised today, this is important.

Rajni Bakshi is a Mumbai-based writer

## SINGLE FILE

# Language discrimination

It is incredible that India should think of privileging the language of the most recent migrants

PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN



The first draft of the National Education Policy gathered controversy. This is no disqualification of course, as we should expect some disagreement on how to structure education in so large and diverse a country. Anyhow, the original draft had proposed that school-children learn three languages, namely their mother tongue, English and Hindi when Hindi is not their mother tongue and Hindi, English and a 'modern Indian language' in case their mother tongue is Hindi. This met with opposition from south India's politicians who see in mandatory Hindi a discrimination vis-à-vis the southern States. They are entirely right to protest.

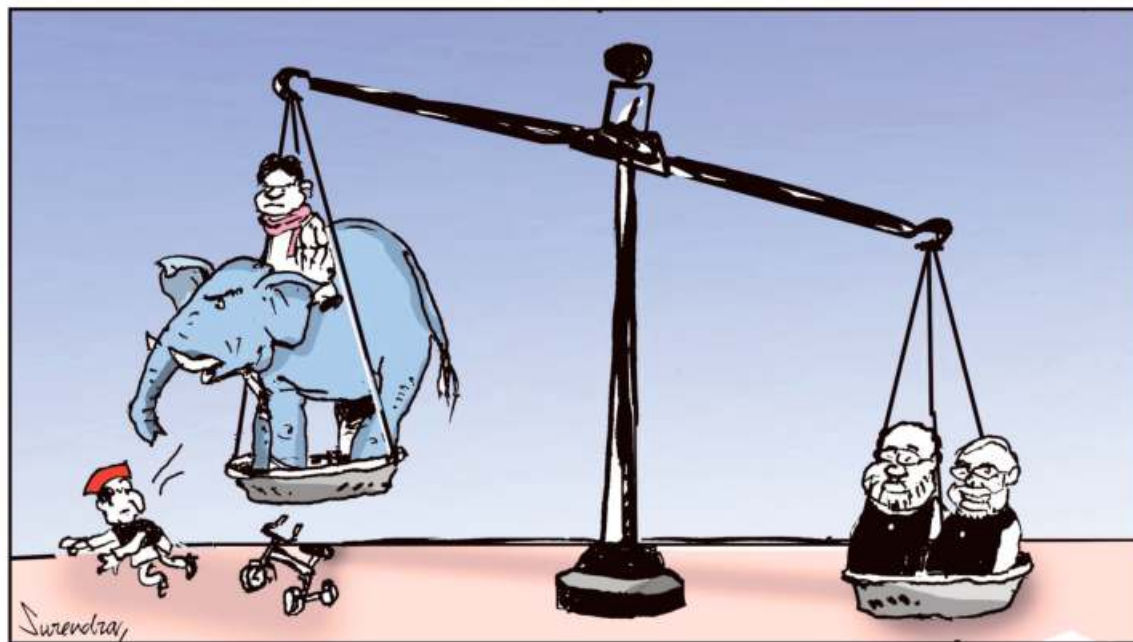
There is no credible basis on which to insist that south Indians learn to speak Hindi while north Indians are exempted from learning a language spoken in the south. The original draft policy had stated that Hindi speakers could study any modern Indian language as their third language, and not necessarily one spoken in south India. It is not difficult to see that this is discriminatory. But to see why it is not credible either we would need to travel further.

Hindi belongs to the family of Indo-European languages. It is only one of the several spoken in India even in this group. Indians also speak languages that belong to the Dravidian family. There are also groups, patronisingly termed 'tribal', which speak languages belonging to neither family, but they are so marginalised that they have little hope of having their voice heard. The contention is thus between those privileging Hindi through its imposition and promotion by the Indian state and speakers of Dravidian languages.

How incredible is this insistence on Hindi may be seen through the light of recent scientific advances. Population genetics combined with DNA evidence points to the role of migration in constituting the Indian stock. The findings from this exercise have been gathered by Tony Joseph in his recent book *Early Indians: The Story of Our Ancestors and Where We Came From*. In chronological order, these migrations may be termed Out of Africa, West Asian including Dravidian, East Asian, and Aryan. 'Aryan' is the self-description of speakers of Indo-European languages.

So, we are all immigrants here, with the Aryans being the most recent. It is incredible that India should even suggest a language policy that privileges the language of the most recent migrant. Unless we believe that majoritarianism would be kosher in a democracy, that is. Had he been alive, an ancestor who had cooled his heels in Vellore Jail during the Quit India Movement is sure to have murmured, "This is not what I had meant at all."

Pulapre Balakrishnan is Professor of Ashoka University, Sonapat and Senior Fellow of IIM Kozhikode



## DATA POINT

# Fallen forts, safe havens

The BJP wave in the 2019 Lok Sabha election breached the "safe seats" of many parties. As many as five seats won by the Congress in the past four elections (1999 to 2014) were won by the BJP in 2019. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) also lost four such seats – two of them to the BJP and the other two to the Congress. However, several other bastions weathered the BJP storm. **By Sumant Sen**

**YET TO CRACK** The table lists the seats which have been won by the same party for the past five elections (1999 to 2019)

Constituency	Party	2019 winner	Constituency	Party	2019 winner
Hyderabad	AIMIM	Asaduddin Owaisi	Satara	NCP	Udayan Bhonsle
Rae Bareilly	INC	Sonia Gandhi	Ponnani	IUML	E.T. Mohammed Basheer
Kallabor	INC	Gaurav Gogoi	Kendrapada	BJD	Anubhav Mohanty
Aska	BJD	Pramila Bisoyi	Jajpur	BJD	Sarmistha Sethi
Mainpuri	SP	Mulayam Singh Yadav	Cuttack	BJD	Bhartruhari Mahtab
Shillong	INC	Vincent Pala	Puri	BJD	Pinaki Misra
Baramati	NCP	Supriya Sule	Chhindwara	INC	Nakul Nath
Nalanda	JD(U)	Kaushlendra Kumar			

Only the top 15 seats with the highest winning vote shares are listed

■ Nakul Nath bagged the lone win (Chhindwara) for the Congress in M.P. His father Kamal Nath had represented the constituency for nine terms

■ AIMIM President Asaduddin Owaisi won Hyderabad for the fourth consecutive term. Prior to 2004, his father Salahuddin Owaisi won every term since 1984

## BREACHED THE GATES

The BJP toppled long-reigning parties in several constituencies. It wrested Tripura East and Tripura West from the CPI(M). It won Kolar, which had been a Congress bastion since 1989. It also won Kannauj, a bastion of Mulayam Singh Yadav and his family. The Congress, which marginally improved its 2014 performance, won Bastar, a BJP stronghold, and Kasaragod and Palakkad, strongholds of the CPI(M)

Constituency	1999 to 2014	2019	2019 loser	2019 winner
Amethi	INC	BJP	Rahul Gandhi	Smriti Irani
Chikkballapur	INC	BJP	M. Veerappa Moily	B.N. Bache Gowda
Kolar	INC	BJP	K.H. Muniyappa	S. Muniswamy
Tripura East	CPI(M)	BJP	Jitendra Chaudhary	Rebati Tripura
Tripura West	CPI(M)	BJP	Sankar Prasad Datta	Pratima Bhoumik
Kasaragod	CPI(M)	INC	K.P. Sathishchandran	Rajmohan Unnithan
Palakkad	CPI(M)	INC	M.B. Rajesh	V.K. Sreekandan
Kannauj	SP	BJP	Dimple Yadav	Subrat Pathak
Bastar	BJP	INC	Baidu Ram Kashyap	Deepak Baij
Guna	INC	BJP	Jyotiraditya Scindia	Krishna Pat Singh Yadav
Bhubaneswar	BJD	BJP	Arup Patnaik	Aparajita Sarangi
Gulbarga	INC	BJP	Mallikarjun Kharge	Dr. Umesh Jadhav
Nowgong	BJP	INC	Rupak Sharma	Pradyut Bordoloi

The table above lists seats which changed hands to either the BJP or the Congress in the 2019 election

Source: ECI, Trivedi Centre for Political Data, Election Atlas of India

## FROM The Hindu. ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 6, 1969

### PM's poignant meeting with Ghaffar Khan

The Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi received an unprecedentedly warm welcome from the Afghan Government and people on her arrival here (Kabul) to-day (June 5) on a five-day visit to this country with which India has had the closest ties from the days of the Rig Veda, Buddhist philosophy and the early Islamic influence. Immediately on her arrival here, Mrs. Gandhi called on Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan. Tens of thousands of students and common people lined the 12 kilometre route from the airport to the Royal guest house cheering her all the way and showering her with rose petals at important road junctions. Even the striking students of the Kabul colleges and schools took some time off from their demonstrations to welcome her as the motorcade passed through the crowded city.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 6, 1919.

### Mysore and War.

The Mysore Blue Book Journal, in giving a record of the part played by Mysore State towards winning the War, refers to the work of the Imperial Service Lancers in Suez Canal zone and in Palestine and to the work of Mysore transport corps, at Sanjaya and that trained horses were supplied to the Imperial Government and the state had recruited 5000 men by the time the armistice was signed. As regards money contributions, the total amount contributed or made available by the Mysore State and the people amounted to over two crores. Among other work, some 19,000 army blankets were supplied up to the 30th September. Special investigations were made by the state mines department in regard to the supply or increase in the output of particular minerals required in the munition making. 150,000 cubic feet of rosewood were supplied by the State to the Gun Carriage factory at Jubbulpore and 30,000 teak metre gauge sleepers for railway construction in Messo-potamia.

## CONCEPTUAL

### Social jet lag

SOCIOLOGY

This refers to the difference in the sleep patterns of people between weekends and weekdays. Social jet lag is seen by many as caused by the modern lifestyle which requires that people operate within a strict time schedule on weekdays unlike on weekends. On weekends, people are generally free to sleep longer and in sync with their body's natural sleep cycle. This frequent change in sleep pattern is considered to be similar to the change in sleep pattern witnessed when people travel across time zones. Researchers believe that such a disrupted sleep pattern can have harmful effects on health.

## MORE ON THE WEB

Rivers in India: A reality check

<http://bit.ly/RiversIndia>







IN BRIEF



**Make yoga an integral part of your lives: PM**  
NEW DELHI  
Ahead of World Yoga Day on June 21, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday urged people to make yoga an integral part of their lives. Noting that the benefits of Yoga are immense, he also posted a short video on one of the yoga postures. PTI

**Make Sachin Pilot CM, says Rajasthan MLA**  
JAIPUR  
Amid the rift in the Rajasthan Congress over the Lok Sabha debacle, a party MLA said on Wednesday that Ashok Gehlot should be replaced with his deputy, Sachin Pilot, as the Chief Minister. Todabhim MLA Prithviraj Meena said Mr. Gehlot should take responsibility for the election drubbing. PTI

**Deendayal title dropped from Rajasthan exam**  
JAIPUR  
The Rajasthan government has dropped RSS ideologue Deendayal Upadhyay's name from a scholarship exam for the secondary school students, triggering a fresh controversy. The latest move comes after RSS ideologue Vinayak Damodar Savarkar was described as 'Son of Portugal' in the social science book for Class 10. PTI

**610 political parties won no seat in LS elections**  
NEW DELHI  
A total of 610 mostly regional and small political parties across the country failed to win even a single seat in the Lok Sabha election while 530 got nil vote share. A total of 13 parties managed to bag one seat each, according to Election Commission's data. The parties which drew a blank in the polls include the Forward Bloc, INLD, JJP, SDF, SJPA. IANS

**India, France to hold mega air exercise in July**  
NEW DELHI  
The Indian and French Air Forces will carry out a two-week-long mega air exercise beginning July 1 in France in a boost to military-to-military ties between the two countries, officials said on Wednesday. A fleet of Sukhoi 30 fighter jets of the Indian Air Force will engage in dogfights with France's Rafale multirole aircraft in simulated scenarios as part of the 'Garuda' exercise. PTI

# From Swachh to 'Nal se Jal'

Centre to place more focus on piped water after phase I of sanitation mission

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ  
NEW DELHI

With the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to complete officially its mission of an open defecation-free (ODF) India by October 2, there is uncertainty on what lies ahead for the Centre's flagship sanitation scheme.

Since its launch by the Prime Minister in 2014, the rural component of the mission alone has attracted government spending of about ₹1 lakh crore, split between the Centre and the States in a 60:40 ratio. Discussions are now being held with the Finance Ministry to work out a potential allocation for the scheme in the Budget to be presented on July 5.

While government officials and funding agencies alike stress the importance of a second phase past October, with continued behavioural changes and solid and liquid waste management programmes required to maintain the scheme's gains, it is unclear if funding



**Brick by brick:** A file photo of a man building a toilet under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in Gonda, Uttar Pradesh. ■ RAJEEV BHATT

and attention could be sustained at levels matching those of the high-profile first phase.

**UNICEF study**  
On Wednesday, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of the newly created Jal Shakti Ministry, which is expected to absorb the Drinking Water and Sanitation Ministry, released a UNICEF study showing that groundwater is 12.7 times less likely to be contaminated in ODF villages

than non-ODF ones. Noting that the sanitation mission had improved the environment as well as people's health and dignity, Mr. Shekhawat said the mission would "continue to positively impact people's lives for a long time to come".

Asked about funding for the second phase, Mr. Shekhawat said, "With Modiji as PM, there is no need to ask such a question. Whatever is required will be given." While a World Bank grant

would continue till January 2021, representatives of UNICEF and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation said they were working on faecal sludge management projects for phase two, but expected that greater attention and government funding may now be focussed on a new piped water scheme.

The *Nal se Jal* scheme aims to provide piped drinking water to every rural home by 2024, in response to studies showing that 84% of rural homes have no access to piped water, with more than 70% of the country's water contaminated. A second phase of Swachh Bharat may be key to reducing contamination, as the UNICEF study suggests.

"Having Water Resources under the same roof as Drinking Water and Sanitation (DWS) will allow greater coordination," said DWS secretary Parameswaran Iyer. "Think of them as the supply side, while we focus on a service delivery side."

# Pak. Foreign Secretary joins Id prayers in Delhi

Former High Commissioner is said to have paid a personal visit to shift his family to Islamabad

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE  
NEW DELHI

In a surprise move, Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood offered Id prayers at the Jama Masjid here on Wednesday. Diplomatic sources said Mr. Mahmood, who served as the High Commissioner here till April, was on a quick personal visit to shift his family to Islamabad.

The timing of the visit led to speculation as it comes just before Prime Minister Narendra Modi begins his first round of foreign tours.

After trips to the Maldives and Sri Lanka, the Prime Minister will travel to Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit on June 13 and 14.

Mr. Mahmood's tenure as Pakistan's envoy ended amid bilateral tensions following the February 14 Pulwama terror attack and India's air strike at Balakot inside Pakistan.

His visit comes just days after Prime Minister Imran Khan spoke to Mr. Modi fol-



**Surprise visit:** Pakistan Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood, second from left, offering namaz at Jama Masjid in New Delhi. ■ ANI

lowing the latter's election victory. Mr. Khan was not invited to the swearing-in of Mr. Modi, though it is expected

that both leaders would participate in the summit in Bishkek. Officials have not yet confirmed if a meeting

will take place. Though there is no clarity about the schedule of Mr. Mahmood's visit and interac-

tions, it is understood that he might attend a few Id-related programmes on Wednesday and Thursday.

# 10% drop in H-IB visa approvals in 2018: U.S.

Attributed to 'aggressive' policies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WASHINGTON

There was a sharp 10% decline in the approval of H-IB visas by the U.S. in the fiscal year 2018, which experts attributed to the "aggressive" policies of the Trump administration to clamp down on the use of the work visa programme, popular among highly skilled Indian IT professionals.

The H-IB visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows U.S. companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) approved 3,35,000 H-IB visas, both new and renewable, in the fiscal year 2018. This was 10% less than the 3,73,400 visas approved in the previous fiscal year of 2017, according to the USCIS' annual statistical report.

The approval rate of H-IB declined from 93% in 2017 to 85% in 2018. "This administration has aggressively



The approval rate of H-IB declined from 93% in 2017 to 85% in 2018. ■ ISTOCK

pursued strategies to clamp down on the use of the H-IB programme, and these efforts are now showing in the data," Migration Policy Institute analyst Sarah Pierce was quoted as saying in a news report.

For the first six months of this fiscal year, the "overall H-IB approval rate for new and continuing visas continued to plummet to 79% by the end of March, down from 85% last year".

"Buy American and Hire American" executive order seeks to create higher wages and employment rates for U.S. workers.

# Polish woman seeks PM's help for renewing visa

Says Goa is home to her daughter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PANAJI

A Polish national, Marta Kotlarska, whose 11-year-old daughter Alicja Wanatko had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar for help in renewing their visas to return to Goa, tweeted on Wednesday that the girl was slipping into depression.



Alicja Wanatko. ■ TWITTER

"Alicja's drawing. Please help @narendramodi @PMOIndia @AmitShah @DrSJaishankar. she is swinging into depression. The overstay was not due to our fault. My employer defused (refused to) provide documents necessary to prolong (prolong) visa. I was trying to get NOC from MHA due to situation, no one replied (sic)," Ms. Kotlarska said in a tweet.

She has also posted a picture of Lord Shiva with a trishul (trident) drawn by Alicja.

On March 24 this year, Ms. Kotlarska was turned away from the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru when she went to renew her Indian visa.

She had landed from Sri Lanka.

She then had to wait in Thailand before she could return to India to pick up her daughter from Goa and leave the country. Both are now in Cambodia.

"I love my school in Goa, the beautiful nature and I am missing my volunteering in the animal rescue centre there where I was helping to take care of cows. My mum could not re-enter India on 24th March 2019 after a short trip out and we were told we were blacklisted due to our overstay," she had stated.

"I am now with my mum, but am missing my old life in my favourite country more than ever. I feel so alone away from everything I have always known in India. I know my animals will be so confused without me and I cannot sleep without feeling angry or upset, she had said.

# How a DBT scheme broke under the weight of bank charges

Drain on the money paid to students' accounts directly

ALOK DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI

Barely two-and-a-half years after unveiling a direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme to transfer money for school uniforms directly to accounts opened in the names of students, the Maharashtra government has decided to remove the clothing from the list of goods under the scheme.

The government has blamed banks for applying various charges on beneficiaries' accounts, which is making it difficult for them to access the money.

**Minimum balance**  
On June 4, the Planning Department issued a government resolution (GR) that beneficiaries are finding it difficult to maintain the minimum balance and pay various charges on bank transactions.

"A number of difficulties are being faced to maintain the zero balance savings bank account to which ₹400 for school uniforms is to be transferred directly to beneficiaries under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan," it said. The banks, the resolution added, were making it mandatory to pay charges for SMS alerts, goods and services tax and minimum balance.

This is making it difficult for students to get free



**Extra burden:** Students at the Model Ashram School at Mhasadi in Dhule, Maharashtra. ■ FILE PHOTO

school uniforms on time, it said, recommending removing 'school uniform' from the list of items mentioned in the DBT scheme.

In July 2018, the State government decided to remove school uniforms from the DBT scheme list for educational year 2018-19, citing similar reasons.

A senior official from the Planning Department told *The Hindu* on condition of anonymity that the government spends around ₹200 crore annually only on this scheme.

"If the money we are depositing in the accounts is being spent on paying charges applied by banks, then the whole purpose of the scheme is defeated. The beneficiaries of this scheme come from economically backward classes and it is

difficult for them to pay bank charges. At the same time, banks have to maintain the account for an entire year where no transaction is happening," the official said.

**Reduces corruption**  
Maharashtra Finance and Planning Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar was not available for comment.

On December 5, 2016, the Planning Department issued a GR explaining the importance of the DBT scheme and listing 44 items, including school uniforms. Earlier, the beneficiaries used to get these items directly from government agencies.

The State government claimed that the DBT would cut the chain of middlemen and help reduce corruption. It later added 18 more items to the list.

# CBI closes case against IAS officer

Charges against Jyoti Kalash in DA case could not be proved

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation has closed a case of disproportionate assets against IAS officer Jyoti Kalash, which was registered in 2008.

The probe against Mr. Ka-

lash, a 1990-batch Nagaland-cadre officer, was closed by the CBI as the accusations in the FIR against him could not be substantiated by the agency during its exhaustive probe. The agency had submitted its closure report to the Patiala House Court

which was accepted on July 18, 2011, according to the court order.

The case pertained to a CBI FIR against the officer in 2008 in which the agency had alleged that he had amassed illegal wealth of ₹37 lakh.

**KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED**  
(A GOVT. OF KARNATAKA UNDERTAKING)  
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL/NLBC Division, Rodalabanda-584127  
Tq Lingasugur Dist Raichur email: kbjnlnlbc4@gmail.com

**No.:** KBJNL/NLBC/PB/2019/20/131,132 & 133 **Date:** 04.06.2019

**CORRIGENDUM -2**

1) This office Short Term Tender Notification No.55,56 & 57 dtd. 13.5.2019. 2) This office Addendum Letter No.68,69 & 70 dtd. 14.5.2019. 3) This office Addendum letter No.74,75 & 76 dtd. 16.5.2019. 4) This office Corrigendum letter No.100,101 & 102 dtd. 24.5.2019. 5) This office Addendum letter No.120,121 & 122 dtd. 30.5.2019. In continuation to the above Notification, the calendar of events of tender process are modified as under;

Sl. No.	As Notified earlier	As modified now
1	Submission of completed e-tendering document will be on or before 06.06.2019 up to 5:00 PM.	Submission of completed e-tendering document will be on or before 11.06.2019 up to 5:00 PM.
2	Cover-I (Technical bid) will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL/NLBC Division, Rodalabanda on 11.06.2019 at 11:00 AM	Cover-I (Technical bid) will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL/NLBC Division, Rodalabanda on 13.06.2019 at 11:00 AM
3	Cover -II (Financial bid) of qualified bidder will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL/NLBC Division, Rodalabanda on 13.06.2019 at 11:00 AM	Cover -II (Financial bid) of qualified bidder will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL/NLBC Division, Rodalabanda on 15.06.2019 at 11:00 AM

Other terms and conditions remain unaltered.

**Sd/-**  
**Executive Engineer,**  
**KBJNL NLBC Division**  
**Rodalabanda.**



## ELSEWHERE



## U.S. peace plan is a great betrayal: Khamenei

TEHRAN  
Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Wednesday slammed the U.S.'s West Asia plan for peace between the Israelis and Palestinians as a "great betrayal of the Islamic world", and warned Gulf rivals not to back it. AFP

## Sri Lanka proposes new law against fake news

COLOMBO  
Sri Lanka's government will introduce five-year jail terms for those caught spreading fake news and hate speech on social media, the government said on Wednesday, following a surge in online vitriol and disinformation after the Easter suicide attacks. AFP

## Sudan crackdown toll rises to 101

Protesters say they hold the militias of the military council responsible for the massacre

REUTERS  
KHARTOUM

Sudan's military rulers offered to resume talks with Opposition groups on Wednesday, two days after security forces mounted a deadly raid on a protest camp, but the Opposition rejected the invitation.

Medics linked to the Opposition said the death toll from Monday's operation and subsequent unrest had risen to 101 and that it was expected to increase further. No official casualty figures have been released.

## Fight for leadership

The raid, which followed weeks of wrangling between the ruling military council and Opposition groups over who should lead Sudan's transition to democracy, marked the worst outbreak of violence since the Army ousted President Omar al-Bashir in April after months



Protests go on: Sudanese men setting up a barricade in Khartoum on Wednesday. •REUTERS

of protests against his rule.

The Transitional Military Council cancelled all agreements it had reached with the Opposition immediately after the raid but on Wednesday it rowed back amid mounting criticism. "We in the military council extend our hand for negotiations without shackles except the

interests of the homeland," its head, Lieutenant General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, said.

But a Sudanese alliance of protesters and Opposition groups rejected the offer, saying the military could not be trusted. "Today the council invited us to dialogue and at the same time it is imposing fear on citizens in the

streets," said Madani Abbas Madani, a leader of the Declaration of Freedom and Change Forces. Mr. Madani said Lieutenant General Burhan's invitation had come before the arrest of one of the Opposition alliance members, Yasir Arman.

**Bodies pulled out of Nile**  
Opposition medics said that 40 dead bodies had been pulled out of the Nile on Tuesday and taken to an unknown destination by pick-up trucks belonging to the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces. That brings the total death toll from the recent violence to 101, the medics said. The mood in the capital Khartoum remained tense on Wednesday, with demonstrators blocking streets in several districts. Gunfire rang out in the distance.

The deputy head of the military council, General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo,

commonly known as Hemedti, said in a televised speech that it had launched "an urgent and transparent investigation" into the recent violence. The military has denied trying to clear the sit-in protest outside the Defence Ministry on Monday.

Saudi Arabia, which has close ties to Sudan's military council, said on Wednesday it was watching developments with great concern and called for more dialogue. U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton said in a Twitter post that Monday's violence by Sudan's security forces was "abhorrent" and demanded that the council facilitate moves towards a civilian-led government.

The main protest organiser, the Sudanese Professionals Association, has called for an international committee to investigate Monday's deaths in what it branded a "massacre".

## China launches its first sea-based space rocket

It was fired from a ship in Yellow Sea

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BEIJING

China launched a space rocket from sea for the first time on Wednesday, its space agency announced, the latest step in Beijing's push to become a major space power.

China now spends more than Russia and Japan on its civil and military space programmes – unveiling ambitious plans for missions to the moon and beyond in the coming decade.

## 2 experimental satellites

A Long March 11 rocket was launched from a ship in the Yellow Sea just after midday, the China National Space Administration said in a statement. "This is the first time that China has... (tested a) launch vehicle at sea," it added.

The rocket carried two experimental satellites and



A Long March 11 carrier rocket taking off on Wednesday. •REUTERS

five commercial ones.

The test marks another win for Beijing's space programme.

Earlier this year, China became the first nation to land a rover on the far side of the moon. It also unveiled ambitious plans to build a research base on the lunar surface, send a probe to Mars and build a space station in Earth orbit.

## Hong Kong vigil marks crackdown on Tiananmen Square protests

Demonstrators hold up candles and placards

REUTERS  
HONG KONG/BEIJING

Tens of thousands joined a sombre candle-light vigil in Hong Kong on Tuesday to mark the 30th anniversary of Chinese troops opening fire on protesters in and around Tiananmen Square.

Demonstrators gathered in the financial hub's Victoria Park, holding up candles and placards as others rallied next to a replica of the Goddess of Democracy statue, which was erected in Tiananmen Square during the 1989 demonstrations.

As tens of thousands thronged Hong Kong for the



A quiet event: A demonstration in Hong Kong on Tuesday to mark the crackdown on Tiananmen Square protests. •NYT

annual vigil, censors at Chinese Internet companies said tools to block content related to the crackdown

had reached unprecedented levels of accuracy. Police authorities put the turnout in Hong Kong at 37,000.

## Pakistan military agrees to rare budget cut

REUTERS  
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's military has agreed in a rare move to cut its budget for a year to help ease the country's "critical financial situation", Prime Minister Imran Khan said.

Pakistan has struck an agreement in principle with the International Monetary Fund for a \$6 billion loan but Islamabad is expected to put in place measures to rein in a ballooning fiscal and current account deficits to get access to the funds.

Pakistan's *de facto* finance chief, Hafeez Shaikh, on June 11 is due to announce spending plans for the financial year beginning in July.

Mr. Khan tweeted on Tuesday that he appreciated the military's "unprecedented voluntary initiative of stringent cuts in their defence expenditures" for next financial year because of the country's "critical financial situation". This will allow money to be spent on the development of the tribal regions and the Balochistan province, he added.

Mr. Khan did not say by how much defence spending would be trimmed.

A military spokesman tweeted that the "voluntary cut" would not be at the expense of security. "We shall (maintain) effective response potential to all threats," he said.

## WWII veteran parachutes into Normandy, marks D-Day anniversary

Tom Rice, 97, jumps into the area he landed in 75 years ago

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
CARENTAN

Parachutists jumped over Normandy again, just as soldiers did 75 years ago for D-Day – but this time without being shot at.

Engines throbbing, C-47 transport planes dropped group after group of parachutists, a couple of hundred in all – including 97-year-old D-Day veteran Tom Rice. "It went perfect, perfect jump," Mr. Rice said after his jump. "I feel great. I'd go up and do it all again."

The jumpers were honouring the airborne soldiers who descended into gunfire and death ahead of



Tom Rice, front, taking part in a parachute drop over Carentan on Wednesday. •AFP

the June 6, 1944, seaborne invasion. The landing zone for Wednesday's operation

was fields of wildflowers outside Carentan, one of the objectives of the thousands of paratroopers who entered occupied France.

Mr. Rice, of San Diego, jumped into roughly the same area he landed in on D-Day. He said it was dark when he touched down in 1944 and he can't be sure exactly where he was.

Other parachutists jumped with Second World War souvenirs, some carrying items their grandfathers took into battle. Many spectators wore war-era uniforms, and music of the time played over loudspeakers.

## Xi begins Russia visit, meets 'best friend' Putin

'We would raise ties to a higher level'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
MOSCOW

Chinese President Xi Jinping began a three-day visit to "best friend" Vladimir Putin on Wednesday with a touch of panda diplomacy and a raft of new Russian-Chinese business contracts.

"President Putin is for me a best friend," Mr. Xi told journalists during a joint statement following the meeting. "We decided that we would raise our bilateral relations to a new, higher level – increasing our mutual support and assistance, and promote our relations in a new era," he said.

Mr. Putin thanked his Chinese counterpart for an earlier loan of two pandas that are being housed at the Moscow Zoo.



Chinese President Xi Jinping with Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin. •AFP

Major Russian and Chinese companies meanwhile signed cooperation agreements. China's Alibaba, Russian mobile phone operator Megafon, Internet group Mail.ru and the Russian sovereign investment fund RDIF closed a deal on a joint e-commerce venture.

## YouTube to ban racist, supremacist videos

Move comes after call for regulation

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

YouTube announced on Wednesday that it would ban videos promoting or glorifying racism and discrimination as well as those denying well-documented violent events, like the Holocaust or the Sandy Hook elementary school shooting.

The announcement by the video-sharing platform was the latest of a series of technology industry moves to filter out hateful and violent content, which have spurred calls for tougher regulation. "YouTube has always had rules of the road, including a long-standing policy against hate speech," said the company.

"Today, we're taking another step in our hate

speech policy by specifically prohibiting videos alleging that a group is superior in order to justify discrimination, segregation or exclusion based on qualities like age, gender, race, caste, religion, sexual orientation or veteran status."

The move comes after a call by world leaders in Paris last month to curb extremism online, following revelations about the livestreaming of a mosque massacre in New Zealand.

YouTube and other platforms have also been seen as havens for conspiracy theorists denying Holocaust or the September 11 attacks.

The latest move is likely to eliminate numerous "channels" that use the platform for monetisation.

## Australian police raid TV channel's office

REUTERS  
SYDNEY

Australian police raided the office of the national broadcaster on Wednesday over allegations that it had published classified material, the second raid on a media outlet in two days, prompting complaints of assaults on press freedom.

The Australian Federal Police said its officers carried out a search warrant at the head office of the government-funded Australian Broadcasting Corp. (ABC) in Sydney.

The ABC said the raid was over its 2017 reports about alleged misconduct by Australian troops in Afghanistan, while News Corp said the raid at an editor's home on Tuesday related to a 2018 report about plans for surveillance of Australians' emails, messages and bank records.

## High heels necessary for women at work places: Japan Minister

Remarks came in response to a petition against the practice

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
TOKYO

Japan's Health and Labour Minister has defended work-places that require women to wear high heels to work, arguing that it is "necessary and appropriate" after a petition was filed against the practice.

The remark came when Takumi Nemoto was asked to comment on a petition by a group of women who want the government to ban work-places from requiring women job seekers and employees to wear high heels.

## Occupational necessity

"It is socially accepted as something that falls within the realm of being occupationally necessary and appropriate," Mr. Nemoto told a legislative committee on Wednesday.



Japan's Health Minister Takumi Nemoto. •REUTERS

The petition was submitted to the Labour Ministry on Tuesday, and the campaign has been dubbed #Ku-Too, a play on words from the Japanese word *kutsu* – meaning shoes – and *kutsuu* – meaning "pain", and a reference to the global #Me-Too movement against sexual abuse.

The movement was launched by actor and free-

lance writer Yumi Ishikawa and quickly won support from thousands of people online. Campaigners say wearing high heels is seen as near-obligatory when job hunting or working at many Japanese companies. Some campaigners describe high heels as akin to modern foot-binding while others have urged a broader loosening of dress codes in the Japanese workplace, where business suits for men are ubiquitous.

In 2015, the director of the prestigious Cannes Film Festival apologised after a controversy blew up over women being denied access to the red carpet for not wearing high heels.

However, Cannes kept the dress code, despite a protest by Hollywood superstar Julia Roberts who went barefoot the next year.

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## By 2025, India to have 88 mn 5G connections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Global telecom industry body GSMA expects India to have 920 million unique mobile subscribers by 2025 that will include 88 million 5G connections.

"5G connections in India are forecast to reach 88 million by 2025... This will leave India trailing regional peers such as China, which is set to see almost 30% of its total connection base on 5G by 2025," the GSMA Intelligence report released in May said.

It said there were close to 750 million unique subscribers at the end of 2018 and expected the number to reach almost 920 million by 2025. "India alone will generate almost a quarter of the world's new mobile subscribers over this period," it said. However, the emergence of the 5G ecosystem in India will depend on the telecom operators' ability to invest in network which requires favourable support on policy and regulatory fronts.

## FDI in services sector up 37% in 2018-19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in the services sector grew 36.5% to \$9.15 billion in 2018-19, according to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

The sector attracted FDI worth \$6.7 billion in 2017-18. Services sector includes finance, banking, insurance, outsourcing, R&D, courier and analysis.

The government has taken several measures such as fixing timeliness for approvals and streamlining procedures to improve ease of doing business in the country and attract foreign investments. Raising FDI inflows in the services sector is vital as it contributes over 60% to the gross domestic product.

# ICRA downgrades DHFL's commercial paper to junk status

CP repayment starts on Friday; firm in talks with banks for ₹1,000-crore facility

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

A day after mortgage lender Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd (DHFL) delayed interest payment to the investors of non-convertible debentures (NCD), ratings agency ICRA downgraded the commercial paper (CP) of the lender to junk grade.

The move comes amid the housing finance company negotiating with banks to securitise ₹1,000 crore of loans to avoid default, which will happen if it fails to pay its NCD investors in the next seven working days.

ICRA downgraded the rating on the ₹850-crore commercial paper programme of DHFL to D from A4 on Wednesday due to delays in meeting debt obligation. "The rating revision factors in further deterioration in company's liquidity profile and delays in meeting scheduled debt obligation on June 4, 2019," ICRA said.



**Hazy future:** The ratings downgrade comes on the back of DHFL delaying interest payments on NCDs. • REUTERS

ICRA said DHFL had ₹750 crore commercial paper (CP) programme maturing in June 2019 with the first repayment on June 7, 2019. Given the stretched liquidity position and limited visibility on fund raising, DHFL is unlikely to be able to service its commercial paper debt obligation in a timely manner, the ratings agency said.

While the NCDs are not rated by ICRA, the ratings agency said it was unlikely that DHFL would be able to

service that debt too.

"While the mentioned debt [NCD] is not rated by ICRA, given the stretched liquidity profile and limited visibility on fresh funding, the company is unlikely to be able to service its debt obligation with regard to commercial paper programme in a timely manner," ICRA added.

On Tuesday, DHFL delayed interest payment of about ₹900 crore on non-convertible debentures

which were due for repayment. The lender said this was not a default since there was a 'cure period' of seven days within which it could service its obligation.

Sources said DHFL was in talks with several banks to securitise loans worth ₹1,000 crore which would enable the company to avoid default and expected to make some payments on Thursday.

**IL&FS crisis**

The recent industry-wide stress in liquidity post the IL&FS crisis in August last year had increased dependence on securitisation with about ₹17,000 crore raised between September 24, 2018 and May 10, 2019, ICRA said.

Meanwhile, in a statement, DHFL said the firm was committed towards ensuring repayment of all its obligations as well as onboarding a strategic partner for its business.

## Non-life PSU firms may get ₹4,000 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

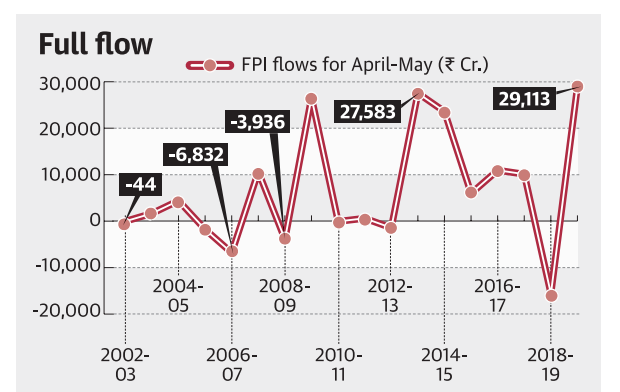
The government is likely to announce an infusion of about ₹4,000 crore in three public sector general insurance companies to shore up their capital.

The capital infusion will help them improve their financial health to an extent that the proposed merger of the general insurance firms could take place, sources said.

The announcement to this effect could be made in the first full-fledged Budget of the government, to be presented in Parliament on July 5.

According to the sources, the Department of Financial Services will seek about ₹4,000 crore in the Budget for fund infusion in these insurance companies - National Insurance Company, Oriental Insurance Company and United India Insurance Company.

Depending on the capital the Budget provides, individual allocations would be made, they added.



# FPIs pump in record sums of money in April and May

Investors bullish on reforms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

The current financial year has had the best start in a long time in terms of inflows from foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), and it is playing a key role in pushing the benchmark indices to record levels.

In the first two months of the current fiscal, FPIs have invested a net amount of ₹29,113 crore in Indian equities, the highest-ever in the last 17 years since data became available. Moreover, this is only the fourth time that net foreign inflows had crossed ₹20,000-crore in just two months at the start of a financial year.

The previous high in terms of cumulative flows from FPIs in April and May was seen in 2013-14 when such institutional investors poured ₹27,583 crore in Indian equities. In 2009-10 and 2014-15 as well, the Indian equity market saw sizeable inflows from FPIs to the tune of ₹26,625 crore and ₹23,608 crore respectively.

Incidentally, the first two months of 2018-19 saw the highest outflows from foreign investors when they pulled out ₹15,662 crore from the stock market.

A strong mandate from the BJP government, leading to prospects of further reforms and continuity of economic policies made overseas investors bullish on Indian equities, said market participants.

"The re-election of the incumbent government with

an even higher majority indicates policy and stability to the global community," said Arindam Chanda, CEO, IIFL Securities.

"The inflows could be even higher now as some large foreign portfolio investors, who were waiting for election results, will now invest in Indian equities. If the government continues with the right economic reforms, brings growth back on track and manages fiscal deficit well, we could see a prolonged period of foreign fund interest in India," added Mr. Chanda.

The election results have indeed made market participants quite bullish on stocks with expectations of a revival in earnings and an ensuing re-rating of the markets.

"Earnings could be heading into a new cycle and domestic flows should return with strength," said Morgan Stanley in a report while pegging its June 2020 target for Sensex and Nifty at 45,000 and 13,500, respectively.

The effect of the strong inflows is evident with the benchmark Sensex and Nifty hitting record highs almost on a daily basis.

The 30-share Sensex breached the 40,000-mark for the first time ever during intraday trades on the day election results were announced.

Also, the Sensex closed above the 40,000-mark for the first time on June 3 while the broader Nifty closed above the 12,000-mark.

## JLR inks pact with BMW to develop next-gen EVs

Duo to invest in R&D, procurement

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Tata Motors-owned Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) on Wednesday said it has joined hands with BMW to develop next generation electric drive systems.

The collaboration seeks to advance the development of electrification technology to support transition to an autonomous, connected, electric, shared (ACES) future, JLR said in a statement. The two partners will invest jointly in research and development, engineering and procurement with an aim to provide the necessary economies of scale to support increased consumer adoption of electric vehicles (EVs), it added.

The strategic collaboration will build on the consid-



erable knowledge and expertise in electrification at both the companies.

"It was clear from discussions with BMW Group that both companies' requirements for next generation EDUs (electric drive units) to support this transition have significant overlap making for a mutually beneficial collaboration," JLR engineering director Nick Rogers said.

# India's services sector activity growth slips to 12-month low

Dip in May comes amid election disruptions: Nikkei India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The country's services sector activity increased at the slowest pace in a year in May, as disruptions arising from the elections in the earlier part of the month hampered growth of new work intake, a monthly survey showed on Wednesday.

The seasonally adjusted Nikkei India Services Business Activity Index fell to 50.2 in May, from 51.0 in April, pointing to the slowest growth rate in the current 12-month stretch of expansion.

Despite the moderation, the services PMI was in the expansion territory for the 12th straight month. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below that denotes



contraction. "India's dominant service economy again suffered the impact of election disruptions, with growth of both new work and business activity softening for the third straight month," said Pollyanna De Lima, principal economist at IHS Markit, and author of the report.

The survey however not-

ed that there were signs that the slowdown may prove temporary as companies stepped up hiring and became more confident about future prospects.

"Signs that we may see a revival in the service sector in the near-term were, however, evidenced by a pickup in hiring activity and improved sentiment.

"Also supportive of greater client spending and investment among businesses is the evident lack of inflationary pressures," Ms. De Lima added.

Meanwhile, the seasonally adjusted Nikkei India Composite PMI Output Index, that maps both the manufacturing and services industry, was at 51.7 in May, unchanged from April.

# Microfinance to touch ₹90,000 cr.

Total gross loan portfolio stood at ₹68,789 crore in 2017-18

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Indian microfinance sector is expected to register a more than 30% year-on-year growth to ₹90,000 crore in 2018-19, according to industry body Sa-Dhan.

The total gross loan portfolio (GLP) for the sector stood at ₹68,789 crore in 2017-18.

In a report released by the industry body, based on the data collected from 128 microfinance institutions, the GLP had already touched ₹75,476 crore. However, this would rise to more than ₹90,000 crore by the time the consolidated industry figures come out.

The report also pointed out that Karnataka, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and



Maharashtra were the top seven States in terms of loan portfolio.

**Encouraging trends**

P. Satish, executive director, Sa-Dhan, said "Trends of the microfinance industry for last quarter of the financial year 2018-19 are very encouraging. We have consolidated reports of 128 MFIs which reveal a 14% rise in loan portfolio and 9% increase in

Average loan ticket size for the sector was ₹34,010 against ₹29,902 in the previous year

client outreach over Q3."

As per the report, the combined microcredit disbursement of all players during the January-March 2019 quarter was ₹67,581 crore, led by banks with ₹27,261 crore or 40.34% share, followed by NBFC-MFIs with ₹25,544 crore, or 37.8% share, small finance banks (₹9,761 crore), NBFCs (₹4,196 crore) and Not for Profit MFIs (about ₹816 crore).

Sa-Dhan estimated the average loan ticket size for the sector at ₹34,010 against ₹29,902 in the previous year. The average of only NBFC-MFIs this year is ₹27,661.

# 'No iron ore shortage due to lease lapse'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

There will be no iron ore scarcity in the country post March 2020, as about 200 MTPA mine capacity will still be operational and auctioned virgin iron ore blocks will start adding to the production, an industry body has said.

According to Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, licences of mines expiring will not be renewed and the mines will be allotted on the basis of fresh auction.

Merchant miners have cited possible shortage of iron in the market post expiry of mining leases and have appealed for extension of leases up to 2030.

# Q1 sees plunge in M&A deal value, says EY

Subdued global market, uncertainty around poll results dampen performance

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

India reported a dip in M&A (mergers and acquisitions) activities during the first quarter of fiscal 2019, consulting firm EY said.

The quarter has seen 242 deals with value aggregating to \$9.9 billion, against 260 deals valued at \$21.6 billion during the corresponding quarter a year ago.

After a record year for M&A, deal-makers paused a little in the first quarter of 2019, thanks to a subdued global M&A market. Besides, the uncertainty around general elections results also appear to have added to the sub-par performance, said



**Domestic push:** About 160 deals accounted for an aggregate disclosed deal value of \$7.1 billion. • GETTY IMAGES/STOCK

EY in its report.

**Mid-sized deals**

While, it was a soft quarter, the activity of mid-sized deals (between \$20 million

and \$500 million) remained (47 deals aggregating \$4.4 billion) in line with the long-term quarterly mean, highlighting the steady foundation of the M&A market.

Domestic activity continued to dominate the Indian M&A in first quarter of 2019 with 158 deals accounting for an aggregate disclosed deal value of \$7.1 billion. This contributed about 65% to the total deal volume and about 72% to the total disclosed deal value.

While consolidation remained the primary deals' driver, financial deleveraging, faster pace of insolvency proceedings and opportunistic buys by big industry players also added to the push.

The quarter also witnessed two mega deals (\$1 bn-plus) in the domestic arena, EY said.

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**Name & Description of Work:** Providing 2.38 MLD Online Micro Screen Filtration Plant with Intake Pumping unit, Aerator, Flash Mixer, Flocculator, Lamella settler, Dosing system, Active Filtration system, Self cleaning 4-layer 7 micron Screen Filter with Nylon Bristles, Feed pumping unit followed by disinfection system including O&M for one year and pipeline connections to Aerator for Kudithini town under Nagarothana 3rd phase. Approx. value of work: **Rs.1,47,92,892/-** (Excluding GST). EMD: **Rs.2,22,000/-**. Tender processing fee: **As per e-procurement portal**. Period of completion (including monsoon): **06 (Six) months**.

Calendar of Events	
1 Date & Time for Commencement of downloading of tender documents	11.06.2019 after 12.30 Hrs.
2 Last Date & Time for receipt of queries	17.06.2019 upto 11.00 Hrs.
3 Date & Time for Pre-Bid Meeting	17.06.2019 at 11.30 Hrs.
4 Last Date & Time for submission/ uploading of tender in the e-procurement portal	25.06.2019 upto 17.30 Hrs.
5 Date & Time of opening of the Technical tenders	28.06.2019 after 11.00 Hrs.
6 Date & time of opening of the Financial tenders	Will be notified later.

Tenders should quote the rates excluding GST. Prevailing GST will be paid separately at the time of payment.

For further details, the Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS&D Board, Kalaburgi, may please be contacted or website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> or e-Procurement helpdesk: 080-25501216/25501227. e-mail support: [hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com](mailto:hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com).

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TENDER NO.	SCOPE OF WORK	EXISTING DUE DATE	AMENDED DUE DATE
192013 001240	Manual Packing of Paper Reels and Broke Handling in Paper Machine # 1 & 2 etc.,	11.6.2019	15.6.2019
		TERMS AND CONDITIONS Annexure - A to H	TERMS AND CONDITIONS Annexure - A to H (Revised)

TNPL has revised the due date for submission of offer and revised the Annexure A to H of Terms & Conditions and the same will be available in the revised Tender documents at websites: [www.tnpl.com](http://www.tnpl.com) / [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in)

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**INVITATION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. (HPPCL) invites Expression of Interest from interested and experienced companies / firms for providing consultancy services for preparation of Detailed Project Report for construction of 3 Nos. Passenger Ropeways for Chanju-III HEP (48MW) and Deothal Chanju HEP (30MW) of HPPCL in Churah Tehsil of Chamba District Himachal Pradesh India.

**Scope of Work :**

1. Reconnaissance tour at the area and selection of the best possible alignment and most appropriate ropeway system in consultation with HPPCL.
2. Survey along the selected alignment and preparation of survey drawings including L-Section along the alignment.
3. Survey in and around the proposed ropeway terminal sites & preparation of contour plan.
4. (a) Chanju-III HEP (48 MW) : Preparation of Detailed project report after ascertaining Technical Feasibility for construction of one number Passenger ropeway (tentative load carrying capacity from 0.5 ton to 0.7 ton along with requisite cabin), across the Chanju Nallah starting from proposed pothead yard location/feasible location along the left/right bank of Chanju nallah and terminating near Butterfly Valve Chamber along left bank of Chanju nallah.
- (b) Deothal Chanju HEP (30 MW) : Preparation of Detailed project report after ascertaining Technical Feasibility for construction of one number Passenger ropeway (tentative load carrying capacity from 0.5 ton to 0.7 ton along with requisite cabin) across the Nallah starting from vicinity of a Path/Road (taking off from PWD road near Dantuli Village and leading to Deothal Chanju HEP Power House/Chanju-III HEP intake) and terminating near Butterfly Valve Chamber of Deothal Chanju HEP along the left bank of Chanju/Deothal Nallah. One number longitudinal Passenger ropeway starting from vicinity of a Path/Road (taking off from HPPWD road near Dantuli village and leading to Deothal Chanju HEP Power House) and terminating near the intake site of Deothal HEP (30 MW) along the right bank of Chanju Nallah.

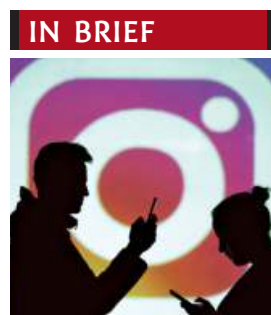
Expression of interest document consisting of detailed scope of work, instructions to applicant, document to be submitted and important data can be seen and downloaded online on HPPCL website <http://www.hppcl.gov.in>. Amendment in documents, if any, shall be uploaded, which shall supersede the previous documents.

**Invitation for submission of EOI :** The Employer reserves the right to shortlist or not to shortlist any or all of the applicants or to cancel the entire process without assigning any reason. For detailed nature of services to be provided & pre - qualification requirements please contact :- **General Manager, Ravi & Chenab Projects, HPPCL, Sundla, Distt Chamba(H.P.)176312. Ph. No.01896-242041 Email: [gmrcp7@gmail.com](mailto:gmrcp7@gmail.com)**

The EOI with supporting documents must be delivered on or before **12.00 (noon) on 26.06.2019** in sealed envelopes marked with EOI for carrying out "consultancy services for preparation of Detail Project Report for construction of 3 Nos. Passenger Ropeways" in the office of General Manager, Ravi & Chenab Projects HPPCL, Sundla, Distt. Chamba (H.P.) 176312 and opening on the same day at 3:30 PM.

**General Manager, Ravi & Chenab Projects, HPPCL, Sundla, Distt. Chamba (H.P.) 176312.**





### Instagram unveils new feature on less data

NEW DELHI Instagram on Wednesday announced a new opt-in feature that will allow users to reduce the amount of data consumed on the photo sharing platform. With this opt-in mode, people across the world can view their favourite content on Instagram with reduced image loading time, by reducing the amount of data that Instagram uses on their mobile phones." Instagram said. PTI

### Solar installations down 49% in Jan-Mar 2019

NEW DELHI Solar installations in India during January-March period of this year stood at 1,737 megawatt (MW), registering a year-on-year decline of 49%, mainly owing to difficulty faced by installers in getting the required approvals due to general elections, says a report. The installations were at 3,377 MW during the same period last year, according to Mercom India Research's 'Q1 2019 India Solar Market Update' report. PTI

### JSW Steel to raise plant capacity after 2020

KOLKATA Plans of private sector steel major JSW Steel to scale up the capacity of its flagship integrated steel plant at Vijayanagar in Karnataka to 18 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) will be taken up after 2020, an official said. The Vijayanagar plant currently has 12 MTPA capacity. The company will first execute the expansion of its Dolvi unit from five million tonnes to 10 million tonnes and stabilise the two newly acquired steel plants from the NCLT by 2020. PTI

# Allahabad Bank may return to black in Q1, to raise ₹4,000 crore

Targets ₹2,000 crore recovery every quarter and 9% business growth in FY20

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Allahabad Bank, which posted a loss of ₹8,334 crore last fiscal, aims to return to the black going forward, on the back of a tight recovery mechanism and arrest of fresh slippages, according to its annual report for 2018-19.

The Kolkata-based lender registered a loss of ₹4,674 crore in 2017-18 and a loss of ₹279 crore during 2016-17.

"Dedicated verticals are in place to ensure recovery of around ₹2,000 crore per quarter. We expect the bank to break even during Q1 FY20 and thereafter to post net profits consistently.

"The net interest margin is expected to be around 2.65% with visible improvement in cost-to-income ratio," MD



Silver lining: The bank reduced its NPAs by ₹8,584.33 crore during the fiscal. \*PRASHANT NAKHVE

and CEO S.S. Mallikarjuna Rao said in his address to shareholders. In January last year, the lender came under RBI's Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework due to losses on its books.

However, with capital in-

fusion of ₹11,740 crore in three tranches during 2018-19, the RBI lifted the restrictions imposed on the lender from February 2019.

The bank is also pursuing a reforms agenda - Enhanced Access and Service

Excellence - prescribed by the Finance Ministry for the turnaround of the bank.

"The bank is looking at a modest business growth of 9% during 2019-20 through focus on consolidating current account savings account (CASA) base and increasing dependency under retail sector," the lender said.

**Slippages to moderate** The bank expects slippages to moderate and be contained at around 1% per quarter.

The bank also said it had obtained board approval for raising up to ₹4,000 crore through various modes during the year.

During the fiscal, total reduction in NPA accounts stood at ₹8,584.33 crore.

## Ayurveda brand Kapivas eyes big slice of U.S. sales

Targets 50% of turnover in a few years

INDRANI DUTTA  
KOLKATA

Kapiva, an Ayurveda brand, has made a strong entry in the U.S. market, where there is a growing demand for its wellness products.

Talking to *The Hindu*, Ameve Sharma, founder and CEO of Adret Retail Pvt. Ltd., the start-up that owns the Kapiva brand, said there is substantial demand for its products like ghee, juices and edible oils in the U.S.

"If we can service this market, it could account for 50% of our turnover within the next few years against 20% now... it can perhaps become a larger market for us than India," he said. The products are retailed under

the brand name Kapiva - drawn from the three ayurveda doshas - kapha, pitta and vata. Doshas, according to ayurveda, are believed to be the three operating agents present in every human, controlling their mental and physical states.

The two-year-old start-up is targeting a ₹30 crore turnover by this fiscal against ₹20 crore in 2018-19. It markets 90 ayurveda food products (known as functional foods) under five categories - juices, ghee, honey, oil and tea.

"Selling under the brand Kapiva, we do not leverage the over 100-year-old family name, but their retail network," he said.

## Indian auto sector will suffer huge skill mismatch: Toyota

Auto major to accelerate training initiatives in the country

MINI TEJASWI  
BENGALURU

Car major Toyota has cautioned that the Indian automotive sector might suffer a huge skill mismatch if proper initiatives are not taken to bridge the growing talent gap. Every year, 12 million people in India are expected to join the workforce across segments, including automobile, but the country's training capacity is only for 4.3 million.

**'No access'**

"That leaves some 64% of newcomers with no access to skill development and training programmes," cau-



tioned Vedprakash Tiwari, vice-president, Customer Services at Toyota Kirloskar Motor.

Wiselin Sigamany, principal of Toyota Technical Training Institute (TTTI) said, "The global automobile industry has gone through radical changes in the past few decades both in terms of

## Wipro to buy U.S.-based ITI in \$45 mn deal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

IT major Wipro said on Wednesday it will acquire U.S.-based International TechneGroup Incorporated for \$45 million (around ₹312 crore).

International TechneGroup Incorporated (ITI) provides Computer Aided Design and Product Lifecycle Management interoperability software services.

Its revenue stood at \$23.2 million in FY'18 (year ending June 30).

"The acquisition complements Wipro's core strengths in Industry 4.0 and will allow Wipro to offer end-to-end solutions in Digital Engineering and Manufacturing," Harmeet Chauhan, senior vice-president, Industrial and Engineering Services, Wipro, said.

## Holding company of Fincare SFB may go in for IPO this fiscal

Bank aims at 65% loan-book growth

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

The holding company of Fincare Small Finance Bank (Fincare SFB) is planning to get listed on the exchanges before the end of the current fiscal. The bank, meanwhile, is aiming to raise about ₹200 crore to ₹250 crore over the next 12-18 months, according to a top official.

"We are planning to list our holding company Fincare Business Services Ltd. before the end of the current fiscal," said Rajeev Yadav, MD and CEO, Fincare Small Finance Bank.

"We are also planning to raise ₹200 crore to ₹250 crore for funding our expansion plans," he added. The SFB had recorded 65% growth in its loan book last year and aims to achieve similar growth this year, too.

**Value dilution**

Asked whether the listing of the holding company on the stock exchanges ahead of the bank would not dilute shareholders' value when the SFB itself was listed, he said there were only two options viz. to list the holding company first or the bank.

"All our current shareholders are at the holding company level. We need to give a liquidity option to our current shareholders.

"Obviously, the bank has to be listed in the long term. Till these two are merged, we have to work on a scenario wherein both these entities will get listed," he said.

"The holding company [Fincare Business Services Ltd.] is the promoter of the bank. Currently, it holds 90% stake. First, we intend to list the holding company,



Rajeev Yadav

and then bring down its stake in the bank to 40% as per RBI norms."

Mr. Yadav said the management was not in a hurry to list the SFB as norms permitted time till FY23 for Fincare's listing. The evaluation exercise was currently on. The listing would be done over the next 12-18 months.

On Wednesday, Mr. Yadav inaugurated Fincare's third branch in the city and said the target was to open about 130 branches across India in the current fiscal, taking the total to 700.

**Focus on new products**

Currently, the bank has a gross non-performing asset (NPA) ratio of 1.3% and net NPA ratio of 0.3%. He said the aim was to bring down the GNPA ratio to 1%.

He said the focus this fiscal would be on new products such as affordable housing and two-wheeler loans. This would mean bringing down its lending to the microfinance sector from the current 80% of total lending, to 50-60% over the next three-four years.

Last year, the bank conducted total business of ₹5,500 crore. This year, it aims to do about ₹8,000-₹9,000 crore.

**POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL**  
NIT No. PHQ/SCRB/STORE/1790/2019 Bhopal, Dated 01/06/2019

// e-TENDER NOTICE//

e-tender are invited by AIG, State Crime Records Bureau, Police Head Quarters, Bhopal on behalf of DGP SCRB MP Bhopal for the following item on website <http://www.mpeproc.gov.in> :-

No	Name of Item(s)	Tender Fees (Rs.)	EMD Required in shape of BG/FDR for 6 months from last date of submission of tender issued by any Nationalized Bank. (Rs.)
1	Optical Comprator	5000/-	90,000/-(Ninety thousand only)

- Tenderer has to submit their proposal online on website- <https://mptenders.gov.in>
- Bidders must have to submit the tender fee and EMD.
- Tender fee must be submitted online on e-tender website - <https://mptenders.gov.in>. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is not refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition.

**Schedule:**

No.	Tender Activity	Date & Time
1	Last date of purchase online e-tender document	21/06/2019 up to 12:00 hrs
2	Last date of online e-tender submission	22/06/2018 up to 17:00 hrs
3	Date of opening of online e-tender	24/06/2019 at 11:00 hrs

AIG (SCRB)  
For: Director General of Police,  
PHQ Bhopal

G-11688/2019

**कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय**  
**पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, दुमका**

**अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या 01 / 2019-20**

- विज्ञापनदाता का नाम एवं पता : कार्यपालक अभियंता, पथ प्रमंडल, दुमका।
- परिमाण विपत्र की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 10.06.19 से 11.06.19 तक कार्यालय अवधि में।
- निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 12.06.19 के 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक।
- निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 12.06.19 के 3.30 बजे अपराह्न में।
- परिमाण विपत्र त्रि की का स्थान :-
  - मुख्य अभियंता (या), पथ निर्माण विभाग, झारखंड, सैंची इंजिनियर्स होस्टल, मोलचकर, दुर्गा, सैंची का कार्यालय।
  - अधीक्षक अभियंता, पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ अंचल, दुमका का कार्यालय।
  - कार्यपालक अभियंता, पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, दुमका का कार्यालय।
- निविदा प्राप्ति एवं खोलने का स्थान : क्रमांक 5 में उल्लेखित कार्यालय में क्रमांक 2, 3 एवं 4 में अंकित तिथि एवं समय अनुसार।
- कार्य की विवरणी निम्न प्रकार है:-
 

क्र०	कार्य का नाम	प्राकलित राशि (रुपये में)	अग्रघन की राशि (रुपये में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (रुपये में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	श्रावणी मेला 2019 के मद्देनजर गैर-योजना मद्द अन्तर्गत नोनीहाट - बासुकीनाथ - केरावनी पथ के कि.मी 0 से 10 तक में साधारण मरम्मत कार्य।	2499900.00	50000.00	5000.00	एक माह।
2.	श्रावणी मेला 2019 के मद्देनजर गैर-योजना मद्द अन्तर्गत नोनीहाट - बासुकीनाथ - केरावनी पथ के कि.मी 11 से 29 तक में साधारण मरम्मत कार्य।	2499800.00	50000.00	5000.00	एक माह।

- प्राकलित राशि घट बढ़ सकती है, तदनुसार अग्रघन की राशि जमा करना होगा।
- निविदा का निस्तार पथ निर्माण विभाग के अधिसूचना संख्या 4815(एच) दिनांक 10.07.2012 एवं 612 दिनांक 20.06.2018 के आधार पर किया जाएगा। जिसके लिए विगत तीन वर्षों में पथ निर्माण विभाग में संपादित कार्य का कार्यानुभव प्रमाण पत्र सर्मपत्त करना अनिवार्य होगा।
- निविदा के संबंध में किसी विशेष जानकारी के लिए अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय से संपर्क कर सकते हैं।
- निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना में वर्णित कार्य हॉट मिस प्लॉट से संपादित करना होगा। परिमाण विपत्र क्रय के समय / निविदा के समय हॉट मिस प्लॉट का स्वामित्व या हॉट मिस प्लॉट के स्वामित्व से सहमित्व प्रमाण पत्र देना आवश्यक होगा।

कार्यपालक अभियंता  
पथ प्रमंडल, दुमका

PR 207991 Road (19-20)\_D

**District Ayurvedic Office, Kaithal**  
**Tender Notice**

District Ayurvedic Officer, Kaithal inviting tenders for the Purchase of 2100 no of T-Shirts (Quantity may be change upto 40% on higher side and upto 30% on lower side) of GSM 160 & 38,40,42 & 44 size in cotton with logo of International Yoga Day in round neck to be supplied on or before 18-06-2019. The colour sample of T-Shirt will be shown on the date/time at opening of tender. The Earnest money Rs. 5000/- will be submitted payable in favour of District Ayurvedic Officer Kaithal in the shape of bank draft drawn at Kaithal. The Detailed term and condition after depositing the tender fee of Rs. 500/- in cash may be collected from District Ayurvedic Officer, Patwar Bhawan, Kaithal from 05/06/2019 to 11/06/2019 upto 1 PM in office timing hours.

Date of Publish	05/06/2019
Start Date and time of bid submission	05/06/2019
Last date and time of bid submission	11/06/2019 upto (2:00PM) in the office of District Ayurvedic officer (Patwar Bhawan) Kaithal
Tender Opening Date & Time (Technical Bid) Financial Bid	In the Office of Additional Deputy Commissioner Kaithal 12/06/2019 (11:00AM) Technical Bid 12/06/2019 (12:00PM) Financial Bid

District Ayurvedic Office  
Kaithal

PRDH 76694

**PATIALA AVIATION CLUB**  
Civil Aerodrome, Sangrur Road, Patiala (Pb)  
Tale No. 0175-2307069  
E Mail: [patialaaviationclub@gmail.com](mailto:patialaaviationclub@gmail.com)

**PURCHASE OF AIRCRAFT SPARE PARTS**

Bids are invited from suppliers and dealers for supply of spare parts of Cessna 172 S aircraft. A detailed advertisement in this regard may be seen at [www.pamecpatiala.com](http://www.pamecpatiala.com).

Bids must reach the office of the Manager, Patiala Aviation Club, Patiala by June 12, 2019 till 5.00 pm. Patiala Aviation Club reserves the rights to cancel any or all bids without assigning any reason. Manager

**हaryana सरकार**

**TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./ AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	KURUKSHETRA DEVELOPMENT BOARD	CREATION AND INSTALLATION OF STATUES OF BHISHMA SHARSHIYA WITH ARJUN AND BHISHMA PITAMAH AT BANGANGA TIRTH, VILLAGE NARKATARI + 1 OTHER WORK	CLOSING 19.06.2019	2 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01744-270187 kdbkr@gmail.com
2	HARTRON	E-TENDER FOR RATE CONTRACT FOR SCANNING & DIGITIZATION OF PHYSICAL DOCUMENTS/RECORDS & PREPARATION OF METADATA ON BEHALF OF VARIOUS GOVT. DEPARTMENTS	04.06.2019 25.06.2019	90 LACS	<a href="https://hartron.org.in">https://hartron.org.in</a>	9815738877 mukesh.hartron-hry@gov.in
3	CAD DIVISION JHAJJAR	LINING OF WC RD 6 NO.WORKS	CLOSING 12.06.2019	NIT PUBLISHED ONLINE	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01251-257076 xenihajjarcad@gmail.com
4	CAD DIVISION KAITHAL	LINING/UNDER GROUND PIPELINE WATERCOURSE 8 NOS.	CLOSING 18.06.2019	NIT PUBLISHED ONLINE	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9996532800 xenikaithalcad@gmail.com
5	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE FARRUKHANGAR	CONST. OF REVENUE RASTA WITH STREET AND DRAIN TYPE I WITH INTERLOCKING P/BLOCK FROM FAZILPUR ROAD HOUSE OF KRIPA CHAUDHARY, WARD NO.11 + 2 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING 14.06.2019	EMD-45100	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9466303906 secmcfarrukhnagar@gmail.com
6	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION SONIPAT	CONST. OF BITUMINOUS ROAD AROUND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANT ON M.C LAND AT VILLAGE MURTHAL + 3 OTHER WORKS	03.06.2019 17.06.2019	295.69 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	semconeapat@gmail.com
7	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL REWARI	SUPPLY/INSTALLATION OF 120 WATTS LED STREET/ROAD LIGHTS FROM DHARUHEDA CHUNGI TO ABHEY SINGH CHOWK + 8 OTHER WORKS	01.06.2019 08.06.2019	9.57 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9999740089 hermanraonen@gmail.com
8	UHBVN KAITHAL	E-TENDER ARE INVITED FOR EXPERIENCED FIRMS/CONTRACTORS PREFERABLY GENERAL LABOUR WORKS AS PER TERMS AND CONDITION OF NIT-10 UNDER (OP) CIRCLE KAITHAL	CLOSING 21.06.2019	2.50 LACS	<a href="https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in">https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in</a>	9354029529 seopubhvnkaithal@gmail.com
9	THE HISAR-JIND CO-OP. MILK PLANT JIND	TO PROVIDE SECURITY SERVICES AT MILK PLANT, JIND, MCC HISAR AND MCC BHUNA + 3 OTHER WORKS	05.06.2019 26.06.2019	1.19 CRORE	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9671001011 vijaajind@gmail.com
10	HVPNL	220 V, 200 AH, 20A/30A BATTERY CHARGER	03.06.2019 03.07.2019	92,000	<a href="http://www.hvpng.org.in">www.hvpng.org.in</a>	0172-2583789 prg@hvpng.org.in 8059888695
11	DHBVN	FIXING THE RATE CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY OF 9KV, 10KA, ZINC OXIDE LAS FOR 11 KV SYSTEM (NIT NO-631/DH/M DATED 05.03.2019 AGAINST QD-812)	CLOSING 18.06.2019	.31 CRORES	<a href="http://www.dhbvn.org.in">www.dhbvn.org.in</a>	semmdhbvn@gmail.com
12	HARYANA INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT NILOKHRI	PROVIDING MANPOWER TO HIRD, NILOKHRI FOR THE YEAR 2019-2020	05.06.2019 24.06.2019	25 LACS	<a href="http://hirdnilokheri.harvnaeprocurement.gov.in">hirdnilokheri.harvnaeprocurement.gov.in</a>	9416797217 hirdnik@gmail.com

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)**

Prdh 76668

**WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY**

Mechanical Department Kota Division/WCR  
No.: Sr. DME/WCR/KTT/1-19-20,  
Dated: 31.05.2019. Tender Notice - Sr. DME (Co) Kota acting for & on behalf of The President of India invites e-Tender against Tender No. Sr. DME/WCR/KTT/1-19-20 due on 01.07.2019 at 15:00 hrs. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received will be ignored. Tender No.: Sr. DME/WCR/KTT/1-19-20; Name of Work: Annual Maintenance Contract for Periodical inspection, maintenance, overhauling, painting, repairing, verification and stamping of weighing machines at various places in Rajasthan state over Kota Division for 4 years. Approx. Cost of the work: ₹ 13,18,593.76. Earnest Money: ₹ 26,400.00. Last Date & Time of submission of Tender: 15:00 Hrs. on Date 01.07.2019. The tender can be viewed at website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate on e-Tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-Tendering.

पथ यात्रा के दौरान विकसित हेतु 138 एवं सुरक्षा हेतु 182 पर संपर्क करें

**READ FRONTLINE EVERY FORTNIGHT**



# Chahal-Rohit show highlights India's facile win over South Africa

After the leg-spinner's four-wicket haul restricts the Proteas, the opener slams an unbeaten century to guide the team home; Morris and Rabada's efforts go in vain



K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR  
SOUTHAMPTON

Splendid batsmanship and oriental spin, the twin attributes that influenced India's cricketing history, combined well at the Hampshire Bowl here on Wednesday.

The fusion, evident through Rohit Sharma's unbeaten 122 and leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal's four for 51, helped Virat Kohli's men register a six-wicket triumph and start their World Cup campaign on a winning note at South Africa's expense.

Pursuing South Africa's 227 for nine, India finished at 230 for four off 47.3 overs.

## Rabada's hostile spell

Meagre targets can be tricky and openers Shikhar Dhawan and Rohit had to contend with Kagiso Rabada's hostile overs. The speedster along with Chris Morris briefly had Rohit hopping. But it was Dhawan, who succumbed, as Rabada induced the south-paw to nick one.

The stands that lapsed into a stunned silence regained their voice on sighting Virat Kohli. The decibel levels soared when Rohit hooked a six off Rabada and followed it up with two fours.

Rohit and Kohli found synergy through their singles, high-fives and a steady tempo. When Kohli did that patented slap-pull off his to pick a four off Andile Phehlukwayo, all seemed fine in batting paradise.

But off the very next delivery, Phehlukwayo drew Kohli out and the snick was paused by a leaping Quinton de Kock.

India 54 for two in 15.3 overs and the stage set for K.L. Rahul to present his credentials at No. 4.

## Useful partnership

Luckily for Rahul, he could imbibe confidence from Rohit and an 85-run third-wicket partnership took shape.

Rahul straight drove a four off Phehlukwayo but largely played second-fiddle to Rohit, who scattered the spinners, be it Imran Tahir or Tabaiz Shamsi.

India seemed on course but against the run of play, Rahul spooned a catch off Rabada. India 139 for three but with M.S. Dhoni sauntering in and Rohit in supreme form, it was all about nudging



Lights out! Rassie van der Dussen's decision to reverse sweep Yuzvendra Chahal turns fatal. • ALEX DAVIDSON/GETTY IMAGES

the score. The required rate stayed within reach and attention shifted to Rohit's ton and India's eventual victory, both were attained without fuss though Dhoni fell at the business-end. But by then his 74-run fourth-wicket partnership with Rohit had sealed South Africa's fate.

## Miller drops a sitter

Interestingly on 107, Rohit's mistimed shot off Rabada popped out of a shocked David Miller's hands. That moment encapsulated South Africa's despair while it plunged towards its third successive defeat.

Earlier, Faf du Plessis elected to bat and watched his decision unravel. Bhuvneshwar Kumar kept it tight. Jasprit Bumrah was a clear and present danger and a fidgety de Kock watched Hashim Amla depart.

Bumrah homed in, Amla tried to cover the line, the

ball rose, deviated and Rohit caught well at second-slip.

South Africa was tentative and it got worse when de Kock's drive off Bumrah, fussed though Dhoni fell at the business-end. But by then his 74-run fourth-wicket partnership with Rohit had sealed South Africa's fate.

It was time for du Plessis to lead from the front and he stitched a 54-run third-wicket partnership with Rassie van der Dussen.

And just as the skies turned sombre, Hardik Pandya hustled the batsmen, striking du Plessis twice on his gloves. The South African captain did not flinch and with van der Dussen, smoothly countered Kuldeep Yadav.

## Double blow

India then inflicted a double-blow in the 20th over. The killer punches were albeit delivered slowly as Chahal (four for 51) with his lean presence, jaunty steps and a big grin, rolled his arm over. van der Dussen attempted a pre-med-

itated reverse-sweep while du Plessis had no clue to the one that slid straight and in both instances, the timber rattled.

Soon Kuldeep rapped Jean-Paul Duminy's pads and South Africa slumped to 89 for five in 23 overs. It was time for the second recovery act and David Miller and Phehlukwayo forged it through their 46 runs for the sixth wicket till the duo fell to an ecstatic Chahal.

South Africa found a late wind through the blades of Morris and Rabada and their 66-run eighth-wicket partnership, but that belated surge could not scuttle India's best-laid plans.

## Next assignment

**INDIA:** June 9 vs Australia, The Oval, 3 p.m.

**SOUTH AFRICA:** June 10 vs West Indies, Southampton, 3 p.m.

## Where they stand

Team	Mat	Won	Lost	NR	PTS	NRR
West Indies	1	1	0	0	2	5.802
New Zealand	1	1	0	0	2	5.754
Australia	1	1	0	0	2	1.86
England	2	1	1	0	2	0.9
Bangladesh	1	1	0	0	2	0.42
India	1	1	0	0	2	0.302
Sri Lanka	2	1	1	0	2	-0.998
Pakistan	2	1	1	0	2	-2.412
South Africa	3	0	3	0	0	-0.952
Afghanistan	2	0	2	0	0	-1.243

\*till the South Africa-India match on June 5

## SCOREBOARD INDIA VS SOUTH AFRICA

Team	Mat	Won	Lost	NR	PTS	NRR
West Indies	1	1	0	0	2	5.802
New Zealand	1	1	0	0	2	5.754
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Bangladesh	1	1	0	0	2	0.42
India	1	1	0	0	2	0.302
Sri Lanka	2	1	1	0	2	-0.998
Pakistan	2	1	1	0	2	-2.412
South Africa	3	0	3	0	0	-0.952
Afghanistan	2	0	2	0	0	-1.243

## SOUTH AFRICA

Hashim Amla c Rohit b Bumrah 6 (9b, 1x4), Quinton de Kock c Kohli b Bumrah 10 (17b, 1x4), Faf du Plessis b Chahal 38 (54b, 4x4), Rassie van der Dussen b Chahal 22 (37b, 1x4), David Miller c&b Chahal 31 (40b, 1x4), Jean-Paul Duminy lbw b Kuldeep 3 (11b), Andile Phehlukwayo st. Dhoni b Chahal 34 (61b, 2x4, 7x6), Chris Morris c Kohli b Bhuvneshwar 42 (34b, 1x4, 2x6), Kagiso Rabada (not out) 31 (35b, 2x4), Imran Tahir c Jadhav b Bhuvneshwar 0 (2b); Extras (b-1, lb-3, w-6): 10; Total (for nine wkts. in 50 overs): 227.

## FALL OF WICKETS

1-11 (Amla, 3.2 overs), 2-24 (de Kock, 5.5), 3-78 (van der Dussen, 19.1), 4-80 (du Plessis, 19.6), 5-89 (Duminy, 22.6), 6-135 (Miller, 35.3), 7-158 (Phehlukwayo, 39.3), 8-224 (Morris, 49.2), 9-227 (Tahir, 49.6).

## INDIA BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 10-0-44-2, Bumrah 10-1-35-2, Hardik 6-0-31-0, Kuldeep 10-0-46-1, Chahal 10-0-51-4, Jadhav 4-0-16-0.

## INDIA

Shikhar Dhawan c de Kock b Rabada 8 (12b, 1x4), Rohit Sharma (not out) 122 (144b, 13x4, 2x6), Virat Kohli c de Kock b Phehluk-

wayo 18 (34b, 1x4), K.L. Rahul c du Plessis b Rabada 26 (42b, 2x4), M.S. Dhoni c & b Morris 34 (46b, 2x4), Hardik Pandya (not out) 15 (7b, 3x4); Extras (lb-3, w-4): 7; Total (for four wkts. in 47.3 overs): 230.

## FALL OF WICKETS

1-13 (Dhawan, 5.1 overs), 2-54 (Kohli, 15.3), 3-139 (Rahul, 31.3), 4-213 (Dhoni, 46.1).

## SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING

Tahir 10-0-58-0, Rabada 10-1-39-2, Morris 10-3-36-1, Phehlukwayo 8.3-0-40-1, Shamsi 9-0-54-0.

**Toss:** South Africa. **MoM:** Rohit. **India won by six wickets.**

## Rohit's best ODI innings, says India skipper

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SOUTHAMPTON

Virat Kohli expressed satisfaction over India's fine start in the World Cup.

"It was a very professional effort from us. It was a low-scoring game because of the pitch. Starting well is important, and we got nicely together as a team," the Indian captain told the media here on Wednesday evening.

The skipper was effusive in his praise of Rohit Sharma and said: "This is by far Rohit's best ODI innings."

When pressed about the spin-twins Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav and the rationale of often playing them together, Kohli replied: "Kuldeep and Chahal's performance in South Africa last

year was a massive factor in playing them together. Kuldeep controlled the innings and Chahal mixed things well."

Kohli also rated Jasprit Bumrah's spells highly and said: "You see batsmen being absolutely clueless against Bumrah, he is rushing them. I have not seen Hashim (Amla) get out like that."

Meanwhile Chris Morris, who did his best both with the bat and ball for South Africa, rued the schedule. "The schedule has been tough on us," the speedster said and then sought to comfort fans back home and requested them to keep supporting the Proteas. "I have been working on my bowling too," Morris added.



Opening salvo: Jasprit Bumrah's initial burst set the tone for the Men in Blue. • AP

## Festive spirit in lead-up to India's first match

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR  
SOUTHAMPTON

The days leading up to India's first World Cup game against South Africa at the Hampshire Bowl, lacked buzz.

A few banners at city junctions and the odd query from a taxi driver about the latest scores, were the only hints that cricket's showpiece event was on in the United Kingdom.

But on Wednesday, the hype, drama and colour that permeates India's cricketing sojourns, was on full view.

Uber, the taxi-aggregator, sensing a rise in demand, hiked its rates. And as various correspondents headed towards the venue, fans were milling on all roads, be it the ones skirting past quaint tiled homes with their



Having fun: Indian fans dancing away outside the Hampshire Bowl ahead of the contest against South Africa. • REUTERS

flower beds outside or the winding black ribbon cutting through the woods which akin to what Robert Frost

once wrote, are lovely, dark and deep. And as the scribes went past Marshall Drive, a path-

way in honour of the late West Indian pace legend Malcolm Marshall, who also turned out for Hampshire, a sea of blue greeted the eyes. The Indian flag was waved with gusto, the team t-shirt was the common attire and balti curries, both chicken and vegetarian, were stirred in steaming cauldrons at take-away joints.

Finally it felt like a big game was truly on and the Indian diaspora cheered Virat Kohli's men as they limbered up, yelled 'Dada' on sighting Sourav Ganguly, and sought fellow commentator Harbhajan Singh's autographs. There was no dearth of cheeky one-liners, often scribbled across banners and one read: "Kohli is at the wheel, tell me how good does it feel?"

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# Henry's four-for restricts Bangladesh

Shakib comes good again before the Kiwi speedster puts the skids on the Tigers



**Out of safety:** Tom Latham gleefully uproots the stumps to catch Mushfiqur Rahim short of his crease. • REUTERS

## WORLD CUP

IANS  
LONDON

Veteran all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan scored a half century but New Zealand pacer Matt Henry started with the ball to bowl Bangladesh out for 244 in 49.2 overs at the Kennington Oval on Wednesday. Shakib scored 64 off 68

balls, his innings laced with seven fours, but lacked support from the other end as Bangladesh kept losing wickets. For the Kiwis, Henry (four for 47) was the pick of the bowlers.

Put in, Bangladesh openers Tamim Iqbal and Soumya Sarkar were off to a good start, sharing a 45-run stand before Henry clean-bowled

### NZ stays on course

Chasing a target of 245, New Zealand was 162 for four in 32 overs with Ross Taylor holding fort with a 68-ball 70.

Sarkar (25) just when he was looking good. Iqbal (24) followed suit, skying a Lockie Ferguson bouncer to Trent

Boult at midwicket. Mushfiqur Rahim (19) and Shakib then joined hands for a 50-run partnership for the third wicket before the former ran himself out.

Shakib and Mohammed Mithun also looked good with a 41-run stand but Colin de Grandhomme ensured the Kiwis kept taking wickets at regular intervals.

## SCOREBOARD

**BANGLADESH**  
Tamim Iqbal c Boult b Ferguson 24 (38b, 3x4), Soumya Sarkar b Henry 25 (25b, 3x4), Shakib Al Hasan c Latham b de Grandhomme 64 (68b, 7x4), Mushfiqur Rahim run out 19 (35b, 2x4), Mohammad Mithun c de Grandhomme b Henry 26 (33b, 3x4), Mahmudullah c Williamson b Santner 20 (41b), Mosaddek Hossain c Gupthill b Boult 11 (22b), Mohammad Saifuddin b Henry 29 (23b, 3x4, 1x6), Mehidy Hasan Miraz c Latham b Boult 7 (9b), Mashrafe Mortaza c Boult b Henry 1 (2b), Mustafizur Rahman (not out) 0 (0b); Extras (b-1, lb-8, w-9): 18; Total (in 49.2 overs): 244.

**FALL OF WICKETS**  
1-45 (Sarkar, 8.3 overs), 2-60 (Tamim, 13.2), 3-110 (Mushfiqur, 23.5), 4-151 (Shakib, 30.2), 5-179 (Mithun, 37.1), 6-197 (Mahmudullah, 42.3), 7-224 (Mosaddek, 46.2), 8-235 (Mehidy, 48.2), 9-244 (Mortaza, 49.1).

**NEW ZEALAND BOWLING**  
Henry 9.2-0-47-4, Boult 10-0-44-2, Ferguson 10-0-40-1, de Grandhomme 8-0-39-1, Neesham 2-0-24-0, Santner 10-1-41-1.

Toss: New Zealand.

# Washout threatens to upset scheduling

Women's final could share top billing with men's title match

## ROLAND GARROS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
PARIS

The organisers at Roland Garros were facing a scheduling nightmare on Wednesday after the entire day's play was washed out with the prospect of another deluge expected to swamp Paris on Friday, possibly forcing the women's final to be

played alongside the men's on Sunday.

Tournament director Guy Forget said he remained hopeful of the Open finishing on time on Sunday.

However, if the weather continues to deteriorate, the women's final could be shifted from Saturday to Sunday, sharing top billing with the men's title match.

"We always have to study

the worse case scenario," said Forget.

It was the second time since 2016 that all play was cancelled.

### Back-to-back matches

The decision left Novak Djokovic and Simona Halep to play their quarterfinals on Thursday and semifinals on Friday if they get through.

# India kickstarts its journey for an Olympic spot

Faces 22nd ranked Russia in its first game

## HSF

UTHRA GANESAN  
BHUBANESWAR

Initially not scheduled to train on the eve of its opening game of the Hockey Series Finals (HSF) here, India decided to turn up after all on Wednesday evening, for a brief workout.

The only request was to have it later than usual with the team keen on catching up with the cricket team's opening World Cup encounter against South Africa in England.

Unlike the latter, however, the hockey team would face a more modest opposition in Russia (ranked 22) to kickstart its journey for an Olympic spot.

On paper, the target for fifth-ranked India is an easy one with the next best team here being South Africa, at 16. The stakes, though, are much higher.

The Indians missed the bus at the Asian Games last year and paid for it by losing a handful of senior players. The World Cup here six months ago was a disappointment and saw the team end up being coach-less for a good part of the first four months of 2019.

### No worries

Graham Reid is unlikely to worry about suffering a similar fate here, a top-two finish being enough for India to advance to the Olympic Qualifiers.

But reaching the final would not suffice with India expected to win the competition and set a few scoring records en route, like it did in Jakarta before fumbling in the semifinal.

The team seems to have learnt its lessons well. "We are not complacent. One good day in the field and you never know."

"We felt our finishing needed improvement and the past three weeks have been very important for us in terms of getting these right," India skipper Manpreet Singh said.

Ramandeep Singh's return is part of trying to shore



**A lot to play for:** P.R. Sreejesh, right, will have a key role under the bar for India. • BISWARANJAN ROUIT

up the finishing and going by his outings in the practice games so far, the forward has recovered completely from his knee injury.

India did not have a great build-up to the tournament, losing big against Australia in its tour Down Under but won its two practice matches here easily.

### An honour

Russia, meanwhile, said it was an honour to play India in the opener.

"India is an excellent team. We watched the World Cup matches here and are looking forward to experience that feeling," Pavel Golubev said.

### Hot weather

With the temperatures shooting past 45 degrees and the state government advising people to stay in

doors during the day, the organisers have tried to work around the conditions by slotting some of the games early morning.

On Thursday, South Africa and USA would be the first ones to do so while Poland plays Uzbekistan in the day's other game.

For the Indians, though, the unknown factor has always been a banana peel they have often tripped on.

Barring Japan and South Africa, they haven't played the rest anytime in the near past and, as the team admitted, that makes it difficult to plan. The best option would be to emulate Australia, which simply goes all out against unknowns, leaving no scope for upsets.

That would be the biggest contribution from Reid in his maiden test.

## The schedule

- June 6:** South Africa vs USA (8.45 a.m.); Poland vs Uzbekistan (5 p.m.); India vs Russia (7 p.m.)
- June 7:** Japan vs Mexico (8.45 a.m.); Russia vs Uzbekistan (5 p.m.); India vs Poland (7 p.m.)
- June 8:** USA vs Mexico (5 p.m.); Japan vs South Africa (7 p.m.)
- June 9:** Russia vs Poland (5 p.m.)
- June 10:** USA vs Japan (8.45 a.m.); South Africa vs Mexico (5 p.m.); India vs Uzbekistan (7 p.m.)
- June 12:** 4th Pool A vs 4th Pool B (8.45 a.m.); 2nd Pool A vs 3rd Pool B (5 p.m., quarterfinal, Match 14); 2nd Pool B vs 3rd Pool A (7 p.m., quarterfinal, Match 15)
- June 14:** Loser of Match 14 vs Loser of Match 15 (8.45 a.m., 5/6 placings); 1st Pool A vs Winner of Match 15 (5 p.m., semifinal); 1st Pool B vs Winner of Match 14 (7 p.m., semifinal)
- June 15:** Third place playoff (5 p.m.); Final (7.15 p.m.)

**POOL A:** India, Russia, Poland, Uzbekistan | **POOL B:** Japan, South Africa, USA, Mexico

# It could be a tale of 'chin music' in Australia-Windies duel

## PREVIEW

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

Jason Holder's West Indies is reviving memories of its World Cup glory days with a pace attack that has the ability to strike fear into the opposition batsmen.

The two-time champion opened its campaign by skittling out Pakistan for just 105 at Trent Bridge as the quicks made good use of the

**FINCH**

**THE FACE-OFF**

Australia vs West Indies

TRENT BRIDGE

HEAD-TO-HEAD

**HOLDER**

	Matches	Aus	WI	Tied	NR
<b>Overall</b>	139	73	60	3	3
<b>World Cup</b>	9	4	5	0	0

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 (SD & HD), 3 P.M.

bouncer. Oshane Thomas led the way with four for 27, while Andre Russell, Sheldon Cottrell and captain

Holder provided good support as the West Indies cruised to a seven-wicket win. When West Indies de-

feated Australia in the inaugural 1975 World Cup final at Lord's, its side included a four-man pace battery.

### Fearsome foursome

And when it defeated England four years later in another Lord's final to retain the title, the West Indies did so with the original "fearsome foursome" of Andy Roberts, Michael Holding, Colin Croft and Joel Garner.

Nobody is suggesting the current line-up is yet in that class, but the fact they bowled Pakistan out cheaply without Kemar Roach and Shannon Gabriel shows that, once again, West Indies has an impressive stock of fast bowlers.

Australia, which began the defence of its title with a seven-wicket rout of Afghanistan, will pose a far sterner challenge at Trent Bridge on Thursday.

# Speed is back in vogue at this World Cup

VIJAY LOKAPALLY

Is speed the new weapon in one-day cricket?

The West Indies bowlers, in the match against Pakistan at Nottingham, recreated the aura of the glorious past when the likes of Malcolm Marshall, Andy Roberts and Michael Holding, Sylvester Clarke would put the fear of physical hurt in the minds of some of the established batsmen.

The scorching pace generated by Jofra Archer at The Oval against South Africa was an early indication that pace was going to work at this World Cup as much as seam, swing and spin. Marshall, Jeff Thomson, Dennis Lillee were bowlers who believed in just blowing the batsmen away with their aggression. The new crop of international fast bowlers think the same.

Speed, actually, was never out of vogue. Says former international Ian Pont, now head coach at the Ultimate

Pace Foundation, "I don't think speed ever went away. It goes in cycles unless you are coaching it, which very few of us have got to grips with yet. The fact remains, if you have real pace it is unsettling a batsman. No one likes to be peppered by rapid, short-pitched bouncers or searing yorkers. The game is far better with pace in it."

Known for his technical excellence, Pont picks Archer and South African ace Kagiso Rabada for special mention.

"I think Archer's action is simple and repeatable, plus he goes through the key '4 Tent Peg' positions, aligned correctly.

"This means he has far less chance of injury that vast majority of fast bowlers in the world are prone to. It helps him generate great pace in an effective & efficient way."

On Rabada, he notes, "He has to be right up there. He bowls 145 clicks plus, can nip the ball about and has mas-

tered a yorker. A very dangerous customer to face.

### Lauds Bumrah

"Next would be Jasprit Bumrah. He has had a staggering rise in his bowling stock by being a very smart bowler. Hard to hit at the end of an innings, he can also generate close to 150kph speeds with an awkward style of action that gives him an advantage. His control and ability to mix his speeds with a great slower ball makes him a handful."

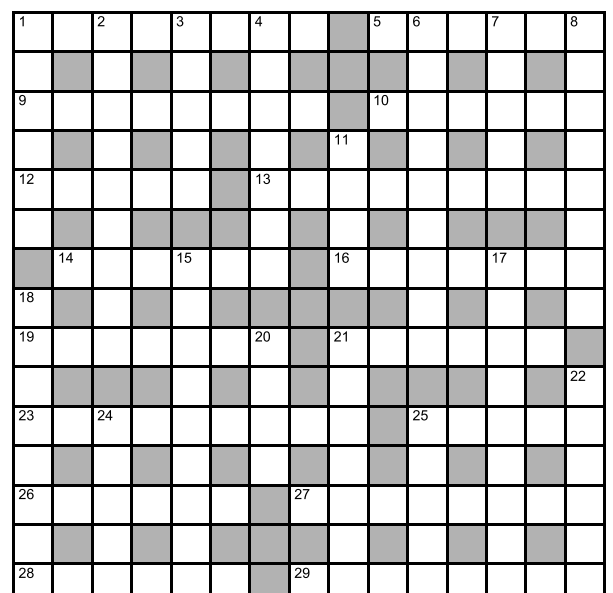
He points out Australia's Mitchell Starc as a key bowler. "Although he has not played much cricket recently, his left arm rockets and in-swing to a right hand batsman makes him deadly. He also has a great yorker and a wise head."

"I would also suggest keeping an eye out for Pat Cummins, Oshane Thomas and Trent Boult. And of course, the man we will all talking about over the next 12 months, Archer."



**Lettin' it rip!** The pacy Jofra Archer's well-aligned action makes him less prone to injury. • ALEX DAVIDSON/GETTY IMAGES

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12645



### ACROSS

- 1 Disregard criminal with allure (8)
- 5 A fellow insincerely encouraging extramarital relationship (6)
- 9 Conservative replaced hot rod beside animal (8)
- 10 Lebron zealously displaying medal, say (6)

- 12 Severe resistance breaking tag used on social media (5)
- 13 Source of a liberal society's first set of documents (9)
- 14 Bishop missing the first jump and rebound (6)
- 16 Criticize expert with a cure for everything (7)
- 19 Book about the first shot in a tennis match (7)
- 21 A doctor (soviet) regularly quick in action (6)
- 23 It's not right to destroy a clue (hint) (9)
- 25 Plant on southern border (5)
- 26 Engineer to leave unknown stock (6)
- 27 Exhausted baker somehow moved up to escape (8)
- 28 Conjecture on Norse god covering European mythology at last (6)
- 29 Heartlessly yell breaking piece of burnt wood drum (8)

## SUDOKU

(set by Lightning)

- 3 Caught inside, wish to come back on time (5)
- 4 Irritate professional, bring out missing energy (7)
- 6 Nonresident set out for green island (9)
- 7 Chap nearly showing breathing disorder (5)
- 8 Broadcast ordinary threats with instrument (8)
- 11 Left mischievous child to walk awkwardly (4)
- 15 Short rant about guiding light (5,4)
- 17 Daughter wearing cool, short bonnet in youth (9)
- 18 Debate and set urgent matter aside for starters (8)
- 20 Cut leaderless sailing vessel (4)
- 21 Largely irritating ailment (7)
- 22 Entertainer from Japan exited a feast (6)
- 24 Avoid cheat pilfering diamonds (5)
- 25 Propelled through water with one teacher (5)

		8	5	1			9	
6		2			8			
		5					2	
	5	4		2	1	8		
	8						7	
		7	3	8		1	5	
7							3	
			8			7		6
6			3	7	9			

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

**Solution to puzzle 12644**

B	A	C	P	S	T	M
C	O	M	B	O	V	E
N	S	U	R	R	O	K
A	D	D	I	N	G	I
H	U	A	O	D		
V	I	C	T	O	R	I
D	H	R	E	E		
T	A	L	E	N	T	S
P	L	O	M	B	O	K
I	B	S	R	K	A	S
B	R	A	C	E	L	E
O	K	E	A	G	Y	L
F	O	I	L	R	H	I
K	E	S	N	N	S	O

**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

7	5	1	4	8	9	6	3	2
3	4	2	7	5	6	9	1	8
6	8	9	2	1	3	5	4	7
4	9	7	1	2	5	3	8	6
8	3	6	9	4	7	2	5	1
1	2	5	3	6	8	7	9	4
2	7	8	5	9	1	4	6	3
5	1	3	6	7	4	8	2	9
9	6	4	8	3	2	1	7	5

## FAITH

# Hidden dangers

Life has many attractions, which draw us towards them, but they hold hidden dangers. A moth is drawn towards a flame, and falls on it and dies. Just as its liking for the light leads to its death, so can desire lead to our downfall. This is among the many things that an avadhoota Brahmin tells King Yatu, in Srimad Bhagavatam, said P.T. Seshadri in a discourse. To trap a majestic male elephant, a trained female is sent towards it. Drawn to the female, the male elephant ends up being caught. So, do not yield to temptation, the ascetic tells Yatu. A deer in a forest hears some music and is attracted by it. Going to investigate where the music is coming from, the deer gets trapped in the net the hunter has laid for it.

That is why sadhus listen only to music that has its foundation in bhakti. Mere notes do not interest them, says the ascetic. The sadhu tells Yatu about a girl who is alone at home when a family comes seeking her hand in marriage. She begins to pound grains, to cook for the visitors. Her bangles make a noise, which she does not like. So, she wears only one bangle, so that there will be no noise. Sadhus too, like this girl, dislike noise, and therefore, always prefer solitude. A spider takes great care to spin its web, but sometimes it swallows the net. The ascetic says to Yatu, "When wise men say that the Supreme One swallows the earth during the deluge, people are sceptical. If a spider can swallow the net it made, can the Supreme One not swallow the world He is responsible for?"

A worm gets caught in a wasp's hole. The wasp stings the worm. Afraid, the worm tries to change its colour to dupe the wasp into thinking that it (worm) is, in fact, a wasp. The lesson from this is that if we keep bad company, we will eventually acquire bad characteristics.



TV PICKS

**NBA:** Sony Ten 1 & 3 (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m.  
**Hockey Series Final:** Star Sports 3, 9 a.m., 5 p.m. & 7 p.m.  
**ICC World Cup:** Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 3 p.m.  
**Roland Garros:** Star Sports Select 1 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.  
**UEFA Nations League:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 12 a.m. (Friday).

IN BRIEF

IAAF to fight Swiss court testosterone ruling

PARIS  
The IAAF said on Tuesday it will fight a Swiss court decision to suspend its rules obliging athletes, including double Olympic champion Caster Semenya, to lower their testosterone levels in order to compete in certain events. AFP



Cristiano Ronaldo rape lawsuit dropped: report

WASHINGTON  
A rape lawsuit against Juventus star Cristiano Ronaldo has been dropped, according to a report from Bloomberg on Wednesday. A notice of voluntary dismissal was filed last month in Nevada state court in Las Vegas. The filing did not say whether the accuser, Kathryn Mayorga, had reached a settlement with Ronaldo. Mayorga had filed a complaint in September last year alleging she was sexually assaulted by Ronaldo in 2009 in a Las Vegas hotel. AFP



Phil Jagielka announces Everton departure

LONDON  
Everton defender Phil Jagielka has announced his departure from the Premier League club after 12 years at Goodison Park. The 36-year-old former England international made more than 300 Premier League appearances for Everton, which signed him from Sheffield United for £4 million in 2007. He only featured in seven Premier League matches in the 2018-19 season. AFP



Swimming champion Magnussen retires

SYDNEY  
Australian two-time world champion James Magnussen announced his retirement from competitive swimming on Wednesday after a decade-long career that earned him 15 major medals. The 28-year-old, dubbed "The Missile", has been struggling with shoulder issues in recent years, undergoing surgery in 2015, and said the time was right to hang up his goggles. "I have taken the time to make the best decision for myself moving forward and to do that I wanted to make sure I was in the best space mentally and physically before announcing my retirement," he said. AFP



Joshua to face Ruiz rematch before year end

NEW YORK  
Anthony Joshua will attempt to reclaim his heavyweight titles from Andy Ruiz Jr. before the end of year after activating a rematch clause in his contract, promoter Eddie Hearn said on Tuesday. In a brief post on Twitter, Hearn said Joshua had opted for an immediate rematch against Ruiz Jr, who shocked the boxing world with a seventh-round knockout of the British fighter on Saturday. AFP

# Curacao proves too good for India

Skipper Chhetri finds the target in his milestone match for the country

KING'S CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BURIAM (THAILAND)

Captain Sunil Chhetri struck in his milestone match but India lost 1-3 to higher-ranked Curacao in its opening tie of the King's Cup football tournament in Igor Stimac's first game under charge here on Wednesday.

Chhetri, who became the most-capped India player by surpassing Bhaichung Bhutia's 107 international matches, scored the lone goal for his side in the 31st minute from a spot kick for his 69th goal, though it did not make any difference to the result of the match.

The 82nd-ranked Caribbean island nation, which has two players plying trade in English Premier League and some others in European leagues, scored three in the space of 18 minutes – through Roly Bonevacia (16th), Elson Hooi (18th) and Leandro Bacuna (33rd).

A sloppy first half in which India – ranked 101 – defended and attacked poorly, saw the team trailing 1-3 at the breather. The new defensive set up – with Rahul Bheke coming in as central defen-



Lone bright spot: But for Sunil Chhetri ' goal, India was outplayed by the higher-ranked team. ■TWITTER.COM/INDIANFOOTBALL

der – was looking out of sorts with lack of anticipation and communication.

India played a vastly improved football in the second half – which was played mostly under rain – but could not score another goal.

Stimac's charges made at least four chances in the second half with two coming to the 34-year-old Chhetri

whose first attempt hit the upright and the other – another free header – sailing over the bar.

Though high-profile Stimac, a World Cup bronze medallist and former Croatia manager, began his stint as India coach on a losing note, there were positives to be taken from the match against a more technically superior

side. The Croatian gaffer gave international debuts to as many as five players, including to Under-17 World Cup captain Amarjit Singh, and the Indian side played possession football and mostly through ground passes.

Curacao dominated the first half but surprisingly India had more possession

with 53% as against 47%. The second half was an even contest with India threatening to score several times and it completely dominated the final 15 minutes though another goal eluded them in the end.

The result: Curacao 3 (Roly Bonevacia 16, Elson Hooi 18, Leandro Bacuna 33) bt India 1 (Sunil Chhetri 31).

## India-A keen to continue good run

Sri Lanka-A a better one-day unit, says Sitanshu Kotak

SL-A IN IND

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA BELAGAVI

After a dominant showing in the two four-day matches, India-A will be keen on asserting its superiority over Sri Lanka-A when the one-day series begins here on Thursday. India-A won both unofficial Tests by handsome margins, even if the travelling side showed signs of improvement in the second fixture.

There are nine changes in the India-A squad for the limited-overs matches, with Ishan Kishan to lead. The Jharkhand wicket-keeper batsman was part of the Mumbai Indians unit that won the IPL, but struggled for form with the bat himself.

Shubman Gill, in contrast, impressed for KKR, scoring three fifties. Both batsmen came through the India U-19 ranks, at different times, promising much for the future.

Gill has since played for the senior team, having made his debut in New Zealand earlier this year, while Kishan is yet to force himself into the reckoning. How much this series will boost their India prospects is open to question, but a good run with the bat will not go unnoticed.

Also part of the squad is Shreyas Gopal, who enjoyed a fine IPL campaign, claiming 20 wickets with his leg-spin. The all-rounder has previously made only one



Raring to go: Shubman Gill who impressed in the IPL, will be keen to make good the opportunity. ■FILE PHOTO AKHILESH KUMAR

first-class and one List A appearance for India-A; he will welcome this opportunity. Medium-pacer Tushar Deshpande, who played a key role in Mumbai's Vijay Hazare Trophy win last year, and Shivam Dube, who made an impression with his big-hitting, appear to have been rewarded for their domestic performances.

Retained from the four-day squad is Anmolpreet Singh, who made scores of 116 n.o., 65 and 60 in his three innings. He will want to maintain that rich form.

With as many as 12 of the Sri Lanka-A squad of 15 having played for the senior international side, the visitor is not short on experience. "Both the 'Tests' were one-sided, but I feel Sri Lanka will be a better one-day unit," said India-A batting coach Sitanshu Kotak. "They

were scoring at four an over. They look like aggressive players. We'll have to keep that in mind."

The first three one-day matches will be played at the KSCA Stadium here, with the final two fixtures to be played in Hubballi.

**The teams:** India: Ishan Kishan (capt.), Anmolpreet Singh, Rituraj Gaikwad, Deepak Hooda, Ricky Bhui, Shubman Gill, Shivam Dube, Shreyas Gopal, Washington Sundar, Mayank Markande, Tushar Deshpande, Sandeep Warrier, Ishan Porel, and Prashant Chopra.

**Sri Lanka:** Ashan Priyanjan (capt.), Danushka Gunathilaka, Niroshan Dickwella, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Pathum Nissanka, Kamindu Mendis, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Shehan Jayasuriya, Dasun Shanaka, Akila Dananjaya, Lakshan Sandakan, Ishan Jayaratne, Chamika Karunaratne, Lahiru Kumara, and Dushmantha Chameera. Match starts at 9 a.m.

## Sheeraz looks ahead with confidence

Skeet shooter's rewards not matching with his efforts in World Cups this season

KAMESH SRINIVASAN NEW DELHI

Sheeraz Sheikh has been training hard, without getting matching rewards for his sincere efforts in the World Cups this season.

The skeet shooter has been scoring 119 out of 125 consistently in all the three World Cups in Acapulco, Al Ain and Changwon, when only a high score of 122 has been making the cut for the finals.

The Olympic quota has thus been a little away for Sheeraz even though other shotgun shooters including Olympian Mairaj Ahmad Khan, Kynan Chenai and Prithviraj Tondaiman have been getting much closer to making the finals in skeet and trap to possibly book Olympic berths.

After two weeks of rest and recovery following the recent selection trials for shotgun, the shooters, including the 30-year-old Sheeraz are ready to return to the range for further training from Thursday, even though the camp for the Worlds team is scheduled from June 20 to 30.

**Important competition**  
The shotgun World Championships to be held in Lonato, Italy, does not offer any Olympic quota place this time, but Sheeraz felt that it was a very important competition.

"It is the World Championship, one of the best stages for an athlete to per-



Just off target: The Olympic quota place has just been eluding Sheeraz Sheikh. ■PTI

form at his best. There is no Olympic quota, but we have other things to fight for, like the medals, world rankings, and qualification for World Cup Finals.

"Since a lot of young shooters are in the team like Anant Naruka, Kartikki Shaktawat, Areeba Khan it will be an amazing experience for them before they start for the last World Cup in Finland, where we have two Olympic quota places," said Sheeraz.

**Last set of quota places**  
The Asian Championship to be staged in Doha, Qatar, in November will offer the last set of Olympic quota places for the Indian shooters, but there could be a different shotgun team for the same.

"Post Finland, we have two very important selection trials for the Asian quota qualifier," said Sheeraz. The rifle and pistol shoot-

## Sindhu, Sameer start well

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA SYDNEY

India had a mixed day in the office as top shuttlers P.V. Sindhu and Sameer Verma progressed to the second round but H.S. Prannoy made an early exit at the \$150,000 Australian Open World Tour Super 300 tournament on Wednesday.

World No. 5 Sindhu defeated Indonesia's Choirunnisa 21-14, 21-9, while Sameer exacted revenge against Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia 21-15, 16-21, 21-12 in an opening round men's singles match. He had lost to Lee at Sudirman Cup last month.

Among others, B. Sai Praneeth beat Korea's Lee Dong Keun 21-16, 21-14 and P. Kash-

yap entered the second round with a 21-16, 21-15 win over Thailand's Suppanyu Avihingsanon.

He will meet Lin Dan who beat Prannoy 21-18, 21-19.

In men's doubles, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty defeated compatriots Manu Attri and B. Sumeeeth Reddy 21-12, 21-16.

**The results:** Sameer Verma bt Lee Zii Jia (Mas) 21-15, 16-21, 21-12; B. Sai Praneeth bt Lee Dong Keun (Kor) 21-16, 21-14; P. Kashyap bt Suppanyu Avihingsanon (Tha) 21-16, 21-15; Lin Dan (Chn) bt H.S. Prannoy 21-18, 21-19. **Doubles:** Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Manu Attri & B. Sumeeeth Reddy 21-12, 21-16.

**Women:** P.V. Sindhu bt Choirunnisa (Ina) 21-14, 21-9. **Doubles:** Baek Ha Na & Kim Hye Ri (Kor) bt Ashwini Ponnappa & N. Sikki Reddy 21-14, 21-13.



On his way: Sameer Verma overcame Lee Zii Jia in the first round of the Australian Open on Wednesday. ■FILE PHOTO

## Dutch threaten to keep England waiting

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE GUITMARAES (PORTUGAL)

England's long wait for a first international trophy since 1966 could be just days away at the Nations League finals, but Ronald Koeman's resurgent the Netherlands present a hazardous hurdle for the Three Lions in Thursday's semifinal.

A run to the semifinals of last year's World Cup and memorable victories over Spain and Croatia to make the last four of another tournament within 12 months have raised expectations that Gareth Southgate is coaching the generation to finally end England's wait for glory.

By contrast, the Dutch have had a lean few years after failing to make it to Russia last year or qualify for Euro 2016. Even though the Dutch lost a thrilling opening Euro 2000 qualifier 3-2 to Germany in March there are no fears they will miss out for a third consecutive major tournament.

The side captained by Virgil van Dijk is also blessed with the core of an Ajax side that was seconds away from facing van Dijk's Liverpool in the Champions League final.

Tottenham robbed the Eredivisie of its first Champions League finalist since 1996 with a dramatic late semifinal, second leg winner in Amsterdam. But there is no guarantee English success will carry over to the international stage.

## Mixed day for Ramkumar

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU SURBITON (GREAT BRITAIN)

Ramkumar Ramanathan had a mixed day in the £137,560 Challenger tennis tournament on grass as he lost in the singles in three sets to Matthias Bachinger of Germany, but won the doubles pre-quarterfinals in partnership with Soonwoo Kwon of Korea in straight sets against compatriots Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Purav Raja.

**Other results:** **£137,560 Challenger, Surbiton, Great Britain: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Soonwoo Kwon (Kor) & Ramkumar bt Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Purav Raja 6-4, 6-3. **\$81,240 Challenger, Little Rock, USA: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Li Zhe (Chn) & Dudi Sela (Isr) bt Volodymyr Uzhylyovskiy (Ukr) & Arjun

Kadhe 6-2, 7-5.

**\$25,000 ITF men, Hong Kong: First round:** Agustin Velotti (Arg) bt Sidharth Rawat 6-1, 6-4; **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Jose Fco. Vidal Azorin (Esp) & Sidharth Rawat bt Sagadat Ayap (Kaz) & Maksim Tikhomirov (USA) 6-3, 5-7, [10-5].

**\$25,000 ITF men, Singapore: First round:** Manish Sureshkumar bt Kelsey Stevenson (Can) 6-4, 6-2; Kunal Anand bt Pol Wattanakul (Tha) 6-0, 6-3; **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Siddhant Banthia & Manish bt Rimpel Kawakami (Jpn) & Shamirul Shahril Mohd. Adam Das (Mas) 6-1, 6-3; Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam & Gokul Suresh bt Bingyu Yu & Yili Zheng (Chn) 6-4, 3-6, [14-12]; Kunal & Jatin Dahiya bt Daniil Zharichansky (Blr) & Adil Kalyanpur 6-4, 6-4.

**\$25,000 ITF women, Fergana, Uzbekistan: First round:** Riya Bhatia bt Ekaterina Vishnevskaya (Rus) 6-3, 6-3.

## Rohan beats Neeraj, enters semifinals

GURUGRAM: Rohan Mehra beat Neeraj Yashpaul 6-4, 6-4 in the quarterfinals of the ₹100,000 AITA ranking tennis tournament, organised by VAN Sports Club, in Balliawan on Wednesday.

**The other three**  
Paras Dahiya, Neeraj Elangovan and Shubham Malhotra secured the other semifinal spots.

**The results:**  
**Quarterfinals:** Paras Dahiya bt Parth Agarwal 6-0, 6-3; Neeraj Elangovan bt Ritik Rana 6-1, 6-1.

Shubham Malhotra bt Venkat Bhaskar 6-3, 6-2; Rohan Mehra bt Neeraj Yashpaul 6-4, 6-4.

**Doubles (semifinals):** Kavin Masilamani & Lohith Bathrinath bt Krishang & Vijayant Malik 6-3, 6-3.

Shubham Malhotra & Rhythm Malhotra bt Parav Dev Garg & Deepinder Singh Bains 7-6(5), 6-1.

## Shatakshi prevails over Milee

To meet Saumrita

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Shatakshi Chaudhary overcame third seed Milee Chug 7-6(6), 2-6, 7-5 in the girls' pre-quarterfinals of the Sorts Boulevard Asian under-14 tennis tournament at the DLTA Complex here on Wednesday.

In the quarterfinals, Shatakshi will play Saumrita Verma who knocked out seventh seed Saneshi Willorarchchi of Sri Lanka for the loss of five games.

In another girls' match, Anannya Bhatia subdued second seed Shaneni Shrestha of Nepal 7-6(5), 6-0.

In the boys' event, fifth seed Aryan Nanda had to fight his way past lucky loser Pranav Taneja 7-5, 3-6, 6-3. He will challenge the top seed Rushil Khosla in the quarterfinals.

**The results:**

**Boys (pre-quarterfinals):** Rushil Khosla bt Prajwal Tewari 6-3, 6-0; Aryan Nanda bt Pranav Taneja 7-5, 3-6, 6-3; Manas Dhamne bt Sudhanshu Eknath Sawant 6-1, 6-1; Samar Malhotra bt Rohan Patel 3-6, 6-4, 6-2; Manan Nath bt Fateh Singh 6-2, 6-2; Omaansh Choudhary Saharia bt Jigyashman Hazarika 6-3, 6-3; Cahir Warik bt R Senthil Kumar 6-0, 6-0; Arunava Majumder bt Raghav Harsh 6-1, 6-1.

**Girls (pre-quarterfinals):** Anya Jacob bt Divya Ungrish 7-5, 6-1; Shruti Ahlawat bt Jeetesh Kumari 6-0, 6-0; Maisha Rao bt Nemha Sarah Kispotta 6-1, 7-6(5); Chandni Srinivasan bt Malishka Kurum 5-7, 6-1, 6-0; Saumrita Verma bt Saneshi Willorarchchi (Sri) 6-2, 6-3; Shatakshi Chaudhary bt Milee Chug 7-6(6), 2-6, 7-5; Nandini Dixit bt Lehar Singh Tomar 6-1, 6-4; Anannya Bhatia bt Shaneni Shrestha (Nep) 7-6(5), 6-0.

## Infantino stays on as FIFA president

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE PARIS

Gianni Infantino was re-elected, by acclamation, for a second term as FIFA president at the congress of world football's governing body here on Wednesday.

The 49 year-old, who took charge of FIFA in February 2016 after the departure of the disgraced Sepp Blatter, stood unopposed for a new four-year term which will run until 2023.

Earlier, Infantino had insisted that FIFA had been transformed into an organisation "synonymous with credibility" as he addressed representatives of the 211 member federations, before the women's World Cup begins in the French capital on Friday.

"Today nobody talks about crises, nobody talks about rebuilding FIFA from scratch, nobody talks about



Gianni Infantino. ■AFP

scandals, nobody talks about corruption, we talk about football," insisted the Swiss-Italian lawyer, formerly secretary general of UEFA.

"The very least we can say is that we have turned the situation around. In three years and four months, this organisation went from being toxic, almost criminal, to being what it should be, an organisation that develops football, an organisation that cares about football."



Delhi



Scan the QR code on your smartphone camera to access the full story at [thehindu.com](http://thehindu.com)

## The sequel to co-working: CO-LIVING

This fresh form of renting falls in with the culture of building collaborations and fostering a sense of community. Young adults are saying no to dodgy PGs, cramped hostels, and expensive shared apartments

### Hyderabad



#### home away from home

If you're working for the tech giants, Hyderabad is likely your next abode, which makes the pockets of co-living opportunities in Hitec city accessible.

Moonis Ali, co-founder of Living Quarter that has six properties across the county, says, "The architecture of the space is everything. Spaces should have windows for easy ventilation. We've been very careful about the building's location to make the lives of our residents easier." They're also looking at social and environmental responsibility: solar power for central heating and they are planning to add electric bikes for 'errand commutes'.

Living Quarter properties across areas all have a fun and minimal vibe, but manage to also appear cosy. The idea is to welcome natural light, too, essential for mental health, considering a number of people may be living away from all that's familiar to them: family, friends, cityscapes.

Varsha Kadam, a 30-year-old flight attendant from Mumbai, and Rajasthan-born Mehanz Mansoori, 40, who works in corporate training, say they immediately knew Living Quarter was for them when they stepped in.

Despite Hyderabad being a food-capital, home food still wins, and Living Quarter's daily menus of home-style chicken curries, dals and fried rice help renters save up and set food delivery apps aside. Plus, the co-ed living situation didn't deter these girls one bit. The social aspect is a blessing, they say, adding the lounge area hosted screenings for the recent IPL T20 and for the final season of *Game Of Thrones*, too.

Residing at Living Quarter's properties costs between ₹7,000 to ₹16,000 a month (all inclusive) depending on the occupancy. Other players in Hyderabad include Isthara who also operate in Bengaluru.

### TEAM METROPLUS

The idea of moving to a new city is full of promise, but the prospect of looking for decent accommodation is a task. You grimace at the idea of an airless PG, or leaping over six beds to get to the light switch in a hostel. The mere thought of staying at that constantly-curious relative's house makes you want to crawl under the bed. Plus, you just don't have the budget yet to rent an apartment with roommates and the added costs of utilities and furniture.

Enter co-living, a form of renting, where people have their own rooms, and share certain spaces, helpful in a new city that may otherwise offer few chances of interaction beyond work. The booming real-estate option has appeal, not just to college-goers, but also to working professionals.

Most co-living spaces are designed to have shared zones for community and collaborative events for residents. Expect board-game nights, movie-screenings, and live-stream watch-parties for sports. These are the 'real world' versions of organised university housing spaces around the world. Or, to flip the analogy around, they're really the collegiate versions of suburban gated communities with club-

houses and community rooms.

Aptly so, perhaps. Millennials – who with late marriages and 'unsettled' careers, responsible for the demise of the old-world's social order – drive this market. To cater to this troublemaker generation, most co-living startups are easy to find, with websites hosting photos, precise location and information on rent and facilities among others.

A big perk? Across co-living spaces, there are no additional costs for cleaners, cooks and utility bills, such as water, electricity (yes, this includes air-conditioning) and Wi-Fi. Cooks and cleaners are on-site for the rooms and communal spaces and some even have washing machines and, like hostels, *dhobis* on-site which come at additional costs. The core idea is that residents pay a fixed bill each month and go about their day without the worry of hidden bills.

Here's a birds-eye view at how different cities through the country are taking to co-living.

(Inputs from Praveen Sudevan, Divya Kala Bhavani, Vangmayi Parakala and Ranjani Rajendra)

### CHUMMERY 2.0

Co-living isn't a radical concept. CoLive founder Suresh Rangarajan reckons it's a revival of chummeries, originally set up as bachelor quarters for officers in the Indian army and other imperial enterprises. In the mid-nineties, chummeries were *en vogue* in Indian metropolitan cities. The employees, hailing from different cities with different preferences, bonded under one roof. Co-living takes this a notch higher, where the inhabitants are from different organisations and diverse fields.

### A WORLD APART

There isn't a legal definition for co-living spaces but what differentiates them from PGs and other joint accommodations. One doesn't have restrictions usually found in a PG – such as entry and exit timings. It's also safer with CCTV cameras and security guards 24x7. One can also interact with fellow residents, which you might not do in a PG.

### tapping into campus life

Traditionally a city for people who're not 'actually from' here, getting a hostel 'seat' is sometimes tangled in university rules and reservations. Once in, you're bound by curfew timings and permission from 'local guardians'. It's either this, or unreliable landlords and unsafe localities.

CoHo began in late 2015 and has been tapping into this market. They not only have independent housing set-ups, but also tie up with universities like IIT Delhi and Pearl Academy of Fashion to further their business. The CoHo in Delhi University's North Campus has a café-like space within its living quarters for their residents who might want to study in amiable social silence.

In areas like South Delhi however, "the youngest could be an 18-year-old just out of school, and the oldest would be about 32, who'd only leave because they're getting married, or their work has transferred them to a different city," says John Jacob, CoHo's 26-year-old Assistant Vice President.

If you're unhappy with your roommate's hygiene standards, for instance, your contract even includes provisions for you to move rooms. If you're a student, your one-time rent includes water, internet, electricity – and a meal plan.

Rents range from ₹8,000 to ₹15,000 (all inclusive) per head. Flathood in Gurugram and Placio in Noida are other options.

### Chennai



### testing the waters

Despite a thriving IT industry and a burgeoning migrant population, there's a dearth of decent co-living spaces. The scene however, may be changing slowly with the entrance of Colive. With their first facility in Velachery, Colive provides members fully-furnished bedrooms with centralised security and CCTV surveillance. They also have referral and loyalty programmes.

Purushottam Varma, founded StayBro in Semmancheri in May last year. Though not at par (in terms of design and facilities) with the other co-living spaces, StayBro does provide its residents with most amenities. "We're a very small startup at the moment and have a long way to go," he says. "But we are looking to expand in the near future. I'm currently scouting for areas where I can invest in property to set up another co-living space."

StayAbode, another co-living space that has 2,000 contracted beds in Bengaluru already is eyeing the Chennai market with plans afoot to launch in OMR by July this year. "According to Viral Chhajer, the co-founder, their space is like a 'boutique hotel'."

He adds that they are trying to create communities and networking opportunities by organising weekly events (reading clubs, comedy nights, barbeque nights). He adds, "We've got everything from PlayStations to Foosball tables for people to unwind and meet new people."

Rents at StayAbode are between ₹11,000 and ₹11,500 per head (all inclusive)

### Bengaluru



### premiums galore

Manish Agarwal, who works in the financial services sector, moved from Mumbai to Bengaluru. There, he'd stayed in a housing society. "They had weird rules like not letting us share a room with someone from a different religion. Also, these places are hardly bachelor-friendly," he recalls. "The Hub (on centrally-located Infantry Road), on the other hand, is even LGBTQIA+ friendly and does not have

restrictions. It would be nice if there are more options like this in the city."

Another advantage, says Swami Narayan, a videographer, who stays in a co-living space in RT Nagar, is that "There is no hassle of brokers, a big security deposit, maintenance." All you need to do is go online to check out the space and rent (some have a separate sum for utilities), do a quick visit, and move in.

"Pricing is very important," says Pratul Gupta, co-founder of Grexter. "You can command a premium over PG rates for the services you offer, but you can't go overboard – not more than 20 to 25% more."

Grexter charges ₹8,499 for a shared room and ₹15,000 for a private room in most of its eight branches. The Hub charges ₹15,000 for a shared room and ₹30,000 for a private room.

### 5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



TALK

#### Music appreciation

*Summer wine, woman and song*, is an evening of music that recollects the works of Nancy Sinatra by musicologist and linguist, Punita Singh. The daughter of the legendary American singer Frank Sinatra, Nancy went on to establish her own unique style, making it to the top of the charts, with multiple hits through the sixties.

VENUE: Lecture Room-2, IIC  
TIME: 6:30 p.m.



FOOD

#### Special menu

House of Punjab has two new menus: a veg and a non-veg one. Noteworthy dishes include cooker meat (or chicken), which is a in home-style dish with aromatic spices and served in cooker. The other one, atta chicken is a Punjabi special chicken dish, marinated and cooked on the char grill inside a dough of flour.

VENUE: House Of Punjab, J-Block, Rajouri Garden  
TIME: 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.



MUSIC

#### Sarod and violin

*Antar Dhwani*, an evening of Indian classical music, will feature two performances. The first is a sarod recital by Srinjoy Mukherjee, accompanied by Nilimesh Chakraborty on the tabla. The second is a violin recital by Pandit Santosh Nahar and Subham Sarkar, accompanied by Pradip Sarkar on the tabla.

VENUE: Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre  
TIME: 7 p.m.



WORKSHOP

#### Clay modelling

India Habitat Centre is holding a clay modelling workshop by artist Sheela Chamaria, an expert with sculptures made of ceramic and bronze. She also works with wax painting and sheet murals. Participants are required to bring acrylic paints, brushes, fevicol, and board. For participants who are nine years old and over.

VENUE: The Stein Auditorium Balcony Foyer  
TIME: 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



GIG

#### Rock

Delhi-based semi-classical rock band Prahaar will be live tonight. The five-member band's style is to bring together a perfect amalgamation of rock with the sufi and classical Indian tunes. The band also does covers of various Bollywood songs, retro favourites, as well as popular sufi songs in their own style.

VENUE: DLF Cyber Hub, DLF City, Gurugram  
TIME: 9 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.



FILM REVIEW

NAMRATA JOSHI

The stories of lives torn asunder due to Partition and of the reunion of loved ones after years of separation make for an emotive watch. It makes you leave *Bharat* with some amount of connect, despite the overt mawkishness and accompanying in-film promotion for Zee TV that comes riding on it. Otherwise, in an effort to have an epic sweep, in terms of time, place and emotions, *Bharat* is way too ponderous and plodding.

On paper, seeing seven decades of post-Independence India through the life of one man, suitably called Bharat (Salman Khan), might seem like a wonderful idea. But certainly not, when the events and people from the country's recent history remain casual, throwaway references rather than deeply tied-up in any manner with the protagonist's own journey. It's about Hind Rashan Store making way for a mall to be in tune with the times, even as cinema changes hands from Big B to SRK.

Khan as Bharat tells us that there are supposed to be no more than seven compelling stories in the world but actually there could be as many as there are individuals. However, his own—a bout a son keeping his promise made to a father left behind in Partition, of holding a family together in his absence—turns out to be nothing spectacularly different, it's yet another variation of those seven stories. "*Desh logon se banta hai aur logon ki pehchaan unke parivar se hoti hai* (A nation is made of its people and people derive their identity from their families)." It's all about loving a family as a building block of the nation.

The film chronicles Bharat's life from early life in the refugee camps in newly formed Hindustan, to moving into his aunt's shop and home; working in the Great Russian Circus to digging oil in the Middle East and later joining the merchant navy to make a living. There are far too many (and mostly needless) episodes, not to talk of the song-n-dance item numbers, that you want to snip away. Many of the incidents and characters could have been entirely done away with and others could have been elaborated upon. As a result, some interesting actors like Kumud Mishra and Shashanka Arora remain as props, while Disha Patani overstays even in the small circus sketch, saying cheesy lines like "*Kisi bhi Radha ko uska Krishna nahin milta* (No Radha ever gets her Krish-



The new Eid release, is less about the nation, and more about Salman Khan's Bharat but eventually about Katrina Kaif's Kumud

# Bharat: a re-discovery of India

## Bharat

**DIRECTOR:** Ali Abbas Zafar  
**CAST:** Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif, Sunil Grover, Disha Patni, Jackie Shroff, Tabu, Sonali Kulkarni, Shriyendra Kala, Aasif Sheikh,  
**RUN TIME:** 167.15 minutes  
**STORYLINE:** The life of a man, suitably named Bharat, from the Partition to 2010, ostensibly encompassing the history of post-Independence India.

na). The film swings between melodrama and humour, some of it slapstick, while other bits are plain tasteless: with jokes on speech impairment. There's a black and white, violin playing in the background scene that seems like a tribute to the "poor family" sequence in *3 Idiots*.

*Bharat* feels like a yo-yo when making broader points. It aims to be progressive yet doesn't want to rub the traditionalists the wrong way. It is dedicated not just to "hero" dads but also "superhero" moms, has a heroine Kumud (Katrina Kaif) who speaks her mind and lives by her own rules. Kumud tells Bharat to stay human than try and be god. She questions him for seeing her not as an individual with ambitions of her own, but as someone who'd take care of his mom and shop in his absence. Eventually, and however grudgingly, she does fall in line. Bharat continues to objectify her, as the *chashmi* (sweetness) in his *jalebi*-like muddled life. There is a highly laudatory portrayal of a live-in relationship but all's well that eventually ends in a wedding.

Kumud hands a snide one to Bharat about trying to manipulate her when he says his father refused to give him a surname – Kumar, Singh, Khan, D'Mello – to maintain the unity and sanctity of the nation. And yet the film manipulates the audiences by playing the national anthem, complete with '*Bharat Mata Ki Jai*' chants. There is a Hindu-Muslim friendship at the core but you know who will play the hero and who will be the sidekick. India will win the world with "*batcheet, pyaar aur Hindi filmon ke gaane*" (talk, love and Hindi film songs). Thankfully the film is not ageist. But there is a part sweetness and part hilarity with which Khan, turning 70, and Kaif presumably in her 60s act their age, fully aware that they are "acting", make it seem like it was some kind of an in-joke on the sets. Khan continues to be bulked-up, sporting the same unbending physique. Only his face is made to age with make-up, and he says lines like "*Sher boodha zaroor ho gaya hai par shikaar karna nahin bhoolta* (The tiger may have aged but hasn't forgotten how to hunt)".

Khan might get to show off his emotional chops with the ever-reliable Tabu for company but it's Kaif who pleases and almost walks away with the film with her natural, unaffected and winsome ways. For a change, it's refreshing to find a film in these times, that doesn't portray former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in a bad light. Some points scored there.

ANAHITA PANICKER

Ali Abbas Zafar is a self-possessed and relaxed director, who doesn't seem particularly nervous about his new Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif-starrer *Bharat*. After all, his earlier directorial ventures with Salman – *Sultan* (2016) and *Tiger Zinda Hai* (2017) – are among the star's biggest blockbusters.

It was Katrina, Zafar's leading lady in his debut *Mere Brother Ki Dulhan* (2011), who had introduced the director to the superstar, but Zafar admits their history goes back further. He was an assistant director on Willard Carroll's forgettable romantic comedy *Marigold* (2007) that had featured Salman with Ali Larter.

But it was as an assistant director on Kabir Khan's 2009 film *New York* that Zafar befriended Katrina and eventually got to meet Salman. When Zafar mentioned *Marigold*, Salman "cracked up", remembering, the director laughs.

## Refreshing approach

In *Bharat*, both Katrina's and Salman's third film with Zafar, the story is centred on its eponymous lead. Reminiscent of *Forrest Gump* (1994), *Bharat* is actually based on Yoon Je-kyun's *Ode to My Father* (2014) about one man's extraordinary life as it unfolds against decades of modern Korean history. Zafar's Indian retelling similarly covers seven decades of the country's modern history. "It's like six or seven films within a film," he says.

"When every character has a voice, you understand that the film is not only [about] one person. He [Salman's Bharat] might be the poster boy of the film, but the film is about everyone else," says Zafar. With *Sultan*, another movie of his named after the protagonist, the director managed to strike a chord even outside of Salman's legion of fans.

Though it got its fair share of criticism, Anushka Sharma's feisty lead had a refreshingly substantial role in a Salman film.

# 'You can make Bharat only with Salman Khan'

Director Ali Abbas Zafar on attempting to craft a Bhai film without allowing his superstardom to overshadow it

## The perfect lead

When it came to fashioning the characters, it's no secret that Katrina replaced Priyanka Chopra after the latter backed out owing to her wedding last year – something Salman still brings up bitterly during the film's promotions. So while it was a stroke of "luck" that brought Katrina and Zafar together for this project, the director admits that the actor for his protagonist had always been tightly secured.

For *Sultan*, Zafar consciously drew on Salman's machismo to offer an intriguing contrast with the vulnerability his character demanded. For *Bharat* Zafar declares, "You can only make *Bharat* with Salman Khan." He elaborates, "You want to touch the last man standing at a ticket window

who might just watch one film a year, [with] a face that they identify with. Also, there's a sense of goodness attached to his on-screen persona." This hasn't really taken a hit despite Salman's off-screen bad boy image from the 2002 alleged hit-and-run to cases of poaching. "He has always been a Prem, a good son, a good brother," Zafar continues, "Till now he has not played a negative character." And the director explains that it is that (perceived) sense of a value system that allows Salman to essay a role that's deeply intertwined with the country's history.

## Period drama

When asked if the opprobrium the original received for being overly patriotic informed Zafar in re-imagining his film, he shrugs: "I only took the thread. South Korea and North Korea were divided and we went through the India-Pakistan partition. So that – and a strong culture of joint families – became the germ of the story."

The director also adds that light-heartedness is woven into the seemingly wearing script: "The film is treated with a lot of comedy because there is an inherent humour in the middle class which is full of sarcasm, chaos and their problems." After the period drama, Zafar is all geared up to work on a more serious project – a contemporary series for Amazon – something he refuses to discuss further. To wrap up, he adds that a third *Tiger* film is in the works, which will most likely bring back the frequently collaborating trio of Salman, Katrina and Zafar together again.

I've been raised and surrounded by very strong women, and that reality transfers to my writing

ALI ABBAS ZAFAR  
Filmmaker



## POOCH CAFE



## PEANUTS



## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



## CALVIN AND HOBBS



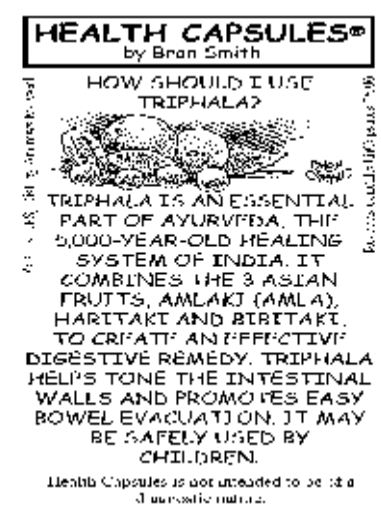
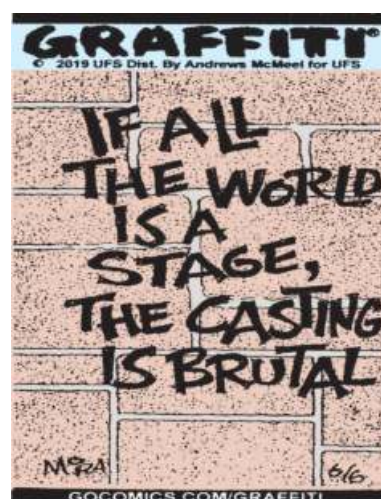
## TIGER



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